

MISCA PRESENTATION 20210902

About Minneapolis and State fairs

Minneapolis Lakes



Redwing blackbird at Lake of the Isles - BH



Fishing, sailing and music at Lake Harriet - BH

There are 13 lakes in the city that are over 20,000 square meters.

People enjoy these activities at Minneapolis lakes: walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading, sailing, canoeing, wind surfing, swimming, ice skating, cross-country skiing, bird watching...

Before the arrival of Europeans as visiting traders in the mid-1600s, Native Americans had lived in what we now know as Minnesota for many thousands of years. First French, then British, and finally American fur-trade companies exchanged manufactured metal and cloth products for furs provided by Ojibwe and Dakota native peoples. The furs were used to make hats and decorate clothing.



Ojibwe family in canoe, Vermilion Lake. - Collections Online - mnhs.org

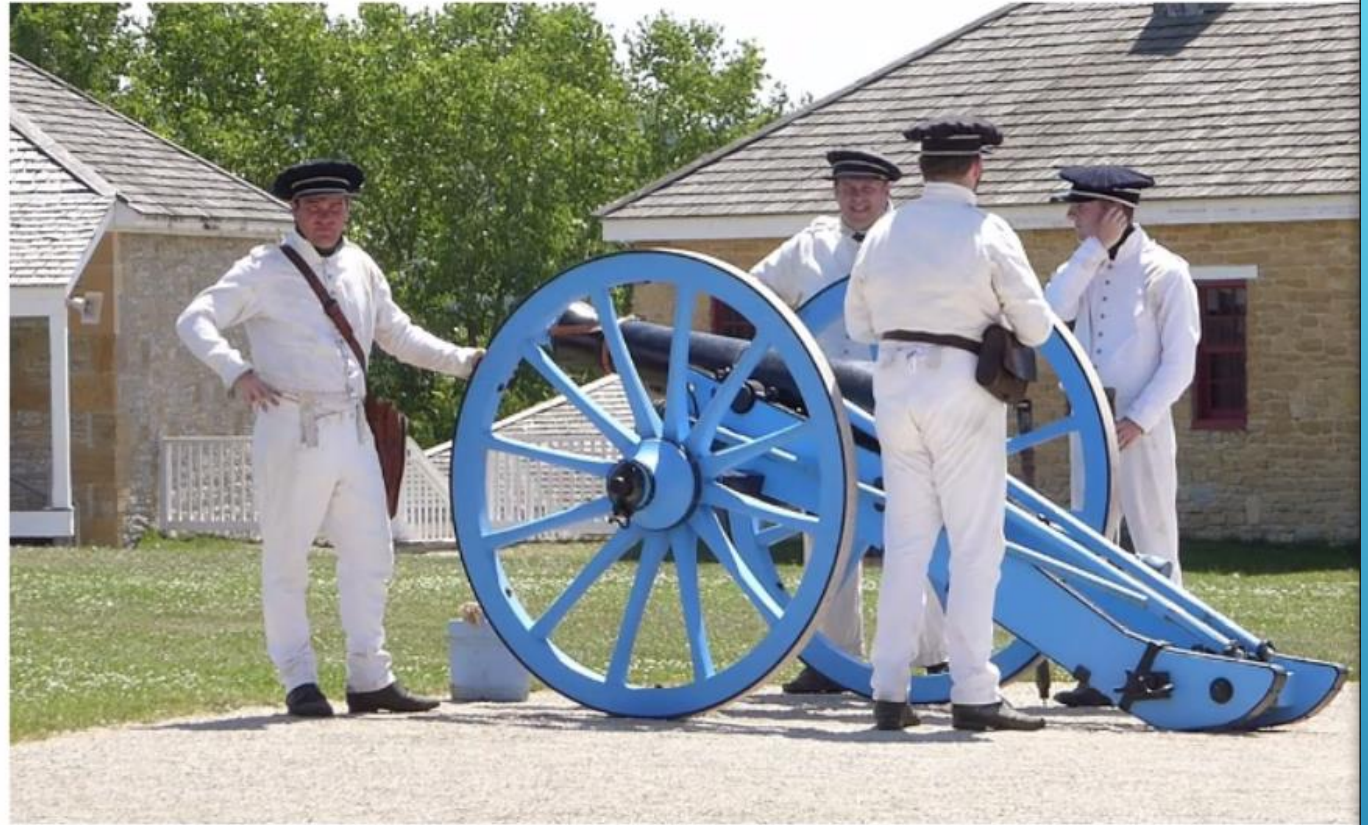
In 1805 US explorers moved up the Mississippi River as part of northwestward expansion of the USA. After the War of 1812 between Britain and the USA the USA decided to build Fort Snelling where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers join, in part to try to keep competing British trade companies from entering the northern USA from Canada. Fort Snelling was constructed 1820-1825 to secure the area around the upper Mississippi River for the USA.



