

# PUBLIC ART SAINT PAUL

For immediate release  
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## **Public Art Saint Paul to Celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Public Birthday Parties, Launch of *Bee Real Bee Everywhere*, Return of Urban Flower Field, 40 Pop Up Meetings, Distinguished Artist Mel Chin, and more**

(May 25, 2017 — Saint Paul, MN) — Public Art Saint Paul will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of events honoring the city, its residents and the many artists who have contributed to the fabric of Saint Paul over the past 30 years.

“From small-scale gestures to large-scale events, Public Art Saint Paul has contributed significantly to the fabric of Saint Paul for 30 years,” said executive director Colleen Sheehy. “It’s time to celebrate the city we love, the longevity of this vital organization, and the many artists and community leaders who have contributed over the years.”

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary line-up includes a public art birthday party in each of the city’s wards, a “Bees Live Here” installation at Union Depot during Northern Spark, the launch of bee “high rises” through the *Bee Real Bee Everywhere* project, and the return of the towering sunflowers in the Urban Flower Field at 10<sup>th</sup> & Robert Streets in downtown Saint Paul.

The distinguished artist Mel Chin will visit Saint Paul as part of the organization’s celebration, delivering a lecture on Thursday, October 19, at O’Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of Saint Thomas. Chin’s *Revival Field* from the early 1990s was a temporary project located in Saint Paul and stands as a key work of environmental art.

The 30<sup>th</sup> celebration also will include 40 Pop Up Meetings between June and September, where an artist, working in collaboration with City departments, brings the iconic electric Pop Up Meeting truck to neighborhoods to gain input on key topics in exchange for a St. Pops popsicle. Environmental artmaking workshops will be held at Western Sculpture Park Tuesdays June 13–August 22, from 10 am-12:30 pm.

During its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary summer, Public Art Saint Paul also will restore the Josias King Civil War bronze statue that watches over downtown Saint Paul near John Ireland and West Kellogg Boulevards.

"Thanks to Public Art Saint Paul, our city has a long history of being brought to life through the intersection of art and civic engagement," said Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. "I am so grateful for their partnership and dedication to making Saint Paul a vibrant place where creativity and art thrive."

### **About Public Art Saint Paul**

Public Art Saint Paul (PASP), a private, non-profit organization, works in partnership with the City of Saint Paul to imagine and create a more just, sustainable, and beautiful city. By placing artists in leading roles, we help shape public spaces, innovate city systems, and deepen civic engagement. Our artists research and help plan public projects and developments; commission, produce, and tend to public art; and transform civic life through such innovations as the University Avenue Project, Pop UP Meeting, and CREATE: The Community Meal.

**BIRTHDAY PARTIES IN EVERY WARD (all are free and open to public)**

**Tuesday, June 13, noon – 1:30 pm**

**Western Sculpture Park (Ward 1),** 387 Marion Street

Join Heart and Soul Drum Academy and artists Melvin Smith and John Hock amid 15 amazing sculptures.

**Tuesday, June 27, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**Saint Paul Streets and Sidewalks (Ward 3),** Mattocks Park, 451 Macalester Street

Project artists Lisa Elias and Brad Kaspari with City Artist Aaron Dysart share stories behind the flower-stem stop sign posts.

**Saturday, July 15, 11 am -12:30 pm**

**Meditation sculpture by Lei Yixin (Ward 6),** Phalen Park Picnic Pavilion, 1600 Phalen Drive

Learn about the creation of this beautiful sculpture by the international Chinese artist Lei Yixin as part of the *MN Rocks!* project with Public Art Saint Paul founder Christine Podas-Larson.

**Thursday, July 20, 6 – 7:30 pm**

**Cajibracan sculpture by Peter Morales (Ward 4),** Hamline Park, 1564 Lafond Avenue

Artist Peter Morales talks about the creation of his whimsical mythological sculpture for the *Minnesota Rocks!* Project.

**Wednesday, August 16, 6 – 7:30 pm**

**Bee Real Bee Everywhere: Sculpture and Pollinator Project (Ward 5),** Como Park, Intersection of Horton and Como Avenues

See the newly installed bee “high-rise,” hear from artists Christine Baeumler, Amanda Lovelee, and Julie Benda, and experience the bee cargo bike, The Office of Urban Pollen Exchange, in action.

**Friday, September 8, 6 – 10 pm**

**Urban Flower Field (Ward 2),** 114 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street

City Artist Amanda Lovelee and the project team discuss the development of this transitional space where sunflowers grow to five feet tall. At sunset, enjoy the birthday-themed film classic, John Hughes’s *Sixteen Candles*.

