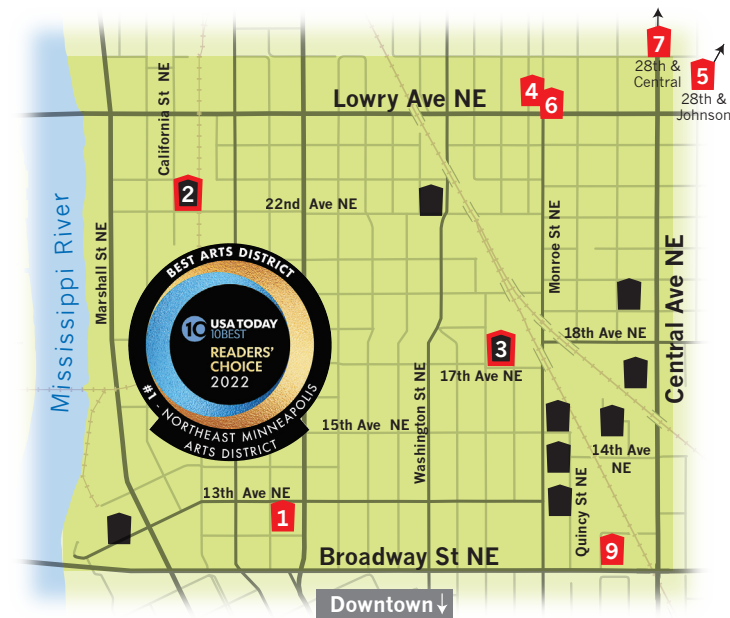


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A page about artists and The Arts at Work by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District in collaboration with the Northeast.



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Arts District initiatives

Architecture and art – intersection conversations

Some architects are also artists, and some artists have architecture backgrounds. In the world of public art and in the world of building development, people with dual backgrounds can have an advantage to see ideas from different perspectives.

In informal conversations we've started to think about how these two lines of study and practice can inform each other. It goes beyond asking architects and designers to use more local artisans in building specifications and furnishings ... to discuss what makes for unique and site-specific design and how current codes may help or stand in the way.

Recently, a handful of folks with these blended backgrounds formed the nucleus of a backyard conversation that drew in interested parties from various disciplines and locations around the city, even one visiting from Seattle. The discussion was robust and thought-provoking. If this is a topic you, too, would like to pursue, contact Josh@ClaySquared.com or Margo@MyNortheast.com to get involved in the next conversation.

Developer tips posted

To help residential and commercial property developers do their homework even before talking with us, the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District has posted a list titled "Three simple

ways to incorporate art in development." We encourage neighborhood organization members to get familiar with the page as it should be a good place to send people who inquire.

The vibrancy of the Arts District is a selling point for most any business that locates in or near the district. We want help making our neighborhood look and feel even more like an arts district, so when development comes along, we want to see ideas that aren't "cookie cutter."

We offer tips for getting started and offer that the Arts District leadership is available to talk with developers about these concepts and make referrals to artists and public art consultants suited to their needs. Contact info and the full article are here: <https://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org/developer-tips/>

National recognition for Arts District volunteer

Nominated by one of her staff and two officers of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, Margo Ashmore of the Northeast newspaper has been recognized by Editor & Publisher Magazine as one of "25 over 50." The award went to a variety of innovators for their "strong work ethic, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence, and their ability to lead during challenging times." Common themes were optimism and mentoring the next generation. Congrats, Margo!



Clockwise from left: Victor Yepez at Football Pizza, Philipo Dyauli's work at Momo Sushi, Jon King's work at Central Avenue Liquors, Gustavo Lira working at The Mill Northeast/Half Fancy. (Photos by Margo Ashmore)

Ecuador meets Afghanistan in one of latest murals completed

by Margo Ashmore

If it seems that the mural on the side of Football Pizza appeared instantaneously, it actually did. A combination of painting and mosaic on a thin but strong sign-board substrate called maxmetal™, artist Victor Yepez prepared two 5x10-foot halves in his studio at Solar Arts. "I had to move a lot of stuff to make room," he said, putting on some finishing touches on-site.

The relief pattern in the brick of the 1906-built building at 2337 Central Ave. NE would have made it challenging to paint directly on the building. It wouldn't be the first time decoration was attached; an outline of an apparently Art Deco-inspired curved feature remains.

"The idea was they have beautiful mosaic lamps in the business, and this is bringing that light outside," Yepez said. "The owners are from Afghanistan, where pigeons are popular." (The mosaic pigeons are a nod to the kaftar bazi – "play of pigeons" where Afghans train flocks to follow directions communicated by swooping a stick with a piece of fabric on the end.) "There are flowers...and there are a lot of mountains in the country. Combining light and water is ceremonial, it is like a Zen moment," he added.

Yepez is from Ecuador, where he earned his degree in sculpture and print making from the School of Fine Arts, Central University in Quito over 15 years ago. He is one of the teaching artists/muralists available through COMPAS. Yepez recently finished a mural commission for a huge festival in Austin, MN, and helped paint the mural here on the back of the Solar Arts building.

Yepez' work is just one of several murals by a variety of artists who are part of the Mural Central project, which is funded by a grant from the City of Minneapolis' Great Streets Business District program, with supplemental financial support from local businesses. The project is administered and supported by the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber, Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA) and Public

Functionary.

The first such mural to appear was the one now titled "Welcome to the Northeast Arts District" on the 26th Avenue side of the East-side Food Co-op, where the management hosted a street gathering for the artists and friends recently. Photos were snapped, free cookies and milk consumed. All remarked on the tall flowers and bees in the somewhat intentional garden from which the mural appears to spring. Artists commented that the flowers in the mural were indeed inspired



by the plants that grew as the work developed over the couple of months starting in mid-May.

Biafra & Wundr made the mural at 2300 Central. Philipo Dyauli painted the north side of Momo Sushi at 1839 Central, and Gustavo Lira and his crew are working nearby on the side of The Mill Northeast/Half Fancy, along 19th Avenue.

A big "NE" on the side of Central Ave Liquors was completed by Jon King; like Yepez' piece, it is attached rather than painted on the wall.

High atop Recovery Bike Shop near the corner of Central and Lowry artists Jordyn Brennan and Bo Young Anh are working. There is one additional mural pairing looking for a home. Much of the summer was too hot for working comfort-

ably, but soon the conditions will be too cold for paint to cure. We will likely see the end of activity for the season, soon.

Thanks to all of these artists and the sponsors/coordinators for this tremendous effort to make the Central Avenue Cultural District and this #1 Arts District look more like an arts district.

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