

Executive Director's Report
March 29, 2022
GENERAL MEMBER MEETING [HYRBID]





2021 NÜLOOP PARTNERS SPONSORS



General Updates

City crews clear North Loop homeless encampment in massive enforcement operation

At dawn, dozens of police squads, bike cops and a convoy of dump trucks barricaded the private encampment for blocks around before dismantling tents.

By Susan Du (<https://www.startribune.com/susan-du/6370761/>) Star Tribune

MARCH 16, 2022 — 7:21PM

City workers converged quietly on a homeless encampment in Minneapolis' North Loop neighborhood early Wednesday.

Before 7 a.m., police closed nearby streets with yellow tape and metal barricades, redirecting cars and preventing bystanders from nearing crews using skid steer loaders to pull down tents.

Camp resident Courtney Montour quickly threw everything she owned on a dolly and temporarily relocated half a block away beneath an Interstate 94 ramp, where she smoked a cigarette and wept.

"They came in, said, 'Is anybody in here?' Me and my significant other were sleeping. We were like, 'Yeah, we're in here!' They started to rip apart the area we were in. ... They were bulldozing [nearby tents]. We're like, 'We're in here!' "

Montour said she did not have time to grab important documents and could not find her wallet. She said she had nowhere to go but rejected going to an emergency shelter, having had poor experiences with theft in the past.

She said the owner of the property where the camp had been, developer Hamoudi Sabri, told people to leave the day before.

"He said they would put everybody out," she said. "Nobody believed him."

The North Loop homeless encampment was at 875 N. 5th St., between the Salvation Army donation center and Great River Landing, an apartment building with supportive services for formerly incarcerated men.

Overdose, fire raised concerns



SUSAN DU, STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis police and city workers surrounded the North Loop homeless encampment early Wednesday morning.

Hennepin County to spend \$860K on security improvements at Target Field Station ramp

County and Metro Transit officials have discussed making changes for several years.

By David Chanen (<https://www.startribune.com/david-chanen/6370521/>) Star Tribune |

FEBRUARY 4, 2022 — 3:59PM

Hennepin County will spend \$860,000 to improve security at the busy Target Field Station parking ramp in Minneapolis.

There have been issues that require a full-time security presence in the elevator lobbies and ramp next to Target Field, which is owned and managed by the county, said Margo Geffen, the county's facility services director.

The changes will address the demands posed by Twins games and concert events at several nearby music venues. The ramp also provides parking for guests at the Element Minneapolis Downtown hotel and access to Metro Transit lines serving Target Field Station.

"The updates will create a better experience for those using the ramp," Geffen said. They include:

- Better lighting and security cameras in under-lit areas.
- Roll-up parking gates to enclose the ramp's two entrances.
- The ability to close the elevator lobbies.
- Direct video intercom to the county's security operations center.
- Upgraded parking equipment that will allow the county to address issues remotely and program for specific events.
- Upgraded electronic signage with real-time messages.

The work will be done by Shoreview-based Donlar Construction Co., which won a bidding contest last fall.

The county, Metro Transit, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, the Twins and United Properties have discussed the need for security enhancements at the ramp for several years, Geffen said.

Vestibules and garage entrances are open to pedestrians and non-parkers, resulting in substantial maintenance costs, she said. There also have been some problems with vandalism in the past year.

Annual security expenses run about \$350,000 at the ramp, where two security guards work each day. The improvements will allow the county to use those resources elsewhere, Geffen said.



AARON LAVINSKY, STAR TRIBUNE

Target Field Plaza on the day before the Twins home opener in April 2021.



New Barber Shop Opens On Washington Avenue

January 18, 2021

The barber pole and sign haven't arrived just yet, but the chairs are already filling up with clients at the new Stilo Cuts, 224 Washington Avenue North- where Edina Realty used to be.

