

**Executive Director's Report**  
**January 25, 2022**  
**GENERAL MEMBER MEETING [HYRBID]**



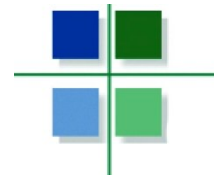








# 2021 NÜLOOP PARTNERS SPONSORS



# General Updates

MINNEAPOLIS

## Park Board releases concept for new northeast Minneapolis riverfront park

Graco Park will be the culmination of a 20-year vision, wracked by legal disputes, to develop parkland along an industrial stretch of the Mississippi River.

By Susan Du Star Tribune | DECEMBER 23, 2021 — 9:52PM



MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

A proposed new building for Graco Park includes wildlife friendly design elements and a pitched roof reminiscent of the lumberyard that one occupied the site.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has released its [preferred concept](#) for Graco Park, a stretch of riverfront next to the northeast Minneapolis manufacturer of fluid-handling equipment.

The design includes two tree-lined promenades, a river walk, a lawn for multiple uses and a building that would include bathrooms, flexible community gathering spaces and a [creation lab](#) to introduce teenagers to multimedia technology, which are part of the parks' efforts to bolster educational youth programming.

The southern promenade would extend to a boardwalk and boat rental operation at the water's edge. The park's northern edge would end at a promontory with a view of the Minneapolis skyline.

The park, which parallels the Hall's Island wildlife refuge in the Mississippi





He knows it's been tough; his restaurant, Fhima's, is located in downtown Minneapolis, and yes, it was damaged during the unrest after Floyd's murder. But unlike skittish developers and disinterested entrepreneurs, he's sticking with Minneapolis. The Fhima family will soon open Mother Dough bakery and coffee shop in downtown Minneapolis's Capella Tower, and they just announced a huge new three-story project nearby in the North Loop.

"We wanted to stop talking about it and do something about it," Fhima says. "So we decided, let's make this restaurant about looking at all these communities who bring so much culture, flavor, and taste into your lives."

The yet-unnamed new venture (Moulin Rouge is the name of the ownership group) will have a home in the former Ribnick Furs building (224 N. First St.), which closed in December after 76 years. The "world-class venue" will boast a swanky basement speakeasy, a French brasserie on the main floor, and, above that, an events center with a patio overlooking the tracks.

But it'll be more than a restaurant—the restaurant complex will also fold in a food justice platform that showcases the diverse cultural talents in the Twin Cities. Fhima says staff members will be involved in creating the menu and telling the story of their heritage through food, and he's spoken with a number of chefs who are willing to help lead mentorship programs to strengthen the city's culinary community, particularly people of color.

"We are going to take one of the most high-profile buildings in the state and make it about telling the story of the BIPOC community," Fhima says.

Since this is a historical building, they'll be restoring everything they can rather than demolishing it, not unlike the way they preserved the art-deco splendor of Fhima's in downtown Minneapolis. ("I'm a sucker for punishment everywhere I go," he laughs.) Between the building itself and the community focus, the result should be a place that is both cozy and elegant, timeless and very much of the moment we're in.

## RACKET

FOOD & DRINK

### New Fhima Family Restaurant and Food Justice Project Heads for the North Loop

"We are going to take one of the most high-profile buildings in the state and make it about telling the story of the BIPOC community."

11:14 AM CST on Jan 5, 2022



Credit: Instagram: @fhimacompila Right: chef David Fhima

Em Cassel



Prominent Chef Turning Ribnick's Into Brasserie, Speakeasy

December 31, 2021



## Plant-Based Dairy-Free Fast Food Coming Soon

January 4, 2022

A few months from now, you'll be able to walk to Washington Avenue between 5th and 6th Avenues, grab a quick burger, nuggets and fries with a shake or ice cream for dessert. But none of those items will have meat or dairy in them.

**Stalk and Spade**, the plant-based, dairy-free chain that got its start in Wayzata last summer is expanding to the North Loop. It's set to open in late April/early May on the lower level of the old Duffey Paper facility that's being transformed into a residential/commercial building.

Stalk and Spade is owned by Steele Smiley, the same man who launched the Crisp & Green franchise, which has a location less than a block away, at 5th and Washington.





GreaterGood acquired an office building at 424 Washington Ave. N. in Minneapolis' North Loop neighborhood for an undisclosed amount. (Submitted photo: CoStar)

## GreaterGood moving to North Loop

By: Kelly Busche November 18, 2021 4:32 pm

Charity website manager GreaterGood purchased a North Loop office building for an undisclosed amount this month.

