LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART

Summer 2026 Programs

Museum Hours
Walk-Ins are welcome!
Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
The Museum is closed on Mondays

Holiday Hours
Closed July 4 Independence Day

Receive up-to-date info on programs and exhibits, shop online, and sign-up for Museum e-news at **lizzadromuseum.org**

Museum Memberships and Museum Rental information available on our website and at the Reception desk.

1220 Kensington Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523
630-833-1616 • info@lizzadromuseum.org

Admission
$10.00 Adults, $8.00 Seniors
$5 Students, Teenagers, Children 7-12
Free for children under 7 yrs.
Wednesday is Free Day.

Members of the Lizzadro Museum and active duty members of the Armed Forces are admitted free of charge any day the Museum is open to the public.

Accessibility
The Museum has facilities to provide access for physically disabled visitors.

Volunteering
Volunteering forms are available online.

@lizzadromuseum

Smithsonian Affiliate

Illinois ARTS Council

The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

Arts DuPage
A DuPage Foundation Initiative

Community Music Programs at the Lizzadro Museum support provided by Arts DuPage, a DuPage Foundation Initiative

WINTRUST IN THE community

Blue Star Families

Active-duty military personnel and their families receive free admission from May 16th through September 6th, 2026

The Lizzadro Museum Free Day is partially sponsored by:

RBC Wealth Management

Special Exhibit Open June 19th through September 6th 2026

Enduring Symbols: Liberty Set in Stone

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, we have gathered lapidary pieces honoring the enduring spirit of the nation with exceptional artistry and craftsmanship. Each work is meticulously shaped from fine gemstones, capturing iconic symbols of freedom, unity, and resilience. Intricate detailing and masterful carving techniques reflect both the heritage of American artisanship and the timeless beauty of the earth's treasures. This summer, come and see these works which stand as lasting tributes to 250 years of history, innovation, and the pursuit of liberty.
Regular Museum Admission – Regular Museum Hours

Lizzadro Museum Programs
July through September 2026

Saturday July 11 **Mysterious Geodes**

Did you know that ordinary looking rocks can hide dazzling crystal worlds inside? Geodes are nature's hidden treasures – spherical, hollow wonders lined with sparkling crystals! Join us as we explore the fascinating theories behind how geodes form and discover where these natural marvels are found around the world. After the presentation, you'll get to crack open your very own geode and uncover the mystery within! Introducing our brand-new geode cracker, staff will be set up to crack your geodes! Or you can bring your own rock hammer and an old sock to collect the pieces. Each participant gets two crack open geodes.
Lecture/Activity – 2:00 p.m. – 75-minutes – Ages 7 and up
Fee: $10 per Person – Museum Members $5
Reservations Required – Register at www.lizzadromuseum.org

Saturday July 25 **The First Cut: Soap Carving for Future Stone Artists**

Many great stone carvers begin with soap. Join Jyl Bonguro, Italian marble carver from Chicago, for this hands-on workshop. Jyl will introduce the basics of carving using soap a soft, accessible material. Learn essential techniques, practice tool control, and start developing the skills used by professional sculptors—all while creating your own mini masterpieces.
2:00 p.m. – 75-minutes – Ages 8 and up
Fee: $25.00 per Person – Museum Members 10% off
Limited Capacity – Reservations Required – Register at www.lizzadromuseum.org

Thursday August 6 **Educators Night Out!**

Calling all educators! The Lizzadro Museum's Education Department invites educators to an engaging after-hours event designed to bring the fascinating world of rocks and minerals into the classroom! Enjoy light refreshments while exploring the Museum and discovering a variety of educational resources including:

- **Classroom-ready teaching materials**
- **Field trip and workshop opportunities**
- **Information about the Museum's Field Trip Assistance Grant**

The evening will also feature the unveiling of a brand-new teaching aid box: "Hidden Gems in Cellphones" an exciting new resource, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, connecting earth science and everyday technology! This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow educators, gather fresh ideas, and explore hands-on learning experiences for students.
Educators must provide current employee ID from an education-focused organization
Open House – 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Free for Educators with employment verification – Reservations Required

Saturday August 22 **Volcano Day**

Volcanoes in Illinois?! Not recently, but come make your own volcanic eruption, watch a trash can volcano, and see the microscopic components of what makes up volcanic ash. Museum scientists will discuss eruption types and styles, as well as the benefits and hazards associated with volcanoes.
At 2 p.m. geologist Sara Kurth will present on the mysterious world of underwater volcanoes! Discover how these hidden wonders shape the seafloor, create new landforms, and support unique marine life.
Drop-in Activities – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lecture – 2:00 p.m. – 45 minutes
All Ages Welcome – $5 per child – Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

Saturday August 29 **Eternal Palette, Ephemeral Culture**

Join us for an exploration of pietra dura's relevance within contemporary art and visual culture. Presented by Madison Hill, designer, researcher, and established pietra dura mosaic artist with over 17 years of experience. Her work is characterized by continuous experimentation in mosaic techniques, new technologies, and materials. She will discuss her artwork on display for the "Enduring Symbols: Liberty Set in Stone" exhibit.

Lecture – 2:00 p.m. – 60 minutes
Students and Adults – Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

Saturday September 12 **Rock & Mineral Identification Class**

Join geologist Sara Kurth for a hands-on rock and mineral identification class. Learn to classify minerals using observation and hardness testing. Perfect for curious rock-hounds or scouts working on Earth Science badges, this class will deepen your understanding of earth science and teach you to identify rocks and minerals like a pro!

