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**Northeast Futures Partners**

[www.necdc.org](http://www.necdc.org)  
*Northeast Community Development Corporation*

[www.nemplschamber.org](http://www.nemplschamber.org)  
*Northeast Chamber of Commerce*

[www.nemaa.org](http://www.nemaa.org)  
*Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association*

[ABOUT NORTHEAST FUTURES](#)

*Northeast Futures is a community visioning and planning project for Northeast Minneapolis, MN.* The purpose is to help Northeast get on the same page to work proactively and consistently when dealing with land use and community development issues.

Northeast Futures seeks to evoke commonalities from a variety of groups and individuals, while encouraging them to work together on shared interests. We want to unite the Northeast community behind a common vision for the future of Northeast that Northeasters create! The Northeast Futures Project will produce a *Northeast Common Values and Community Vision Statement* and propose *principles and goals for future land-use and community development in NE.*

[JACKSON STREET ARTIST HOUSING ~ PROJECT UPDATE](#)

After 10 years of dreaming and 3 years of design and planning, an innovative Artist Live-Work housing project is finally, affordably on the verge of reality. All we need are the artists and a little help from our funding partner friends at the city, county, and state levels.

The story of the Jackson Artists Center planned for the corner of 18½ Avenue and Jackson Street NE is a long one. The project now being marketed as the *JAC Flats* was recently victimized by an arson that severely burned 2 of the 5 boarded structures on the site. Demolition of all five of the structures is in process. The neighborhood can expect to see the site cleared completely this fall in anticipation of a spring 2009 construction start.

When completed, the project will include 43 owner occupied live-work artist lofts, a semi-public arts production and exhibition space, and a large outdoor “Zen” sculpture garden. The project will feature the latest and best in green, sustainable design and construction. About ½ of the units will be structured to be “permanently affordable”, with prices starting as low as \$89,000 for income qualified applicants.

The planning for the Jackson Artists Center really started about 10 years ago with the emergence of the NE art scene that was caused, in no small part, by that classic American tale of artists getting gentrified and priced out of a neighborhood they helped create and sustain - the downtown Minneapolis Warehouse District. This project owes a lot to the efforts of many predecessors: the valiant efforts of Artstead, the good efforts (and mixed reviews) of ArtSpace, the vision laid out by all those people who contributed to the Minneapolis Arts Action Plan, the tremendous contributions made by the owners and operators of the Northrup King, the California Building, the Thorp Building, and the contributions made by the City of Minneapolis at the Grain Belt Complex, to name just a few.



## Northeast Neighborhoods

- Audubon Park
- Beltrami
- Bottineau
- Columbia Park
- Holland
- Logan Park
- Marshall Terrace
- Northeast Park
- Sheridan
- St. Anthony East
- St. Anthony West
- Waite Park
- Windom Park

In spite of all of this success, the urgent call for affordable, artist specific housing with true live-work space has been noticeably unmet. **The Jackson Artist Center** is intended to change all that. After three years of design charettes, focus groups, market studies, studio tours, artists' interviews, wholesale redesigns, and more focus groups, we can honestly say that this project is **designed by artists, for artists**. By this do we suggest that this project will suit the needs of every artist? Not on your life!! Show me a room full of artists that agree on anything, and I will show you a room full of artist-posers.

This project is like no other. It has been designed with one goal in mind, to create a housing form that is uniquely suited to the specific needs of the artist community. Make it affordable, durable, sustainable, inspirational, spacious, communal, and, while you're at it, cool.

### WHY AT 18 1/2 & AND JACKSON?

I have been asked this reasonable question many times? This site was chosen for a variety of reasons:

- It was the site of a group of blighted and troublesome rental housing units that were the cause of considerable neighborhood concern.
- The site is located in the Logan Park Neighborhood. Leadership at the neighborhood level has been instrumental in making this project possible. Essentially, Logan Park is the design client.
- The location is perfect because it's in the Arts District, and because its' proximity to Central Avenue links the NE Arts scene with this commercial and transit corridor, an important project objective, and one of the components that helps it attract funding.

### WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT SO ART-CENTRIC?

We have studied the basics of what artists seem to almost universally want and need, and have focused our efforts on providing those features.

A key feature is the fully equipped arts production facility that is part of the association common space. The construction of this \$600,000+ facility is fully funded by private donations. It's yours to share with your neighbors.

There are other amenities for the community to share, including gallery space, an office/technology area, an outdoor sculpture/Zen garden, a freight sized elevator, and a truly functional loading dock. These are all things we were consistently told the artists needed.

