

Northeast Arts Insights



The Arts at WorkSM

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SAT, NOV 12 | 10am-6pm

Wander into open art studios, meet the artists that work in the NE Arts District every day.

Mojo Coffee Gallery will be serving food and beverages.

There will be a fundraiser to support Bottineau Neighborhood Association with a raffle to win prizes from sponsors all throughout the neighborhood.

2205 California St. NE
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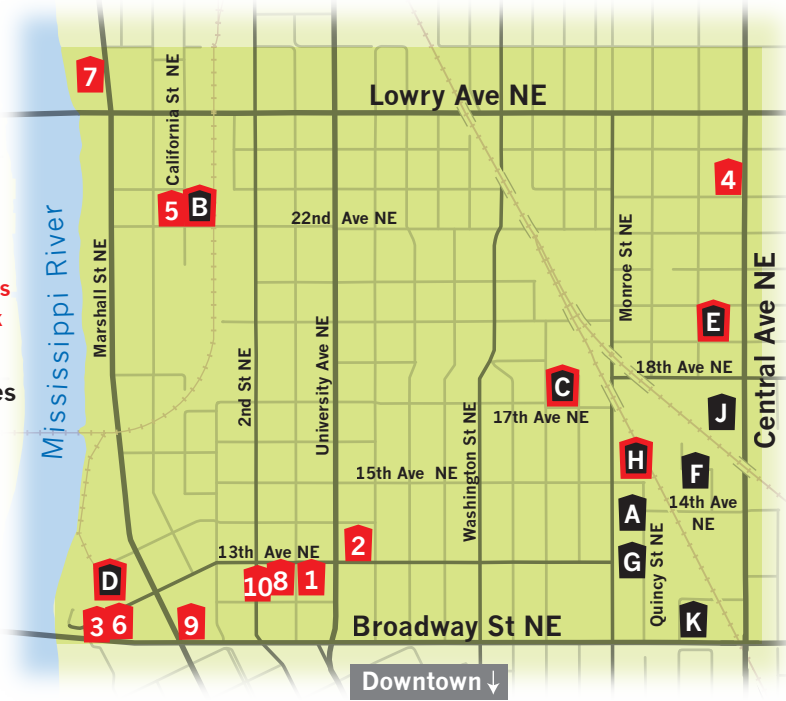
Sponsors

- 1 The Anchor Fish & Chips
- 2 The Barber Sharp
- 3 Clay Squared to Infinity
- 4 Language Central
- 1 Maeve's Cafe
- 10 MCN6
- 5 NEMAA Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association
- 9 Northeast Bank
- 6 Sip Coffeebar & Straightline Dance Fitness
- 7 Siwek Lumber & Millwork
- 8 Two12 Pottery & Gifts

Major Buildings/Complexes

- A Architectural Antiques
- B California Building
- C Casket Arts Buildings
- D Grain Belt Complex
- E Jackson Flats
- F Northrup King Building
- G Q.arma Building
- H Solar Arts Building
- J Thorp Building
- K Waterbury Building

Major art buildings in the district are in black, current page sponsors in red; both, in red and black icons and listing.



Teens, on arts district

by Josh Blanc

Today's teens grew up with the Northeast Arts District, from the discussions around forming it in the early 2000s, to its formal designation.

A recent conversation with some teens about the Northeast arts community sparked an idea. I have two teen girls of my own. What were their experiences of growing up in the arts district? How did youth explore and discover the world that the artists created in Northeast? Where did they hang out and what kind of interactions did they have with the arts? These four young people, now ages 16 to 19 gave insight into a group that might be an "invisible but in plain sight" part of our arts world.



Olivia and Daycia

Meet Olivia, Daycia, Fiona and Elliot

The Thorp Building and in it, Di-amonds Coffee: Their ground zero in the early teen years, their indoctrination into the Northeast Arts community. Art-A-Whirl was born in the Thorpe Building. Maybe the energy and mystery drew them all to explore the creaky wood and old

cut up building that houses so many artists and interesting characters. They hung out, drank coffee, and ate treats. In that process they met lots of artists who also chilled at Di-amonds.

Dan the Accordion Man (Turpen-ing) was one of their favorite artists. He would talk with them on a regular basis. Whenever the studios were open, Fiona said, "we came to get free snacks and tried to get the wine but we never succeeded."

Many other artists would just let them visit their studios but not necessarily engage them because they were busy working.

Olivia shared a memorable experience; attending a concert of punk band Rainbow Bruce at the loading dock. They remember a dinosaur on wheels that everyone could ride until the head fell off.

All of them attended Art-A-Whirl and commented it was a major experience for them. Their parents took them when they were small children.

Around middle school they were off with each other or by themselves exploring the art community. The Northrup King, Thorpe, Casket and Solar Arts were all talked about as regular places they attended. Plus, it was easy for them to walk, take a trolley or bike over to these buildings.

Some have started collections of art by attending art events. They all were excited and interested in the collecting process. Olivia said they are trying to collect local work by living artists at least once a year.

Asked about these experiences Olivia said, "recently Art-A-Whirl has so much alcohol it doesn't feel safe anymore. So much drinking and drunk people walking around. I liked it before the brewery thing came in. It was more geared toward kids, now it is more adult oriented."

All of them lit up when it came to talking about food in NE. They said their favorite place is Chimborazo with Sen Yai Sen Lek, Uncle Frankie's, La Gran Colonia and Holy Land as favorite haunts, too. Mojo Coffee and the California Building has started to become the new hang out spot. They all spoke to liking the atmosphere and said more artists talk to them.

Fiona said, "Everyone is an interesting person. Seeing so many people in one place, I get to see so many styles. It gives me inspiration." Fiona, who also works as a studio assistant at Clay Squared to Infinity and for Sue Christensen Clayworks, says art "is the #1 inspiration of what I like to be. People doing what they want to do instead of what they have to do. Makes me feel like I can do that too."

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