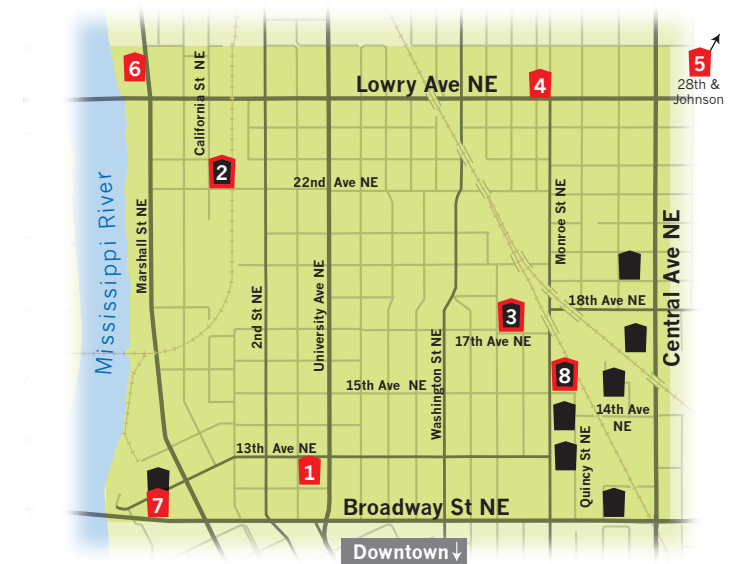




arts INSIGHTS

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



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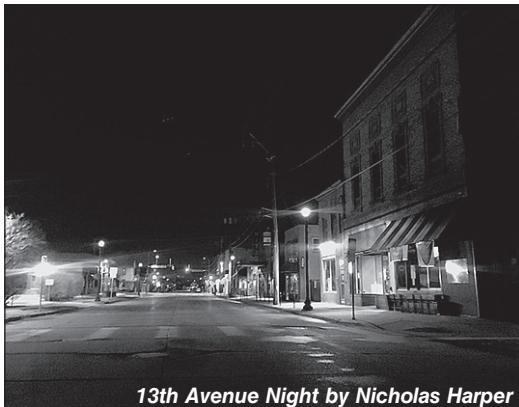
Please tell us your story

by Josh Blanc

We are in surreal times. The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board is trying to get perspectives, the experiences of the artists in the district, to share in our e-newsletter and possibly in the Arts Insights page in the Northeast. Please tell us a story, about one or two paragraphs, a poem, short story, video or image of your experiences and or thoughts. Keep them coming — as we all go through this we would like to create a kind of storybook to document this moment.

What are you doing with your time?

What are you hearing from other artists?



Living my best life by Daphnae Koop

Are you creating new works? Are you willing to share them?

How do you spend your time during the days and nights creating?

How are you communicating with others? Skype, text, FaceTime etc.

What are your biggest concerns right now?

Anything fun, wild, out of the ordinary that you would like to express — we want to hear about it. We want to help others feel like they are not alone and see if there are common threads or practices artists are doing to survive this major challenge in our community.

Please post images of your art and thoughts by tagging Facebook.com/northeastartsdistrict/ or email info@northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org.

Please share if you know an artist in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District that might want to share their experiences too.

Art-A-Whirl® 2020 canceled

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association President Brian Burke sent a message to members and the public on Friday, April 3 to say “the Board of Directors of NEMAA has made the difficult decision to cancel Art-A-Whirl® 2020 and create an online experience instead. The health and safety of our members and the community are our top priority. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of NEMAA has determined that it is no longer possible to ensure a safe and successful event. We know how import-

ant Art-A-Whirl® is to our members, supporters and the broader Northeast Minneapolis arts community, and how tough this decision is for everyone, but given the current situation we feel that this decision is in the best interests of NEMAA and its members.”

NEMAA will refocus to launch “Art-A-Whirl® Online” in the coming weeks, an online promotion of the arts community in Northeast Minneapolis coupled with resources and training for members to develop, or further develop, their online presence.

