



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2010

Contacts: Lisa Harrison Smith
801-913-9748

Public Invited to Celebrate the City at Fisher Mansion
Community Celebration to Offer 1893-Style Fun and Entertainment

Salt Lake City – Mayor Ralph Becker will welcome special guests including Victorian author Charles Dickens and Utah’s First Lady of Theater Maud May Babcock to Salt Lake City’s Fisher Mansion on Saturday, May 15, from 1 – 4 p.m. as part of “Celebrate the City,” an annual community event to celebrate the City’s grand historic buildings and the eras in which they were built. The public is invited to the festivities at the Fisher Mansion, 1206 West 200 South, to share in the cultural flavor of the Euclid neighborhood of 1893.

The mansion, designed by architect Richard Kletting (designer of the Utah State Capitol), was built in 1893 for Albert Fisher, a German immigrant and brewer. With the striking Victorian Eclectic-style mansion and its accompanying carriage house as the backdrop, the May 15 celebration will feature tours of the home, nature walks, brass bands, storytelling and puppet shows, antique carriages, croquet and other period games, entertainment and activities, all free of charge. German-style fare –bratwurst, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy and root beer – will be offered at minimal prices.

“I encourage the public to join me at the beautiful Fisher Mansion to celebrate our rich heritage,” said Mayor Becker, who will be sporting his stylish black bowler hat at Saturday’s event. “Visitors will have the opportunity to see a City architectural jewel up-close and get a taste of life in the 1890s.”

Last year’s Celebrate the City event at the City & County Building initiated what is now an annual City celebration and was the impetus for the creation of Salt Lake City’s Historic Preservation Fund. The fund is used to kick-start projects with architectural and engineering studies, stabilize important architectural features, and leverage additional funding sources to support restoration and preservation projects of City-owned historic buildings and places.

Salt Lake City purchased the Fisher Mansion property situated along the banks of the Jordan River in 2006 to complete a segment of the Jordan River Parkway Trail, with the intent of keeping only the land necessary for the trail and selling the home and carriage house. In 2008, Mayor Becker and the City

Council opted for the City to retain the whole property for community use and designated Fisher Mansion as the first of several Salt Lake Solutions projects designed to involve the community in collaborative decision making. A diverse Partners Team was formed to evaluate possibilities for use of the home, and with various donations and in-kind contributions of professional services, has recently completed an evaluation of the building's historical significance and identified a range of costs for renovation of the buildings. The City is now soliciting Letters of Interest for individuals and organizations interested in leasing, renovating and using the Fisher Mansion and carriage house, with some portion of the proposed project to be identified for use by the community. Letters of Interest are due June 11, 2010.

"The Fisher Mansion has been a landmark on the Jordan River for over a century, and it's going to have a new life along the Jordan River Parkway Trail," said Council Member Van Turner, who represents the Euclid neighborhood and was once employed to deliver beer from the Fisher Brewery. "The renovation of Fisher Mansion will give new purpose and meaning to this treasured landmark for future generations."

###