

# Public Art Project

## *Healing Minnesota Stories*



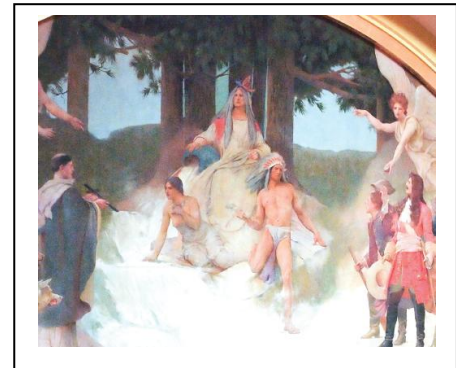
The Healing Minnesota Stories would like to engage you and your organization in a dynamic dialogue about art in Minnesota’s most important public spaces.

We are raising awareness about public art’s hidden stories—and what they say about how we see ourselves as a people. In particular, we critique art in the Minnesota State Capitol and how it represents Native Americans and early Minnesota history. We will engage your group, asking:

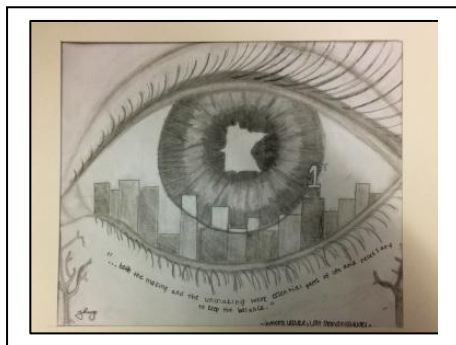
- Is the Capitol a place for historic art that does not change, or should it be as dynamic as our democracy? How do we decide?
- How are people of color represented in our public art? How could we do better?
- How can our art take an honest look at our past as well as look to our future?

### Public Art Presentations

Our speakers will take you on a virtual tour of Minnesota public art and engage your group in a dialogue about the underlying stories and symbols. For example, we discuss the Edwin Blashfield painting “The Discoverers and the Civilizers led to the Source of the Mississippi” in the Minnesota Senate chambers, part of which is shown at right. Presentations are flexible, but typically last an hour.



### Traveling Public Art Exhibit



Art Teacher Rachel Latuff worked with Healing Minnesota Stories to bring the Public Art Project to her Junior High classrooms. She assigned her students to draw their own Capitol art. A small traveling art exhibit grew from that project, including posters with both current Capitol art and student artwork, such as “Beyond the Eyesight” (left). The exhibit is available for display.

**To request a presentation or the art exhibit:**  
**Contact Scott Russell: [scottrussell@usfamily.net](mailto:scottrussell@usfamily.net)**

*Healing Minnesota Stories (HMS) is an initiative of the Saint Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN). We work to bring together Native and non-Native people to share stories and increase awareness of the value of American Indian language, culture, and our shared history.*