

Opportunity  
is **North**



26th Annual

Duluth  
& St. Louis  
County AT THE  
CAPITOL

February 8 - 9, 2023

Advocacy for Northeastern Minnesota Priorities

Thank you for your service!

# Duluth & St. Louis County Regional Representatives

## MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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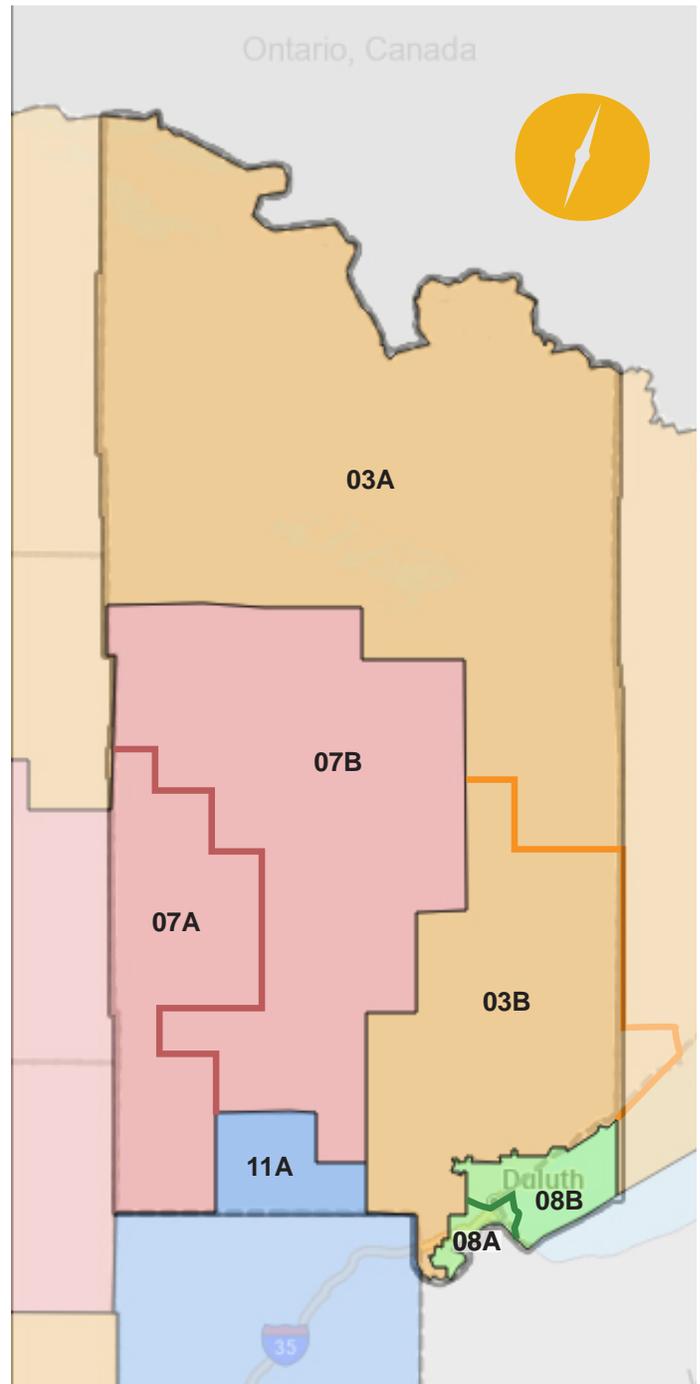
**Rep. Liz Olson** (08A, DFL)  
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**Sen. Robert D. Farnsworth** (07, R)  
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**Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen** (08, DFL)  
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**Sen. Jason Rarick** (11, R)  
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St. Paul, MN 55155  
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sen.jason.rarick@senate.mn

**WE PROUDLY PRESENT**

**A WASTE-FREE EVENT**

**Enjoy the reception!**  
Please sort recyclables and compostables.

**Western Lake Superior Sanitary District**  
wlssd.com • (218) 722-3336

26th Annual

# Duluth & St. Louis County AT THE CAPITOL

**MEET US AT THE GRAND RECEPTION**

Legislators and Legislative Staff are invited to the Grand Reception to meet Northern Minnesota stakeholders and discuss developments in the region. Visit vendor booths, enjoy local food, and meet community leaders.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

4:30pm - 8:00pm

InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel

Free to Attend

We are proud to partner with WLSSD to present a waste-free event.

# Opportunity is **North**

2023 Northeastern Minnesota Priorities



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# Greetings from Duluth

On behalf of the City of Duluth and our incredible staff, welcome to one of my favorite events of the year: Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days.

If last year's return to being in person for this event – and this year's stakeholder breakfast – has shown us anything, it's this: everyone is thrilled to be in person and working alongside one another. The smiles, belly laughs (if you missed Lucie Amundsen's speech at the stakeholder breakfast, I'm sorry, because it was far too hilarious for 8:00 am), and energy from everyone in the room was palpable.

One other thing that remains clear: our communities, residents, businesses, and neighbors are committed to one another. We look out for each other. We do everything we can, when we can, to lift up the important work being done across the county. And if you live in Duluth or anywhere in St. Louis County, you belong.

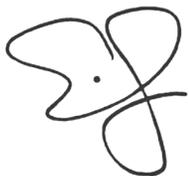
Those values have never been more apparent to me than they are now. From downtown Duluth businesses and stakeholders coming together to generate creative ideas on the long-term safety and sustainability of our downtown, to the shared understanding from almost everyone who spoke up at the stakeholder breakfast: workforce, housing, and safety are key to our community's successes.

Every year we've heard the wonderful story of how this event got its plucky start. A small group of determined individuals set out to St. Paul to advocate for the Northland. On behalf of the City of Duluth, I want to thank Matt Baumgartner and the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and its staff for carrying on the tradition of advocacy and ensuring that all our priorities are heard by policymakers and lawmakers in St. Paul.

There's a seemingly endless list of projects and issues worth advocating for and I have never been prouder to stand beside you all in making our cases to improve our communities.

Thank you to the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, to our State legislators, to the State of Minnesota, to all of our partners in this work, and to all of you for everything that you do.

Thank you,



Mayor Emily Larson



---

# Greetings from St. Louis County

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners and our 200,000 residents, welcome to Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days!

I think we're all eager to get to work and accomplish good things to serve our citizens and businesses, especially given the unfinished business left from last session. We know the best solutions come through partnerships and compromise.

