

Meditation Sculpture & Master Lei Yixin

In 2006, under the leadership of Christine Podas-Larson*, Public Art Saint Paul sponsored the St. Paul “Minnesota Rocks!” Stone Carving Symposium, which brought sculptors from all over the world. In cooperation with Public Art Saint Paul, and under the direction of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN (USCPFA-MN) President **Mary Warpeha** and the valuable help of Board Member Jennie Hsiao (originally from Changsha), USCPFA-MN invited Changsha sculptor, **Master Lei Yixin**, to participate in the Symposium, during which he carved a **9-foot sculpture entitled “Meditation.”** This beautiful sculpture was installed at Phalen Park in 2006 and dedicated by Mayor Coleman in 2007. During the Symposium, Master Lei was contacted by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation, and with the translation help of **Weiming Lu**, Master Lei received a commission and created the 30-foot **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial “Stone of Hope” Memorial**, installed in Washington, D.C. and dedicated in 2011. Master Lei played a significant role in the realization of a sister-city gift from Changsha to St. Paul of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, installed in the China Friendship Garden at Phalen Park in 2018. Master Lei continues his support of the China Friendship Garden by attending major events at the China Garden and hosting MN delegations at his Changsha art studio.

*Christine Podas-Larson is a long-time MCFGS Honorary Advisory Council Member



Meditation by Changsha Master Sculpture Lei Yixin (2006)
Created for Public Art Saint Paul - Minnesota Rocks!
[pictured left: Creator of Martin Luther King Jr. Stone of
Hope Memorial in Washington, D.C.]

Pictured above: Changsha Architects Jennifer & Jon