"We cut all textures and types of hair," said Kalib Arzadonda, owner of the North Loop shop. "There's not really anybody that we haven't cut. We want to make people happy and make it feel like everybody is welcome to come in and get a haircut at Stilo's."





New Plans Revealed For 2nd Street Apartment Tower

January 21, 2022

A little more than a year after the **previous structures were torn down** behind Lululemon on 2nd Street, we now have **new plans** for a 7-story apartment building that would include 96 apartment units as well as retail on the ground floor.

The proposed building, known as Intersect, is designed with a heavy emphasis on sustainability, from a green living roof and pollinator gardens on top to energy-efficient elevators and a de-emphasis on driving (just 47 parking spots for 96 units).

Plans for this development also propose to create a new access point to the Cedar Lake bike trail, which runs along the side of this site.

For more information and renderings of this project, check out **this article** on the Development Tracker website.

By Mike Binkley, North Loop volunteer

Aria Event Center in North Loop sold to church, stops accepting future bookings

Feb 17, 2022, 2:43pm CST Updated: Feb 17, 2022, 7:09pm CST

The Aria Event Center in Minneapolis' North Loop neighborhood said it's halting new bookings after the building it occupies was sold.

The building housing the Aria event space, located at 100 First Ave. N., was bought by River Valley Church for \$10 million last week. The church confirmed Thursday that the venue will pivot to housing primarily church operations in the future, once Aria wraps up its scheduled events.

A message on its Aria's website Thursday read:

"We are announcing the news that our building has been acquired by a respected partner/client we've worked with for over three years. Due to this, we are foregoing any additional bookings. We are looking forward to making the events we already have on the calendar our best yet and plan to finish the year on a high note!"

It's not clear if Aria is relocating operations, resuming them at a later time or ceasing operations entirely. Aria declined to comment.



NANCY KUEHN

The Aria Event Center has been sold to River Valley Church.



Historic North Loop Building Sold To A Church

February 17, 2022

Aria, the prestigious event space in the North Loop, just **announced on its website** that the historic building has been sold. The company is no longer taking any future bookings, but it plans to host the events that were already on the calendar for this year.

The **Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal** reports that the buyer is **River Valley Church** which has ten locations around the metro and has been hosting Sunday services in the North Loop for a few years. The Business Journal article cites public documents showing a sale price of \$10 million and indicating that the building will be used primarily for church activities going forward.

The **historic building, dating back to 1889**, has had many uses over the past many decades, from produce warehouses to storage facility to an award-winning theatre group. The brick exterior was designed by famous architect Cass Gilbert who also designed the Minnesota State Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington DC.

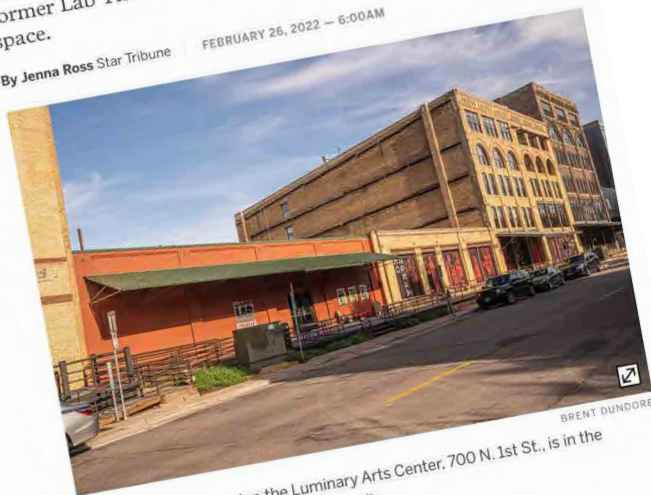
By Mike Binkley, North Loop volunteer

Luminary Arts Center will begin lighting up the North Loop this fall

The Minnesota Opera is renovating and rebranding the former Lab Theater while preserving it as a performance space.