10:30 a.m. – 75-minutes – Ages 8 yrs. & up – $10 per person – Museum Members Free
Reservations Required

Saturday September 12 **Rockin' Jewelry for Kids**

Unleash your creativity in this fun, hands-on jewelry-making workshop! Design your own unique gemstone creations—including a necklace, a keychain, and a pin. All materials are provided. Afterward, explore the Museum and enjoy a fun scavenger hunt. This workshop is the perfect way to delve into the world of stone jewelry.

1:30 p.m. – 45-minutes – Ages 8 yrs. & up – $15 per person – Museum Members 10% off
Reservations Required

Saturday September 19 **Rock Music: The Original Sound**

Join us for a Zoom presentation with Tom Kaufmann, the artist who created our newest piece "Lithophone," a full octave xylophone made out of Indian gabbro located on our outdoor patio. Musician, educator, and sculptor, Tom has been creating handmade musical instruments since 2001. His pieces have been purchased by various museums, schools, libraries and parks and three of his pieces were entries in ArtPrize, the world's largest art competition with over 1500 entries each year. This presentation will be available in-person and on zoom.

Live Zoom Lecture – 2:00 p.m. – 60 minutes
Students and Adults – Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended – Sign up at www.lizzadromuseum.org to receive your Zoom link

Saturday September 26 **West Suburban Lapidary Club Meetings**

Curious about the craft of cutting and polishing stones? Join the West Suburban Lapidary Club (WSLC) for monthly meetings at the Museum, where you'll explore the fascinating world of lapidary art! Each session includes presentations and expert guidance on transforming rough stones into polished masterpieces. Check the Museum's digital newsletter for details on upcoming programs.

Club Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Program at 2:00 p.m. – 60-minutes
Teens to Adults Welcome – Regular Admission – Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

Saturday October 3 & Sunday October 4 **Rockin' Sale at the Lizzadro!**

Don't miss this opportunity to score wholesale prices on rocks, minerals, jewelry, carvings, and more! This exciting two-day event features treasures for collectors, hobbyists, and curious visitors alike. Browse a wide selection of unique finds, meet fellow rock enthusiasts, and enjoy free admission to the Museum while you shop and explore.

10-4 Saturday; 12-3 Sunday
Free Admission – All Ages Welcome – Save time and register online

REGISTER ONLINE!

To learn more and/or purchase tickets for upcoming programs and events, please scan the QR code or visit lizzadromuseum.org/calendar

Lithophone: Exploring the Music of Stone

By Tom Kaufmann
Edited by Kyle Brill

I am delighted to have installed one of my lithophones at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art this May. The piece is composed of eight pieces of Absolute Black Granite, a type of gabbro mined in India, tuned to a C-major scale and mounted on a stainless-steel stand.

Litho is Greek for stone, and *phone* means sound, so a lithophone is a musical instrument made of stone. We know that ancient civilizations around the world made and used stone instruments, yet these ancient instruments have often been overlooked. For example, in 2013 Duncan Caldwell[1] analyzed microscopic wear patterns on sets of stones found at prehistoric North American sites that had previously been identified as grinding or digging tools. He found that the wear patterns were more consistent with use as musical instruments. Even Stonehenge has been shown to have special acoustic properties[2].

Stones that ring when struck can be found in natural settings, including Ringing Rocks Park in Buck's County, Pennsylvania and a site near Butte, Montana. I visited Ringing Rocks Park in 2018 and discovered that about half of the boulders rang when struck, while the others produced a dull thud, like most stones. It was easy to distinguish between them: the ringing stones were covered with hammer marks, and the others showed very few signs of use.

In Vietnam, a stone instrument called the *đàn đá* is believed to be more than 3,000 years old. In China, the sound of stone has long been considered as elemental as the sounds of wood or metal. The *bianqing* is a percussion instrument consisting of hanging L-shaped jade stones cut to varying thicknesses to produce different pitches. The instrument was essential to the imperial court and has been used in ritual music since antiquity. Mastery of the *bianqing* was considered a mark of a distinguished gentleman, and even Confucius was reputed to be an accomplished player.

The first reference to a lithopone in modern Western history comes from Peter Crosthwaite's memorandum of June 11, 1785. He described the "Music Stones of Skiddaw", effectively rediscovering the lithophone and creating an instrument that remains in a museum in Keswick, England[3]. Several other examples of stone instruments can be found through the Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods of Western music history.

During my Zoom presentation later this year, I'll share my personal history with "Rock Music" and tell more fascinating stories about one of the world's earliest musical instruments.

Join us on September 19 for "Rock Music: The Original Sound," a special Zoom presentation by Tom Kaufmann, where you can learn more about Tom and the remarkable stories behind these ancient instruments.

References

[1]Caldwell D. A Possible New Class of Prehistoric Musical Instruments from New England: Portable Cylindrical Lithophones. American Antiquity. 2013;78(3):520-535. doi:10.7183/0002-7316.78.3.520

[2]Cox, T., Fazenda, B., and Greaney, S. Using scale modelling to assess the prehistoric acoustics of Stonehenge. Journal of Archaeological Science. 2020;122:105218. doi:10.1016/j.jas.2020.105218

[3]Adcock, M. Music Stones: The Rediscovery of Ringing Rock. Arhaeopress, 2025. doi:10.2307/jj.33941355