

1500 Jackson St NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

[artspace.org/northrup-king](https://artspace.org/northrup-king)

# THE NORTHRUP KING BUILDING

The largest art complex in Minnesota

The Northrup King Building is home to over 350 tenants, including artist studios, creative small businesses, and nonprofit organizations.



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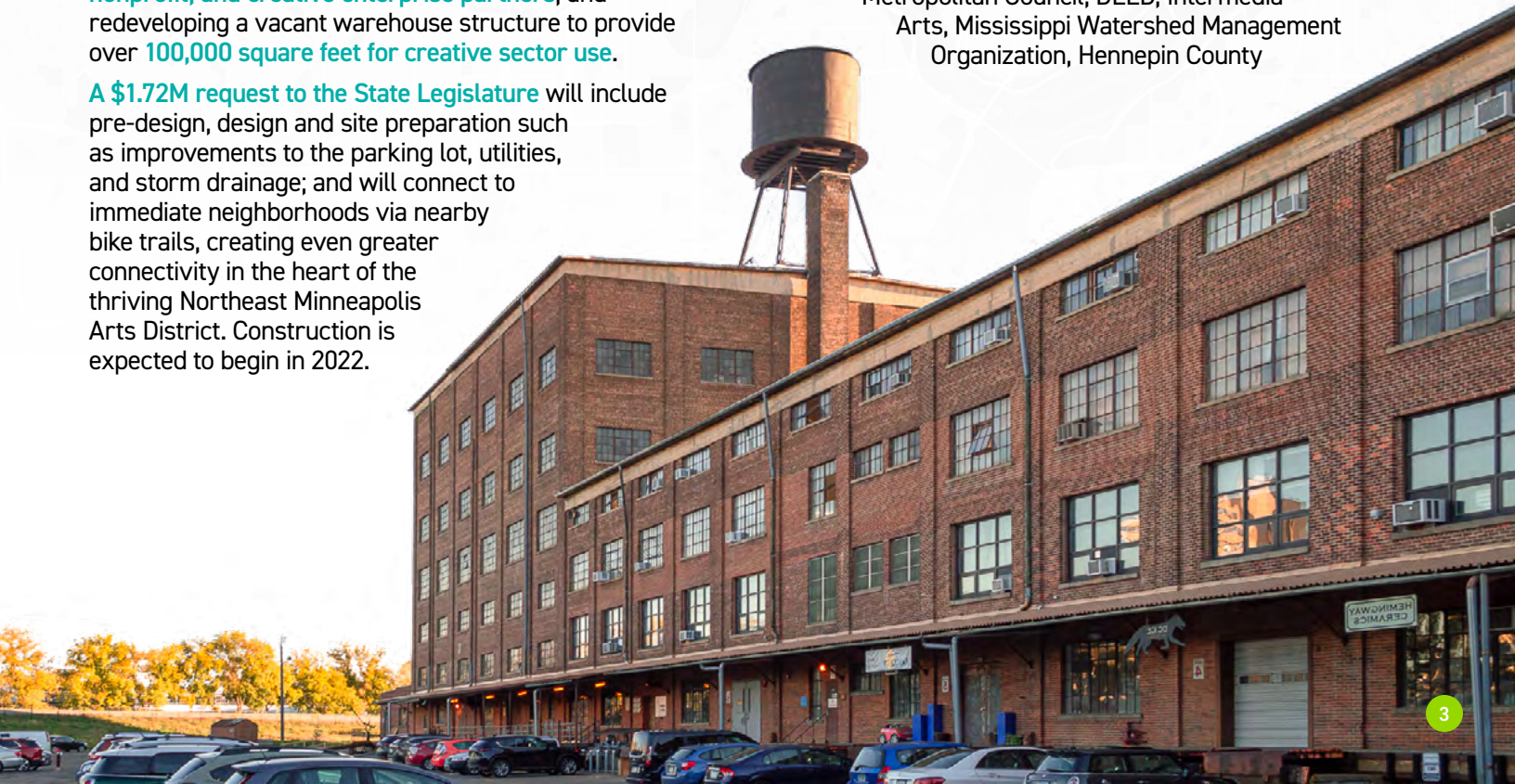
In 2019, Artspace purchased the **Northrup King Building (NKB)**; the largest complex of artist studios in the state of Minnesota; and an anchor venue during **Art-a-Whirl®**, the nation's largest studio art crawl event.

