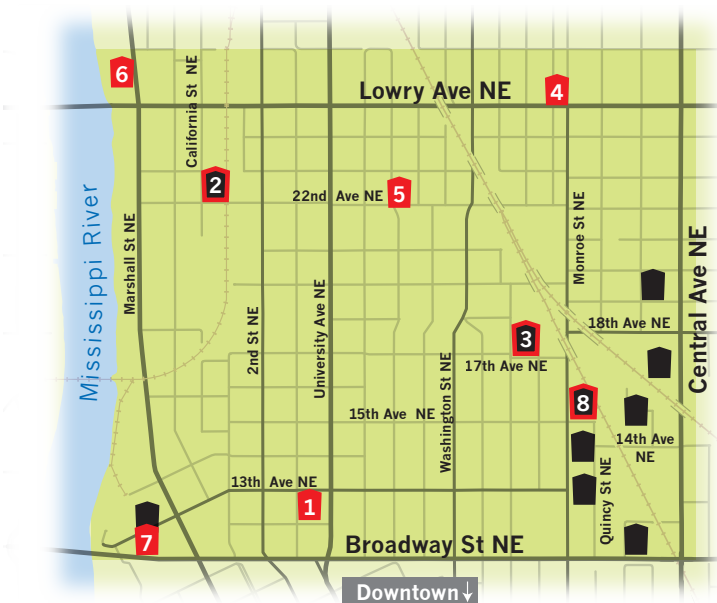




arts INSIGHTS

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



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Northeast art appears at local apartments

November 26, 2018, Nick Legeros installed a sculpture, Pearl Necklace, at the corner of Marshall and Broadway streets NE. The developer of The Julia rental apartments, Curt Gunsbury commissioned the piece to adorn the building named after his grandmother, who was “a free spirit.”

“I predict it will be both a gateway sculpture and a selfie destination,” Legeros said.



Legeros’ studio, Blue Ribbon Bronze, is nearby at 84 14th Ave. NE. After more than 20 years as artist in residence and teaching at Minnetonka Center for the Arts, his career as a full-time sculptor took off

in 2003. Other recent commissions include a statue of Goldy Gopher for Coffman Union, Sid Hartman for the Target Center and a 17-ft. high statue of St. Joseph for St. Joseph’s Hospital. His website is nikosculpture.com

Related only by geography, another project nearby at Broadway and Second Street NE, Catholic Elder-care’s Wyndris senior apartments, also includes some familiar Northeast art, including an Adam Turman poster and photographs of iconic Northeast scenes.

The Pearl Necklace, at left. Nick Legeros with sculpture of his son, above. Photos courtesy of Nick Legeros. Below, a bike rack at NordHaus created by Kristen Arden, whose space is at the Northrup King Building. The bike rack is inspired by a Norse longboat and navigation using astronomy. Photo courtesy of Art Force.



member of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board and its HATCH committee, providing a meeting space at Art Force for both groups. She will host the January 20 Pecha Kucha night, featuring artists who teach. (Free, open to public.)

“I believe that it is important to contribute to and nurture our community. The artists and arts in the District have a significant impact both economically and culturally in the city and the region. The vibrancy created needs to be supported, celebrated, and protected.”

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board appreciates Art Force and Leslie’s contributions!

Art Force arranges art placements

by Margo Ashmore

When The M on Hennepin tackled blending together old and new buildings at what once was (and is again) the site of Nye’s Bar, they engaged Art Force to put art in their public spaces. Art Force also worked with Nordhaus and is negotiating with other developers.

Leslie Palmer-Ross, Director of Art Services, said “Artists connect with us in a couple different ways. We have both general and project-specific calls but I am also out in the community attending shows, visiting studios, and enjoying exhibits. We don’t represent artists in the traditional gallery sense.” She estimates she’s worked with about 100 Northeast artists.

Art Force, 1400 Van Buren St. NE, Minneapolis moved to Northeast Minneapolis almost ten years ago. “It was the ideal community for our business because the Arts District is THE district of visual art makers. We connect clients with art to enhance their spaces. It is wonderful (and efficient) to have artists as neighbors,” Palmer-Ross said.

