



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Two Phases of Restoration Complete at Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

State funding kicks off next phase of work; Purchase a photo by Wing Young Huie from the Lake Street USA exhibit and donate to Lake Street fence restoration

May 17, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – The completion of phases one and two of the restoration work at [Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery](#), located at Cedar Avenue and Lake Street, was celebrated today by [Friends of the Cemetery](#), the City of Minneapolis, Lake Street Council, preservationists and Winnie Layman, the great-great granddaughter of the original cemetery's owners, Martin and Elizabeth Layman. Restoration includes rehabilitation of the Cedar Avenue main gates and Lake Street gates as well as 12 other sections of fencing ([see before and after images](#)).

"This cemetery fence restoration project protects the final resting place of the pioneers who made Minnesota what it is today. We owe it to them," said **Gary Schiff**, Council Member (Ward 9).

A \$100,000 award from the Minnesota Historical Society State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid program will support a third phase of restoration work scheduled to begin this summer. Matching funds are still needed to accept the grant in its entirety. **Wing Young Huie**, renowned international photographer, announced today he will donate 25 percent of proceeds from sales of select photographs displayed in the exhibit, *Lake Street USA*, for restoration of the cemetery's fence along Lake Street. The general

public may purchase these photos. See www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dca/currentevents.asp for photo selection and order information or contact [Mary Altman](#), public arts administrator, at (612) 673- 3006.

Since August 2008, over 350 individuals, companies and foundations have donated \$16,000 to help with the fence rehabilitation through the Adopt-A-Picket program, a campaign established by the Friends of the Cemetery. See www.friendsofthecemetery.org for information on how individuals and organizations can adopt a picket for \$30 to help with phase three of the restoration project.

The fence restoration project is being supported with funds from the Minnesota Historical Society's Grants-in-Aid Program, the City of Minneapolis through net bond funds, the Friends of the Cemetery [Adopt-A-Picket fundraiser](#) and proceeds from the sales of Huie's photos. Donations through these two fundraisers are needed to help complete the next phase of work.

"We are deeply grateful to the many organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals who have contributed to the restoration effort," said **Sue Hunter Weir**, chair, Friends of the Cemetery and Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commissioner. "This effort reflects an on-going commitment to restore the fence, built in 1928, to protect and preserve a significant piece of our state's early history," she added.

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota placed the cemetery on its "[Ten Most Endangered Historic Places List](#)" in 2008 to raise awareness of the challenges of maintaining this landmark. May marks [National Preservation Month](#), "Celebrating America's Treasures."

More on Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

The fence that lines the cemetery along Cedar Avenue and Lake Street was built in 1928 to pay tribute to the pioneers and soldiers that are buried in the cemetery. The fence is 1,953 linear feet and contains 3,510 pickets. The rehabilitation of the fence honors its historic significance, improves the appearance of the cemetery and the streetscape of Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

Formerly known as Layman's Cemetery, it was established in 1853 and is the only Minnesota cemetery listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also a Minneapolis landmark and is the oldest surviving cemetery in the city. The cemetery, which is nonsectarian and ethnically diverse, was renamed in 1928 to honor the state's and Minneapolis' pioneers and soldiers buried here.

More on *Lake Street USA*

Lake Street USA was a six-mile public installation of 675 photographs—depicting the everyday lives of thousands of residents along this street—in store windows, on bus stops and on the sides of buses and buildings along Lake Street in 2000.

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