If you're among the many newly elected representatives and senators, I look forward to meeting you and telling you more about our great county. St. Louis County spans 7,000 square miles and is known for its outdoor beauty and recreation, as well as a rich cultural history.

Likewise, if you're among the faithful attendees, it will be fun catching up with you again. The energy and sense of community at this event is real and it's because of the hard work and dedication of all of you. Thank you!



We have work to do. Solutions are needed to address real needs in our cities, county and across the state. Working together, I am confident we will achieve good outcomes. Thank you for your service. Here's to a great session!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Boyle". The signature is stylized and cursive.

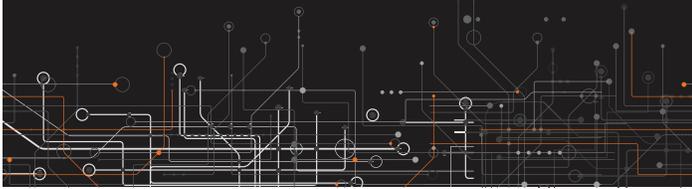
Patrick Boyle,  
Chair of the St. Louis County Board



**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

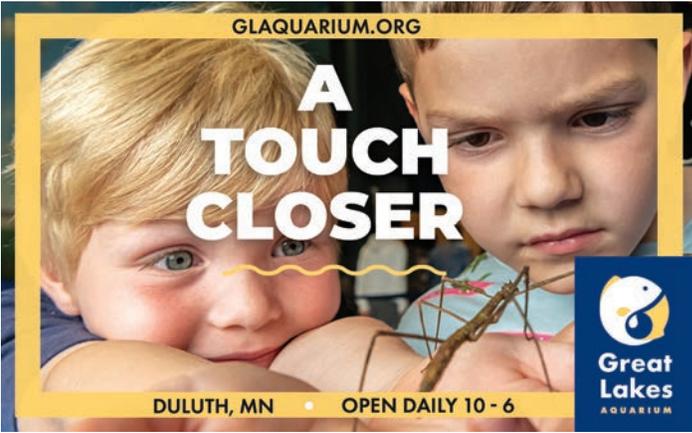
We care about the communities we serve—because they're our communities too.

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# CITY OF DULUTH

## TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



FUNDS FOR  
AERIAL LIFT BRIDGE



SAFEGUARD AND  
INCREASE LGA



FUNDS FOR  
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN



MATCHING FUNDS  
FOR NLX

To learn more, and for the City's additional legislative priorities,  
please visit [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov)





**WE ARE  
ONE COUNTY.**



The mission of St. Louis County is to promote health and safety, ensure sound infrastructure, embrace our natural resources, and support an environment where communities prosper.

We serve the public in a manner that earns trust by incorporating these values:  
PEOPLE FOCUSED • STEWARDSHIP • INTEGRITY • FAIRNESS • INNOVATION



**Economic Development**  
Working with local units of government and other partners on business retention/expansion, creating new jobs, and addressing the region's housing and daycare shortage crisis.



**Mental Health and Substance Abuse**  
Workforce shortages in our provider network affects access to services at a time children and adults are experiencing more complex, acute needs. This necessitates creative short-term innovations and collaborative, sustainable long-term solutions.



**Public Health & Human Services**  
Protecting children, the elderly and other vulnerable citizens; promoting good health and improving quality of life for all people.



**Public Safety**  
Answering and responding to 911 calls, investigating and prosecuting crimes, and working with our partners to reduce recidivism and manage costs.



**Public Works**  
Building in the summer, plowing in the winter: Maintaining 3,000 miles of roads and 600+ bridges year-round; using strategic initiatives to apply the right fix at the right time.

[stlouiscountymn.gov](http://stlouiscountymn.gov)



# Moving Forward

With so many stalled bills last session, St. Louis County is renewing many requests such as reforming the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula, various provisions in the Lands Bill Legislation, and many statewide county initiatives such as increasing funding for County Program Aid, transportation investments, community corrections, and adult and adolescent mental health services and facilities.

Here are our bonding bill priorities:



### LEACHATE TREATMENT AT THE VIRGINIA LANDFILL; INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANYON LANDFILL

St. Louis County is seeking \$24.5 million in bonding for two projects. This includes \$4.5 million to expand and relocate the leachate management ponds at the regional landfill in Virginia, and \$20 million to jump start investment in a state-of-the-art integrated waste management campus near Canyon. The Canyon facility has been identified as a long term MSW management solution in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for Northeast Minnesota.



### ST. LOUIS COUNTY HERITAGE & ARTS CENTER (THE DEPOT)

The Legislature awarded \$1.5 million for Phase 1 of improvements to the 130-year-old Depot. Thank you! Now an additional \$3.825 million is needed for mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades, as well as life/safety improvements. Nearly 245,000 people visited the Depot in 2022.



### NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS

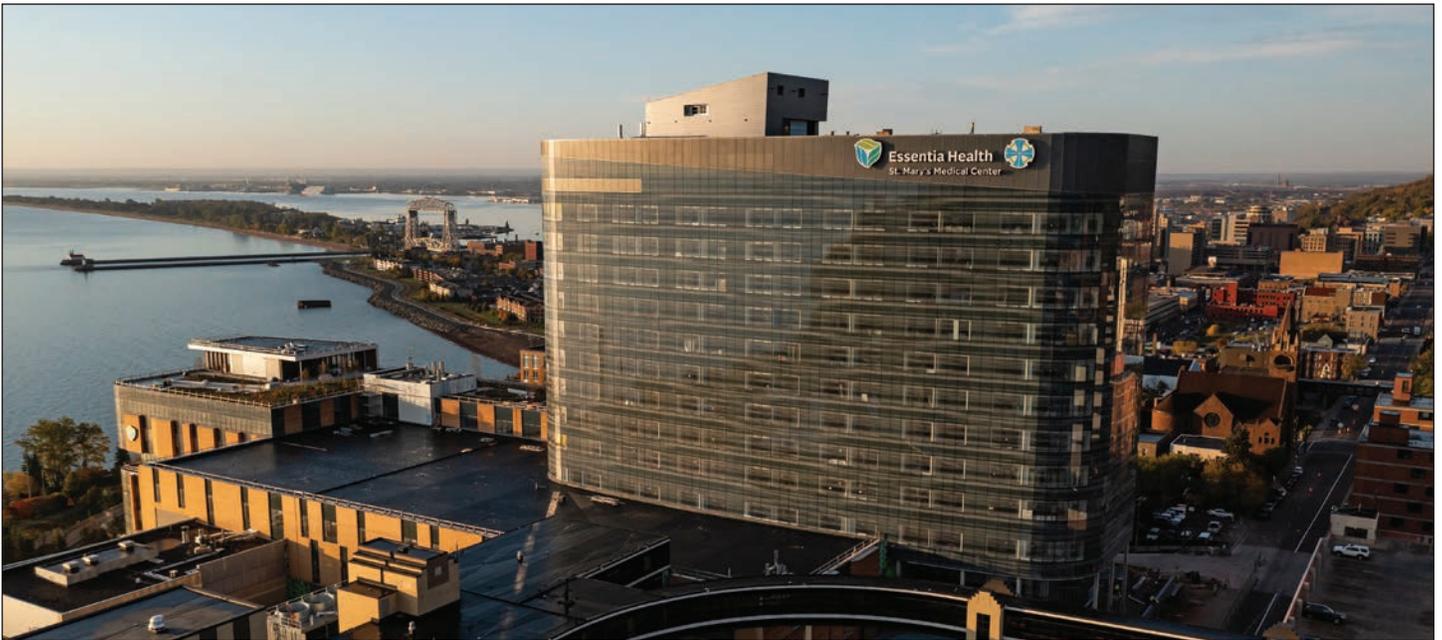
Support of State Bonding/Appropriation for \$88 million for NLX, the proposed higher speed passenger rail project that would provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth. For NLX, \$88 million in state funding leverages over \$360M in federal dollar and completes the project. This project is expected to create 3,000 construction jobs, \$400 million in increased tourism spending, and an annual reduction of over one million tons of CO2 emissions from reduced auto travel.