GreaterGood plans to move its headquarters to the three-story office building, called the Kildall Building, which is located at 424 Washington Ave. N. The sale of the approximately 35,000 square foot building closed Nov. 12.

The property last sold in 2015 for \$4.1 million to an entity related to Hightop Hospitality. The St. Paul-based company runs a number of restaurant, catering, event venue, and retail brands. These include Green Mill Restaurant and Bar, Crooked Pint Ale House, Kafe 421, FIVE Event Center, 413 on Wacouta and more, according to its website.

The buyer didn't want to disclose the price, according to ASSEMBLY MN, a commercial real estate brokerage and development firm.

Hennepin County values the land at \$6.49 million, according to property records.

"We are excited to make a significant investment in the city of Minneapolis," CEO Tim Kunin said in the release.

"This building has an important history in the North Loop neighborhood and was significantly repositioned by the previous owner, including the addition of underground parking. We look forward to continuing to preserve this asset through our ownership and partnership with the ASSEMBLY team on leasing and management."

## Our Work

reaterGood® empowers people around the world to affect positive change by making ordinary online actions extraordinary. When you shop at a GreaterGood store, or take other actions at one of our cause sites, you raise funds (free to you!) that benefits people, pets, and the planet. As a registered fundraiser for Greater Good Charities, GreaterGood has proudly raised more than \$70 million in charitable donations.







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# HISTORIC NORTH LOOP BUILDING TO BE TRANSFORMED

November 29, 2021



A historic building in the **North Loop** that was originally constructed in the late 1800's will soon be transformed into residential and retail space.

Located at 200 N Second St, the Industrial Lighting Supply Building (originally known as the Minneapolis Iron Store Building) will be renovated to include retail space on both the basement and street level along with 13 residential units on the upper floors.

12/6/21, 9:36 AM

The Development Tracker | HISTORIC NORTH LOOP BUILDING TO BE...

The five-story building is currently vacant after Industrial Supply Lighting Company closed in 2020. The building was purchased earlier this year by Iron Store LLC for \$2.3 million

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

The Minneapolis Iron Store Company originally occupied the building and was once the nation's largest dealers in heavy hardware, wagon makers' supplies, carriage and sleigh stocks, and lumberman's needs. The company was also the first to offer a complete line of automobile accessories to garages and dealers.

Designed in the **Neo-Classical Revival Style** by **William Channing Whitney**, the building was constructed in two phases, with each phase completed a year apart. The Minneapolis Iron Store Company called 200 N Second St its home until 1916 when a new facility was built at 520-528 Washington Avenue N.

## Hennepin Theater Trust buys iconic Brave New Workshop

Euan Kerr Minneapolis December 3, 2021 5:49 p.m.



In 2011 Brave New Workshop founder, the late Dudley Riggs (middle) poses with John Sweeney and Jenni Lilledahl, who bought the theater from him in 1997. The Workshop, seen as a foundation of the Twin Cities comedy scene, has now been purchased by the Hennepin Theater Trust, which says it will preserve the venue's legacy of satire. Courtesy of Hennepin Theater Trust | Photo by Dani Werner

**Updated: Dec. 6, 6:49 a.m. | Posted: Dec. 3, 5:49 p.m.**

The Brave New Workshop now has only its third owner in more than 60 years. John Sweeney and Jenni Lilledahl, who bought the iconic comedy venue from founder Dudley Riggs in 1997, have sold it and its intellectual property to the Hennepin Theater Trust. Both sides in the deal say preserving the Workshop's legacy as a satirical comedy powerhouse is paramount.

Speaking on MPR in 1986, Riggs revealed the secrets he and the Brave New Workshop used to keep the audiences coming to political theater.

"Loyal opposition to both parties: promiscuous hostility, positive neutrality," he said. "When we're working at our most effective we will touch both sides of the aisle and make sure we're not just a one-sided affair."



Traffic in the theater district was light as the marquee message above Brave New Workshop on Hennepin Avenue offered some humor in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. David Joles | Star Tribune via AP 2020

Riggs died last year, but his name is constantly invoked when the people involved in the deal talk about the significance of the workshop's sale. Jenni Lilledahl is co-owner of the venue, though she's not entirely comfortable with her title.

