

2000 River flags, 2000 Wishes from the Rivers

Kinship of Rivers

Poetry, Art, Music, Dance, Flag Installations along the Yangtze and Mississippi

Background:

Kinship of Rivers is a five-year international river project that uses art, poetry, stories, music, dance and food to create a network of kinship among the people and communities along the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers. Founded in 2011, Wang Ping and a group of artists, writers, musicians, environmentalists and students have engaged thousands of people along the Mississippi and its tributaries, and made over 1200 river flags with poetry, art and wishes for clean water and air as gifts for exchange between the two great rivers as well as peace ambassadors. Such gifts have been traveling along the rivers, inspiring thousands of people from the river communities, they have also been shared and enjoyed through our www.kinshipofrivers.org website, kinship of rivers facebook and other media, making a network of rivers with the whole world.

Making and installing River Flags along the rivers to connect with people from the Mississippi and Yangtze is a key element of this project. About 1200 river flags have been made by children, seniors, writers, musicians, dancers, artists, scientists from the Mississippi and its tributaries. They have been sewed into banners and installed along the entire Mississippi, its major confluences, cities, and communities. They serve as kinetic ambassadors of peace, joy and harmony. As the flags flutter in the wind along the shores, they release our gratitude and good wishes into the world. As we share what is unique and universal about our rivers and how we are all connected through the water, we become more appreciative of the rivers' beauty and their intricate ecosystems, and our responsibility to the rivers as their children, friends and stewards.

Travel along the Mississippi and the Yangtze

I. The Mississippi

1. 2010

Wang Ping took two writing classes for a 4-day paddle trip along the historical Minnesota River (a tributary to Upper Mississippi), led by Dakota guides and historians.

2) Wang Ping took three writing classes to paddle from Minneapolis to downtown St. Paul in the Mississippi River

2. 2011

1) Wang Ping and photographer Adam Stoltman paddled the entire St. Croix River (a tributary to Upper Mississippi) and held a multi-media event with river flags installation, ensemble, chanting, blessing, and dumplings at the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi.

2) Wang Ping took her writing class for a three-day paddle at Itasca, headwaters of the Mississippi. They made and installed the river flags along the way.

3) Over 20 installations and flag making events along the Mississippi and other rivers.
3. 2012

Wang Ping and her group traveled the entire Mississippi, rowed and paddled over a thousand miles of the river, installed and made over a thousand river flags along the way, including the 1st and last locks and dams on the Mississippi, all the major confluences, the major tributaries (the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the Missouri, the Platte River, the Ohio, the Yazoo River, the Wolf River, the Atchafalaya, and many others), and the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico. The events were sponsored by schools, colleges, the Army Corps of Engineer, National Park Service, museums, libraries, galleries, presses, and canoe companies.

Travel along the Yangtze: July 15-August 15

In 2013, Wang Ping will lead a group of artists, writers, film makers, musicians, canoe builders and explorers, and students to travel along the Yangtze with 2000 river flags made by people from the Mississippi, as gifts and peace messengers. We hope to install the flags along the river, to connect and make 1000 flags with the people from the Yangtze River. We also hope to make a dugout canoe with a Chinese community, led by John Ruskey from Mississippi State, musician, artist, writer, explorer, river guide, owner of Quapaw Canoe Company, and hope to paddle the Yangtze in the canoe made by people from two rivers. When we reach the headwaters, we'll install all the 3000 flags, and let wind release the wishes of the people from the earth's two greatest rivers, and spread peace, joy and harmony from the roof of the world.

July 15-16) Fly to Shanghai Pudong Airport

Hang flags at the Congming islands and Jiuduansha Island where the Yangtze enters the sea, poetry reading with Shanghai poets

July 17-19) Changsha,

Gathering with Master Lei and other Changsha art and literary communities for a celebration of rivers and cultural exchanges from the two rivers (see details later)

July 20-22) Boat ride through the Three Gorges Dam

A cruise ride through the world's largest dam: Yichang (the Three Gorges Dam), and the Three Gorge Canyons. Sharing music from the Mississippi, River Flag installation and making with the travelers on the cruise.

July 23-24) Leshan Buddha

River flag installation at the Tang Dynasty statue at the confluence of the three rivers

July 25-28) Gold Sand River celebration with Yi People

1. A two-day gathering with the Yi ethnic minority community on the bank of the Gold Sand River, the Upper Yangtze
2. River Flag making and installation
3. music exchange between the Yangtze and Mississippi
4. Healing (Bi Mo priests, Yi shaman and Native American shaman/wolf dancer)

5. Dance

July 29-31) Xining, capital of Qinghai Province, gateway to Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, a gathering of Muslims, Tibetans, Tu and Han nationalities.

