

Jeffrey Wirth

Jeffrey J. Wirth is Chief Executive Officer and owner of The Wirth Companies, a company he founded in 1978. The Wirth Companies employs 320 people and is primarily engaged in the renovation, redevelopment, and management of real estate assets.

The crown jewel of the portfolio is The Grand Hotel Minneapolis, a 140-room luxury hotel located in downtown Minneapolis. Formerly known as the Minneapolis Athletic Club, The Grand was purchased in 1998 with the vision of restoring the 85-year-old club to its original classic elegance. The hotel completed a 54 million dollar renovation and opened fully in March 2001.

This ambitious project received the following awards and recognitions :

- “Mpls/St. Paul” magazine's “Best New Hotel Award for 2000,”
- The Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota Award for “Best Renovation of 2000,”
- The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers “Seven Wonders of Minnesota Award for the most Distinguished Engineering Achievement of 2001,” and,
- AAA’s recognition as Minneapolis’ Only Luxury Hotel in 2002/2003.

The Wirth Companies is developing and currently has under construction, Grand Rios Water Park Resort & Conference Center in Brooklyn Park, MN. Opening July 1, 2004, Grand Rios, a 27 million dollar project, will feature Minnesota’s Largest Indoor water park, 224 hotel rooms, an 18,000 square foot conference center, and a trendy Caribbean themed restaurant.

Water Park of America in Bloomington, MN, near the Mall of America, is the newest initiative of The Wirth Companies. Opening in 2005, Water Park of America, a 90 million dollar project, will feature the worlds biggest indoor water park with up to 800 hotel rooms, 25,000 square feet of meeting space, and 3 restaurants.

The Wirth Companies currently owns and manages the Holiday Inn of Tomah, Wisconsin, acquired June 2002, the Central Medical Building in St. Paul, The Saint Anthony Business Center, The Columbia Park Business Center, Palmer Lake Plaza, and the Zachary Square Shopping Center in Maple Grove.

In January of 2002, Mr. Wirth founded Grand Towers LLC, a wholly owned company providing tower space to the Wireless Communications Industry. Billed as the Midwest’s fastest growing Tower Company, Grand Towers is currently developing large communication towers in outstate Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Mr. Wirth co-founded and is Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit organization, Musicians in Debut International (MIDI), which is the sponsoring organization of the “International Piano-e-Competition.” The first Piano-e-Competition had a very successful debut in June of 2002, and was covered by media worldwide. The e-Competition’s success immediately ranked it within the top piano competitions in the world, according to Gustav Alink’s book *Piano Competitions Worldwide*. The next International Piano-e-Competition is scheduled for May/June 2004. In addition to these events, and in order to advance the careers and build the resumes of budding international artists, MIDI also organizes and underwrites paid US Musical Concert Tours for the winners of multiple overseas piano competitions.

Mr. Wirth is a member of the Organization of Commercial Realtors, the Minneapolis Board of Realtors, Rotary International, the Twin Cities Dunkers and Mensa.

For outstanding work in the renovation of historical buildings and to recognize his commitment to the less fortunate in the community, Mr. Wirth was awarded the inaugural Curtis L. Carlson Young Entrepreneurs and Philanthropist Award in 1998.

Mr. Wirth launched his career in real estate after graduating from Park Center High School, initially renovating single family homes and duplexes. He proceeded to purchase and renovate apartment buildings and is now working with commercial properties.

Mr. Wirth attended Carleton College and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with a BSB in accounting. He is a Minnesota Real Estate Broker as well as a Certified Public Accountant.

Mr. Wirth serves on the Board of Directors of Minnetonka Power Squadron, has served on the Board of Directors of Ridgedale YMCA, and was the founding outside director of Private Bancorporation, Inc. and its subsidiary Private Bank Minnesota.

A native of Minnesota, Mr. Wirth, his wife Holly, and their three children reside in Plymouth, Minnesota.