



UNITING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

North View Junior High
an International Baccalaureate World School

May 21, 2014

Dear Gov. Dayton,

We are a group of 8th and 9th grade students in studio art classes at North View Junior High in Brooklyn Park. We are Hmong, African, African American, Vietnamese, European and Lao/Thai. We are writing you in the hopes of inspiring you to change some of the art in the Capitol so it shows more of Minnesota's people and cultures. We don't want the art just to show the past. We want it to show the present and the future, too.

This spring, we learned about art in the Capitol. We learned that there are sides of Minnesota history that get forgotten, like that Minnesota has many names that come from the Dakota language. We learned that just because the art shows history a particular way doesn't mean that it is true.

We were then assigned to do our own drawings that represent Minnesota. The assignment made us stop and think for awhile: "What does Minnesota mean to me?" While thinking of ideas to make our projects come together, we needed to learn even more new things about Minnesota and its history. You learn so much when you really think about your surroundings.

For some of us, it was fun and easy to do the free drawing. Others found it difficult. Some of us chose to show nature. Others drew people or used inspiring quotes. We want people to look at the art and realize that Minnesota is way more than just the Mall of America. One thing that was exciting to us was thinking that we could send our drawings to you and that they could make a difference.

We would like to hear your thoughts on art in the Capitol and what changes you think need to be made. Please share our work with other people who care about this issue. We also think this could be a good assignment for other students.

Thank you for your time,

*Apothia Vang
Diana Phonsuya
Thang Nguyen*

Ebony Owens

Anna Williams

Josh Yancy

Victor Tang