



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**BRICK BY BRICK: REBUILDING THE DOMES OF ST. PAUL**  
LEGO® Models of the Cathedral and State Capitol  
At the State Fair

(St. Paul, Minn.) The popular large-scale LEGO® models of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the Minnesota State Capitol will be on display at the Minnesota State Fair, Aug. 27- Sept. 7. Roy Cook, one of 14 LEGO® Ambassadors in the United States, created each model, measuring approximately 24 square feet using approximately 70,000 bricks for the Capitol and 50,000 bricks for the Cathedral. Each building took Cook 100 hours to build, not including the weeks of planning.

The LEGO® models will be in the State Fair Education Building where volunteers will be available to answer questions on the architecture and history of the buildings. The LEGO builder will also be at the fair on the following dates and times to answer questions about the design and construction of the models:

Saturday, Aug. 29, noon-4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 2, noon-4 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 31, noon-4 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 5, noon-4 p.m.

Cook, a professor of Philosophy at the University of Minnesota sees the importance of this fun and challenging project: "I hope that people who see the models gain a greater appreciation for two things. The first is the monuments themselves, their architectural and historical importance and the fact they are both just flat-out beautiful. Second, I hope people gain a greater appreciation for LEGO® as an artistic medium."

For nearly 100 years, these two magnificent domes of the Cathedral and the Capitol have graced the St. Paul skyline becoming iconic images. Just after the two monuments were built, the capital city gained acclaim that it had arrived architecturally and culturally. Cass Gilbert, the architect of the State Capitol proclaimed, "If the dome of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and that of the new State Capitol were part of the skyline of a city in Europe, they would be world famous."

The Minnesota Historical Society State Capitol Historic Site and the Cathedral Heritage Foundation have brought back the vision of the original architects by sponsoring the reproduction of the scale models of the Cathedral and Capitol created from LEGO® bricks.

(MORE)

## Brick by Brick: Rebuilding the domes of St. Paul 2

To recognize the need to preserve and restore these civic landmarks is an important goal of showing off these incredibly detailed models. The Cathedral and Capitol have stood the test of time, remain remarkably unchanged, and continue to be popular attractions and icons of the Upper Midwest. Millions have visited each building over the last century. However, a century of wear coupled with Minnesota's extreme climate, the structures are in dire need of repair and restoration.

"The idea for building the Cathedral in LEGO® bricks came when I was watching my godchildren play with the bricks," said the Very Reverend Joseph R. Johnson, Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Paul. "I thought here we have two of the greatest structures in the country. Why not celebrate the best of American engineering and ingenuity in a way that appeals to the imagination of children. And hopefully it will inspire them to use their own gifts to give back to their communities in the next generation."

Mini- LEGO® brick model kits of both the Cathedral and Capitol are for sale at the respective museums. Kits sell for \$20 and proceeds from the sales go towards the restoration and preservation of the Cathedral and Capitol.

### **Actual Cathedral and Capitol Building and Architectural Facts:**

#### Cathedral of Saint Paul

- Built from 1906-1915 (most interior work completed by 1958)
- Architect- Emmanuel Masqueray
- Exterior walls are Saint Cloud granite
- Height: 306.5 ft. Length: 307 ft. Width: 216 ft.
- Twin 150-foot towers flank the main façade
- The dome is 120-foot-wide made of curved steel beams, and covered with a clay tile surface and overlaid with copper.

#### Minnesota State Capitol

- Built from 1896-1905
- Architect- Cass Gilbert
- Exterior walls are Georgia marble
- Foundation and steps are St. Cloud granite
- Height: 223 ft. Length: 434 ft. Width: 229 ft.
- The dome is 60 ft. in diameter.

*The Cathedral Heritage Foundation is a non-religious, community-based foundation created to enhance cultural and arts education as well as address the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the Cathedral. It is a popular destination for local students and artists as well as for tourists from around the world. It is included on the National Register of Historic Buildings and draws over 200,000 visitors each year.*

*The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.* -30-