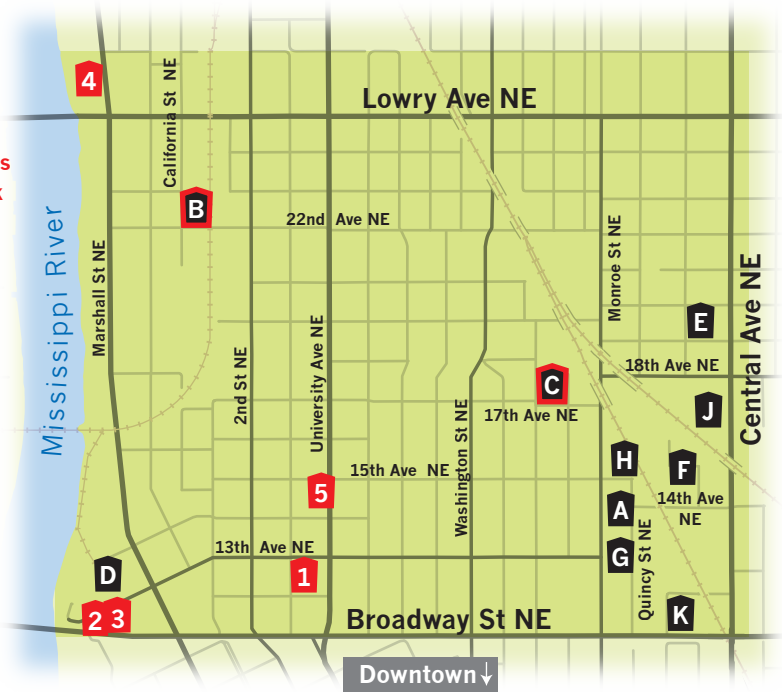


# Northeast Arts Insights



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Major art buildings in the district are in black, current sponsors in red; sponsoring buildings appear in black with red outline. For sponsor info call Margo at 612-788-9003.

## Reject the art washing at Grain Belt

The Grain Belt complex area around the historic buildings is about to be redeveloped. Two proposals are on the table, each with solutions for the broad city needs of housing and energy uses.

Many artists attended Council Member Steve Fletcher’s March 8 open house to look at the preliminary designs and found them lacking.

The buildings do not honor the historic quality of the area or utilize local resources.

Both developers “art wash” their proposals using presence in an art area as their main selling point.

But when pressed on actual art uses they provide no details, mainly stick-built architectural options and quasi-defined art spaces.

Neither actually considered using local art and resource business to build these complexes. There are dozens of local and regional metal, wood, glass, tile, and stone workers who could be utilized. None were considered. When asked, they said they could not afford using artists. That entire premise is unacceptable; locally-sourced materials and labor incorporated into a building design does not have to be more expensive than the standard issue.

As readers of this page have seen over the past two-plus years, numerous institutions including the very public international airport have incorporated original art into their designs and have been lauded for it.

Developers need to rethink how they propose to build in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (Northeast AD). Development should be a practice of enhancing the community, not a scheme where the community is left to deal with the consequences of their choices and the city council’s choices.

The entire area around the Grain Belt buildings is teeming with development. All chosen current development went against neighborhood organizations’ and residents’ recommendations for lower density, quality parking and transportation concepts.

It’s important to go on record with formal com-

ments now, before a developer is chosen. To weigh in on the development, email Shalaunda.Holmes@Minneapolismn.gov or steve.fletcher@minneapolismn.gov.

The arts district board has been working to focus on the future of development and what concepts should be considered, like how to utilize the art and other resources in the district. It is important for artists to lead this battle, because we are strong on aesthetics. The city and residents would gain a lot of leverage to make our city stand out if they used our input to make us a more attractive and iconic city.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District recommends the city scrap both plans and require design of buildings that enhance the historic area, utilize artists and local businesses in the building process, and actually implement what the neighborhood and its residents really want in a development that will be there for 100 years.

—by Josh Blanc

## Embrace school arts gala fundraisers

Two local schools are having their annual galas at the Grain Belt Bottling House in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (Northeast AD) this year. Many Northeast artists have children attending these two schools and have been very involved with programming.

Over 200 pieces will be auctioned off at one gala. What does this imply? Artists are huge supporters of education not only in time but in raising money for schools. Ironically, artists are only able to write off the materials they donate, not the retail price like other businesses, but they value education and support it year after year.

Marcy Arts Partnership (MAP) will host its 17th Annual Marcy Arts Gala at the Grain Belt Bottling House, 71 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday April 21. This event brings together community members, artists, school staff and businesses to support engaging, arts-driven learning for K-8 students at Marcy Open School in Southeast Minneapolis.

This year’s gala features music from Marcy Open School alumnus DJ Tiiiiiiiiip-AKA Taylor Madrigal. Dinner is provided by Alma, Brasa, Create Catering and Cocina Latina with wine and beer from local businesses and breweries. The gala will also feature cocktails by Bittercube.

Attendees can bid on silent and live auctions of artwork donated by over 200 fine art, ceramics, photography, furniture, jewelry and textile artists, as well as items from 100+ local businesses including gift certificates, event tickets, wines, and much more.

“The MAP residencies at Marcy are what make our school special. As an open school that focuses on arts integration, students have opportunities to express themselves through acting, music, dance, and visual and graphic arts in ways other schools simply cannot provide,” said Donna Andrews, Marcy Open School principal.

Over the past 22 years, Marcy Arts Partnership has brought local artists to Marcy Open School to provide hands-on residencies that integrate the



arts into the curriculum. Thousands of students grades K-8 have received arts education and enrichment opportunities through the parent-driven MAP.

The program is 100 percent funded by donations and grants. Last year the Gala brought in \$40,000.

Yinghua Academy’s “Ying-Fling,” takes place Saturday, April 28, at the Grain Belt Bottling House

in Northeast. They have used the venue several times. They will be raising funds for a new play area to be installed on the east side of the school. Yinghua Academy, now in its 12th year, is on Buchanan Street NE, the former Putnam Elementary facility.

For many years, Yinghua has partnered with Marcy Open School to exchange event volunteers. They’ve found it a great partnership because it’s hard to work at your own school’s event when you know all the guests and want to be part of the celebration.

Marcy volunteers help check out silent auction bidders at Yinghua’s event, and Yinghua does the same for Marcy. Yinghua also raised \$40,000 in 2016 for their most recent event.

These two events are open to the public and are a great way for the community to support school programming and have a great time in the process.

The Northeast AD salutes the premise of the galas and the creative solution to staffing!



## What’s new with HATCH (arts center)?

Artists’ reasons for participating in the HATCH committee are as varied as their backgrounds. As they talked about their wishes March 11, many scenarios were presented.

Attendees at the March 11 Pecha Kucha were asked to put dots on ideas they’d like to see most. The HATCH committee of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District continues to meet, twice monthly at this point, preparing to start an online resource for classes and other opportunities. The possibility of obtaining or building an actual arts center or incubator building is also being explored. For more information, contact Leslie Palmer Ross at 763-567-2205.

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