by Kevin Reich, Minneapolis First Ward Council Member

Last December we celebrated the life and contributions of a local and iconic artist with a resolution honoring our own Aldo Moroni. This week we mourn Aldo’s passing. Much more than just a great artist, he was a consummate community builder. He saw everyone as his neighbor and he centered his neighbors in all of his work from the smallest bronze replica of a landmark building to ambitiously sprawling creations with neighborhood partners from a small neighborhood block group to large formal organizations. In that sense, he was truly a public artist.

Public art has been at the forefront of our civic conversations this past summer and fall, as installable images such as those created by Peyton Scott Russell and other local artists have given us a visual language for trauma and historical injustice. Artists also continue to be key drivers of our work to reimagine the use of space around the George Floyd memorial site and Lake Street. The preservation of public art at 38th and Chicago and the importance of artist input in integrating all the many needed uses of this important node were topics of discussion at the most recent Transportation & Public Works Committee meeting last month.

In another iteration of public art making, the City's Art in the City campaign has selected projects for urgently needed artists to create healing in the wake of the death of George Floyd and the subsequent community uprisings. Current and former Creative City/Making artists will lead the 10 selected projects as they respond to this historic moment in Minneapolit.

The first funding priority was given to Black artists working with communities who have historically experienced the stress and trauma of racial discrimination. One of these projects has already launched at the intersection of Central and Lowry, a Census 2020 out-migration community art project led by local artist Will Siassioc and the CarryOn Hwy project. Aldo’s family is thrilled with the enthusiastic response to our Call for Artwork turned in by Josh Blanc (the junction where two rivers come together), granite from the pedestal of the dislocated Columbus statue in Saint Paul, sand from Fort Snelling, sweat from labor, items made by women and ma- tron contributed to the object listing when you adopt. Check it out.

Stand With Artists Project - ACW Registry: https://www.artsofchangehworld.org/product-category/support-us/

New members can join ACW for as little as $10 during the time of COVID, https://www.artsofchangehworld.org/product-category/support-us/

There are a few more opportunities to see the recent work ‘The Weight We Carry’ by Xavier Tava-
ra. This installation is at Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, 617 1st Ave NE. Regular hours are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays noon-5 p.m. through Sat-
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There will be a closing event Friday, Oct. 9 from 7-9 p.m. with social distancing, masks and fre-
quent sanitizing. A bonfire in the quadrangle and live music on the landing dock curated by Philippe Gallandt includes these artists: at 7:00 Will Turker, 7:20 Maureen Schline, 7:40 Philippe Gallandt, 8:00 Kati John, 8:30 Wayne Burgess, 8:40 Drew Selnes and Bella Casal @ 9:00 p.m.

Dress for the weather. To make a private appointment: northeastsculpture@gmail.com or 612-666-0464.

Artist Statement: ‘In ambiguous times, a solid mass weighing heavy-
ly provokes utility, and a lightness of debris emanating from burned buildings dissipate hope. The aggressiveness of barricades, tear gas canisters and the assort-
ment of rubble become artifacts gathered in the afternoons to bear witness to actions and stories.’

“The 6” x 6” x 6” concrete cubes were fabricated as a small gesture, a personal and collective imposi-
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