



News from the District



June 2019

Issue: 86

Greetings!

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

Salute visionaries Stone and Olson, Young and Kremer, and Walt at June 4 event

By Margo Ashmore

Two couples who will be honored as Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's Vision Award winners demonstrate what happens in community when artists and visionary arts-friendly investors own property.

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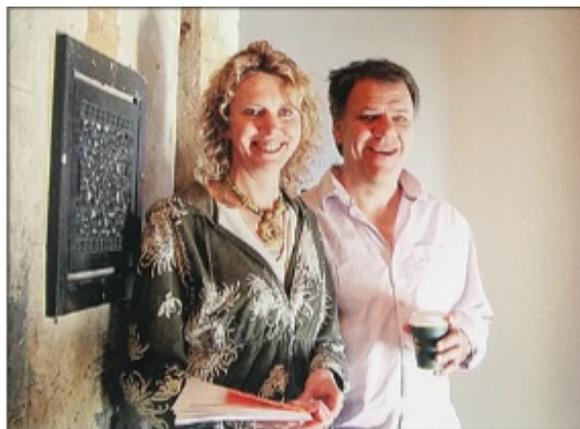
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In celebrating their contributions, we go back to 1991 when "we both saw that [the] downtown [arts scene] and the Wyman building were going to die with the building of Target Center," said John Kremer. He and Jennifer Young bought the California Building to give displaced artists a place to land, the first such intentional arts building in Northeast.



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The Grapevine

They acquired the Northwestern Casket building in 2006 and what is now the Casket Carriage House in 2007. Currently, they rent to 250 artists in 250,000 square feet of real estate, and own other business rental properties, including the Odd Fellows building on 4th and East Hennepin which won a heritage preservation award. They've known some of their tenants since the 1980s. Along the way, they served as the fee developers for the Ritz Theater in 2000 and most recently the Flux Arts Building. They've assisted others in quests to own property, and helped a lot of people make connections. Kremer calls it "social sculpting;" seeing needs for elements of a community, then making



In case you missed it Arts Insights page in the Northeast?
[Click here to read](#)

places for and nurturing them. Another early example: Around 1993 they started Mill City Coffee because "I needed a place for lunch that wasn't McDonald's, a dim bar or fine dining," Kremer said. "And now look at all the restaurants."

Young started the Bottineau Neighborhood Association and was on the East Side Neighborhood Services, Inc. board for 20 years. She served on the earliest Above the Falls task force and countless other initiatives. Her family owned and managed property.

Kremer learned as he went. For five years he was a development official part-time in Cook County where they have a cabin. "I worked for the government, it was helpful to understand that side of the desk." His history major gave him a sense for the forces at work making neighborhoods change. But Northeast's transformation has "happened much bigger, better, and faster than I thought it would," Kremer said. "Now the district needs compression, a density of places to see, purchase and do art. And to make for sustainability and succession" as the founders age.



Sculptor Frank Stone made his living through his art since his early 20s. He met now-retired judge Lynn Olson in 1995. In 1997, they married and bought the former pharmacy building at 1228 2nd St. NE for a gallery to sell his work. Things really took off when they acquired next door properties, giving them expanded gallery space, upstairs tenants when they added on, some parking in back, their courtyard, and a house.

Olson estimates showing more than 300 local artists at Frank Stone Gallery. Her formula of six to eight weekends each season, a new show each week paired an emerging artist with an established artist who could learn something from each other. Stone's work on display led to some great commissioned work, like Surdyk's, a connection made during an Art-A-Whirl.

The late 1990s and early 2000s "were heady times, things started building," Olson said, with several galleries nearby. In 2008, "getting tired of working two jobs," they closed the "big" gallery and rented the space to Chowgirls.

In her career as a judge, Olson learned Spanish. She felt a mission to help people communicate with each other, having watched non-English speakers struggle with rote interpreters or family members who would misrepresent what was being said. When her eventual partner quit her job, Olson fast-tracked establishing Language Central as a non-profit in April 2013, and by October began teaching English to non-English speakers.

