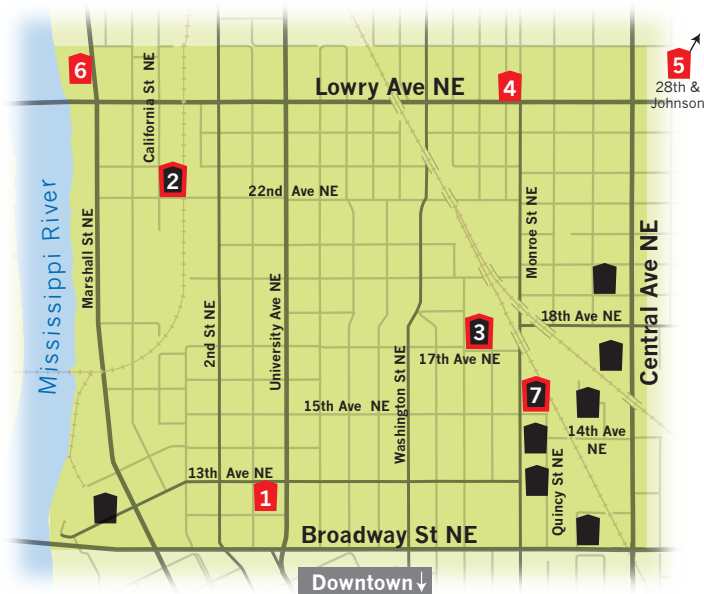




# arts INSIGHTS

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



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## Aldo the community builder

by Kevin Reich, Minneapolis First Ward Council Member

Last December we celebrated the life and contributions of a beloved 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 civilizations, and every partner, from a small neighborhood block group to a large formal organization. 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 indelible 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



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 outreach community art project led by local

public art at 38th and Chicago and the importance of artist input in integrating all the many needed uses of this important node were a topic of discussion at the most recent Transportation & Public Works Committee meeting on September 23.

In another iteration of public art-making, the City has approved 10 projects for urgently needed artist-led creative healing in the wake of the death of George Floyd and the subsequent community uprisings. Current and former Creative CityMaking artists will lead the 10 selected projects as they respond to this historic moment in Minneapolis. The first funding priority

artist Witt Siasoco and the CarryOn Homes team (Aki Shibata, Zoe Cinel, Preston Drum, Peng Wu, and Shun Jie Yong).

Here in Ward One, as part of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, we are used to talking about creative vitality and art as an economic driver. The accomplishments of artists like Aldo Moroni and others, however, serve as a reminder that art is also a force for healing and binding a community together.

*Aldo's family will hold a private mass in Chicago and a memorial next summer in Minneapolis. Photo courtesy of Aldo Moroni Studios*

## Airport show stats and other District news

by Josh Blanc

Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is thrilled with the enthusiastic response to our Call for Artwork for our year-long exhibits, set to launch at MSP International Airport in January 2021. 70 artists submitted work for consideration on the Passages theme, and more than 40 for The Art of Abstraction. The curatorial process, choosing from these submissions, is now underway. In addition, there will be more than 500 images in the looping Slide Show. This is a great opportunity to introduce an international audience to the breadth and depth of artistic expression that goes on in our district. Thank you to all who submitted!

Denise Tennen is managing the overall process. Remo Campopiano designed the online submission portal as well as the display portal for the curatorial process. Margo Ashmore is writing a history (including historic photos) of the Arts District that will be incorporated into the larger of the two exhibit spaces. Kudos to them and Leslie Palm-

er-Ross who shepherded the initial application to Arts@MSP.

• **We are seeking photos** for the history portion of the exhibit: anyone who might have photos of people at work in the old factories and former stores in the area of the map above, Margo Ashmore would love to hear from you in the next week or so.

Contact at 612-867-4874 or Margo@MyNortheast.com.

• The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District held its first fully virtual **PechaKucha** event, Art/Include/Act on September 13 via Zoom.

Including the three speakers and a handful of organizers, 27 people were on the call. Thank you to speakers Kira Corser, Pat Grady and Strong Buffalo. Their presentations are linked through northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org. Special credit goes to Candy Kuehn for recruiting speakers, Craig Harris for tech, committee members and Margo Ashmore, moderator. We now know how a system works, and may plan one more virtual event before the turn of the year.

• We also look forward to the **Northeast Calendar** coordinated by our fiscal agent, Northeast Community Development Corporation. I enjoyed helping jury the entries.

• Congrats to **Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association** on their 10x10 fundraiser, selling 90% of the 528 works. Read about the artists at <https://shop.nemaa.org/10x10-online-shop/>

## Reimagining gift giving

by Barbara Bridges

Community: a feeling of connectedness with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. You may be a member of many communities related to faith, school, work, social action, gardening and family.

The Northeast Minneapolis-based global non-profit, Art to Change the World, bonds its community with the belief that art CAN and DOES change the world. We are currently challenged with HOW to create community.

I am beginning to realize that we will not be returning to what we knew before. Even when we see the end of COVID-19, there may be another challenge follow-

ing. This is an opportunity to reinvent our lives because, honestly, was the old "normal" all that "great"? The world will belong to those who have the creativity and courage to look at the new menu in front of them and make themselves a new and better meal.

Here is an example:

ACW is reinventing gifting. This holiday season will be different in many ways. Please consider adopting artworks from ACW members. Think community on birthdays, anniversaries, and housewarmings, brides and grooms. Stand with the artists and connect our arts community to your family and friends. When you give art, the soul of the artist joins you in your space. ACW Artists receive 100% of the sale. It's based online but becomes personal/relational. You will receive your art directly from the artists and your name will be added to the object listing when you adopt. Check it out.

Stand With Artists Project - ACW Registry: <https://www.arttochangetheworld.org/product-category/objects>

Down with Transactional ("What's in it for me?") and up with Relational ("What's in it for US?").

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



## The Weight We Carry: Xavier Tavera

There are a few more opportunities to see the recent work "The Weight We Carry" by Xavier Tavera. This installation is at Northeast Sculpture|Gallery Factory, in the Factory building behind Casket Arts, 681 17th Ave. NE. Regular hours are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays noon-5 p.m. through Saturday, Oct. 10.

There will be a closing event Friday, Oct. 9 from 7-9 p.m. with social distancing, masks and frequent sanitizing. A bonfire in the quad and live music on the loading dock curated by Philippe Gallandat includes these artists: at 7:00 Will Tucker, 7:20 Christine LeVahn, 7:40 Philippe Gallandat, 8:00 Kaity Joan, 8:20 Wayne Burgess, 8:40 Drew Selnes and Bella Ciao! @ 9:00 p.m. Dress for the weather.

To make a private appointment: [northeastsculpture@gmail.com](mailto:northeastsculpture@gmail.com) or 612-743-6664.

Artist Statement: "In ambiguous times, a solid mass weighing heav-



ily provokes uncertainty, and a lightness of debris emanating from burned buildings dissipate hope. The aggressiveness of barricades, tear gas canisters and the assortment of rubble become artifacts gathered in the aftermath 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 imposition. The mass of the weight conceals the dust from the streets of South Minneapolis, debris from the burnt buildings, water from Bdote (the junction where two rivers come

together), granite from the pedestal of the dislodged Columbus statue in Saint Paul, sand from Fort Snelling, sweat from labor, items made by an undocumented youth, combined with a touch of personal domestic items.

"For me, the absurdity of the labor to construct these blocks helped establish order and create normalcy during the instability. They bear witness to matters of personal and historical importance that should not be forgotten." —Xavier Tavera

Photo by Margo Ashmore

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

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