1840 Fort Snelling, Seth Eastman
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Snelling

By 1858 the US had forts further west, Minnesota had recently become a state, and the fur trade had declined. The fort was officially closed, but only for a short time. Continuing conflicts resulted in Fort Snelling being reopened and expanded:

- American Civil War 1861-1865
- 1860s to 1880s campaigns against Native American nations in the west
- Spanish-American War (1898
- Philippine-American War (1899–1902)



Ft Snelling cannon - BH

- World War I (1917–1918)
- Army hospital (1918-1919)
- World War II
 - Army recruitment (1941-1945)
 - “Nisei” (second-generation) Japanese American men and women worked as Asian language interpreters



<https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-114-174/>

Courtesy of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee

In 1946 the US army finally closed Fort Snelling. In the 1950s only a few of the original buildings remained. Since then, archaeological records have been used to reconstruct the older, southern part of Fort Snelling as a “living history” museum called Historic Fort Snelling. People working at Historic Fort Snelling today dress in historic clothing and do historic tasks to provide a view of what life was like at different times in the history of the fort and this region.



Historic Fort Snelling historic store – BH

The Stone Arch Bridge – 2016 Ibaraki “Sister City” Visitors



Built in 1880 as a Railroad Bridge
Crossing the Mississippi River to the Flour Mills





For 50 years, Minneapolis was the “Flour Mill Capital of the World”
Enough flour was produced everyday to make 12,000,000 loaves of bread.

In 1880 the Minneapolis Flour won the “Gold Medal” in an International contest.



The name was changed to “Gold Medal Flour”.

The Textile Center



The Textile Center, a national center for fiber art was founded in 1994 by fiber artists who wanted to meet and share ideas.

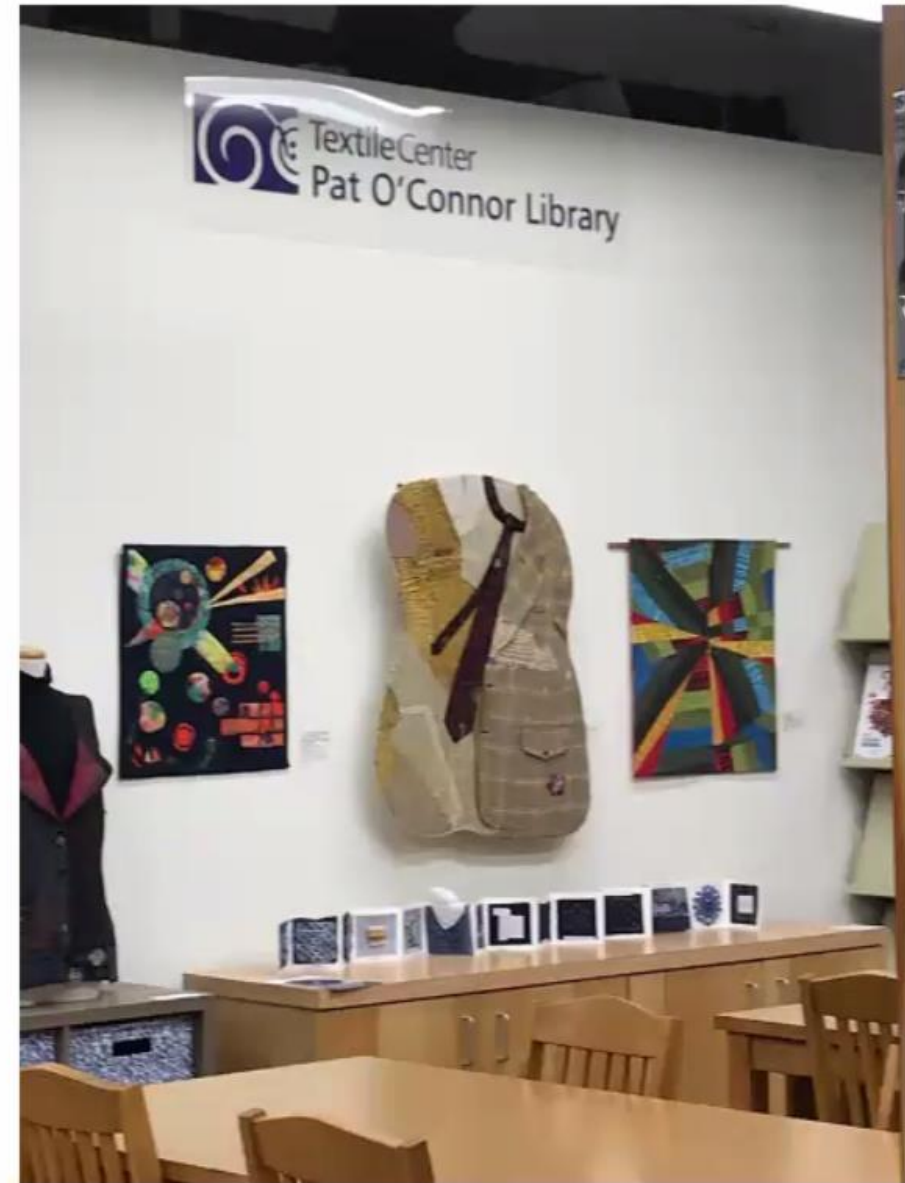
There are 25 guilds that meet at the Textile Center. Some of the guilds are Minnesota Basket Weavers, Machine Knitters, Feltmakers, Wearable Arts, Knitting, Quilting, and Sewing. Weavers Guild Minnesota is the largest of the fiber guilds.