"I've always felt like nobody really owns the Brave New Workshop," she said. "It's this artistic vision that Dudley held and we've all been taking care of it and expanding on it. Kind of like a good improv scene. Someone has an idea in improv and then your job is to say 'Yes and' and build on that."

Lilledahl says the idea was always to pass along the workshop when the time came. She and her husband, co-owner John Sweeney, decided that time was now, so Sweeney approached Hennepin Theater Trust President and CEO Mark Nerenhausen.



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## Mayor Frey convening small business, labor and nonprofit leaders for Economic Recovery Work Group

November 23, 2021

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has formed the second of three external work groups focused on developing recommendations responsive to his administration's transition priorities. The three groups will be dedicated to the new government structure, inclusive economic recovery, and community safety strategies and reform.

The economic recovery advisory work group will be co-chaired by PJ Hill and Adam Duininck. Hill is a Minneapolis native and graduate of North Community High School. Hill is an accomplished financial advisor, entrepreneur, and is the Vice President of the Minneapolis NAACP chapter. Duininck is the Director of Government Affairs for North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) and served on the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities for more than six years, nearly half that time spent as chair.

"We won't achieve economic inclusion by simply returning to the old normal, we must do more," said Frey. "This talented group, full of diverse perspectives, will help set the tone to strengthen inclusive recovery efforts, rebound in full, and come back stronger than ever."

The economic recovery advisory work group will meet for the first time in early December and will deliver its recommendations to Mayor Frey early next year.

"The impacts of the pandemic have not been felt evenly across all communities and the distribution of recovery resources needs to reflect that reality," said Hill. "I have heard loud and clear the specific needs of the communities most impacted and I stand ready to make sure their voices are heard in this shared push to rebuild Minneapolis stronger than ever before."

“The values of Minneapolis families and workers will be our foundation as we assemble recommendations for an inclusive recovery,” said Duininck. “Our team will leverage our collective strengths and experiences as we rebuild our city’s economy with equitable policies and strategic investments. We look forward to working closely with Mayor Frey to deliver results for the people of Minneapolis.”

During the transition period to his second term, the three groups will meet regularly and deliver a series of recommendations for the mayor’s consideration during his second term.

The full list of confirmed participants in the economic recovery workgroup is available here:

- **Adam Duininck (Co-Chair)**, Director of Government Affairs, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters; previously chair and council member of Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities
- **PJ Hill (Co-Chair)**, Vice President, NAACP; Financial Advisor, NorthRock Partners; Board Treasurer and Finance Committee member, Juxtaposition Arts
- **Andrea Brennan (staff)**, Director, City of Minneapolis Department of Economic Development and Employment
- **Kenya McKnight Ahad**, CEO and Founder, Black Women’s Wealth Alliance
- **Stu Ackenberg**, Owner and CEO, The Ackenberg Group
- **Tonya Allen**, President, McKnight Foundation
- **Saeed Bihi**, Opportunity Center Manager, Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center
- **Antonio Cardona**, Vice President for Career Readiness, Project for Pride in Living; Adjunct faculty, MCTC
- **Dan Collison**, Director of Downtown Partnerships, Minneapolis Downtown Council; Executive Director, ETBP & NüLoop Partners
- **Renay Dossman**, President, Neighborhood Development Center; Owner, Renay Dossman Coaching and Consulting; Owner, Fat Chance Restaurant
- **Roberta Downing**, Assistant Vice President for Policy, Community Development and the Center for Indian Country Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- **Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou**, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation
- **Dr. Joe Hobot**, President and CEO, American Indian OIC; Adjunct faculty, Falmouth institute
- **Henry Jimenez**, Executive Director, Latino Economic Development Center
- **Louis King**, President and CEO, Summit Academy OIC; previous board member, Minneapolis Club

- **Alfredo Martel**, President and CEO, MEDA
- **Peter McLaughlin**, Executive Director, Twin Cities LISC; previous Hennepin County Commissioner for District 4, Minnesota House of Representatives member
- **Anisha Murphy**, Director of Community Enhancement, Community Reinvestment Fund; Founder, Just Law LLC
- **Sadio Ismail**, nurse, entrepreneur, Women Leaders in the East African Community
- **Yoom Nguyen**, Owner, Lotus Restaurant
- **Eva Rasmussen**, Senior Vice President of Strategy and eBanking, Northeast State Bank
- **Nina Robertson**, Vice President of Programs, African American Leadership Forum
- **Mohamed Ali Farah**, Executive Director, Kajoog Lee
- **Allison Sharkey**, Executive Director, Lake Street Council
- **Jonathan Weinhagen**, President and CEO, Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
- **David Wellington**, President, Wellington Management, Inc.
- **Houston White**, Owner, Houston White Apparel & Accessories; Founder, Houston White Men’s Room; Owner, The Get Down Coffee Co.
- **Stella Whitney-West**, CEO, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center





