METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: PLYMOUTH AVE STATION

Visual References / Key Precedents:



Key Colors:





PALETTE INSPIRED BY LOCAL STOREFRONTS MURALS AND JAZZ/BLUES POSTER CULTURE

JAZZ



CULTURAL RESILIENCE AND CREATIVITY

ONCE THE HEART OF BLACK COMMERCE AND SOCIAL LIFE.

CONCEPT PHASE

Plymouth Avenue Station







Theme:
Love/Collective Work


PLYMOUTH
AVE

METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: West Broadway Station

Earthseed / ODE TO ANCESTORS / Shoulders of Giants

Visual References / Key Precedents:

1.



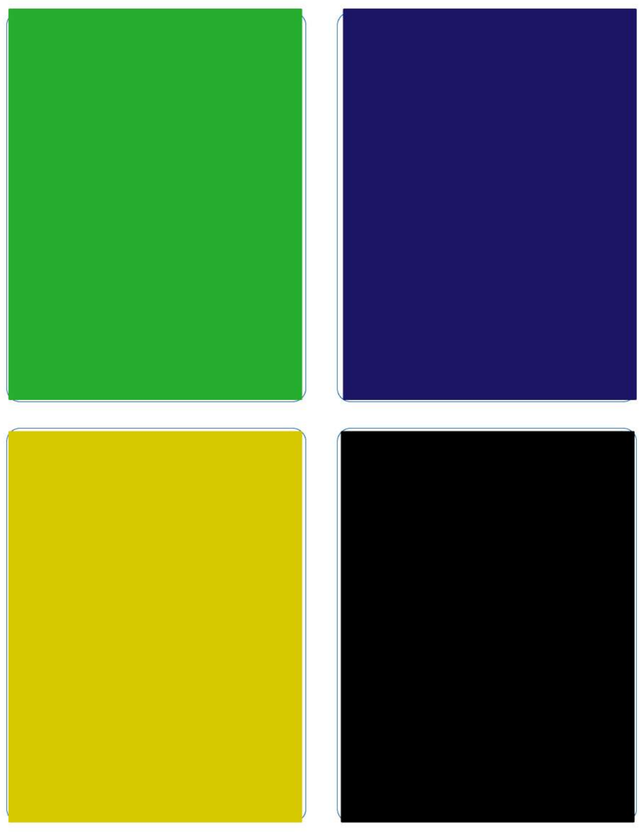


2.





Key Colors:





1. AGRICULTURAL REFERENCES (Top Left)

Conventional farming (grid pattern): Represents mass production, Eurocentric imposed order

Organic/fractal farming (organic pattern): Represents Black and indigenous approaches—working with the land, not imposing on it. Notice the natural, fractal patterns found in nature.

2. HEALING PAVILION REFERENCE (Top Left)

Demonstrates how form and repetition create divine fields—connected to hospitality and food justice. Food is intimate; nourishment rebuilds.

3. SEED TO BLOOM SYMBOL (Right)

The design starts with an abstracted seed icon—a foundation symbol that could be native species or fantastical form from nature. The seed blooms into a flower motif, representing growth, care, and community expression.

4. COMMUNITY EXPRESSION (Right)

Community members personalize the bloom symbol, showing care for self and others:

Purple figure (adult/elder form): Wears bloom as earrings

Yellow figure (adult/elder form): Uses bloom as hair tie

Blue figure with puff: Wears bloom as hair tie

Blue figure without puff: Wears bloom as earrings

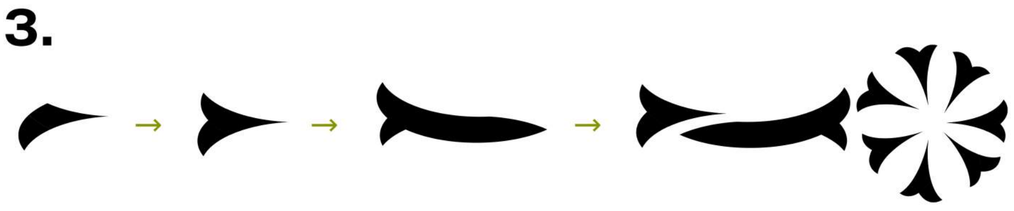
The elongated, abstract yellow and purple figures represent Giants—divine ancestral beings with pronounced forms, bridging ancestry and future/children.

They hold space between past wisdom and next generation.

The Visual System

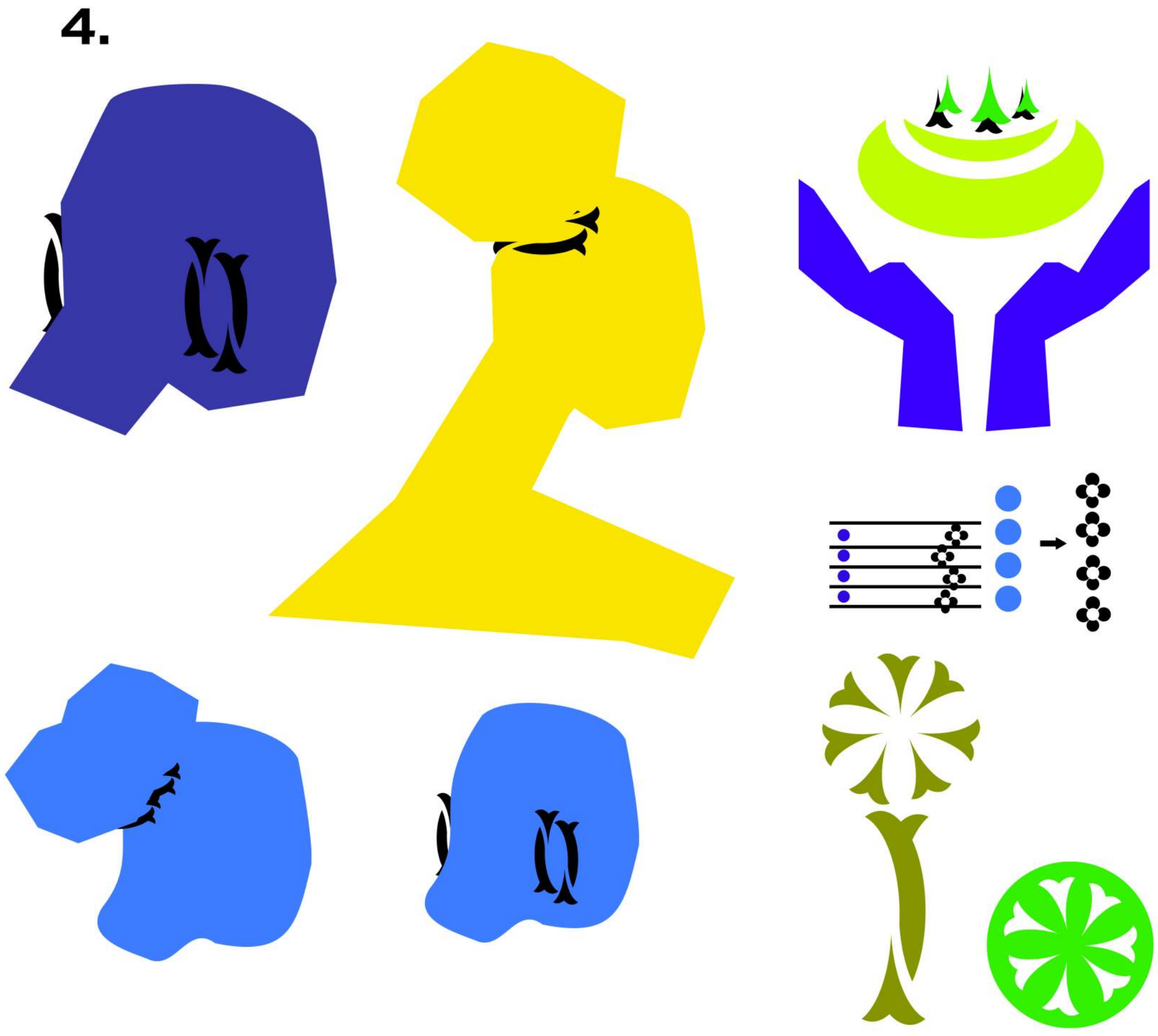
earth (seed) → growth (bloom) → expression (personal adornment)

3.



This visual system moves from earth (seed) → growth (bloom) → expression (personal adornment), mirroring how food justice and community care work: starting with foundation (land, nourishment), growing connection (cultivation, gathering), and expressing identity (cultural continuity, intergenerational ties). The organic forms resist imposed order, honoring indigenous and Black relationships with land while imagining futures where Northside communities are nourished, connected, and divinely present.

4.





METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: Lyndale Avenue

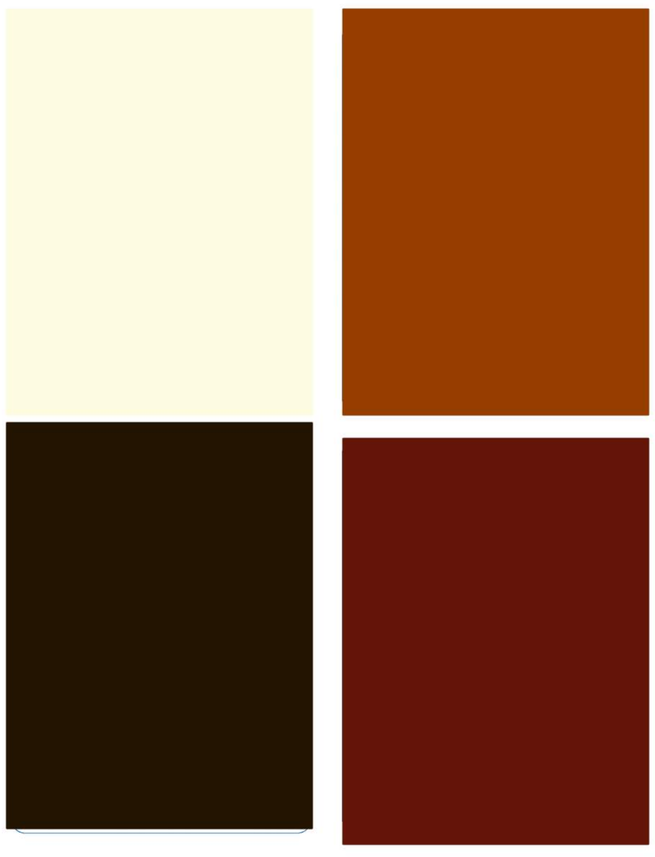
Love Letter 2 Lyndale

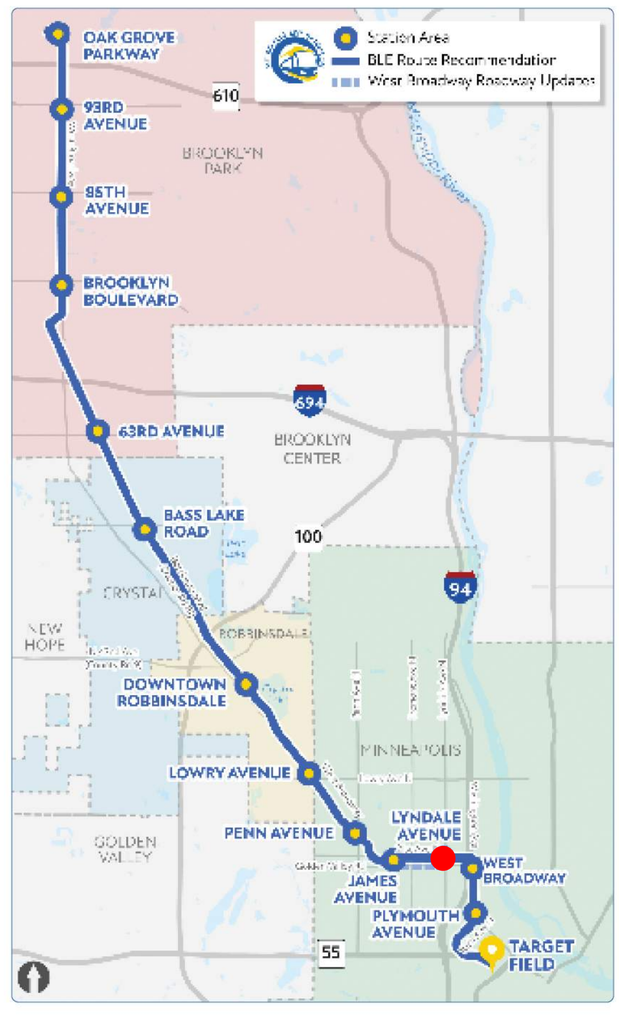
Visual References / Key Precedents:

1.



Key Colors:





1. INSPIRATION & MATERIALITY (Top Right)

Family portraits

Scrapbook collages capturing memory and intimacy

Houses and buildings in the area share this collage materiality—layered, textured, lived-in

Keywords: Scrapbook, love letter, home, house, portrait, painterly

FIGURE DEVELOPMENT (Left to Right)

2. BASE FORM (Right)

Establishing a unified figure form that can be adapted across all four stations. This base structure provides consistency while allowing differentiation through**:**

Color

Line quality

Texture

Rendering style

3. LYNDALE FIGURES (Center/Right)

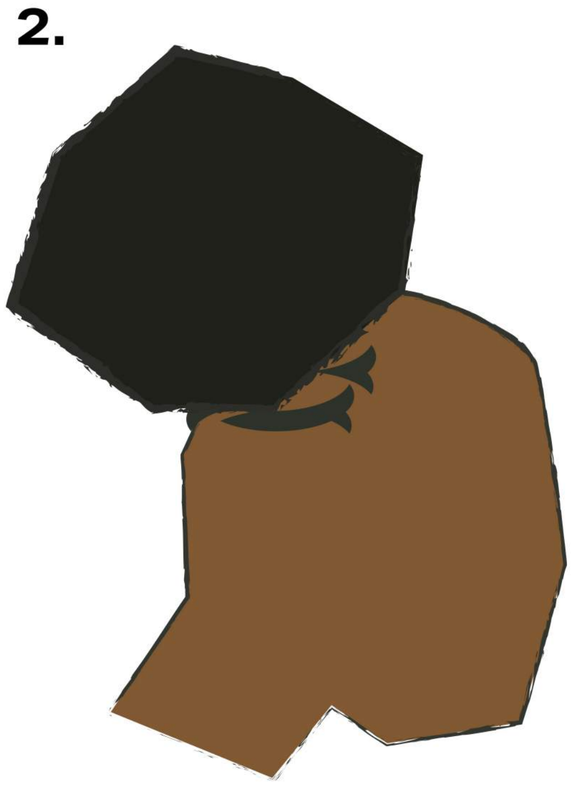
These figures lean into realism—more detailed, grounded, human. They feel like portraits you'd see in family homes: recognizable, warm, present.

Sketches showing raw, personal mark-making

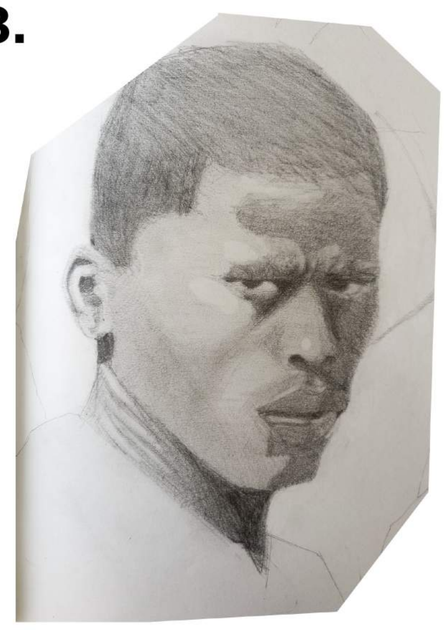
The Visual System

Lyndale Avenue's design functions as a scrapbook love letter—collaging memories, faces, and everyday moments into a portrait of home. The realistic rendering style honors the specificity of individuals rather than abstracting them, saying: these particular people, in this particular place, matter. The collage aesthetic mirrors the neighborhood's layered materiality—homes added onto over generations, stories built on top of stories. Where West Broadway reaches toward the divine, Lyndale stays grounded in the intimate, multigenerational, human scale of community life. Food justice and gardens root this further: nourishment happens in kitchens, at tables, between people who know each other's names.

2.



3.

