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Forecast Public Art Announces 2008 Grant Awards

Forecast Public Art, the 30-year-old independent public art agency, proudly announces its 19th round of grants to Minnesota artists for exploration of public art. Forecasts artist grants, funded by Jerome Foundation, annually support emerging and early career visual artists pursuing the public realm as a venue for creative expression. Funding was awarded to the following:

Category 1: Research and Development Grants (\$1,000 each)

Emily Johnson plans to research collaborative sculptural elements and locations to develop a new dance installation/ performance piece. The piece is inspired by the 1967 relocation of her Yup'ik grandmother's house by sleds and snowmobiles; beaver dams; and the diverse communities in Minneapolis.

Kent Scheer will create planning sketches and a model for a new sculptural installation in Wadena, MN. Scheer hopes his artwork can be a revitalizing force for downtown businesses.

Jeff Lohaus will work with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District to research and develop a proposal for a sculpture or group of sculptures along 13th Ave NE. The sculptures are intended to help support and promote the Arts District.

Laurie Phillips intends to expand her Story Graph Portraits out of the gallery and into the public realm. To begin this process Phillips will research materials such as laser-carved stone and digitally photo-imaged ceramics, build models for outdoor portraits, and develop institutional partnerships to create and site the Portraits.

Category 2: Public Project Grants (\$4,500 each)

Barbara Cummard plans to install panels of her photography project *Inside Out: Faces of Self* in transit kiosks along the Hiawatha Light Rail line. *Inside Out* brings together the faces and handmade masks of a variety of community participants. Cummard hopes to promote dialog with neighboring communities by placing her project into the daily lives of those who might not normally visit an art gallery.

Dave Machacek will travel to approximately one dozen area events and enable 1000 people to make an art print using a small steamroller. Machacek will retain the printing blocks from all events to create one long banner print at the end of the summer.

Krista Kelley Walsh intends to perform a "walking thank you" as an act of gratitude guerilla action. Walsh and a group of walkers will carry an elegant iridescent helium balloon with the words "Thank you" printed on it. Unannounced the Gratitude Guerillas will set up on a busy walking path and give away 500 "Thank – You" balloons to passers by. Walsh hopes to inspire reflection on the "quiet, inner nature of gratitude."

Michael Sweere will create a recycled-object mosaic mural depicting the natural life of the Upper Mississippi River. Sweere plans to work with the Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center in the North Mississippi Regional Park. The mural will become a "centerpiece" within the Interpretive Center for fun, kid-friendly activities. The installation will combine folk art whimsy and fine art accuracy to amuse viewers as they learn about the living creatures of the Upper-Mississippi ecosystem.

Nancy Ann Coyne will follow up her Forecast Research and Development grant with the installation of her project *Speaking of Home*. For the installation twenty three youth and adult members from the city's new immigrant Communities will share family photographs and answer the question "What does home mean to you?". Images (printed digitally 13' X 10' ft) and text will be installed July – October in the skyway bridge connecting Macy's to the IDS tower in downtown Minneapolis.

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Forecast Public Art is a St. Paul-based nonprofit whose mission is to strengthen and advance the field of public art locally, nationally, and internationally by expanding participation, supporting artists, informing audiences and assisting communities.

More information about Forecast Public Art and its annual grant program is available at www.ForecastArtPublic.org by calling 651-641-1128.

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