



Award of
MERIT

Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN

Tillotson Design Associates
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Nicollet Mall has been Minneapolis' civic "Main Street" for more than 100 years, so the reconstruction of the locally adored, but dated downtown thoroughfare required careful consideration. Aiming to reduce visual clutter, eliminate glare, and increase efficiency, the streetscape lighting became a unifying element for the entire downtown district.

Slender, high-mast poles with low-glare LED accent lights provide the majority of the ambient light for the street and adjacent public spaces. Each pole was individually detailed and coordinated to include many additional streetscape components, such as signage, traffic signals, and decorative banners. Glowing beacons atop of the poles are programmed to respond to special events or holidays, further enhancing placemaking and a fresh identity.

Pockets of seating and landscaping with uplit trees are dispersed throughout the project, in both raised and in-grade planting beds, reinforcing the greenery as a continuous and important project component. Special moments along the 12-block site provide immersive lighting experiences, including a color-changing armature structure and custom lanterns. The "reading room" includes custom, pedestrian-scale outdoor floor lamps of a more intimate scale; an inviting setting for pedestrians to pause.

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