Art

Here's the pitch:
St. Paul Art Crawl
puts a new spin on the weekend with baseball art, buskers, free rides

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The spring installment of the St. Paul Art Crawl starts on Friday and runs through the weekend offering plenty of arty adventures in Lowertown and beyond. Things get started with the Brass Messengers stopping at Lowertown locations at 6 p.m. Friday with high school students dropping off snow shovels that have "Spring is Here" written on them.

Here are five additional things you should know about the crawl.

1 › Amy Clark — Mudonna The Artist

2 › Saint Paul — Xilam Balam — Electric Machete Studios

3 › Caprice Glaser — Baseball Diamond

4 › Kristi Abbott — Peanuts & Crackerjack

1. "THE ART OF BASEBALLS"

Since Lowertown is the future home of the new St. Paul Saints ballpark, teaming up with the baseball team is a natural. Last year, the Saints mascot Mudonna visited the Crawl, but this time around the Art Crawl folks wanted to do something different, said Tom Reynen, St. Paul Art Collective vice president.

"The Saints gave us 108 baseballs and we passed them out to the artists and they had a month to create an art project around it," said Reynen, who notes there was a line of artists out the door of the AZ Gallery when the balls were given away. "I think it's a fun way to merge art and sports."

The 70 baseballs that were artistically enhanced will be displayed at Union Depot during the Crawl and will be set up again for the Green Line light-rail launch in June. The baseballs will be judged by Saints owner Mike Veeck and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman with the grand prize winner named "artist of the day" at the Saints home opener. Why 108 baseballs? That's the number of double stitches in each ball.

2. LITTLE BOHEMIA

The Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association (West Seventh Street in St. Paul) is throwing its own special art crawl celebration on Saturday (noon-6 p.m.) with 40 artists displaying their work in neighborhood shops and participating in open houses and special gallery exhibits. The West Seventh Street part of the crawl also includes the addition of the Schmidt's Artists Lofts to this year's event with 20 artists participating throughout the weekend at the renovated Schmidt Brewery.