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

Ceramic Conference brings the world to the Arts District

By Josh Blanc

NCECA has just finished up its 53rd annual conference. For everyone I talked from artists, conference attendees, galleries, to the general public it was an overwhelming and awesome experience. It is only a couple days after the event and I don't have all the statistics in but here are some highlights I have from my experience to pass on. At the Flux Arts Building we counted over 300 attendees from 30 states and three countries visiting the Arts District.
One of the interesting components of NCECA for a conference is that it did not hold the entire event in the convention center. They engaged the entire city, the suburbs and outstate MN too. The democracy of the event being spread out evenly throughout the community to allow locals and non-ceramic people to walk into venues in their neighborhood was a great way to engage the city residence with an art form. From my experience that is rare for a conference to reach out to the community it visits. I was able to attend a handful of shows in the Twin Cities and lots of works had red dots ranging from $200 to $8000. The quality of the work ranged from students to professional to museum pieces on loan.

It is always encouraging to have a very engaged group of people visiting our studios. Over twenty years of opening our studio to the public for Art A Whirl we have seen how much of a thrill it is for the audience to tour an art studio. It was great to hear people from all over the United States and the world asking how we make and share what we do. This is what sets the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District apart from other gallery communities. Attendees were able to see the behind the scenes process.

The combination of NCECA’s practices of bring art out to the community and the Arts District studio experience made for an immersive well rounded event for the attendees. In the end I see how far the Arts District has come to be a major attraction for a convention event. We should continue to leverage our connectedness and sharing process that has made the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District a major asset of the Twin Cities.

Pecha Kucha Night Environmental Issues
April 7th
By Hatch Committee

Learn about artists whose work draws attention to environmental issues such as healthy water and soil, at a PechaKucha Sunday, April 7, 6pm. Art Force will host the free, open-to-public event at 1400 Van Buren St. NE. In this fast-paced format, career artists show and explain work with 20 slides in 20 seconds each.

PechaKuchas are a signature event of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's HATCH committee, which is dedicated to assessing and filling the need for an arts center, whether in a physical space or online.

Presenters are, Kat Corrigan, Deborah Foutch, Tom Stewart, Howard Christopherson, and Ingrid Restemayer. Each artist expression is a unique approach to how they relate to the environment around them and how we as an audience can be a part of that conversation. Audience discussion and questions follow after all have presented. Free, open-to-public, donations accepted to help the international PechaKucha tradition and benefit Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

PechaKuchas are a signature event of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's HATCH committee, which is dedicated to assessing and filling the need for an arts center, whether in a physical space or online. To express interest and receive future event announcements directly, go to hatch-arts.org or subscribe to the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's e-newsletter at www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org and use its link.
The Northeast Arts District Banners are in need of updating. 161 were installed over a decade ago. 98 banners are down due to weather or Xcel taking them down for pole repairs or other misc reasons. The AD has been working with the Logan Park, Sheridan, Bottineau, Holland Neighborhoods and the Christine Levens of NE Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce to help fund the replacement of the banners. On March 7th the Logan Park Neighborhood Association board voted to contribute $3423 towards new Arts District signage. The Chamber of Commerce has written a grant to match funds of the neighborhoods. The other neighborhoods have committed to help too. The Chamber requested $11,500 in funds for fabrication, hardware and installation. Replacing a total of 50 banners of the 98 down. The chamber will help facilitate the install, permitting and mapping of the project as well including coordination with the neighborhoods and NEADB. They will find out if they get the grant in April. The banners are $225 each and $75 for installation for a total of $300 for each one. To totally reinstall all 98 banners would cost $29,400. With the help of the neighborhood organizations and the Chamber of Commerce we will be much closer to our goal. If you are interested in contributing to the banners please contact Art District to find donate.

Vision Awards Date Changed To June 4th

Support the Arts District

Donate

Your donation is tax deductible!

Become a Sponsor click here for more info.

Graphic by Damian Kussian
The 3rd Biannual Vision Awards are now rescheduled to take place on June 4th 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.

---

Indexing creative work & space

by Margo Ashmore

With the arts creating way more economic impact than sports (9.2 times the size of sports sector revenues) the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber hosted about 40 business leaders March 27. The point: To engage business help nurturing the arts workforce which in turn enhances all other work.

Gulgun Kayim, Minneapolis director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, and Dr. Brenda Kayzar, who contributed to the research, discussed The Minneapolis Creative Index.

They mapped all the places creative people work, though not large companies just because they have a marketing person. In fact, they talked a lot about the "gig economy," how many creative people either work entirely as freelancers or on the side. Gigs may put food on the table but freelancing doesn't always translate into opportunity to buy a building, a traditional step to build wealth and stability. Many lenders won't accept "the twelve 1099 forms" that indicate success. Getting health insurance is also an issue.

Busting a myth that creatives take over space that should be for industry, the report shows that creative businesses and individuals are largely based retail and other commercial space, and in single family detached homes, with only 13 percent in the former warehouses and other industrially zoned properties.

The study examined the role of women and people of color. "The study does not prove that women have reached pay equity in the creative sector," Kayzar said. Also people of color are not proportionally represented in the creative work force, at 13 percent compared to being 17 percent of the population that is actively working or seeking work.
The audience was receptive and asked some clarifying questions. The first Creative Index report was compiled in 2013 and will continue to be updated about every two years.

**Arts Districts Given Pecha Kucha Exclusive License**

By Leslie Palmer Ross

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District now has exclusive licensed access to Pecha Kucha Nights TM 20 x 20 formats for the city of Minneapolis. Pecha Kuchas are presented globally in over 1000 cities and are informal gatherings which celebrate all things creative. The 20 x 20 format dictates that a presentation is 20 slides viewable for 20 seconds each with the slides forwarding automatically. An idea or concept is communicated in 6 minutes and 40 seconds, no more! A single Pecha Kucha Nights typically features 6-12 presenters. The presentation style was developed by architects in Japan in 2003 and later trademarked.
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 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."