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# BMS Group

## Dispelling the Myth of the Staid Insurance Company

Insurance companies – insurers, reinsurers or any variation thereof – may not always be thought of as progressive, dynamic places to work. But BMS Group blows the doors off any such assumptions, setting a clear standard for excellence in business practice, brand stewardship and employee engagement. Voted 2012 Reinsurance Broker of the Year at the US Captive Insurance Awards, this year Business Insurance magazine also voted BMS one of the best places to work in the nation.

BMS has been a tenant at Centennial Lakes Office Park since 2007. They expanded once prior to moving to their new, sixth-floor residence in 2011 – when the company decided to relocate its national headquarters to Minneapolis. While other locations were considered, Centennial Lakes was selected not just for its well-known amenities, but also because BMS was confident that Centennial Lakes management would understand their vision and be able to accommodate the needs of a cutting-edge, client- and employee-centric, growth-driven tenant. (Another expansion is anticipated in 2013.)

The new, 14,558-square-foot BMS space reflects this positioning in every way. In the reception area, visitors are greeted by a digital signage system that broadcasts personal welcome messages, news and other feed. The main conference room features a fully integrated A/V system including complete video conferencing and Smartboard technology. This and other so-new-you-haven't-heard-of-it technology is used liberally throughout the space, including the Cat Lab, a high-tech mad scientist's lair where the Catastrophe Modeling team brainstorms solutions. The walls of the Cat Lab are hung with original art showing scenes of tornadoes and other natural disasters. iPads are commonplace, and the company is considering adding sit-to-stand and treadmill desk options.

All this technology could make a space feel cold, except that BMS has couched it all in an environment that's light, friendly, energizing and modern – yes – but also comfortable. The space is filled with multi-functional spaces and furniture designed to provide privacy while allowing as much natural light as possible to



filter deeply into the space. The conference rooms are named after Minnesota lakes, and original paintings of Minneapolis bridges coexist with paintings of London Bridge, visually connecting the two offices. (BMS worldwide headquarters are located in London.) BMS brand value colors are woven into everything from walls and floors to upholstery, light fixtures and name plates. There is an inviting "hotel office" for visitors, and a "quiet room" where people can go to relax.

Today, the best employees and clients want to work for and with companies that are leaders in their area of business. They want the best tools, encouragement to dream big, and they want to be happy at work. The awards BMS has recently received demonstrate unequivocally the company's commitment to both, and the Minneapolis office space is a stunning reflection of it.



ered with the developers to turn the last large piece of commercial land available within its borders into a pedestrian-friendly community within a community. The result was one of the first mixed-use developments to include nment and other amenities – all interconnected by walkable spaces including a large public park featuring trails, a lake, and a wide range of year-round recreational uses. Here, a photographic tour – part history, part highlights.



velopment that will include almost one million square feet of Class A office space; 200,000 square feet of retail and restaurant state-of-the-art medical center; 346 residential units and an 8-screen movie theater – with a 25-acre park located in the center.

**1996** Regularly scheduled concerts and events are offered year-round in and around the park's amphitheater. Here, fireworks light up a summer night.



**1998** A manicured 18-hole bentgrass putting course is landscaped and designed to resemble a full-size golf course.



**2000** Coventry Townhomes and Centennial Lakes Village Homes (condominiums) provide 9.8 acres of residential property, gorgeously landscaped with rock gardens, water fountains, contoured benches, native plants, flowering shrubs and detailed bridges and walkways.



**2000** Aerial view of the completed development, as it faces France Avenue.



**2002** A floating bridge connects the amphitheater to the park.



**2010** Paddle boating is one of the most popular activities at Centennial Lakes Park. Residences overlook the 10-acre waterway, pavilion and amphitheater, with office buildings in the background.