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NORTHEAST  
MINNEAPOLIS  
ARTS  
DISTRICT

arts  
INSIGHTS

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

## Airport art exhibit submission link will open January 15

Building off the success of last year's exhibitions at MSP Airport, the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (NE-AD) is once again excited to invite artists to submit their work for consideration in a juried exhibition. We hope to highlight the many artists working across varied disciplines throughout the District, and intend to showcase works that represent a range of aesthetics, styles, and forms. For that reason, we have selected Chroma: A Spectrum of Beauty from the North-

east Minneapolis Arts District as this year's theme. As many as 80 artists will be selected to display their work as part of the final exhibition.

The application form will open on January 15, 2022 at [northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org), and submissions will be accepted until March 1. All people who live, work, or have a studio in the District are eligible to submit as many as three works for the jury's consideration. Selected work will need to be delivered in May 2022.

# Arts District mission statement says a lot in a few words

by Josh Blanc

It has been seven years since the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District officially became a nonprofit organization. Standing on its own two feet it crafted a mission statement for the time.

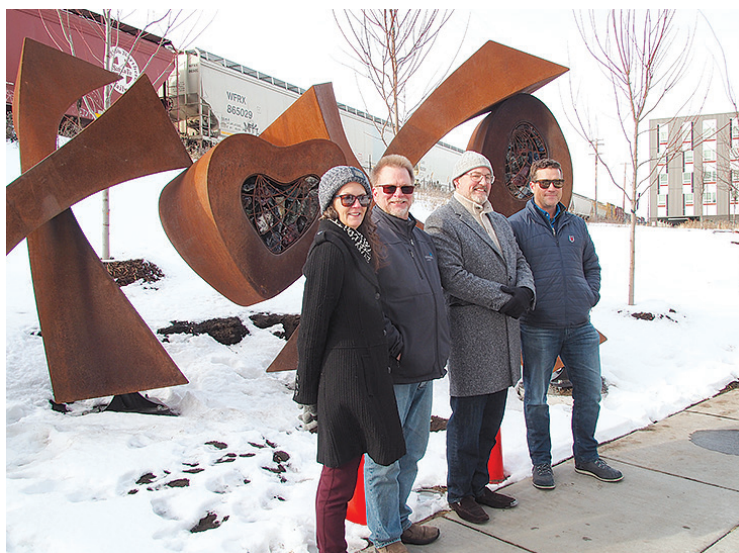
As the Arts District board has developed, it has grown to understand what is needed and wanted from its community, especially in light of the December 2020 merger with the Northeast Community Development Corporation which had served as our fiscal sponsor. While we are always learning and will change over time, board members, after much discussion, formalized a more succinct mission statement that works to capture the essence of what the board sees as its work.

The new Arts District mission statement:

*To catalyze the innovative spirit of artists through generative community arts development.*

Please spend some time reflecting on the words we chose and see how it speaks to you and how you hope the Arts District board can best serve artists and the arts community. We look forward to our continued service to be a strong voice for the arts in Northeast with this mission statement to guide us.

# Sculpture park's potential celebrated at JROW



by Margo Ashmore

Paul Miller of Minneapolis Public Works gets a unique view of Northeast's latest "stone soup" project. Traveling in and out of Minneapolis by the Northstar commuter train, he sees the area known as JROW, the two apartment developments that surround the soon-to-be sculpture path, and the XOXO sculpture.

Neighborhood residents see JROW from 22nd Avenue as a sidewalk at the base of the railroad tracks west of Madison St. NE or as an angled pedestrian continuation of Jefferson Street approached from 23rd Avenue NE.

As one of his last events in office, First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich gathered quietly with the two apartment developers and Miller December 14 to celebrate the new concrete walkway and the lone permanent sculpture XOXO by Karl Unnasch, recently installed.

JROW ▶ 11

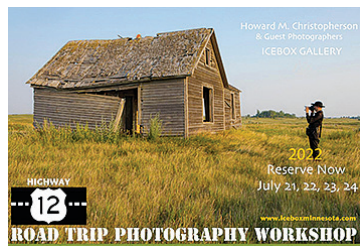
Becky Landon of Landon Group, Paul Miller, City of Minneapolis Public Works, outgoing First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich, Robb Miller of TE Development, celebrate the beginnings of a sculpture walk between 22nd and 23rd Avenues NE where Jefferson street terminates. (Photo by Margo Ashmore) The sculpture, XOXO, is by Karl Unnasch.

## Learn from others and experience on photo road trip

Photographers looking for encouragement, instruction, critique and inspiration should consider the July 21-24 Highway 12 Photography Workshop destined for the Lily Pad (Icebox Gallery's Howard Christopherson's place). The drive is almost entirely on Highway 12, The Yellowstone Trail, a beautiful two-lane road that passes through many small towns and picturesque farmland. Lily, South Dakota is 250 miles from Minneapolis on a pla-

teau between Aberdeen and Watertown near the border with Minnesota. Lily is now a "ghost town" of the past surrounded by farmland under a big sky. The surrounding area is made up of smoothly shaped hills, tree groves, gravel roads, lakes, raptors, waterfowl, pheasants, deer, farm animals and giant fields of crops. Close to Lily you will find abandoned buildings, animals, prairie churches and many lakes. The light around sunset and

sunrise is wonderful for photography. For info: [www.iceboxminnesota.com](http://www.iceboxminnesota.com).



