



The Most Livable
City in America

For Immediate Release

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City, Arts Group Unveil Sidewalk Poetry

Saint Paul Public Works and Public Art Saint Paul held an open house on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church. The event celebrated the large-scale public art project *Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk*.

Marcus Young, Saint Paul's Public Artist in Residence and the creator of the project sees our city as a book: "We know the city is a city, but can the city also be a book, a very big book? So much of our public space is filled with commercial and regulatory text. With sidewalk poetry, we want to create delightful moments of outdoor reading."

In April, Public Works held a contest to solicit original poems from Saint Paul residents. More than 2000 poems were submitted. Twenty winning poems are now stamped into sidewalk panels in neighborhoods throughout Saint Paul. A hand-bound, artist-made book featuring these poems is available from Public Art Saint Paul. Contact Nic Hager, nic@publicartstpaul.org or 651-290-0921.

"The City is grateful for the support of Public Art Saint Paul, as it has allowed us, to build on Saint Paul's rich literary tradition. The public's embrace of the project is yet another indication to us that Saint Paul is truly the most livable city in America," said Bruce Beese, Public Works Director.

Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk works in tandem with Saint Paul Public Works' sidewalk maintenance program. To date, the program has made eighty installations of twenty poems written by Saint Paul residents.

Where to see examples the sidewalk poems:

- On the south side of Lafond, between Grotto and St. Albans
- On the SW and NW corners of Dale and Blair
- On the north side of Blair, between Dale and Grotto

For more information regarding about this project, visit www.publicartstpaul. For information regarding Public Works, visit www.saintpaul.gov.