

# THE HEIRLOOM PROJECT

ON GARAGES NEAR YOU  
FALL 2014

KINGFIELD, MINNEAPOLIS

**THIS FALL I WILL CREATE MURALS OF HEIRLOOM SEEDS AND PLANTS ON NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGES.** I think art should be all over our city, in places where we expect it and in places where we don't. Art can inspire us to think creatively and in bigger ways, helping us solve complex issues and ordinary problems. Art feeds us and nurtures our very beings.

My murals look a bit different from the painted ones we are used to seeing. I make stencils with an unthreaded sewing machine and use an airbrush to spray paint through the stencil holes. Lines are actually comprised of dots. The effect is somewhat ephemeral and intentionally suggests fragility and delicacy. The way I make my work is a part of how I convey meaning in my art.

With the Heirloom Project, I am asking my neighbors to think about heirloom plants as something we have inherited from those who grew these plants before us and saved their seeds. Just like an inheritance of money or a precious object, they are worth preserving to pass on to the future. This is what seed saving is all about. The Heirloom Project is a visual reminder of this idea.

## SEED SAVING RESOURCES:

[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)  
[www.seedalliance.org](http://www.seedalliance.org)  
[www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)  
[www.seedambassadors.org](http://www.seedambassadors.org)

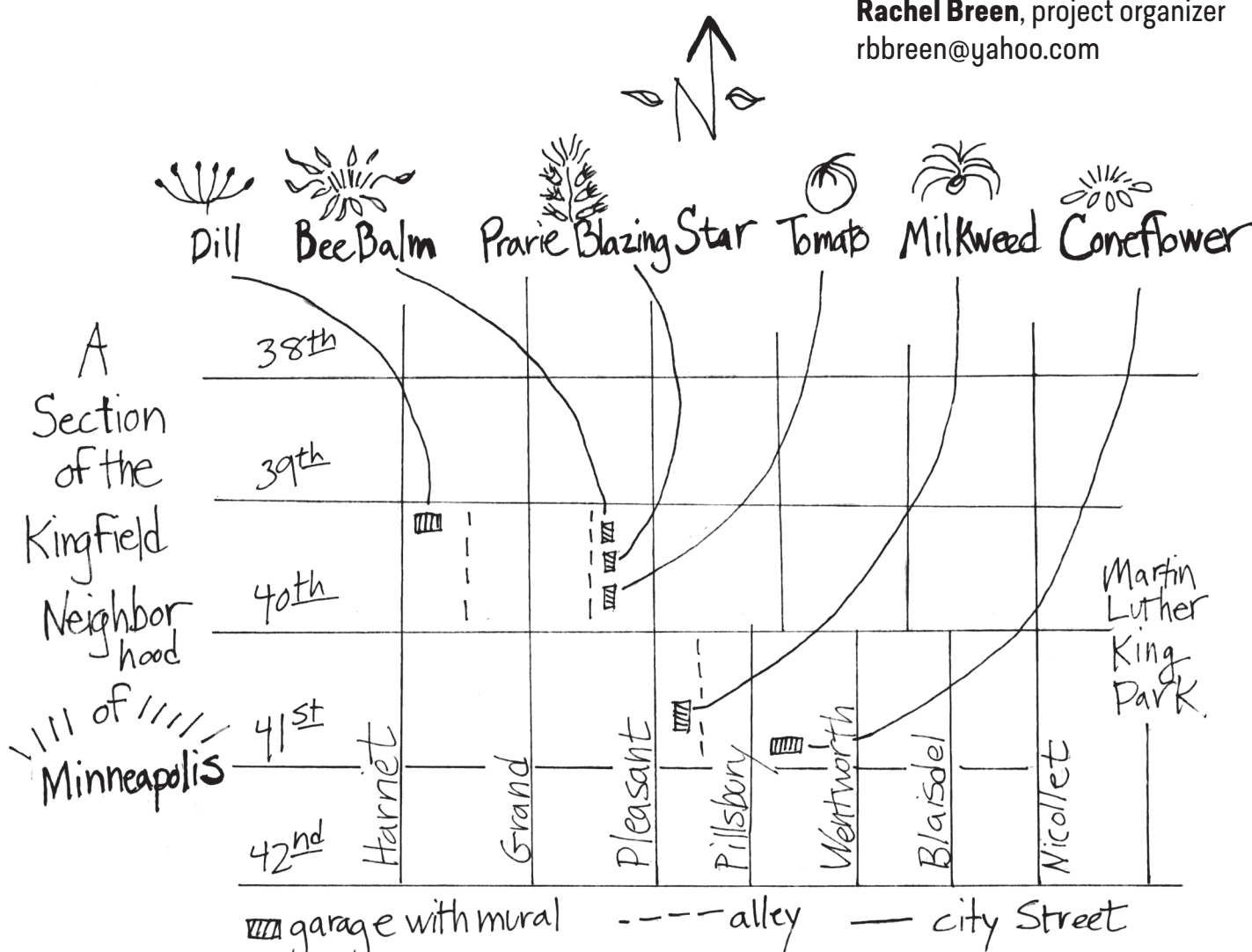
I hope that this work will spark dialogue about our role in sustaining our community today and into the future.

Please consider saving the seeds from flowers, vegetables and herbs in your own garden. Seed saving is easy – and if you save seed from the most flavorful and healthiest plants, you will stack the deck in your favor for next season and for future generations of plants and

people. If you have more than you need next spring share them with a neighbor. Or, help us create a seed library at King Park! That's next year's project!

*Rachel Breen*

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**Heirloom plants have a history of being passed down within a family or community.** To be considered an heirloom, a plant must be open-pollinated – which means pollination takes place by insect or wind, without human intervention. Most heirloom varieties have been cultivated by the practice of collecting, saving and passing on the seed.

Heirlooms and open pollinated varieties are usually well adapted to their region, making them especially valuable to farmers and gardeners. Each variety is genetically distinct, having evolved within its own ecological niche over thousands of years. When a plant variety disappears, its potential to aid us in the future is lost forever.

Once environmental diversity and genetic information is gone, it is irretrievably gone. Inheritance and legacy cannot be adequately created at the last minute. They must be planned for and safeguarded over time in order for something substantive and meaningful to be passed on.

Throughout time, people have saved seeds, helping to preserve diversity for generations to come – a moving example of the creation of a common inheritance.

**FOR UPDATES, LIKE THIS PROJECT ON FACEBOOK @ THE HEIRLOOM PROJECT**

## THANKS TO:

The great folks at Wet Paint art store in St. Paul, especially Chris Nolt  
Kingfield Neighborhood Association, especially Sarah Linnes-Robinson  
Seed Savers Exchange  
The Minnesota State Arts Board  
And most especially, the garage owners!



Rachel Breen is a fiscal year 2014 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the votes of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.