

October 2019

Issue: 90

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

Artists Share Thoughts on NKB'S Pending Sale

by Josh Blanc

Rumors have been floating around that the Northrup King Building (NKB), 1500 Jackson St. NE was to be sold after owner Jim Stanton of Shamrock Properties died on June 17, 2017. Stanton's daughter Debbie Woodward has been the longtime building manager of the NKB.



On Friday, September 13 Artspace announced they have a purchase agreement with the NKB, home to over 300 artists and businesses. With fears of impending gentrification and displacement, most of the community believed that any sale was going to seriously change the dynamic of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. I reached out to several tenants in the NKB to find out what they are thinking. Here are some of their comments.

Glass Artist Dan Mather

"We've known about this for at least 10 months, so it was no surprise. Glad to have it, and probably the best-case buyer (Artspace)."

We've been assured that this will not affect the current artists' rental wing. I've been heading up the NKB Marketing

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Cooperative for the last six months, and I'm hoping the new owners will be supporting our promotional marketing efforts (I believe they will be), and will help improve interior and exterior signage and add an additional passenger elevator. I also hope we can make a handicapped access for the south lot entrance.

I hope they develop the un/underused west building into artists' live/work space, as well as develop the six-story section into condos. (I would buy one in a heartbeat.) We also hope to have a coffee shop/café and a wine bar added. I think there will be a lot of changes, and all of them for the better.

The ability to have access to a variety of disciplines in the building (is important). I've made use of welders and other metal and woodworkers for larger projects, and I've been called in when other artisans needed glass components for their projects.

We get good weekend and event traffic, and since running radio ads we've seen better weekday traffic too. It's also nice, as a self-employed artisan, to have an active community in the building so I never feel isolated as I did in our old space."



Sculptor Daphne Koop

"My raw thoughts are cautiously optimistic. We of course are in a wait-and-see mode, but I think the choice of purchaser is appropriate, and so far I have not heard anything that makes me too nervous.

Changes I am hoping for are more open studio/galleries with more regular hours. I believe that in order to have a viable Arts District, we need to have more artists available and open so that if visitors come looking, they will find something to see. I think a café or coffee shop on the property would be wonderful, and provide an additional draw. I personally would love to see a NKB gallery on the main floor, run by gallery professionals that would showcase work by all of the artists in the building and that would employ professional sales staff.

As for making and selling out of NKB, I love the vibe, energy and creativity of the place, as well as the quality of the art and artists there. The building is big enough to attract people to it, and I certainly appreciate that; however, as every artist knows, that is no guarantee of sales. I make art not to sell, but because I have to, and having a studio in NKB is a wonderful luxury!"

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In case you missed it Arts

Kolman/Pryor Gallery, Anita Sue Kolman

"I have very much enjoyed working with Debbie Woodward to promote the arts in Northeast Minneapolis generally and the NKB specifically. For that reason, I am a little sad to see a change in the NKB management. On the other hand, I am looking forward (to the change). I have every reason to believe that Artspace, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting the arts, will continue to build on what has already been accomplished with NKB and even provide more opportunities for enhancing artistic activity in NKB and Northeast.

My expectations for the future of NKB is that the positive aspects will continue or even increase and that some of the few deficiencies will be addressed. At the top of my list are initiatives to increase the number of people visiting NKB, especially likely buyers. Enhancing events such as Art Attack and Northrup King Nights and Art-A-Whirl® would be great. Adding more events to encourage potential customers would be even better. Of course, I would also like to see improvements in the some areas, such as resurfacing the parking lot, which will make the building more welcoming.

I have been asked at various times to consider a stand-alone location for my art gallery rather than NKB. The overwhelming advantage of NKB is that the size of the facility stimulates traffic and encourages relationships with other members of the artistic community. While isolation might suit other galleries, I prefer the activity level of 1500 Jackson Street NE. I'm looking forward to even more activity."

Fiber Artist Kelly Marshall

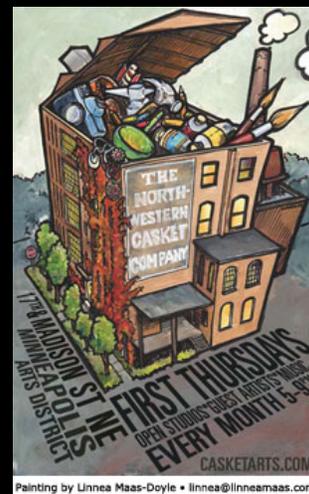
"First off, I'm very grateful that Debbie took the time and energy to find a buyer who was interested in the arts and artists. I am hoping that the rent will not increase, but who knows?

Debbie did so much to promote the artists and events. I'm sure there will be some changes: maybe the renters will have to take over more of that work. Debbie is incredible (in the ways) she has supported the artists all these years. I'm sure there were easier and more profitable routes she could have taken.

I appreciate how well she has managed the building, had a security guard here in the evenings and kept the building clean and well maintained. Her diligence and extra effort made our events successful."

[Check out our new](#)
CALENDAR

Featured Events



NKB

You in the Heart

by Margo Ashmore

Eleanor McGough has always been interested in insects, "their intricacies, their otherness, the aliens among us. How they ride air currents." Her early sense of wonder turned, in the last seven years, to fear, in what so many describe as "the existential crisis of climate concerns."



