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Contact:
Sarah Lemagie
PR & Communications Officer
(612) 672-3877
slemagie@mplsfoundation.org

Teresa Morrow
Vice President, External Relations
(612) 672-3834
tmorrow@mplsfoundation.org

The Minneapolis Foundation Celebrates 100 Years of Sparking Positive Change in the Twin Cities

Centennial festivities range from 3D street painting to a Futurist Conference focused on initiatives for the next century

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. [March 10, 2015] — The Minneapolis Foundation is marking its Centennial with a series of public events that will bring the community together to celebrate a century of innovative philanthropy in the Twin Cities and discuss a shared vision for the next 100 years.

“The history of The Minneapolis Foundation is really the story of our whole community,” said Sandra Vargas, President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation. “It took thousands of generous Minnesotans, nonprofits, and local leaders to build the social supports and cultural institutions that make up the fabric of our city. The Foundation is honored to have been a partner in that work, which continues today. I can’t think of a better way to celebrate our 100th birthday than by inviting everyone who lives here to enjoy some of the assets that make Minneapolis great, and to share their wishes for the future of our community.”

The Foundation will kick off its Centennial during the week of April 6 by commissioning an innovative local artist to depict his vision of the future of Minneapolis. In a two-day live art event, award-winning artist Shawn McCann will create a large-scale, indoor street painting in the Crystal Court of the IDS Center. The piece, which will use an optical illusion to create a 3D effect when viewed from a certain vantage point, will remain on display for only a week, making it a temporary “must see” for Twin Cities residents.

The public will have the opportunity to watch McCann work and take pictures of the street painting as it takes shape. The Minneapolis Foundation will also invite observers to share their wishes for the future of the community on social media using the hashtag **#Mpls100**. Upon completion, a time-lapse video of the street painting’s creation will be shared along with the community’s wishes at www.mpls100.org.

Additional Centennial events include:

- **Nicest Day Ever.** To mark its official birthday weekend, The Minneapolis Foundation is partnering with the Twin Cities' bike sharing program to encourage residents to enjoy the city by taking a spin on a Nice Ride bike. The Foundation and Nice Ride aim to make Saturday, **June 27** the Nicest Day Ever, with a goal of setting a record for the most trips recorded in a single day and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Foundation's incorporation in June 1915.
- **The Centennial Futurist Conference.** The Foundation will host a once-in-a-lifetime conference on **Sept. 18** at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Bringing together some of the most thought-provoking speakers in the world — including Sir Ken Robinson, Dan Pallotta, Michio Kaku and Atul Gawande — and more than 1,500 people who care about our community, this conference will convene the community to start planning for the future.

The Foundation will announce details about these events in coming weeks.

One of the first community foundations in the world, The Minneapolis Foundation was established in 1915 by two bankers, two lumbermen and a lawyer. Envisioned as a philanthropic organization that would enable residents from across the community to pool their charitable giving for greater impact, the Foundation was a pioneer in a movement that now includes more than 1,800 place-based foundations worldwide.

To learn more about the Foundation's history and the important role it has played in this community, visit www.mpls100.org.

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About The Minneapolis Foundation: For 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, charitable resources and ideas to enrich our community and the world. The Foundation manages more than \$700 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the annual distribution of more than \$50 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community. **www.mpls100.org**.