From:	Iori Erickson
To:	Redistricting2012
Subject:	Please do not combine the Arts District with Downtown
Date:	Friday, March 09, 2012 11:06:41 AM

Dear Redistricting Committee:

I have been living in the arts district for nearly 10 years, and I am one of the many artists residing and working in the Sheridan neighborhood. The Arts District has been growing for a while now and is really beginning to flourish. Many new businesses are coming in and creating lots of great energy. Adding downtown to the mix will stifle a lot of that new creative energy. The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District is bounded by Broadway and 26th Avenue as well as the River and Central Avenue. This district was officially designated by the City of Minneapolis in 2003, as recognition of the significant impact the arts was having on the area. **The proposed City-Wide Ward Map splits the Arts District between two wards**, with the majority in Ward One and a much smaller portion, Bottineau and Sheridan, in Ward Three. Though the arts district is currently divided, the existing ward boundaries were established before the Arts District was created. With each passing year, the community of artists grows. As a community of interest, **it is logical for the entire Arts District to be in one ward.** Broadway is the natural border, defining the NE Arts District community. Please make adjustments to the proposed map. It makes no sense to combine the Arts District in with downtown, Sheridan and the Arts District are not a part of the downtown community at all, and the two are VERY different, with VERY different concerns. I don't see how one council person could possible represent both areas in one district. The Downtown concerns will out weigh the Arts District, and our burgeoning community will suffer.

Thank you,

Lori Erickson
Artist and Arts District resident