In addition to maintaining the studios of hundreds of artists, Artspace will transform surrounding vacant buildings into a **13-acre creative sector campus**. This mixed-use project involves preserving studios for over **350 artists**; redeveloping a **13-acre campus**, including parking, site infrastructure, and open-space amenities; creating **84 affordable artist live/work units** and **14,890 square feet of space for community, nonprofit, and creative enterprise partners**; and redeveloping a vacant warehouse structure to provide over **100,000 square feet for creative sector use**.

A **\$1.72M request to the State Legislature** will include pre-design, design and site preparation such as improvements to the parking lot, utilities, and storm drainage; and will connect to immediate neighborhoods via nearby bike trails, creating even greater connectivity in the heart of the thriving Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Construction is expected to begin in 2022.

## Project Details

- **Owner/Developer:** Artspace Projects, Inc.
- **Community Partners:** Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, Logan Park Neighborhood Association
- **Type of Development:** Redevelopment of **13-acre campus**, including preservation of existing NKB artist studios and adaptive reuse of three vacant buildings
- **Type of Units:** Preservation of existing studios + creation of an estimated **84 live/work units** including studios and 1-, 2-, and 3-bedrooms
- **Affordability:** **30–80% Area Median Income (AMI)**
- **Arts, community & nonprofit spaces:** Nearly **14,890 square feet created & 350,000 square feet preserved**
- **Estimated Project Cost:** \$55-60M
- **Preservation Specialist:** Amy Lucas, Landscape Research, LLC
- **Estimated Construction Period:** 2022–2024
- **Project Funders to Date:** Intermedia Arts, Sachs Family Foundation, & Bridgewater Bank, Anonymous Donor
- **Residential Funders to Date:** City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, DEED, Intermedia Arts, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Hennepin County



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4 Artist **Bris Carbajal** ( [www.yessenya.com](http://www.yessenya.com) / [@yessenya](https://www.instagram.com/yessenya) )  
in Public Functionary's Studio 400



5 Artist **Mary Schwartz**  
( [fridaydesigns.blogspot.com](http://fridaydesigns.blogspot.com) )

As fine as they are, the Weisman, Walker and MIA rarely let you **speak with the artists** whose works you admire. For that you have to go to the **Northrup King Building**.

— *Minneapolis Mind Expansion*,  
Jerry Haines, *Los Angeles Times*

## Catalytic preservation of the Northeast Minneapolis creative sector.

With support from Intermedia Arts, Artspace purchased NKB from Shamrock Properties in November 2019, preserving the crown jewel of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. While commonly referred to as one complex, the century-old structure is actually comprised of six interconnected buildings covering **738,074 square feet**, about half of which is filled with studios and galleries for some **350 visual artists and creative enterprises**.

It is one of the most substantial cultural hubs in the country, both in terms of its physical size and the number of cultural producers that it houses. Tens of thousands of people pass through NKB's doors each year to meet artists, view the high-quality works of art found in galleries and intimate studio environments, and purchase art.

The preservation of NKB and its thriving art community, as well as the planned redevelopment of the **13-acre campus** that spans approximately 3.5 city blocks, represents a significant and continued investment in Artspace's home region of Minnesota. It will be Artspace's largest arts campus not only in the state, but nationwide as well.

Existing Artspace properties in Minnesota include eight mixed-use buildings with affordable, live/work units for artists and their families. Five are located in the metro and four more can be found statewide: **Northside Artspace Lofts** (North Minneapolis), **Artspace Jackson Flats** (Northeast Minneapolis), **653 Artist Lofts** (Frogtown St. Paul), **Northern Warehouse Artist Lofts** (Lowertown St. Paul), **Tilsner Artist Cooperative** (Lowertown St. Paul), **Artspace Hastings River Lofts** (Hastings), **Washington Studios** (Duluth), **Franklin Arts Center** (Brainerd), and **Kaddatz Artist Lofts** (Fergus Falls).

Artspace's unique portfolio also includes **eight single-family homes** in North Minneapolis and Frogtown, St. Paul (since sold to artists at below market rate); and **five singular arts facilities** in Minneapolis: **Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center** (South Minneapolis), **The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts** (Downtown Minneapolis), **Hennepin Center for the Arts** (Downtown Minneapolis), **Grain Belt Studios** (Northeast Minneapolis), and the **Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art** (North Loop Minneapolis).

