



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Public Art Installation at Stone Arch Bridge Festival Reflecting The River

Minneapolis, Minnesota. May 8, 2023 ---- The Stone Arch Bridge Festival is proud to announce a collaborative public art installation project that will be featured at the 2023 festival, made possible through a [St Anthony Falls Heritage Board](#) grant.

The project is a collaboration between [Stone Arch Bridge Festival](#), [Mill City Museum](#), a local textile artist [Jorie Ann Kosel](#) and school age children who attend Mill City Museum and Mississippi Park Connection field trips during the months of April and May 2023. Mill City Museum facilitated the collaboration by inviting the students to create a piece of art that will become part of "Reflecting the River" installation. MCM provided the students with pieces of recycled outdoor banners to use as the "paper" to write, draw, color, paint, what they felt and thought when they saw the powerful waterfall and river during their visit. These submissions as well as other donated recycled textiles come together under the artistic directions of artist Jorie Ann Kosel to become an impactful and inclusive temporary public art pieces to be displayed during and after the Stone Arch Bridge Festival. The art piece will be located just outside the Mill City Museum courtyard entrance on West River Parkway.

### **Description of Reflecting the River Art Installation by Jorie Ann Kosel:**

'Reflecting the River' is a piece of textile art. I wanted to use textiles to paint this picture for two reasons. To begin with, it is impossible to reflect upon this stretch of the Mississippi without considering the impact industrialization has had on these banks. A number of the mills that dot these shorelines were textile and wool mills. The power of this river was harvested to produce the very materials we'll be weaving its portrait with. The second reason is impact. Modern textile production requires an enormous amount of water and leaves millions of gallons of polluted blackwater in its wake. My goal as an artist has always centered around bringing new life to something old. In this case, I get to use the donated clothes and old household textiles of my neighbors and community members to paint a reflection of the Mississippi along its banks.

### **Jorie Ann Kosel Artist Statement:**

I have long been mesmerized by the inherent duality of water; the serenity of its stillness against the power of its motion, its ability to bring vitality and / or destruction to everything it touches. I grew up along a river on the other side of the state, most known for its incredibly rich topsoil and the catastrophic flooding that makes its valley so suited for farming. Much like the Mississippi, the power of the Red River drove the development of the community surrounding it.

In this piece, I aim to capture and honor the vitality of one of Minnesota's most incredible natural resources. **When you stand along this fence, you are standing atop the history of the twin cities.** The power of the Mississippi fed these mills, the waterways allowed for transcontinental trade, the watershed fed the land and the swirling waters beneath the falls gathered the Dakota people for hundreds of years before colonization. **The power of water is what has brought all of us to this place for generations, and it is my goal to capture and honor that power with this tapestry.**

I am a textile artist. Textiles were always going to be my medium, but it feels particularly applicable to this piece because of the role water plays in modern textile production as well as our proximity to the former wool and textile mills of Minneapolis past.



Using community-sourced textiles (old clothes and household linens), organic materials (grasses, flowers and woven baskets) and recycled vinyl banners I will render a reflection of the Mississippi River onto the fence at the base of the Gold Medal Flour Grain Elevators. There will also be space for others to leave their own reflections: dotted along the shores will be clusters of artwork created by local students after their classroom visits to the Heritage Zone. Folks that visit during the Stone Arch Bridge Festival will have the opportunity to create and leave their own impressions behind as well. In the end, we will have a community-created tapestry, telling the story of what this river means to us now while honoring what it has meant to us for generations.

#### **About Mill City Museum:**

Mill City Museum is a [Minnesota Historical Society museum](#) in [Minneapolis](#). It opened in 2003 built in the ruins of the Washburn "A" Mill next to [Mill Ruins Park](#) on the banks of the [Mississippi River](#). The museum focuses on the founding and growth of Minneapolis, especially [flour milling](#) and the other industries that used [hydropower](#) from [Saint Anthony Falls](#).

#### **St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board**

In 1988 the [Minnesota State Legislature established the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board](#) for the purpose of providing interpretive resources for the public within the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone encircling the Minneapolis central riverfront, an area rich in natural, scenic, recreational and historic elements. Since 1988, the Heritage Board has funded, guided, and spurred countless developments and interpretive efforts along the Minneapolis Riverfront.

**About the Festival:** 2023 marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Stone Arch Bridge Festival. It is one of the Twin Cities largest and longest running festivals with a strong of tradition of bringing art, music and community to the Minneapolis Riverfront on Father's Day weekend.

#### **Overview Schedule:**

Saturday, June 17 / 10 am - 7 pm

Sunday, June 18 / 10 am - 5 pm

**Location:** Along West River Parkway from N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and S. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Admission:** FREE!

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[www.stonearchbridgefestival.com](http://www.stonearchbridgefestival.com)

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