

No. 174  
November 14, 2003  
Immediate Release

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**UNDERGROUND PARKING RAMP AT WALKER ART CENTER  
TO OPEN IN DECEMBER**

**RAMP'S DISTINCTIVE FEATURES INCLUDE  
DECORATIVE ENTRANCE AND TWO-STORY-HIGH FIRST FLOOR**

Walker Art Center and Guthrie Theater patrons entering the new underground parking garage on Vineland Place will encounter a distinctive design as well as shelter from the elements.

Alleviating a longtime area-wide parking problem, the five-level ramp, opening in December, will provide indoor public parking for the Walker, the Guthrie, and a number of nearby destinations, including the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Loring Park, and area businesses and churches. The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with the Walker, built the 671-stall garage in conjunction with the Walker's expansion scheduled for completion in February 2005. The garage was designed by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. (HGA), with input from Herzog & de Meuron.

The proposal for an underground parking ramp emerged from a public process initiated by the Lowry Hill neighborhood in 1996 aimed at solving chronic traffic and parking congestion in the neighborhood. Mortenson, construction contractor for the expansion project, began work on the ramp in August 2002. Over the past 15 months, 19,000 cubic yards of concrete were poured and 94 miles of post-tension cable and 1,400 tons of reinforcing steel were installed. The ramp, designed and built at a cost of \$25 million, is owned by the City of Minneapolis. For information on hourly, monthly, and event parking, call 612.673.2886.

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A unique characteristic of the garage is its graceful Vineland Place entrance featuring an abstracted floral pattern etched onto the concrete walls. The pattern, designed by expansion architects Herzog & de Meuron, will be echoed throughout the Walker's new facility—on panels at gallery entrances and on walls in the new performance studio—as well as on the new plaza on Hennepin Avenue. The ramp's interior takes the standard garage design to another level, featuring a dramatic, two-story-high sweeping first floor made possible by the slope of the site. The ramp's north and south pedestrian exits lead to the Walker/Guthrie lobby concourse and to Hennepin Avenue near Groveland Terrace.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,  
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.**

**For public information, call 612.375.7622.**

**Gallery hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm;  
Thursday, 10 am–9 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm; closed Monday.**

**<http://www.walkerart.org>**