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## Historic Significance

The Northrup King Building was first constructed in 1917 as the new headquarters for Northrup King & Co.—a household name at the turn of the 20th century. The company created beautiful seed catalogs illustrated with full-color lithographs, and sold mail-order, Northern-grown garden seed and Northern field seed and plant hybrids.

The NKB headquarters adjoined the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroad tracks, which made it the ideal distribution center from which to ship seeds across the United States. Northrup King & Co. was one of the first companies to use branding, with a focus on the frigid Minnesota weather for their hardy Polar, Sterling, Northland, and Viking brands; and eventually also partnered with the University of Minnesota on testing corn hybrids. For more than 50 years, the company contributed to Minnesota's reputation as a hotbed of robust farm and gardening activities, until Northrup King & Co. was purchased by Sandoz, Ltd. (a Swiss pharmaceutical company) in 1976.

The company moved out of the NKB in 1986. In 1996 the NKB was purchased by Shamrock Properties, Inc. and remained under the management of Debbie Woodward for more than two decades. The industrial spaces found new life as customized working artist studios, galleries, and a place for creative community; and the transformation of the warehouses into creative spaces redefined the complex's story.

Today the revived NKB is renowned as an extraordinary hub for the arts, and Artspace's ownership ensures that the space remains code compliant, artistically appropriate, and affordable for artists and innovators who have contributed much to the culture of Northeast Minneapolis and beyond.



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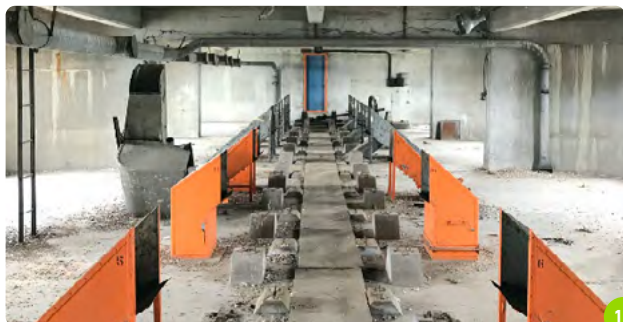
Clockwise from upper left:

Workers loading seed bags in the Northrup King complex, original Northrup King Seeds sign, workers sort seed packets the Northrup King complex, chick feed packaging from Northrup King & Co

## Expanding access for all Minnesotans

While redeveloping the NKB campus, Artspace is committed to opening new pathways to opportunity in Northeast Minneapolis. The neighborhood was historically comprised of an Eastern European immigrant community that transformed when major industries left the neighborhood, providing space for artists to create in large, abandoned warehouses, such as the NKB. Northeast has since become a highly sought after destination, rightly renowned as a place to interact with cultural producers and discover fine dining and hip breweries.

Commodification of this rich culture, however, threatens deepening disparities. Through equitable development, Artspace will address barriers in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District by providing **84 units of housing for artists earning 30–80% AMI**, as well as their families, aligning with a city-wide strategy to advance the 2040 Plan and its emphasis on affordable housing. In addition, Artspace will create new, affordable studio and commercial spaces, accessible to people of color, people low in income, minority-owned businesses, and others.



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Inside the old grain silos



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## Annual Events

### Art-a-Whirl©

Third weekend in May

Presented by NEMAA, the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association. Visit [nema.org](https://nema.org) to learn more!

### Art Attack

First weekend in November

### First Thursdays

First Thursday of every month, 5-9 PM

### Northrup King Nights

For dates and times, visit  
[northrupkingbuilding.com/events](https://northrupkingbuilding.com/events)