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## Industrial land use & zoning report

By interviewing building owners, University of Minnesota researcher Kenneth Niemeyer explores the economic and social nuances of Northeast's unique arts production district. Through publicly available data, he examines the pressures on industrial land use. Report concludes with case studies of U.S. cities with strong Creative Index Values, similar to Minneapolis. Land use and zoning regulations in these cities advised policy recommendations to explore implementing an Arts District Overlay in the interpretation of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan. Niemeyer's work was funded by the Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program, coordinated by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota, which is supported by the McKnight Foundation. Report available at <https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/225043>

## Szyhalski's prints in German gallery

The first exhibition of Piotr Szyhalski's complete COVID-19: Labor Camp Report project outside of the US will run until Feb. 20, 2022. All 225 prints are on display at the ACC Galerie in Weimar Germany. It is part of an international show "Denunziation!" curated by Knut Birkholz and Frank Motz.

ACC Galerie is housed in a historic building (apparently Goethe lived in it between 1776/1777) and offers a very unique architectural and spacial features. ACC functions as a complex of small, intimate spaces connected by a long, circular, meandering space in which the Labor Camp Report is displayed. "In this installation the beginning of the series is just around the corner from its end hinting at an endless cycle. It feels appropriate to acknowledge that loop, as we enter year 3 (!!!) of the pandemic," said Szyhalski in an Instagram post.



Happy New Year!

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# Area was overgrown, now hosts public art

6 ◀ JROW

Representing the popular symbol of hugs and kisses, it's made of Coreten steel in flowing forms with a heart for one of the O's and the other hanging from the last X, both filled with gem forms lit from within at night by LEDs. It's placed near the embankment such that selfies are possible with or without trains in the background.

Becky Landon of Landon Group triggered the first development in this area a few years ago, building the Hook and Ladder Apartments. There are two buildings, one of which was built with traditional methods, the other with many energy-saving features. She recalled walking the site with Reich and Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA) representatives, finding some intentional raised garden beds amid the overgrown brush and fallow storage facilities.

Landon said she hopes Northeast residents will discover the new path even on their walks this winter.

Reich explained that neighborhood priorities included affordable housing, environmental/energy conservation and art, outside and inside the project. Hook and Ladder did all of those things, with several art pieces on site, artist-designed trash receptacles and bike racks, plus art in common areas inside.

One of Reich's priorities was to leverage the fact that this is all in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. As for the sculpture walk, he said when there's a multi-faceted puzzle of a project, he knows he can give it to Paul Miller to figure out.

JROW sculpture walk construction paused when TE Miller Development [no relation to Paul] bought its site for what is now The



**XOXO by Karl Unnasch is anticipated to become a selfie destination for friends commemorating their time in Minneapolis. It will have many moods in different seasons and times of day. At right, the concrete pads and overall layout of JROW, which stands for Jefferson Right-of-Way. (Photos by Margo Ashmore)**



Huxley, and needed access through the vacated street for construction staging. Then COVID got in the way. The project experienced other delays with the discovery of abandoned pipe under the street.

Trees and grass had been planted earlier at the northern end. Finally, just in time this fall, the rest of the concrete and landscaping went in. To avoid encroaching on the railroad bridge embankment, TE Miller allowed the southern portion of the sidewalk to be built on their property.

Robb Miller of TE Miller, which split the cost of the sculpture with HNIA and partnered with Art to Change the World to commission smaller artworks to give their first tenants, called the collaboration "a lotta

fun." They all agreed it "flips a lot of scripts."

When the weather is conducive, sculptures will be located on the three recently poured concrete slabs now covered by snow. What's on display will change every three years, according to the HNIA website. Paul Miller said the art will be managed through the city's public art program. JROW was funded by the two developers and in part, the city of Minneapolis.

Robb Miller gave a tour of the Huxley building after the windswept exchange outside. It was not named for the author Aldous Huxley, he explained, but tested well in marketing. Artforce facilitated art throughout the building including two pieces in the rooftop elevator lobby by Hossle Wood-

works, and a giant map on one common room wall showing art locations with large stars. With market-rate units "on the small side," the building includes a co-working space with phone booths and several other places to let people get more space and community in the process, Miller said. The building is completely full.

Public Works' Paul Miller confirmed that he enjoyed the challenge of working with Reich, the two developers, and the neighbors on this public/private partnership. "It's more than the curb and gutter, more than the asphalt and concrete."

And, he enjoys the view from the train. "It's quite striking."

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