

## **Public Art is not an afterthought for the Smith Avenue Transit Center**

A Public Art Dedication is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27th at 5:30 p.m. for the interactive glass and metal sculpture at the Smith Avenue Transit Center in downtown Saint Paul.

SAINT PAUL, MN (November 21, 2007) - Public art was an integral part of the Smith Avenue Transit Center design from the very beginning, according to designer Bill Hickey from the Collaborative Design Group. In partnership with Public Art Saint Paul, the firm selected a local glass artist, Dick Huss, to create an interactive sculpture made up of slumped glass, stainless steel and copper. Dick Huss, a glass blower for the past 30 years, enlisted the knowledge and expertise of Tom Kelly from Architecture Iron Inc. for the fabrication of the metal, and Todd Dyste of R & M Manufacturing to cut and punch the stainless steel. The unnamed masterpiece also contains 800 computer programmable LED lights that can be seen from a distance and customized for special events or holidays. The project brought together a team of professionals who typically work on industrial projects, to create a fun and unique piece of art.

The \$25 M Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) project was funded by a \$6.7 M Federal grant, \$1 M from Metro Transit, and bonds that will be paid back from parking revenue. Currently the City of Saint Paul does not have a Public Art policy in its development requirements, but promotes and encourages the integration of art whenever possible. The Transit Center sculpture costs approximately \$115,000 which is less than 1% of the total budget.

The Smith Avenue Transit Center, located on Smith Avenue between Kellogg Boulevard and Fifth Street, is a multi-modal municipal facility that has the capacity for up to 600 cars (200

spaces available for car-pools) and bicycle lockers for downtown commuters. It is also a strategic staging location for Metro Transit's east side bus routes and can accommodate 15 buses at a time. The facility takes up about 1.7 of the total 4.0 acres of space available for development.

"The Transit Center is a step forward in opening key development opportunities for the future of Cleveland Circle and will promote economic development and vibrancy in downtown Saint Paul." said Mayor Chris Coleman

For more information on the Smith Avenue Transit Center or the Art Dedication, please contact Martin Schieckel, Project Manager at [martin.schieckel@si.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:martin.schieckel@si.stpaul.mn.us) 651-266-6580 or Christine Podas-Larson, President of Public Art Saint Paul at [cpl@publicartstpaul.org](mailto:cpl@publicartstpaul.org) or 651-290-0921