By Jenna Ross Star Tribune

FEBRUARY 26, 2022 — 6:00AM



BRENT DUNDRE

Formerly the Lab Theater, the Luminary Arts Center, 700 N. 1st St., is in the North Loop area of downtown Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Opera is spiffing up the Lab Theater in downtown Minneapolis and giving it a new name: the Luminary Arts Center.

The North Loop venue, which is in the midst of a \$6 million renovation, will open in September. At 224 seats, it will house not only some Minnesota Opera productions but be available for performers and troupes to rent.

"We put some good work into it to make it safer and more exciting artistically," Minnesota Opera President [Evan Taylor](#) said. "I'm excited for everybody to see it and for us to be able to have it as a space for a relationship with the community at large."

Better known for its big productions in St. Paul's 1,900-seat Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, the Minneapolis-based nonprofit purchased the former warehouse space in February 2019 for \$1.9 million, according to county property records.

The venue has been a performing arts destination since 1988, when the Guthrie Theater launched it as a secondary stage to develop new work. With the Guthrie's move in 2006 to a new three-stage riverfront complex, independent producer Mary Kelley Leer took over the space, filling the Lab with theater, dance and burlesque acts.

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INTRODUCING THE LUMINARY ARTS CENTER

March 1, 2022

Formerly known as the Lab Theater, MN Opera's newly acquired and renovated performance space will open in September 2022.

Today, Minnesota Opera introduces the Luminary Arts Center, the new name for the venue located next door to the Minnesota Opera Center in Minneapolis' North Loop (700 N. 1st St., Minneapolis, MN 55401). Minnesota Opera announced the acquisition of the space, previously known as the Lab Theater, in February of 2019. The building is currently being renovated and is scheduled to open in September 2022, at which time Minnesota Opera plans to welcome new and returning tenants to the space, in addition to staging productions at the Luminary starting next season.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to introduce the Luminary Arts Center as a part of our North Loop home," said Minnesota Opera President and General Director Ryan Taylor. "The new name for the venue speaks to the space's role in revealing, discovering, and illuminating the work and ideas of artists in our community. It builds upon the illustrious history of the building, which has had several different names over the years. We are honored to be a part of the life of the space and serve as stewards of this community resource in its next chapter."

The new name was arrived at through a comprehensive exploratory and branding process in partnership with creative agency La Bang Studio. The process included input and feedback from tenants of the space, BIPOC and accessibility advisory committees, and community organizations.

The Luminary Arts Center building is an 8,000 square foot stone box with 30-foot ceilings, carved out of the foundation of a historic Itasca warehouse along the Mississippi River. The theater, like its North Loop neighborhood, is rich in history. Designed and developed in 1988 for the Guthrie Theater as a laboratory for new works, the space served as the Guthrie's second stage until the completion of its current theater complex in 2006. More recently, under executive producer Mary Kelley Leer, the Lab Theater became a lively stage for both emerging and



The 'OG' Of Mpls Taprooms, Fulton Celebrates 10 Years

March 12, 2022

Fulton, the brewing company that started in Jim Diley's basement, opened Minneapolis' first-ever taproom on March 13th, 2012 and did it in the North Loop, an area that was just starting to get noticed.

"It's pretty wild to think of the growth," Diley said. "When we first moved into the building, we had a dirt parking lot. It was cobblestone out front—and not the nice cobblestone. (The neighborhood) didn't look anything like it does today."

Diley and his partners first started renovating the building in 2011 to create a new brewery where they could also sell growlers to go. [Here's a video of the renovation.](#)

But later that year, Minneapolis passed an ordinance allowing breweries to pour and sell their beer on-site, and the Fulton crew quickly pivoted and ordered bar equipment to create the city's first taproom inside a North Loop brewery.

While most of Fulton's beer production is now done at a separate brewery in Northeast Minneapolis, the taproom has been completely overhauled recently with an expanded patio and new food options.

"It's been so much fun to meet all the great people of Minneapolis and share beer, food and conversation with people," Diley said.

