



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

Contact: Krista Bergert, (612) 673-5015; cell, (612) 360-8702

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

Shortlist of Landscape Architects for Peavey Plaza Revitalization Announced

October 1, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) – A shortlist of four landscape architecture firms competing for the Peavey Plaza revitalization project was announced today by the City of Minneapolis. The City is working closely with the Minnesota Orchestral Association in selecting an architect for this project, which is adjacent to Orchestra Hall. The shortlisted design firms, all from Minneapolis, are Close Landscape Architecture, Coen & Partners, Damon Farber, and Oslund and Associates.

The City received nine proposals from firms throughout the U.S. for the revitalization of the plaza, located in downtown Minneapolis. A committee comprised of city elected officials and representatives of the Minnesota Orchestral Association reviewed submittals through a call for qualifications.

“We searched nationally for the best talent, and we found it here in Minneapolis. I’m very pleased that one of these firms will be revitalizing one of our city’s great spaces,” said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “I can’t wait to see what they can do.”

“This impressive group of landscape architects and their teams show the variety of great talent we have right here in Minneapolis,” said **Lisa Goodman**, Minneapolis City Council Member representing downtown. “I look forward to an open public process to decide whose ideas when implemented will renew and refresh Peavey Plaza, our premier public plaza downtown.”

“The Orchestra is pleased to collaborate with the City to ensure that Peavey lives up to its full potential as a great downtown public gathering space,” said Minnesota Orchestra President and CEO **Michael**

Henson. “It makes sense to align the Peavey project with the renovation of Orchestra Hall to make certain the two spaces complement each other and, in total, revitalize the entire block. We look forward to a grand re-opening in 2013.”

The four firms will each be asked to describe a process and plan to achieve maximum improvements in Peavey Plaza’s function and usability, while respecting its original intent, that will culminate in the revitalization of the plaza. A public “meet and greet” session with the landscape architecture firms will be held from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. on November 16, followed by interviews, also open to the public, from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Events will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Avenue South.

Final selection of the firm is expected to be announced November 19 after City Council approval. The City and Orchestra anticipate an approximate 29-month project schedule with design work beginning in January 2011, construction beginning in spring 2012, and project completion in 2013. A Community Engagement Committee—first convened by the Orchestra last January and comprised of neighboring residents and businesses—will be involved in the design process by providing input on how best Peavey can serve the needs of the neighborhood and downtown community.

The City and the Orchestra are collaborating in the revitalization of Peavey Plaza and Orchestra Hall, which are adjacent to one another and together comprise a full city block, as a single project. The MOA’s planned \$45 million renovation of Orchestra Hall—designed by award-winning architectural firm KPMB—will focus on a reinvention of the Hall’s lobby spaces, a welcoming exterior to better connect the Hall to the city outside and a refreshed auditorium. The MOA was awarded \$16 million in bond funding from the Minnesota State Legislature during the 2010 session; \$2 million of the funding is earmarked for Peavey Plaza. Estimated project cost is \$5-\$6 million. The City and Orchestra will be working together to secure the remaining funds for development of Peavey Plaza.

See http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/RFP_Landscape_Arch_Peavey_Plaza_093010.pdf for more information.

###