

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**50 Days Out: CivicFest Announces Exhibit Sponsors**

*Local companies commit to being a part of history by sponsoring more than a dozen exhibits at CivicFest*

**MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL, Minn. (July 14, 2008)** – The Minneapolis Convention Center will transform into CivicFest central beginning Aug. 22 thanks in part to 15 corporate sponsors committed to civic engagement and being a part of history.

CivicFest, which is produced by the Minneapolis Saint Paul Host Committee, will be held in conjunction with the Republican National Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center from August 29 to September 4, 2008. CivicFest is a nonpartisan celebration of American and Minnesota political and statehood history showcased through more than 35 world-class exhibits, artifacts and memorabilia. Never again will these exhibits be displayed as a collection in one place.

"Minnesota has several unique and amazing assets, but one that stands out is the undying civic engagement of our corporate community," said Cynthia Leshner, president of the Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee. "We are both proud and thankful that our corporations see the value in bringing American and state history to our community through their support of CivicFest."

CivicFest exhibits and corporate sponsors include:

- Information Booth – 3M Company
- President's Walk Exhibit – Ameriprise Financial, Inc.
- Three Centuries of Political Memorabilia – Associated Bank
- Live Stage – Best Buy Co., Inc.
- Air Force One – The Boeing Company
- Presidential Timeline Exhibit – Carlson
- White House Entertaining Exhibit – Ecolab Inc.
- First Ladies Gown Exhibit – Medtronic, Inc.
- Convention Floor Exhibit – Qwest Communications International, Inc.
- Presidential Health Exhibit – St. Jude Medical, Inc.
- Oval Office Exhibit – Target
- Walleye School of Fish Exhibit – The Travelers Companies, Inc.
- Minnesota Greatest Generation Exhibit – UnitedHealth Group
- Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibit – U.S. Bank
- Hail to the Chief Exhibit – Xcel Energy Inc.

**About CivicFest**

*CivicFest: A Very Minnesota Celebration* is a family-friendly, once-in-a-lifetime interactive and multimedia experience, featuring more than 35 education and entertaining exhibits, historic memorabilia and artifacts celebrating Minnesota and American history, democracy and the U.S. presidency. CivicFest is being produced by Maxene Fernstrom for the Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee. 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 the nonprofit, non-partisan entity 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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