

Wisconsin Women's Council: Hmong Women's story cloth exhibit at Pablo Center in Eau Claire

Posted on Thursday, Jul 6, 2023

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MADISON, WI - Launched in May, The Hmong Institute and the Wisconsin Women's Council's *Resiliency: Hmong Women's Mental Health Journeys During the COVID-19 Pandemic* exhibit made its way to Eau Claire at the end of June. The Hmong women's story cloth exhibit is on display at the [Pablo Center at the Confluence](#) on third floor in the Orgel Wealth Management Atrium now through July 21, 2023. The Atrium is open to the public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday or one hour before theatre events.





Resiliency: Hmong Women's Mental Health Journeys During the COVID-19 Pandemic features three story cloth quilt panels that were the culmination of an ethnographic and art therapy project led by The Hmong Institute and the Wisconsin Women's Council. In spring 2022, the two organizations started a project to better understand the experiences of elder Hmong women during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The project engaged participants of an ongoing women's group, Hmong Sisterhood Support Group, at The Hmong Institute's community center to discuss and process the impacts of grief, stress, and isolation experienced during the pandemic on their mental health and well-being and capture their experiences and stories through a traditional means of documenting the Hmong experience and history by creating '[story cloths](#)'.

Through the project's discussions and story cloth creation, three themes emerged as the participants' primary sources of strength and resiliency: their Hmong families

and community, spirituality/faith, and gardening or being outdoors. The exhibit also features a poster with a QR code to link viewers to an [online video](#) of interviews with the women who created the story cloths as they share some of their experiences during the pandemic. The video development was funded in part by the [Wisconsin Humanities](#).

ABOUT THE WISCONSIN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Wisconsin Women's Council, celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2023, is Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. The Council promotes initiatives that empower women, serve as a clearinghouse for information on programs and resources, conducts research, and promotes unique partnerships to address barriers and inequalities affecting Wisconsin women. The Council is guided by a 15-member board appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders. For more information about the Wisconsin Women's Council, visit our website at: womenscouncil.wi.gov.

ABOUT THE HMONG INSTITUTE

The Hmong Institute, built from 35 years of experience serving Hmong and refugee communities, is a resource to advance community inclusion of Hmong culture and work to preserve and promote Hmong heritage for the future. The Hmong Institute is committed to sharing Hmong history, culture, and traditions through opportunities to engage and learn, as well as ensuring that Hmong voices and experiences are heard and amplified and fulfill its mission to empower community through education, health, and preservation of Hmong heritage, with the goal of being a prominent leader in these efforts. For more information about The Hmong Institute, visit our website at: thehmonginstitute.org.