

January 8, 2021, 2020

Program Reports submitted by Heather Lawrenz

Creative Placemaking Subcommittee

This group (Teresa Jensen, Matt Klooster, Heather Lawrenz and Greg Siems) is awaiting the ACC focus to be determined for 2021 to see where we can be most useful.

Living Treasure Award

Started exploring with City Staff the possibility of incorporating the celebration of the Living Treasure Award recipient into a larger City celebration, and streamlining the nomination process. This could lead to having a much larger audience for the Living Treasure Award recipient and administrative and promotional help from the City for this important program. If we pursue this route, ACC would still be involved, but we wouldn't be solely responsible for the initiating and coordinating all aspects. These are just discussions at this point - review and voting will come before the whole ACC before making official changes.

Art in City Hall

The walls we use for exhibitions in City Hall were recently repainted, and an unused hanging system was moved from upstairs to the downstairs wall by the glass cases. This will make a more cohesive exhibition space in the hallway. The upcoming show *Artists Respond*, is s to start in early 2021. This show will feature artwork which responds to anything that participating artists experienced in 2020. The Call will be posted on the ACC website: <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/99/Arts-and-Culture-Commission>, and on the ACC Facebook page. All artists ages 18+ who live or work within ISD #659 are eligible to submit artworks for this exhibition. I've also been in discussion with the Northfield Historical Society regarding them curating an annual exhibition for the north wall by the stairs and the west wall by ramp.

4x4 Gateway Corridor

This committee (Tracy Heisler, Teresa Jensen, Heather Lawrenz, Greg Siems, Bob Thacker and Alice Thomas) has a standing monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month from 8-9 am. On Dec 16, we met virtually and updated the other members about arts and culture-related happenings within our respective groups/organizations. The banner group (Alice, Heather, Jill Ewald, Bonnie Jean Flom and Greg Siems) met to discuss a plan for getting banners within the Arts Corridor. A draft of this plan will be presented to the ACC for discussion and voting on at a future meeting.

Mission Statement Subcommittee

Paula Granquist, Teresa Jensen, Matt Klooster and Heather Lawrenz met in December and continued working on a draft of the ACC's Mission, Vision, and Values. We are scheduled to meet twice in January to continue refining the draft, which we will present to the entire ACC for review and discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Artists on Main Street

Louis Epstein and Daniel Groll of *Louis and Dan and the invisible Band* invited Northfielders past and present to attend a free virtual concert and songwriting workshop on December 23. Participants helped them answer the following questions: *What are your favorite spots downtown? What downtown locations should we immortalize in song?* From this successful workshop they will write new songs celebrating Downtown Northfield for their AoMS project: *Musical Portraits of Northfield*



Louis and Dan and the Invisible Band Dec 23 workshop

<https://downtownnorthfield.org/2020/08/aoms2020/>

“Musical Portraits of Northfield,” was submitted by Louis Epstein and Daniel Groll, who make up Northfield’s family music duo, [Louis and Dan and the Invisible Band](#). The duo plans to create a series of songs describing the sights and sounds of downtown Northfield, which will “complement the visual delights of the district and strengthen the notion of Northfield as a musical city,” as Epstein and Groll described in their application. The topics and destinations for these musical portraits will be crowdsourced from community members, with a focus on children and families, to identify the businesses, buildings, public spaces, and other downtown sites they love most. In response to their ideas, a song will be composed for each place followed by a live, public, on-site performance of each song. Each performance will be filmed and serve as the basis for a music video, allowing each song to live on long past the premieres. Northfield residents and visitors will be able to access the music videos for free via QR code or online links posted on small signs or in storefront windows.

Sidewalk Poetry

We did not initially receive any submissions last Spring for our annual Sidewalk Poetry Contest. We then held three "spots" and conducted a second competition exclusively for Spanish language poems to coincide with the Northfield Public Library's Hispanic Heritage Month, where we also held a poetry event with Danny Solis as well as a sidewalk poetry writing workshop. We received 14 submissions total and were able to find three stellar winners!

We are in discussions about when to hold a Capstone for these winners. Possibly in the summer or fall, after installation has occurred, perhaps connecting with events already happening in the Latinx community, such as Cinco de Mayo or September's Hispanic Heritage Month. See the press release drafted by Alyssa Melby.

Northfield’s Arts and Culture Commission

DEJA TU HUELLA / MAKE YOUR MARK

2020 Spanish Sidewalk Poetry Contest Winners Announced

The Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) of Northfield, in partnership with the *Friends and Foundation of the Library*, is pleased to announce the winners of the City’s Spanish Sidewalk Poetry competition: *DEJA TU HUELLA / MAKE YOUR MARK*. This special contest exclusively for Spanish language poems coincided

with Hispanic Heritage Month at the Northfield Public Library. The contest garnered 14 Spanish language poems from community members, and three poems have been selected for imprinting in city sidewalks. These poems would be installed in the Summer of 2021.

The ACC applauds and thanks the many local poets who submitted their poetry to the competition. The winners of Northfield's 2020 Spanish Sidewalk Poetry Contest are:

Tyler Gardner

Francisco Gaytan

Luis Rivera

The five contest judges were drawn from across the community, representing the colleges, the City, the community, and published poets. Judging was completely blind, in that judges were provided no identifying information regarding the poets. Judges were: Melanny Castillo and Jeniffer Rosas, Library staff at the Northfield Public Library; Claudia Gonzalez George, staff at the Community Action Center and incoming Northfield School Board member; Kristina Medina-Vilariño, Associate Professor of Spanish at St. Olaf College; and Mar Valdecantos, Translator for the Northfield Public School District, visual artist, and past winning poet.

The winning poems will be on display at the Northfield Public Library and City Hall, posted on the *Friends and Foundation of the Library* and City websites, and shared with local media. Beginning in the spring and continuing through the summer, poems will be installed in City sidewalks, as weather permits. A Sidewalk Poetry Capstone Celebration will take place in the future; exact date, time, and format to be determined.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund. Additional support provided by the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Library.

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Winning Poems for Spanish Sidewalk Poetry 2020 Contest

Con mis manos aprendo

los caminos de tu corazón.

A través de mis ojos veo

tu aliento en las llanuras.

Me inclino en tu abrazo

donde me siento más en casa.

Tyler Gardner

CABALGANDO

Sombra de luna en penumbra.

Sombra de sol en resplandor.

Alumbren caminos, barrancas y ríos.

Para andar en mi caballo sin temor.

Francisco Gaytan

El amor

es el tormento de uno

La familia

es el triunfo de dos

La verdad es tuya

La justicia es tu triunfo

La esperanza

es alcanzar tu estrella

Luis Rivera