South Loop Sculpture Songbird Survey
Community to Select Songbird for Sculpture

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Bloomington, MN – The community will have a chance to select which type of songbird they would like to see represented in a new South Loop sculpture.

The South Loop sculpture will be designed by Donald Lipski, an award-winning artist with numerous large-scale public art works throughout the United States and Canada, with sculptures and installations included in art collections and exhibitions throughout the world.

The sculpture will contain a large South Loop sign with an oversized songbird perched on top. Lipski was inspired by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and how it provides a habitat to more than 250 species of migratory birds. The Refuge and Old Cedar Avenue Bridge consistently attract avid bird watchers and urban birding groups. Lipski focused on a songbird because they are perching birds, sing well-developed songs, and signify the coming of spring, which can be associated with joy. The theme of flight and migration was also an element when considering the diverse population of South Loop and the nearby international airport – people (visitors, residents, employees) and birds come to South Loop from all over the world. Intentionally making something small (a songbird) into something very large contributes to the proposed South Loop sculpture’s whimsy. The artist feels confident that children in particular will love this piece, and that it will bring surprise and delight to the area.

The South Loop sculpture will be located on the south east corner of the intersection of Killebrew Drive and East Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington. This site is very accessible, near Refuge trail heads, next to a trail connection, and a potential site for a future South Loop directional kiosk.

After consultation with staff from the Refuge, Lipski compiled a short list of songbirds that regularly migrate through the Refuge. The survey will include the design concept and a variety of songbirds to choose from, and will be open from Friday, November 15 through November 22.

For more information and to vote for your favorite songbird, please visit www.blm.mn/placemaking, or contact 952-563-8744 or placemaking@bloomingtonmn.gov.

Follow updates on social media: #SouthLoopSongbird.
About the South Loop District
South Loop is a rapidly developing neighborhood in Bloomington, which is adjacent to Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, and home to Mall of America, Bloomington Central Station and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. By 2020, on a typical day South Loop there will be 6,000 residents, 9,000 hotel guests, 35,000 employees and 115,000 Mall of America visitors. For more information, visit www.bloomingtonmn.gov/development-districts/south-loop-district.

About Creative Placemaking
The City of Bloomington in partnership with Artistry are working together to build a sense of community in Bloomington’s South Loop through creative placemaking. Creative placemaking leverages the arts to help shape and revitalize the physical, social, and economic character of neighborhoods, cities and towns, making use of their existing human, physical, social, and economic assets. Creative placemaking engages stakeholders, artists, and others in building social fabric and local economies while making physical place-based improvements. It highlights the distinctive character and creative and cultural resources of each place. For more information, visit www.blm.mn/placemaking.

About Artistry
Artistry is an independent theater and visual arts nonprofit that serves a regional audience of more than 94,000 people annually. In pursuit of artistic excellence, Artistry engages the region’s most talented artists in work that welcomes and develops audiences and opens hearts and minds.

Artistry’s vision is a diverse, distinctive, and progressive community widely recognized for making art and artists essential to a vibrant social fabric and civic life.

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