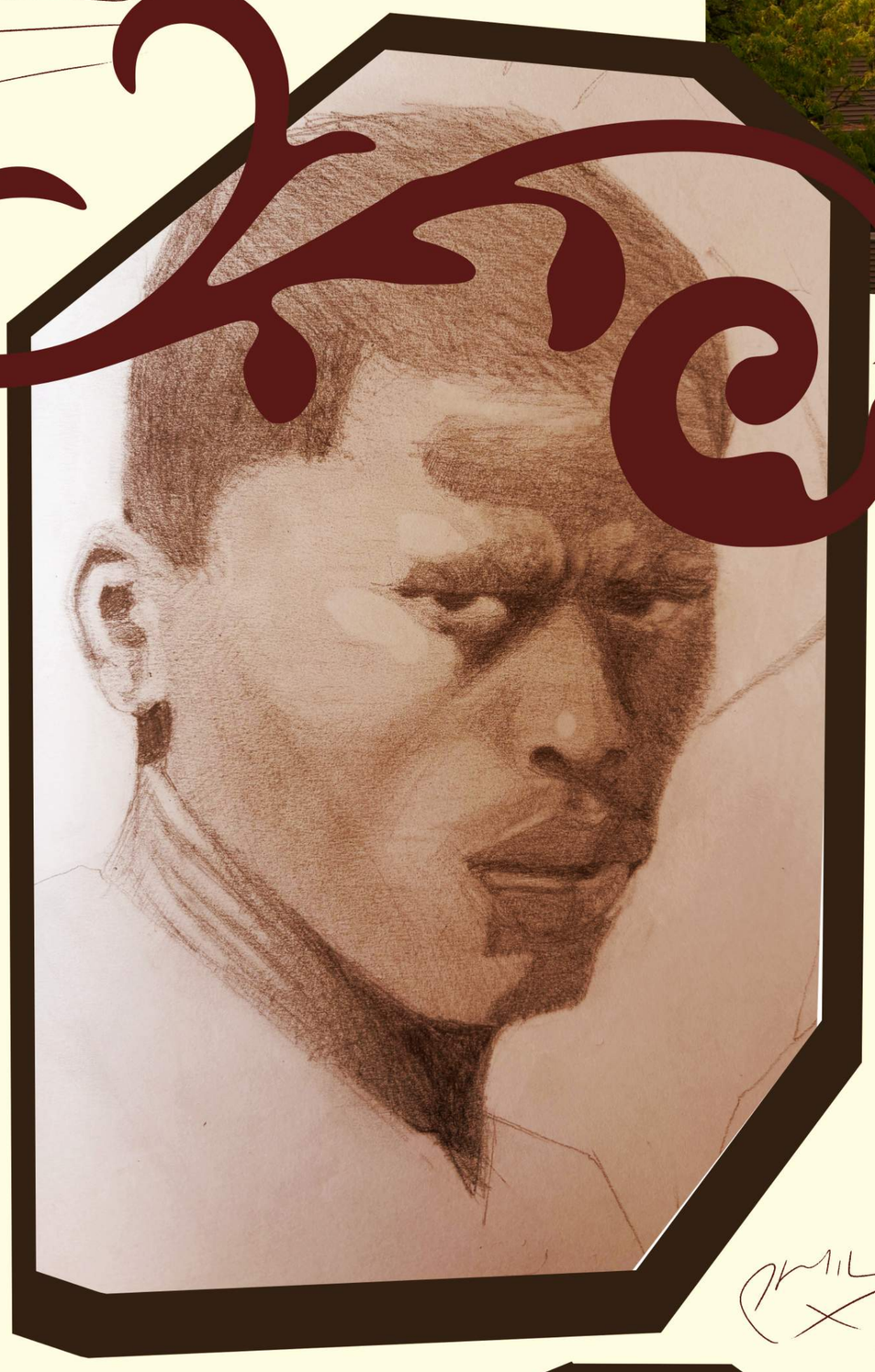






Do what you love





















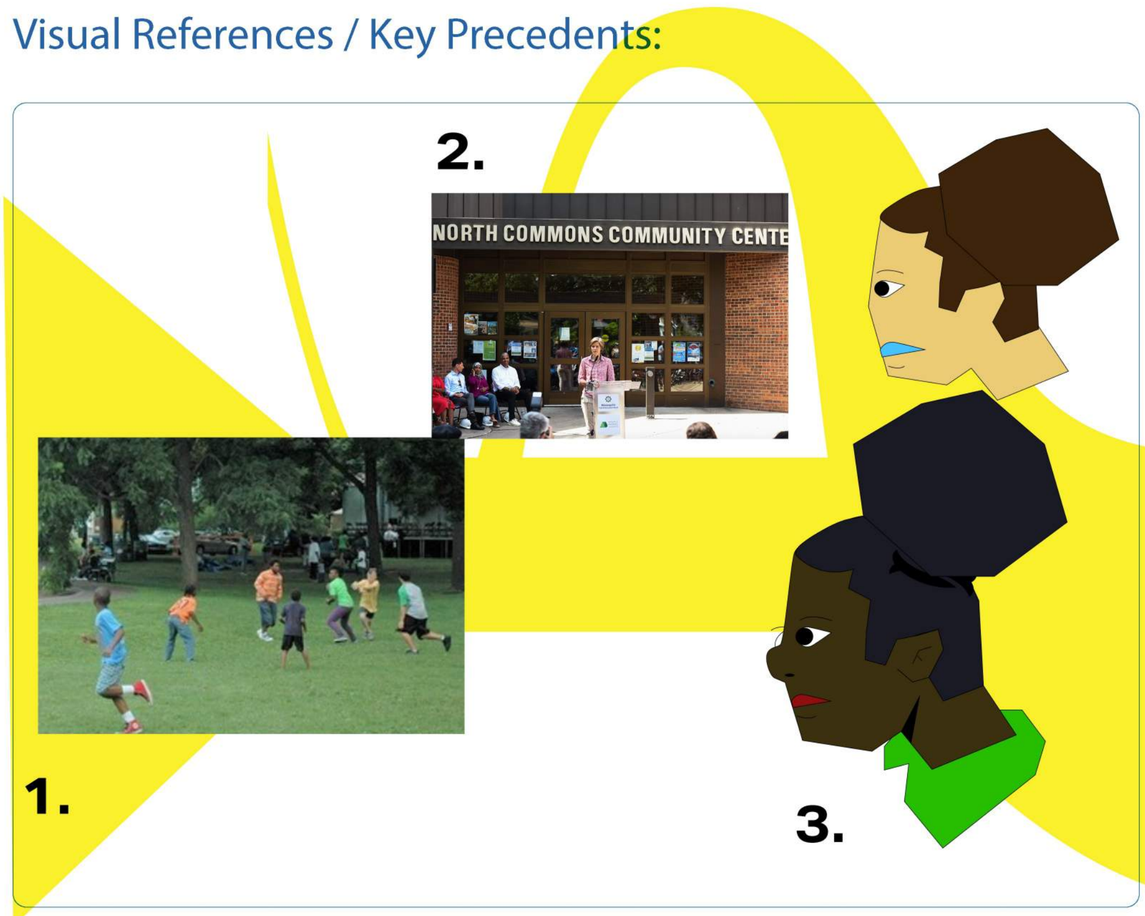


METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

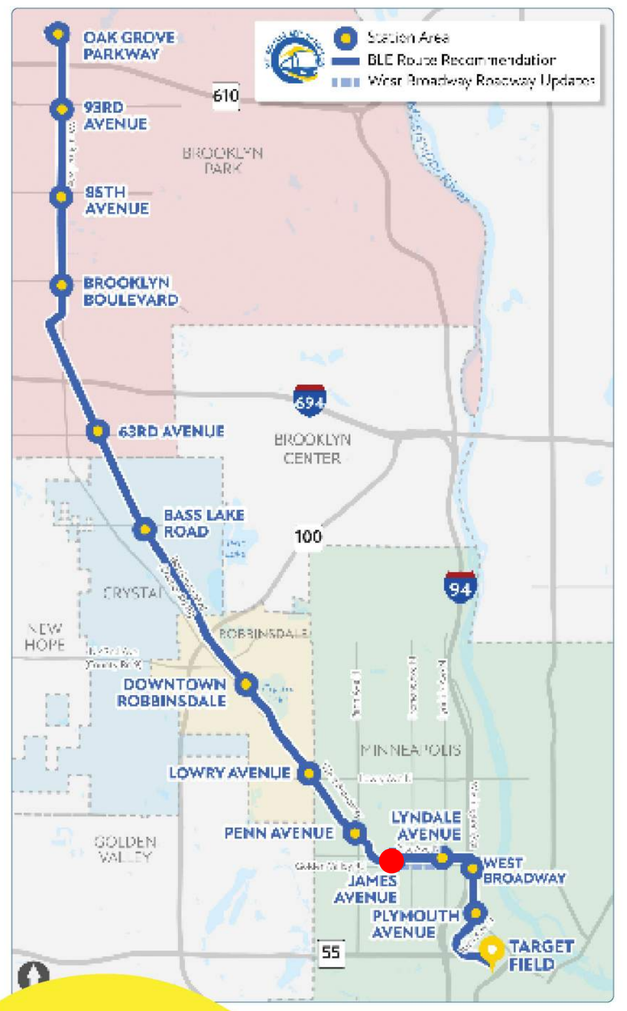
STATION: JAMES AVENUE

Youth Movement + Park Life

Visual References / Key Precedents:



Key Colors:



1. BACKGROUND (Top Left)

Abstracted backdrop with movement and energy—capturing the kinetic feel of park life, kids running, organizing happening, constant activity. The background pulses with youth vitality and collective action.

2. PARK AS GATHERING SPACE (Right)

The park appears as central infrastructure where community life happens—not just recreation, but organizing, care work, movement building. References to Hospitality House and Jerry Gamble's legacy of youth empowerment and community care.

3. FIGURE STYLE

Commercial illustration/graphic style—bold, illustrative, energetic. Figures feel dynamic and movement-oriented, capturing youth energy and activism.

4. YOUTH IN MOTION (Right/Throughout)

Scenes of youth-led activity:

Kids playing

Young people organizing

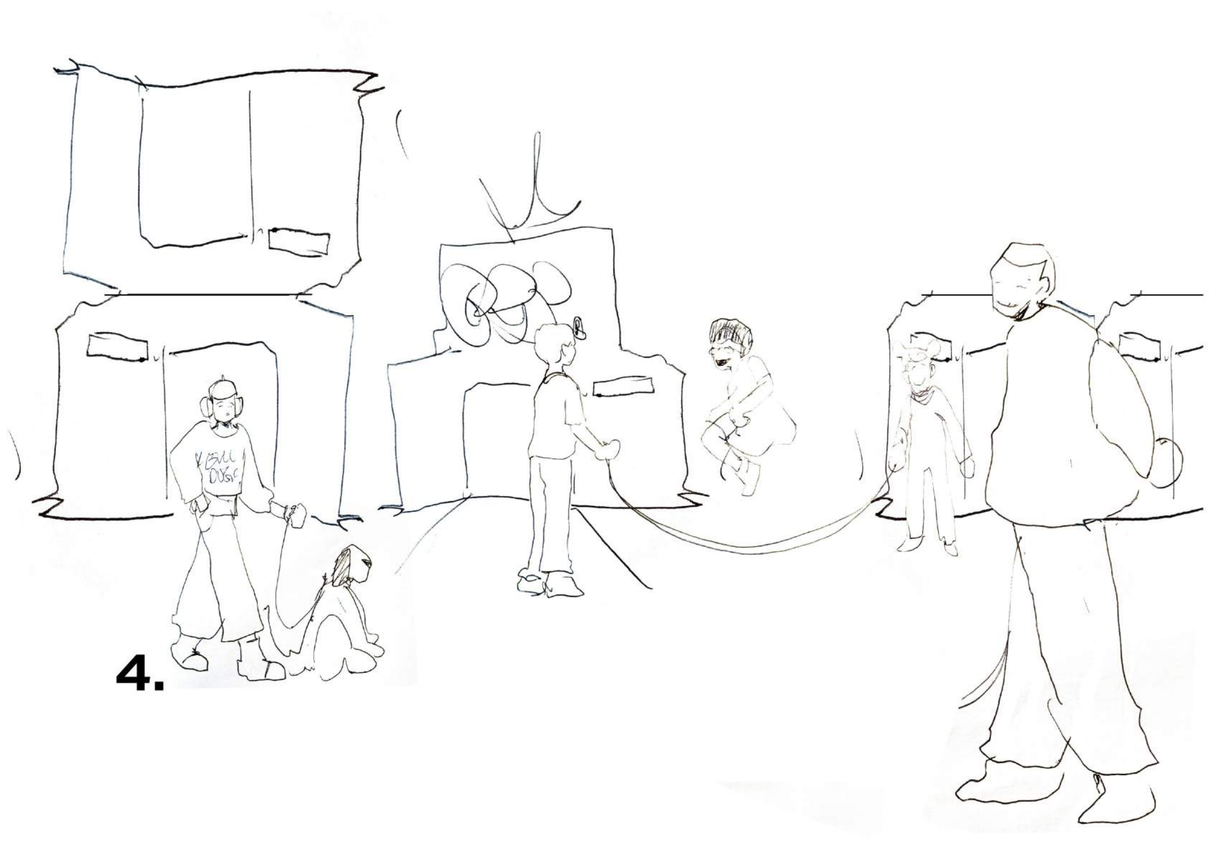
Movement and gathering

Intergenerational connection

The park generates youth leadership and community care—green space creates conditions for organizing and collective power.

The Visual System

James Avenue's design celebrates youth as movement makers. The park isn't passive green space—it's where organizing happens, where Hospitality House extends care, where Jerry Gamble's legacy lives in young people leading change. The commercial illustration style captures the bold, graphic energy of youth activism—posters, flyers, street-level organizing visuals. The abstracted, energetic background ensures the station feels alive with purpose, never static, always organizing. This honors how parks become sites of resistance, care, and power-building when young people claim them as gathering spaces for community transformation.





METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: PENN AVENUE

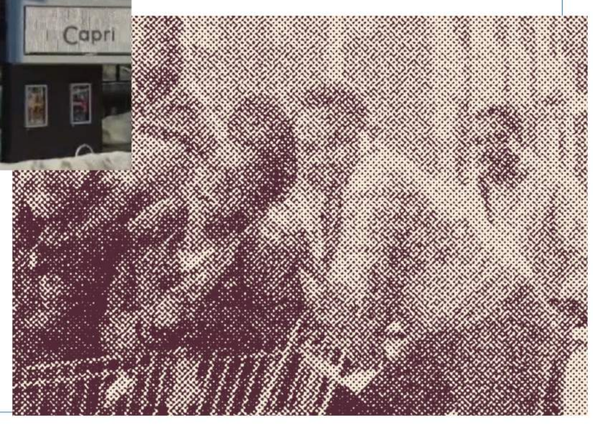
Minneapolis Sound + Black Cultural Power

Visual References / Key Precedents:

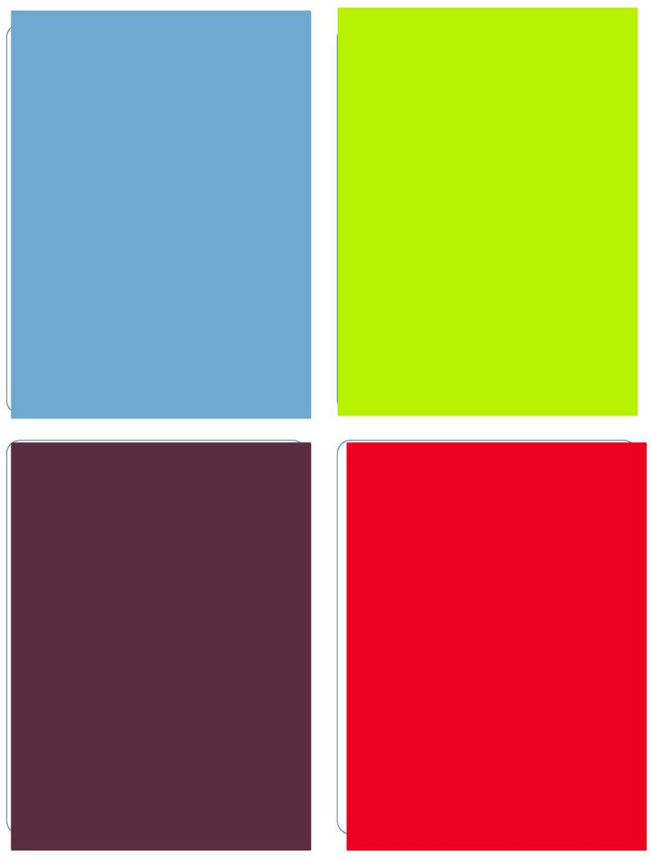
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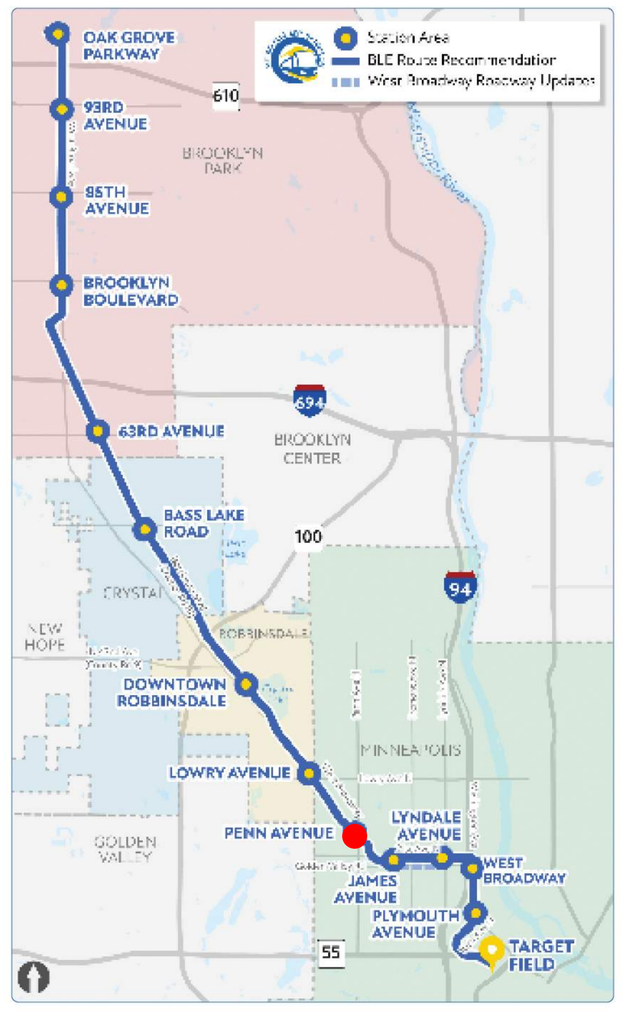


2.



Key Colors:





The Visual System

VISUAL NARRATIVE (Layered & Multi-Dimensional):

1. LAYERED TEXTURES (Throughout)

Street art aesthetic—overlapping elements, spray paint textures, wheatpaste posters, murals bleeding into each other. Nothing is flat or singular; everything is built up, layered, expressive. This mirrors how culture accumulates: performances on top of markets on top of history on top of activism.

2. BLACK WALL STREET / COMMUNITY MARKETS (Woven Throughout)

Market scenes showing economic self-determination:

Vendor stalls

Exchange and commerce

Community gathered around buying/selling

Entrepreneurship as resistance

3. ACTIVISM & GATHERING (Foreground/Background)

Events, performances, people claiming space:

Crowds gathering

Bodies in motion

Taking up the street

Activism through presence

The distinction between performance, market, and protest blurs—all are acts of cultural power.

4. FIGURE STYLE

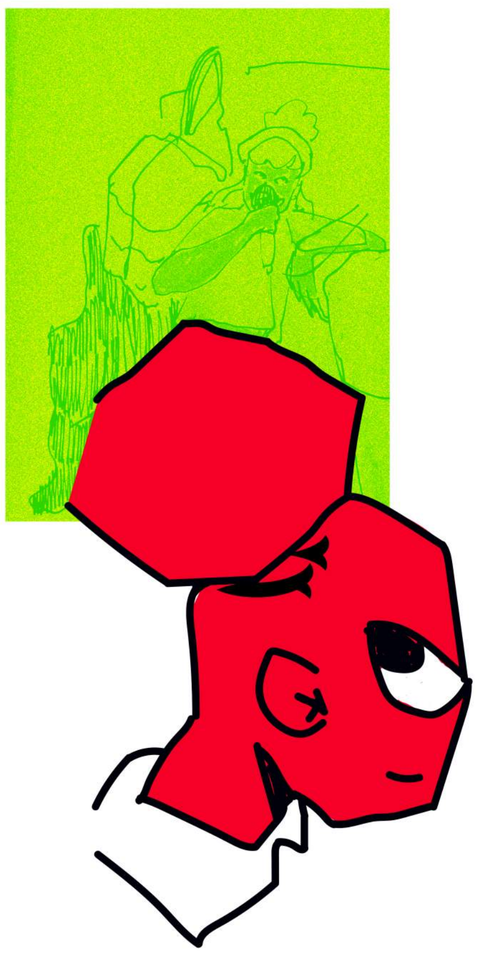
Multi-dimensional, textured, street art influenced—figures have depth, layers, expressive mark-making. They feel spray-painted, wheatpasted, hand-drawn over and over.

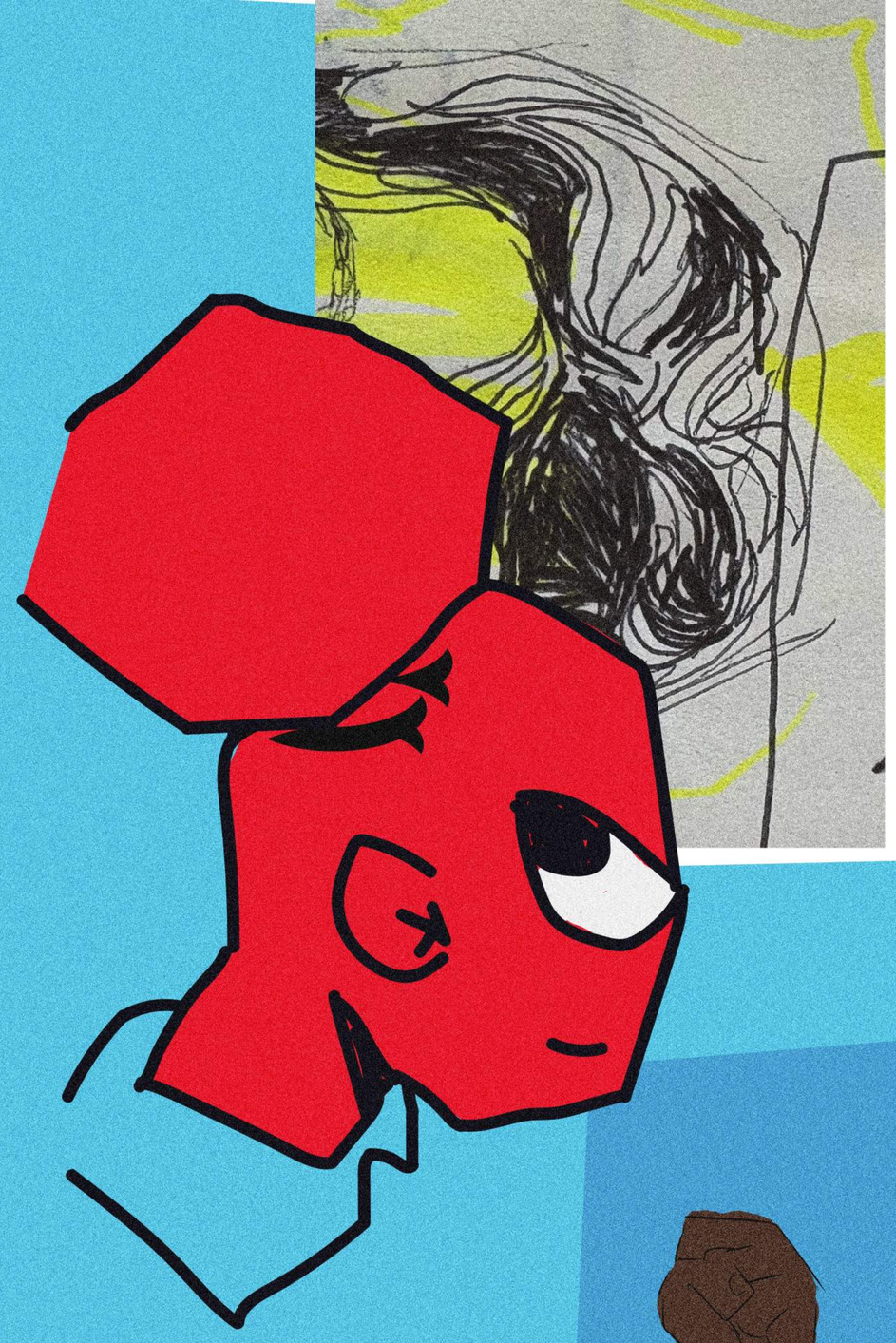
Penn Avenue's design is unapologetically layered and loud—refusing single narratives or clean separation between culture, commerce, and resistance. The street art aesthetic honors how Black communities have always used public space as canvas: murals claim walls, performances claim stages, markets claim sidewalks. The Capri Theatre anchors this cultural assertion—a Black-owned space that's survived and thrived, programming Black film and performance for generations. By weaving Black Wall Street into this station, we connect economic power with cultural power: markets aren't just transaction, they're performance; commerce isn't just survival, it's statement. The Minneapolis Sound—Prince's legacy, the music that put the city on the map—reminds us that Black cultural production shapes entire cities, entire eras. Penn Avenue says: we're here, we're loud, we take up space, and that's the point.

