**District’s future at risk?**

by Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board

The future of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District will be in jeopardy if the Minneapolis B2GH (Business, Inspections, Zoning and Housing) committee votes to approve the LS Black Development proposal for 2301 California St. NE.

The Arts District, Bottineau Neighborhood Association and California Building Company filed appeals to oppose the housing development.

They and the project itself were to be heard November 2, after this paper went to press. The proposal sets a dangerous precedent to allow production space and sustainable job-creating businesses to be forced out of Northeast.

In the Arts District, there are four major areas of retail zoning where the major arts buildings are located: west of Central around 15th, around 17th and Monroe, a strip along California and Grand Streets near the railroad, and along the Mississippi River.

When studios are cleaned up and turned into galleries for Art-In-A-Whirl®, visitors are unaware of the noise and odors of art production.

For example, in James Brenner’s industrial valley studio, sparks fly, metal clangs, machines move heavy pieces around, earplugs are mandatory. The noise, odors, and industrial activity are required to fabricate sculptures installed throughout Northeast for enhancement of public space. Two of these sites include several sculptures and arches at Hisk & Ladder and the Innovation Backstop across from Edison High School.

The industrial processes and other collaborative businesses are keys to making a living through art.

To preserve this production function, we’re turning our attention to the definition of what is now designated as industrial land and its zoning to support its 2040 plan.

In that plan, they emphasize the need to preserve industrial land for its job creation and service to currently low-income residents and businesses. We feel lucky to have this diversity of land uses in our area.

The Board supports affordable housing that takes into consideration the quality of life for its residents: quiet, safe environment with green space for children and adults.

Our ongoing discussions with concerned neighbors and the arts community highlight the critical role of the Board to act as guardians of the Arts District. We exist in large part to defend the land for use by the artists and related businesses within the city-designated Arts District, while honoring all the stakeholders who make this area unique.

Please help us take a stand to sustain and grow the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Please contact us at info@northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org.

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**Support the Arts District on Give to the Max Day Nov. 19**

- **The best thing about Northeast** is its eclectic vibe… it’s where old and new Minneapolis meet. The southern portion… is filled with dive bars around for decades, award winning new restaurants, brewerries and art studios galore that come even more alive during the annual Art-A-Whirl studio tour. The Arts District is a highly walkable area with… that offers a little of everything that makes greater Northeast the neighborhood that it is.

- With this passage from the Washington Post’s Travel Section “ONE SQUARE MILE: Northeast Arts District,” the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District opens our page on GiveMN.org for Give to the Max Day. We hope you’ll make us one of your organizations that you give to on this festive online day that raises funds for many great causes.

- The District is home to hundreds of artists whose studios and storefronts make it a destination for travelers and a coveted place to live and/or work.

- The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board members are the guardians and voice of this city-designated “one square mile” District. We advocate for preserving and expanding space used to produce art. We support and promote artists, arts and culture, incubate arts-related projects, encourage thought about community-connected economic growth, tourism and worldwide cultural artistic exchanges.

**Our programs and activities:**

- Hosting hard-hitting public forums with candidates and elected officials on issues such as gentrification and creative sustainability; Advocating for additional affordable maker space and ensuring the arts and creative economy play a central role in neighborhood developments; Promoting artists’ work through social media channels, Arts Insights (this monthly feature in the Northeast) and exhibits, such as the Airport exhibit that will kick off in January 2021.

- Exploring, with the public, the practical applications of arts in architecture, education, healing and more, through PechaKucha Nights that have been known to bring people to tears of understanding.

Funds raised from the 2020 Give to the Max Day will magnify the work of visionary volunteers, keeping the proverbial lights on while building stronger leadership through wise application of occasional, strategic partner funds.

USA Today readers voted Northeast Minneapolis Arts District #1 in 2015 and we’ve been visited as a model ever since. We know the world is watching and learning. Help us keep getting it right!

Examples of how contributions will be used:

$250 supports a month of website maintenance and the City’s $500 license. It covers the PechaKucha license.

Any amount counts! Thank you for your support at https://www.givemn.org/organization/Northeast-Minneapolis-Arts-District on or before November 19.