\*Dollar amounts listed are not yet adjusted for inflation.

*"While much of life has returned to 'normal,' many of our citizens now face ripple effects from the pandemic. This includes increased need for services for mental health and substance use disorders, and new financial pressures. The 2023 session presents a unique opportunity to collaborate and fund legislative solutions that best serve our citizens and all Minnesotans. We look forward to working with you!"*

Kevin Z. Gray, St. Louis County Administrator





# TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING TOMORROW'S HEALTH CARE

Essentia Health's legacy and values come to life through the historic replacement of St. Mary's Medical Center, which will open in the third quarter of 2023. The future of health care is arriving today with St. Mary's Medical Center's transformation into an 18-story state-of-the-art, 342-bed hospital tower, the only Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center north of the Twin Cities.

Essentia Health is grateful for this opportunity to create an inviting and healing space for our patients and families while remaining committed to the economic vitality of our community.

[To learn more, go to \*\*EssentiaHealth.org/VisionNorthland\*\*](https://www.essentiahealth.org/visionnorthland)



OUR MISSION: WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE A HEALTHY DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES  
OUR VALUES: QUALITY | HOSPITALITY | RESPECT | JOY | JUSTICE | STEWARDSHIP | TEAMWORK



**Essentia Health**

# Opportunities to Advance Health Care

Thank you to our legislators for all you've done and continue to do to support health care as we navigate a world shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Essentia Health's legislative priorities have been deeply influenced by these challenging times.



## **WORKFORCE RESOURCES**

Minnesota is facing a chronic shortage of health care workers. Essentia continues to seek expanded loan relief and support for primary care residency training and clinical rotations for rural and underserved areas. We call upon lawmakers to support efforts to streamline licensure processes to ensure all providers practice to the full extent of their training and certifications.

## **RURAL HEALTH CARE**

Essentia will continue providing affordable, high-quality health care services to the rural and underserved communities we are privileged to serve. Essentia encourages lawmakers to advance policies that develop regional care centers. This will require meaningful state and federal investment to support the necessary infrastructure and build the local health care workforce in order to ensure improved health outcomes and slow the growth of health care expenditures.

## **LOWER PRESCRIPTION COSTS**

Essentia Health continues to support legislation that lowers prescription prices by allowing more utilization of biosimilar medications and gives patients more local options for filling their prescriptions.

## **ACADEMIC HEALTH CARE CENTER**

To invest in our next generation of physicians, we are hopeful that lawmakers will provide bonding support for the design of the University of Minnesota-Duluth's new academic health care center that will house the medical school and pharmacy school. Essentia and St. Scholastica Monastery have offered the grounds of the current St. Mary's Medical Center to be used for the new academic center, continuing the Monastery's long-standing commitment to health care and health care education in this region. Essentia believes this location would greatly complement Duluth's newly established medical district and serve as a catalyst for further development in the hillside neighborhood.



*"The past few years have highlighted many shared opportunities to advance the health and vitality of our communities. Essentia Health is committed to working with you and others to achieve this important goal. When we come together, we do great things for those we are privileged to serve."*

David Herman, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Essentia Health,




**St. Luke's**  
**HEALTH**  
**FORWARD**  
 INITIATIVE



We're proud that Phase II of our Health Forward Initiative is underway. We are focusing on providing the highest level of care, innovation and technological advances, and supporting our employees. Our plan is strategically designed to thoughtfully, economically and sustainably create the healthcare campus of the future as we meet the evolving needs of our patients.

**Phase II includes:**

- Expanding St. Luke's Building A by adding two stories, to include 58 new inpatient critical care capable rooms.
- Renovating all inpatient units in St. Luke's Hospital, and creating all-private rooms.
- Thanks to legislative support, replacing an aging parking ramp with a new City ramp, creating an additional 200 parking spaces on our campus.

THE PATIENT.  
ABOVE ALL ELSE.®



[slhduluth.com](http://slhduluth.com)

**St. Luke's is proud to invest in our community and of our commitment to putting The Patient. Above All Else.**

THE PATIENT.  
ABOVE ALL ELSE.®



## 2023 Legislative Priorities

### ▶ Workforce

We urge you to increase funding to expand educational programs. We ask the state to work with healthcare organizations to forgive or cancel educational loans for new hires, to offer scholarships, or to prepay education for those interested in healthcare careers.

### ▶ Reimbursement Rates

We are proud to care for Medicaid patients, a program funded by the state. However, poor Medicaid reimbursement rates result in a \$20 million loss each year for St. Luke's. As we face unprecedented inflation, we ask you to advocate for dramatically increasing Medicaid reimbursement. This will allow us to provide more services for all patients in our region.

### ▶ Medical School

We are asking for your support of the University of Minnesota's request for financing the design and construction planning for a new Medical School and College of Pharmacy building in the Duluth Medical District. Both Duluth health systems have supported these programs and, keeping with that tradition, we urge you to support a neutral location between them.



