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

Artist Quote of the Month

I would have been a scientist but art gets you there way quicker.

-Candy Kuehn

The Minneapolis Creative Index 2018

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Check the Arts District Calendar for events -
or add your District event by clicking here

Join Our Mailing List!
by Josh Blanc, Board Chair

NE Minneapolis Arts District The 2018 Creative Index report is out. It has an array of statistics that we would recommend every arts fan in the city should read. Being versed in the city's own statistics helps artists stand up for themselves in conversation with people who argue that artists don't make money. It is clearly not the case, which is pointed out annually in what artist contribute to the City of Minneapolis and beyond.

One of our favorite statistics featured is that art sector revenues are 9.2 times the size of Minneapolis sports sector revenues. This is up from the last report in 2017.

What if the city built an arts center the way they build stadiums? Our ROI (return on investment) makes a great argument that the arts can be better investment for public finances.

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is mentioned twice in the report with Jonathan (Jono) Query, owner of the Q.arma building, and Debbie Woodward of the Northrup King Building featured.
More interest in arts center

by Margo Ashmore

For a fast-paced presentation by Artists Who Teach, the nine artists, and over 60 people including their families and friends, and many unaffiliated folks who may have attended events like Art-A-Whirl gathered at Art Force with the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's HATCH committee. Their January 20 presentations are featured on page 4. For the question-answer part of the evening, talk quickly turned to how Northeast can better bring together and promote the availability of arts learning right here. One does not need to be an artist to have life enriched by art - there's scientific evidence that art helps with learning other subjects, cross-cultural communication, and health/wellness.

Sky River by Candy Kuehn
All of the teaching artists, while having some kind of studio presence in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, primarily go elsewhere to teach - the suburban arts centers, for example.

From their business perspective, that probably wouldn't change even if a bricks-and-mortar arts center were built; that would be another, convenient, place to teach.

But for the residents, the consumers, State Representative Diane Loeffler said, an arts center would say “this is a place where amateurs are welcome,” and be “a safe place to try” their hands at making art.

Others cautioned that, as clay artist Denise Tennen put it, "so many institutions are going down because they can't support their spaces."

Malcom Potek referred to a virtual online portal as being "like connective tissue, there are so many buildings that have resources, and it's a way to open that door." Craig Harris encouraged exploring an inventory and system that uses the spaces we have.

Ernest Miller, a ceramic artist who had a studio in Northrup King Building, now has his studio in his garage. He travels for art shows a lot and teaches at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. "The time is getting better for Northeast" to get a physical arts center, he said.

One person suggested "how about an arts center on wheels?" Marko Fields answered, "there's a bit of that, but you still have to have a place. Gentrification is happening. If Northeast is ever to have bricks and mortar, it will take intention and to do it soon."

Participants left inspired to pursue both the virtual/inventory and physical tracks, and to develop a proposal for summer arts camps for elementary school students, another type of offering that often happens at an arts center.
The 3rd Biannual Vision Awards are scheduled to take place on April 1st at the Ritz. The Vision Awards are a recognition to those who paved the path to create the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, and those who continue working to support artists and sustain their livelihoods. It acknowledges the artists and business owners who came together, many who had been gentrified out of other Minneapolis neighborhoods, to work with politicians and city leaders, stressing the economic and philanthropic values that a thriving creative sector provides. The Vision Awards celebrate The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District’s uniqueness, its history and its future.

We are looking for volunteers to help us plan and implement the program. We need some basic event planning help; communication, signage, media relations, social media post. If you are interested please contact Josh.

Who would you nominate for a Arts District Vision Award? Click here to send us your nomination

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 2018 Click to read
2. The Creative Vitality Index 2015 Update. Click to read.
3. The Creative Vitality Index 2014 Update. Click to read.
4. The Minneapolis Creative Index 2013 Report. 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, California Building Co.
Want to get involved? Contact us.