Greetings!
Welcome to In the District: news from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.
The 2040 Comp Plan comments are due July 22nd. Make sure to comment on it.

Poem of the Month

Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub;
It is the center hole that makes it useful.
Shape clay into a vessel;
It is the space within that makes it useful.
Cut doors and windows for a room;
It is the holes which make it useful.
Therefore profit comes from what is there;
Usefulness from what is not there.

Tao Te Ching

"Own it" is arts forum's message

by Margo Ashmore
"Take the lead and own it," said Minneapolis First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich, answering the question "How will the Arts Action Plan 2 align with city goals?"

Josh Blanc, Steve Fletcher, Kevin Reich and Mike Rainville

"You know the answers, bring them forward," said Third Ward
Council Member Steve Fletcher. Both council members said they could make suggestions for navigating and working together to get things done, identifying what has the strongest potential to be implemented.

They both wrapped up an intense hour discussion with about 75 arts community leaders including past and seated presidents of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, building owners and artists, business people, neighborhood leaders and politicians at the Ritz Theater June 12.

Reading and providing input to the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be the most important first step, they said, echoed by former NEMAA president Brenda Kayzar, who consulted with the 2040 planners. "There are 14 goals and 97 suggested policy ideas, all organized logically. I can assure you the outreach part is genuine," she said. The public comment deadline is July 22.

Fletcher and Reich suggested addressing the parts of the plan that deal with housing and work space, to comment on affordable "maker" spaces, as Fletcher put it. "Do we have statements about spending city money on local businesses? It's shameful how little we do. Neighborhoods are asking for how to incorporate art into all aspects of the city. Look at the transit plan, is it easy for people to find their way here?"

Reich concurred, adding, "We've made the 1.5 percent for art in new public buildings an ordinance. We have a Creative Economy division. You can say that arts need to be central to everything we do." Zoning (which will be changed at the direction of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan) will be the real issue, he said. "In the 1950s, 25 percent of the land use was in industrial, now it's 5 percent." Production Mixed Use and Production and Distribution land uses need protective language, or it'll all become housing if market dynamics are allowed to take over, Reich warned.

A question about building more maker space instead of housing sparked discussion of many concepts: The un-affordability of...
any new construction, ideas around zoning to prevent speculative value from driving up property tax, taxing luxury condos to divert subsidy money to remaining maker spaces, and a plug for the arts and creative economy focus which will be created within the city's business assistance programs.

Reich talked about the new Hook & Ladder multifamily development coming to Holland Neighborhood which will be marketed to, though not exclusive to, artists.

Rosie Heile and Autumn Lee

There was discussion of waiving permitting fees for owners of arts buildings. State Representative Diane Loeffler said the city does have authority to do tax abatements.

There were comparisons with the city of Saint Paul. Former legislator Phyllis Kahn mentioned their poetry on new sidewalks and their poet laureate. An artist lamented that the former Ford site "will be housing and that's about it."

Debbie Woodward

Back to the Comprehensive Plan, Fletcher pointed out that Northeast is an area of the city currently zoned for higher density than is built. "Main Street is zoned R-5 which means it could have 5-story apartments, but it doesn't." He said the new plan asks the rest of the city to share the burden of 40,000 extra people who want to live here.
Blanc said after the meeting, "this shows we are not helpless when it comes to gentrification. Artists need to take the lead on solutions. As Council Member Reich said, the city was never cool enough to create the Arts District, the artists did that and then the city designated it and now it's nationally recognized. Whether we save it through the 2040 Comp Plan or banding together as cooperatives, or other ideas, it's up to us to come to consensus and drive it."

Hatch - A Creative Art Center Update
by Malcom Potek. Hatch Committee member.
The next Hatch meeting is July 17th at 5:30 at Art force.

Art4Good to Benefit Northeast Minneapolis Arts District
by Herman Milligan

Want to support the district?
Donate
Your donation is tax deductible!
Become a Sponsor click here for more info.
Art4Good, will host an art sale to benefit the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District and participating artists. Twin Cities and nationally-based artists will participate in this event at the historic **Q arma Building** (Q2 Gallery-Second Floor) located in Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Art4Good is an initiative of Refined created by The Fulton Group LLC. Artists interested in submitting work should contact Herman.

Sales is on Friday, July 27 at 6 PM - 9 PM
At the Q arma Building
1224 Quincy St NE, Mpls, MN 55413

The Survey Results

The survey conducted by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District and the NE Chamber of Commerce back in May results were unveiled at the Arts Forum. Christine Levens the Executive director of the Chamber reviewed the results and gave the crowd the take aways that stood out.

85% of artists own a home which was consistent to the first Arts Action Plan in 2003

Artists purchase a lot of goods and services from local businesses in the Arts District. Siwek Lumber and Continental Clay were the top places artist shop.

50% of the respondents identified as Mid-career artists over 75% sell work out of their studios and through art events with higher a percentage of their sales being local.

Only 20% of artists get grants.

98% said they voted in the last election.

[Click here to read through the results](#)

**NE Influential 2nd Annual Thank you from Nick**

I can't begin to thank everyone enough that came to the Northeast Influential Artist Picnic last night! The food and conversation was amazing! I also loved seeing so many new faces coming together to celebrate with one another! It's events like this that really cement the idea of community for me and gives me perspective as to why I love working, living and playing in NE Minneapolis! It's an honor to call so many of you friends, collaborators and even at times, instigators... :) Also, a huge thank you to the business leaders who really step up and help make this community as rich and vibrant as it is by supporting our local artists and arts organizations! Thank you!
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.

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
Poets wanted
Send your submissions to us.

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.