



We Are Water MN-Hmong Museum

We Are Water MN and Hmong Museum are pleased to host our brand-new outdoor exhibit in Little Mekong Plaza from January 7 to March 8, 2020.

This plaza is at the center of St. Paul's Little Mekong District, a business and cultural district stretching for five blocks of University Avenue between Makubin and Galtier. The area is home to more than 100 small and locally-owned businesses offering authentic food, gifts, clothing, and services from the many cultures of Southeast Asia.

In the exhibit we share about Minnesota water and our connections to it, with Hmong water culture in the past and present as a special focus. The exhibit includes digital content that can be explored with a smart phone. If you weren't able to open the QR codes while visiting—or just want to find those links to explore again—here they are all in one place.

We Are Water MN-Hmong Museum digital content

Tell us what you think! Fill out our survey after enjoying the exhibit. You'll be entered in a drawing for a Minnesota State Park pass.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HmongMuseumWAWSurvey>

Native Minnesotans share their relationships to water in these 5-minute videos:

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water-stories-we-are-water>

How's my lake or stream? Search for water quality information on specific lakes and streams, including overall condition, water clarity, recreational uses, and fish consumption advisories. <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/wqd/surface-water>

Keeping drinking water safe. Depending on where you live, your drinking water comes from a public water supply or a private well. Find more information from the Minnesota Department of Health about drinking water safety.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/healthyhomes/drinkingwater.html>

Altered streams map. Explore the streams and rivers in Minnesota to see if they have been straightened or retain their natural shape.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a1359cb786284c888d74a643bd293db5&extent=-11357698.0492%2C5419839.9067%2C-9557453.159%2C6257589.7367%2C102100>

Locally-focused clean-water actions. Sing up at this link for a one-time email from the We Are Water MN program. <https://forms.gle/kitXn1aLcYfzM4Yy5>

Hmong Museum water culture in the past and present. This page contains copies of the exhibit panels and additional Hmong cultural content.
<https://hmongmuseummn.org/collection/we-are-water/>

Ong Yang describes her experience offering aid to Syrian refugees in 2018, after their crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. During that time she thought a lot about her parents' dangerous journey across the Mekong River. <https://soundcloud.com/user-448596268/ong-yang>

Terri Thao shares how Hmong folklore shows up in places in St. Paul. A well-known Hmong American superstition is that a dragon dwells in Lake Phalen, St. Paul.
<https://soundcloud.com/user-448596268/terri-thao>

KaYing Yang shares stories about her family and Hmong people gathering and cleaning water for drinking and other uses in a refugee camp. KaYing has lived in many places over the years, including, when she was a child, in a refugee camp in Laos.
<https://soundcloud.com/user-448596268/kaying-yang>

Chai Lee reflects on the dual nature of water—it is both dangerous and necessary for life. Chai and his wife followed his uncles from California to Minnesota. And, while he loves living here, he has had a few scary experiences with swimming and being a self-taught swimmer. <https://soundcloud.com/user-448596268/chai-lee>

Cheng Lee tells about a fishing memory on the St. Croix River. He grew up fishing with his dad and brothers and continues to fish for food and creation to this day.
<https://soundcloud.com/user-448596268/cheng-lee>

Kwv txhiaj is a form of poetic singing, or storytelling in songs, that use rhythm and rhyme. Listen to a kwv txhiaj sung by Mao Thao.
<https://hmongmuseummn.org/collection/we-are-water/kwv-txhiaj/>

Wat Tham Krabok. KaYing Yang and May yer Thao both worked with the Hmong refugee community at Wat Tham Krabok. Read about their memories and stories:
<https://hmongmuseummn.org/collection/we-are-water/wat-tham-krabok/>

Share your own story. Do you have a story to share about water in your life?
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNkuxfMziSojHKrv-flWzZoreQsKXnZeDEx2XeoQ8cM7uzmg/viewform?usp=sf_link