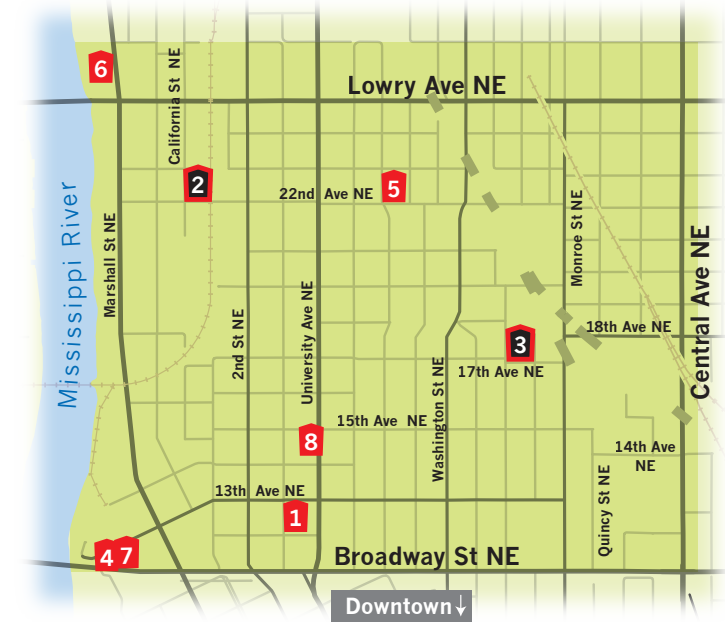




# arts INSIGHTS

A page about artists and The Arts at Work by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District in collaboration with the Northeast.



**SPONSORS**

- 1

The Anchor Fish & Chips
- 2

California Building
- 3

Casket Arts Buildings
- 4

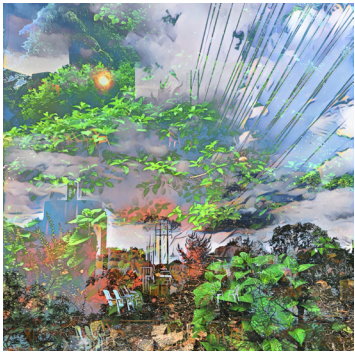
Clay Squared to Infinity
- 5

Parkway Realty
- 6

Siwek Lumber & Millwork
- 7

Sip Coffee Bar and
- 8

Michael Gacek - Edina Realty



## Candy Kuehn: always learning

**by Margo Ashmore**

“The other students remind me ‘you don’t need the grade,’ and it’s amazing how easy it goes when you realize that.” Candy Kuehn, a fabric artist who creates wearable art, costumes, digital wall pieces and sculptures in numerous media, is enjoying learning new things at the University of Minnesota. Well established in her career, she is free to explore what works. “There’s a few of us Continuing Education Students at the U.” The professors like having the diversity of ages, she said.

“I love the many views/ angles of our century and cultures, from China to Rural Wisconsin in our assignments and critiques.”

Her summer project will be getting ready for a show at the Owatonna Arts Center where she needs a lot of painted fabric to cover the ceiling.



sample cutline (Photos by )



She’ll be doing a lot of fabric dyeing work outside using fiber reactive dyes on 7 to 9-yard fabric lengths. In her studio she’ll be using paste resist techniques to create smaller wall pieces using rice bran mixed with various kinds of starches to make the different patterns that keep each color or level of dye from reaching the fabric. While most artists work on cottons and linens, she also dyes nylons, polyesters and wools which would eventually fade in sun but work well for indoor clothing and costumes.

She’s using cell phone applications and uses some Photoshop to manipulate photos, some of which she’ll transfer to fabrics.

During Art-A-Whirl she engaged with many young people, exclaiming that, “I’ve been using these apps assuming the millennials know all about them, but they don’t! I’ve been messing with it like a kitten with a yarn ball.” Her photo prints have been selling well.

“I often forget to sell, I’m doing Art-A-Whirl for fun, for education, for the community,” Kuehn said.

Throughout the Art-A-Whirl weekend, Kuehn was also trying to re-home a couple pieces of studio furniture as she plans to give up some of her California Building space to a landscape architect who also helped her build more efficient storage. Another learning opportunity?

## “Own it” is arts forum’s message, comment on 2040 comp plan

**by Margo Ashmore**

“Take the lead and own it,” said Minneapolis First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich, answering the question “how will the Arts Action Plan 2 align with city goals?”

