

## My view: An arts-filled weekend awaits in Northfield

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Follow your art instincts to Northfield this weekend and discover a colorful palette of artists' works, from period-inspired design to today's best summertime market finds.

### Open house at the Archer House River Inn

The Archer House, a vintage boutique inn at 212 Division St. ([www.archerhouse.com](http://www.archerhouse.com)), invites the public to an open house on Friday as it unveils the historic inn's latest renovations. Explore the four-story inn's distinctively designed 36 guest rooms and suites and elegant public spaces. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine from 5 to 7 p.m. before making your way to the evening's Northfield Art Crawl.

Design considerations for the Archer House were in keeping with the inn's original 19th century charm. "Over the years the Archer House lost the sense of romance you want when you step into a grand old inn," said Todd Byhre, general manager of the Archer House. "It was important to bring back the grace and grandeur of this earlier time through the restoration of original features like tin ceilings and claw-foot tubs, but also through careful selection of

colors, textiles, lighting and furniture. I think we have recaptured the magic that guests would have experienced back in the day."

The iconic French Second Empire inn is noted as one of the longest continuously operating hotels in Minnesota. Rebound Hospitality of Northfield was the impetus for the 21-month renovation.

"The way people are making their travel and leisure time decisions today is experimental -- they want something unique, something different; they want a flavor of the community or neighborhood in which the property resides," said Chuck Paton, president of Rebound Hospitality.

### Exploring the galleries

Make sure to pick up a Northfield Art Crawl map while you're at the Archer House for a self-guided tour from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday of 11 galleries and shops in the downtown district. The crawl showcases pieces from a multitude of artists.

You won't want to miss the highly anticipated grand opening reception of "WWW.," an innovative exhibit at the Northfield Arts Guild, at 304 Division St., from 6 to 9 p.m. Leading Midwest fiber and textile artists have created a spectacular, diverse collection on the subject of technology. Artists explore how the Internet has changed human relations and how we process time and experience. In addition to an in-person tour, there is also a virtual component. Visitors and artists are encouraged to respond to the exhibit and offer their own perspectives about

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the World Wide Web at the "WWW." exhibit blog, found at [www.northfieldartsguild.org](http://www.northfieldartsguild.org). The exhibit runs until Aug. 6.

"This weekend is a perfect example of Northfield's vibrant art scene," Northfield Arts Guild executive director Ann Mosey said.

The river town has long been a supporter of blending professional art in partnership with its unique local businesses.

## Art along the Cannon

More art can be found at an open-air venue on Saturday morning. The Riverwalk Market Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is an entertaining stroll along the banks of the Cannon River downtown that offers a rustic, scenic backdrop for regional artists' wares in a variety of mediums.

"We have a nice mix of collectible fine art drawings, paintings and pottery, plus a wide range of fine craft gifts and jewelry," said market fair cofounder Dean Kjerland. "The 2011 Market Fair artists section has already grown by 30 percent over last year's inaugural season."

The weekly event also includes a farmers market that has a robust stock of seasonal fruits and vegetables as well as some homespun items like alpaca wool yarns, honey products, goat's milk soaps, artisan spices and baked goods.

In tune with the artists' weekend is a lineup of

acoustic outdoor music from local talent. In fact, all of July is dedicated to the "Art of Music," as each weekend offers an eclectic mix. Upcoming events in the months to come will celebrate the "Art of Words" and the "Art of Food."

For more information, visit [www.riverwalkmarketfair.org](http://www.riverwalkmarketfair.org).

Amy Acheson is a Northfield freelance writer who does communications work for the Riverwalk Market Fair, the Northfield Arts Guild and the Archer House.

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