



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Forecast Public Artworks Announces 2010 Grant Awards**

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Forecast Public Artworks, the 32-year-old independent public art agency, proudly announces its 22<sup>nd</sup> round of grants to Minnesota artists for exploration of public art. Forecast's artist grants annually support emerging and early career visual artists pursuing the public realm as a venue for creative expression. This program is funded by Jerome Foundation, with new categories added for 2010 with support from The East Central Arts Council, The Central Minnesota Arts Board, and The Southwest Arts & Humanities Council (*regional funding is made possible, in part, with funds from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.*)

Grants were awarded to the following artists:

**Category 1: Research and Development (\$2000)**

**Broken Crow (Artists John Grider and Mike Fitzsimmons)**

Broken Crow will complete the planning phase of *Rural Mural*—a platform for out-state communities in greater MN to document and celebrate a way of life slowly fading away. Broken Crow will research sites such as barns and other locally determined landmarks and work with local communities to design murals.

**Cecilia Schiller**

Cecilia will investigate the feasibility of creating interactive mechanical sculpture for public installation and interaction. She will build on her current body of work which consists of hand carved figures animated with mechanical gears.

**Kelsey Bosch, Matt Frank, and Vanessa Cambier**

As a collaborative team Kelsey, Matt, and Vanessa will research the implementation of public toilets in downtown Minneapolis and their social implications. By creating a public documentary these artists will research the community's opinion on the subject and use this research to further the dialog on the issues, as a catalyst for additional funding needed for project implementation, and to inspire aesthetic sculpture designs to serve as standards for public toilet installations throughout Minneapolis.

**Category 2: Public Projects (\$7,000)**

**Andrea Steudel and Like Anderson**

These collaborators will realize their project *Urban Caravan*—a mobilized series of outdoor, site specific, projected animation screenings with live performed sound diffused through radio transmission. The projection screen will be the urban landscape and trees. The experience will unfold as a community bicycle tour.

**Karl Unnasch**

Karl will create two permanent leaded glass installations at John Marshall High School in Rochester, MN. Karl will design and install the pieces and provide educational opportunities in collaboration with the school's art department to work with the students and increase their understanding of the art and its process.

**Michele Spaise**

Through photography, text, and sound Michele will tell the story of the Whittier Cooperative Community. By photographing, writing, and collecting sounds from her community Michele will involve herself in the process of public art while documenting the story of the co-op as it transitions from a HUD self governing housing complex to new ownership. The project will culminate with an exhibition at Intermedia Arts.

### **Category 3: East Central Regional Arts Council Public Art Planning Grant (\$2000)**

#### **Eric Carlisle**

Eric will research and design a cohesive concept for Swedish Styled decorative painting to be done in a two block area of Downtown Mora, Minnesota. The second aspect of his planning will be to research available funding for the implementation of this project.

#### **Keith Raivo**

Keith will pursue the design of an outdoor sculpture with a sitting area where people can relax and socialize in downtown Mora, Minnesota. He will gather input from the city and the public to create a design for a stone piece that will not only provide a unique project for the city but also aid Keith in the development of his career as a stone carver.

#### **Valorie Stavem Arrowsmith**

Valorie will research Nordic runes, their place in history, and how she can use them to create public art. She will visit such resources as Forecast Public Art's public art library, the Kensington Ruin Stone near Alexandria, Minnesota, and will have conversations with local sculptors who have used rune stones in their own artwork. Upon completion of this initial phase of research she will test two public art ideas and develop a response survey to each situation.

### **Category 4: Central Minnesota Arts Board Public Art Planning Grant (\$2,000)**

#### **Bill Gorcica**

Bill will plan for the creation of a sensor-embedded interactive art piece that could become part of the park environment at Warner Lake County Park in Central Minnesota. The piece will reference prairie restoration and its relationship to soil and water conservation. Bill's project will culminate in a small-scale working model.

#### **Chris Wilson, Gene Olson & the Elk River Area Arts Alliance**

Chris would like to build a bench out of Kasota stone, metal and concrete for the Elk River Arts Alliance. This will be the first public piece for Chris who has recently only shown her work in group shows and private commissions. She will collaborate with experienced sculpture Gene Olson to develop plans for the bench and work with the city to obtain the necessary approvals to complete the project.

### **Category 5: Southwest MN Arts & Humanities Council Public Art Planning Grant (\$2,000)**

#### **Andrew Nordin**

Andrew will conduct aesthetic study and research into the feasibility of a public art mural on the *Glacial Ridge State Trail* near New London, MN. He will concentrate his studio practice on the idea of creating a mural that incorporates some of the aesthetic features both natural and man made. His goal will be to use the resulting images and other products of the research to engage the public (and possibly enlisting high school and college students) in creating a work that makes a dialogue with the trail.

#### **Barb Hawes**

Barb will create a set of large pinwheels installed for one year around the new Marshall Lyon County Public Library building. She will research materials to use in the project, the use of color for the pinwheels to create unique visual effects, and conduct meetings to gain the support and permission of the library.

#### **Tom Wirt – City of Hutchinson Public Arts Commission**

The support of Forecast Public Art and the SMAC will enable the City of Hutchinson's Public Arts Commission to plan and select an artist to design a three-dimensional public art installation for a major intersection in Hutchinson, Minnesota. The arts commission will work closely with Forecast to facilitate an artist selection process that will support the creation of a piece for which they have already secured city funding. Working with Forecast will enable them to learn the process so that they can replicate it on their own as the commission develops.

#### **Michon Weeks**

Michon will create mosaics based on traditional textile designs from diverse populations living in Marshall, Minnesota. The mosaics will be installed on outdoor benches at the new public library in Marshall. Michon will begin by studying the craft of Mosaic making and meeting with community members in Marshall to learn about traditional textile design. She will continue by researching location, feasibility, funding, design, fabricators, and configuration of the project. Her work will result in a plan and model for the project.

**About Forecast Public Art:**

Forecast Public Art is a St. Paul-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization 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.

Forecast works towards its mission through three key programs:

- *Public Art Review* is the world's leading journal critically exploring contemporary public art. Created in 1989, the *Review* has grown from a black and white newspaper format with a few hundred readers to a glossy 100-page magazine with approximately 10,000 readers in all fifty states and twenty foreign countries.
- Our grant program awards competitive grants each year to Minnesota artists. Grants range in size from \$2,000 (for research and development) to \$7,000 (for public projects).
- Our consulting practice helps create public art by providing project management for community groups, organizations, government agencies, and individual artists seeking to enhance public space.