



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **URBAN BOATBUILDERS TO JOIN MN DNR AT THE STATE FAIR**

*Saint Paul, MN, August 18, 2014* – Urban Boatbuilders (UBB) will join the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' display at the 2014 Minnesota State Fair, which runs from August 21 to September 1. UBB's display will include several examples of our signature boats, which are hand-built by students and participants in our apprentice program. Fairgoers will also have the opportunity to experience boatbuilding for themselves with a hands-on boatbuilding activity, led by our volunteers and apprentices. Additionally, fairgoers are invited to watch as our boatbuilding apprentices construct, live and in person, a 17' Wilderness Traveler skin-on-frame canoe, which will be given away at the end of the fair.

Urban boatbuilders' display area is located at the DNR's historic State Fair building, which celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. TCF Bank is generously underwriting the cost of our State Fair display.

### *Organization information:*

Urban Boatbuilders builds youth, one boat at a time. Urban Boatbuilders works with youth to develop leadership, academic and vocational skills through the building and use of wooden boats. Our two signature programs are:

*Boatbuilding Partnerships:* We partner with schools, churches, and other youth-centered organizations to customize boat building projects to meet their particular needs. Whether focused on developing academic skills, conflict resolution or teamwork, these hands-on projects are highly effective learning tools. And the partner organization ends up with one or more of our high-quality, hand-built boats.

*Apprentice Program:* Each year Urban Boatbuilders takes on up to ten young people to become boatbuilding apprentices. Many of our apprentices come from the juvenile justice system or other troubled circumstances. By focusing on developing vocational and leadership skills, we help put these young people back on the path toward a successful transition into adulthood.

Urban boatbuilders also invites the public to contact us about boat restoration projects or purchasing one of our high quality hand-crafted boats.

### *Contact:*

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