



Minnesota Humanities Center Announces Host Sites for Upcoming We Are Water MN Tour

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 10, 2019 – St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) and its partners announce six communities that will participate in [We Are Water MN](#) for its third tour of Minnesota from April 2020 – May 2021. We Are Water MN is a project of MHC that engages Minnesotans with our state’s most important natural resource through personal stories, historical content, and scientific information. This traveling exhibit and community engagement initiative has garnered widespread recognition and excitement since it launched in 2016.

The following partners will host the We Are Water MN traveling exhibit in their communities:

- **North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District;** Venue: Minnesota Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN; April 16 – June 15, 2020
- **Meinders Community Library;** Venue: Meinders Community Library, Pipestone, MN; June 18 – August 17, 2020
- **University of Minnesota Morris;** Venue: Edward J. & Helen Jane Morrison Gallery at the University, Morris, MN; August 20 – October 19, 2020
- **Blue Earth County Historical Society;** Venue: Blue Earth County Historical Society, Mankato, MN; October 22 – December 21, 2020
- **Hmong Museum;** Venue: TBD, St. Paul, MN; January 7 – March 8, 2021
- **City of Rochester;** Venue: TBD, Rochester, MN; March 11 – May 10, 2021

These host partners will work together to design local events and public programming that connect people to issues surrounding water in their communities. In co-creating with community members and organizations who are working on water issues, we are expanding the local and state network of stakeholders at multiple levels within Minnesota to support citizen initiatives and create a shared vision around water in Minnesota.

Visitors to the We Are Water MN exhibit learn about water issues statewide and in their community. They also reflect on local stories and the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota with space to add their own stories. Combining learning and sharing in this way strengthens Minnesotans’ relationships with water and increases participation in water stewardship activities.

“Creating opportunities for local and state officials to collaborate with community in examining and imagining water stewardship ideas resonates with the approach of the Minnesota Humanities Center to have an informed citizenry,” said Kevin Lindsey, CEO of the Minnesota Humanities Center. “We are thankful for our new local partners and the continued support and participation of state departments and agencies in this important work.”

MHC's project partners for We Are Water MN are the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), and the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. These partners connect host communities to resources and information, learn from host communities, and provide opportunities for host communities to learn from and with each other.

"The story of water and the important conversations and decisions needed for its future have brought these organizations and state agencies into a unique partnership. For MNHS and the greater history community, it's a great opportunity to show how history is a valued tool in examining critical issues," said Jennifer Jones, Deputy Director of Preservation and Outreach at MNHS.

Since We Are Water MN began touring in 2016, more than 2,000 stories about water have been collected. Nearly 100 high-quality audio stories are available via [the project's Story Map](#). Water stories are a way for visitors to share personal experiences while learning about their neighbors' relationships with water. The range of experiences – from water as a daily part of visitors' lives to personal stories of family, ritual, joy, and loss – along with education materials, compel people to evaluate their relationship with water and engage more deeply in conservation.

We Are Water MN is funded in part by money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the Clean Water Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center

The Humanities Center connects our past, present, and future by bringing people together to increase understanding and spark change. Using story as a catalyst and the humanities to explore the question of what it means to be human, MHC seeks to create a just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate. MHC, founded in 1971, is a statewide nonprofit organization affiliated with and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. MHC operates a full-service Event Center in a historic building on St. Paul's East Side. More information available at mnhum.org.

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