3-4.















METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: LOWRY AVE STATION

Theme: Honesty/Purpose

Visual References / Key Precedents:



Key Colors:



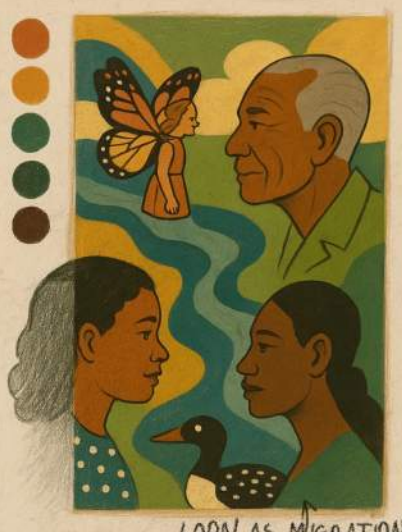


CONCEPT

Lowry Avenue Station

–Migration–





LOON AS MIGRATION SYMBOL

- References migration along Mississippi River
- Shapes inspired by neighborhood styles
- Concept informed by feedback from community with Northside residents

While we understand there is no direct river access at Lowry Avenue, the river imagery is intended symbolically representing connection, flow, and renewal, themes that mirror the migration and cultural resilience of the Northside community. Similarly, the loon serves as a Minnesota icon of healing and nature, connecting urban residents to statewide environmental identity.

Flowing lines symbolize pathways of connection and renewal, not meant as a literal river.



METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

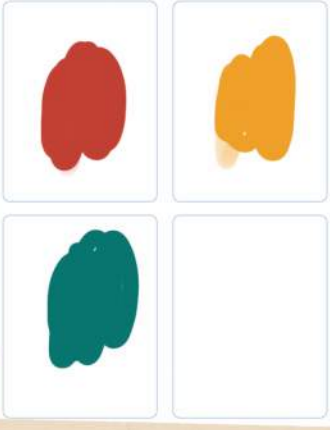
STATION: DOWNTOWN ROBBINSDALE

Theme: Wisdom/Unity

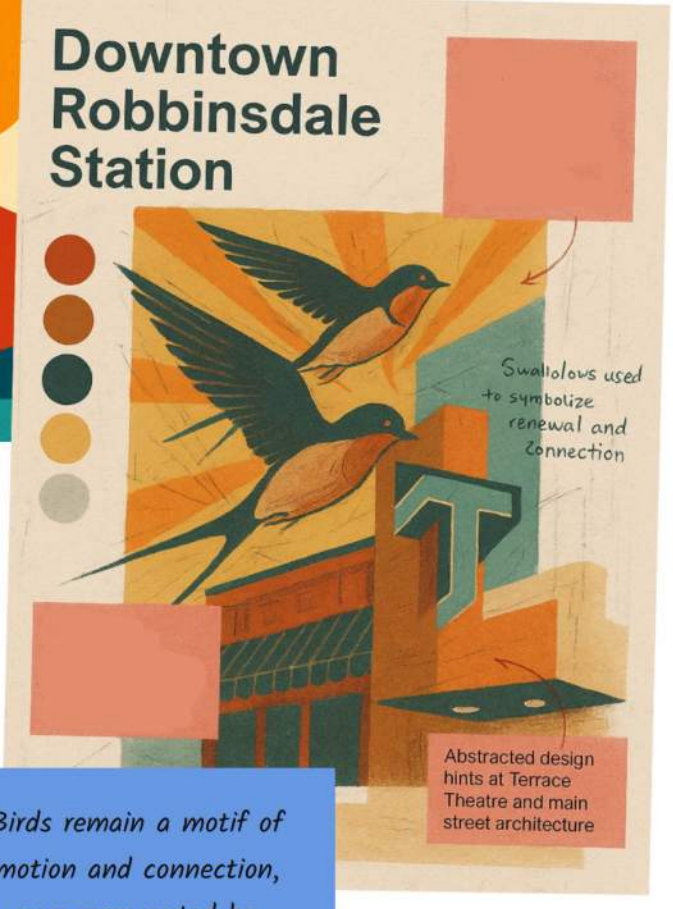
Visual References / Key Precedents:

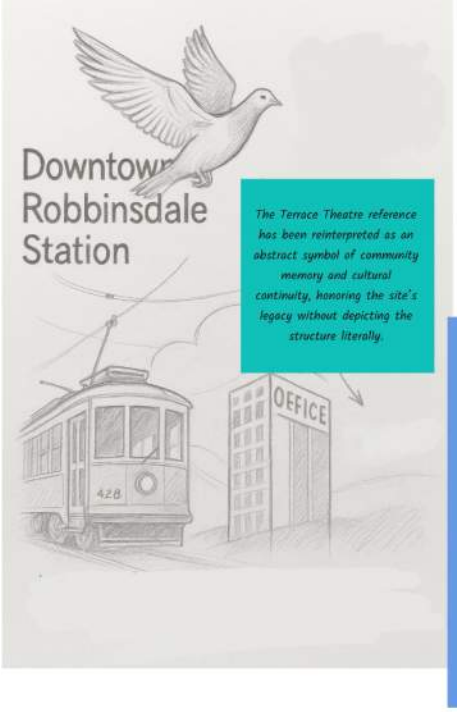


Key Colors:









Birds remain a motif of motion and connection, now represented by swallows to convey renewal and shared flight rather than the robin emblem already widely used.