1. Qinghai International poetry festival (TBD)
2. Visit the Qinghai Lake, installation of the river flags at the biggest salt lake in the world

Aug. 1-4) Sanjiangyuan:

The Three River Source for the Yangtze, the Yellow, and Lancang (Mekong in Vietnam)

Aug. 5-9) Train to Lhasa? (TBD, if we can get the permits)

Aug. 10-12) Train from Lhasa to Changsha: to complete and paddle the dugout canoe

Aug. 13) Shanghai

Aug. 14 or 15) Fly back to USA

Details for the Kinship of Rivers Event

River Flags Installation:

3000 river flags made by individuals from the river communities along the Yangtze and Mississippi, Minnesota, St. Croix, Nebraska, Namekagen Rivers, and other tributaries, will be installed along the rivers. These flags vibrate with people's imaginations and wishes for clean water and a harmonious world. When they flutter in the wind, they will release great energy into the air and transform the place with peace, joy and creativity.

Art: Making River Flags:

1. Share poems from the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers.
2. Use local plants as stencils to make prints on hand-dyed cotton fabrics, led by art professor Ruthann Godollei.
3. The Yangtze flags will travel with the Mississippi flags along the Yangtze River and for further installations.

Music:

1. Music from the Mississippi, performed by Annette Waya Ewing, Alex Wand and John Ruskey
2. Poetry and music by Wang Ping and Alex Wand
3. Music from the Yangtze: performed by the Chinese musicians
4. Two river collaborations

Dance

1. Wolf dance by Annette Waya Ewing
2. Water dance by Hui Wilcox, Wang Ping
3. Dance by the Chinese dancers

Poetry Reading

1. James Lenfeste, Annette Waya Ewing, Wang Ping, John Ruskey, Ruthann Godollei
2. Chinese poets: Momo, Yan Li, Yuyu, Akuwuwu, Zai Yongming, Jidimajia, and other local Chinese poets

Food from the Mississippi and Yangtze

Documentary Film:

Film crew: Larkin, Alex Howard, Ariel Lerner...

Making Dugout Canoe

This is the most ancient art of shipbuilding dated all the way to 10,000 BC, and the oldest Chinese dugout unearthed so far was from 8000 BC, in the Lower Yangtze. John Ruskey, America's legendary canoe maker, will work with the local Chinese to make a dugout canoe from a whole tree, and paddle it in the local river when it's completed.

Website:

All the flags and poems will be digitally scanned and uploaded on the website: www.kinshipofrivers.org, under "river flags" and "gallery of gifts." Participants can then download the flags from the site and enjoy the poems and art by other participants, and continue their personal interactions with the project.

Multi-media Exhibitions

Upon returning from China, we will create a multi-media exhibit and a documentary film that further share all we have learned, created and achieved through this unique project.

Please see www.kinshipofrivers.org for more details on its mission, goals and all the events we've accomplished. For all the beautiful flags, please go to "river flags."

Things we need in China

Flag making materials

1. 200-300 13x17 cotton fabrics in red, yellow, green, sky blue
2. fabric crayons, markers, paints
3. glue and scissors

Dugout Canoe

1. a whole tree (dimension, what wood?) for a dugout canoe

Accommodations

Meals:**Host: Jinsha Jiang****Key Contact:**Wang Ping ping@macalester.edu 651 247 3161

Professor Luo: ?

More?

Team Members:

1. Wang Ping, KOR director, professor of English, Macalester College
2. Annette Waya Ewing: artist, poet, dancer, professor
3. Ruthann Godollei: art professor, Macalester College
4. Larkin: film maker
5. James Lenfeste: poet, writer
6. John Ruskey: musician, artist, canoe builder, river guide
7. Alex Wand: musician and composer
8. Alex Howard: Highland High School senior, film maker
9. Ariel Lerner: Highland High School junior, film maker, musician
10. Kevin Conroy: rower, builder, medical technician
11. Craig Upright: professor of sociology, State University of Minnesota, Winona
12. Hui Wilcox: professor of sociology, St. Kate University, dancer

Member Bios:

