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Saint Paul Recognizes Individuals and Projects for Heritage Preservation

24th annual awards held during National Heritage Preservation Month

SAINT PAUL – The Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) along with the Saint Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects hosted the 24th annual Heritage Preservation Awards on May 20. The award program recognizes projects, individuals, and organizations that enhance and celebrate Saint Paul’s cultural resources.

“This year we recognized six contributions to preservation that strengthen our sense of history, spur investment and jobs in our community, and preserve Saint Paul’s heritage,” said HPC Chair Richard Dana. “I congratulate all of the people who made these projects possible and for their outstanding commitment to Saint Paul.”

Awards included:

- **Restoration Award – House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 292 Summit Avenue**
Designed in 1914 by Ralph Adams Cram, House of Hope Presbyterian Church is a beautiful example of the Gothic Revival style and a prominent feature of Summit Avenue. The church and its 1959 addition were in need of major restoration, and the congregation committed to undertaking the work, ultimately costing about \$3.2 million. The work included the replacement of the slate roof, new copper flashings, and a complete restoration of the original bell tower.
- **Stewardship Award – Francis M. Finch House, 839 Osceola Avenue**
Owners Robin and Brian Belisle restored this 124 year-old home to the quality of materials and details originally designed by architects Cass Gilbert and James Knox Taylor. The remodel project included extensive reworkings, inside and out, to respect the building’s character and reveal its beauty.
- **Adaptive Reuse Award – Frank and Anna Shepard House, 325 Dayton Avenue**
This home, built in 1880 as a private residence, spent the past 70 years in a variety of uses. In 1955, a major annex addition was constructed. Four years ago, Andy and Whitney Blessing discovered the property and adapted the annex into a Montessori pre-school, restored the original 1880 structure into an elegant bed and breakfast, and rehabilitated the servant’s quarters into their private residence.

(more)

- **Professional/Volunteer Award – Karin DuPaul**

Karin DuPaul spearheaded efforts to promote preservation of historic housing stock in the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood by organizing tours of vacant homes and advocating for their re-use. She helped create the Dayton’s Bluff Historic District and worked tirelessly on preservation efforts such as the Stutzman Building and Hamm’s Brewery site on Saint Paul’s Eastside.

- **Cultural Heritage Award – Great Houses of Summit Avenue and the Hill District**

This 280-page illustrated book takes readers on an intimate tour of 24 historic homes on and around Summit Avenue. It documents the architecture and design of the homes along with colorful, compelling stories of the homeowners. This book was published in October 2013 and by the end of the year over 5,000 copies had been sold. Karen Melvin self-published the book along with a team of photographers, writers, an editor and graphic designer.

- **Rehabilitation Award – Union Depot, 214 East Fourth Street**

This landmark in Saint Paul’s Lowertown neighborhood has been transformed into a 21st century multi-modal transit hub and active mixed-use destination. The building reopened in 2012 after a \$243 million investment that beautifully restored the 1920s era building. Recently, the Union Depot welcomed back Amtrak service and will be a major stop along the Green Line light rail transit corridor opening on June 14.

For more information about the Heritage Preservation Commission, visit www.stpaul.gov/hpc.

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Attachments:

[Photo: House of Hope Presbyterian Church](#)

[Photo: 839 Osceola Avenue](#)

[Photo: 325 Dayton Avenue](#)

[Photo: Karin DuPaul](#)

[Photo: Great Houses of Summit Avenue and the Hill District](#)

[Photo: Union Depot](#)

[Award Ceremony Video](#)