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## **County Committee Rejects DAI Bid for Lease Renewal at Depot**

Duluth Art Institute Exploring Opportunities for New Exhibit Space

The Duluth Art Institute will hold a press conference Monday, July 24 at 11:00 am in front of the St. Louis County Depot regarding a determination by a St. Louis County committee rejecting its proposal to continue its exhibit space at the Depot.

In essence, the decision would necessitate the DAI to vacate its galleries at the St. Louis County Depot, which has been home for its exhibits for half a century.

The Art Institute is a charter organization for which the Depot was created as a cultural and arts center in 1975.

The DAI has already opened conversations with numerous venues in the Twin Ports.

“It is regrettable that the County fails to see value in the inclusion of the Duluth Art Institute in the offerings at the Depot, especially given our 116-year history as the region’s premier visual arts organization,” said DAI Executive Director Christina Woods. “Nonetheless, this is an exciting opportunity, especially given our existing programs and community involvement at our own Lincoln Park Building, which is used at capacity.”

Added Robin Washington, DAI board president, “We invite the community — artists, learners, sponsors, businesses, government leaders and all our neighbors — to join us in realizing the full opportunities of our next chapter. We are eager to imagine and create with you.”

### **About the Duluth Art Institute**

For 116 years, the Duluth Art Institute has worked to enrich the daily life of the greater Twin Ports with dynamic, innovative visual arts programming that upholds excellence and displays uncompromising talent from our region and beyond. As one of the only arts institutions nationwide that is BIPOC-led in both its executive leadership and board, the DAI advocates for artists, arts learners, and arts viewers in ways that amplify narratives erased or overwritten by the dominant society and that celebrate all. The DAI accomplishes its mission through its exhibit space at The Depot in Downtown Duluth, and its Lincoln Park Building that brings educational programming and creative space to families and residents in a vibrant but historically underserved area of Duluth.

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