Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Community Planning and Economic Development
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October 21, 2026

Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Avenue – Administration Building 203
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, 1301 10th Ave N, Minneapolis
National Register of Historic Places Nomination – CLG Comments

Amy Spong,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, 1301 10th Ave N in Minneapolis. These comments are being submitted by staff of the Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) on behalf of the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission who considered the nomination during a public meeting on October 20, 2026. The public meeting was noticed in *Finance & Commerce* on October 2, 2026, and the meeting agenda was published on October 14, 2026. One member of the public spoke in support of the nomination during the public meeting.

The Commission adopted the recommendation presented by CPED staff as outlined in this letter:

The Heritage Preservation Commission **recommends** that the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center meets at least one of the criteria for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and **directs** staff to transmit a letter summarizing their opinion and comments to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The commission supports the nomination and agrees that the property is locally significant under National Register **Criterion A,** in the area(s) of *Ethnic Heritage-Black* and *Social History* for its association with the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center. The Phyllis Wheatley Settlement House (now Community Center) was founded in 1924, starting a long legacy as an important community institution that served the city's African American population. Generations of Black Minneapolitans have identified the Wheatley as a vital part of their upbringing and success as adults. This building at 1301 10th Ave N reflects the organization's successful transition from a settlement house to a community center and continued service and importance to the community. The organization overcame pressure to merge with other nearby settlement houses and advocated for the continued necessity for the organization to exist on its own in support of the Black community. Time and time again, as community tensions rose in the 1960s, they demonstrated their value and ultimately served as a model for newer Black organizations that emerged in this time period, including The Way and Sabathani Community Center.

The commission agrees that an appropriate period of significance under both criteria is from 1970, when the building was constructed, to 1976, for the 50-year mark.

The commission provided the following comments on the nomination:

1. Commissioners were excited to see this nomination come before them, especially after hearing about CPED's ongoing work on the Minneapolis African American Historic and Cultural Context Study, from which this is an outcome.
2. They hope that this and the other nominations will continue to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis
Bryan Tyner, Executive Director, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
Shannon Smith, Jillian Knight, and Lauren Anderson, New History