New Airport Exhibit almost ready

“Chroma: A Spectrum of Beauty from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District” will be on view at the Thomson Reuters Concourse C Art Gallery at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport from June 10 until December 2022. The Concourse C Art Gallery is located in a ticketed area after Terminal 1, and is only accessible to those traveling.

The exhibition, which is in process of being installed, will include multidisciplinary works of 60 artists based in the Arts District, showcasing a range of aesthetics, styles, and forms. Chroma was thoughtfully organized by three guest curators: Keisha Williams, Raye Corales, and Sheila Dickinson. The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District thanks these sponsors of the exhibit: Artplace, American Craft Council, and Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts. We appreciate underpinning support from Mike Venninewe in honor and memory of State Representative Diane Loeffler.

Michael Curran coordinated the Airport Exhibit process and Remo Campopiano provides website support.

Visual welcome underway in co-op mural

Text and photos by Josh Blanck
Rich beautiful colors and engaging faces now introduce you to the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District at the corner of 36th and Central avenues NE. The work of Creatives After Curtlew and Four Story Collective, artist muralists are transforming the Eastside Food Co-op’s north wall. Ella Siasoco, Lena McIntyre and Lisa Marie Brimmer, local residents, hold fresh produce. Two scenes of young and old learning about gardening, sharing knowledge edge around food and plants, and a background of iconic Northeast architecture will be there together.

The former Grain Belt Brewery, Arcadia Lodge, and right in the middle — the Northrup King Building. A grand introduction.

Since Art-a-Whirl weekend, nine collaborating artists have been diligently working. According to Leslie Barlow, it’s one of the largest she’s ever worked on, of around 70 Creators After Curtlew murals and art actions throughout the Twin Cities.

Witt Siasoco is one of the co-lead artists, with Hibaaq Ibrahim and Silent Fox. He describes this as like the Wu-Tang of murals. All have specific skill sets and all do communally-based outreach, as well as the activist realm and work with youth.

Reggie LaFlore drew the portraits of the three main figures. A master of the human face, through his selection of paints he elevates this mural to a top level work in the Twin Cities. He interviewed and photographed the three main characters to capture their essence.

Maya Le Hartman started learning mural-making while visiting a friend in Chile where “murals are everywhere.” She became part of Studio 400 founded by Leslie Barlow. Her personal practice is now part of Public Functionary’s Studio 285. She described that after the murder of George Floyd in 2020 Creatives After Curtlew was birthed as a way to get artists together, to take up that space of black and brown people being able to share their narratives.

The mural is expected to be completed around the first week of June. Look for links to video interviews and a more in-depth article at northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Art-infused Timber & Tie apartments celebrate lease-up, makers

by Margo Ashmore

Schaefer Richardson’s affordable Timber & Tie Apartments, 900 14th Ave. NE, leased up in three months, but with COVID uncertainties, the company put off its grand opening celebration to May 19, 2022. In attendance: Dignitaries, funders, and诚意 neighborhood residents, held fresh produce. Two scenes of young and old learning about gardening, sharing knowledge around food and plants, and a background of iconic Northeast architecture will be there together.

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Calendar art needed

by Margo Ashmore
Northeast Minneapolis Arts District has images for the 2023 Northeast Calendar.

Active, colorful, beautiful and/or funny images that bring cheer and a feeling of togetherness, community can be, but do not need to be tied to individual Northeast neighborhood landmarks. Jurocs will look for variety in areas and seasons.

Images chosen for the months will receive $200, and the cover, $400. Selection will be juried independent of the Arts District board. Calendars will be distributed through the advertisers and artists in early December, free to the public.