## Strategic Priorities

### Health Forward Initiative

Phase II of our campus development plan is underway and includes key renovations to enhance quality of care and further improve patient experience.

### Workforce Development

We continue to partner with local educational institutions, including the College of St. Scholastica, Fond-du-Lac Tribal and Community College, Lake Superior College, and Northwoods Technical College on workforce development. Most recently a Student Nurse Internship program was created to better prepare future nurses with real life nursing experiences in the hospital setting.

### Community Health

We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to everyone in our community, including our recent partnership with St. Louis County Jail to be the regional provider for inmates.

## From the Co-Presidents

"We look forward to your ongoing support as we continue to provide the highest quality health care through trusted partnerships with our patients, employees and communities. We appreciate your commitment to the people of our region and all of Minnesota."



**Eric Lohn**  
Co-President/CEO &  
Chief Financial Officer



**Nick Van Deelen, MD**  
Co-President/CEO &  
Chief Medical Officer

# LAND AND LEARNING



## ACTIVE LEARNING

At UMD, students get hands-on learning both in and outside of the classroom. Active learning prepares students for the workforce while they pursue their passion and find adventure.

[d.umn.edu](http://d.umn.edu)

# UMD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

**Driven to Discover**



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH  
**Driven to Discover™**

# Supporting Our Future Leaders

University of Minnesota Duluth graduates are curious, hard-working, and prepared. Investing in our students is a solid investment in the future leadership of our community and state. UMD graduates help fill workforce needs through hands-on experience and a well-rounded education that helps prepare them to adapt, ask questions, and deliver results.

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We appreciate your support for the legislative priorities of the University of Minnesota System, which include:



\$200 million for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement projects systemwide. This funding is used to maximize the effectiveness and life of our current facilities. For UMD, this includes \$17.9 million in projects.



\$12 million for Duluth Academic Health Sciences; The University is proposing to design a new facility for the Duluth College of Pharmacy and Medical School to be co-located in the emerging Medical District in downtown Duluth.

Core mission support to address cost increases in research, education, and outreach activities in conjunction with cost reductions and tuition revenue. (FY24: \$45 million recurring FY25: \$45 million recurring)



Minnesota Resident Scholarship (\$30 million recurring); Support 13,000 MN undergraduate students at the Greater Minnesota campuses and reduce student debt on the Twin Cities campus.

Systemwide Safety and Security (\$5 million recurring)

## UMD BY THE NUMBERS

- 9,675 students Fall 2022
- \$500 million regional annual economic impact
- 85% of students are from Minnesota
- 50,404 alumni throughout Minnesota
- 87 undergraduate majors
- 24 graduate programs



*“UMD is thankful for our strong and supportive legislative delegation and community. We work to build mutually beneficial partnerships for our students to learn and grow. Our research endeavors are focused on making an impact in our region. State support is critical and an investment that brings impact for years to come.”*

Dave McMillan, Interim Chancellor, University of Minnesota Duluth



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
*Lake Superior College,*  
a member of Minnesota State

**Preparing tomorrow's workforce • [lsc.edu](http://lsc.edu)**

# Lake Superior College Manufacturing Workforce Labs



Lake Superior College (LSC) is a comprehensive two-year community and technical college, nationally recognized for quality and affordability, offering nearly 100 programs including liberal arts and sciences courses for transfer, technical and trade programs, allied healthcare and nursing programs, and continuing education and customized training for business and industry.

## 2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

LSC's Manufacturing Workforce Labs Predesign Bonding Project received strong bi-partisan support in the 2020 legislative session. However, given shifts in priorities during that session, few Minnesota State projects received funding and LSC's project was no exception. Since 2020, the building that houses our current manufacturing programs has been sold and LSC must move out. To ensure that LSC and Duluth remain the premier manufacturing training destination in the region, LSC is investing in new structures on the main campus to relocate and rehome the Manufacturing Workforce Labs to the main campus.

**As part of the bold strategic investments proposed by Minnesota State, \$7M of that investment will support our effort to relocate, expand, and enhance LSC's manufacturing program to continue to meet regional workforce needs.**

Relocating the program back to LSC's main campus provides state of the art labs, improved access to student services and support, and reduces operating costs by at least \$400,000 annually.

## PROJECT DETAILS

By relocating the manufacturing program to LSC's main campus, we enhance the student experience by providing better access to services such as the library, tutoring center, and auxiliary services which are all located on the main campus. With housing project in the works near main campus, the move helps alleviate the transportation and parking issues associated with the downtown campus. This project also locates the manufacturing programs next to related electronics programs paving the way for a new robotics and automated manufacturing program.

For more details on LSC's legislative request, please visit:  
[WWW.LSC.EDU/BONDINGREQUEST](http://WWW.LSC.EDU/BONDINGREQUEST)

*"Thank you for your support for Lake Superior College and the Minnesota State system. As you may know, LSC must move its Manufacturing Workforce Labs out of its current rented space. To continue to meet growing demands for our regional manufacturing workforce, LSC is in the process of building new space on the main campus. Our project is included in the Minnesota State budget request to help us continue to meet the workforce needs of our region. This project directly benefits students and our regional economy by continuing to prepare the pipeline of trained talent for regional employers."*

Dr. Patricia Rogers, President, Lake Superior College



# thank you



**Thank you, Minnesota legislators,  
for helping our students transform the world.**

This academic year, 31% of full-time undergraduate students received Minnesota State Grants.

Our students are future educators, caregivers, healthcare professionals, artists and business thought leaders who will go on to make a difference in their communities.

**css.edu**



The College of  
*St. Scholastica*

# Values-based higher education to strengthen our communities

Since 1912, The College of St. Scholastica has been preparing graduates with the intellectual and moral preparation for responsible living and meaningful work. We aspire to be a diverse and inclusive community that develops and sends forth thoughtful leaders who are committed to serve and transform their communities.

The positive effects of this transformation are felt statewide. St. Scholastica offers programs in Duluth, St. Cloud, and online. Bachelor's, master's and doctoral-level education is available in a variety of traditional, accelerated, hybrid and fully online modalities. And graduates fare well – surveys regularly indicate St. Scholastica is a top performer in social mobility for our graduates.

Throughout its 111-year history, our Benedictine Catholic institution has helped students who face barriers to higher education. This is evident in current demographics: 19% of students are from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, 28% of undergraduates have family incomes below \$50,000, and nearly one-third of undergraduates are first-generation college students. In light of these demographics, the Minnesota State Grant Program provides critical assistance to our students.



