BLUE LINE EXTENSION

CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING REPORT

2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Client / Consultant Team

METRO TRANSIT

Ryan Kronzer, AIA

Anna Beth Gunderson, Assoc. AIA

Amáda Márquez Simula

Nkongo Cigolo

Pa Nhue Vue

Kelcie Young, AICP

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Cathy Gold

Richelieu Morris

Kyle Mianulli

DREAM BLE

Brett Buckner

Stan Alleyne

Anika Robbins

MEND COLLABORATIVE

Zakcq Lockrem, AICP

Sandy Muelners-Comstock, PLA

C Terrence Anderson

Kennedy Rauh, PLA

Aziza Longi

4RM+ULA

Lyssa Washington

Vivian Jeffries

Emily Dam

MILLER DUNWIDDIE

Dan Green, AIA

Jeffrey Kanne, AIA, LEED AP

Laichee Yang, Assoc. AIA

Malcolm Brom

LOCAL ARTISTS / GRAPHIC FACILITATORS

Phillli Irvin

Costanza Carballo

Adrian Lowe

Marlissa Karpeh

Cities and Community Members

Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park

Each Blue Line community was represented by community volunteers who contributed significant time, effort, lived experience, and local knowledge to this project. Their contributions were essential to the success of this work, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment, insight, and generosity. Thank you.

Meeting Spaces

Elim Lutheran Church (ELCA) Robbinsdale

North Hennepin Community College

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY i

INTRODUCTION 1

CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING WORK 9

CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING OUTCOMES 15

NEXT STEPS 43

APPENDIX 49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The METRO Blue Line Extension represents a significant investment in the future of North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and other neighboring communities. Throughout the planning process, residents and community leaders consistently emphasized that the project should not only improve transportation access, but also strengthen the communities it serves. Cultural placekeeping emerged as an important strategy to address concerns of cultural displacement and ensuring that the identities, histories, and stories of corridor communities remain visible as investment occurs.

This Cultural Placekeeping Report documents the work of the Cultural Placekeeping Design Group, a community-centered process established to identify how culture can be reflected within the Blue Line Extension's stations and public-facing infrastructure. Building on recommendations from the Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Report, Anti-Displacement Coordinated Action Plan, and commitments identified through the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement process, the effort sought to ensure that the corridor's cultural assets are represented as an integral part of the transit experience.

Between May and November 2025, community members, local artists, corridor city staff, Hennepin County, Metro Transit, and project partners participated in a series of working sessions focused on defining community identity, understanding the role of placekeeping, and translating cultural themes into design opportunities. Through storytelling, discussion, collaborative exercises, and artist-led visualization, participants identified the values, histories, cultural assets, and lived experiences that make each station area unique.

The result is a collection of station-specific cultural themes and visual concepts that provide a framework for integrating cultural expression into the Blue Line Extension. Rather than prescribing final designs, these themes establish a shared foundation that can guide future decisions regarding station markers, wayfinding, interpretive elements, fencing, lighting, utility infrastructure, and other functional components of the transit system. Together, they help create opportunities for each station to develop a distinct sense of place while contributing to a cohesive corridor-wide identity.

This report serves both as a record of community input and as a practical tool for project partners. It documents opportunities for incorporating cultural placekeeping within eligible transit infrastructure, identifies broader community aspirations that may be pursued through future partnerships, and establishes a framework for continued collaboration as the project advances through final design and construction.

Ultimately, cultural placekeeping is about ensuring that the Blue Line Extension becomes more than a transportation investment. By embedding community-defined stories, identities, and values into the fabric of the project, the corridor's stations can become places that are recognizable, welcoming, and reflective of the people and communities they are intended to serve.


Downtown Robbinsdale Station




Tell us about your northside!
METRO







CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION

CENTERING COMMUNITY

The METRO Blue Line Extension has been planned for decades with deep engagement with communities. In its several iterations, the community has been consistently worried if the work was for them or a people that might replace them through the process of displacement and gentrification. Following the work of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), in partnership with Hennepin County and the Blue Line Anti-Displacement Working Group, the project team and the Blue Extension corridor communities have been working to find practical policies and actions to ensure that the primary benefactors of the Blue Line Extension are the people that currently live within and around its planned route. Cultural placekeeping is an important response to the forces before economic displacement; cultural placekeeping is a powerful social-emotional tool for existing residents to feel that a project and place are built with their needs as the primary interest.

In this case, cultural placekeeping ensures that the essential "feeling" from being at a light rail station area reflects the culture and community in which it is placed. Blue Line Extension corridor communities have, for generations, been excluded from the benefits of Minnesota's economic prosperity and even more importantly have been sanctioned to communities of disinvestment. And while project leaders imagine the Blue Line Extension as a fair and just response to this disinvestment, many community members note that this investment is occurring at such a time that economic pressures in Blue Line Corridor communities have left community members vulnerable to being displaced from their homes. As documented in the Blue Line Anti-Displacement Report, light rail development, construction, and operations have led to increased displacement pressures. While the report details recommended policies and actions to address housing and business displacement, cultural placekeeping is a response to cultural displacement that is a precursor to broader economic displacement.

