

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN THE SOUTH LOOP

2015 Demonstration Projects

In 2013, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded Artistry (f/k/a Bloomington Theatre and Art Center) and the City of Bloomington an “Our Town” grant to develop a creative placemaking plan and commission a series of demonstration projects in the South Loop District of Bloomington.

Demonstration projects selected for implementation in 2015 include:

Little Box Sauna

Artists: Molly Reichert and Andrea Johnson

Hosts: MOA, IKEA

Little Box Sauna is a mobile warming place that creates a visible small-scale social space within the large spaces of the district. The sauna made two stops in the South Loop during the cold months of February and March of 2015. It created a hub where employees and visitors could socialize in a way that is new to our community, based on Finnish and other cultural traditions of group sweat. It gave people a destination they could see and walk to, a stopping place between buildings and cars.

Little Box Sauna was on site at the Mall of American in front of the Radisson Blu from February 9th through 26th and at IKEA from February 27th-March 5th.



More Information: <https://littleboxsauna.wordpress.com>

Science and Nature Mural

Artist: Erik Pearson

Host: Cypress Semi-Conductor

Erik created a large, exterior mural at Cypress Semi-Conductor bordering the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Bass Ponds parking lot. The mural draws inspiration and images from the history of technology and semi-conductors in the South Loop as well as the future vision of the “green” technologies. The mural expresses the unique blend of science and nature that have shaped the neighborhood’s past and will continue to impact its future.

The mural will be unveiled in summer 2015.

[Note: the artist – Erik Pearson – also created the mural on the east side of Bloomington Civic Plaza]



Cross-Pollination – Walking Theater

Artist: PlaceBase Productions (Ashley Hanson and Andrew Gaylord)

Host: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

In partnership with the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, PlaceBase Productions turned the grounds of the Refuge into a stage for a walking theater performance of an original musical play called *“After the Birds Taught Me to Fly”*. PlaceBase Productions uses site-specific musical theater, based on stories collected and research conducted by the artists, to explore the places, resources, and initiatives that make the Refuge a common ground where community members can engage and connect to the surrounding river valley. This community theatre performance adds to the shared understanding of the unique role the Refuge plays in shaping the South Loop’s past, present, and future.

Four performances were presented on June 6 and 7, 2015.



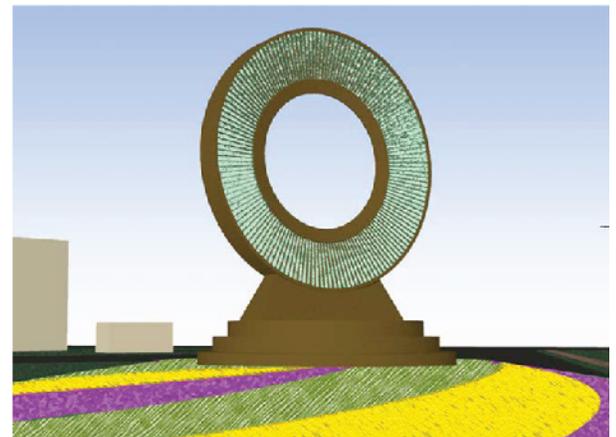
Additional Placemaking Projects in the South Loop District

Lindau Lane Sculpture

Artist: James Brenner

Host: City of Bloomington

This internally illuminated, glass and steel sculpture in a swirl of flowering plants occupies the center of the roundabout at 28th Street South and Lindau Lane. The sculpture was commissioned by the City of Bloomington and installed in August 2015.



Control Box Wraps

Artists: To be selected

Host: City of Bloomington

The Public Works Department has identified nine signal control boxes in the South Loop District to wrap with art. The work will be commissioned by the City of Bloomington and installed in summer 2015.

