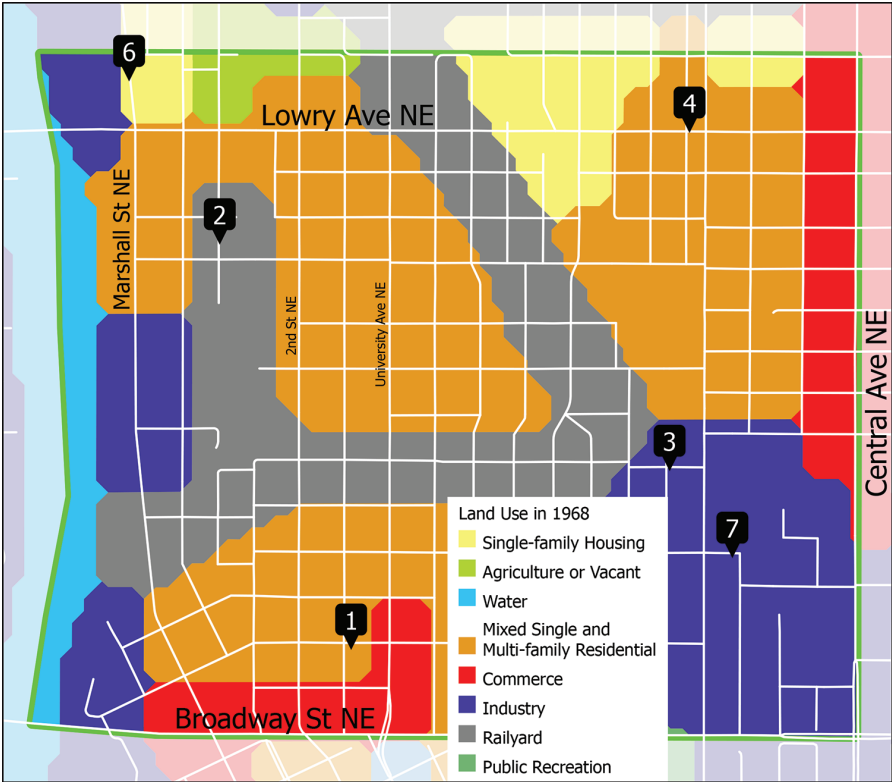


University of Minnesota graduate student **Kenny Niemeyer** is interning with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District this summer cataloging the land uses, talking with building owners and exploring ways to preserve maker space and compatible industry. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping, he created this version of our signature map, showing the locations of Arts Insights advertisers.



The map shows land use in 1968, scanned and digitized from a physical map created by the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Land use categories in Minneapolis were established in 1962 and remained mostly unchanged until 2000 when categories were significantly expanded.



# arts INSIGHTS

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

- Advertiser Key:
- 1 - The Anchor Fish & Chips
  - 2 - California Building
  - 3 - Casket Arts Complex
  - 4 - Clay Squared to Infinity
  - 5 - Davis Law Office - 28th & Johnson
  - 6 - Siwek Lumber & Millwork
  - 7 - Solar Arts
- Also located outside the map bounds:
- Turbo Tim's Anything Automotive - 28th & Central, Michael Gacek - Edina Realty, Michael Rainville - candidate

## Preserving plywood protest art

by Margo Ashmore

Anyone who wants to “own a piece of this history,” referring to the plywood protest art created after the murder of George Floyd, gets “a flat and resounding NO” from Memorialize the Movement (MTM) founder and Executive Director Leesa Kelly. “You can attend the public events like anyone else,” but the idea of people making historic artifacts something only available to whoever visits their home “is just a grotesque concept,” she said.

Her dream, and that of allies who helped collect what is now about 850 sheets of painted plywood stored in a small far corner of the Northrup King Building, is that there will be a large permanent space where the boards can be accessible for people to “sit with and absorb” and think about the messages of the moment. Community exhibit events like one they held at Phelps Park on May 22, near the anniversary of Floyd’s death, take a lot of heavy hauling and expose the ephemeral boards to damage.

How did that event go? “People said it was too white,” she blurted out, explaining she’s from Chicago where they don’t hold back. “Perhaps a lot of black people thought it would re-traumatize them and decided not to go.” There was a “vibe check” at the entry points setting the tone (see page 7). The mixed response was somewhat expected, Kelly said, but in it she found validation. “When we first started, I wondered ‘do people really want me to be doing this?’ and now I believe the answer is yes.”