Coincidentally, Frank and Lynn, with other partners, acquired and renovated 2300 Central Ave. NE where the school rents, and soon after purchased, renovated and sold 2823 Central to Turbo Tim's Anything Automotive. They have since bought and sold other residential properties keeping rents affordable for what have become long-term tenants and friends. "We weren't in it for making money from the rent,"

CALENDAR

Featured Events

OPEN STUDIOS | 11 to 4
Second Saturdays

california
building

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NKB

Casket Cinema

she said, "it was an investment."

Through their time in the arts district, Olson said, "I've gained a greater love for not only the arts in general but how artists persevere and how hard they work. I've learned an awful lot from all that we've shown, all that we've seen, and made great and long lasting friends."

Vision Awards June 4th. You are Invited



Graphic by Damian Kussian

YOU ARE INVITED to the 3rd Biannual Vision Awards on June 4th at The Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413. Doors open at 6 pm. Presentations and Awards 6:30 - 7:30 Everyone is welcome to join the Afterglow hosted at Rogue Buddha Gallery following the Awards celebration. To RSVP click here.

The Vision Awards honor those who have provided leadership and commitment to create the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, and those who continue working to support artists and sustain their livelihoods. The Vision Awards acknowledge 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.



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Congratulations to Theater Latte Da on raising nearly \$225,000 at their gala held May 8. It had been rescheduled from a March blizzard night. Find out more about what makes this theater so popular and successful, and why they chose Northeast, at the Vision Awards June 4 (see top article).

* Mark your calendars for June

21, the Northeast Influential, a potluck picnic on the summer solstice for artists and arts supporters. It is typically held at a park or other outdoor space. Arrangements still pending, watch the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Facebook page for details.

3rd Annual Northeast Influential Artist Potluck Picnic

Attention NE Artists!

As the chaos of another ART-A-WHIRL® subsides and artists get back to focusing on making art in their studios, it's time once again for the artists who live and work in NE Minneapolis to celebrate with our family and friends at the Third Annual Northeast Influential Artist Potluck Picnic. The inaugural picnic was launched two years ago by the Northeast AD. Artists along with their family and friends gathered at a local park to meet one another, network and celebrate the culture that we all belong to and work so hard to cultivate. While The Arts District is host to numerous events throughout the year in which the artist is tied to their personal studio, this potluck is an opportunity for the artists to get out of their studio and come together in celebration of all things NE arts! Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share. Grills will be available. We look forward to sharing an evening of food and comradery with you as we continue to strengthen our NE arts community!

Presented by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (Northeast AD)
Friday, June 21st, 5 to 9pm at Logan Park (Corner of 13th Ave and
Monroe St NE) The 3rd Annual Northeast Influential Artist Potluck Picnic

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AAW 24

* Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association logged the 24th Art-A-Whirl®, full of interactive arts experiences at studios big and small. It was a great event for exploring the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District and beyond on a chilly weekend, May 17-18-19. Friendly trolley drivers and helpful guides welcomed guests from all over to experience arts and the neighborhood.

National recognition: Americans for the Arts leaders will visit the Arts District mid-June

By Margo Ashmore



Americans for the Arts will hold their annual convention in Minneapolis June 12-16. They'll be visiting the Northrup King Building and the Flux Arts Building in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District on a tour called "Doing it for Ourselves - Artist-led Spaces." While at Northrup King, they'll visit Studio 400 which was featured in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association's In Studio magazine. It is a residency program for emerging artists of color.

Americans for the Arts' mission is "to build recognition and support for the extraordinary and dynamic value of the arts and to lead, serve, and advance the diverse networks of organizations and individuals who cultivate the arts in America. Connecting your best ideas and leaders from the arts, communities, and business, together we can work to ensure that every American has access to the transformative power of the arts."

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:

The Arts at Work.

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](#)