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NEWS RELEASE

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CityArt Kicks Off Its 2024 Walking Sculpture Tour this Saturday

MANKATO, Minn. (May 14, 2024) — CityArt is thrilled to announce the installation of the thirteenth annual CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour on Saturday, May 18. This exhibition of thirty-two new pieces—representing over \$400,000 of art from renowned sculptors throughout the country—are placed throughout the City Center and promises to captivate art enthusiasts and casual viewers alike. The upcoming exhibition will showcase new and original works of art created in a diverse range of styles, sizes, and mediums.

CityArt is also hosting its third annual community gathering and open house, Kick Off Your Walk Community Day, Saturday morning from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the beautiful Carnegie Art Center. Visitors will have the opportunity to personally meet and interact with the artists. CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour brochures with maps of this year's tour will be available as well as materials for the bookmark contest. Young artists will also enjoy the face painting and chalk art stations. There will be live music by Hannah Bretz Jazz and light refreshments will be served while supply lasts. CityArt volunteer tour guides will lead free tours of the new sculptures at 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

The public is invited to join the festivities. The Blue Earth County and North Mankato Taylor Libraries are again holding the popular Bookmark Coloring Contest with prizes, generously donated by Dino's Pizza, being awarded in a variety of age group categories. Tables will be set up at the Carnegie Art Center as part of Kick Off Your Walk on the morning of May 18 for kids to create bookmark designs highlighting CityArt. Top winning designs will be printed and distributed in the weeks ahead.

Since the CityArt program's founding in 2011, nearly \$5 million in sculptures have been shown on our city streets, over thirty-one sculptures have been sold to private individuals or businesses and over thirty-six sculptures have been added to Greater Mankato's permanent public art collection. This type of large-scale public art programming would not be possible without the continued financial and in-kind investment from businesses, the cities of Mankato and North Mankato, area foundations, and individuals.

The continued success of CityArt has allowed the program to expand into multiple additional public art initiatives including CityArt On the Go (traffic signal box murals), the Mni Mural (flood wall mural) and Silo Art—turning Greater Mankato into a major arts and cultural destination. Through it all, the Sculpture Walk continues to grow.

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Since CityArt was founded in 2011, thousands of local citizens and visitors alike have enjoyed the Walking Sculpture Tour and it is consistently identified as one of our community's top-rated attractions. Last year, visitors came from over 20 different states and 3 non-U.S. countries. CityArt looks forward to dazzling visitors and locals with this new exhibition.

"We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2024 tour and cannot wait to unveil a fresh set of sculptures from talented artists across the country," said Tricia Lewis, chair of the CityArt program. "The collection of works this year is simply fantastic, and we are excited for the public to experience the joy and wonder that these pieces will bring."

CityArt is a joint program of the City Center Partnership and Twin Rivers Council for the Arts. For more information about CityArt and this year's Walking Sculpture Tour, please visit www.cityartmankato.com

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About CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour

The CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour is an exciting exhibit of outdoor sculptures displayed year-round in the City Centers of Mankato and North Mankato. Local, regional and national artists submit their sculptures to CityArt in the fall and selected sculptures are installed and exhibited in the program for one year. During that time, the sculptures are eligible for various artistic awards and prizes and are also promoted to the public for sale or lease. CityArt is a joint program of the City Center Partnership and Twin Rivers Council for the Arts dedicated to bringing public art to the community. CityArt initiatives include the Walking Sculpture Tour, CityArt On the Go, the Mankato Flood Wall Mural, the City Center Public Art Tour, and the Silo Art Project.

About City Center Partnership City Center Partnership, a downtown development organization, is a business unit of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. (GMG) which includes the chamber of commerce and economic development organization, Greater Mankato Growth, the local convention and visitor's bureau, Visit Mankato and GreenSeam, which utilizes agriculture to build on the region's extensive agribusiness assets to develop ag economy.

About Twin Rivers Council for the Arts

Twin Rivers Council for the Arts is a collaborative alliance of local arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, and community members who share a vision for the arts in Greater Mankato. Twin Rivers Council for the Arts serves as a unifying voice, advocating for and connecting arts groups to the community by providing services and shared resources to affiliate members throughout southern Minnesota.

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