



North End of *Immigrant Waiting Room*

The resounding success of this finished project generated ideas of developing more immigrant life themes, such as family life and the lives of immigrant children, which are now in the process of creation. These related exhibits will also be located on the Depot's mezzanine (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) level and will open in 2014.

## Ojibwe Gallery

The Society's American Indian collection and its Eastman Johnson collection of Ojibwe-themed art, painted or drawn during the artist's stay here in the "Head of the Lakes" (now Duluth-Superior) in 1856 – 1857 continue to be very significant parts of its cultural wealth. In fall 2012, grant funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund was secured through the Minnesota Historical Society which enabled the Society to begin work creating a new Ojibwe Gallery on the fourth floor of the St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center. The Depot Foundation and the JNM Gift Trust also granted significant funding for this project.

Spring 2013 the construction work began and is essentially complete. John Gerzina of DSGW Architects led the project. Johnson Wilson was the general contractor. Walls, ceilings, floors, lighting and everything connected with these elements were redone. Cases were constructed and installed. However, a construction-related incident caused the release of corrosive dust into both the Gallery and the adjacent artifact storage areas, which necessitated the delay of the opening until Midwest Conservation Center staff could properly assess and mitigate these damages and all insurance claim processing could be finished and the necessary specialized cleaning, funded by the insurance claim, could be completed. The long-awaited opening, therefore, will occur in 2014.

We hope our members will all join us for this opening and visit the Gallery often. Selections of the art works will be rotated for display in the Gallery, as will Ojibwe artifacts. We are all very eager for this long anticipated event!