



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Artist seeks rock donations for mural

Calling all rock hounds in St. Louis County! A Minnesota artist needs your help for a large mosaic-style mural he's creating to hang in the Government Services Center (GSC) in Duluth. Artist Craig David is creating a contemporary mural titled 'WaterNotes,' and he's asking for the community's help to gather stones from throughout the county.

'WaterNotes' will abstractly depict water, sky, flora, fauna and the iconic industrial/urban forms of bridges, tracks, pilings and structures. The mural will be created in a combination of natural stone tile and stones collected from the beaches and estuaries of Lake Superior, and the hills of St. Louis County. The artist is seeking a variety of stones that he will slice and use as mosaic within the mural.

Stones should be between two and eight inches in diameter. Possible materials include:

- unusual, colorful, unique or interesting natural stone/rock
- lake-worn stone and materials from the highlands
- lake-worn glass and industrial iron

Collection boxes will be placed in the Government Service Center in Duluth, the Northland Office Center in Virginia, the Hibbing Courthouse Annex, and the St. Louis County Service Center in Ely beginning Wednesday, August 13. Donations will be accepted through September 12.

Donated materials may be used in the mural, but will not be returned if unused.

According to David, "The mural will be at once a celebration of water, the natural and built environments, and humanities place within it. It will be an observance of our sacred connection to place: rivers, lakes, flora and fauna. It too, will be a reminder of our connections to each other and ourselves, and that in all of this, we are caretakers of our earth, and of each other."

The mural will be displayed in the entry vestibule of the GSC, once renovations of the building are complete. It is one of three art projects commissioned by the St. Louis County Board, through the 1% Public Art program, to enhance way finding, educate building users and elevate the human spirit. Other goals of the program include that the art should elicit emotion and create a sense of welcome and calm, be interactive or engaging, and be relevant to its time but also timeless in presentation.

David has participated in past public art programs throughout the state, creating numerous stone sculptures, as well as murals made from stone. Examples of his work can be viewed on his website, artdavidii.com. Residents can contact the artist at artdavidii@yahoo.com with questions about materials.

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