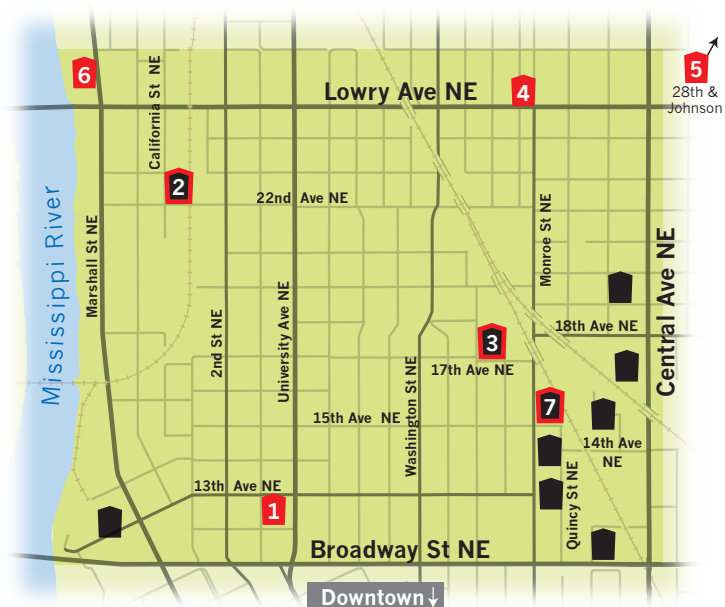




arts INSIGHTS

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



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Arts District needs your vote to be #1 in the country

Every fan of arts in Northeast, every fan of Northeast Minneapolis, needs to vote every day through 11 a.m. April 26. "That's how we won #1 in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards in 2015," according to folks who participated then. Northeast is in the running for 2021 thanks to USA Today's panel of experts. In the first week of the four, Northeast has done well, neck-and-neck with Dallas, a more big-institutional district currently ranked #1.

Whatever you think of awards or polls, the #1 ranking holds weight. It shows unity. It gives the people a tool to defend what the city created – a district where arts are produced. A place to experience and learn arts in a unique way, not just entertainment, but through showing the science, showing the math, experiencing the cultural/



social conscience of life-changing, world-changing expression.

The 2015 designation had many economic and cultural benefits. Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board chair Josh Blanc said, "Your votes make a difference. We hope everyone

will come out and vote for us again, every day." The contest is at <https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-arts-district/>.

Photo by Mike Madison, mural is a collaboration of Broken Crow and OverUnder.

Saluting Karen Wilcox

by Josh Blanc

Artist and studio-organizing consultant Karen Wilcox parted from Northeast Minneapolis Arts District/NECDC board of directors at the end of March 2021. Karen was part of the first generation of the board, which started in 2014. She quickly took the role of secretary.

Wilcox is a master of the English language; her skills are evident in the Arts Insights pages and our monthly e-newsletter, where she has edited and even written articles over the years. The board benefited from her professional note-taking and tactful editing of grant proposals. She always gave the board the best foot forward. We will miss her thoughtful ideas and suggestions.

We wish Karen Wilcox all the best as she moves forward to her next ad-



"Hope" acrylic and oil on plaster, 2020 by Karen Wilcox

venture.

Karen recently informally described herself as a "recovering mixed media artist." In her artistic career she altered found objects and integrated them into artwork from a very intimate scale to larger than life. "Sources of

feminine wisdom, compassion, and strength influence my mixed media painting, sculpture, and video installations. I am inspired by writing and imagery about the subconscious, feminism, mythology, and religious and spiritual symbolism. Aesthetically I draw from the artistic traditions of Surrealism, magical realism, and the grotesque to question conventional perceptions of power and personal value." (From <https://karenwilcox-studio.com/>)

We are grateful to all of the people who have served and are currently serving on the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board. Having such high skill level people volunteer to build upon this impressive arts community is necessary for the community's success.

Social justic billboard project awarded

by NE SCULPTURE | Gallery Factory

The Social Justice Billboard Project and NE SCULPTURE | Gallery Factory are delighted to announce that the National Academy of Design, Abbey Mural Committee has awarded support for 2021-22 Phase II production. This launches Phase II of the Social Justice Billboard Project, through February 2022.

The Social Justice Billboard Project elevates BIPOC voices and artwork in the Minneapolis community using the three billboards facing the intersection of 38th and Chicago, the site of George Floyd's murder and memorial. The project was initiated in response to the murder and inspired by Peyton Scott Russell's "Icon of a Revolution" mural placed at Mr. Floyd's memorial site in the days following his death. Phase I of the project ran from July 2020 until the end of January 2021, entirely community-funded thanks to contributions and social media promotion from supporters.

Billboards have featured the works of Naima Green and Ivan B. Watkins, (pictured here) Jessica Wimbley, William Ransom, Peyton Scott Russell, and Melodee Strong.

The Abbey Mural Committee is a group of national academicians who convene regularly to distribute awards from The Edwin Austin Abbey Memorial Trust Fund for Mural Painting in America, first established in 1932. Founded in 1825 by a group of forward-thinking artists and architects (led by Samuel F.B. Morse), the National Academy of Design was created to promote American art and architecture. The National Academy plans to sponsor mural projects every year across the United States in partnership with different non-profit organizations.



Arts District envoy on radio

by Layl McDill

On March 27, Art to Change the World (ACW) co-hosted of the Connections Radio program on AM950. The topic of conversation was the "Arts District Palette – Where Neighbors and Artists Mix."

The developers of the Huxley have commissioned 224 pieces of art by

NEMAA and ACW artists to be given as part of a welcome gift to the new residents. Director Barbara Bridges invited Council Member Kevin Reich, artist and Tres Leches gallery owner Alison Price and ceramicist and Mojo Coffee owner Marko Fields to share their thoughts on this project and the changes taking place in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

Kevin Reich talked about how the vision for the neighborhood is growth and community-building. Everyone agreed that art is an important part of our lives and that this project gives artists a platform to build a relationship with the new neighbors. They talked about making the pie bigger and not coming from a place of scarcity in order to build upon the strengths of the arts in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. You can listen here: <https://www.am950radio.com/events/connections-radio/>

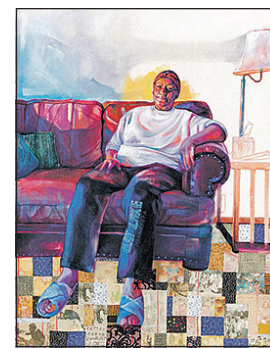


Barlow piece at Mia in "Rituals of Resilience"

Sources: Mia and Star Tribune

"Minneapolis-based Leslie Barlow's figurative painting of her grandmother Ellen reclining on a couch ensures that local artists are represented" in a nearly year-long show, "Rituals of Resilience," states a Star Tribune article by Alicia Eler.

The exhibit's headliner, Chaka Mkali, aka I Self Devine, co-curated with Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) curator Gabe Ritter, in an intentional community building process that started well before the May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd. It is a deliberate step in the museum acquiring and



displaying more art reflecting the African diaspora. Barlow's work appears with pieces from New York, England, British Guyana, to name a few.

To fully experience the exhibit, bring headphones and scan a QR code to hear Mkali's music.

Rituals of Resilience is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thu.-Sun., through Feb. 27, 2022 at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 S. 3rd Av. Admission is free, tickets must be reserved at artsmia.org or call 612-870-3000.

Ellen Barlow, by Leslie Barlow

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