



# AIA Saint Paul

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



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For Immediate Release

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## Saint Paul's Central Corridor Gets Valuable Architectural Attention

*Minneapolis, Minnesota* – This year architects across the country are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their professional organization, the American Institute of Architects (AIA). To mark the occasion, individual chapters of the AIA have established legacy projects that enable local architects to engage their communities in a discussion of the essential characteristics of livable communities. In Saint Paul, architects are volunteering their time and talents to help property owners along University Avenue envision how their neighborhoods could be enhanced in response to the proposed Light Rail Central Corridor Transit Project. Focusing on the potential opportunities associated with the coming of light rail to University Avenue, the workshops will demonstrate how local decisions could maximize the benefit of LRT on their businesses and neighborhoods.

Entitled "Approaching the Central Corridor, Block by Block," AIA Saint Paul's AIA 150 legacy project will consist of a series of workshops that bring together local architects with the stakeholders in the community. To date, eleven teams have been organized and assigned to envision the potential of eleven blocks along University. Each team is composed of architects, intern architects, architectural students, and associated professionals. The first workshop, held on Thursday, April 19, will be followed by ten additional workshops scheduled for consecutive Thursdays throughout the months of April, May and June. The workshops will follow the following format. After a lunch meeting with property owners, the AIA team will come up with a range of development strategies for their block. When property owners return at the end of the afternoon for the "pin-up," the concepts will be reviewed and discussed.

The graphic records of the workshops, including 3-D images drawn in Sketch Up, will be compiled in a report intended to guide the future development of a pedestrian-friendly University Avenue with livable communities along its route. The report will be presented to the Mayor and the Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). Excerpts of the report will be included in a legacy document being published by the national component of AIA. In addition, the 3-D images drawn in Sketch Up will be inserted into Google Earth on the web. For more information, see [www.aia-mn.org/aia150](http://www.aia-mn.org/aia150).

AIA national, founded in New York in 1857, has provided grants to components nationwide to carryout legacy projects that enhance their cities. AIA Minnesota and its chapters AIA Minneapolis, AIA Saint Paul and AIA Northern, established in 1892, all received funding for ambitious programs that will tie into community and education efforts and use thousands of architect and citizen volunteer hours to benefit our communities. To learn more about events, go to [www.aia-mn.org/AIA150](http://www.aia-mn.org/AIA150) or contact Ann Voda, AIA150 Champion at [annv@btrarchitects.com](mailto:annv@btrarchitects.com) or Jennifer Gilhoi at AIA Minnesota at [gilhoi@aia-mn.org](mailto:gilhoi@aia-mn.org).

*The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, founded in 1892, is dedicated to strengthening our communities, improving our built environment and providing exceptional design. For more information on the organization and Minnesota architectural firms, reference our Web site at [www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org) and pick up a copy of Architecture Minnesota, the award-winning architectural magazine of the Midwest.*

### Ten Livability Principles

1. Design on a Human Scale
2. Provide Choices
3. Encourage Mixed-Use Development
4. Preserve Urban Centers
5. Vary Transportation Options
6. Build Vibrant Public Spaces
7. Create a Neighborhood Identity
8. Protect Environmental Resources
9. Conserve Landscapes
10. Design Matters