



Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation: Corporate records

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We kept negatives
from Mary Nelson
& will try
scanning

Dedication of Children's PlaySpace

Weiming Lu

November 7, 1996

This is a happy day for children in downtown, as well as for grown-up like us who still enjoy a toy train set.

The Lowertown Small Area Plan was passed by the St. Paul City Council on 6/24/94. As part of that plan, this wonderful new playground is a direct result of a successful partnership between the Capital River Council, the city of St. Paul, and Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation. The CIB committee and the Parks Dept., we thank you. That splendid partnership helped us to find the needed funds, select the site, design the playground, and finally build it. Jim Miller, Carol Byrne, Wayne Mikos, we thank you for your leadership and hard work.

The playground is also the result of a successful collaboration between an artist and a landscape architect, between Caprice Glaser and Don Ganje. We thank you for your beautiful design, where a normal playground has been transformed into an outstanding art work.

Not too long ago, as many of you may well remember, Lowertown was a neighborhood of empty warehouses and vacant parking lots. Through creative partnerships between the City, the McKnight Foundation, the Capital River Council and Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation, we have fought against national trends of declining central cities, and turned this into a new, vibrant urban village. Today, 3,000 people live here and 7,000 persons work here. The need for a variety of amenities and services becomes obvious. This playspace fills one of those unmet needs.

With these amenities, and with our exciting new vision, we strive to attract new jobs and new residents to our area. The infrastructure we have here in Lowertown, i.e. the fiber optics by U.S. West, the satellite up-link of KTCA, help us to link with the global information highway faster and create new jobs for our community. Thus, our new virtual community in cyberspace complements well our already established urban village. This then is our own bridge to the 21st century. Our children can play and study here today; they can work and help build an even better community tomorrow.

Sent
Bob's
already
11/8
Sent rest of
board 11/12/96