

# Place Value and the MCTM Conference

What do you notice? What do you wonder?



[Image 1](#)



[Image 2](#)



[Image 3](#)

How did you count the blue flowers in image 1? What did you notice about the shapes and angles in image 2? Did you find symmetry in image 3? Did you notice the intricate detail and beauty in each?

Prior to the cancelled NCTM Annual in Chicago and the one in Atlanta, there were Twitter chats led by [Tyrone Martinez-Black](#), [Marian Dingle](#) and [Kelly Wickham Hurst](#) so people attending the conferences could have a better understanding of the history of the city. It has led me to our own MCTM conference in Duluth on April 30th along with the ongoing work of the Math Review Committee which according to [MN State Statute](#), will include the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.

I grew up in the area just outside of Duluth in Cloquet, near the Fond du Lac Reservation but when I started looking up the history of the land, there was much new learning. One of the first things I found was [The University of Minnesota Duluth's Land Acknowledgement](#). What sticks out to me in this is **traditional** and **contemporary**. There is a long history of contributions and excellence from Ojibwe people. Those **traditional** and **contemporary** contributions and excellence exist and thrive today as people of sovereign nations. To honor and acknowledge the #PlaceValue of our conference in Duluth, below are some of those traditional and contemporary contributions and excellence.

As you are walking through Duluth and you happen upon **beauty, wonder, and joy** of Ojibwe art, which also exemplifies the beauty of math, I would love to connect with you at the conference, message me in our MN Math Teachers Closed Group on Facebook or tweet me [@laura\\_wagenman](#).

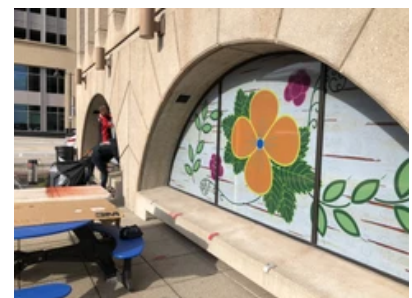
## [Chief Buffalo Memorial Project](#)

- Painted in collaboration with [Moira Villiard](#), local community members, and focus on the journey of Chief Buffalo
- Features contemporary imagery of Native people, their existence and connection to the land today
- Community mural painting to honor his memory



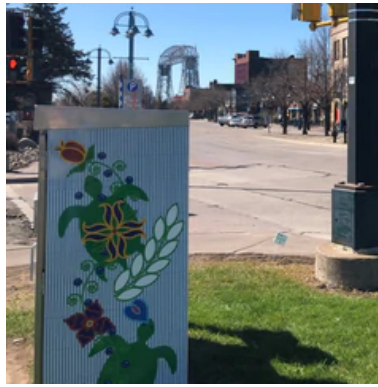
## ["Center of Good Things" Mural](#)

- Created by local artist [Sarah Agaton Howes](#)
- Ojibwe florals



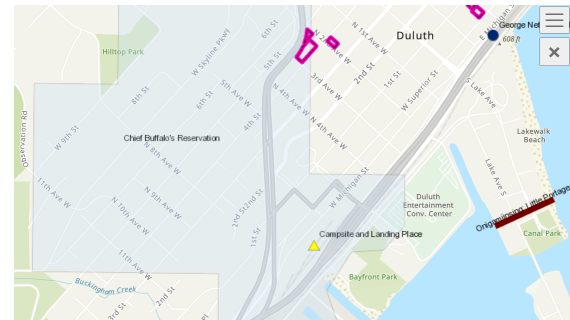
## Public Art

- Created by artist Sarah Howes
- On the corner of Canal Park Drive and Lake Drive
- "This piece reflects our story of how we rebuilt our life on the gift of a turtle's back"



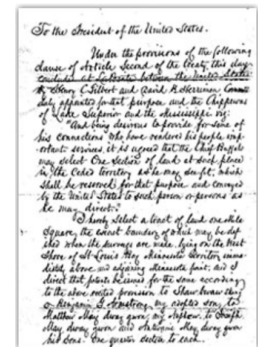
## An Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Contributions to the City of Duluth, "Making Indigenous People and their History and Culture Visible in the City of Duluth"

- Created by the Duluth Indigenous Commission
- Timeline of Indigenous History of Duluth and the surrounding area
- Lake Superior served as a significant source of travel and food
- Downtown Duluth Indian Camp is the vicinity of where the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) is located



## Onigamiinsing Dibaajimowinan: Duluth's Stories

- The site is owned and operated by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- 1854 Treaty of La Pointe created Chief Buffalo Reservation
  - Permanent residence of Ojibwe people
  - Became the city of Duluth
  - The Ojibwe retained extensive rights to use the land, including hunting and fishing rights
  - Land was later improperly sold through illegal dealings



After signing the Treaty of 1854, under which he received his reservation, Chief Buffalo left his mark on a document describing the boundaries of the reservation, as shown in this document in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (click above image)

## Duluth Task Force: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

- One of the first in the nation
- "Native American women make up less than 1 percent of the state's population, but homicide rates for Native women were seven times higher than for white women between 1990 and 2016."
- This billboard went up September 2019 to give a voice to who has been silenced in the past