In turn, St. Scholastica plays a significant role in Minnesota's workforce development. We are a major provider of healthcare workers — approximately 60% of our graduates enter a health-care-related field — with one of the largest private nursing programs in the state as well as growing offerings in physical therapy, occupational therapy and physician assistant studies. This past summer, the Duluth campus invested in upgrades to the nursing simulation labs. We recognize and support the importance of investing in the region's future healthcare workers.

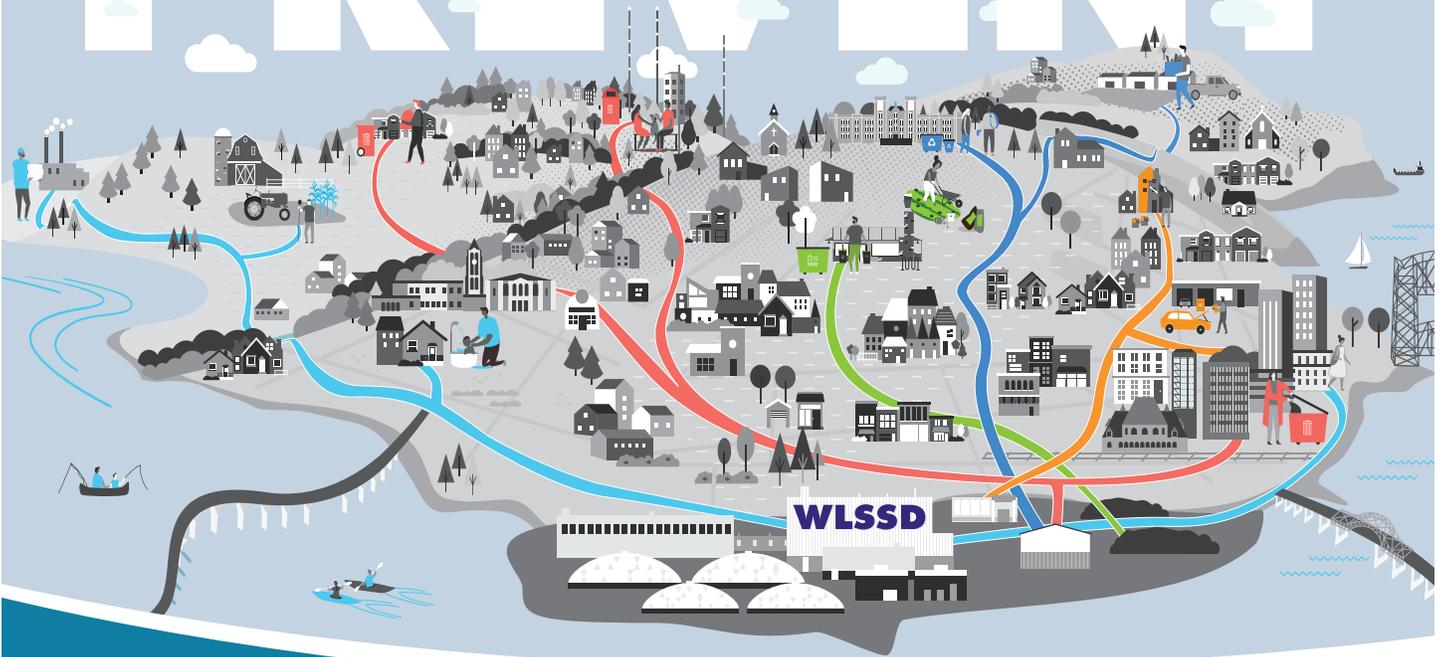


*"I am very grateful to Governor Tim Walz and our state legislators for making the State Grant program a top priority. This investment benefits all eligible students, and makes it more likely that they are able to afford a college education at both private and public institutions. We know the training that students receive at our Minnesota higher education programs will ensure a strong workforce for the future. Thank you for this vital support!"*

Dr. Barbara McDonald, President, The College of St. Scholastica

# WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT

# PROTECT PRESERVE PREVENT



**INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE.  
INVEST IN COMMUNITY.**

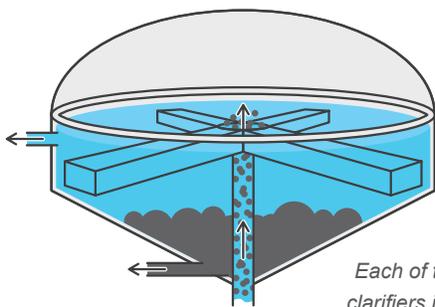


# Structural Rehabilitation and Repair of Secondary Clarifiers

Every year, Minnesota's wastewater treatment plants clean trillions of gallons of dirty water from our communities - safeguarding public health and protecting the environment. We depend on this infrastructure for quality of life and for business to thrive and grow, but we don't think much about it until it fails.

Secondary clarifiers allow wastewater solids to settle out and be removed from clean water in the treatment process. If the clarifiers fail to remove solids, we risk pollution to the St. Louis River and Lake Superior.

Each of the 2.1 million gallon tanks are in need of structural and mechanical improvements to rehabilitate the 40-year-old tanks and optimize mechanical systems. Additionally, WLSSD recently experienced a critical failure in one of our four clarifiers. The remaining three clarifiers are also at risk of the same failure and require immediate equipment replacement.



Each of the four secondary clarifiers is 160 ft in diameter and hold 2.1 million gallons.



**WLSSD IS IN URGENT NEED OF SUPPORT TO PROCEED WITH THE STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL RENOVATION OF ALL FOUR SECONDARY CLARIFIERS.**



*"When local communities must alone bear the tremendous costs of repairing and replacing clean water infrastructure, rates become unaffordable and the viability of communities and business is threatened. Now's the time to invest proactively in wastewater infrastructure."*

Marianne Bohren, Executive Director, WLSSD



## 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

WLSSD requested funding for structural rehabilitation of two of our four clarifiers with the intent of completing renovation of the remaining clarifiers in 2023.

## OCTOBER 2022 CRITICAL FAILURE

A critical failure of the internal mechanism of Clarifier #2 rendered it inoperable. WLSSD is proceeding with emergency equipment replacement.

The mechanisms were not previously identified as part of the required rehabilitation needs and have increased the cost and escalated the urgent need to complete the renovation of all four secondary clarifiers.

## 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

WLSSD is requesting \$17.5 M to fund the structural and mechanical renovation of all four secondary clarifiers.

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MINNESOTA

Cirrus Aircraft is driving aerospace growth and innovation.

