



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 approves new design for a 21<sup>st</sup>-century Peavey Plaza

November 4, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Mayor R.T. Rybak and the Minneapolis City Council today approved the new design for the revitalization of Peavey Plaza, a premier public space for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will be safe and accessible to everyone.

“The new, revitalized Peavey Plaza retains the most beloved aspects of the current Peavey Plaza and dramatically improves upon it,” said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “We could not, and would not, build today the Peavey Plaza that we have loved for 40 years, but we are getting the best of both: we are honoring the modernist history of the original and making it safe, accessible and sustainable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

“Today’s approval of the design marks the day to move forward with work focused on building this signature plaza,” said **Council Member Lisa Goodman** (Ward 7). “Oslund’s design coupled with Minnesota Orchestra’s renovation will revitalize the entire block.”

The design by Tom Oslund, oslund.and.associates, allows for flexible uses from active programming to passive with design elements that include:

- two expansive pools with dancing fountains;
- a shaded pergola with adequate infrastructure to house all food vendors;
- natural seating;
- flexible performance space designed for event and non-event days;
- shallow still pools that can be drained and accommodate a set-up of 1,500 chairs for events;
- a water wall near the 12<sup>th</sup> Street entrance;
- a prominent accessible ramp to all grades of the plaza;

- active-use options planned for grassy areas on the southeast corner.

The new design meets the American Disabilities Act requirements and storm water management standards and will allow for a more cost-effective and economically sustainable approach to operations and maintenance. The revitalized Peavey Plaza will also add elements that event organizers require but that are current lacking, such as power and data access, which will help make the plaza more economically sustainable.

“We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City into the next phase of this project,” said **Michael Henson, Minnesota Orchestra President and CEO**, “and to helping create a renewed Peavey Plaza that will serve as a great gathering space for a broad public.”

The vision for the signature plaza was shaped by the community through open houses, interviews with users and stakeholders, and a public, online survey. A 20-person Community Engagement Committee—comprised of neighbors and stakeholders—has met over the last 19 months to share their input regarding Peavey programming and design.

The \$8-\$10 million project is supported by \$2 million in state bond funding, with the balance to come from private contributions that the Mayor and representatives of the Minnesota Orchestral Association have committed to raising. The City and the Minnesota Orchestra are collaborating in the revitalization of Peavey Plaza, which is adjacent to Orchestra Hall, in conjunction with the Orchestra’s \$50 million renovation of Orchestra Hall.

oslund.and.associates, a Minneapolis landscape architecture firm, was selected by the City, through a public interview process, in 2010. HR&A, a New-York-based real estate and economic development consulting firm, was hired by the City to assist with space programming. Their recommendations informed the design, operations and maintenance of the plaza.

Groundbreaking is tentatively set for spring 2012 with a grand opening in summer 2013.

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