

Chicago Tribune

Shout Out: Leslie Mueller, a Deerfield native who hosts the TV show 'Museum Access'



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A native of [Deerfield](#), Leslie Mueller now is the host and executive producer of the TV show “Museum Access.”

[The program](#) explores museums throughout the country, including many in the Chicago area. The first season of the show is streaming on [Amazon Prime](#) while the second season is beginning to air on different stations across the country.

Mueller, who lives in [Greenwich](#), Conn., recently talked with Pioneer Press about growing up in Deerfield and her interest in museums.

Q: What are some of your favorite memories of growing up in Deerfield?

A: It was an up-and-coming suburb at that point. I loved that being in Deerfield you were close to the city and you could still enjoy what was going on in Chicago, but there were still cornfields scattered around between the high school and Northwoods Road. I have memories of walking down Waukegan Road and going to Deerfield Commons, and learning how to drive and being scared to death to turn left at that intersection in a stick-shift VW. In addition, I studied at the Art Institute, starting at the age of 13, and that is where the seed was planted to explore a creative career.

Q: What drew you to museums?

A: It started from field trips where we would go see the U-505 at the Museum of Science and Industry, or we would go to the Shedd Aquarium or the Field Museum. ... My experience at the Art Institute taught me there was a lot going on behind the scenes at those great institutions. I tucked that in the back of my mind and, when I became a producer, I thought I would always like to do something with museums.

Q: What can we expect to see in season two?

A: We are very excited as we have a great variety of museums for season two, including the CIA Museum at CIA headquarters, the Wild Center in the Adirondacks, the Harley-Davidson Museum, and we go up on a B-17 bomber.

Q: What do you enjoy about the show?

A: There are a lot of folks we are reaching who don't live near these great museums and we bring the museums to them.

Shout Out is a weekly feature in which we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.