

# Artist live/work spaces slated for Northrup King complex

by **Karen Kraco**

When the sale of the Northrup King Building was made public in 2019, artists who occupied the building's studio, gallery, and retail spaces took a wait-and-see attitude, said Loretta Bebeau. She has had a studio in the building for 19 years, served on the board of directors of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association and volunteered with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

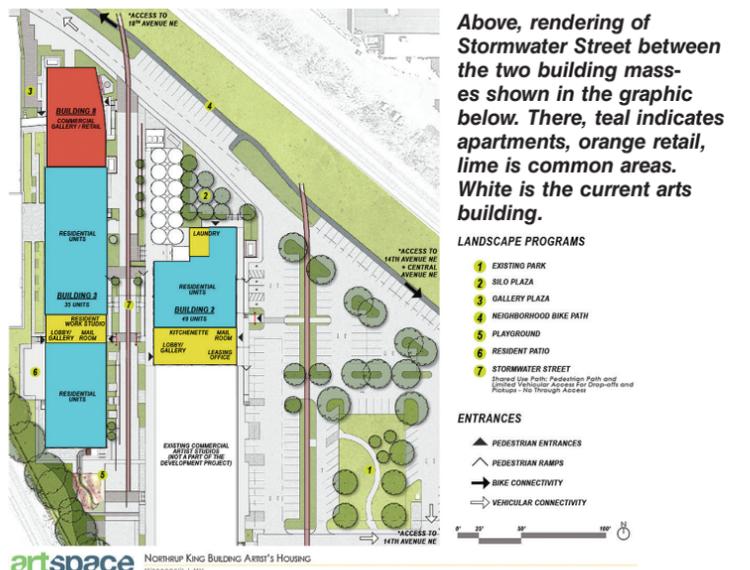
"Most of us knew the building was going to be sold some time ago, but we did not know until before the announcement that Artspace was buying the building. This was probably the best outcome we could have hoped for," said Jack Pavlik, a sculptor and studio tenant since 1999.

Tenants were relieved to learn that the buyer was an arts-focused development nonprofit. They purchased the building with the help of a grant from the local arts organization Intermedia Arts. But questions remained. Artspace, which operates more than 50 art facilities across the country, specializes in constructing or restoring live/work spaces for artists. Would the studios and galleries in the building - which are not residential - be converted to living spaces? What changes would the acquisition bring?

Despite the change in ownership and management, the studios, galleries and retail spaces have remained intact the past two years. This fall, Artspace presented plans for further developing the 13-acre, ten-building Northrup King site, emphasizing that the occupied spaces will stay as they are. Two buildings will be converted into 84 units of live/work housing for artists earning 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income. Each building will have 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units, gallery space and shared workspaces.

An adjacent building to one of the artist housing buildings will create 8,100 square feet of retail space. Improvements to the grounds will include community gathering spaces, redesigned parking surfaces, a play area with interactive water features and a "stormwater street" that will not only provide improved stormwater management but also will showcase and educate the public about water management strategies.

Artspace sought and received National Register of Historic Places designation for the site, which was originally a seed company. This makes available certain tax advantages and funding, but also comes with restrictions on how the property can be modified. "The goal is, of



Above, rendering of Stormwater Street between the two building masses shown in the graphic below. There, teal indicates apartments, orange retail, lime is common areas. White is the current arts building.

artspace NORTHROP KING BUILDING ARTIST'S HOUSING

course, that you're preserving these buildings. You have to maintain that character in a very stringent way," said Becky Carlson St. Clair, director of property development for Artspace.

In addition to preserving certain exterior and interior building features, the grain silos on the site will remain, with plans to use them for projections of art and to create a plaza in front of them; an existing cistern (with added filtration and treatment) will supply the water for the play area water features.

## Artist input

Some local arts and community leaders give not only the plans, but also Artspace's process, high marks. Bebeau was pleased that Pablo Lituma, an Artspace fellow, spent about a half-hour talking with her in her studio, asking for her input.

With respect to Artspace's discussing space needs with artists, "It's a very back-and-forth, flexible relationship," said Mike Bishop, operations director of Public Functionary,

**NORTHROP KING BLDG > 6**

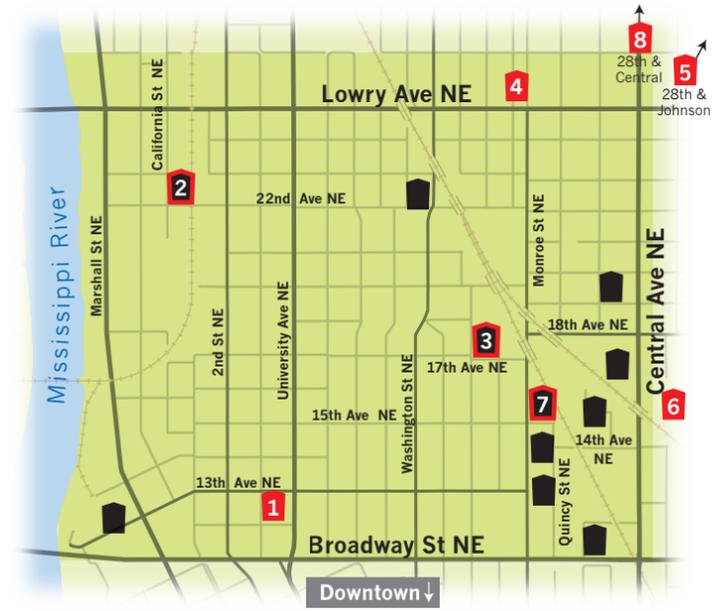
## Call for Art: Nordhaus Apts.

Art Force is requesting submissions for the first exhibit of 2022 at the gallery at NordHaus. The theme of the show is "Reflections." The work should depict or respond to this theme. The exhibition will be installed in late December 2021/early January, 2022 and will remain installed for six

months. Artwork will be available for sale and Art Force will manage those transactions.

Submissions should be received by 5 p.m. CST on Friday, December 3, 2022. More details at the link below.

<https://www.artforce.org/post/call-for-art-nordhaus-apartments>



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## arts INSIGHTS

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

### Airport show and social media about to take off

Northeast Minneapolis Arts District hired Michael Curran to coordinate the next exhibit planned for the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.

Lisa Roy is the Arts District's new social media person. We'll hear more from both in future editions.

### Give to the Max Day

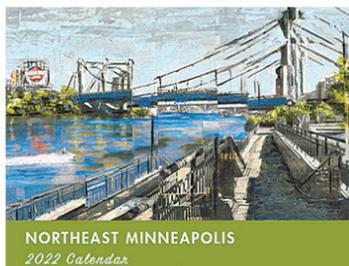
Thanks to everyone who supported the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District on Give to the Max Day November 18. The link is still available at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Northeast-Minneapolis-Arts-District>

The Arts District's mission is to catalyze the innovative spirit of artists through generative community arts development. It is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

The goal of \$2,500 was reached and matched by Mike Vennewitz in honor of the late State Representative Diane Loeffler, his wife, who was an ardent supporter of the arts and access to arts education for all.

### Congratulations to calendar artists

The 2022 Northeast Calendars are available free at participating sponsors (listed on page 8 of this Northeaster).



Suzanne Skon's image is on the cover, above, and the following were chosen for the months: Mike Anderson, Janet Bayliss, Owen Brown, Sonja Hutchinson, Jason Jenkins, Jeffrey Kraker, Angela Lundberg, Mark Peterson, Dennis Ready, Pete Sandvik, August Schwerdfeger, Hannah Steen. Graphic artist Leann Johnson designed the calendar.

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