

CORN CONNECTIONS



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



NORTHFIELD
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMISSION
1% FOR THE ARTS

BACKGROUND

One of the most important goals of the Northfield Cultural Plan, adopted by the City in 2019, was the adoption of a 1% for the Arts Ordinance in order to provide sustainable funding for public art in Northfield and to ensure that art will have a place in public spaces throughout the city. On March 2nd, 2021 Northfield City Council approved this ordinance which requires all budgets for eligible capital improvement projects include an amount equal to 1% of the projected construction costs that is to be used for public art.

Once funding has been established, a Public Art Review Committee (PARC) is convened, typically consisting of members of the community, a city official from the sponsoring agency, and members of the Arts and Culture Commission. The site requirements and the nature of the community are seriously considered when the PARC makes its recommendations to the Arts and Culture Commission and City for final approval of the selected artwork.

A small investment with a big payoff, planning for public art plays a synergistic role in achieving goals laid out by other plans adopted by the city. As a part of the City's Strategic Plan, tourism is enhanced by way of arts and cultural events that bring people to Northfield. Over 170,000 people attend arts and culture events in Northfield every year. The Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Streetscape plan call for public art in prominent locations as an attraction for visitors. Public art can be a valuable tool in equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, raising awareness about climate change and ecology, and can spur economic development in a variety of ways.

EXPENDITURES

2023 PROJECTS & REVENUE SOURCE	2023 EXPENDITURES
Arte en Accion/Wandering House 2022 NW Mill & Overlay	\$21,000
Artists on Main Street 2022 NW Mill & Overlay	\$10,000*
Hispanic Heritage Month Banners 2022 NW Mill & Overlay	\$1,500*
Oasis Mural 2023 Reclamation & Overlay	\$5,000*

*represents budgets that included other funding sources, not reflected in these figures but described in detail elsewhere

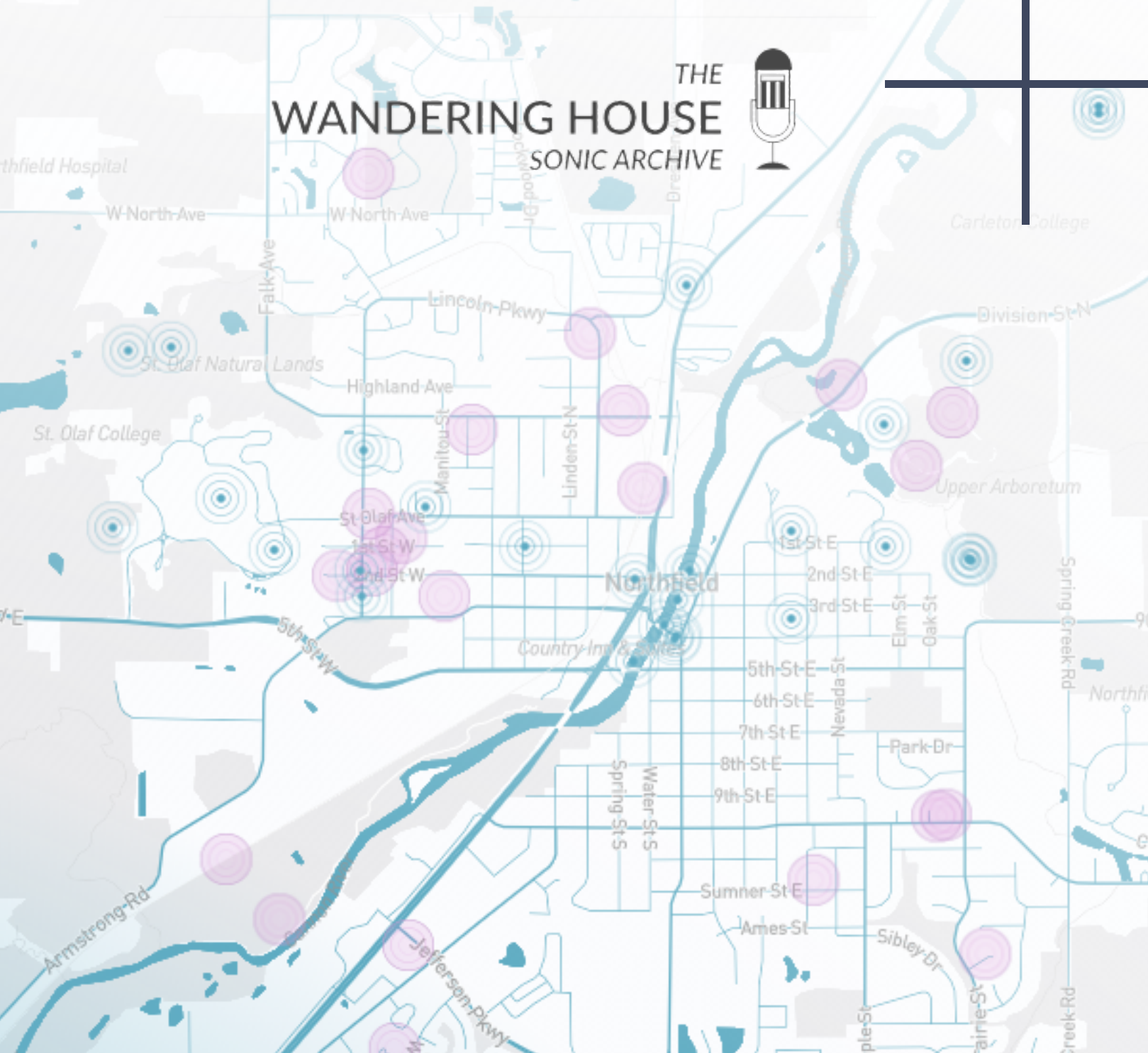
\$2.2 million dollars are generated by nonprofits in the arts and culture sector each year in Northfield; 59 FTE jobs are supported by the nonprofit arts and culture sector; Over 500 volunteers participate at organizations supporting arts and culture; over 170,000 people attend arts and culture events every year; 80% of the audiences are local. For every dollar invested in non-profit arts, \$5 is returned to the local and state economies. (Americans for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity 2019)



