

# Northeast Arts Insights



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## Creative art center in action: Hatch

“If I cannot dictate the conditions of my labor, I will henceforth cease to work.”  
– thanks Fry-pan Jack, something to work toward.

The problem is, for most artists, the ability to dictate our conditions often stinks. We need help. From patrons and supporters, from neighbors, from family and friends. We work at our best when we bring our best to each other.

Hatch: A Creative Art Center looks to provide that connection and create space for dedicated artists and collaborators. Our first goal is to create a *virtual portal* to describe what opportunities exist in the District. If this portal proves useful, a proof of concept would be established and the development of a physical center would begin. This is a work in

progress, and certainly as such, we want your input. The Hatch concept grew from the public forum the Arts District board held in 2016.

“Another meeting” does not creatively engage this discussion, so the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District’s Hatch committee is hosting a PechaKucha, which is a fast-paced presentation. Each committee member will present their artistic selves and what drives their Hatch participation in a rapid-display slide presentation of about 20 slides in 6 minutes. The hope is to encourage interest and dialogue between all those who attend.

If you teach classes, or courses, there are committee members working to curate certified coursework in the Arts District. If you are a student, how and what would you like to learn? Members are

working on online platforms that allow teaching artists and lecturers to post events and get paid when they sell seats. If you are interested in gallery space, lectures, posting artist classifieds, professional and instructional critique, members are working on it.

We hope to create real tools with sustainability as a guiding principle. Friends, now is our time.

Show up to the PechaKucha. Participate in the discussion and help sculpt a developing arts economy.

—by Malcom Potek

**PechaKucha**  
hosted by Rogue Buddha Gallery  
and Hatch  
357 13th Ave NE, Mpls. MN 55413  
Sunday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

## Weigh in on plans for Grain Belt parcels

Though it could take time to quantify and then obtain the subsidy money needed, the remaining city-owned parcels near the former Grain Belt Brewery are in the planning stages to be conveyed to a housing developer.

Three proposers responding to the city’s request for proposals presented ideas to the Sheridan Neighborhood Organization Feb. 26. Artists at the meeting were concerned with the loss of natural light when new buildings would be constructed on what are now parking lots.

The last neighborhood-based opportunity to view the proposals and weigh in before a developer is recommended will be Thursday, March 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Food Building, 1401 Marshall St. NE. See pages 1 and 7 of this Northeast.



On February 16, two artist couples, Layl McDill (featured as guardian angel), Josh Blanc, Kara Van Wyk and Malcom Potek closed on the purchase of the now-derelict buildings at 695-699 Lowry (at Monroe St. NE) in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. They will renovate the space for their businesses (Clay Squared to Infinity and Potek Glass). Art studio and retail rental spaces will be available. Jennifer Young of the California Building Co. (second from right) will handle the leasing, 612-788-5551. David Scott, at right, of Sunrise Banks, assisted in financing the transaction.

## Huonder’s tale of NE transformation

The following are excerpts from a story by Michael Tolan in his Logan Park asset mapping project, which will be linked at MyNortheast.com.

...The grittiness acts as a filter, and fosters an environment of independence and innovation. It has afforded Northeasters the opportunity to fly under the radar and create a community according to the standards of flexibility and necessity, rather than permits and regulations.

The Q.arma Building’s owner, Jono Query, tries to maintain that spirit of freedom at least within his walls.

Anthony Huonder is a local potter who operates Ash Pottery at the Q.arma Building. While in high school, he would visit the stretch of Quincy Street NE between 15th Ave. and Broadway with friends and hang out in what’s now the Q.arma Building. Tolan interviewed Huonder (who is pictured at right).

Much of the time, the artistic interaction yields a tangible product or a collaborative project. But the dense concentration of artists in one area also pro-

duces intangible benefits through serendipitous interactions and day-to-day chit-chat: “Sometimes it’s just the brainstorming you can have because I have this set of knowledge from my existence and my craft, and somebody else has their own, and I don’t know anything about it. Through random conversations, I’ll have an epiphany, or vice versa,” Huonder said.

Those relationships, he believes, have been integral to the identity of Northeast. Whether it’s his landlord, the barista at Matchbox Coffee, or the bartender at the 331 Club, he values seeing and forming connections with the people who run the community institutions. “The more you like them, the more you want to support whatever they’re doing,” he said. “That was

part of the initial success within the neighborhood. When something started, you knew who started it, so you really wanted to support them, and so you spread the word and it got out there far and wide,

and that brought in more people.”

As someone who’s been coming to Northeast for roughly two decades, Huonder has been able to watch the transformation of the neighborhood. It was sad, he said, to see places bulldozed and bought out and evicted because of their own success. “Those pioneers are being priced out of the area they helped create.”

Just as much as he lamented the current condition in Northeast, he was quick to acknowledge the contradiction in wanting a place to remain a hidden gem forever while simultaneously wanting it to succeed. He also recognized his role in it: “Whoever was here before me, they probably didn’t want to leave. And then they got priced out and I stepped in. And then I’m going to get priced out and someone else will step in.”

“Whether it’s me or somebody else, it doesn’t matter which specific person it is, it’s just that they have those kinds of ambitions and that kind of spirit,” he said. “That was the spirit of Northeast. People were engaged in what they were doing and getting good at it and also using it to help the one next to them get better at what they’re doing.”



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