They will publish the Art-A-Whirl®

Directory & *In Studio* magazine, retooling it to be an annual publication used throughout the year to promote artists, businesses and all of Northeast. NEMAA will do a limited print run in May, distribute through the summer, and reprint for the fall, according to Burke’s statement.

The organization will continue to promote and support artists in open studio events throughout the year when it is safe to have those events, continues to plan on hosting NEMAA 10x10 this fall and is looking forward to a successful Art-A-Whirl® on May 14-16, 2021.

COVID-19 resources

by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board of Directors

The public health crisis caused by COVID-19 is impacting our entire community. The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is where people engage in social and cultural public events, art, musical and theatrical events, art making, working, manufacturing, communing over food and drink, happy hour gatherings,

shopping, worshipping, learning, playing and many more social and physical activities.

These activities form the lifeblood of our community. Everyone and everything is impacted. Never have we had such a reminder that we are all interconnected and need each other.

On our website, www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org, you will

find a list of rapidly developing resources that may be of use to our community. This is not a complete list and we will continue to add to the list as things develop and change.

This is a curated list focused on artists and small businesses, with some sources or aggregators of general resource lists. <https://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org/archives/covid-19-resources/>



Layl McDill created about a dozen tiny animals in the first 90 minutes of her Facebook Live ART365 event: A turtle, an octopus, a kitten, a frog, a sloth, lastly an elephant. Artists wanting to set up virtual ART365 events should contact Ginny Sutton at ART365@northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org or call 612-251-2735.

ART365

by Ginny Sutton

Our first ART365 virtual event took place on Facebook and then on Instagram Tuesday, March 31. It was really fun and gave some ideas for what artists can do to safely bring visitors into their studios.

Layl McDill, a polymer clay artist, worked with bits of clay on her studio bench, and took cues from the online participants for suggestions about what animals she should make, what color they should be, etc. McDill is amazingly quick and agile with her fingers, and also makes use of a few tools for fine details — toothpick, X-Acto knife, the edge of a credit card. I appreciated her comment “I’m constantly grateful for these tools on the ends of my fingers” (her fingernails).

McDill’s event was super entertaining to watch. The deftness with which she worked made me feel like she was god creating the animal kingdom before my very eyes!

See it for yourself. The recorded Facebook event is at <https://www.facebook.com/layl.mcdill/videos/219008002659502/>

Safe ways to gather, make art, have fun

by Remo Campopiano

With our whole community ordered to stay home, people are looking for other ways to be social. This has created a big demand for video conferencing and online gaming technologies.

A few days ago I tried to video call a few close friends. I had technical difficulties with almost everyone I contacted. One couldn’t get their sound working, another forgot to buy a webcam and headset with their new desktop computer. Technology is not often easy, but with a little patience it can prove quite rewarding. The northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org website has a few resources and suggestions (look for the news article “Safe ways to gather...”)

There is a detailed comparison (pros and cons) of available video conferencing options. In brief, it talks about Skype, which is old technology but works fine if it’s

something you are familiar with. Google Hangouts is another good alternative. But it’s Zoom that is getting all the media attention. It’s easy, clean and multifunctional, but if you want to talk for more than 40 minutes without the interruption of having to restart, you’ll need to pay a monthly fee.

MMO – Final Fantasy: Another way of socializing is to play online games. This might be the right time to call up that friend who has been bugging you to join them in an MMO (Massive Multiplayer Online) game. I never got into these “Monster Killing” games, but I used to love to play Online Poker, another way to socialize. If you’re clever with technology, you can gather a few friends in a Skype, then join on online poker site together.

If you are really up for a challenge you might try joining Second Life. I spent five years of my life in Sec-



Second Life

ond Life and loved every minute. I actually made art there and lots of friends, close friends. Second Life is not a shoot ’em up game; it is a “place to be,” where you create your own world with the help of others. Most of what you can do in “real life” you can do in the “virtual reality” of Second Life.

Email me about your adventures at remocampopiano@gmail.com.

Follow us on social media to see what we are creating behind closed doors!

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Sunday: 11:30am-8pm
theanchorfishandchips.com
or Facebook for details and updates