

Bus Shelter Placemaking and Community Engagement Sample Proposal

Location: Bus Stops #17194 and #17195 at Central Ave NE and Lowry Ave

Background

Metro Transit is the starting point for many people's connection with others, *What Lifts Us Up* will depict hot air balloons with positive images and messages from the community. Travel is important to the very fabric of our existence, it brings opportunities, connects us with others, and is synonymous with our immigrant melting pot nation. We or our ancestors all traveled for a better life. *What Lifts Us Up* will create a unique atmosphere for all riders and visitors, by creating an open visual dialog for the citizens to see their vision brought to life.

Connection to Stop

I'm a full-time artist that lives in the heart of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, this is my community. Central Ave NE and Lowry Ave is a community gathering and placemaking site for many local artists. Our community is diverse and vibrant. I live just a few blocks away. When the pandemic hit many residents in our building were struggling to put food on the table and pay rent. Eastside Food Co-op provided gift cards to everyone's doorway, The Maya Cuisine restaurant offered free food for those in need. Our community supported one another to lift each other up.

Project

For the community component my plan is to connect through two forms of interaction. I will create an online portal where the community can participate while still practicing social distancing for those individuals with COVID concerns. The community can share their stories about what lifts their spirits. Onsite I will create several large scale wooden hot air balloons the community can paint and write messages on, along with placing their creations from the art kits. I will work to connect with businesses, the library, etc. for free art kit pick up and will personally distribute them throughout the neighborhood. Visitors can take photos with the hot air balloons to increase the social visibility of the project. There will be a sanitation station to ensure we practice safe social distancing throughout the site location. Once an echoing theme is discovered they will be incorporated into the final design.

My previous public art installations have been inspired by the different communities' interactions. I spend many hours working and attending local community events to ensure that the community's voices are heard. This part of the process is just as important and typically requires more time and building than the final design.

I will set up an online portal where the community can share their feelings and art created from the free art kits. The online portal is a place where the community can see the project unfold and learn about how strong our community is. I've learned that questionnaires are impersonal and having intimate conversations are the key to gathering outcomes. During local events I will be alert and engage with those who are willing to share their story.

Community participation is the driving forces behind my public art installations. I'm a full time artist so my schedule is very flexible. I work in many different mediums and can translate my visual fine art background into a digital format. I recently created a window cling mural that was

installed at the New Public Service building for the City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places Program. The project deliverable is similar, and I will be able to provide proper files to fabricators. The final design went through many stages of approval before the final installation. It's important to review creative and community placemaking projects to ensure that future projects serve the community's needs. I will catalog the responses and interactions during the creation of the piece and provide clear outcomes of the project for discussion with Metro Transit staff.

Budget

What Lifts Us Up - Bus Shelter Window Cling

Community Online Sharing Forum Build						\$300.00
Take Home Engagement						\$750.00
Artist Fees						\$4,000.00
Onsite Helpers/ Covid Sanitation						\$500.00
Large Balloon Fabrication						\$1,500.00
Materials/ Supplies						\$1,500.00
	Material Type	Unit Size	Cost/Unit	Amount	Total Cost	
	Wood	Misc	\$ 750.00	1	\$ 750.00	
	Paint	Misc	\$ 500.00	1	\$ 500.00	
	Hardware	Misc	\$ 100.00	1	\$ 100.00	
	Disposables	Misc	\$ 150.00	1	\$ 150.00	
Final Design Scanning/ File Prep						\$750.00
Marketing/ Handout Materials						\$250.00
Travel/Material Transportation						\$150.00
Insurance						\$300.00

Total Budget \$10,000.00