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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Sara Swenson, Department of Planning & Economic Development

sara.swenson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-6575 (office); 651-387-2343 (cell)

Brad Meyer, Department of Parks & Recreation

brad.meyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-6377 (office); 651-894-3258 (cell)

Saint Paul earns two awards for community development initiatives

Ready for Rail Loan Program and Stacy L. Robinson Field recognized at MCCD & LISC Awards

SAINT PAUL – On October 9, the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) and Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) presented their 2013 Community Development Awards honoring people, projects, organizations, initiatives and programs that have substantially contributed to the field of community development in the region. The City of Saint Paul's Ready for Rail Forgivable Loan Program and Stacy L. Robinson Field were among the honorees recognized for demonstrating innovation, collaboration, inspiration and vision.

The Ready for Rail Forgivable Loan Program was recognized in the program/initiative category for exemplifying a collaborative and innovative approach to fulfilling a community vision. Ready for Rail has provided over \$3.8 million to support over 200 small businesses located on the Central Corridor with no-interest, forgivable loans to help them survive and thrive during light rail construction. The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority joined with the City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, MCCD and the Neighborhood Development Center to create and administer the program.

Stacy L. Robinson Field was recognized in the project category for contributing significantly to the enhancement of the community. This sports field at Oxford Community Center was renamed earlier this year in honor of NFL great Stacy L. Robinson after a significant renovation that allows it to serve as a multipurpose, world-class field for football, soccer, lacrosse and baseball activities. Groups including the Ramsey County Soccer Partners, Saint Paul Public Schools, National Football League, Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, and community groups all brought their expertise to the project.

"Both the Ready for Rail Loan Program and Stacy L. Robinson Field show the importance of forming partnerships to achieve a common goal," said Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. "On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I'd like to thank MCCD and Twin Cities LISC for recognizing our innovative efforts in community development and extend congratulations to all of the award winners. It's great to see so many people and organizations recognized for their hard work and dedication to the vitality of our city and region."

Additional award recipients included:

- Program/Initiative: Green Remodeling Plan Book by the Roseville Housing & Redevelopment Authority and Family Housing Fund
- Project: Hawthorne EcoVillage developed by Project for Pride in Living
- Organizations: MN Homeownership Center, Homeownership Advisors Network & Project for Pride in Living
- Community Builders: Michael Chaney & Nieeta Presley
- Emerging Leaders: Andy Hestness & Noel Nix
- Twin Cities Community Development Hall of Fame: Paul Fate & Mary Keefe

For more information visit about the MCCD visit www.mccdmn.org or Twin Cities LISC visit www.tclisc.org.

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