

The Minnesota Historical Society awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant in the amount of \$6,610 to the City of Chaska to fund the creation of a walking tour map of the historic buildings and sites in Chaska. The grant was approved by the Society's awards committee on December 9, 2010.

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are made possible by the Minnesota Legislature from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund created with passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in November 2008. The grants are awarded to support projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state.

Chaska's Historic Walking Tour map is a project of enduring value because it will inform residents and visitors of the importance of the historic buildings and sites in Chaska. Last month, city staff met with representatives of MFRA, the planning/engineering firm that will manage the project for the City. MFRA expects to complete the project by the end of April, 2011.

Chaska's current historic walking tour map, produced in 1993, is difficult to use and is printed in black and white. The proposed new map will be more user-friendly, printed in color, and include more historic buildings. From the two Klein Mansions to Fireman's Park, the map will highlight Chaska's history for residents and visitors alike.

The Minnesota Historical Society will award a total of \$6.75 million in Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to non-profit and educational organizations, government units and tribes during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years. The Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849. Its essence is to help illuminate the past as a way to shed light on the future. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.