

**MBA E-NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 4/FALL 2008**

Welcome to the fall edition of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's e-newsletter.

When we started this project we knew broad input would assist us in building a world-class ballpark and the dynamic public spaces that will surround it. Based on the early reviews of the project, this collaboration is paying off.

Minnesota-owned firms – big AND small - are providing the skilled labor to move the dirt, pour the concrete and hang the sheetrock, keeping construction on schedule for Opening Day, April 2010. We commend our project partners, led by Mortenson Construction, for meeting and exceeding most of the Small, Women and Minority, Business Enterprise (SWMBE) goals set back in 2006. Several small business owners, such as [Gilbert Odonkor from West Africa](#), say helping build Target Field has built their portfolios beyond their wildest American dreams.

While small construction companies are doing a good portion of the heavy lifting on the ballpark project, artists with big ideas are helping create the atmosphere in the neighborhoods around it. On December 15th, the [Public Art Steering Committee](#) will select two artists (from a group of 83 proposers) for major projects located on the 5th Street side of Target Field and in the ballpark's Vertical Circulation Building. There were so many talented artists who applied. We appreciate their their interest and hard work.

Finally, we are committed to educating Minnesotans about the project, fielding questions and gathering valuable feedback. Commissioners have spoken to several business and community groups this past year, and in 2009 the MBA will expand this community engagement effort. The MBA will conduct Monthly Board meetings in Rochester, Moorhead, and Duluth in 2009, as part of the ["Greater Minnesota MBA Tour."](#)

To read more about these developments, click the underlined words above.

Sincerely,

Steve Cramer, MBA Chair

Dan Kenney, MBA Executive Director