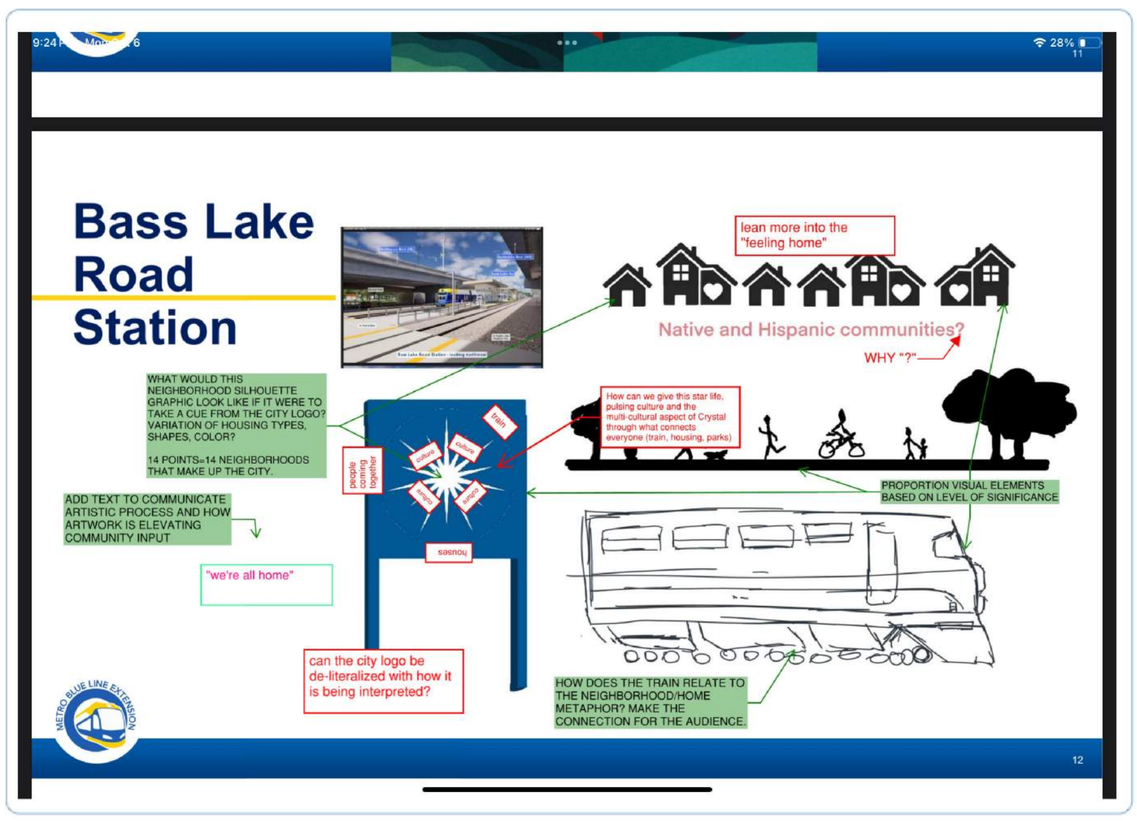

TERRACE

METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

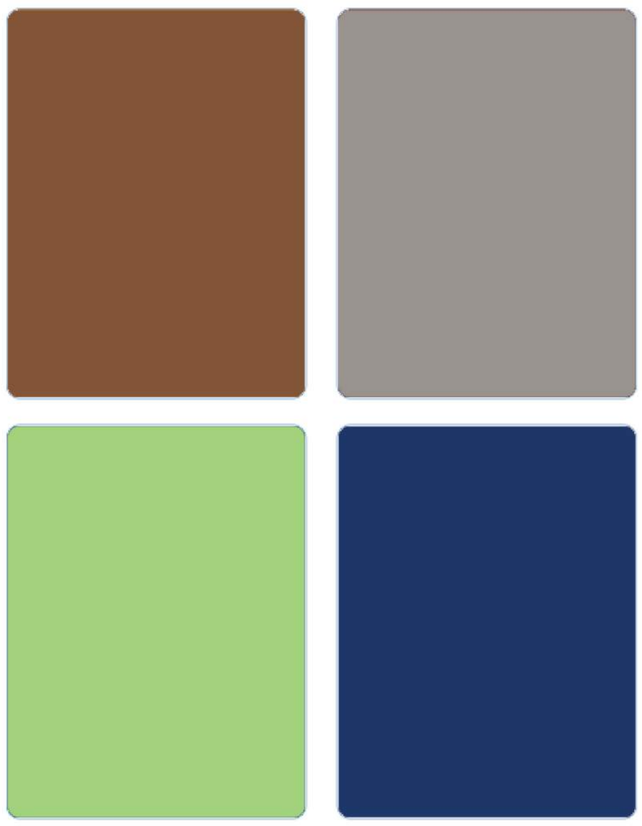
STATION: Bass Lake Rd.

Home and Here to Stay

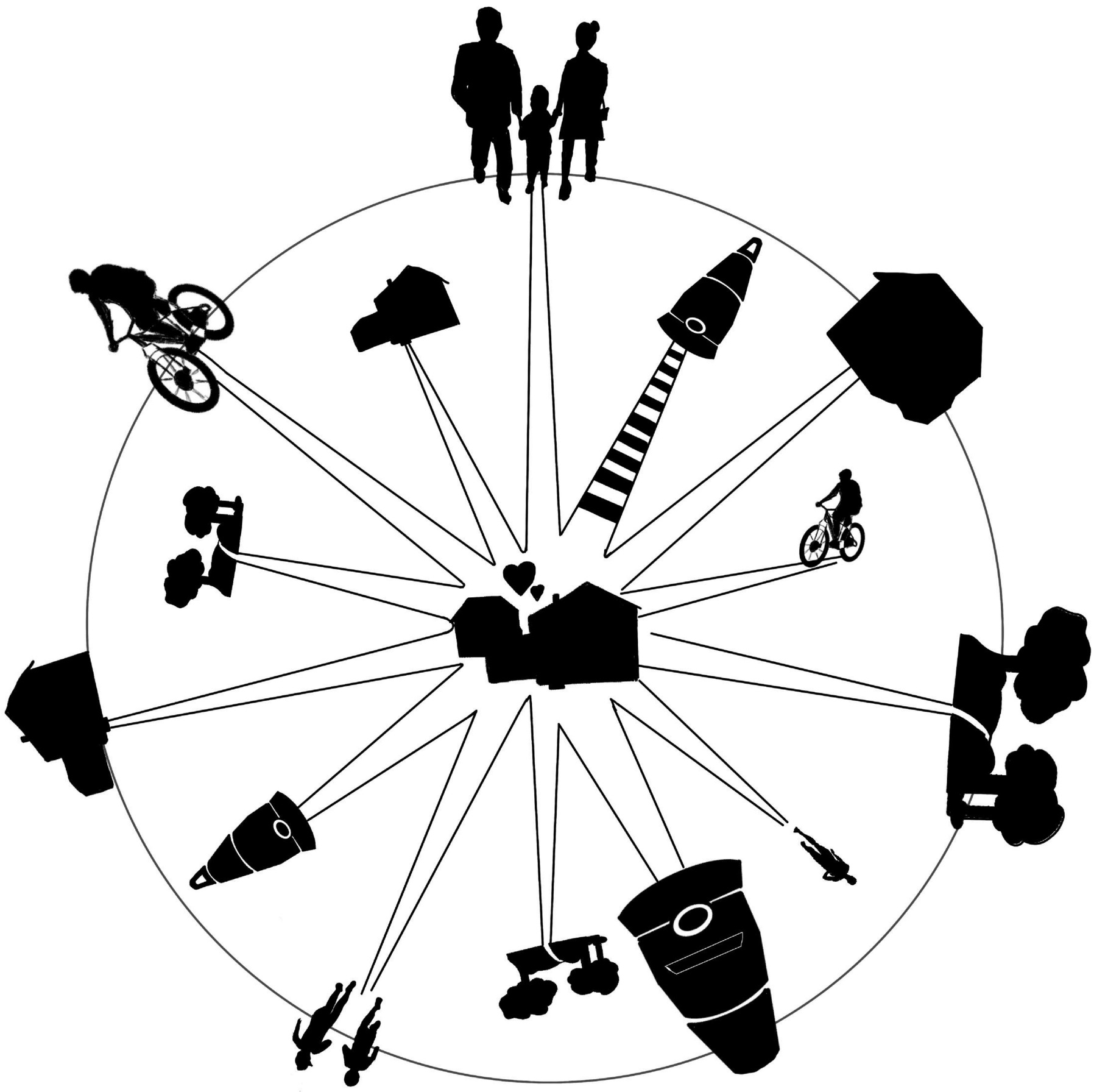
Visual References / Key Precedents:



Key Colors:







METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: Bass Lake Road

Theme Name:

Home and here to stay

Core Theme or Principal:

A strong emphasis on homes and parks, the 14 point star representing the 14 neighborhoods and also making a nod to the railway corridor near bass lake road, tying to the light rail

Historical or Cultural References:

The star kind of reminds me of a compass, and each point is meant to represent a neighborhood. The city used to be a railway hub. Now there is a strong emphasis on the high homeownership rates in the city

Storytelling Focus:

Finding a way home and staying, possibly tying in a theme of less industry, more family and nature based environment

Rationale:

People come into the city and end up staying, points all meet in the middle railways over time become trails and parks that become home

METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: 63rd avenue

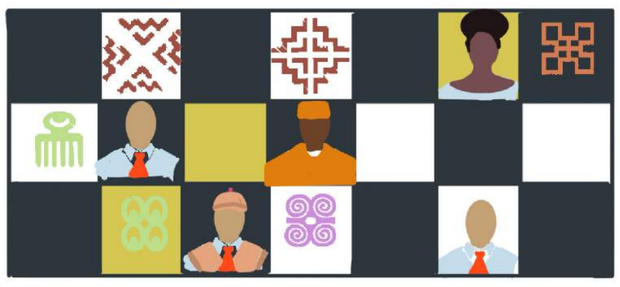
The Meeting Point

Visual References / Key Precedents:



- 63rd Avenue
  - Mainly residential area – mostly single family but some larger apartment complexes within walking distance
  - Park and Ride will be an important element
  - Can the overhead pedestrian bridge be an opportunity?
    - Potentially, need clarification and many safety constraints will apply.
  - Also close to the Crystal Municipal Airport
  - Serves New Hope and Crystal residents though technically in Brooklyn Park

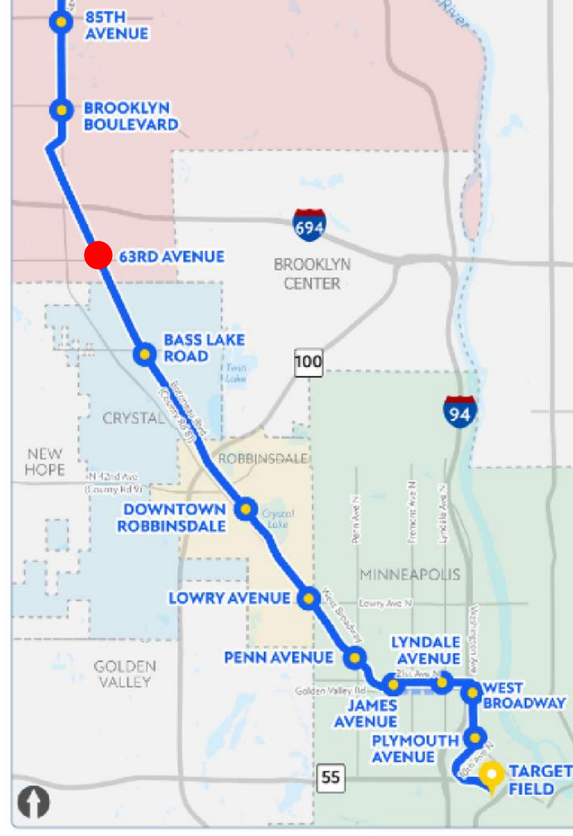




"Meeting point"
Salad/melting pot
New hope x crystal x brooklyns



Key Colors:





Themes

Symbols, clothing, maps,

Hmong Laotian Liberian, Nigerian, Vietnemese

Flight and travel

Meeting point (unite)
Crystal, New hope, Brooklyn Park and Center

METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: 63rd avenue

Theme Name:

The meeting point

Core Theme or Principal:

This station is in a mostly residential area but there is a convergence of cities and communities here (crystal x new hope x brooklyns)

Historical or Cultural References:

There are several ethnic populations that live in the converging cities, from Liberians and other west African communities, Hmong, Laotian etc.

Storytelling Focus:

I wanted to show different motifs and cultural clothing that depicted these demographics and ultimately make a "quilt" like pattern with components representing things that make this area unique to highlight the individuality of each all coming together.

