

*For immediate release*

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Hi-resolution photos are available on request.

### ***Arts on Chicago announces June 8 celebration from 32<sup>nd</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> on Chicago Avenue.***

Thursday, March 21 (Minneapolis) – Almost forty artists involved with the 20 art projects of *Arts on Chicago* will come together to celebrate the year-long initiative. Residents from Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant and Central neighborhoods encourage Minnesotans from across the metro area to take part in activities that knit together the creative assets of this historic corridor in South Minneapolis.

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and artists will lead a Paint the Pavement activity on 34<sup>th</sup> near Powderhorn Park. StevenBe's Fiber Arts studio will hold knitting workshops. Participants can also participate up and down Chicago Avenue with screen printing at the PHAT Mobile, built by MCAD Professor Natasha Pestich (City Pages Artist of the Year 2012) or write poetry on Molly Van Avery's bicycle-powered, rolling writing studio. Theater artists and storytellers Dylan Fresco and Michelle Barnes will also lead performance tours from their story collecting project *What Grows Here*.

In addition to these interactive activities, visual art and photography from acclaimed artists Wing Young Huie, Stephanie Rogers, HOTTEA, Forest Wozniack, TAWU (The Art Within Us) artists collective, Michael Hoyt, and Upstream Arts will be on display at various locations between 32<sup>nd</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> on Chicago Avenue.

*Arts on Chicago* is a "creative placemaking" initiative designed by Pillsbury House + Theatre, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, MCAD Professor Natasha Pestich, Upstream Arts, and with support from the Ward 8 Council Office of Elizabeth Glidden, to implement twenty art projects in one year to knit together existing creative assets in the Central, Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant communities along Chicago Avenue from 32<sup>nd</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, using the process to build a framework for the ongoing support of a vibrant arts and cultural district. *Arts on Chicago* was one of 47 organizations to receive funding from Artplace, a collaboration of twelve of the nation's leading foundations, eight government agencies including the National Endowment for the Arts, and six financial institutions across the U.S.

This celebration is aligned with the 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago Business Association's annual BBQ & Music Festival from 11 am to 2 pm on the 3700 block of Chicago Avenue. Music, specialty food trucks, children's activities, and free snow cones will be available as this busy intersection is closed for the day.

## **WHAT IS CREATIVE PLACEMAKING?**

Creative Placemaking furthers the use of the arts in neighborhood locations to encourage social interaction, support the growth of local businesses and safer streets, and to promote a sense of neighborhood identity and ownership.

A recent *Star Tribune* article “Cities turn to artists as trouble shooters” explores the Twin Cities leading role in this work. <http://bit.ly/Ypp1Vh>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT **ARTS ON CHICAGO.ORG**

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