

# TIPS ON TRIPS

## Discovering The Arts Explosion In Minneapolis

(NAPSA)—The cultural landscape of Minneapolis—already rich in museums and theater—is experiencing an arts explosion. As the only U.S. destination named to *Travel + Leisure* magazine's list of "up-and-coming places to visit in 2006," this recent boom places Minneapolis in the company of other high-profile international destinations. Driven by five critically acclaimed international architects, the 18-month transformation has led to nearly a half-billion dollars in new cultural infrastructure.

The dynamic offerings include:

**Walker Art Center**—Recognized as the country's foremost contemporary arts center, the expansion doubled the facility and includes impressive new galleries and a 385-seat theater. *The New York Times* calls it "one of the country's liveliest and most personable museums." The museum had over 600,000 visitors in the first 10 weeks after its reopening.

**The Children's Theatre Company**—America's flagship theater for young people and families. *Time* magazine heralded it as the country's best kids troupe. It is the first (and only) Tony Award-winning theater for young people. The recent expansion adds a second stage for programming targeting preschool and teen audiences.

**Minneapolis Public Library**—A fabulous destination for travelers, the new Central library will house the nation's fourth-largest public library collection. It includes five stories of space for books, fireside reading dens, a cafe, teen center and an expansive children's library.

**The Minneapolis Institute of Arts**—One of the nation's lead-



**The Children's Theatre Company is the nation's only Tony Award-winning theater for young people.**

ing encyclopedic art museums, it now has 40 percent more gallery space and a collection of over 100,000 objects spanning 5,000 years. The museum is one of only a handful in the country to offer free admission.

**Guthrie Theater**—Symbol of the birth of the not-for-profit resident theater movement, this highly regarded regional theater invites visitors from around the globe to its new three-theater complex. The lobbies and its 178-foot-long cantilever bridge are open to the public, offering spectacular views of the Mississippi River.

In addition to three Tony Award-winning theaters and the exciting art scene, Minneapolis boasts the nation's largest shopping mall, five professional sports teams, 57 museums, world-class restaurants, a vibrant nightlife, and many opportunities for recreation within the city limits.

To learn about the travel packages and attractions of Minneapolis, visit <http://arts.minneapolis.org>.