

*For immediate release*

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Hi-resolution photos are available on request.

### **Arts on Chicago 2014 projects on display at the 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago BBQ and Music Festival on June 14.**

Tuesday, May 20 (Minneapolis, MN) – On a summer day full of Twin Cities art (with the 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago Music Festival from 11 am – 3 pm and Northern Spark around the Twin Cities that evening), the **Arts on Chicago** initiative continues in 2014 with three unique arts activities: Peter Haakon Thompson’s *Temporary Table Tennis Trailer*, Esther Ouray’s *In the Pursuit of Happiness*, and video from David Luke’s *Upstream Animated*.

Building on the momentum from the 20 projects created last year, and exhibited together at this same event, **Arts on Chicago** has continued into 2014. Funding for these projects is provided, in part, by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, as part of Blue Cross’ long-term commitment to tackling the four leading causes of heart disease and cancer: tobacco use, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating. Each of the projects combines art with active living in some fashion. The *Temporary Table Tennis Trailer* is a specially-designed, steel mobile table tennis and a tool for play, conversation and to create more lovers of the sport of table tennis. To create *Upstream Animated*, David Luke worked with the Upstream Arts teaching artists and program participants to create movies and dance from their collaboratively-created poetry. (Upstream Arts provides arts programming for youth and adults with disabilities.)

*In the Pursuit of Happiness* promotes wellness, connection, and joy through guided “laughter exercise” gatherings. Special laughter workshops will be held during the June 14 festival. Other events, throughout the summer, can be found here <http://www.artsonchicago.org/events/category/in-the-pursuit-of-happiness/upcoming/>

This celebration is aligned with the 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago Business Association’s 9<sup>th</sup> annual BBQ & Music Festival from 11 am to 3 pm on the 3700 block of Chicago Avenue. Music from Joel Schaan & Friends, Bozza Jazz Band, Project 55407, and The Anchorman plus specialty food trucks, children’s activities, and snow cones will be available as this busy intersection is closed for the day.

### **MORE ABOUT ARTS ON CHICAGO**

*Arts on Chicago* is a “creative placemaking” initiative originally designed by Pillsbury House + Theatre, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, MCAD Professor Natasha Pestich, Upstream Arts, The Third Place Gallery and with support from the Ward 8 Council Office of Elizabeth Glidden, to implement twenty art projects in 2013 to knit together existing

creative assets in the Central, Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant communities along Chicago Avenue from 32nd Street to 42nd Street, using the process to build a framework for the ongoing support of a vibrant arts and cultural district. *Arts on Chicago* was inaugurated by 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.

The Leadership Team has committed to furthering *Arts on Chicago* goals for the neighborhood into the future and is seeking additional funding.

The four neighborhoods that meet on Chicago Avenue between 32nd and 42nd Streets—Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant, and Central—are blessed with as much diversity and creativity as any other area in the Twin Cities. People with varied backgrounds tread common ground on this historic street while many acclaimed artists call these neighborhoods their home. The purpose of *Arts on Chicago* is to knit together these incredible assets through creativity that stimulates relationships, increases connections, and brings neighbors together to share experiences across differences.

Visit [artsonchicago.org](http://artsonchicago.org) for more information, exact locations, and a complete schedule of all the activities and times.

#### **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.

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

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