Palmer-Ross and her colleagues, “many of whom wear multiple hats” provide services range from “inspiration to installation; we have printing, framing, and installation specialists on staff.”

They work with companies and organizations in health care and other sectors to exhibit art on a rotating subscription basis, and helps purchase appropriate permanent art. They might advise and facilitate selling off or otherwise changing out items that no longer serve their original purpose, such as what happens in downsizing, moving or merging companies. The resources from that process help fund and place new purchases.

Palmer-Ross recently worked with East Side Neighborhood Services (ESNS) to try out art in their common areas. In December, Art Force held a sale of gently used and new art, much of it in serviceable frames, with the proceeds going to the buyers’ choice of 10 charities (ESNS included) or Art Force’s general community giving fund.

Palmer-Ross has served as a

walt dziedzic, arts benefactor an ode by dougie padilla

so it was god so long ago, like way back in the nineties somewhere. dave felker, northeast artist, furniture refinisher, gallery owner (the international gallery of contemporary art in the [thorp] building) said to me that we should start an arts crawl here in northeast just like the one he had been part of in anchorage and that it would instigate the onset of a golden age for minneapolis and the arts.

so i said no thanks not interested northeast ain’t anchorage and i proceeded to tell him that he might be doing fine in the thorpe but some of us artists holed up in our studios (legally and illegally living there) were pretty much getting roused by the cops on a regular basis. and i told him how bill wormley and acme visual arts (the best ever alternative arts space in minnesota history in their humble opinion and the much earlier predecessor to the anchor on 13th) how bill and his crew had to process getting busted by the narc squad every two months when they had an opening for a new artist. that’s right, they would show up and close us down for god knows what reason...

but somehow dave talked me into the concept cause he was good at that and i went and found some of my artist friends like bumpy dave monson and perry ingli and lisa elias and such and we started meeting at dave’s space in the thorpe and art-a-whirl was born out of all that ruckus and nema was born out of a bit of over enthusiasm and we were off to a flying start.

except we had no idea what we we’re doing we were winging it on vision and energy and just darn good vibes cause it was hard work and lotsa fun and lotsa art was going on. but as the first celebration came near we had two worries first we had almost no money to do much of anything and second we needed to know that the authorities wouldn’t hassle us in our studios in our galleries and businesses at our parties we

needed to know that they would leave us alone.

that’s when dave had his second bad idea. he decided to go to walt dziedzic former minneapolis cop and our councilman in northeast and have a talk. he thought that walt and the city government would surely get behind our sterling efforts that they would buy into our “art saves the world” paradigm. i thought he was nuts i mean walt dziedzic ex cop and “mayor of northeast” (which was yes actually his nickname). cynic that i was i thought there’s no way that we should let city hall and especially walt know what we were up to. but dave the pure of heart dave the ambitious prevailed and next thing you know dougie was cruising around northeast with walt in his big ole honkin’ caddy while he told me stories of where he had grown up and where his friends drank and who had gone to edison with him and this and that and the other.

and yes i had a good ole time hanging with walt that day and then the next day we pitched him for help for our fledgling arts celebration and wouldn’t you know it that he totally understood that artists were the new immigrants to northeast and his new constituents and by week’s end we had \$20,000 for buses to run between buildings for all our patrons and we had money for posters for musicians for all the necessary the makings of a fledgling arts weekend event. and wouldn’t you know walt made sure that there wasn’t gonna be any problems for us with the police (well we never actually talked about that too much wink wink nod nod).

and thus we worked hard and the end of the first art-a-whirl came and we partied hard in our spaces and we all thought it was a great success and lets do it again next year so my lord we owed so much those first years to one good and great on going benefactor and his name was WALT DZIEDZIC god bless him forever god bless walt dziedzic the mayor of northeast god bless walt dziedzic patron of the arts.

Walt Dziedzic passed away November 24, 2018.

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