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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Humanities Center's Traveling Exhibit, "We Are Water MN" Returns for 2018-19 Tour

Grand Opening to Take Place at University Of Minnesota – Institute on the Environment

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018—St. Paul, Minn. — As we well know in Minnesota, water is a vital part of our history, identity, and culture. In a state with more shoreline than Florida, Hawaii, and California combined, this connection to water, both culturally and literally, is vital. The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and their statewide partners, in cooperation with host site, University of Minnesota – Institute on the Environment, will honor this connection as they celebrate the grand opening of the 2018-19 tour on Oct. 12. "We Are Water MN" will also be on view in St. Paul from Oct. 14 through Nov. 26.

[The "We Are Water MN" Grand Opening Ceremony](#) will take place at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment at 1954 Buford Ave. in St. Paul, Minnesota. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning at 3:00 p.m., with speakers sharing water stories beginning at 4:00 p.m. Guest are invited to stay after for a light reception and to see more of the exhibit.

"The University of Minnesota is proud to be the launch hosting site for the 2018-19 round of 'We Are Water' exhibits and programming," says River Life Coordinator, Patrick Nunnally. "Through our strengths in water-related research, teaching, and programming, responsibility for water and hearing the absented narratives around water engage faculty and students across the full Twin Cities campus. The hosting partnership, between the Institute on the Environment and the Institute for Advanced Study, will be raising the level of awareness, collaboration, and campus/community inclusion to new levels that will extend far into the future."

"We Are Water MN" reveals the central nature of water in our lives by exploring how we relate to water—how we use water, how water unites communities, how water affects every element of life, and how we care for our water and protect water for the future. Visitors reflect on local stories and the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota with space to add their own stories. By creating relationships around water, we are creating networks that can promote positive social norms, and share a vision for, and participate in, water stewardship.

"In 2016 and 2017, MHC was honored to host the Smithsonian's Museums on Main Street exhibition, *Water/Ways*," says Humanities Center President and CEO, David O'Fallon. "During the planning and implementation of *Water/Ways*, MHC and their partners identified an opportunity to more fully tell the



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story of Minnesota’s relationship with water and developed an accompanying exhibit all about water, relationships, and the humanities in our great state. Thus, “We Are Water MN” was born. We are thrilled to be able to continue sharing this exhibit with the state. We thank the University of Minnesota – Institute on the Environment and our partners for helping us host this one-of-a-kind exhibit and a Grand Opening Ceremony.”

In addition to the University of Minnesota – Institute on the Environment, the exhibition will tour seven other communities in Minnesota from Oct. 12, 2018 through Nov. 2, 2019. Host communities include: Bemidji, Crookston, Duluth, Austin, Northfield, Grand Rapids, and Onamia. “We Are Water MN” is a partnership of MHC, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, The Minnesota Historical Society, and the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources and is supported by the Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy Amendment from the state of Minnesota. More information about the exhibition can be found at <https://mnhum.org/we-are-water-mn/>.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center:

Founded in 1971, the **Minnesota Humanities Center** is a statewide nonprofit organization and full service event center located in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Humanities Center offers a new way to think about our future, grounded in the humanities, and collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame conversations and strengthen connections. The Humanities Center works to bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have been absent or marginalized. The Humanities Center is a resource for the state of Minnesota and is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The mission of the Minnesota Humanities Center is to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. More information about the Humanities Center is available at mnhum.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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