



Albert Lea Public Library

... is working to connect you with the books you want, the information you need,
and the community you live in.

Art Zone Studio Opens on Wednesday, June 17th!

The 2009 Summer Reading Program at the Albert Lea Public Library is *Be Creative @ Your Library*. The Summer Reading Program is designed to explore the worlds of music, dance, art, books, and more. The program is open to young people, preschool through teen, with programs, prize drawings, story hours, special programs and more. The reading element of the program encourages families to make reading a family activity to help their children reach their reading goals. The **Art Zone Studio** is designed as an added component of the program. **Art Zone Studio** is a partnership between the Albert Lea Public Library and the



Albert Lea Art Center. The **Studio** will produce artwork to be displayed in the City Center's stairwells that are used by employees and in other employee stairwells and hallways throughout the city. The **Albert Lea Art Center** will be supplying an artist every Wednesday to instruct and assist our budding artists. Beth Tostenson will be the first local artist to contribute and we have teenage artists who will also be on hand to help. Including local artists of all ages adds the benefit of intergenerational interaction to the project. The art work will be done on a hardboard canvas with acrylic paints, paint pens and other material. The finished artwork will be preserved with a protective sealer and hung in **Art Zone Galleries** (stairwells, hallways, and break rooms) throughout the city. At the end of the project we will have an opening event for the **Art Zone Gallery**. We will list all the **Art Zone Galleries** locations throughout the city and have the contributing artists on hand to lead tours for employees, family and friends. The city's **Art Zone Galleries** will provide a permanent display of the artwork produced during the *Albert Lea Public Library 2009 Summer Reading Program* which will serve as a visual reminder of our ongoing commitment to our **Blue Zone Pledges**.

What benefit will be derived from the Art Zone Gallery Project? Physical inactivity is a risk factor for a variety of life-threatening diseases. The goal of the project is to encourage employees to make the health choice and use the stairs as a quick way to add physical activity to their day. It is a form of everyday exercise that requires no wardrobe change and the "special" equipment is already installed. Studies have shown that more people will take the stairs if artwork is displayed. The **Art Zone Studio** will be providing artwork that was created by our children so it has the added benefit of an admiring audience of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who will love their work and enjoy seeing it every day for many years to come.

The funds for the material needed for this project have been provided by the following organizations and businesses:

Albert Lea Art Center
Lou Rich

Freeborn Lumber
Mrs. Gerry's

Home Depot
Root River Hardwood, Inc.

For additional information contact the Albert Lea Public Library at (507) 377-4350.