



City of Minneapolis News Release

Contact: Matt Lindstrom, (612) 673-2148

Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Picturing Peace announces photography contest winners

Community contest contributes to an inspiring public art installation in downtown Minneapolis, raises awareness on youth violence prevention

Sept. 5, 2012 (MINNEAPOLIS) Picturing Peace, a local initiative to engage the community in the important conversation of youth violence prevention, has selected the winners of its summer photography contest.

Winning Photographers:

Adult Category: Susan Montgomery, Elizabeth Nemmers, Terri Snell, Taniel Jimenez, Ivy Vainio and Sue Vruno

Youth Category: Dante Davison, Anessa Hicks, Kari Johnson, and Reyna Urbano

This past spring, teens from local neighborhoods kicked off the Picturing Peace initiative by capturing images to represent their perspectives on violence and hope for peace in their neighborhoods. The initiative also included a community-wide photography contest for people of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels. Entrants were asked to take an original photo to represent their vision of a peaceful community, assets that support peace, or environments where young people can thrive. More than 100 photos were submitted from around the Twin Cities and 13 winning photos were selected by a panel of arts professionals and community leaders.

A gallery of the winning photos can be viewed on the [Picturing Peace website](http://picturingpeace.org). Winners will be recognized by the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District during "Summer 612: Unlearning the Culture of Violence," a free, public event happening Saturday, Sept. 22 from 2-5 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library. To register for the event go to: <http://summer612mpls.eventbrite.com>.

The winning photos will also be featured in the Picturing Peace exhibit touring local libraries through November 2012. Select images will be installed on utility boxes in downtown Minneapolis as a public art to add vibrancy to the sidewalks while deterring graffiti. The public art installation will be completed by October 2012.

Picturing Peace is a community engagement and photography project that explores youth violence, peace, safety and community supports for young people. The project raises awareness about youth

violence, while also generating a buzz on positive activities that promote peaceful, safe and thriving societies.

The Picturing Peace project helps to support the mission and goals of both the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Action youth violence prevention initiative as well as the Downtown Improvement District, which aims to make downtown cleaner, safer, greener and better in order to achieve a more vital and vibrant downtown. The project adds significant value to the downtown community by providing an opportunity for community engagement, highlighting positive messages about community peace and thriving youth, remedying locations of blight by wrapping graffiti-covered utility boxes with colorful images, and raising awareness about youth violence.

###