

ARTS & VARIETY

Hidden Gem Alert: Ginkgo Coffeeshop

BY MALIA BRAIEDY

AT THIS POINT IN THE YEAR, I personally feel like I've exhausted all of my studying locations. Going to the same spots over and over again has left me feeling unmotivated and distracted, and I can't seem to keep up with the increasing amount of homework that this semester has already presented. However, there's one place that I can never seem to get bored of, no matter how many times I go. With the closest location being just five minutes north of campus, Ginkgo Coffeeshop, located at 721 N Snelling Avenue, has kept me coming back.

Inspired by the Ginkgo Biloba tree, which is known for its fan-shaped leaves and its history as one of the oldest living tree species (fun fact: we actually have a few of these trees on our own campus!), this family-friendly café's uniqueness and eclectic-nature matches the name perfectly.

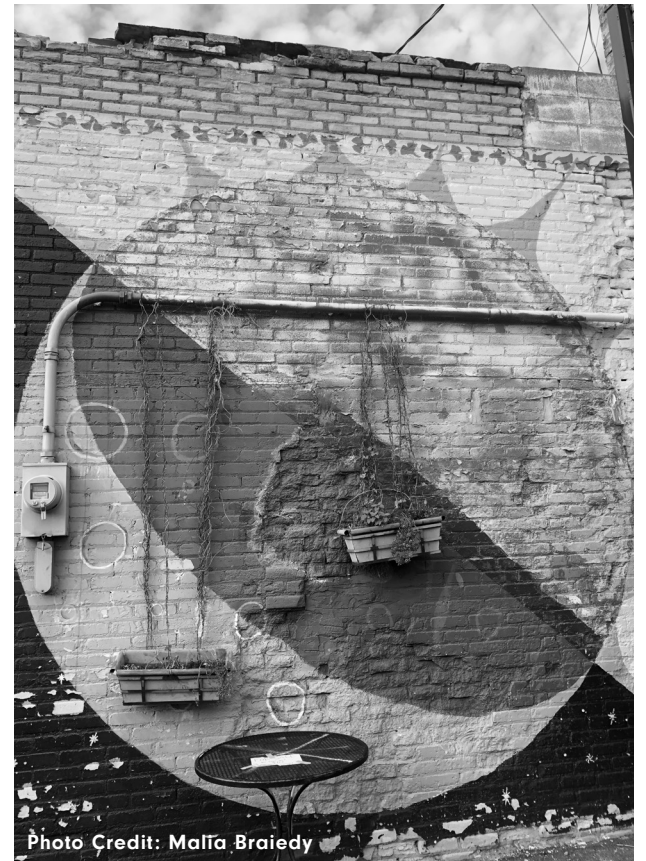
There's a plethora of options to keep you nourished during your studies. If you're looking for some liquid energy, you could grab one of their signature espresso drinks or one of the many flavors of tea that they provide. Or, if you're looking for a snack to keep your mind engaged, or even a potential meal, their food menu has way more than just your average coffee shop. From chips to burritos, their menu really has an option for every craving. They even have a full selection of ice cream that you could use as a reward after (or during!) your study session. Personally, there are so many options that sometimes I can't

even make up my mind, but thankfully the barista's have always been so friendly and helpful in my decision making process.

Ginkgo's is one of the more diet-inclusive coffee shops I've visited, as most of the options can be made as gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan. They're also one of the most affordable shops I've visited. When it comes to coffee shops, the price of a simple latte can be skyrocketed to almost \$10 a cup, but Ginkgo's prices even rival that of more standardized brands like Starbucks and Caribou. A simple cup of brewed coffee can be purchased from \$2-3, whereas Caribou's can be purchased from \$3-4.

While their drinks are a work of art in and of itself, Ginkgo's also serves as a gallery for local artists, rotating pieces for sale approximately every two months. Various murals can be found around the building as well, one of which is featured on their outdoor patio. They also occasionally host small concerts in the evenings, showcasing a variety of bands and singer-songwriters from across the continent at a more-than-reasonable cost of about \$20 per ticket, depending on the performer.

So if you're looking for a new spot to cozy up and get to work, or even a place to try a new drink for a reasonable price, stop inside the Ginkgo Coffeeshop and check out the enthralling decorations and great energy that they pride themselves on. I can assure you, you won't be disappointed.



Student Senate Update

BY FAITH FITZHUGH

WE HAVE ALL SURVIVED and before you know it, January and February will go by in a blink. We have all been busy with classes, clubs, and sports and all of the other things that fill up our calendars. Student Senate has been busy as well with projects all over the school, from the Commuter Lounge, to starting new approaches with projects, all the way to livening up the halls with a more modernized aesthetic.

At the Student Senate meeting on February 2nd, President Brian Friedrich came to speak with the Senate and answer any questions the Senate had. President Friedrich during the meeting states "Great job wearing masks on campus. Most important thing on campus is our students! Second highest spring semester enrollment in CSP history. For the structure of CSP, we have moved to 6 college structures. Communication is a part of business now and Nursing is a part of the college of human services".

The topic of faculty of color retention was brought up and President Friedrich ensured the new diversity

plan will aim at keeping the retention rate higher. If you'd like to see the diversity plan of the university please ask Student Senate. The renovation of Gangelhoff Center is almost complete as is the Commuter Lounge. Senate has approved \$1,844 to buy the new furniture for the community lounge. New laptops for CSP Faculty will be coming over the summer. At this point it appears the long awaited ice rink will not get finished this year. A quote from Justin Kohlman, "I will be looking into security concerns and improvements to the recording studio for the music department. We really hoped the ice rink could get completed this year but other projects were put ahead and supplies did not get here in time. It will certainly be done in the next academic year."

President Friedrich and the Senate encouraged students to participate in honoring Black History Month. In lieu of the Day at the Capitol event postponed from covid, Student Voices is offering an opportunity to speak to state lawmakers. Student Senate approved to fund the clubs who won with the

most members that participated on MLK service day. BSU (Black Student Union) won a \$100 gift card and CSE (Concordia Sisterhood of Empowerment) came in second winning \$50. We are celebrating student success by having a 90%+ academic success rate and receiving the NCAA President's academic award. Student Senate is always wanting to hear from the CSP community on new ways to improve our school and make it a better place for everyone. Senate continues to promote diversity and inclusivity.

Remember Comet's Cupboard is always a resource accessible to all students. Senate is even working towards becoming more accessible to students so that any concerns will be addressed as soon as possible. Stay updated by checking out instagram. Everyone remember to be kind and respectful to each other! Have an amazing month. (P.S. Remember to breathe, sleep, and eat).