

**National Endowment for the  
Humanities**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(FONSI)**

**Lower Phalen Creek Project  
Wakáŋ Tipi Center**

**Intersection of Kellogg Boulevard East Commercial  
Street, and 4th Street East  
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55106**

**CHA-268798**

**BACKGROUND**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awards grants and cooperative agreements to support research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. The 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) proposes construction of the Wakáŋ Tipi Center (Center), a cultural and environmental interpretive facility located in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, Minnesota. The project includes construction of the new Center and a temporary parking lot, and enhancement of the surrounding nature sanctuary habitat. 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 new, one-story slab-on-grade building will be approximately 9,000 square feet with frost footings and 40- to 60-foot-deep helical piers for foundation support and includes a geothermal system for heating and cooling and outdoor seating and landscaping. A parcel east of the Center will be used as a temporary parking lot. The project involves grading, grubbing, trenching, and other dirt work necessary to construct the Center. The applicant submitted a Condensed Environmental Assessment (Condensed EA) documenting impacts of the proposed action. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.


**MITIGATION**

The mitigation is incorporated by reference, available in Part III of this Condensed EA.

**CONCLUSION**

NEH hereby adopts the Condensed EA prepared by the Lower Phalen Creek Project without modification 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 determines, 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.

<b>Approvals:</b>	
	4/5/2022
_____ <i>Shelly C. Lowe, Chair</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>