North St. Paul Public Art Participation Process Proposal

“The process of facilitating community participation in North St. Paul's efforts to develop a Public Art plan is arguably just as important as the resultant plan itself.” – Space 2 Place, Inc.

Public art is a part of a broader effort of placemaking: it is an articulation of the character of a community that reinforce a unique sense of place and reflects the spectrum of values of a community.

A public participation program that emphasizes the “making” of placemaking provides an array of opportunities for residents to engage in and creatively contribute to the process. As part of Public Art Plan Participation Process Proposal, Space 2 Place encourages North St. Paul to strategically engage a wide range of residents through creative, iterative and ongoing actions and events. Doing so can empower the North St. Paul community to not only create a public art plan that reflects the city’s existing character, but also establish a thriving network of people and resources that continuously strengthens the livability of public space and improves the community’s overall quality of life.

GOALS:
1. Determine the kind of art that residents desire
2. Determine where residents would like to add art
3. Identify and engage community assets
4. Build social capital

The process is itself a form of public art, consisting of creative, temporary events designed to “activate” spaces and encourage interaction.

TECHNIQUES:
S2P proposes a wide variety of methods (in addition to those shown) to engage the public in developing the Arts Plan. These methods include new technologies (e.g. social media) and innovative interactive events (e.g. pop-up parklets), as well as more traditional participation events like open houses. The mixture of techniques will help capture the input of a diverse cross-section participants, including those who are traditionally underrepresented as well as the “usual suspects” in participation processes.

Arts Fest
An Arts Fest downtown at the same time as North St. Paul’s iconic summer car show will advertise the Arts Plan planning and participation processes in a fun and public way, informing the public and attracting residents to participate.

Guerrilla Art/Pop Up Outreach
“Pop-up” events are temporary ways to “activate” a public space (like a sidewalk or downtown square, or even a parking space). These creative events attract attention and encourage interaction and could be designed by residents themselves.

Creative workshops
Several short and fast brainstorm sessions (or “charrettes”), hosted at a variety of times to accommodate residents with different busy schedules, help to bring as many people and ideas to the “drawing table” as possible.

Meals and food
Food is a draw for residents to engage in public events. Food is also a creative endeavor in and of itself. “Artistic theme” foods will be provided at public events, including “paint ‘n’ pancakes”, and “pizza maps” (what are these, you ask? Come to an S2P event to find out).

Let’s talk Public Art!
What do you think about Public Art in North Saint Paul? Have any good ideas? Come join the conversation!

DATA FROM U.S. CENSUS

North St. Paul Population by Age

North St. Paul Racial Demographics

North St. Paul Languages Spoken

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