[cirrus.link/innovation](http://cirrus.link/innovation)



## Rediscover the Range

ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

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Minneapolis — Duluth

Engineering  
Architecture  
Planning

TKDA

218.724.8578



# Take to the Skies with Aviation + Aerospace

Cirrus Aircraft is in the business of promoting aviation and aerospace. As the largest manufacturing employer in the Duluth region, our legislative priorities for 2023 center around promoting aviation business growth, creating new high paying aerospace jobs, and supporting development of mid-level housing in our communities.

1

Support an expansion of the airport property tax exemptions for airport hangars owned or operated by a city over 50,000 but under 150,000 in population, to reduce property taxes by 50% for property used for manufacturing of aircraft. Provision was included in 2022 omnibus tax bill.

2

Promote the creation of aerospace jobs through the implementation of a five-year (2023 – 2027) initiative to invest in aerospace workforce development.

1) Create an employee \$5,000 per year nonrefundable tax credit for newly hired aerospace professionals from a qualified two- or four-year accredited engineering or technology undergraduate or graduate degree program, an associate of applied science degree program, or a career technical program;

2) Create a nonrefundable income tax credit for business involved in the aviation sector for tuition or certain program-specific course-fee reimbursements paid to a full-time employee who is attending an accredited engineering or technology undergraduate or graduate degree program, an associate of applied science degree program, or a career technical program;

3) Create a nonrefundable tax credit for an amount equal to 10.0 percent of the compensation paid to qualified employees in each of the first five years of employment, not to exceed \$15,000 per year.

3

Reduce the Minnesota Statutes, 327A.02 Statutory Warranties, Subsection 3, Home Improvement Warranties, requiring builders to warranty home improvements for 10-years from time of construction to 3-years.

**WITH OVER 1,500 EMPLOYEES IN DULUTH AND 100 SUPPLIERS IN THE STATE, CIRRUS AIRCRAFT IS COMMITTED TO GROWING OUR OPERATIONS IN MINNESOTA AND WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.**



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## Supporting the Next Generation of Air Commerce



The Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) has begun fulfilling its vision for the future as outlined in the master capital plan for the Duluth International Airport. In the past 10 years, we have completed over \$111 million in infrastructure investments that support a strong and growing aviation cluster. The DAA continues its commitment to air commerce by spearheading an investment of \$163 million over the next 20 years that will preserve vital infrastructure at both of Duluth's airports.

The Duluth International Airport's (DLH) air traffic control tower is 70 years old and past its useful life. It has the distinction of being the 3rd oldest air traffic facility in the country! Historically, there has been no federal program to fund the replacement of a locally owned air traffic control tower.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed by Congress, established a competitive grant program to fund the replacement of locally owned air traffic facilities. This program provides a 5-year window to secure funding that will pay 95% of eligible costs to construct a new, \$40 million air traffic control tower at DLH.

We are asking the state legislature to help us leverage a considerable federal investment by providing \$14 million from the budgetary surplus. The state's investment will provide 5% matching funds for the \$38 million federal grant application. It will ensure the final design of the new facility, commission the FAA to participate in the design process, demolition of three blighted buildings to make way for the new tower and an environmental assessment.

DLH contributes \$760.6 million annually to the region's economy by facilitating an average of 65,000 commercial passenger, cargo, emergency medical, and military flights annually. A viable air traffic control facility is critical to sustaining the growth of air commerce and emergency services vital to all Northeast Minnesota.

We are poised to support the next generation of air commerce in our region. A state-of-the-art air traffic facility will ensure DLH is supporting safe air travel for decades to come.



*"DLH contributes \$760.6 million annually to the region's economy and a viable air traffic control facility is critical to sustaining the growth of air commerce and emergency services vital to all Northeast Minnesota."*

Tom Werner, Executive Director, Duluth Airport Authority



# Momentum: Minnesota Made

Hermantown continues growing as a regional resource

- ✓ Population growth continues; businesses set to create new jobs
- ✓ 100's of new housing opportunities possible for 2023 and beyond
- ✓ Residents chose increased sales tax to fund healthy opportunities
- ✓ Legislative investments needed to support this momentum

[hermantownmn.com](http://hermantownmn.com)



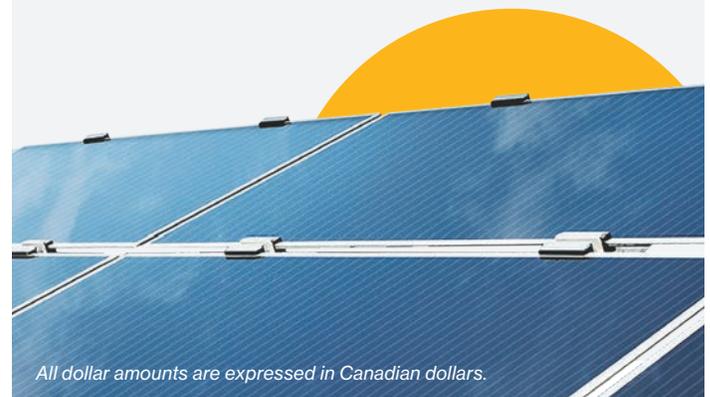
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All dollar amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars.

# Hermantown Investing in Healthy Living



Although it feels further in the past, it was just 2019 that the City of Hermantown opened the Essentia Wellness Center (EWC) to aid in improving regional health outcomes. The success of the EWC – with its critical partnerships focused on health, wellness, and community connection and funded through leveraging local option sales tax – was felt immediately, as was the arrival of the pandemic.



But rather than slow down the desire to have improved health, Hermantown residents doubled their efforts to invest sales tax in greater options for healthy living. Or it might be more appropriate to say Hermantown tripled its efforts.



As part of Hermantown’s Community Recreation Initiative, residents emphatically passed three different sales-tax funded projects to create additional health-focused options, community gathering spaces, and recreational amenities benefiting the entire region. The trio of regionally-beneficial opportunities – a reimagined central park, the completion of a city-wide trail system, and the creation of a second sheet of indoor ice – had long been discussed in Hermantown but never felt attainable until the success of the EWC.



While moving these three projects to fruition was positive, it was also heavily burdened by the delays associated with the pandemic. Hermantown is left in a position of funding resoundingly desired projects in 2023 using numbers and projections that made sense pre-pandemic.

For any city, this would be daunting and exciting. The scale leans more toward daunting for Hermantown – as the City receives no Local Government Aid and funds more than 90% of its general levy on property taxes. Residents clearly approved a sales tax increase and will contribute that way, but we are asking the state to invest in making these regional projects a reality in a post-pandemic world.

