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***CIVICFEST: A VERY MINNESOTA CELEBRATION NOW ACCEPTING  
VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR MARKETPLACE***

***Marketplace to Showcase a Variety of Products with an Emphasis  
on Locally Produced and Designed Merchandise***

**ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA** (April 21, 2008) – Organizations and individuals interested in participating in *CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration* may now apply for a space in the 60,000 square-foot vendor Marketplace. The mission of the *CivicFest* Marketplace is to showcase a variety of products to the *CivicFest* audience, with an emphasis on locally produced and designed merchandise.

*CivicFest*, which will be held August 29 – September 4, 2008 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, is a one-of-a-kind event that will include more than 35 exhibits celebrating Minnesota and American history, democracy and the U.S. Presidency. More than 150,000 people are expected to attend *CivicFest*, which will be open to the general public.

To apply, vendors must complete an online application available at [www.civicfest.org](http://www.civicfest.org) and provide photos or samples of the products they wish to sell, promote or display in their booth. Vendors will be selected based on how well they fit into the mission of the Marketplace and *CivicFest*. Preference will be given to entities selling merchandise that is both appropriate and appealing to the Convention audience, with greater preference given to companies presenting “Made in Minnesota” and “Made in U.S.A. merchandise.

MSP 2008, which is producing *CivicFest*, will begin making contact with interested vendors on May 1, 2008. Tina Volpe is the Marketplace Executive with MSP2008 overseeing vendor operations and can be reached at 651.677.2987 or [tvolpe@msp2008.com](mailto:tvolpe@msp2008.com).

MSP 2008 is a non-partisan, 501c3 non-profit organization charged with promoting the commerce, image and prestige of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the entire region in preparation for the 2008 Republican National Convention.

**About *CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration***

*CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration* is a vibrant civic festival celebrating Minnesota and American history, democracy, and the U.S. Presidency, which will be held in conjunction with the 2008 Republican National Convention. The event, produced by the Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee and Maxene Fernstrom, will be held August 29 through September 4, 2008. *CivicFest* is a once-in-a-lifetime family friendly experience featuring more than 35 informative and entertaining exhibits, including historic memorabilia and artifacts, a scale model of the White House, a re-created Convention floor, a stage featuring live performances, an actual President's official limousine, a half-scale replica of the White House Oval Office, multimedia and interactive exhibits featuring significant objects, an interactive kiosk that explores the lives and administrations of the twelve 20th Century Presidents, and a 60,000 square-foot Marketplace showcasing a variety of products, with an emphasis on locally produced and designed merchandise. For more information, visit [www.civicfest.org](http://www.civicfest.org).

**About The Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee**

The Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee is charged with promoting the commerce, image and prestige of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the entire region in preparation for the 2008 Republican National Convention. The Host Committee is made up of community leaders who are committed to educating people and businesses to come to Minnesota to work, live, play, visit and invest. For more information, visit [www.msp2008.com](http://www.msp2008.com).

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