Teaching artists, local, national and international come to the Textile Center to conduct workshops in the fiber arts.

These are classes for adults, as well as children in a variety of fiber disciplines.

The Textile Center Library is one of the largest in the US devoted to books and periodical regarding fiber arts.



There are regular exhibitions throughout the year at the Textile Center. Currently “A Common Thread” is a showcase of members’ work in a variety of fibers.



A dye garden is maintained, and plant materials used in dye classes.



Here is a Japanese Saori loom, at Weavers Guild in Minnesota.



Before covid, the Textile Center sponsored textile tours locally, national, and internationally.

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

- One of the nation's largest urban sculpture parks is in Minneapolis.
- Built in 1998, it is adjacent to the Walker Art Center.



The most recent addition is “Shadows at the Crossroads”, done by several artists. Outlines of people are traced on the concrete sidewalk. Poems and sayings are written over the shadow describing their place in society.



The center piece of the garden is the “Spoon Bridge and Cherry”.

The aluminum and stainless steel sculpture site in a pond and balances a cherry on its tip.

The 50 foot high spoon is also a fountain

The garden is home to over 20 such sculptures.

Here are some others you may want to visit.



The Hahn/Cock by Katharina Fritsch is a 25 ft high blue rooster. It keeps an eye on other sculptures and the freeway.



Love by Robert Indiana.
These letters are know
around the world.
Stacked on top of one
another with an "O" on
its side. One of the most
powerful words in the
English language made of
steel.



Power by Matthew Monahan also shows itself in Hephaestus, the Greek god of fire, metalwork and craft people. It shines in bronze and stainless steel.



A person can rest in the shade of a tree at “Wind Chine” by Pierre Huyghe. The tree is filled with wind chimes of every kind. The music can be heard throughout the garden.



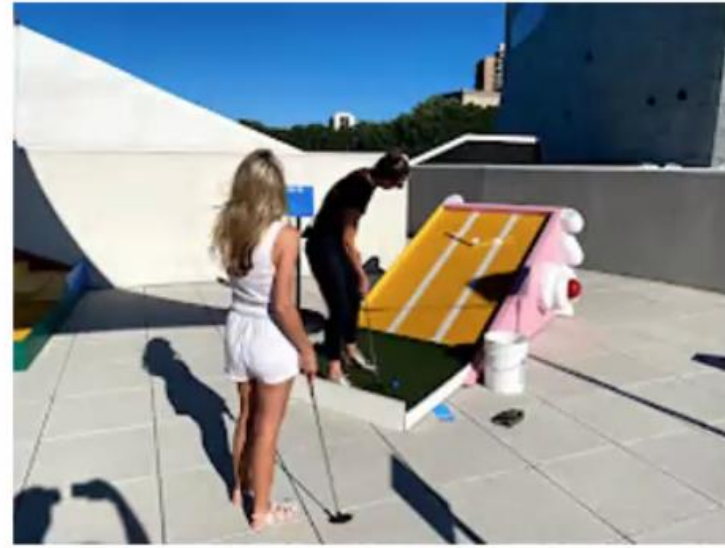
If yellow is your favorite color visit the “Geometric Mouse” with two large round ears. This is not a mouse that causes fear.



Many other sculptures, such as bells, walls and chairs are in the garden.

Some of them are interactive.
You can play mini golf.

It is a great place for pictures.



Minnesota State Fair – The Great Get Together This year: The Great Get Back Together

Since the State Fair began in 1854, it has been cancelled 6 times: 4 because of wars/conflicts, and twice due to epidemics.

The fair receives no government funding.

You might ask why do people go to the State Fair where a quarter of a million people daily squeeze together for 12 days?



Food! Food! And More Food!

Especially food on a stick!

Pronto pups, corn dogs, pork chop on a stick, Key Lime Pie on a stick! Snickers! New foods are introduced every year. This year 31 new foods!



Exhibits and Competition

Agriculture, animals, creative arts, fine arts, food competition. Competition at all levels. Butter sculptor.

Seniors, 4-H. Robotics

Endless Entertainment

The Grandstand and numerous smaller stages around the fair provide a variety of performances for all ages. A few of the famous acts: Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, Steve Martin, Willie Nelson, Liberace, Emmylou Harris, Garth Brooks, The Beach Boys, Okie Dokie Brothers, and so many more international, national and local entertainment.



The Giant Slide

For more than 50 years this iconic 5 story attraction at has given rides to all ages at the fair.

The Midway

Rides and games. Smaller ride are for the smaller folks.



Go to fair during the day – It's one experience. **Go at night** – a totally different experience. The state fair at night is magical! The air seems crisper, all the different colored lights from the rides, the booths sparkle. It has a wonderful feeling to it. **Come and experience it!**