

# *The Pauline Fjelde House*

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Neighborhood to Hear Arguments on Demolition of Historic Pauline Fjelde House

Minneapolis, MN - On Saturday, December 13, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. the Housing Committee of the Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) will hold a special neighborhood meeting to address wide-spread concerns regarding a request for demolition of a historic house at 3009 Park Avenue.

Area residents will hear from the property owner about his desire to demolish the former home of acclaimed artisan Pauline Fjelde in order to install a surface parking lot to serve his adjacent commercial structure. Attendees will also hear from local historians and art history experts who wish to save the home due to its historical significance.

Pauline Fjelde was a highly skilled weaver and needlework artist and is perhaps most notable locally for having embroidered the first Minnesota State flag along with her sister Thomane, who was also an accomplished textile artist. The original flag still hangs in the State Capital rotunda. Pauline Fjelde is also credited with bringing the European Arts and Crafts movement to Norwegian-American textile arts, and some of her most important works—which she created during the time that she lived at 3009 Park Avenue between 1908 and 1918—have been on display with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, and in a permanent collection at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa.

Pauline hailed from a well-known and influential family of artisans, and many historians credit the Fjelde family with helping to establish Minneapolis as a prominent center for the arts. In particular, Pauline's brother, Jacob Fjelde, was a highly successful sculptor whose works include the Goddess of Wisdom sculpture at the Minneapolis Public Library, the iconic Hiawatha and Minnehaha sculpture at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, the Ole Bull sculpture in Loring Park, and the life size bust of Henrik Ibsen in Como Park in St. Paul.

3009 Park Avenue was originally designed for Pauline Fjelde in 1907 by architects Boehme and Cordella who also designed—among other notable structures—the Swan J. Turnblad Mansion (current home of the American Swedish Institute) at 2600 Park Avenue, just four blocks north of the Fjelde home.

Saturday's meeting will take place at La Vina Restaurant, 3010 4th Avenue South, in Minneapolis.

For more information about CANDO, visit [www.candompls.org](http://www.candompls.org).

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