Christine Podas-Larson(President, St Paul Public Art) 651-290-0921

Ning Li 952-201-9352

1. 《和谐湖南》艺术代表团圣保罗友好城市访问协调工作明细表 Tasks of coordinating the Hunan Art show
2. 公关信息发布 News release and PR plan
3. 艺术展开幕礼品名单 List of people to receive a token of appreciation at the opening ceremony
4. 晚宴邀请名单 Dinner invitee list

1. 《和谐湖南》艺术代表团圣保罗友好城市访问协调工作明细表
Tasks of coordinate the Hunan Art show

Tasks	Coordinator	Plan
Provide invitation for visa	Mike/Joe	Completed
Visitor obtain visa	Lei	June 10th
Finalize gallery	Ning/Rosie/Demeri	May 25, 2010
Possible sponsorship	Joe/Mike/Larry	June 10 th
Poster Banner Design	LEI	June 1st
All art pieces ship	LEI	June 15th
Coordinating shipment arrival	NING/Rosey	July 5 th
July 18 th Lunch reception	MIKE/MARY	

July 18 th closing reception	All	Tea House quote
July 18 th dinner banquet	Christine/Ning	Tea House

具体事项	协调人	计划
提供签证文件	MIKE	已完成
来访人员完成签证	LEI	5月29日
选定场地	NING / MIKE	5月29日
活动赞助	NING	6月10日
海报，展览条幅设计	LEI	6月10日
长沙寄出艺术品	LEI	5月29日
协调艺术品到位	NING	7月5日
7月18日午餐	MIKE/MARY	
7月18日开幕式招待	NING / MIKE/MARY	Tea House quote
7月18日晚宴	CHRISTIN	订好 Tea House

2 . 公关信息发布News release and PR plan

CVS 6000 mailing list

St Paul public art mailing list

USCPFA mailing list

Chinese community mailing list

- 明华网 [Minghua](#) Net / Minneosta Minghua Chinese School
- 明州华人网 [Minneosta Chinese](#)
- 华兴报 China Tribune <http://www.huaxingbao.com/>
- 华夏时报 www.huaxiatimes.com
- 明尼苏达多维时报 China Insight <http://www.chinainsight.info/>
- 明尼苏达大学中国中心 [China Center](#) of University of Minnesota
<http://www.chinacenter.umn.edu/>
- 明州清华校友会 TAA-MN <http://www.tsinghuamn.org/>
- 明州北大校友会 [PKUAA-MN](#) - Beijing University Alumni Association in Minnesota <http://www.pkuaa-mn.org/>
- 明州湖南同乡会
- 明尼苏达大学学生学者联谊会 [FACSS](#) Friendship Association of Chinese Students Scholars at University of Minnesota <http://www.tc.umn.edu/%7Efacss/>
- 梅约医学中心学生学者联谊会 Chinese Student and Scholar Association at Mayo <http://www.mcassamn.org/>

- 明州中美联谊会 <http://www.hxuc.com/qiaotuan/beimeizhou/meiguo/472.htm>
- 华美信息存储协会 - 明州分会 [CAISS-MN](http://www.caiss-mn.org/) - Chinese American Information Storage Society, MN <http://www.caiss-mn.org/>
- 华人信息技术协会 [MN-CITA](http://www.mncita.org/) - Minnesota Chinese IT Association <http://www.mncita.org/>
- 明州中国医生协会 <http://www.amcponline.org/>
- 中美商务关系协会 US-China Business Connections (UCBC) <http://www.ucbcgroup.org/index.htm>

3. 艺术展开幕礼品名单

List of people to receive a token of appreciation at the opening ceremony

St Paul Mayor: Colman

USCPFA: Mary

St Paul Public Art: Christine Podas-Larson

College of visual art President: Ann Ledy

Sponsoring corporations:

4. 晚宴邀请名单 Dinner invitee list 50

Changsha delegation (22)

St Paul Mayor's office (2):

St Paul Mayor Coleman , Joe Spencer

St Paul Public Art list (7):

Christine, Craig David, Peter Morales, David Wyrick, Mike Senesio,

Duane Goodwin and Philip Rickey

US China friendship association list (5??):

Mary, Larry, Linda, Mr./Ms. Xiao

Chinese community list (3): Mike Xiong, Richard He,

College of Visual Art(4) : Ann, Chair of board , Rosie, Demeri

Mark Dayton (2)

市长办公室

圣保罗公共艺术委员会

中美友好协会

前美国参议员Mark Dayton