



Community Planning & Economic Development

Media Advisory

Contact: Rose Lindsay, Communications (W) 612.673.5015 (C) 612.250.8661

For Immediate Release

City of Minneapolis and Partners to Host Interactive Conversation on Placemaking and Public Realm in Downtown Minneapolis

WHAT: The City of Minneapolis and regional partners will be hosting an audience-interactive panel discussion featuring renowned urbanist Gil Penalosa about placemaking and the future of the downtown Minneapolis public realm on Wednesday, May 7 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. at the Brave New Workshop.

For the last eight years, Mr. Penalosa has served as the Executive Director 8-80 Cities, a Canadian nonprofit dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transportation and visit vibrant parks and public places. He has worked in over 150 different cities in all continents. His focus is the design and use of parks and streets as great public places, as well as sustainable mobility.

Additional panelists will include Minneapolis Ward 3 Council Member Jacob Frey, Public Realm Initiatives Director at Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District Ben Shardlow, Founding CEO of Greater MSP Michael Langley, Executive Director of Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition Ethan Fawley, State Director of the Trust for Public Land Susan Schmidt, and Assistant Superintendent for Planning at the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Bruce Chamberlain. The discussion will be moderated City of Minneapolis Director of Long Range Planning Kjersti Monson.

The event is free and open to all, but limited seating is available. To reserve general admission seats reserve online [here](#) or call or email Tina Beech at 612.673.3242 or tina.beech@minneapolismn.gov by Tuesday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 7, 2014
12:30-2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Brave New Workshop
824 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

MORE: The Placemaking and Public Realm in Downtown Minneapolis event featuring Gil Penalosa is part of the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation 3rd Annual Placemaking Residency. There are 17 total events scheduled during Gil Penalosa's residency in Minneapolis Saint Paul which runs May 5 to May 9. Each of the events will examine what makes a community a desirable place to live and why it matters. Follow the event on www.facebook.com/PlacemakingResidency or comment on Twitter with hashtags #Placemaking2014 and #PlacemakingMSP.

The lead sponsor of the event is the John S. & James L Knight Foundation. Generous support from Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, McKnight Foundation, Science Museum of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment, City of Wayzata, Metropolitan Council, The Line, St. Catherine University, and The Saint Paul Hotel has made these events possible.

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