



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
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Mayor's Office Art Exhibit Showcases Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

(Saint Paul) - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will host a public reception for "Close to Nature: Landscape Paintings of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary," an 18-painting exhibit on Wednesday, November 7th in the Mayor's office. The event will take place from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

"The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is a true oasis of nature in the heart of our city. This exhibit highlights both the natural beauty of this area and the talents of Lowertown artists that live and work nearby. It's a great showcase of the Soul of our City, and I encourage residents and visitors to join us in celebrating this great new work," Coleman said.

With the completion of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail extension in July 2007, it is now only a short walk or bike ride to the sanctuary from Saint Paul's Lowertown arts community. The painters featured in the show, Richard Abraham, Joshua Cunningham, Tom Harsevoort and Joseph Paquet, all take a "plein air" approach to their work, setting up their easels outdoors and painting in nature.

Co-sponsored by the nonprofit Lower Phalen Creek Project with support from the Lowertown Future Fund, the exhibit includes paintings of the park's towering sandstone bluffs, spring-fed wetlands and restored floodplain forest.

"We have worked for years to communicate that this is a special place we should protect for children, families and visitors," said Weiming Lu, former President of the Lowertown Redevelopment Corp. and member of the Lower Phalen Creek Project. "The work of these artists truly succeeds in capturing the beauty of the park and showing what a valuable place this is for our city."

The art show will be in place until December 21st and is open to the public during regular business hours.

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