## Video Gallery



Welcome to Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



The North Loop Root District: art, food, culture



The Black Market • Event Curator George Shannon



TRAILER: DID Ambassadors | Hospitality Embodied



Documentary: DID Ambassadors | HOSPITALITY. EMBODIED



TRAILER for Short Documentary "Poverty for No One. Opportunity for Everyone." by Dan Collison



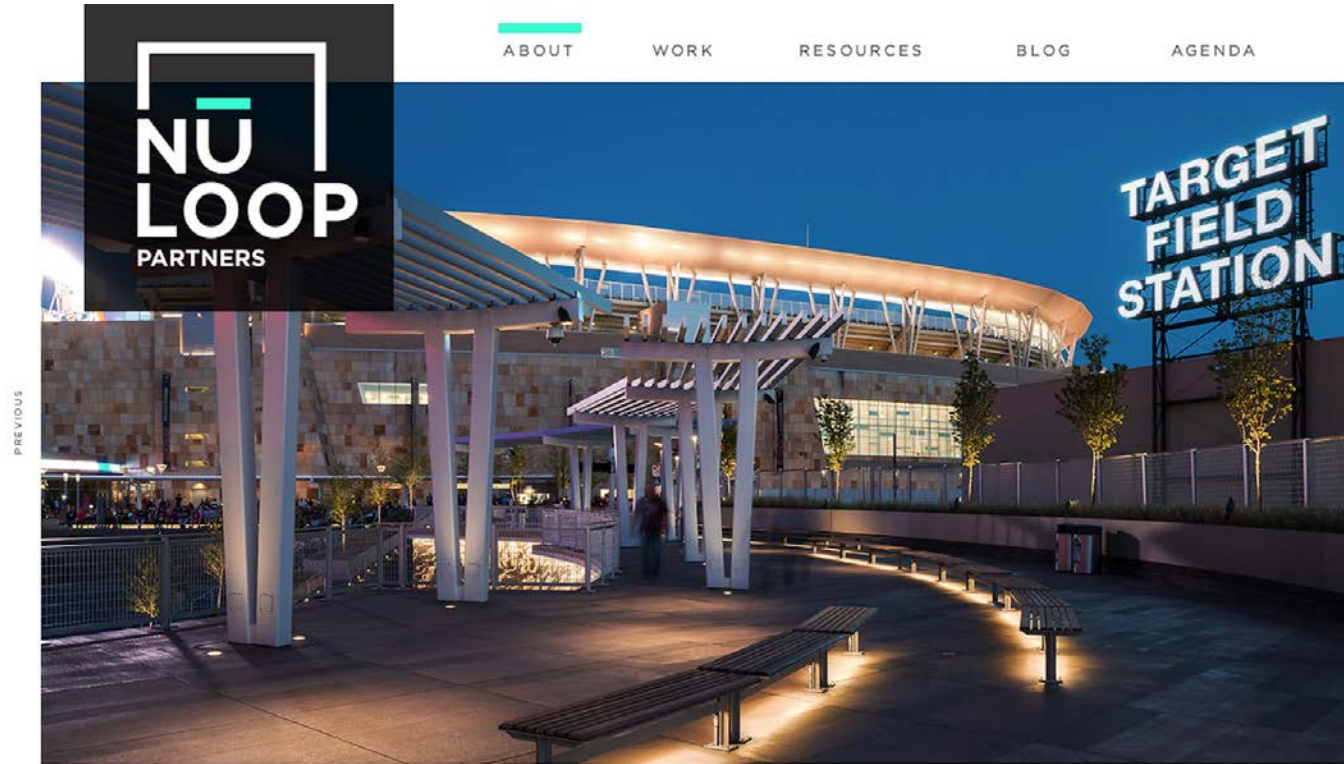
Axebriidge Wine Co Opening in the North Loop (TEASER)



Axebriidge Wine Co Opening in the North Loop



"Poverty for No One. Opportunity for Everyone." A Short Documentary by Dan Collison



PREVIOUS

NEXT

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