“You know the answers, bring them forward,” said Third Ward Council Member Steve Fletcher. Both council members said they could make suggestions for navigating and working together to get things done, identifying what has the strongest potential to be implemented.

They both wrapped up an intense hour discussion with about 75 arts community leaders including past and seated presidents of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, building owners and artists, business people, neighborhood leaders and politicians at the Ritz Theater June 12.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is starting to raise funds, an estimated \$110,000 to update the Arts Action Plan from 2003 and fund its implementation. The 15-year-old plan cost \$60,000 but had no implementation funds – yet much has been done with the plan’s guidance by the artists, businesses and organizations in the district. “We will need volunteers” in the fundraising efforts and to participate in the implementation, said Arts District chair Josh Blanc.

Reading and providing input to the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be the most important first step, they said, echoed by former NEMAA president Brenda Kayzar, who consulted with the 2040 planners. “There are 14 goals and 97 suggested policy ideas, all organized logically. I can assure you the outreach part is genuine,” she said.

[see related articles, pages x and x]

Fletcher and Reich suggested addressing the parts of the plan that deal with housing and work space, to comment on affordable “maker” spaces, as Fletcher put it. “Do we have statements about spending

city money on local businesses? It’s shameful how little we do. Neighborhoods are asking for how to incorporate art into all aspects of the city. Look at the transit plan, is it easy for people to find their way here?”

Reich concurred, adding, “We’ve made the 1.5 percent for art in new public buildings an ordinance. We have a Creative Economy division. You can say that arts need to be central to everything we do.” Zoning (which will be changed at the direction of the Comp Plan) will be the real issue, he said. “In the 1950s, 25 percent of the land use was in industrial, now it’s 5 percent.” Production Mixed Use and Production and Distribution land uses need protective language, or it’ll all become housing if market dynamics are allowed to take over, Reich warned.

A question, “would you build more maker space instead of housing?” sparked discussion of the unaffordability of any new construction, and ideas around zoning to prevent speculative value from driving up property tax, taxing luxury condos to divert subsidy money to remaining maker spaces, and a plug for an arts and creative economy focus which will be created within the city’s business assistance programs.

There was discussion about how the initial request for proposals for the city’s remaining parcels at the Grain Belt complex did not make any special effort to consider artists input, but it has now, and developer Landon Group will help maintain the usability of the Bottling House and Warehouse buildings’ loading docks, etc.

[put here how to make comments on that – once we find out.]

Reich talked about the new Hook & Ladder multifamily development coming to Holland Neighborhood (to be built to Passiv Haus net-zero energy standards) which will be marketed to, though not exclusive to, artists. It includes a changeable sculpture park on a vacated portion of Jefferson Street.

Audience interest seemed high regarding a physical arts center of

some sort like the suburbs have. Fletcher cautioned it’s a “money question and does it meet a need?” Artist Dougie Padilla expressed that there’s a need for places to show art, and to go have a beer and converse with other artists, now that the local bars are crowded with everyone else. “Also, if you have kids,” said artist Kyle Fokken. An architect who is also an artist spoke up about arts centers funneling people who are not now, to become artistic.

There was discussion of waiving permitting fees for owners of arts buildings. State Representative Diane Loeffler said the city does have authority to do tax abatements.

There were comparisons with the city of Saint Paul from poetry on sidewalks (from former legislator Phyllis Kahn) and their poet laureate, to an artist lamenting that the former Ford site “will be housing and that’s about it.”

“This is an international problem,” Fletcher said of artists paving the way for gentrification and getting pushed out. “Even Richard Florida [who wrote books on the rise of the creative class] has said ‘I didn’t think about a few things.’”

Back to the Comprehensive Plan, Fletcher pointed out that Northeast is among the only areas of the city currently zoned for higher density than is built. “Main Street is zoned R-5 which means it could have 5-story apartments, but it’s not.” He said in the new plan we’re asking the rest of the city to share the burden of 40,000 extra people who want to live here.

Blanc said after the meeting, “this shows we are not helpless when it comes to gentrification. Artists need to take the lead on solutions. As Council Member Reich said, the city was never cool enough to create the Arts District, the artists did that and then the city designated it and now it’s nationally recognized. Whether we save it through the 2040 comp plan or banding together as cooperatives, or other ideas, it’s up to us to come to consensus and drive it.”



Ad -  
Gacek?

Ad -  
Calif &  
Casket

Ad -  
Park-  
way