



The Loppet Call for Artists:
Stories of Connection Project

More info: loppet.org/stories-of-connection

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Call type: Outdoor Public Art

Eligibility: Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Selection: 3 Artists

Fee: No entry fee

Commission: \$8,333 each (includes design, community engagement, materials and installation)

Entry Deadline: Sunday, March 1st, 2026 @ 11:59 p.m.

Artists Selected Notified by: Friday, March 6th, 2026

Final physical artwork completed by: Monday, June 1st, 2026

Expressed timeline for artwork completion: ~ 3 months

Background:

The Loppet engages 40,000 people annually through opportunities that align with our Mission: *“Connecting people to the outdoors through experiences that grow community.”* Recognizing that access to nature and the outdoors has been easier for some Minneapolis residents than others, The Loppet has partnered with communities and organizations to increase park usage, reverse underrepresentation in accessing green spaces, and include anti-racism efforts.

For more information on The Loppet, how to engage with Wirth Park, and the Stories of Connection Project, visit: loppet.org/stories-of-connection

Project Description:

The Loppet /Stories of Connection (SOC) is a multi-year project funded in part by the state's LCCMR grant (Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources). The project concept is to gather stories of connection to nature and Theodore With Park (TWP) from BIPOC communities in North Minneapolis through interviews, focus groups, forums, and community research. Combined, these stories represent the challenges, underrepresentation of engagement, and inequities in access facing BIPOC residents. The second phase of the project will present outdoor nature stations and art components highlighting themes that emerged from the stories. The overall message is meant to reconnect BIPOC residents to the parks, increase their usage of urban green spaces, and affirm their presence as valued and welcome. This Call for Artists proposal seeks individuals or teams to create artwork that will coherently illustrate the overarching themes and stories.

This project also carries an environmental education component with an emphasis on environmental justice programs and environmental leadership pathways for high schoolers and young adults. Artists with experience in environmental justice are encouraged to apply.

Project Themes:

Stories have been previously collected through North Mpls resident interviews, focus groups, and community forums. Prospective artists should be prepared to center their proposed artwork with these themes in mind:

- The history and rich diversity of North Minneapolis
- History and honoring of the land we are situated on
- Nature as a healing tool
- Belonging in the outdoors
- *Shifting the Narrative about North Minneapolis*
- *The Fight for Liberation*
- *Nature as a Social Phenomenon*
- *Finding Growth and Healing in the Outdoors*
- *Nurturing Reconnection*

Our goal is to have artists/teams produce artwork that will creatively introduce these themes to the community.

Project Details and Parameters:

- SOC phase II is looking to create three (3) “spaces for reflection” within Theo Wirth Park that invites the community to slow down and connect more deeply with nature and North Mpls.
- Each reflective space will house a “seating component/place for rest” created by the artist/team. We are looking for artists to create interactive, diverse, artful versions of seating areas (for ex. benches, stools, etc.)
- Open to individuals or a team of artists. We recommend teams of no more than 3 artists. **The commission amount is the same for individuals or teams.**
- Ideally, Artists/teams will have previous experience completing collaborative work in public outdoor spaces.
- Artists/teams need to be prepared to design and create pieces with Loppet Stories of Connection themes and community input in mind.
- Artists/teams should express how they would include nature/environmental perspectives in artwork for public spaces.
- Designs should be welcoming for everyone, including accessibility needs. The Loppet will help with guidance for best practices around accessibility.
- Artists/teams should prepare to attend one community Stories of Connection event.
- Submitted proposals should consider how the themes correlate to community, connection, nature, healing, belonging, access, and North Minneapolis history. We are open to the many ways an artist/team could interpret these themes.
- We are interested in supporting projects led or created by BIPOC artists / artist teams from or connected to North Minneapolis.
- We encourage artists to draw inspiration from cultural heritage, personal experiences, and global perspectives.

Eligibility:

- Open to all BIPOC individual artists/teams who reside, work, or are connected to North Minneapolis. **Applicants not residing in North Minneapolis should be prepared to elaborate on their connection to North Minneapolis.*
- Able to meet key dates listed in the timeline.
- Artists/teams should be able to explain how they will include project themes and community feedback in their artwork.

Note: Upon commissioned selection, the artist or team must agree that The Loppet/Stories of Connection will maintain ownership of created art pieces, and is permitted to use the art in any way that best aligns with SOC programming, exhibition(s), use as curriculum, and/or programming. Artwork may be kept in a 'mobile status' for up to 5 years. Artists or teams are required to sign and submit their release of authorization before commencing work.

Selection Process:

From submitted responses to the call, a panel of Loppet staff and community members will select the artists/teams to receive commission.

Site Specific Considerations (if applicable):

- The artwork will be housed outdoors in various locations within Theodore Wirth Park for approximately one year (*specific locations will be pre-determined by the Loppet and MPRB)
- These works will strategically be placed to interact with the community
- Artists are strongly encouraged to fabricate with re-used materials, materials that can be re-used, or otherwise sustainable sources

Applicant Information - Please include the following information:

- A. Contact information: name, email, phone, address, pronouns, website/social (if applicable).
- B. *If part of a team, please select a designated primary contact. List info for additional artist/team members. Note: other artist/team members must also meet all eligibility requirements.*

Written materials: B-D should be combined into one PDF to be uploaded with the application. Title your file name lastname_written material.pdf

B. Narrative

Answers to questions 1-4 should be about one page. Please use question titles as headings when writing your answers.

1. **What is your connection to North Minneapolis?**
2. **Artwork and approach.** Describe your approach to creating art and how you might engage with the project themes and community stories in creating your work. Tell us about the steps you (and your team) would take from initial concept to installation.
3. **Nature Connection.** Describe how you might use your experience interacting with nature in your artwork.
4. **What excites you about this project?** Tell us why you are specifically interested in this opportunity.
5. **For teams only - (no more than one additional page) Detail how your team will work collaboratively on this project.**

C. Resume - Maximum 2 pages per artist - combined into PDF with answers to Narrative questions.

D. Work Samples List - Create a work sample list that includes the following information for each sample:

- Name of file (**lastname_imagenumber.jpg**)
- Title of your work
- Year
- Materials
- Short description (optional)

E. Work Samples - Upload up to 5 work samples. Please include work samples of similar completed projects. Samples should demonstrate skill level and the artist/teams ability to execute the project. Images must be under 5MB and are recommended to be 1920 pixels on the longest side. Title your image **lastname_imagenumber.jpg**

Best Practice Application Submission Process:

1. Read Call for background, eligibility, and application process.
2. Complete and compile items A-E to prepare for submitting to the [**Google form**](#) at the same time. The Google form will not save your incomplete application.
Submit by 11:59pm, Sunday March 1st, 2026.
3. This CFA and application link can also be found at
loppet.org/stories-of-connection
4. We will be in touch if there are any questions about your submission.
5. Have additional questions or want to talk more in-depth about this project?
Please feel free to reach out via email: stories@loppet.org

We thank you for your interest in the Loppet *Stories of Connection Project!* We look forward to reviewing your application.