

Update Young Sculptors' Project – March 2018

Young Sculptors' Project group is currently getting training on the use of the plasma cutter in the NHS metal shop in order to begin cutting steel and welding parts. The ½ scale model is AMAZING and providing the students with a pattern from which to build their full scale sculpture. The theme is *mental health for youth*. They will be considering some added work days to make sure the work is completed by the May 24th capstone "unveiling" event, at 3rd and Division Streets.

Update Arts Cohort – March 2018

The Arts Cohort has completed the process of carefully gleaning through Arts Plan '06. We have identified the continued progress of certain reachable goals, removed completed objectives and identified ongoing tasks for the Arts and Culture Commission that still exist in the 12-year old plan. We are now ready to begin the process of creating an easily readable and well-designed arts and culture plan with this information and new goals that we know are existing on the horizon yet. We plan to align the plan with the City's Strategic Plan, so that the Arts and Culture Plan can be approved and successful as a tool for the future.

We are beginning to determine what kind of feedback we need from city stakeholders and from the community. We are looking to identifying the community's greatest obstacles/opportunities in the realm of arts and culture in order to create a vision that clarifies a pathway for positive change in the community. The 1% for the arts policy approval has been a HUGE step in the right direction when it comes to city support for the *arts as an economic driver* in Northfield. We hope to continue to build value around how the arts both work to drive a healthier community economically, but how the arts and culture creates a sense of place for visitors and residents alike. "Placemaking" will be a major focus of the new arts and cultural plan and Sharon Rodning Bash, from Arts Midwest, continues to be an asset. We hope to have clear direction after the final statewide Art Cohort retreat which is March 9-11, 2018.