

Campaign leaders are hoping that the "Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Program" will inspire individuals and groups across Nebraska to be a part of the revitalization of Nebraska's Centennial Mall.

The "Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Program" offers opportunities for Nebraskans' to help build a mosaic of Nebraska history by telling the unique stories of our Great State's leaders, families and events through inscribed granite and bronze tiles that will line the seven blocks of Nebraska's Centennial Mall.

The Imperial city council voted last year to purchase one of the tiles representing the community.

"This is such an exciting program for people from across the state to tell their own stories about our history, about the prominent figures who played key roles in our history and even about the common citizen, in so many voices. Collectively, these tiles will tell the story about the Spirit of Nebraska to everyone who visits Nebraska's Centennial Mall," said Patty Pansing Brooks, campaign co-chair from Lincoln.

The program supports the Mall project and endowment fund by providing opportunities in sponsor tiles about famous Nebraskans or to recognize individuals, organizations, cities and businesses.

There are three categories of tiles:

Individual granite tiles which are \$1,000 and 18"x18"; Leadership tiles which are 18"x18" or 18"x36" bronze, five lines of descriptive text, for \$10,000 and \$25,000; and Nebraska Notables Tiles, 18"x36" bronze, five lines of descriptive text for \$25,000.

Envisioned by Capitol Architect Bertram Goodhue, Nebraska's Centennial Mall is best known as a frequent attraction for local citizens, tourists and the 35,000 fourth graders from across the state who visit the State Capitol and use the Mall as part of their annual field trip focusing on Nebraska history.

Built in 1967 to commemorate the state's centennial year, the Mall has deteriorated over the years, is not accessible and is beyond the point of practical repair.

A statewide fundraising team consisting of four former Governors and other volunteers has raised \$7.6 million of the \$9.6 million of the project cost, which includes \$1.5 million for an endowment fund.

"We are excited about the response. Everyone we visit with understands the importance of this statewide project. It's years overdue, and a golden opportunity to do something special for the entire state," said Susan Larson Rodenburg, campaign coordinator.

The redesign of the Mall will celebrate Nebraska's legacy of stewardship, create durable accessible walkways and provide for optimal flexibility to accommodate a wide variety of activities and uses.

Major features include the Capitol Fountain and Plaza featuring the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Plaza and Missouri River Fountain, the Platte River and Ogallala Aquifer plaza areas and the Sparking the Good Life Fountain and Plaza.

Funding partners include the City of Lincoln, the State of Nebraska, Windstream, Lincoln Community Foundation on behalf of the Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf Fund, Lancaster County Visitor's Improvement Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, State Farm, the Cope Foundation of Kearney, the Junior League of Lincoln, the Platte Valley Bank of Scottsbluff, as well as other private donors and foundations. The project is sponsored by the Lincoln Parks

Foundation.

Construction of the middle three blocks, from M to P Streets, are under construction. Depending on fundraising, the outer four blocks are expected to be completed by 2014, in time to begin the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Celebration (150th birthday) activities planned for the Mall in 2017.

For more information please visit www.NECentennialMall.org