



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*

## City Seeks Proposals for Purchase and Potential Redevelopment of Hennepin Stages Theater

July 1, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) - The City of Minneapolis is seeking redevelopment proposals for the Hennepin Stages theater, a property owned by the City, located at 824 Hennepin Avenue. The property is currently configured with two stages for small venue live theater.

Proposals are due Thursday, August 12, 2010 to City of Minneapolis – Community Planning and Economic Development, 105 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 200, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401. For more information, contact Andrea Petersen, (612) 673-5106, or by email, [andrea.petersen@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:andrea.petersen@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

The City will sell the property “as-is” and expects proposals to support continued revitalization of Hennepin Avenue and the downtown district and be a catalyst for future economic growth. Proposals that enhance the visual character of Hennepin Avenue and add permanent jobs and generate real estate taxes are also desired. The property could be purchased:

- for continued use as a small theater venue, with minimal or modest physical improvements;
- for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the structure for another use;
- for clearance and new construction on this parcel only;
- as part of an assemblage for a larger development.

Street-level uses (whether in the existing building or new construction) must be entertainment, cultural or commercial uses that will be actively and extensively programmed to attract people (including families) to downtown Hennepin Avenue and support the avenue as an entertainment and cultural destination.

### **More on the Stages Theater**

The property was previously known as Hey City Theater and before that Hirshfield's Paint and Wallcoverings. Currently named Hennepin Stages, the property is located near three live stage theaters—the State, Orpheum, and Pantages—and near the Target Center (NBA arena), Target Field (MLB ballpark) and Shubert Theater (dance-focused venue slated to open in 2011).

The property was acquired by the Minneapolis Community Development Agency ("MCDA") in 1995 and then leased to Hey City Theater for the production of "Tony and Tina's Wedding." At the end of the initial run of that production, the building was renovated to accommodate separate productions on each of the two main floors. The building remains laid out in that manner, with a combination of permanent and moveable tables and chairs on each floor. The property continues to operate as a theater hosting a variety of performances including *A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol*, *Dixie's Tupperware Party*, *We Gotta Bingo*, and *Outta Here*.

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