Fulton hosted a 10th anniversary party this weekend with live music and merchandise giveaways.

By Mike Binkley, North Loop volunteer





Block Party Will Feature Beer, Music, Food Trucks... And Trees

March 11, 2022

Two years after it was originally supposed to happen, a free North Loop block party is in the planning stages again for a section of 3rd Street North, featuring a beer garden in the Corner Coffee parking lot, a music stage next to Modist Brewing, food trucks near Rise Bagel and a bunch of activities celebrating the importance of trees.

It's the annual **Arbor Day block party**, organized by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and its partners, set for **April 29th, 4-8pm**.

Just before Covid hit, MPRB had selected the North Loop for its 2020 Arbor Day block party, coinciding with the planting of 130 new trees in the neighborhood, mostly along 3rd Street. They had to cancel the party but still went ahead and planted the trees.

Philip Potyondy, the MPRB's Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, said people attending this year's party will still have a chance to plant trees while they're there. "It's a satisfaction of putting those roots into the soil and having that tree get established and having the optimism of this thing that could outlive you and provide a lot of benefits," he said.

Modist will run the beer garden, but beers from several different breweries will be served. "The Arbor Day Fest is kind of like a symbolic, 'hey we get to do things again'" said Modist co-owner Dan Wellendorf. "And then we're going to keep following it up with even more cool stuff."

Two bands have already been announced: **Wailing Loons** and **Brass Messengers**. There will also be a 5k Fun Run as part of the **Minnesota Brewery Running Series**. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

By Mike Binkley, North Loop volunteer



2022 NORTH LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD

- **Diane Merrifield:** President; Communications
- **David Crary:** Vice President; Parks & Beautification
- **Dima Rozenblat:** Treasurer
- **Jo Hamburge:** Secretary; Governance
- **Ericka Jones:** Safety & Livability; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- **David Kisan:** Community Engagement
- **Sina Pleggenkuhle:** Communications; Root District
- **Mollie Scozzari:** Planning+Zoning Co-chair
- **Sarah Traczyk:** Civic Engagement; Community Engagement; NuLoop Partners
- **Dana Swindler:** Safety & Livability; Business Engagement
- **Scott Woller:** Community Engagement; Communications; Business Engagement

