**Navigating Change**

**in the St. Croix Valley**

**Finding Power at the Confluence of Art and Nature**

Our region has rich resources to guide us through historic growth and environmental change ahead. We may take different routes downstream, but the ideas from Navigating can align our journeys.

**Bedrock Values**

Art, nature, and community connect the St. Croix and help us shape change.
- Nourishing and sustaining our artistic and natural resources makes us proud to share this place.
- Recognizing that space is critical for creative and immersive endeavors, wonder and awe.
- Passing on our culture, values and memories to future generations is key to preserving the St. Croix Valley.

**Rooted Change**

The past forms a foundation for the future. Like St. Croix River sandbars come and go, we hold traditions and welcome new ideas. A resilient future is flexible but stands on footings of local food, heritage, ecology and business.

**Braided Channels**

Like islands and water, the river weaves together distinctive arts and nature experiences. The communities of the St. Croix Valley are each unique, yet connected by the river – cultures carved by water.

Art and nature support a unique way of life in the St. Croix Valley. From The Falls to the Mississippi, creativity connects us to the land and people. Communities thrive as the world changes.

**Living Art**

The creative process is key to innovation and a strong future. Visual, literary, and performing arts are abundant in the St. Croix Valley. There are artists and naturalists; gathering places and space to escape; surprising opportunities to take part in creative endeavors.

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**Our Vision for the St. Croix Valley**

From bluffs up and down the river, we can see where we’re going:
- Inter-connected people and places
- Artful ways to interact with the land
- Space for art in the environment
- Artists involved in community conversations
- Solid science and diverse art practices
- Powered by forces at the confluence of art and nature

**Ripple Effects**

We can each move downstream independently to reach our collective vision:
- Celebrate and share the peace, beauty and complexity of nature
- Seek inspiration from the restorative power of nature
- Serve as stewards of how the St. Croix functions
- Influence our communities to shape change
- Create art that conveys our values to guide our future
- Broaden the circle of change-makers
- Be restored by the river
- Create – practice art, write a haiku, make a canoe, plant a garden, make a difference

**Our Resolve**

To work at the intersection of arts and nature to shape change in our communities.
In the St. Croix Valley, we are restored by the river – and are inspired to return the favor.

step out of your head
together the St. Croix scenery
into the canvas

a new point-of-view
the land where we stand matters
more than what we see

people change places
where we go is who we are
trees bending to sun

braided through bedrock
river and art and people —
go, sculpt the future

Haiku by Greg Seitz

ArtReach St. Croix in collaboration with Arts Midwest invited leaders from across sectors with the purpose of building a coalition to amplify the work that is happening at the intersection of arts and nature. This opportunity was generously funded by the Bush Foundation, The Saint Paul Foundation, Mardag Foundation, Bigelow Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, and Arts Midwest. Additional funding provided by the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, the Water Street Inn, and ArtReach St. Croix.

Photo by John Schletty