### Open Studio Saturdays

Every Saturday, 12-4 PM

### Holiday Saturdays

Every Saturday in November &  
December until Christmas

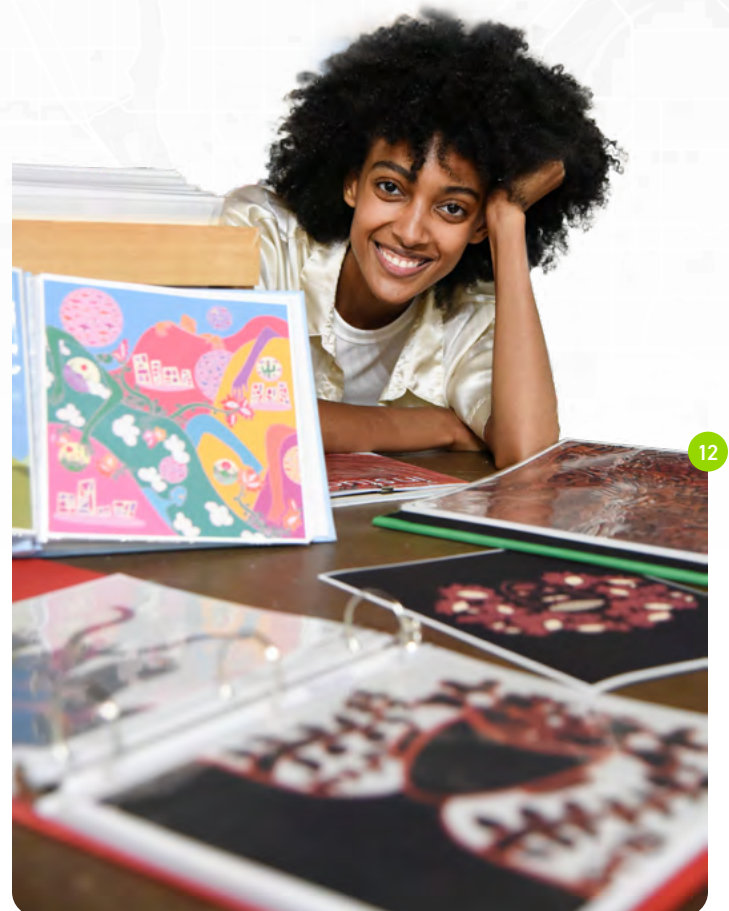
### Small Business Saturday

Saturday after Black Friday, 10 AM - 6 PM

A hulking mass of industrial buildings reborn as an arts mecca in northeast Minneapolis stands at the center of a transformation of that community over several decades... Success translates into a long waiting list of would-be tenants, demonstrating the need for [this] kind of workspace and illustrating how damaging the loss would be for tenants.

— The Minneapolis Creative Index 2018

Artist Miku ( [@madebymiku](https://twitter.com/madebymiku) )  
in Public Functionary's Studio 400



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## Want even more art events?

For upcoming individual artist & studio events, visit  
[northrupkingbuilding.com/events](https://northrupkingbuilding.com/events)



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What explains Minnesota's growing arts ecology? Our generous arts funders, many artists' centers, our Artspace artist housing and presentation spaces, and our Minnesota State Arts Board's generosity.

— "How artists build careers, and why Minnesota stands out," MinnPost, Ann Markusen, Nov.21, 2018



**Building 1**  
121,080 sq. ft.

**Building 1A**  
120,960 sq. ft.

**Building 2**  
84,870 sq. ft.

**Building 3**  
78,430 sq. ft.

**Building 4**  
30,465 sq. ft.

**Buildings 5/6**  
39,645 sq. ft.

**Building 8**  
8,725 sq. ft.

**Building 9/9A**  
63,760 sq. ft.

**Building 10**  
100,000 sq. ft.

**Total Area**  
~647,935 sq. ft.

Buildings 1, 1A, 5/6, & 9/9A are currently **occupied**.

Buildings 2, 3, & 4 are potential **residential** spaces.

Buildings 8, 10, & 11 are potential **arts, community & nonprofit** spaces.



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## Contact Info



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3 & 11

[NKB Archive](#)

6, 7, 8, & 9

[Cunningham Group](#)

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**artspace**

**America's Leading Nonprofit Real Estate Developer for the Arts**

Founded in 1979, Artspace is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations. To fulfill that mission, Artspace uses the tools of real estate development to construct or restore places where artists can affordably live and work. Artspace buildings also support healthy communities, anchored in existing assets. With a commitment to affordability, Artspace ensures that the spaces remain accessible to artists and their families in perpetuity. Artspace's unique portfolio, developed over three decades, includes over 50 projects nationwide and represents more than \$800 million invested in America's infrastructure. Beyond developing places, Artspace has also served as a consultant to hundreds of arts communities coast-to-coast, helping others advance their visions. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace champions the once-radical idea that artists and arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. Artspace's headquarters are located in Minneapolis, with additional offices in New York and Washington D.C. For more information, please visit [www.artspace.org](https://www.artspace.org).