Art Force arranges art placements

by Margo Ashmore

When the M on Hennepin tackled blending together old and new buildings at what was once (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 estimated she’s worked with about 100 artists.

They work with companies and organizations in various other sectors to exhibit art on a rotating subscription basis, and helps purchase appropriate permanent art. They might advise and facilitate selling off or rotating out items that no longer serve their original purpose, such as what happens in downscaling, moving or merging companies.

The resources from that process help fund and place new purchases.

Palmer-Ross recently worked with East Side Northstar Services (ESNS) to try out art in their common areas. In December, Art Force held a sale of a gently used and new, much of it in serviceable condition, to the ESNS 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 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!

Northeast art appears at local apartments

November 26, 2018. Nathan Breuer, a sculptor, installed a sculpture, Pearl Necklace, at the corner of Marshall and Broadway streets NE. The developer of the building, The Juilia rental apartments, Curtis Gunby commissioned the piece to adorn the building nameplate 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 Galileo Galilei for Coffman Union, Sid Hartman for the Target Center and his life-size statue of St. Joseph for St. Joseph’s Hospital. His website is nikosculpture.com

Related on our website are only by geography, a new project nearby at Broadway and Second Street NE. Catholic Elder’s Home senior apartments also includes some familiar Northeast artists, including an Adam Turman poster and photographs of iconic Northeast scenes.

The Pearl Necklace, at left, Nick Legeros with his sculpture, 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.

Artists Who Teach

January’s Pecha Kucha will feature Artists Who Teach. In this fast-paced format, artists show and explain work with 20 slides in 20 seconds each, followed by audience discussion and questions. Art Force will host the free, open-to-public event Sunday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m. at 1400 Van Buren St. NE.

The program includes Marko Fields, St. Ben’s Buri, Amanda Caragon, Randy Cade, Kaye McCall, Emeri Miller, Malcom Pohle, Wayne Prince, Peyton Russell, and Denise Tennen.

Artists will address how and why teaching informs their artistic practices, what students gain from their educational experience, and how teachers implement their teaching philosophies into their curriculum.

The Pecha Kucha is part of a larger event the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District HATCH committee’s celebration of Art Force and the need for an arts center, whether in a physical space or online.

To express interest and receive future event announcements directly, go to artforce.org, contact Leslie Palmer-Ross, or subscribe to the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District’s e-newsletter at northeastminneapolisartdistrict.org and use its link.