Hermantown is a unique community that has attracted the attention of hundreds of new families to our region of Minnesota. For that momentum to continue, it will require continued and unique partnerships with the state legislature.

*“More and more families and businesses are making Hermantown their home. With this growth, we have a steadily increasing obligation to our people and businesses. We are also moving into a time of expanding responsibility as a regional leader and resource to the rest of the state. We have a reputation as being one of northern Minnesota’s best places to live and raise a family as well as being an incredibly business-friendly community. This has come through a successful combination of local and state investments. Our next steps as a regional leader will require that our local and state partnerships multiply. With the success we’ve had working together in recent years, this makes for exciting possibilities for the region.”*



Mayor Wayne Boucher, City of Hermantown

# PRESERVING OUR FUTURE

THROUGH SMART PLANNING

Rice Lake has been a City since 2015 and has been working to balance our rural lifestyle with economic development, in an effort to provide additional services to our community. With the addition of Kwik Trip in the fall of 2018, Boomtown Brewery in February of 2021, Open Arms Assisted Living Facility in 2022, and the newly completed water main extension, Rice Lake is poised for commercial development along the Rice Lake Road Commercial Corridor. By working with St. Louis County, the State, and other organizations, Rice Lake is putting together an infrastructure package to promote development while protecting the rural character in the rest of the community.

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# City of Rice Lake: Preserving Our Future

Since Rice Lake incorporated as a city in 2015, we have been working at leaving behind the township mentality and moving towards city priorities. Rice Lake's recently updated Comprehensive Plan's theme was Preserving our Future through Smart Planning. Our citizens have shown overwhelming support of remaining rural in character while providing a few additional services and amenities to our community. We have been working with St. Louis County and the Metropolitan Interstate Council to create a transportation plan for the Rice Lake Commercial Corridor which will allow for additional commercial growth within our community.

## UTILITY WATER LOOP AND EXTENSION

Rice Lake received \$1 million from the State in 2020 for a sewer and water extension on Rice Lake Road. This allowed for the extension of the water main, which was completed in November 2021, but not the sewer main. We are requesting \$1.8 million from the State to complete the sewer main extension, including a lift station, and to close a water loop on Martin Road. This project will get the City poised for development along the Rice Lake Commercial Corridor thus allowing for additional services and amenities in our community and creating a larger commercial tax base to help alleviate the tax burden on our homeowners.

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Rice Lake has a state bonding request to plan and construct a public safety/emergency shelter for \$7.5 million. This facility would be used to train fire and EMT personnel for Rice Lake and the surrounding townships, as well as an emergency shelter for our regional needs. Rice Lake works well with our smaller surrounding communities and could help facilitate a much needed regional public safety center and training facility for our area. Rice Lake City Council would like to request our legislators help in supporting our bonding request.



Rice Lake City Park



Rice Lake City Hall - 4107 W. Beyer Road - Rice Lake, Minnesota 55803  
(218) 721-3778 - [www.ricelakecitymn.com](http://www.ricelakecitymn.com)



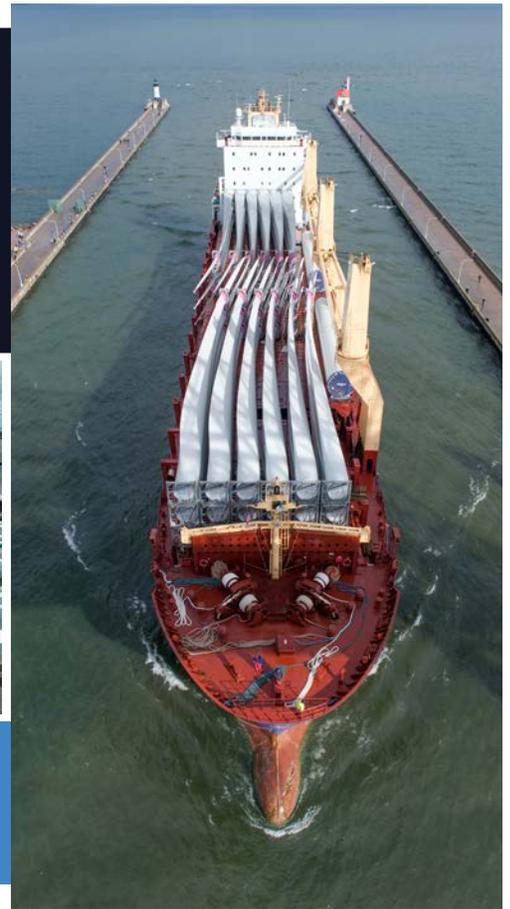
*"The City of Rice Lake looks to continue working with our Legislative Leaders and the Governor's Office in advancing the needs of both the city's infrastructure and municipal projects as well as always being cognizant of the fact that we are one small piece of the Head of the Lakes Region. We have made great strides in this partnership in opening doors financially, legislatively, and cooperatively with both county and state governance and look forward to continued collaboration."*

Mayor John Werner, City of Rice Lake

# Port of Duluth-Superior

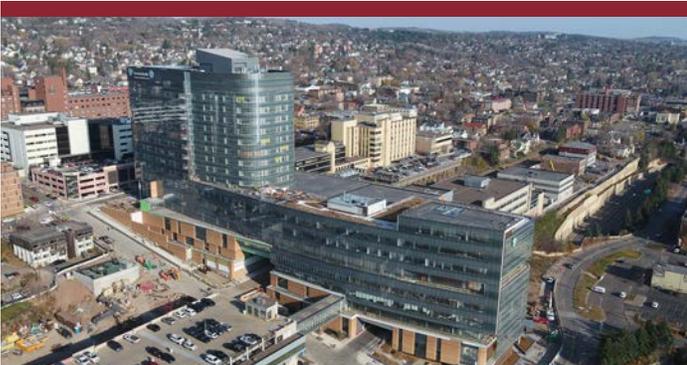
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# Duluth: A Welcome Port in the Nation’s Supply Chain Storm

Emerging as a free-flowing alternative to congested inland and coastal routes, the Port of Duluth once again topped 30 million tons in maritime cargo during the 2022 shipping season, much of it the raw materials of everyday life: iron ore, limestone, concrete, coal and grain. Early-season ice slowed the start, but ships and shippers warmed to the task as summer arrived, producing a string of three- and four-million-ton months that boosted total tonnage back toward normal levels atop the Great Lakes leaderboard.