***Ward 7 Birthday Party date & place to be announced.***

**OTHER 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**June 10-11, 8:45 pm–5:26 am**

**Bees Live Here @ Northern Spark**

Union Depot, 240 E. Kellogg Boulevard #70

“Bees Live Here” is a project developed by Susan Brown—artist, beekeeper, and chef/entrepreneur behind Mademoiselle Miel, a Saint Paul-based maker of locally sourced chocolate and honey confections. Working with videographer Brian Lesteberg, Susan will display a video installation on the façade of Union Depot, showing a rare glimpse of bees inside their beehive on Union Depot’s roof. Every hour on the hour, poets published in the recent anthology *If Bees Are Few: A Hive of Bee Poems*, edited

by Jim Lenfestey, will read odes to bees at Public Art Saint Paul's "Utopian Podium." Visitors also can step to the podium to voice their ideas for how to help bees thrive and receive a free honey stick.

### ***Bee Real Bee Everywhere***

The artist team of Christine Baeumler, Amanda Lovelee, and Julie Benda are designing urban bee habitat "high-rises" that will invite bees to take up residence. The first one will be installed in the Como Lake neighborhood in July. In conjunction, the educational outreach cargo bike, called "The Office of Urban Pollen Exchange," will visit Saint Paul libraries and parks for bee education activities. Visit [www.publicartstpaul.org](http://www.publicartstpaul.org) for schedule updates on where to find the bike and the high rises.

### **Urban Flower Field**

2017 will mark four summers of towering sunflowers growing in *Urban Flower Field*, making the corner of 10th and Robert magical while also testing science in public space. This year, biologist Adam Kay's University of Saint Thomas students have installed lysimeters to measure how compost runoff. PASP's September 8 birthday party will take place in Urban Flower Field.

### **Pop Up Meeting**

Summer 2017 marks the third season of Pop Up Meeting, an innovative way of gathering input from more people about the future of Saint Paul. The electric Pop Up Meeting truck will make 40 stops between June and September, working with City departments that decide the neighborhoods to visit and the topics for which they seek community input. Participants share thoughts in exchange for a locally made St. Pops popsicle!

### **Public Art and Frogs at Hmongtown Marketplace**

Public Art Saint Paul will gather community input on public sculpture at the Hmongtown Marketplace during the Hmongtown Festival June 24 and 25. In addition, PASP partner Frogtown Green will host FrogLab at the Market every Saturday, 1-4 pm, through September 30, where visitors can make art focused on frogs, snakes, fish, and other aquatic denizens.

### **Workshops at Western Sculpture Park**

Weekly Environmental Art-making Workshops begin Tuesday, June 13, and run through August 22, from 10 am -12:30 pm. Workshops are free, drop-in, and open to young people of all ages. The season culminates with a celebration of our youth on Tuesday, August 22.

### **Saint Paul Streets**

Numerous projects are underway in 2017: City Artist Aaron Dysart, with the artist team of Lisa Elias and Brad Kaspari, are expanding their repertoire from stop sign posts to include posts for no parking signs and bus stops. They also are designing new sculptures that will hang on lampposts and torchieres that will light a walkway with solar powered lights. Brad and Lisa are exploring how benches and bollards might be made into public art in three neighborhoods, Irve Dell is developing a new design for stop sign posts, to be installed this fall, and artists James Brenner and Teréz Iacovino are imagining new neighborhood projects to expand the artistic palette of Saint Paul.

### **Restoring the Josias King Monument**

The Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument, also known as the Josias King Memorial, near the intersection of John Ireland and West Kellogg Boulevards will be restored this summer by PASP, in conjunction with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. Sculpted by John K. Daniels (1875-1978) in 1903, the statue is showing its age with corrosion from air pollution and bird droppings. This will be the sixth and final significant historic bronze sculpture to be conserved by PASP.

**Thursday, October 19, 7 pm**

**Distinguished Visiting Artist Mel Chin**

O'Shaughnessy Education Center Auditorium, University of Saint Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue

Free and open to the public

Mel Chin is a conceptual visual artist who works across media and subjects. He has forged a unique artistic career that ranges from public art projects to museum exhibitions, including making art that subtly appeared on the sets and costumes of the television show *Melrose Place*. Motivated largely by political, cultural, and social circumstances, Chin works in a variety of art media to calculate meaning in modern life. He is well known internationally for his pivotal work *Revival Field*, a designed landscape created in Pig's Eye Landing in St. Paul in the early 1990s. Working with research agronomist Dr. Rufus Chaney, Chin designed an evocative landscape where plants removed heavy metals from the polluted soil at the site, which gave momentum to the increased interest in environmental art as a form of contemporary art practice.