



arts INSIGHTS

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

More interest in virtual or physical arts center

by Margo Ashmore

For a fast-paced presentation by Artists Who Teach, the nine artists and a total of 60 people gathered at Art Force with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's HATCH committee.

For the question-answer part of the evening, talk quickly turned to how Northeast can better bring together and promote the availability of arts learning right here. One does not need to be an artist to have life enriched by art – there's scientific evidence that art helps with learning other subjects, cross-cultural communication, and health/wellness.

All of the teaching artists, while having some kind of studio presence in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, primarily go elsewhere to teach – the suburban arts centers, for example.

From their business perspective, that probably wouldn't change even if a bricks-and-mortar arts center were built; it would be another, but convenient, place to teach.

But for the residents, the consumers, State Representative Diane Loeffler said, an arts center would say "this is a place where amateurs are welcome," and be "a safe place to try" their hand at making art.

Others cautioned that, as clay artist Denise Tennen put it, "so many

institutions are going down because they can't support their spaces."

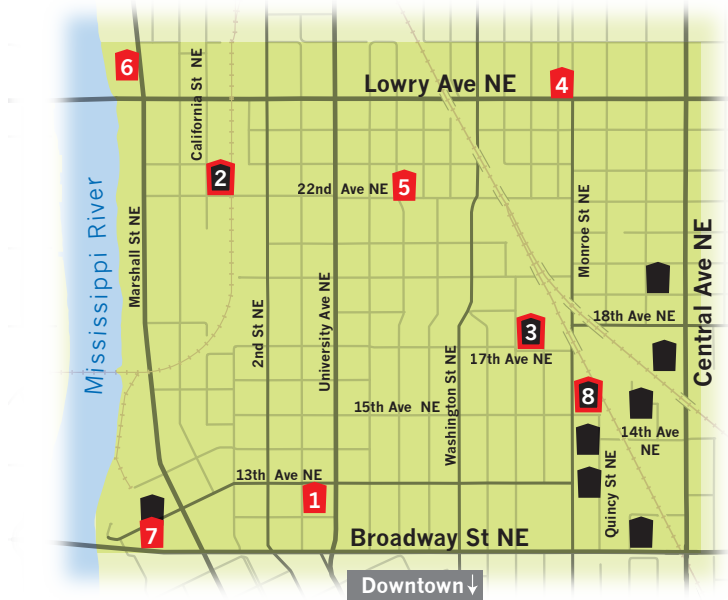
Malcom Potek referred to a virtual online portal as being "like connective tissue, there are so many buildings that have resources, and it's a way to open that door." Craig Harris encouraged exploring an inventory and system that uses the spaces we already have.

Ernest Miller, a ceramic artist who had a studio in Northrup King Building, now has his studio in his garage. He travels for art shows a lot and teaches at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. "The time is getting better for Northeast" to get a physical arts center, he said.

One person suggested "how about an arts center on wheels?" Marko Fields answered, "there's a bit of that, but you still have to have a place. Gentrification is happening. If Northeast is ever to have bricks and mortar, it will take intention and to do it soon."

Participants left inspired to pursue both the virtual/inventory and physical tracks, and to develop a proposal for summer arts camps for elementary school students, another type of offering that often happens at an arts center.

The January 20 presentations by Artists Who Teach are featured on page 4 of this Northeast.



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Wintertide featured district artists



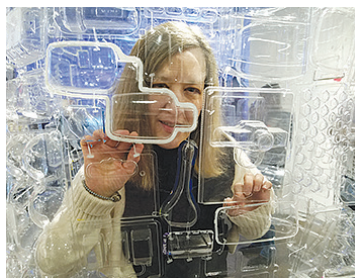
Congratulations to Northeast Minneapolis Arts District artists whose work was included in the biannual juried exhibition "Wintertide."

Artists were selected through a new jury process that centered on the exploration of semifinalists' artist practice, studio time, and one-on-



one dialogue between artists and curators. The result was a selection based on the artists' "dedication to experimentation, compelling narratives and the pursuit of mastery in their medium," according to the show program.

The exhibit was produced by



Brian Boldon, "Romantic Realities," Rock Johnsen explaining his "Water Migration," and Heather M. Cole looking through her installation "Stuffed."

Photos by Margo Ashmore

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA), facilitated by Northeast Minneapolis-based exhibition space Public Functionary, and supported by the Cedarwoods Foundation. It was created in 2015 to highlight NEMAA member artists' high level of professional artistic capability.

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Creative index again shows art as big economic contributor

by Josh Blanc, Board Chair, NE Minneapolis Arts District

The 2018 Creative Index report is out. It has an array of statistics that we would recommend every arts fan in the city should read.

Being versed in the city's own statistics helps artists stand up for themselves in conversation with people who argue that artists don't make money. It is clearly not the case, which is pointed out annually in what artist contribute to the City of Minneapolis and beyond.

One of our favorite statistics featured is that art sector revenues are 9.2 times the size of Minneapolis sports sector revenues.

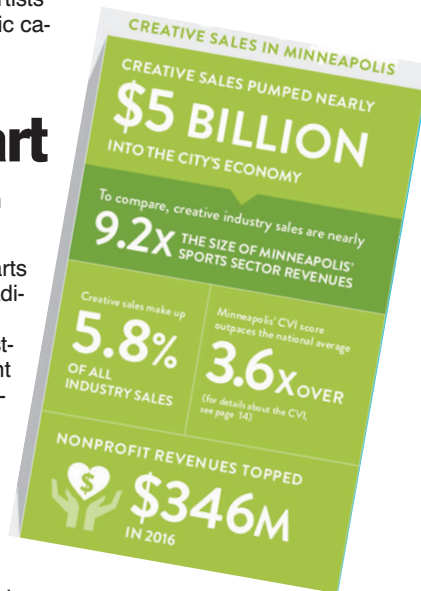
What if the city built an arts center the way they build stadiums?

Our ROI (return on investment) makes a great argument that the arts can be better investment for public finances.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is mentioned twice in the report with Jonathan (Jono) Query, owner of the Q.arma building, and Debbie Woodward of the Northrup King Building featured.

The whole report is worth a review, and is linked through the website www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org. The Northeast's

article is on page 11. Please send us your opinions on this report, to NEMADBoard@gmail.com



NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS ARTS DISTRICT

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, April 1, the Biannual Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Vision Awards event will be held at the Ritz Theater, in the evening.

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