SCP Arts Exhibits, Installations, and Self-Guided Activities

Exploring Pollinator Pathways

https://www.stthomas.edu/osi/scparts/installationsandexhibits/pollinatorpathsummer2019/

About: Exploring Pollinator Pathways invites people of all ages to stop and observe pollinators closely, to learn about their relationships to flowers, and to ponder their value to society. This project seeks to inspire wonder, joy, and appreciation for the diversity and value of pollinators in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Partners: St. Thomas Pollinator Path, General Biology Labs (BIOL 101), Plants, Food, and Medicine (BIOL 315), and SCP Artist-in-Residence Sarah Nelson

Sample artwork and activities:

Exploring Pollinator Pathways Activity Guide: 34-page illustrated activity guide for kids

https://www.stthomas.edu/media/officeofsustainability/documents/Final_Exploring-Pollinator-Pathways-.pdf

Community engagement:

- The **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization** hosted the **Pollinator Pathways Exhibit** Summer 2019: https://www.mwmo.org/learn/visit-us/exhibits/pollinator-pathways/

- The **Walker Art Center** included materials in their **Free First Saturday at Home "Plant Party"** programming **for ages 4 and up**, Summer 2020
  https://walkerart.org/calendar/2020/free-first-saturday-at-home-plant-party

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Metro Transit Green Line Installation

About: In collaboration with Metro Transit, Leadership for Social Justice (JPST 365) explored the diverse stories of transit riders and why transit is important to them to understand and communicate the importance of transit in people's lives to policy makers. Students identified a common theme among stories: transformation. Students explained their research in their book, *Transit Transformations*, and collaborated with SCP Artist-in-Residence Sarah Nelson to translate this theme into artwork – the monarch butterfly's life cycle. This became the external wrap on the Green Line train in 2019.

Photo by Intersection
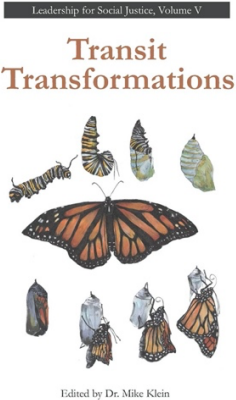
Partners:
Metro Transit, Leadership for Social Justice (JPST 365), SCP Artist-in-Residence Sarah Nelson, SOLV Initiative

Photo by @danemakes

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Symbiosis
https://www.stthomas.edu/osi/scparts/installationsandexhibits/symbiosisfall2019/

About: *Symbiosis* invited viewers to explore the interactions of species, environments, community, research, and art. The exhibit featured artwork about the interconnections of pollinators and habitat, the Mississippi River and people, and the translation of research into artwork. *Symbiosis* hoped to inspire viewers to bring the ideas explored in the exhibit to our own backyards: to ponder how we can live well with the creatures and ecosystems around us, upon which we depend, and to become people who benefit and restore the interconnected function and beauty of the world we share.

Partners:
St. Thomas Art History Gallery, St. Thomas Pollinator Path, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, General Biology Labs (BIOL 101), Plants, Food, and Medicine (BIOL 315), Society and Sustainability (ENVR 212), and SCP Artists-in-Residence Sarah Nelson and Jessica Turtle

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Mississippi River Experiences
Coming to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization in Fall 2021

About: Society and Sustainability (ENVR 212) collaborated with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) and the Natural Heritage Project (NHP) to explore people's experiences of the Mississippi River both through an online survey and through stories. Students collected people's stories of the Mississippi River through NHP's Elm Tree Story Booth, which traveled to different locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul to collect stories from diverse voices. Students analyzed online survey themes and translated their research into artwork with SCP Artist-in-Residence Sarah Nelson. NHP and SCP are also pairing local artists with individual stories collected through the Elm Tree Story Booth to feature at the MWMO in Fall 2021. Research findings will inform the MWMO's engagement and outreach programs.

The exhibit will invite viewers to explore the diverse experiences of people with the River.

Partners: Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Society and Sustainability (ENVR 212), the Natural Heritage Project, and SCP Artists-in-Residence Sarah Nelson and Jessica Turtle


ENVR 212 students collaborated with SCP Artist-in-Residence Sarah Nelson to translate themes they found in their survey research into artwork. The layered perspectives of this drawing convey respondents' multiple perspectives and experiences of the Mississippi River. The three primary perspectives were a distant perspective as an onlooker from afar, a closer connection walking or biking along the river trails, or a tangible and immediate experience exploring the shores or waters of the river. The more closely respondents experienced the river, the more salient the tension of pollution and beauty was in their experience. The accentuated bluffs represent descriptions of the geology of the area and awe of the Mississippi River.

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NHP's Elm Tree Story Booth collected stories of the Mississippi River in different neighborhoods. NHP and SCP are pairing local artists with individual stories to feature at the MWMO in Fall 2021.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STORIES
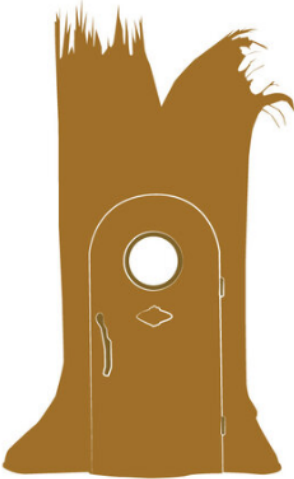
Hosted by Mississippi Watershed Management Organization in partnership with the University of St. Thomas and the Natural Heritage Project

Help us bring to life, Mississippi River stories. Each artist selected will receive a story of the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities community collected by University of St. Thomas students through a research partnership with the St. Thomas Sustainable Communities Partnership, the Natural Heritage Project, and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. Stories and artwork will be integrated into an exhibit that invites us to explore and ponder the diverse interrelationships of people and the river.

OPEN CALL

See other SCP Arts projects at: https://www.stthomas.edu/osi/scparts/scpartsprojects/