ARTE EN ACCION

CECILIA CORNEJO, ROCKY CASILLAS, HERIBERTO ROSAS, AND JORGE ZUCCOLOTTO

Arte en Acción is a collective of Latine artists and activists who live and work in Northfield. They have crafted a multi-faceted public art project that connects community members to one another while placing a special emphasis on uplifting Latine voices. This project was designed to encourage the residents of Viking Terrace and members of the Latine community in general to share their talents and dreams with the larger community of Northfield, creating an opportunity for an historic, immigrant neighborhood to lead and engage in placemaking efforts, defining a community on its own terms and giving the city the opportunity to support and build relationships with artists in the community.



WANDERING HOUSE ARCHIVE AND LISTENING STATIONS

CECILIA CORNEJO SOTELO

The Wandering House examines the meaning of "Home" from the perspective of evolving towns in rural Minnesota. The Sonic Archive contains recordings gathered by the artist since 2019, which feature the diverse voices and reflections of community members as well as soundscapes. Placards featuring the Wandering House illustration will be made and installed in the spring to raise awareness and engage passersby in the archive, both as listeners and participants. The archive will be open to submissions for one year.



ARTISTS ON MAIN STREET (AOMS)

FRIENDS OF DOWNTOWN SUPPORT OF ARTIST-INITIATED PROJECTS

The 2023 AOMS project, lead by the Friends of Downtown Northfield and supported by a \$22,000 grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, included performances, sculpture, participatory art experiences and murals. “Storm Drain Art: Remembering the Cannon” by Rocky Casillas Aguirre and Mike Provancha, “Random Acts of Art” by Shona Brooks, “The Catrina Chalchiuhtlicue” by Gustavo Boada, “Lady Cannon” by Maya Kenney and Raquel Santamaria, “Poets at the Depot”, submitted by Becky Boling and D.E. Green, “Creatures and Features of the Cannon” by Kathy Ness and Kate Woodstrup, “Your Mind is a Magic Wand” by Michael J. Sweere, and “River Light” by Andrew Wykes (pictured above) were selected by public art review committee

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BANNERS CONSTANZA OCAMPO-RAEDER

The Northfield Arts and Culture Commission and the Friends of Downtown Northfield partnered to host a contest to create a design for new downtown banners in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. “Corn Connections” by Constanza Ocampo-Raeder and sons Emiliano and Joaquin was selected by a volunteer public art review committee in July 2023 out of 12 outstanding submissions from local and regional artists. The banners will be displayed proudly along Division Street each fall. Rethos provided an additional \$4,000 in funding for this project.



OASIS MURAL PROJECT PAULA ROJAS

In partnership with the Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library (FFNPL), and with support from a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC), an original mural by Paula Rojas was commissioned for the Library's new "Oasis" location in the Northfield Community Resource Center. The mural, which depicts landscapes of Central and South America and the upper Midwest, evoking both home and travel, received additional funding support by the FFNPL (\$5,000) and a SEMAC grant (\$5,000). The exterior portion will be completed in the spring of 2024.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Friends of Downtown Northfield
Southeastern Minnesota Arts
Council
Minnesota State Arts Board
Environmental Quality
Commission
Northfield Chamber of
Commerce
Northfield Public Library

Communications & Human Resources
Department
Northfield Heritage Preservation
Commission
Northfield Arts Guild
City of Northfield Public Works
Department
Friends & Foundation of the Northfield
Public Library

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Paula Granquist, Martha Anderson, Kate Woodstrup, Leah Rich, Mathias Hughey, Anna Lisa Rustad, Michael Johnson. Carsten Walter, Genevieve Tassava, and Jade Arroyo Dorantes and Cecilia Barojas Velazquez . Staff liaisons Natalie Draper and Becky Novotny.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund

Report prepared by Natalie Draper, ACC logo by Steve Maus