**Winter-time ‘Mobile Hot-Spot’: Little Box Sauna**

**Placemaking by Molly Reichert & Andrea Johnson**

**Hosts** Mall of America, Radisson Blu, IKEA

A new kind of “mobile hot spot” that creates a visible, small-scale space for socializing within the large expanse of the South Loop.

The sauna travels through the neighborhood during February and March, with one-week stops at each host’s parking lot to create a hub where employees and visitors can socialize in a way that is new to our community, based on Finnish and other cultural traditions.

By inhabiting the expansive open spaces between large structures, Little Box Sauna gives people a destination they can see and walk to, a stopping place between buildings and cars.

Little Box Sauna will be on site at the Mall of America in front of the Radisson Blu from February 19–February 26th. The sauna will be on site at IKEA from February 27th–March 5th.

Visit [www.wordpress.littleboxsauna.com](http://www.wordpress.littleboxsauna.com) for details.

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**Planting This Spring: Ripple of Life**

**Placemaking by Tom Henry**

**Hosts** Mall of America, MetroTransit, City of Bloomington

Field Artist Tom Henry creates a ripple landform in a large circular pattern with a field of wheat, surrounded by a blue Russian Sage hedge and a half circle of yellow sunflowers entitled Ripple of Life. It ends with a harvest of wheat to be processed into hundreds of loaves of bread for Twin Cities food shelves.

A large blue reflective globe in the center represents the drop of water nourishing the field of beauty and sending out the ripple effect.

Installation and planting will take place in spring 2015. MetroTransit, MOA and the City of Bloomington are providing additional financial support.
**Unveiling Later This Summer:**

**Science and Nature Mural**

**Placemaking by Erik Pearson Hosts Cypress Semi-Conductor**

Erik Pearson will create a large exterior mural at the border of Cypress Semi-Conductor and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge at the Bass Ponds parking lot that will be unveiled in summer 2015.

The Mural takes inspiration and images from the history of technology and semi-conductors in the South Loop as well as the future vision of “green” technologies expressing the unique blend of science and nature that have shaped the neighborhood’s past and will continue to impact its future.

**Story Swapping Underway:**

**Cross-Pollination**

**Placemaking by PlaceBased Productions Host Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**

Erik In partnership with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, PlaceBased Productions turns the grounds of the Refuge into a stage for Cross-Pollination – a work of walking theater.

A call for cast members to take part in the production adds to shared understanding of the unique role the Refuge plays in shaping the South Loop’s past, present, and future.

Cross-Pollination explores the places, resources, and initiatives that make the Refuge a common ground where South Loop community members can engage each other and connect to the surrounding river valley.

Story Swaps take place February 7, 24th, and 26th to collect stories from the community about the South Loop and the Refuge.

**South Loop’s Emerging Host Network**

In the South Loop, the creation of new social fabric will be as important as the weaving of new physical fabric. **Placemaking Teams** are now creatively engaging landowners, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies. They will reconvene this summer to celebrate.

**What Exactly are the Projects Demonstrating?**

Projects will: (1) comprise a permanent or temporary artistic installation, urban design intervention, or cultural event/performance; (2) engage one or more groups of stakeholders in project design/development process or the final project; (3) take inspiration from what is distinctive about the South Loop’s past, present, or future.