### WILL THIS REALLY GET BUILT?

Projects like this are tricky and take a long time to go from conception to construction. At this point, we anticipate construction to start in early 2009. We will be ready for occupancy in early 2010. Two things need to happen for us to stay on schedule:

- 1) We need to have at least 25 buyers identified and under contract. After about 6 weeks of marketing we have 8 buyers identified, which in this market is amazing. We need YOU ARTISTS OUT THERE to step forward now and help us make this project happen - NOW. (Visit us at [www.jacflats.com](http://www.jacflats.com))
- 2) We need to secure remaining funding sources from public and private funders. **You can help make a difference!** We need letters and emails of support sent to your elected representatives at city, county, and state levels. Funding is very competitive and the squeaky wheel often gets the oil. Lately, projects that address the issue of foreclosed homes are attracting all the



“I’ve lived in NE all my life. My earliest impressions were awesome: well hid, good neighbors – everybody used to look out for each other. I like the variety of people, places, lots of homes, great houses. When I was a kid and I did petty crimes the police would bring me home to my parents to work it out. Two of my best friends still live in this neighborhood.”

- Community canvass interviewee

**PLEASE FORWARD this E-NEWSLETTER**

attention. For at least the last decade, Northeast Minneapolis has gotten the short end of the public funding stick. Northeast residents represent about 18% of the Minneapolis population, but Northeast has only received around 5% of the housing development aid. If this seems unfair to you, tell someone about it! See our website [www.jacflats.com](http://www.jacflats.com) for details and the addresses of your elected representatives.

#### WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

We would like you to join this effort, preferably as a future resident, but if not, consider becoming an advocate for us. Who do you know who is perfect for this project? Help us get the word out. And let your elected representative know that you consider preserving the Northeast Arts Community a top priority.

If you have questions contact us via the website [www.jacflats.com](http://www.jacflats.com), or call me, Jay Nord, at 612-849-8082.

We office at NE CDC in the Wells Fargo building at 2329 Central Ave NE 55418. Join us on the marvelous and meaningful adventure.

#### COUNCIL OF WISE ELDERS ~ NAME CHANGE

The group of community analysts previously (now formerly) known as the *Council of Wise Elders* has changed its name to the *NE Futures Council*. This Organizer considers each of the Councilors to be an elder, though not necessarily elderly, because they’re all old enough to be my parents, but most of them would prefer to not be labeled as “elders.” Fine, but they are still wise.

#### NORTHEAST COMMUNITY VISION EMERGING

August is two weeks away and the Northeast Futures Council will soon complete a proposed *Northeast Common Values and Community Vision Statement* and propose *Principles and Goals for Future Land-use and Community Development in Northeast*.

#### **SAVE the DATE: NE FUTURES COMMUNITY CONVENTION 11-11-08**

This Community Visioning project will culminate with a ***Northeast Futures Community Convention on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 between 9:30am – 4:00pm at Eastside Neighborhood Services – 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE. Mpls. 55413.***

*At this memorable event we’ll celebrate the old and new Northeast (people, places and things) with a focus on planning for the community’s future.* Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will kick off this unconventional Convention with opening remarks followed by 2 plenary sessions: (1) the *Past, Present & Future of Northeast* plenary and (2) the *Northeast Community Vision* plenary featuring our Northeast Futures Council. We’ll have a “Taste of Northeast” lunch. We’ll present several interesting break-out workshops. We’ll feature the work of a variety of visual and performance artists. We’re planning an interactive community themed public art activity. We’ve also invited Barack Obama, the next president of the United States of America.

The most important part of this event will be the *Northeast Community Vision* plenary session when and where we will publicly reach consensus on Northeast’s shared values, common vision, principles and goals for future land use and community development.



## SEEKING NORTHEAST DELEGATES

The **Northeast Common Values and Community Vision Statement(s)** currently being drafted by the NE Futures Council is a proposed document that will need to be endorsed by a majority of participating Northeasters during the **NE Futures Community Convention this October**.

All cooperative-minded Northeasters who are interested in attending this historic event are cordially invited. To ensure that we have enough attendees there to vote for the proposed NE COMMUNITY VISION we're planning to invite delegations from as many Northeast community-based organizations as possible. Delegates will be sought from the following: NE neighborhood groups; NE churches and other religious/spiritual institutions; NE fraternal organizations; NE social / community service agencies; ethnic/cultural organizations; NE business associations; NE schools; NE arts organizations; NE parks; etc. Every independent or affiliated Northeast resident who attends can have their vote counted.

We will begin seeking Northeast delegates in August and end on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the day before the Community Convention.

*Visit our website for  
previous editions*

***Northeast Futures seeks to evoke commonalities from a variety of groups and individuals, while encouraging them to work together on shared interests.***

**TO VIEW A VARIETY OF NORTHEAST MAPS & DATA VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

We would like to thank our funders and the volunteers who have helped to make the NE Futures Project possible:

Otto Bremer Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Twin Cities LISC, Bethel University, Dr. Harley Schreck, U of M, Amanda Jansen, Augsburg College, Doug Ruth, Jr., Edison High School, Humphrey Institute, NPRC, CURA, M3D Project, MNIS, Audubon Neighborhood Association, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, Bottineau Neighborhood Assoc., University United, Xpedx, Prism Studios, Maude Lovell, Paula Allan and the many other project supporters.



**[www.necdc.org](http://www.necdc.org)**