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For Immediate Release

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Summer Walking Tours Showcase Minneapolis' History

21 tours showcase the city's rich heritage

WHAT: The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission and the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development will offer a series of tours of historic sites throughout Minneapolis. Expert guides will lead 21 tours ranging from Minneapolis cultural gathering places and residential neighborhoods, to bustling commercial and industrial areas, to the theaters of Hennepin Avenue and remnants of the city's once extensive streetcar system.

Tour sizes are limited; participants should arrive 15 minutes before the tour to obtain a ticket and sign a waiver. Tours are free (except for the Como Harriet Streetcar Line tour, $5 charge; American Swedish Institute's Park Avenue neighborhood tour, $6 charge). Reservations are not required except for the two Park Avenue tours, Tree Canopy tour, and the Grain Belt Brewery tour, which request a pre-registration.

If you can't attend these tours, create your own. All profiles of locally designated landmarks and historic districts are located on-line at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc.

WHEN: Tours run May 31 - September 18

MORE: New tours this year include Interlachen: Between lakes Calhoun and Harriet, and the Downtown Modern tour. Other tours include: Pioneers & Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, Hennepin Avenue Theaters, Elliot Park, two separate and distinct tours of Park Avenue, Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, Washburn-Fair Oaks Historic District, Warehouse District, Grain Belt Brewery, Red Cedar Lane and the Purcell and Elmslie Homes, Lowry Hill, The City Tree Canopy tour, Tangletown, West 49th Street, Minneapolis City Hall & Courthouse, Christ Church Lutheran, Milwaukee Avenue Historic District, and North Side Synagogues and Neighborhood. For schedule information, call 612-673-2615 or see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc.

The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was formed in 1972 to serve as a citizen advisory body to the Minneapolis City Council. The Commission holds public hearings on matters related to preservation twice each month. Projects that come before the commission are administered through professional preservation-planning staff in the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED).

CPED provides preservation-related services within Minneapolis local government. These services include professional review for preservation permit applications, ongoing efforts to evaluate the historical significance of buildings and districts, recommendations for designation of local landmarks; prepares and administers design guidelines; conducts on-going research of eligible sites and districts; provides public education and community outreach programs; collaborates on the integration of historic preservation with City planning and development activities.

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