

Exploring Asylum Hill – New Neighbors on Huntington

Usually when we Explore Asylum Hill we discover something that's been here for a while. It's still partly true in this case, but we're really announcing something that hasn't quite happened yet. It's true that Chion Wolf has been living and renting in Asylum Hill for the last 8 years, but what's new is that she and Emily Petersen will soon become the newest NINA homeowners.

For those few who don't listen to WNPR, especially Colin McEnroe, who've never heard the Hartford Hot Several Brass Band, have never been to *Nightfall* nor *Asking for a Friend* with Chion Wolf at Sea Tea Comedy Theater; you really need to find out what you're missing. For everyone else, it's that Chion Wolf.

It began when she and Emily Petersen were looking to buy a home and weren't finding

anything that fit between desirability and affordability. Chion really liked the fact that she could walk to work. They spoke to their friend Uyen Mai who had recently moved into the first NINA house on Huntington, and mentioned that NINA had acquired the lot next door.

"The first time that we were seriously talking to them [NINA] ... Emily was working at Achievement First" Chion said "and my freelance gigs, ... trying to get more money into my life, put us over" the income limit. They were bummed. It wasn't until a while after Emily decided to go back to school for nursing that it occurred to them to try again. "Now it's just my income, and thanks to my freelance work we can do it." Chion said.

What really pleased them was the fact that they were able to commit and be approved early enough in the process that they could help with the design. "We've been able to have a lot of say" Emily said.

"We knew we wanted as open a floor plan as possible" Chion said, "and even though there was a wall in place that we wanted taken out... we were able to shorten the driveway and with the savings on asphalt get it taken down. And now that's where we're going to have a baby grand and Emily will be able to give lessons..."

They also have great plans for a garden in the back yard. So clearly they exemplify the diversity and stability that homeownership brings. Huntington St. and Asylum Hill are taking another step forward.

