

Nik Kovac was born and raised on Milwaukee's East Side. He proudly attended Milwaukee Public Schools – from McDowell Montessori School, Golda Meir Elementary School, to Jackie Robinson Middle School, and through Riverside High School. The arts programming at Golda Meir exposed him to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Milwaukee Art Museum. At Robinson and again at Riverside he performed with the Forensics Team. He also participated in student theater at Golda Meir, Riverside, and Harvard University.

As an arts reporter for the Shepherd Express in 2005, Nik wrote several reviews of music and visual art events in Milwaukee – and a serial news piece about the influence of artists on Milwaukee's local economy. This in-depth investigation included a detailed analysis of census data on professions, and a profile of Bucketworks – an art and small business incubator just north of downtown.

In 2007 Nik performed in the first Milwaukee performance of March on Milwaukee, a play about the fair housing marches in Milwaukee written by Peggy Rozga, Father Groppi's widow. During his successful campaign for Alderman in 2008, he read an original poem about the experience for a candidates' poetry reading at Woodland Pattern, a unique Milwaukee institution located on Locust Street - around the corner from his house in Riverwest.

Such experiences have taught him the positive influence artists can have on the local economy, the sense of community, neighborhood beautification, and the social memory of a city. His district includes many of the city's artists and art institutions.

Nik is on the board of Historic Milwaukee, Inc. and is a member of the Riverwest Artists' Association and the Urban Ecology Center. His mother, Thea Kovac, is a well-known visual artist and art educator, and his sister, Delia Kovac is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and the MFA program at Rutgers University. He is proud to have so many artists in his family, neighborhood, and city.