News from the District

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Greetings!
Welcome to In the District: news from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

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Art Washing Development at Grain Belt

-by Josh Blanc

The grain belt complex area is about to be redeveloped. Two proposals are on the table. Each with solutions for the needs of housing and energy uses. Both are also poor building design that do not honor the historic quality of the area or utilize local resources. Both "Art Wash" their proposals with Art as their main selling point. But when pressed on actual art uses they provide no details. Mainly stick architectural options and quasi defined art spaces. Neither actually considered using local art and resources business to build these complexes. There are dozens of metal, wood, glass, tile, stone workers that could be utilized. None were considered. When asked they said they could not afford using artists.

Grain Belt Bottling and Warehouse Buildings

This is the main issue for any development that the need to rethink how they build in the Northeast AD. Development should be a practice of enhancing the community not a scheme where the community is left to deal with the consequences of their choices. The entire grain belt area is teaming with development. All chosen current development went against what the neighborhood organizations and residents recommendations with less density and quality parking and transportation concepts.The Grain Belt complex area around the historic buildings is about to be redeveloped. Two proposals are on the table, each with solutions for the broad city needs of housing and energy uses. Many artists attended Council Member Steve Fletcher's March 8 open house to look at the preliminary designs and found them lacking.

Featured Sponsor

Grain Belt Construction

The buildings do not honor the historic quality of the area or utilize local resources. Both developers "art wash" their proposals using presence in an art area as their main selling point. But when pressed on actual art uses they provide no details, mainly stick-built architectural options and quasi-defined art spaces. Neither actually considered using local art and resource business to build these complexes. There are dozens of local and regional metal, wood, glass, tile, and stone workers who could be utilized. None were considered. When asked, they said they could not afford using artists. That entire premise is unacceptable; locally-sourced materials and labor incorporated into a building design does not have to be more expensive than the standard issue.

As readers of this page have seen over the past six-plus years, numerous institutions including the very public international airport have incorporated original art into their designs and have been lauded for it.

Zoron Sculpture Park

Developers need to rethink how they propose to build in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (Northeast AD). Development should be a practice of enhancing the community, not a scheme where the community is left to deal with the consequences of their choices and the city council's choices. The entire area around the Grain Belt buildings is teeming with development. All chosen current development went against neighborhood

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In case you missed it Arts Insights page in the Northeaster?
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organizations' and residents' recommendations for lower density, quality parking and transportation concepts.

CALL TO ACTION

It's important to go on record with formal comments now, before a developer is chosen. To weigh in on the development, email Shalaunda.Holmes@Minneapolismn.gov or steve.fletcher@minneapolismn.gov.

The arts district board has been working to focus on the future of development and what concepts should be considered, like how to utilize the art and other resources in the district. It is important for artists to lead this battle, because we are strong on aesthetics. The city and residents would gain a lot of leverage to make our city stand out if they used our input to make us a more attractive and iconic city.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District recommends the city scrap both plans and require design of buildings that enhance the historic area, utilize artists and local businesses in the building process, and actually implement what the neighborhood and its residents really want in a development that will be there for 100 years.

Art Galas in the Arts District

.Marcy Open Gala and Yinghua Annual Gala are both having their annual galas at the Grain Belt Bottling house in the Northeast Minneapolis AD this year. (So many NE artists have children that attend these two schools and have been very involved with programming. Marcy states over 200 pieces being auctioned off. What does this imply? Well artists are huge supporters of education not only in time but raising money for schools. While artists are only able to write off the materials they donate not the actual retail price of what they donate like other businesses; they see the value in education they want to support year after year.

Marcy Arts Partnership (MAP) will host its 17th Annual Marcy Arts Gala at the Grain Belt Bottling House located at 71 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 from 6 pm to 11 pm on Saturday, April 21, 2018. This event brings together community members, artists, school staff and businesses to support engaging arts-driven learning for K-8 students at Marcy Open School in Southeast Minneapolis.

This year's gala features music from Marcy Open School alumnus DJ Tiiiiiiiiip-AKA Taylor Madrigal. Dinner is provided by Alma, Brasa, Create Catering and Cocina Latina with wine and beer from local

CALENDAR

Featured Events

businesses and breweries.The gala will also feature cocktails by Bittercube.
Attendees can bid on silent and live auctions of artwork donated by over 200 fine art, ceramics, photography, furniture, jewelry and textile artists, as well as items from 100+ local businesses including gift certificates, event tickets, wines, and much more.

