

Minneapolis Community Development Agency

Request for City Council Action

Date: March 4, 2003

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee
Council Member Barbara Johnson, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Refer to: MCDA Board of Commissioners

Prepared by: Ann Calvert, Senior Project Coordinator, Phone 612-673-5023

Approved by Lee Sheehy, MCDA Executive Director
Chuck Lutz, MCDA Deputy Executive Director _____

Subject: Authorization to Accept Grant for Grand Excursion 2004 Research and Related Budget Appropriation

Previous Directives: On February 18, 2000, the City Council approved a resolution supporting Grand Excursion 2004 and requesting the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association to play the lead role for Minneapolis in planning. On October 11, 2002, the City Council approved Minneapolis' official Grand Excursion 2004 Legacy Project.

Wards: 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 12

Neighborhood Group Notification: Not applicable.

Consistency with *Building a City That Works*: Grand Excursion 2004 will support Goal 4 – Preserve and enhance the historic structures, urban institutions, environments and amenities that define Minneapolis.

Comprehensive Plan Compliance: Not applicable.

Zoning Code Compliance: Not applicable.

Impact on MCDA Budget: (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the MCDA Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):

Living Wage / Business Subsidy: Not applicable.

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Job Linkage: Not applicable.

Affirmative Action Compliance: The selected consultant will be required to comply with applicable provisions.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council Recommendation: The Executive Director recommends that the City Council: 1) authorize acceptance of a \$7,000 grant from the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board to the MCDA for research in preparation for Grand Excursion 2004; 2) amend the MCDA 2003 Appropriation Resolution to increase the appropriation in Fund SMN (State and Other Grants) by \$7,000 and increase the revenue estimate for Fund SMN revenue (3215-14 Other grant revenues) by \$7,000; and 3) forward this report to the MCDA Board of Commissioners for consideration of the following.

MCDA Board Recommendation: The Executive Director recommends that the MCDA Board of Commissioners authorize the Executive Director (or his designee) to enter into: 1) a grant agreement with the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board related to research in preparation for Grand Excursion 2004.

Background/Supporting Information

Grand Excursion 2004 is a regional initiative (Twin Cities to Quad Cities) designed to recognize and celebrate the incredible renaissance that has occurred throughout the upper reaches of America's River – the Mississippi. Over forty-two communities and fourteen regional organizations have endorsed the Grand Excursion and are working collaboratively towards its success. The initiative will include an extensive educational program, a Commemorate program to acknowledge the permanent positive changes being made to better connect Upper Mississippi communities to the River, plus a year of celebrations focused on the River. The capstone of these events will be the Grand Flotilla that will conclude in the Twin Cities on the Fourth of July weekend, 2004, and that will include a "Mingling of Waters" ceremony in Minneapolis.

Grand Excursion 2004 recognizes the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854 -- a major turning point of the settlement along the upper Mississippi River. As part of a celebration of America's first railroad link to the Mississippi River (Chicago to Rock Island), over 1,200 dignitaries, politicians, journalists and businessmen, including former President Millard Fillmore, boarded a rail car in Chicago for Rock Island, Illinois. This group transferred to a fleet of seven steamboats for a trip up the Mississippi River to Saint Paul, Minnesota, furthered then by horseback and wagon to view the magnificent Falls of Saint Anthony, in what is now known as Minneapolis. As the media wrote home, word spread about what a splendid place this part of America was. The year following the Grand Excursion, the upper Mississippi saw twice the amount of traffic as the previous year and by 1858, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin all had become states.

In 2004, the eyes of the nation and world will be on the Upper Mississippi River as a result of Grand Excursion 2004. This major initiative will provide an excellent opportunity to expose visitors and those who hear about Grand Excursion from afar to the fascinating history of Minneapolis and the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. Although much is known about this history, additional research is needed to compile this information and perhaps fill in gaps about what the 1854 Grand Excursion visitors found when they reached St. Anthony Falls.

The MCDA proposes a research project to assist Minneapolis in preparing for this celebration. The information to be gathered includes:

- Maps and visuals showing the area circa 1854
- Information about buildings and structures that existed (and/or were under construction) in 1854 and remain today
- Data about St. Anthony and the yet-to-be-named Minneapolis side of the River, e.g., number of residents, types/locations/numbers of businesses and residences
- “Headlines of the day” and other fun/memorable information about life around St. Anthony Falls circa 1854, plus local perceptions of the 1854 Grand Excursion
- Names of 1854 Grand Excursion participants from Minneapolis/St. Anthony Falls and short biographical sketches

Possible uses for the compiled information include:

- Text and graphics for Minneapolis’ Discovery Marker (and related materials)
- Information to enhance trolley and walking tours given during 2004 (or perhaps provide the basis for a special Grand Excursion tour)
- An informational handout for 2004 visitors
- Media and other informational kits; possible web site application
- Resource information to be used by front-line staff to answer questions

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board Planning Grant

The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board (SAFHB) is a joint powers board created by the State of Minnesota in 1988 and chaired by the Director of the Minnesota Historical Society. The Board includes the Minneapolis Mayor and two Council Members, as well as representatives of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota and other entities. The SAFHB’s mission is to plan for, encourage and coordinate interpretation of the historical significance of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone, located along the Minneapolis central riverfront near downtown. One of the ways it achieves this mission is via planning grants to member agencies to complete projects that are within the SAFHB’s work plan.

At its first meeting in 2003, the SAFHB approved a \$7,000 planning grant to the MCDA to allow it to hire a consultant from its panel to complete the proposed research project. This report recommends that the Minneapolis City Council accept the SAFHB planning grant and appropriate the funds and that the MCDA be authorized to execute the grant agreement with the SAFHB.

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