

# Help Us Save the Berger Fountain

Updated 2/2024



The Berger Fountain at night, 2018

The iconic artistic landmark, the Berger Fountain, was installed in Loring Park in 1975 amid some controversy, but became an immediately recognized gathering place and symbol of community. People locally, regionally, and statewide have engaged with the Fountain and it has been a favored location for individuals, families, children, engaged couples (photography), the LGBTQ+ community, and park visitors. Largescale events including TWIN CITIES PRIDE, the Loring Park Art Festival, and Loring Park Music Festival draw thousands of people from outside of the Twin Cities. People have gathered around the fountain during these events and hundreds ask when the Fountain will again be operating. To many in the LGBTQ+ community, the Fountain is a beacon of hope. The Friends of Loring Park (FOLP) and Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC), recognizing the importance of the Fountain to the neighborhood and the greater community, reached out to the MPRB to engage them in a collaborative effort to restore the Fountain.

## Request for Funding

**Friends of Loring Park, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and MPRB are requesting up to \$2M in funds** from the State to match funds already secured to restore the Berger Fountain and create a new plaza area, an artistic and green seating area surrounding the Fountain, with the Loring Park message to be shared 'You are all Welcome Here.'

## Background

- The Berger Fountain was donated by Ben Berger and installed in Loring Park in 1975.
- The Berger Fountain became an Iconic piece of Public Art valued by people throughout the City of Minneapolis, Twin Cities Metro Area, and State of Minnesota. We want to see this Public Art continue for another 50 years.
- The Berger Fountain was the Top Neighborhood Priority in adopted City, Met Council, and MPRB plans in 1995, 2008, 2013, and 2017.
- The Berger Fountain Task Force formed in 2014 to implement this community priority to restore our fountain as identified in the above stated plans.
- The fountain wore out and ceased to work after 45 years with a community request for a new plaza and seating area.
- In 2022, the Berger Fountain Task Force completes a feasibility study to determine next steps.
- MPRB in partnership with FOLP, CLPC, and the Berger Fountain Task Force hired a design team to complete a Final Design Concept for the Berger Fountain and surrounding plaza area in fall 2023.

## Vision

The final design concept includes:

- Restoration of the fountain
- Retaining existing lighting and new creative lighting at each cascading pool to enhance aesthetics



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- Create a new accessible plaza designed as a Welcoming place for all after a series of focus groups with groups and organizations who have experienced hate, been a Target for Violence, and faced ongoing discrimination.
- Establish new garden beds and seating
- Build new and artistic seating, utilizing local artists

### Community Partnerships

The Berger Fountain Task Force membership represents residents from Friends for Loring Park, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Loring Greenway, and At Large members.

A Memorandum of Understanding was created in 2019 and updated in March 2022 with Minneapolis Parks & Recreation to allow the neighborhood to work on the fountain in advance of their 2027 Master Plan Implementation.

### Funding

Total cost of the Berger Fountain restoration and new plaza area will cost \$3M. The Request from Friends of Loring Park, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and Minneapolis Parks and Recreation seeks for the State to match the \$1 million dollars we have raised per the \$2 million dollar request authored by Senator Dibble and Rep Frank Hornstein.

#### Matched Funds as of Fall 2023:

• Friends of Loring Park and Citizens for a Loring Park Community fundraising:	\$ 250,000
• MPRB Park Dedication Funds:	\$ 419,500
• MPRB Rehabilitation Funds:	\$ 350,000
• City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program	\$ 8,000
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,027,500</b>

### Timeline

- MPRB intends to begin construction Fall of 2025.



[loringpark.org](http://loringpark.org)



[friendsofloringpark.org](http://friendsofloringpark.org)



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