

Grain Belt Studios

77 & 79 Thirteenth Avenue N.E. | Minneapolis, MN 55413 | Acquired 2005



Photo by Greg Handberg



Photo by Greg Foley

Responding to Artists in Need

The Grain Belt Bottling House (1906) and adjacent Warehouse (1910) served as vital components of the historic Grain Belt Brewery complex in Northeast Minneapolis for seven decades. Designed by the Minneapolis firm of Boehme and Cordella, who also designed the mansion that houses the American Swedish Institute, these matching two-story buildings have identical yellow brick façades and large arched windows.

While the majestic brewhouse across the street stood vacant for nearly three decades after the brewery closed in 1975, the Bottling House and Warehouse soon filled up with artists and creative businesses looking for inexpensive studio and office space. By the late 1990s, however, the neighborhood around the brewery had begun to gentrify. When the City of Minneapolis announced plans to sell the buildings, the artists approached Artspace with a request to buy and operate them as affordable non-residential facilities.

Acquisition of the Bottling House and Warehouse has preserved nearly 130,000 square feet of space for artists and creative businesses that might otherwise have been converted into market-rate offices or condominiums. Both buildings are in excellent condition, and the Bottling House boasts a large atrium suitable for receptions and other gatherings.

“Co-locating artists in a single building may foster networking and collaboration, often translating directly into artists’ ability to land new opportunities to show their work, find clients, obtain employment, or learn new skills to expand their practice.”

— Metris Arts Consulting, “How Art Spaces Matter II”

ACQUISITION COST

\$2.1 million

TOTAL AREA

129,735 sq. ft.

WORKING STUDIOS

49

FINANCING

City of Minneapolis

TCF Bank

FUNDERS

Northeast Minneapolis Artists
Association

Sheridan Neighborhood Organization