

Northeast Arts Insights



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Start Seeing Public Art



Art in the public realm, clockwise from upper left: Work in progress at the outdoor studio of Zoran Mojsilov; Metro Moose, a utility box wrap by Matthew Kunes; planter by Greta McLain with the Semilla Project and Young Dance, 2013; Arden Miller; Amy Toscani. The giraffe is found art, artist unknown. The Happiness sign is by Andrew MacGuffie.

(Photos by Sarah Ratermann Beahan)

Creative Sustainability

by the NEMAD Board of Directors
The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (NEMAD) hosted a public hearing June 6, focusing on the state of creative sustainability and the arts within The Arts District and throughout Northeast Minneapolis.
A big thank you to those who came out to have a dynamic and spirited discussion about creative sustainability in the NE Mpls Arts District (and NE

in general). The key discussion points will be followed-up on by the Board over the next two months. Stay tuned on ways to keep the conversation going. We also appreciate the time shared by our panelists and speakers ... and our hosts, Chow Girls at Solar Arts.
Interact with the Facebook page, Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

by Sarah Ratermann Beahan

It finally happened. The sun came out, the mercury is heading skyward and everyone and their brother made a beeline for the outdoors. Viewing art may seem like a cold weather activity, reserved for days when it's too cold to feel your fingers. And yet there is plenty of art to be seen out-of-doors in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District as well. The Arts District is lucky to be a nucleus of public art. Half the fun is finding it. Here are a few favorites to check out while enjoying the sunshine.
Sculpture is a medium that has often been utilized in public spaces as well as outdoors. Well-respected artist and sculptor Zoran Mojsilov's outdoor studio and storage space can be found tucked behind the Grain Belt Bottling House and is a great example of public art in progress. Directly across the street, the Keg House Art Building is emblazoned with giant red letters reminding us to recognize Happiness. Head a dozen blocks east and check out the satellite location of Franconia Sculpture Park, nestled behind the Casket Arts Building, cleverly called Franconia in the City. It's a hidden world of colorful sculptures peeking out of an otherwise unassuming parking lot.
Murals are equally prevalent in the Arts District. Take a stroll down 13th avenue between 2nd and 5th Sts. NE and there's one on nearly every wall. Depictions of birds and horses will sneak up on you at every turn. But look further—the utility boxes are wrapped in art and planters are mosaics. Art is everywhere you turn.
Some of the most fun pieces to stumble upon are those in the private lawns around Northeast. These pieces feel like delightful gems—the giraffe on the lawn of the house on 5th St. NE near Lowry, or the orb made of trashcan lids in the driveway off 13th. How about the curlicue sculpture resting comfortably on the front lawn of the residence at 3rd Avenue at 2nd Street NE? These are reminders that not only are we surrounded by those who create art, but those who appreciate it.
This is the time of year to find a new dog-walking route, or shake up your bike commute and keep your eyes peeled for the public art all around. What's your favorite? Share your finds with us on our Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Facebook page and tag your photos #NEMplsArtsDist.



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