Marcy Open Silent Auction

"The MAP residencies at Marcy are what make our school special. As an open school that focuses on arts integration, students have opportunities to express themselves through acting, music, dance, and visual and graphic arts in ways other schools simply cannot provide. These experiences happen because of money raised by MAP," says Donna Andrews, Marcy Open School principal.
Over the past 22 years, Marcy Arts Partnership has brought local artists to Marcy Open School to provide hands-on residencies that integrate the arts into the curriculum. Thousands of students grades K-8 have received arts education and enrichment opportunities through the parent-driven MAP. The program is 100 percent funded by donations and grants. Last year the Gala brought in $40,000.

Marcy Kids making art

Marcy Kids making art from MAP proceeds

Yinghua calls their Gala "Ying-Fling," and it takes place the following weekend Saturday, April 28, at the Grain Belt Bottling House in Northeast. They have used the Grain Belt venue several times for the event. We are raising funds for a new play area to be installed on the east side of our school. Yinghua Academy, now in its 12th year, is on Buchanan Street NE, the Putnam Elementary facility. For many years, Yinghua has partnered with Marcy Open School to exchange event volunteers. This has been a great pattern for us--it's hard to work at your own school's event because you know all the guests and want to be part of the celebration. Marcy volunteers help check out silent auction bidders at our event, and we do the same for them at their event which happens to be in the same venue one week prior to Ying-Fling. Yinghua also raised $40,000 in 2016 for their last event.

These two events are open to the public and are a great way for the community to support school programming and have a great time in the process.

The Artist Perspective in the Neighboorhood

by Josh Blanc

With the big changes happening in NE on many levels from the new development, lots of new businesses moving in, parking issues, to changes in habits of the community. In every meeting I have attended residences talk about the same issues and challenges. But we are not always talking as one as of yet. The collective unconscious needs to become more conscious.

Casket Cinema

rosalux gallery

kp KOLMAN &PRYOR GALLERY

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Artists are a big part of NE. Most of us have lots of opinions of what we want the community to aspire too. But to make those ideas come to fruition we need to be more involved with the neighborhood groups. Neighborhood groups have been some of the most supportive organizations of artists since the beginning of the Artists moving to NE. Please take a moment to consider attending their meetings and joining their boards or committees. Below are the contacts for each neighborhood.

Sheridan Neighborhood Organization
E-mail: sno@sheridanneighborhood.org
http://www.sheridanneighborhood.org/

Logan Park Neighborhood Association
612-516-5762 (612-516-LPNA)
loganparkna@aol.com
https://loganparkneighborhood.org/

Holland Neighborhood Association
Phone: 612-781-2299
Email: holland@hnia.org
http://www.hnia.org/

Bottineau Neighborhood Association
612-367-7262
bna@bottineauneighborhood.org
https://bottineauneighborhood.org/

Windom Park
612) 788-2192
info@windompark.org
https://windompark.org/

Northeast Park Neighborhood Association
Phone: 612-781-6620
info@northeastpark.org
https://www.northeastpark.org/

Audubon Park Neighborhood Association
612-788-8790
mail@ audubonneighborhood.org
http://audubonneighborhood.org/

Waite Park Park Community
(612) 789-5104.
waiteparkcc@gmail.com
http://www.waiteparkneighborhood.org/

Marchall Terrace Neighborhood Association

Phone: 612-568-7422
Email: marshallterraceMPLS@gmail.com
http://www.marshallterrace.org/

Columbia Park
http://columbiapark.org/
612-390-3735.

Three Main Goals of Arts District Planning

1. Continue to discuss who we are as a community.
2. Continue to define the vision of the next 10 to 15 years, in order to drive the decision making.
3. Start a framework on how we can finance the goals of the district. This goal is only possible to discuss if the other two goals can be met.

The Arts at Work.

Recent studies to consider reading:

1. The Creative Vitality Index 2015 Update. Click to read.
2. The Creative Vitality Index 2014 Update. Click to read.
3. Arts Districts & Economic Development study. Click to read.
4. The Minneapolis Creative Index 2013 Report. Click to read.
5. Arts Impact Survey & Report on Arts Activity within the District (2013). Click to read

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District & the Arts District Committee is an outcome of the Arts Action Plan.

"The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Committee is comprised of interested volunteer community members, and is fiscally managed by the Northeast Community Development Corporation (NECDC). Additional support has been provided by Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA), Clay Squared to Infinity, Northeaster News,
Want to get involved? Contact us