

MAYOR R.T. RYBAK

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Media Advisory

October 5, 2006



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Mayor Rybak to Launch Great City Design Teams

Residents and Design Professionals will work to Re-weave Minneapolis Neighborhoods

What: Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Tom Hysell, AIA, President of the Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA MN) will launch the Mayor's Great City Design Teams and encourage residents and community groups to join the effort to create new visions for the City of Minneapolis. The Mayor's Great City Design Teams are made up of architects, landscape architects, urban designers and developers who will work with residents and community groups to develop design visions for their neighborhoods.

When: 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2006

Where: Depot Parking Lot at the Corner of 5th Ave. and Washington Ave. in Minneapolis

More: The Mayor's Great City Design Teams are a key part of Mayor Rybak's vision to "reweave" Minneapolis into a city of diverse, connected, urban villages where streets are destinations and residents can access unique goods and services nearby.

Earlier this year, AIA Minneapolis offered to work with Mayor Rybak to create the Great City Design Teams to engage architects and other design professionals in the neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Members of AIA Minneapolis, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the Minneapolis Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA) will work with communities to create visions for urban design opportunity sites in their neighborhoods.

Mayor Rybak's first Great City Design Team has already begun work on a new vision for Washington Avenue, one of his top priorities. "Imagine Washington transformed into a grand promenade connecting the University of Minnesota, Gold Medal Park, Guthrie Theater, Center for Book Arts, Mill City Museum, Mill City Market, MacPhail Center for the Arts, the Central Library, new condos in the North Loop, the Cedar Lake Bike Trail and a new Twins ballpark," Rybak said. "The remarkable concentration of new attractions along Washington Avenue make this an opportunity we have to seize, and in the grandest way possible. The lessons learned here can be applied in across our city."

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