

## Staff report

*Submitted by Natalie Draper, Library Director*

- The Poet laureate committee is pleased to announce that Russ Paladin (Boyington) was selected as the Poet Laureate for 2024-2027!
- The Library partnered with St. Olaf college to host the first Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration. A week of activities kicked off at the Library on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> with performances by student groups, food, and craft activities all to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. The event was well attended.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> was Día de los Niños at the Library Oasis. This was the capstone event for the SEMAC grant for the mural by Paula Rojas. 60 people joined us for the event!
  - Paula will return over Memorial Day weekend to complete the mural, putting the final touches on the Library Oasis in time for summer.
- Arts events coming up:
  - Culture Crew presents Best in Show at the Grand on May 9th
  - The Friends of Downtown will present a group dedication for the Artists on Main Street projects from 2023 at their Third Thursday Block Party on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Mayor Pownell and Josh Zimmerman, Friends of Downtown, will provide remarks.
  - Pride in the Park is on June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Runway Revival is a fashion show focused on sustainability that serves as a fundraiser for the Community Action Center. I am on the artist engagement committee for this year's event. The application for artists has just opened: <https://communityactioncenter.org/runway-revival-2024/>. Registrations will be accepted through June 14<sup>th</sup>. Please share with any artists/designers/sewists/etc who might be interested in showing their work for a good cause. The event is Thursday, August 22nd from 6pm-9pm at Carleton College Weitz Center for Creativity
- The Water Treatment Plant RFQ will be posted shortly.
- Marlena Myles is working on a concept for Bridge Square. John Sterner, the artist who created Northfield's eagle sculpture, "Wanbli Mitakuye Oyasin", in 2022, will bring Marlena's concept for the lighted colonnade to life in 3D.
- The tunnel murals have endured quite a lot of graffiti recently, including over the artwork. Previously tagging had been limited to the colorful bands between murals and easily painted over. The artist will return to Northfield to repair the artwork this summer, probably June. The ACC will discuss ideas for diversion.
- Heriberto Rosas has completed his video for the Arte en Accion project. This, as well as Rocky's posters and link to access the Wandering House Sonic Archive will be added to the ACC page soon. Here is the link to watch: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u6NmCAQ7fFXVrZjv6NULePILlfc3x0B/view?usp=sharing>
- Staff are discussing an application for an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts this year. The focus would be placemaking along the riverfront tied to the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan.

- We are bringing in a conservator from Minneapolis to evaluate our outside works of art, and provide recommendations for maintenance and conservation, starting with Ray Jacobson sculptures at Bridge Square:
  - Harvest has been tagged (the conservator will remove the graffiti)
  - The fountain needs more than a cleaning and will be evaluated for long term care