

To: Alicia Kozlowski

From: Michele Hakala-Beeksma

St. Louis County Historical Society

Member American Indian Advisory Committee

Museums Operations Committee Chair

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery at the St. Louis County Historical Society, within The Depot, is a place where Ojibwe history and culture can be expressed and shared with the public. It is a place where Native and Non-Native can come to learn and celebrate the rich heritage of our state's first inhabitants. It is a place where local Native peoples can feel recognized. The more we know about each other the more we can find our common ground. The Depot is unique in that it has many organizations that work together to enliven our community by sharing art and culture in a variety of ways. The expressions of past and present all work to build relationships in our community today. The Lake Superior Ojibwe gallery is a unique venue in the city of Duluth. We are encouraged that there are plans for updating the heating and air quality systems in our historic building. We are hopeful that with these upgrades we can proceed with our plans to expand our existing exhibit space and tell a more compelling story of our Ojibwe history and current culture.

Michele Hakala-Beeksma