

Nicollet Mall Public Art 2015 Artist Bios

Blessing Hancock, artist and owner of Skyrim Studio Inc, has completed site-specific sculptures and monumental artworks throughout the world with an emphasis on innovation and new experiences. By including interactive opportunities that engage people in participating with the artwork through touch, sound and movement, Blessing's concepts expand the boundaries of the civic environment. Through using standard materials in unexpected ways, she creates opportunities for the public to connect with the work, while introducing an element of surprise. Community engagement is a connective thread that runs through her works, which enhances both the artwork process and the final outcome. Light is also an essential component of Blessing's artwork, expressing the vast potential of color, light and shadow to enliven a space.

Tristan Al-Haddad is a working designer and visual artist in addition to holding the position of assistant professor in the School of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He holds a Master of Architecture from Georgia Tech and has also studied at the University of Paris - La Villette and at the Daniels Center for Building Technology and Urban Design in Genoa, Italy. His work has been exhibited in venues including the Pompidou Center, High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Boston Center for the Arts, International Contemporary Furniture Fair, and the American Institute of Architects' Center for Architecture in New York. Al-Haddad's work has been published the New York Times, Dwell, Metropolis, Art Papers and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. He was one of seven recipients of the ARTADIA Artist Award in 2009 and a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad Tecnica Federico Santa Maria in Valparaiso, Chile. In 2014 Al-Haddad was selected by the US Department of State to represent the United States at the Colombo Art Biennale in Sri Lanka.

Ned Kahn is an artist with a background in environmental science, explores natural phenomena through his art. His works typically incorporate fluid dynamics, optics, acoustics, and other features of physics. For the last twenty years, Ned Kahn has been creating interactive sculptures inspired by everything from wind and waves to black holes and galaxies. Created using simple materials such as water, sand and air, Kahn's artworks are not just celebrations of nature - they are inspired by fluid dynamics and other aspects of science. Many of his artworks reveal the way patterns can emerge when things flow. These patterns are not static objects, they are patterns of behavior - recurring themes in nature. He has designed exhibits for museums in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan and has completed numerous public art commissions.

Regina Flanagan is an artist, arts administrator and professional landscape architect. She holds Master degrees in Fine Art from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and in Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota College of Design. She brings an artist's perspective as an innovator, and also the expertise of an administrator and landscape architect, to curating and integrating public art into the new design for Nicollet Mall. Flanagan's photography has been featured in over 85 exhibitions and numerous collections. In 2014 she was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Artists Initiative Grant to continue a series about the aftermath of the Pagami Creek Fire in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Flanagan has directed over 135 projects for the public art programs for the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota and conducted public art planning for the cities of Madison and Milwaukee, and the City of Saint Paul, with support from Public Art St. Paul. She is the author of "The Millennium Park Effect: A Tale of Two Cities", published in *The Practice of Public Art* and also of the Artistic Significance Report, which examines Nicollet Mall artworks from 1990-1992, for the City of Minneapolis.