Rationale:

This station is closest to the crystal airport, so I wanted to tie in flight. I want to depict that people from all over the globe have made it here and have made significant contributions to community.

METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: Brooklyn Boulevard



Station: **93rd Avenue Station**

Theme: **“Roots & Routes”**

Core Theme or Principle:

- Migration, heritage, and the interconnectedness of cultures.

Historical or Cultural References:

- Reflects the diverse immigrant and refugee communities that have shaped Brooklyn Park, including Liberian, Hmong, Somali, and Scandinavian populations.
- Visual references to traditional symbols like Adinkra (West African), Hmong embroidery motifs, and Nordic knotwork.

Storytelling Focus:

- Personal and collective journeys: how families arrived in Brooklyn Park, what they brought with them, and how they’ve rooted themselves in the community.
- The station becomes a metaphorical “tree” where each root and branch tells a story of origin, movement, and growth.

Key Colors + Reasoning

1. Deep blue from West African indigo dye traditions
2. Warm terracotta, evoking migration and groundedness
3. Vibrant yellow inspired by Ghanaian Kente cloth
4. Soft green symbolizing growth and movement



A central image depicting individuals in an urban setting, featuring an African-American boy with a determined expression, surrounded by a multitude of communities reflected within his face.

REFERENCES TO DERRICK ADAMS ARTWORK OF THE CITY

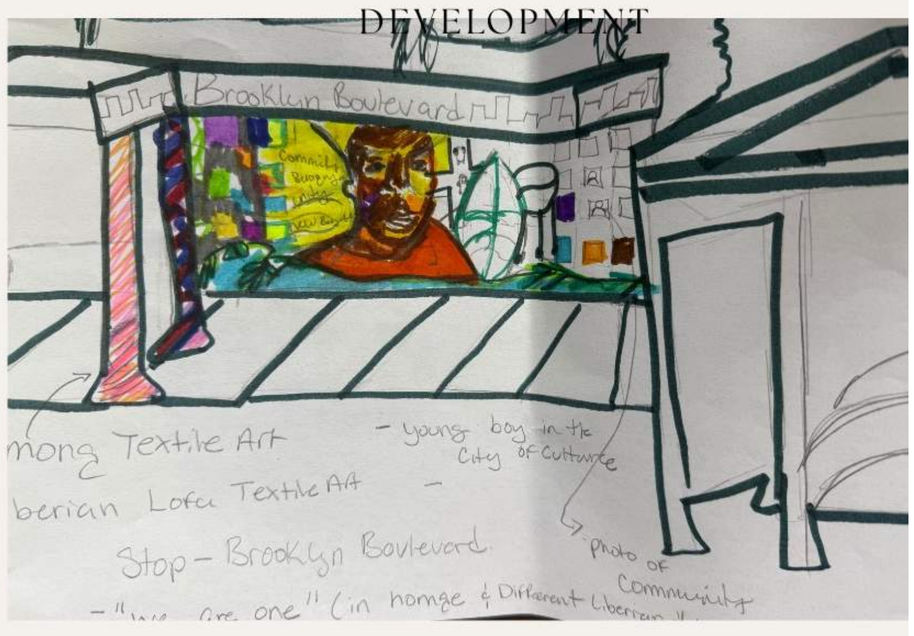
COLOR BLOCKING AND COMMUNITY

LUSH GREENERY AND CLIMBING VINES

BROOBROOKLYN BOULEVARD
- HMONG MOTIFS OF HOME AND HEART
- LIBERIAN TRIBAL MASK

BUILDINGS BUSINESS/ LANDMARKS DEVELOPMENT





METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: 85th Avenue



Station: **85th Avenue Station**

Theme: **“Family Ties”**

Core Theme or Principle:

- Intergenerational connection and the strength of family across cultures.

Historical or Cultural References:

- Celebrates the multigenerational households common in many cultures represented in Brooklyn Park.
- References to traditional family roles and rituals—such as storytelling, cooking, and caregiving—across cultures.

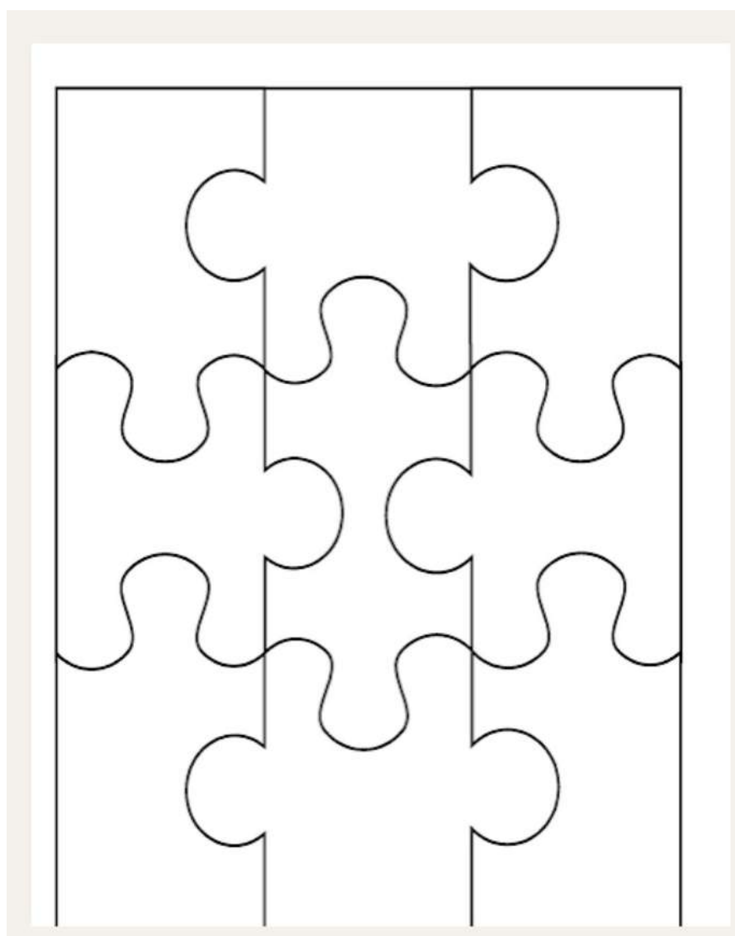
Storytelling Focus:

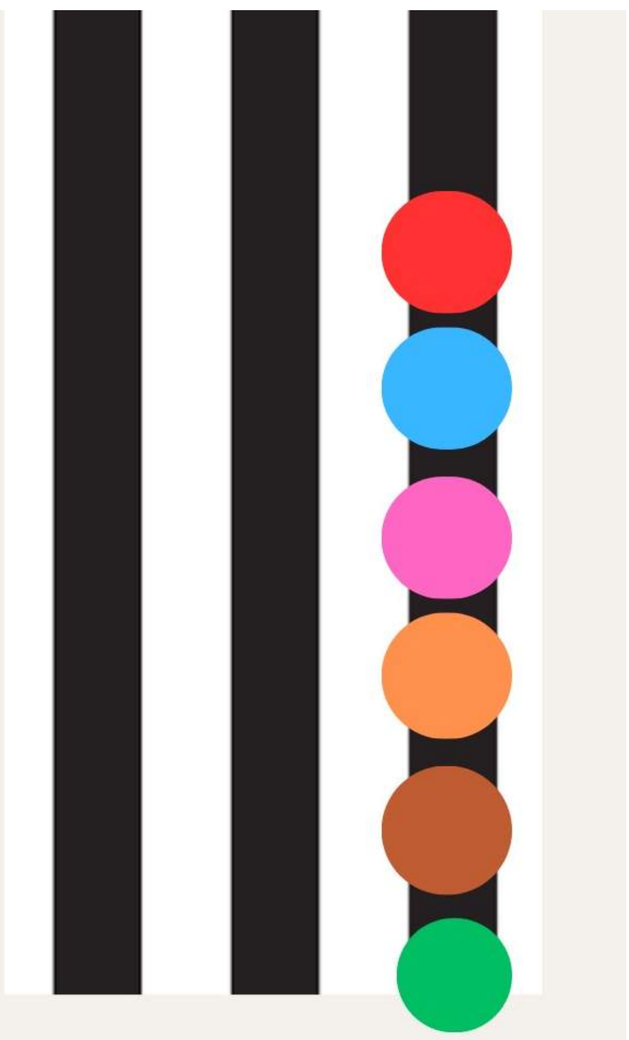
- Emphasizes everyday moments of love, care, and resilience within families.
- Encourages community members to share their own family traditions, creating a living archive of cultural practices and values.

Key Colors + Reasoning

1. Rich red representing love and familial bonds
2. Golden orange, evoking warmth and shared meals
3. Pale blue, gentle and calming like a lullaby
4. Deep purple, symbolizing wisdom and ancestry







Puzzle Pieces of Community

- The various puzzle pieces that make up a community

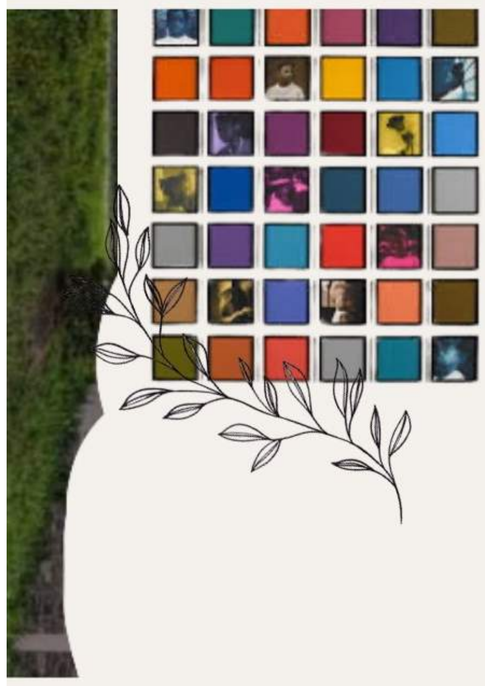
EACH PIECE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN CREATING A COMPLETE PICTURE

