

## **Community Planning and Economic Development News Release**

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### **City of Minneapolis Announces Receipt of National Park Service Grants to Develop a History of Native Americans in Minneapolis**

**Friday, October 10, 2015 (MINNEAPOLIS)** – The City of Minneapolis is pleased to announce that it has received two National Park Service grants to support the City’s heritage preservation efforts. The federal funds, totaling nearly \$35,000, matched with City funds will enable Minneapolis to study properties associated with traditionally under documented groups including the Native American, African American, and Jewish communities.

“As we continue to broaden the perspective of our past during our second Indigenous People’s Day, we are very pleased to receive this strong vote of confidence from the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office for our ongoing preservation efforts,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges.

The City of Minneapolis designated its first historic landmark, the Swan Turnblad Mansion (now known as the American Swedish Institute), 41 years ago, in 1974. Today, Minneapolis is proud to have 15 historic districts and 166 landmarks emblematic of a broad range of community history. A similar, federally-supported effort over the course of the past year resulted in the designation of two historic districts and three historic landmarks associated with significant streetcar-related development, to include twelve well-maintained homes constructed by master builder Theron Potter Healy. This year’s efforts, however, will be the first in-depth study of Minneapolis’ Native American heritage.

The National Park Service grants double City funds allocated to the project. City staff and consultants will work with members of the public to develop a history of Native Americans in Minneapolis and identify associated sites worthy of study for historical designation. The full context statement or history will be available to the public in the summer of 2016.

“It is critical that we acknowledge the contributions of all residents - as well as the wrongs of our past - in order to understand and honor the full history of our City,” said Council Vice President Elizabeth Glidden.

In-depth studies of the Homewood potential historic district in North Minneapolis, emblematic of Minneapolis' strong, early twentieth century Jewish community, and properties associated with African American desegregation, to include south Minneapolis' Tilsenbilt homes, will also be part of the National Park Service grant outcomes.

For more information on the City of Minneapolis historic preservation efforts please visit the City of Minneapolis [website](#).

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