



Renovation and restoration begins on new regional art center

Victorian homes to become showplace, work space

(MARSHALL, MINN. – August 22, 2007) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The initial restoration and renovation phases are underway on Minnesota's newest destination for artists and art-lovers.

Three large Victorian homes in Marshall, each dating back to the 1870's, will be restored and renovated to transform the collection into a Marshall-based regional arts center, yet to be named. The houses were divided and used as rental units in recent years.

Grounds and landscaping work started this month. An appealing green space with flower gardens, sculptures and reflecting areas will link the three properties of the center.

Structural reviews are beginning as well as the formation of committees to determine the center's mission and contents.

"We began by examining the structural integrity of each facility. The exterior work started with clearing the site of all landscaping shrubbery that did not figure in to the long term plan," said Jeff Thompson, Director of Corporate Facilities & Construction for The Schwan Food Company.

A portion of one house may be open for public viewing by spring of 2008.

When the project is complete, each house will become both a visual showcase and a place where the community can enjoy the arts. Each of the three homes will have a distinct artistic focus: music, painting or sculpture.

The center house will primarily consist of gallery space. Displays may highlight the work of local artists or the work of either regional, national or international individuals or galleries.

The outer houses will provide opportunities for students in and around Southwest Minnesota to receive instruction from professionals, college students and others in various arts forms.

The houses were purchased last fall by Schwan's Development Corporation, a business unit of the Schwan Food Company. Though Schwan put up the initial capital for the project, the center will eventually be a non-profit organization governed by a committee made up of interested individuals in the community.

The project will utilize the resources of The Schwan Food Company, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall Area Fine Arts Council and the Southwest Minnesota Arts & Humanities Council.

Each of the houses that will make up the arts center dates back to the earliest days of Marshall. These Victorian houses were owned and occupied by some of Marshall's most prominent members of the banking and railroad industries.

For more information on the project, contact spokesperson Peggy Connot at (507) 537-8791.

THE SCHWAN FOOD COMPANY is a privately held, multibillion-dollar business that manufactures and markets fine frozen foods through home delivery, retail grocery and foodservice channels. Headquartered in Marshall, Minn., for more than 50 years, Schwan employs about 22,000 people in the United States, Europe and Canada. To learn more about the company, visit www.TheSchwanFoodCompany.com on the World Wide Web.



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