



MUSEUM OF  
**Ojibwa**  
Culture



# Broken Feathers: A Path to Healing the Circle

New Exhibit Opens: July 1, 2016

Curator: Sue St. Onge

The intent of boarding schools was to "erase and replace" Native American culture, and was part of a larger strategy to conquer Indians. For the U.S. government, it was a conceivable solution to the so-called Indian problem. For the tens of thousands of Native Americans who were sent to boarding schools, it is largely remembered as a time of abuse and desecration of culture.

Today Native scholars describe the destruction of our culture as a "soul wound," from which we have not yet healed. Embedded within that wound are patterns of sexual and physical abuse that began in the early years of boarding schools. The past shapes the present and many of the social ills that haunt tribal communities today can be traced to boarding school trauma.

Students in our schools are taught about the Holocaust. However, the genocide and later ethnocide of Native Americans that occurred in residential schools is rarely written about in U.S. history books or discussed in any classrooms. Many survivors state that their experiences must be acknowledged before they can heal. Undoubtedly, it is not a comfortable process to relive these experiences, but it is necessary for healing. Feeling our brokenness is the first step to being whole again, healing our circle and reversing the negative impacts that we continue to struggle with as a people. The truth is a prerequisite to that healing and reconciliation.



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Join Us for Opening Reception  
July 16th from 6-8 pm.