



RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:00 P.M.

***Please join us at the Chateau Theatre on the
Peace Plaza for the formal announcement at noon***

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The City of Rochester Announces Proposed Acquisition of Historic Chateau Theatre

ROCHESTER, Minn. (March 16, 2015) – The City of Rochester today announced the proposed acquisition of the historic Chateau Theatre located in Peace Plaza in downtown Rochester. The city will discuss executing a purchase agreement for the 88-year-old theatre at its April 6 City Council meeting.

“This a tremendous opportunity for us to preserve this iconic element of Rochester’s history and invest in our future,” said Mayor Ardell Brede, “Thanks to the generosity of Mayo Clinic, we are now able to meet the purchase price of six-million dollars.”

The City will fund the purchase of the building through \$5.5 million of internal borrowing, along with a \$500,000 gift from Mayo Clinic.

“Our gift demonstrates Mayo’s commitment to this community while fulfilling the vision for one of Destination Medical Center’s first areas of focus, its ‘Heart of the City’ district,” said John Noseworthy, M.D. President & CEO, Mayo Clinic. “This is the right thing to do as a community partner and demonstrates Mayo’s commitment to preservation of our community’s historic assets and the Destination Medical Center (DMC) initiative.”

Lt. Governor Tina Smith, DMCC Board Chair said, “The Chateau Theater is one of Rochester’s most iconic and beloved landmarks. Its preservation is a great way to jumpstart the Destination

Medical Center initiative. The proposed purchase of the Chateau Theater, along with other projects outlined in the DMC plan, provides a bold vision of how downtown Rochester can build on its own great strengths to become a global center for research, health care, and wellness.”

If the city council approves the purchase agreement, it will trigger a 60-day public review period. Community members will have the opportunity to provide suggestions about the future use of the Chateau Theatre space, which has not yet been determined.

The Chateau Theatre originally opened in 1927, and most recently housed a Barnes and Noble bookstore, which closed December 31, 2014. The historic Art Deco designed theatre was the first building in Rochester to boast air conditioning. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

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