I am a former Northsider. I attended elementary school, middle school and high school, all within a few blocks of Plymouth Ave. But today, I am yet another passerby, moving through North Minneapolis only to get to somewhere else.

North Minneapolis has no shortage of urban outreach organizations and free clinics. What it lacks is a compelling destination to slow the passerby, and encourage them to inhabit and invest in the neighborhood, if even for a moment.

This project proposes to tear down the existing fortress-like 4th Precinct Police Station, then anchor the intersection of Plymouth and Penn with a new, highly visible and transparent station.

We then combine the former station site with the primary project sites between Oliver and Logan to create a new center of gravity for the neighborhood - a creative nexus of education and retail operated by existing Northside non-profits, the resident catalysts that are already active in the area.

The nexus consists of three segments:

CREATE - A block of artists-in-residence operated by Homewood Studios.

MAKE - A digital fabrication shop and graphic design lab run by Juxtaposition Arts.

GROW - A teaching greenhouse and community gardens tended by Project Sweetie Pie.

The former station site is occupied by a mixed-use building housing an event hall, community workspaces and a retail shop selling Northside-made goods, including but not limited to items produced at the new facilities.

What was just another throughway to somewhere else, can be a walkable center of visible activity, energy and creativity.
VIEW OF MAKE BLOCK AT PLYMOUTH AND OLIVER

VIEW OF CREATE BLOCK AT PLYMOUTH AND NEWTON

VIEW OF GROW BLOCK BETWEEN MORGAN AND LOGAN

VIEW OF MAKE BLOCK AT PLYMOUTH AND OLIVER

VIEW OF NEW 4TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION AT PLYMOUTH AND PENN