

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
LOWER PHALEN CREEK PROJECT
WAKAN TIPI CENTER**

**INTERSECTIONS OF KELLOGG BOULEVARD EAST,
COMMERCIAL STREET, AND 4TH STREET EAST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106**

NEH Award Number:

CHA-268798-20

BACKGROUND

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides grant and cooperative agreement awards to support research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This proposed activity is supported with financial assistance authorized under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-209), to enable infrastructure development and capacity building, including through the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities and historic landscapes.

PROPOSED ACTION

Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP) will lease and operate Wakan Tipi Center, a one-story cultural and environmental interpretive Center located in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, MN. The redevelopment will include the new Center, temporary parking lot, and habitat enhancement work. Development activities will take place on an approximately 3.6-acre site bound by an active railroad along the Mississippi River to the south, Interstate 94 to the north, and Kellogg Boulevard to the west. The building will be an approximate 9,000 square foot, one-story slab on grade building with frost footings and 40- to 60-foot-deep helical piers for foundation support, a geothermal system for heating and cooling, and outdoor seating and landscape work. A parcel east of the Center will be used as a temporary parking lot. The project will include grading, grubbing, trenching, and other dirt work necessary to construct the Center. The applicant has submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents impacts of the proposed action. This EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

MITIGATION

The mitigation is incorporated by reference and can be found in Part III of this Condensed EA.

CONCLUSION

NEH hereby adopts the Condensed Environmental Assessment prepared by the applicant for the proposed action described above. After reviewing the assessment and the supporting materials provided by the grant applicant, NEH finds that the assessment properly documents the proposal's status of compliance with the environmental laws and requirements listed therein.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (44 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and the National Endowment for the Humanities NEPA Implementing Procedures, NEH has determined that, with the mitigation measures described in Part III, the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Approvals:

Environmental Officer
National Endowment for the Humanities

Date

DRAFT