MINNEAPOLIS — March 21, 2019 — On May 18 – 19, 2019, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey will join architectural, civic, business, and non-profit organizations from across the city to participate in Doors Open Minneapolis (Doors Open). The weekend-long civic celebration will provide the public with free behind-the-scenes access to 110+ unique venues throughout Minneapolis.

The diverse venues range from historical buildings presenting stories about the past, to the newest buildings showcasing how they are leading the city into the future. Visitors will be able to tailor their Doors Open experiences by visiting sites organized around nine different themes: Arts & Cultural, Business & Commerce, Civic, Education, Historic, Infrastructure & Sustainability, Innovation, Made in Minneapolis, and Sacred Spaces.

“Our city is home to some of the most spectacular architecture anywhere in the nation – through Doors Open Minneapolis, we’ll highlight it,” said Mayor Jacob Frey. “Minneapolis is home to some of the most forward-looking innovative community leaders in the nation – Doors Open Minneapolis will offer opportunities to get to know them. Most of all, I cannot wait to partner with people from all across Minneapolis to tell our city’s story,” Frey added.

Doors Open started in 1984 in France and over the years spread throughout Europe and into North America. Other U.S. cities have successfully launched similar initiatives. Open House Chicago began in 2011, and last year over 100,000 unique individuals visited 257 sites in the city and two near suburbs. Doors Open Milwaukee also began in 2011 and last year 26,100 visited approximately 170 sites as part of its tour.

“We are excited to have Doors Open Minneapolis become a reality,” said Scott Mayer, Doors Open representative. “This event includes venues throughout the entire city and in every neighborhood. The public will have a chance to have unique access to explore what is new and what is made in Minneapolis, while also uncovering hidden treasures.” added Mayer.

The American Institute of Architects Minneapolis (AIA-MPLS) is a collaborator with the event. “The rich history of design and architecture of Minneapolis connects people to the city’s past while positioning it for the future,” said Michael Kisch, AIA, AIA-MPLS President. “We look forward to sharing the stories embedded in Minneapolis’ buildings, by making them accessible at Doors Open,” Kisch added.
The presenting sponsor partner for Doors Open Minneapolis is Comcast Corporation, a company that connects residents, businesses and community organizations to what’s most important.

“Comcast is excited to be the presenting sponsor of this fantastic celebration for a world-class city—a city that is a vibrant, dynamic place for people to work, live and play,” said J.D. Keller, regional senior vice president, Comcast Twin Cities. “As the city’s leading media and technology company, Comcast is committed to continuing setting Minneapolis and the entire Twin Cities up for success—today and into the future. We have been innovating and investing to ensure Minneapolis has state-of-the-art broadband technology for its residents and businesses as well as helping bridge the digital divide through our Internet Essentials program.”


The weekend of May 18 – 19, 2019 is a busy weekend in Minneapolis. In addition to Doors Open, The Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA) will be hosting Art-A-Whirl and mpls downtown council will be hosting Explore Downtown Living.

Art-A-Whirl is a weekend-long, open studio tour, taking place in Northeast Minneapolis. View artwork of nearly 800 artists in every medium at more than 60 locations, including studio buildings, art galleries, homes, storefronts, and local businesses. The event is made possible by NEMAA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to elevating Minneapolis into a destination for the arts.

Explore Downtown Living, opens downtown residential properties to the public free of charge on Saturday, May 18. With over 20 apartment communities participating, this event is an opportunity to see properties up close while getting to know the downtown community’s five neighborhoods. Tours run from 10 am to 5 pm.

Almost 1000 volunteer greeters will be needed at participating venues of the event to ensure a great experience.

To learn more about Doors Open, view the list of participating venues, and for volunteer sign up visit: www.doorsopenminneapolis.org.

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About Doors Open Minneapolis:
Doors Open Minneapolis is a weekend-long event that gives the public free, behind-the-scenes access to over 110 buildings in the City of Minneapolis that are architecturally, culturally, or socially significant. From theaters to business hubs, sacred spaces to private clubs, sports complexes to engineering wonders, historical gems to not-even-open-yet buildings, Doors Open Minneapolis gives visitors the
opportunity to have meaningful conversations with many of the people who make these venues the marvels that they are. Doors Open is a chance to venture into new neighborhoods, learn the stories of Minneapolis’ buildings, and experience the rich and diverse cultures of our community.

About AIA Minneapolis:
AIA Minneapolis is the largest chapter in Minnesota with more than 1,600 members. Centered in Minneapolis, the chapter territory includes the southwestern portion of the state. As a large chapter, AIA Minneapolis participates with other large chapters nationwide to focus attention on significant issues facing members. The chapter provides leadership, networking, and outreach opportunities for its members.

About Comcast:
Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company with three primary businesses: Comcast Cable, NBCUniversal, and Sky. Comcast Cable is one of the United States’ largest video, high-speed internet, and phone providers to residential customers under the Xfinity brand, and provides these services to businesses. It also provides wireless, security and automation services to residential customers under the Xfinity brand.

About the mpls downtown council:
Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic central business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc’s collaborative developments of Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan was designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders, and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

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