

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 7, 2013



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Public Art Commission at Milwaukee Public Library Engages Community
Artist Santiago Cucullu Invites Milwaukeans to Share Their Stories

MILWAUKEE – Did you get engaged by the Northpoint Lighthouse? Did your child take a first step in Back Bay Park? Does your family enjoy picnics on the lakefront? Milwaukeans now have a chance to inspire the design and content of public art at the new East Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL.)

Santiago Cucullu, one of two local artists recently selected to create public art installations in the new East Branch, is seeking public participation in his commission. He wants to know what architectural features around Milwaukee Libraries are inherent parts of your story. **Milwaukee residents of all ages are encouraged to share stories about key events in their lives that occurred near one of MPL's branch libraries.** The stories and images will inspire a series of murals inside the library that are based on geographical features surrounding MPL locations.

Cucullu asks interested individuals to submit a short description of a significant life event that occurred near any MPL location. The submission should include the recognizable and notable geographical landmarks at the location described. Including a snapshot or digital image of the location is helpful.

Stories (not to exceed 500 words) and images may be posted to the Milwaukee Public Library "Be Part of the Art at East" Facebook Event Page (<http://on.fb.me/192n3v9>), sent to publicart@milwaukee.gov or dropped off or mailed to the temporary East Branch location, 2430 N. Murray Avenue, Attention: Public Art. The submission deadline is Sunday, November 24th.

Santiago Cucullu has been working as a practicing artist in Milwaukee for 10 years and has exhibited his work both nationally and internationally as a solo artist and as part of a group. He is a long-time resident of the east side, a young artist mentor with the Milwaukee Artists Resource Network and an adjunct faculty member for the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Cucullu's work mines quotidian events for universal human themes. Cucullu's art work will be a mural series using imagery culled from architectural elements found around existing Milwaukee libraries that represent the diversity and shared experience of library patrons. Cucullu's proposal and submission can be found here: www.mpl.org/EastLibrary.

Public Art Program Details

MPL announced the commission award for two public art installations inside the new East Branch on October 9th. The commissions were awarded to two local artists Santiago Cucullu and kathryn e. martin. The artists will be tasked with creating public art installations inside the new library. The request for qualifications and complete program description can be found here: www.mpl.org/EastLibrary. A Request for Qualifications will be issued later this year for art to be installed outside the East Branch.

The public art project for the East Branch is funded in part by grants received from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund, Marvin W. Haesle Fund for the Arts and the Jean Hutchinson Fund, the Milwaukee Arts Board and from the sale of the former East Library Eames furnishings. The library has budgeted \$15,000 for each of the two internal art installations and \$25,000 for the external art work.

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