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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mackinac State Historic Parks Hosting Several Events During Mackinac Island Lilac Festival

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — As part of the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival, Mackinac State Historic Parks is hosting several events, tours, and programs exploring the rich history of Mackinac Island.

Throughout the duration of the festival, admission is complimentary to The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, located amidst the blooming lilacs in Marquette Park. The museum is home to a rare and exceptional collection of Mackinac-related art and photography, as well as a juried exhibition, *Iconic Mackinac*.

Up at Fort Mackinac, throughout the festival, a special program will take place at 1:00 p.m. highlighting the history of Marquette Park and its relation to Fort Mackinac. Admission is required to enter Fort Mackinac. While at the fort, be sure to visit the fourteen original buildings, catch a cannon or rifle demonstration, and enjoy the view from the Fort Mackinac Tea Room Restaurant, operated by Grand Hotel.

On Saturday, June 7, Friday, June 13, and Saturday, June 14, one lucky visitor will be selected to fire the 6:30 p.m. closing cannon at Fort Mackinac. Enter for your chance to win at the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau information booth on Main Street.

Monday, June 9, Mackinac State Historic Parks' Park Naturalist Kyle Bagnall will host a Lilacs and Warblers Birding Adventure at 9:30 a.m., starting at the Father Marquette Statue in Marquette Park.

Birders of all ages will enjoy this unique guided adventure, searching for spring songbirds. Amidst thousands of fragrant lilac blossoms, guests will stroll through the park, then up the hill looking for migrating warblers, raptors overhead, and resident songbirds. The walk will cover about a mile total. This is a free tour.

The next day, June 10, Interpretation Coordinator will host “Creating the Village of Mackinac Island,” a guided walking tour that will take guests through downtown Mackinac Island, laying out how the Village of Mackinac came to be. During the tour Swartzinski will contrast current locations with out they would have looked in the 1800s. The tour will begin at Windermere Point, west of downtown, at 5:30 p.m. This is a free tour.

Our Mackinac in the 1830s tour, on Wednesday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m., will be led by our Chief Curator, Craig Wilson. This short walking tour will discuss the community in the 1830s and highlight the role of the Mackinac Indian Agency, Fort Mackinac, the American Fur Company, and others. The tour will begin at The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum and end at the Biddle House, where guests will have a chance to explore the exhibits before the event ends. This is a free event.

Finally, on Thursday, June 12, Wilson will host a Mackinaw Mission Walking Tour at 5:30 p.m. For nearly 15 years in the 1820s and 1830s, Protestant ministers and teachers operated the Mackinaw Mission, hoping to win converts among regional Anishnaabek people and counter the influence of the long-established Catholic congregation on Mackinac Island. This walking tour will discuss the rise, fall, and legacy of the Mackinaw Mission, and examine some of the physical reminders that remain today. This is a free tour that begins at The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

Marquette Park serves as a central hub for many Lilac Festival activities, and will host the Queen Coronation on Friday, June 6, as well as pre-parade activities on Sunday, June 15.

More information on all Mackinac State Historic Parks events can be found online. A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Additional photos available upon request.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural

Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek, and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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