Especially noteworthy in 2022 was the re-launch of maritime container shipping at Duluth’s Clure Public Marine Terminal, which augmented the port’s land-based container moves. This new line of business proved to be an ace in the hole for regional exporters of agricultural products, who shifted their perishable grain cargoes to Duluth for efficient export. This new maritime container offering from Duluth sidestepped frustrating land-transit snarls and costal port delays, instead sailing exporters’ cargoes to European markets from their own backyard through North America’s furthest-inland seaport. It contributed to a record third quarter for Minnesota exports.



Imports also made waves in Duluth throughout 2022, highlighted by the arrival of 260-foot wind turbine blades – the largest ever moved through the port – and a 250,000-pound Yankee dryer. This stout cargo sailed from Europe, but its new home was a mere four miles from the Clure Terminal dock, at the soon-to-reopen ST Paper facility in Duluth.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without support from the Minnesota legislature and MnDOT’s Port Development Assistance Program (PDAP). Full funding of PDAP is crucial to make possible the infrastructure investment necessary to achieve Duluth’s seaport potential. As a public port authority, we are grateful for this vital support, as are the state’s river ports. Collectively, Minnesota ports are foundational to the state’s economy. Port investment helps reduce freight costs for customers and incentivize businesses to locate or expand within our state and region. It also elevates Duluth’s stature worldwide, making it a more attractive choice in the ultracompetitive world of global shipping.



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# Honoring the Past... ...Reimagining the Future

*A place for history to come alive for future generations.*



“The restoration of the historic Duluth Armory represents a major step forward for historic preservation and economic development in northeastern Minnesota.

We are thrilled to announce a unique partnership between the Armory Arts and Music Center and Sherman Associates which will result in the revitalization of the Duluth Armory.

With the support of many community leaders, artists, businesses, musicians and organizations, as well as the Minnesota Legislature, we will succeed in efforts to bring the Armory back to life.”

Mark Poirier  
Executive Director  
Armory Arts and Music Center



The restoration of the Duluth Armory will honor the past and reimagine the future while providing important community space for economic and entrepreneurial development, arts and culture, and a place for history to come alive for future generations.

### **Celebrating History**

The foundational history of the armory as a military training center and as a cultural and entertainment hub for northeastern Minnesota will be showcased throughout the renovated facility. The story of the Minnesota National Guard and Duluth Naval Militia and Reserve will be honored in the Hall of Heroes. The restoration will also celebrate the role the Armory played as a community gathering place and cultural and entertainment hub of the Duluth region.

### **Economic and Entrepreneurial Development**

The Drill Hall will become the centerpiece of a vibrant mixed-use commercial space; with a public food hall filled with food vendors and entrepreneurs. A state of the art Food Enterprise Center, consisting of a Production Kitchen, Training Kitchen, and a farm Food Hub storage and distribution center, will be located on the lower level. An event center will be located in the 4th floor Commanders Ballroom. The officers’ quarters facing Lake Superior will become artist galleries and studio space.

### **Arts and Culture**

Restoration of historic Duluth Armory stage will be an entertainment focal point and will foster local and regional talent and keep the space active and fresh. The North Country Creative Center will be an exhibit space that celebrates the creative spark of the people and entertainers who performed at the Duluth Armory, including a permanent exhibit space showcasing Bob Dylan’s ties to the Armory. The Music Resource Center, an after-school music education program for teens will also be located in the restored Armory.

The Armory Arts and Music Center (AAMC) is partnering with Sherman Associates to complete the \$33 million restoration of the historic Duluth Armory. AAMC is asking the State of Minnesota for \$6.5 million to fund design and construction for rehabilitation of the historic Duluth Armory and the North Country Creative Center. The state funds will match federal funds, state and federal tax credits, state grants and private funds.

## **ARMORY ARTS AND MUSIC CENTER**

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Duluth, MN 55805

Phone: 218.428.9686  
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# Proud to Stand Hand-in-Hand With Our Client-Partners

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Kraus-Anderson has been serving the needs of those in St. Louis County, Duluth, across the Iron Range, and up the North Shore for more than 50 years. We live our community spirit, providing active support to numerous health, educational, and cultural organizations and events, including as founder and title sponsor of KA Bike Duluth Festival which gave \$50,000 to local charities in 2022.

Yet, Kraus-Anderson recognizes that our success is invariably tied to that of our clients, many of whom are at the Capitol today asking for your support. We are proud to stand hand-in-hand with our client-partners as we seek to make St. Louis County and Duluth a tremendous place to live, work, and do business.

Though our support extends beyond those projects and clients we are actively building for, we are immensely proud to be serving as the Construction Partner for the following projects:

- City of Duluth – Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Improvements
- City of Hermantown – Hockey Arena
- Lake Superior College - Manufacturing, Welding and Electronic Lab Relocation
- Cirrus Aircraft – Duluth Innovation Center



*“KA is proud to be part of the Duluth region, maintaining an office here for 25 years. We look forward to the state’s investments in this area being a catalyst for the significant progress and strategic growth of this robust, one-of-a-kind community”*

Rich Jacobson, Chief Operating Officer, KACC



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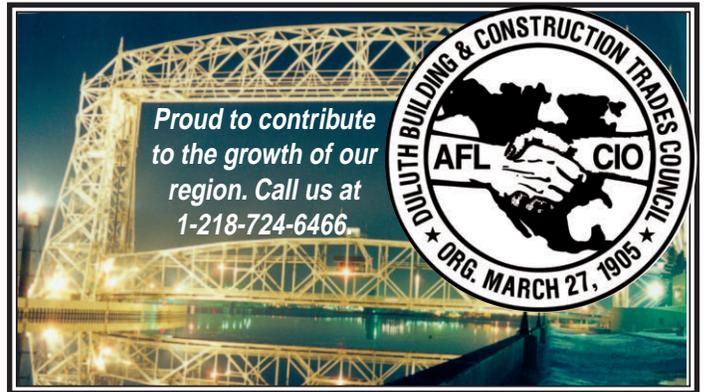
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# Thank You



## **Valued Elected Officials,**

Thank you for welcoming Duluth and St. Louis County participants to the Capitol, and for listening to our perspectives and requests.

## **Appreciated St. Louis County Key Stakeholders,**

Thank you for giving your time and attention to amplify our collective voice at the Capitol.

The Duluth Area Chamber is pleased and proud to assist in coordinating this ambitious and energizing event, Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol. We are excited to share our plans and our requests with you.

In support,



Matt Baumgartner  
President  
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Baumgartner".





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