COLOR BLOCKING AND COMMUNITY

85TH

- HMONG MOTIFS OF HOME AND HEART
- LIBERIAN TRIBAL MASK
- BUILDINGS BUSINESS/ LANDMARKS DEVELOPMENT

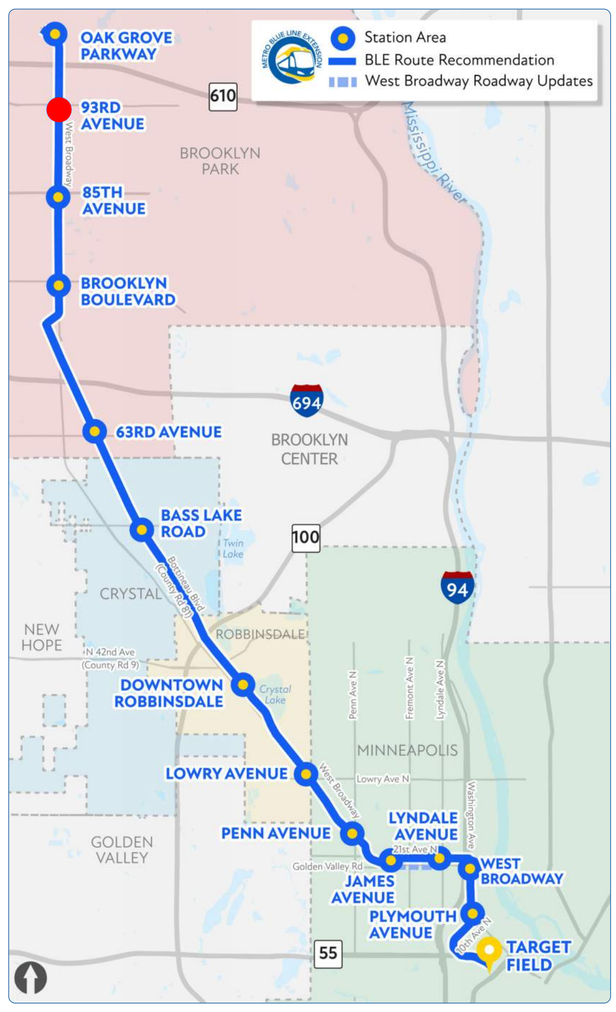
LUSH GREENERY AND CLIMBING VINES





METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

STATION: 93rd Avenue



Station: **93rd Avenue Station**

Theme: **“Roots & Routes”**

Core Theme or Principle:

- Migration, heritage, and the interconnectedness of cultures.

Historical or Cultural References:

- Reflects the diverse immigrant and refugee communities that have shaped Brooklyn Park, including Liberian, Hmong, Somali, and Scandinavian populations.
- Visual references to traditional symbols like Adinkra (West African), Hmong embroidery motifs, and Nordic knotwork.

Storytelling Focus:

- Personal and collective journeys: how families arrived in Brooklyn Park, what they brought with them, and how they’ve rooted themselves in the community.
- The station becomes a metaphorical “tree” where each root and branch tells a story of origin, movement, and growth.

Key Colors + Reasoning

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2. Warm terracotta, evoking migration and groundedness
3. Vibrant yellow inspired by Ghanaian Kente cloth
4. Soft green symbolizing growth and movement







93RD

COLOR BLOCKING AND COMMUNITY

- HMONG MOTIFS OF HOME AND HEART
- LIBERIAN TRIBAL MASK

BUILDINGS BUSINESS/ LANDMARKS DEVELOPMENT

LUSH GREENERY AND CLIMBING VINES



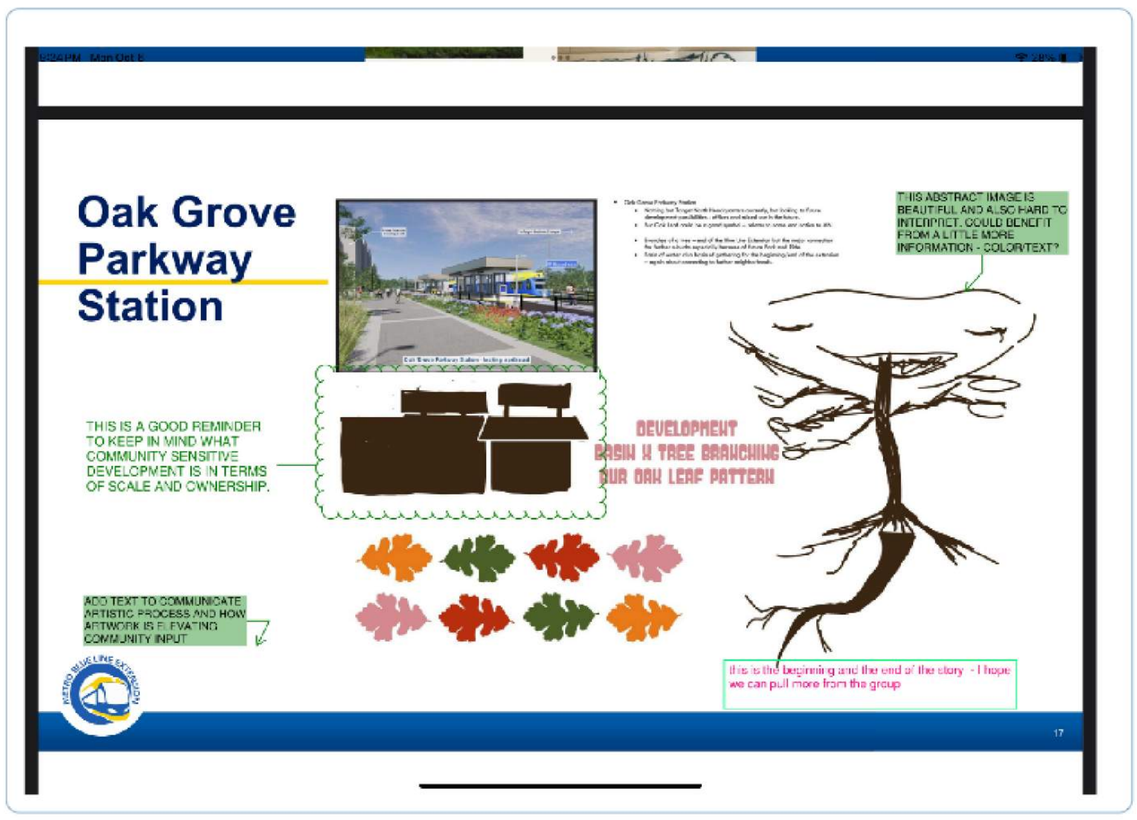


METRO BLUE LINE CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING

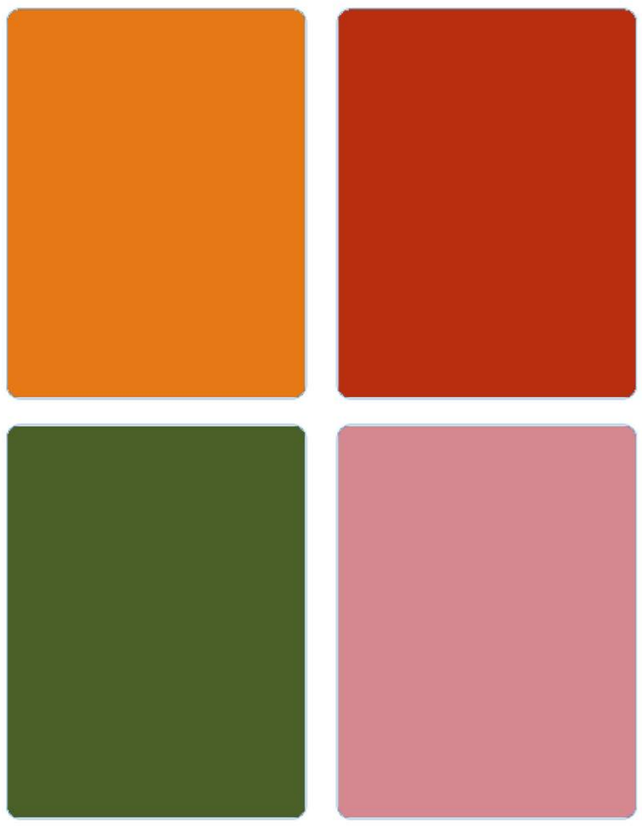
STATION: Oak Grove

Growth and Opportunity

Visual References / Key Precedents:

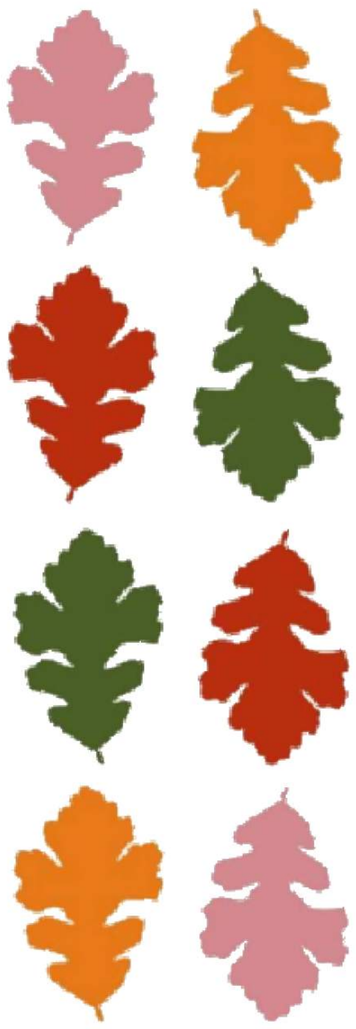


Key Colors:









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STATION: Oak grove pkwy

Theme Name:

Growth and opportunity

Core Theme or Principal:

Growth and development, this station being the last one of the extension, depending on which way your headed it's the end or beginning

Historical or Cultural References:

The landmark that was brought up for this space is target headquarters.

Storytelling Focus:

A water basin that flows and joins at the root of a tree which then depict sevral branches that go in different directions. Also leaf patterns in autumnal colors that represent change.

Rationale:

Change often oscillates between fluidity and rigidity. People will flow to the stops of the blue line extension, whether is for a rigid schedule and getting to the same place consistently, or for exploration.