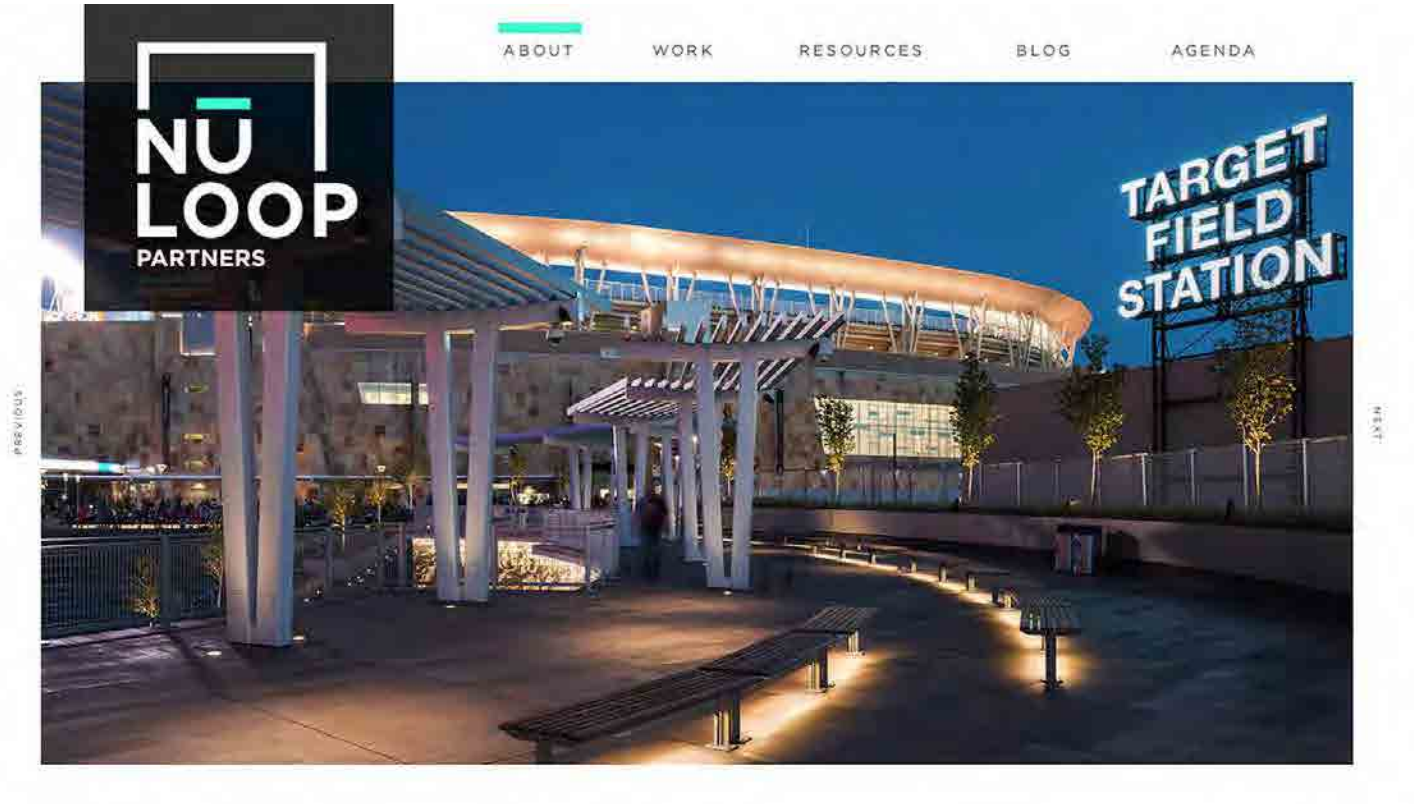


2022 NORTH LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES

You were a huge part of our Annual Meeting. We had over 2500 comments, insights and votes! One area we requested our neighbors input was in building our 2022 neighborhood priorities. Our top ten were:

1. Neighborhood Safety 69%
2. Community Engagement 32%
3. Pedestrian Safety 30%
4. Greening/Trees 16%
5. Neighborhood Cleanup 16%
6. Affordable Housing 16%
7. Graffiti Cleanup 14%
8. Parking 13%
9. Sustainability 12%
10. Business Engagement 9%

Now we go to work. Our efforts as a board and as neighborhood volunteers will be shaped by these priorities this year.



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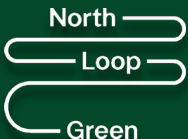
NORTH LOOP AMENITIES

Minneapolis' Most:

- Connected
- Walkable
- Dynamic

Live-Work-Play District

Recent Retail Additions



- ## North Loop Retail Activity – Recent Openings
- West Elm
 - Madewell
 - Allbirds Shoes
 - Axebridge Wine Company
 - Sanjusan – Japanese/Italian Restaurant
 - Fuzzy's Taco Shop
 - The Fabled Rooster (Graze Food Hall)
 - B.A.D. Wingz (Graze Food Hall)
 - Avocadish (Graze Food Hall)
 - Viva Taco (Graze Food Hall)
 - Soul Bowl (Graze Food Hall)
 - Union Hmong Kitchen (Graze Food Hall)
 - The Last Drop Cafe & Wine Bar (Graze)
 - Libation Lounge (Graze Food Hall)
 - Pluck'd Fried Chicken
 - Orange Theory Fitness
 - StormKing Brewpub & BBQ
 - Stilheart Distillery & Lounge
 - Stalk & Spade
 - Guacaya Bistreaux
 - Fhima Speakeasy & Event Center