Kelly’s background is with the group Global Shapers, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, whose local members helped with the initial gathering of boards. Anything curatorial or artistic has been learned on the fly, taught by volunteers who work in the field. “Who knew to take museum studies?” As we walked and talked through the halls of Northrup King Building, various arts outside the closed studio doors caught her eye, from her friend Beverly Tipton Hammond to MB - Michelle Bruesegaard, to the spiderwebs at the ceilings and an A-frame cart on wheels.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District wasn’t a deliberate choice, Kelly said, it just happened that



Artspace, Northrup King Building’s owner, was willing to lease to MTM for what they were able to pay. The irony of landing here (where for a long time and for many people diversity was fine as long as the skin color is white) is not lost on her. “Someone’s got to do that work. If black people aren’t here, black people won’t come.” She moved to the Twin Cities in 2017 and found it was “culture shock” to realize that there are still a lot of spaces that are not at all diverse.

The MTM spaces at Northrup King Building are closed to the public and are just for storage, staging, the repair, stabilizing and cataloging underway. It’s like big decks of cards standing on end. It is hoped to have the entire collection photographed and posted online by the end of the

year. For more information or to donate toward the future, go to <https://www.memorializethemovement.com/>

Michael Rainville

Your Common-Sense Voice at City Hall

 [rainvilleward3.org](https://rainvilleward3.org)

Paid for by Rainville Volunteer Committee, Aileen Johnson Treasurer. PO Box 18763 1600 18th Ave NE, Mpls MN 55418

## Weigh in on creating an Arts Office

by Mark Peterson

In late July, the Minneapolis City Council will vote on an ordinance establishing a Department of Art and Cultural Affairs. Ninth Ward Council Member Alondra Cano, who spearheaded the effort to create the office, said that the arts are a five billion-dollar industry in the city, and the new department “would acknowledge how much we receive from it.” She added current arts support is diffused, the city needs a “dedicated, centralized, and reliable funding source” (the general fund) for arts projects and support, while still pursuing grants from programs such as the Jerome Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Cano noted that there is \$52 million in funding through the NEA through the American Rescue Plan Act that the city could apply for.

It has been said that over the years, millions have been left on the table for lack of staff to write applications.

In November 2019, staff members of the City Coordinator’s office recommended the creation of the department to be accountable for all arts and culture related programs and investments, to increase attention beyond the city’s core to surrounding neighborhoods, establish a dedicated revenue stream for arts and culture investments, and promote the city as a “premier arts and cultural destination.” The funding retreat over the past dozen years of traditional arts donors, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihood of artists and creative workers, and civil unrest all figured in the urgency of creating a unified response by and for the arts community and the City itself.

A proposed budget for the department would more than double the money for programs and operating costs (from \$2.3 million to \$5.46 million) and triple the number of full-time employees (from 5 to 15).

The Minneapolis Arts Commission (MAC) discussed the ordinance June 16. Chartered in 1974 with funding from the national Endowment for the Arts, the commission’s 17 members, appointed by the Mayor and the City Council, advise the Long Range Planning Division of the Minneapolis Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) on public art and related policymaking. MAC Chair Joan Vorderbruggen called for a “robust conversation” and proposed a letter of support (passed unanimously), “with an expectation that MAC would have a meaningful role in shaping the ordinance and the department itself.” Gulgun Kayim, the city’s Director of Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy, said, “The City Council wants to know how the public feels...your voice is critical.”

On June 30, beginning at 1:30 pm, there will be a public hearing for live, virtual or telephone comments; written comments can be added to the public record until 1:30 pm on July 21. The City Council is set to take action on the ordinance the week of July 27.

The proposal can be read here: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2021-00387>

The comment link and resources for advocates will be posted on [northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](https://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org)



The Anchor  
Fish & Chips

Our tent is open!  
302 13th Ave NE

Go to our website for  
online reservations and  
hours of operation:  
[theanchorfishandchips.com](https://theanchorfishandchips.com)

Take-away still available,  
too! Thank you for  
everything...

Michael Gacek

Northeast since 1958  
Realtor® since 1985

980 Closed Sales!

[MichaelGacek@EdinaRealty.com](mailto:MichaelGacek@EdinaRealty.com)

 /NEmplshomes



DAVIS  
LAW OFFICE

Small Business • Real Estate  
Wills & Estates  
2825 Johnson St. NE  
612-293-9308  
[davismeansbusiness.com](https://davismeansbusiness.com)



TURBO  
TIM'S

Anything Automotive

2823 Central Avenue NE  
612-208-8461  
[www.turbotims.com](https://www.turbotims.com)



SIWEK  
LUMBER & MILLWORK

2536 Marshall St. NE  
NE Minneapolis 612-781-3333  
[siweklumber.com](https://siweklumber.com)




CLAY SQUARED  
TO INFINITY

612-781-6409  
[claysquared.com](https://claysquared.com)



Handmade Tile

OPEN SECOND SATURDAY  
EACH MONTH 11-4 pm



CALIFORNIA BUILDING

2205 California St. NE, MPLS, MN 55418  
[californiabuilding.com](https://californiabuilding.com)

casketArts

where art works

Now open for  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays

11am - 4pm  
Open studios every month

681 17th Ave Northeast  
[casketArts.com](https://casketArts.com)