

Our Second Century

At Wilder, we are in the midst of commemorating our 100th anniversary. Not only are we celebrating all the great progress our organization has made over the past century, but we are also focusing on the future and how—together with our partners—we can



continue to meet the most pressing social needs of our community's vulnerable.

A key element of our celebration is informing individuals about critical issues important to the well being of our community. We are doing this via a public awareness campaign that

involves millions of exposures through newspaper, magazine, TV and radio media around issues related to school success, troubled children and families, successful aging and affordable housing. To learn more about these issues, visit us online at www.wilder.org.

I want to extend our deep appreciation for the generous contributions of our centennial presenting sponsors St. Paul Travelers and Comcast, as well as the sponsors listed on page six, who have made this important campaign possible. I also want to acknowledge and thank all the donors and collaborators whose support allows us to look to the next century with great confidence and anticipation.

Tom Kingston
Wilder Foundation President

Breaking Ground on the Second Century

By Craig Binger, Wilder Vice President, Administration

On June 12, Wilder broke ground on the construction of the new Wilder Center at the intersection of Lexington and University Avenues.

The 99,000-square-foot building will situate the Wilder Foundation at a key gateway to four major Saint Paul communities: Lexington-Hamline, Frogtown, Summit-University, and Aurora-St. Anthony, formerly known as Rondo. The design and location of Wilder Center will provide easier access to those Wilder serves, allow us to strengthen and enhance programs, and provide more adaptable space for continued growth, collaboration and service well into our second century.

Why now?

Our current 55,000-square-foot administrative facility on Lafond Avenue does not allow the flexibility to create or adapt programs to meet evolving community needs. In order to accommodate growth, Wilder has leased program sites across Saint Paul. As a result, programs, staff, and resources are dispersed, resulting in hardship on many clients who have to travel to more than one location, loss of opportunity for collaboration between Wilder programs, and substantial cost inefficiencies.

The new Wilder Center, nearly twice the size of our current headquarters, will be a vibrant, welcoming campus that

dramatically improves access for clients, reduces administrative costs, and strengthens the connections between essential human services, research and policy work—all while creating new opportunities for community engagement. The project will cost \$35.6 million; \$10.4 million will be raised through private donations, \$8.4 million will be contributed by Wilder and the rest will be financed through long-term bonds.

Wilder Center will also help set a new standard of sustainability for human service organizations, using environmentally sound construction and development practices to dramatically increase water savings, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality, while minimizing the negative impact of the materials we choose and how we dispose of them.

It is our hope that Wilder Center will



Wilder Center will help revitalize a distressed commercial corner, while establishing easier access for the people Wilder serves. Please see www.wilder.org for more information.

maximize our ability to deliver quality programs and services to clients while strengthening Wilder's visibility in the community. Wilder has a long history of building ties with the surrounding community; its first administration building, where the Ordway Center is now located, served as a community cornerstone, providing space to multiple social service organizations free of charge. Since moving from that location, Wilder has been headquartered in the Frogtown neighborhood, and has developed many significant neighborhood and community partnerships.

Why University and Lexington?

In keeping with the spirit of building community, the new Wilder Center will help revitalize a highly visible, distressed commercial corner. In addition to housing our programs and services, Wilder Center will feature a 12,000-square-foot state-of-the-art convening space that will provide an inviting venue for trainings, conferences, leadership development activities, workshops, press conferences, and other forms of community engagement. We are also evaluating how this convening space may be used by other nonprofit organizations with missions that align with Wilder's.

The community has been very involved in the planning process for our building, and we are grateful for the input and insight of local neighborhood groups, city representatives, nonprofit organizations and individuals who have helped shape this project. As Wilder celebrates 100 years of service, we look forward with great optimism to beginning our next century with this very important project that will benefit the entire East Metro community.



The first dig (pictured from left to right): Paul Mattessich, Wilder Research Executive Director; Deborah Montgomery, St. Paul City Council, Ward 1; Chris Coleman, St. Paul Mayor; Claudia Dengler, Wilder VP, Programs; Tom Kingston, Wilder President; Elizabeth (Sandy) Kiernat, Wilder Board Chair; Craig Binger, Wilder VP, Administration; Mary Kay Palmer, Wilder Director, Real Estate; Mike Veeck, Owner, St. Paul Saints; Rolf Thompson, Wilder Director, Resource Development; Pat Mascia, Senior Vice President, Duke Realty; Dave Dimond, Principal Architect, Perkins + Will