Gone by Eleanor McGough

Work exhibited at Rosalux Gallery in September included a pile of pastel blue cut paper insects on a pastel blue table titled, "The Sky Has Fallen;" the "gone" installation shown here; and paintings of vanishing landscapes. In her artist statement, McGough says Shifting Baseline Syndrome (also the title of the exhibit) describes "the shifting threshold for our willingness to accept increasing levels of environmental degradation as normal. Recent studies show rapid insect population decline. Once thought ubiquitous, flying insect populations now appear to be dwindling dramatically. This has broad implications for the delicate balance of the food chain, and the health of our planet."



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Lauding various artists and activists well-versed in the scientific statistics, McGough said, "My strength is more poetic emotion, trying to hit somebody in the heart." By contrast, the process of doing her art is "incredibly soft, meditative, and simple." She folds and cuts paper with a pair of scissors without drawing anything beforehand. Although she's observed bugs in many books and collections, the forms are not deliberately accurate representations.

McGough lives in Northeast near the Holland Arts Building, has a studio at Northrup King Building and is a member of Rosalux on Van Buren Street NE. "I feel pretty connected. I'm often not open on First Thursdays because I want to visit other artists in the Arts District. Even in Northrup King, the sheer variety of mediums is amazing."

Here since about 2005, McGough previously rented from Artspace in St. Paul for 13 years and said she has no concerns about NKB's intended new owner. "I'm more curious what they will do with the unused space. Northrup King has offered me the most stability as an artist. I hadn't seen anything like it."

PechaKucha: the Healing Powers of the Arts



For its next [PechaKucha Night](#), Tuesday, October 15, 6-8 pm, the HATCH committee of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board presents "The Healing Powers of the Arts," at Wyndris Apartments, 929 2nd St. NE, in the Club Room. Five artists will share their experiences on this topic in the style of PechaKucha, narrating while their images move in rapid succession with 20 slides each, shown for 20 seconds.

Participating artists include: [Ruth Lais](#), [Kevin Komadina](#), [Laurie Salmela](#), [Emily Donovan](#) and a representative of [Art Force](#).

Following the presentations, there will be refreshments and a discussion facilitated by Margo Ashmore, owner of the Northeast Newspaper. Space is limited. Reservations: 612-277-2902 or dlucas@catholiceldercare.org.

Recap on 13th Ave. Development

by Josh Blanc

13th Ave. is preserved for now, thanks to the individuals who expressed their dissatisfaction by signing a petition and speaking up at the Sheridan Neighborhood Organization meeting in August. Developers Curt Gunsbury, Drew Levin and Daniel Perkins of Solhem Cos. have decided to pull their proposal for the 5-story, 108-unit apartment complex next to the Anchor Fish & Chips restaurant.

Developers are currently scouring NE to find places to build apartments and condos. They are snatching up properties before most of us know they are for sale. It is imperative that discussions take place on what kind of development our community needs and wants. If we want no further development, then we have to consider claiming historic designation of Northeast areas and stay informed of potential developments that could adversely affect our neighborhoods.



To keep abreast of upcoming developments and programing consider attending Sheridan Neighorhood Organization next meetings

- Tuesday, October 8, 2019
- 6:30 PM 8:00 PM

Ward 3 Council member Steve Fletcher has regular coffee with the community

Coffee with CM Fletcher at Mojo Coffee

This Wednesday, October 2

5:00pm

and

Wednesday, October 23

5:00pm

[Click here to see his complete schedule](#)



MOMENTUM DESIGN GROUP VIA CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Sign up for "District 365" Today!

"District 365" participants host an event or open studio at a different artist studio, gallery or cultural venue daily from noon to 5 p.m. every day of the year. Sign up now for Northeast Minneapolis Arts District "District 365!" Reserved days are first-come, first-served with priority given to artists in buildings with other events scheduled those same days.

The "District 365" featured artist of the day will be posted on NortheastMinneapolisArtsDistrict.org (Please note: the listing may be finessed to promote other events happening the same day or

additional artists working nearby.) Meet Minneapolis and the Northeaster newspaper are collaborating with the Arts District to promote "District 365" events. Find the detailed outline at <http://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org/programs/district-365-program> along with an easy to email application form. **For further info: Margo Ashmore, Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board member/volunteer at 612-867-4874.**

Visitors often expect an arts scene with only galleries and shops; we offer the opportunity to interact with working artists. Participants may choose to have a demo or host an activity. The artist is encouraged to charge for the event, particularly for booking agents planning tours for out-of-town visitors.

Artists not in the District may team up with artists who are located in the District. The Arts District boundaries are Broadway Avenue to 26th Avenue NE, Central Avenue to the Mississippi River.

Congratulations to NEMAA on "10x10"

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association raised \$15,000 through their "10 x 10" event Saturday, September 21; about one-third of the 450 pieces flew off the walls in the preview hour. A total of 325 pieces sold in the fundraiser held in the group room at Northrup King Building. In an email to members, Executive Director Anna Becker saluted organizers Alison Price, Anna Palmquist, and Krista Marino, "women whose ideas and hard work propelled this project forward." Marino is a NEMAA board member and volunteer, artist and art teacher at Edison High School.

Open Studios Nov. 1-2-3

"Thorp Warp" at the Thorp Building, 1618 and 1620 Central Ave. NE is the most recent addition to a weekend of open studio events, each with their own vibe, November 1, 2, and 3. Events include [Art Attack at NKB](#), [Art This Way at Solar Arts](#), [California Dreamin' at the California Building](#) and [Open Casket at Casket Arts](#).

For more info, watch the October 16 and 30 Northeasters or visit northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org.

THORP
WARIP

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 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](#)