Cultural placekeeping, then, is about ensuring that the cultures of Blue Line Corridor communities are not to be buried underneath the rails of the Blue Line Extension. Cultural placekeeping ensures that the lives of the people around the Blue Line Extension are woven into the fabric of the line itself. Cultural placekeeping ensures that the people do not feel as if they left their community the moment they step on a platform. Rather, with cultural placekeeping, the Blue Line Extension becomes a seamless extension of the community it is meant to serve.

The Blue Line Extension Corridor Communities are a collage of proud cultures and people. While it is important to recognize that some of these corridor communities are former sites of redlining, they are now the proud home of one of the Twin Cities region's most diverse populations of people that celebrate the very blocks that have been discarded by popular narrative and historic policy. Cultural placekeeping is a chance to tell the proud and vibrant story of the people that will make the Blue Line Extension more than a train from Brooklyn Park to Downtown Minneapolis. Each stop has the opportunity to reflect the special parts and people in their community.



Cultural Placekeeping Working Group Final Meeting

PROCESS BACKGROUND

How this Project Began

Communities from the Blue Line Extension corridor have been asking for strong anti-displacement policy from the project's conception. After learning from the experiences from other light rail developments across the Twin Cities, organizers asked project sponsors—Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council—to enact a practical and comprehensive anti-displacement plan in response to the economic and cultural forces of displacement. In 2021, Hennepin County contracted the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota to complete an anti-displacement report for the Blue Line Extension Project. This report was completed in 2023 after being unanimously adopted by the Blue Line Extension project governance.

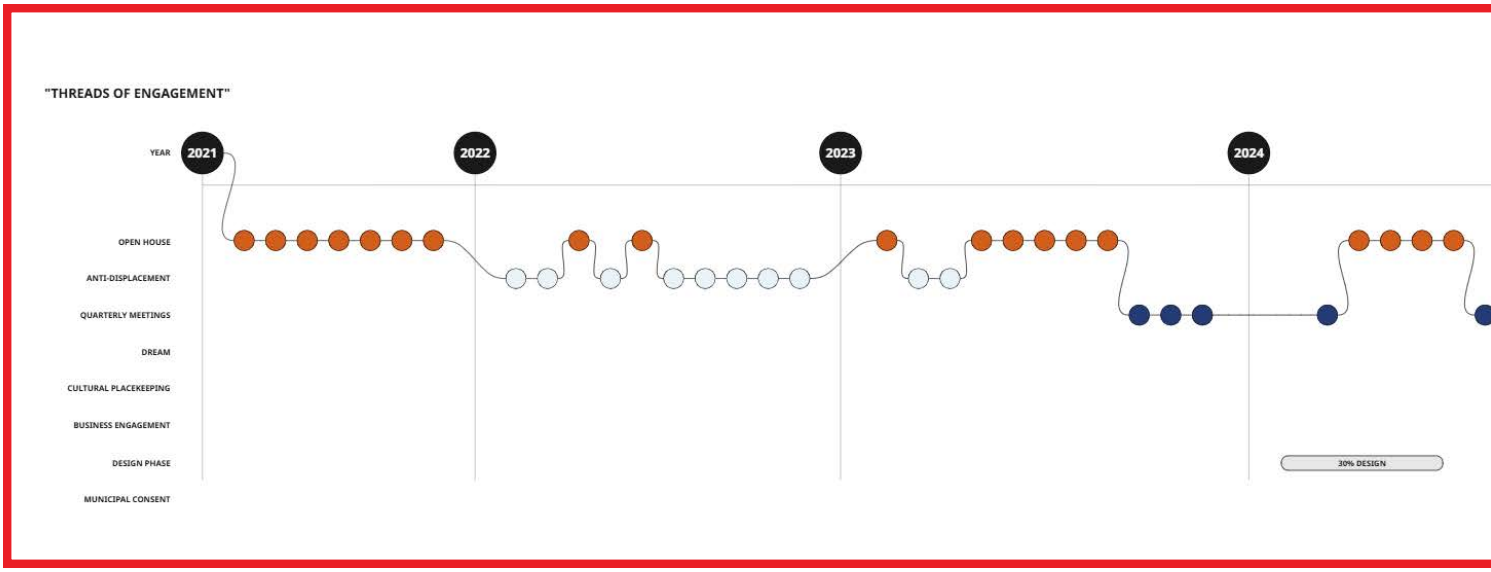
CURA's anti-displacement report detailed recommendations to address housing, business, and cultural displacement and pointed toward a pathway of prosperity for the corridor communities. The project team then assigned the various recommendations into areas of responsibility including within the Supplemental Environment Impact Statement (SEIS) which details project impacts to be mitigated through the implementation of the project. For the first time in transit development history, anti-displacement actions were identified to be mitigated within an SEIS. The significance of this being that any project impact within the SEIS, through project commitments, must be mitigated.

Cultural displacement is one of the project impacts identified within the SEIS to be mitigated. Metro Transit contracted Mend Collaborative and 4RM+ULA to make real the work of cultural placekeeping as part of the project's mitigations.

Working Group Origins

In late 2024, the Blue Line Extension Project Office distributed an open-call survey via newsletters, social media, and project partners (corridor city governments, Hennepin County, DREAM BLE, and local neighborhood associations) to invite community members to join the Cultural Placekeeping Working

Engagement Timeline



Group. The survey remained open from late 2024 to June 2025 and received 38 responses.

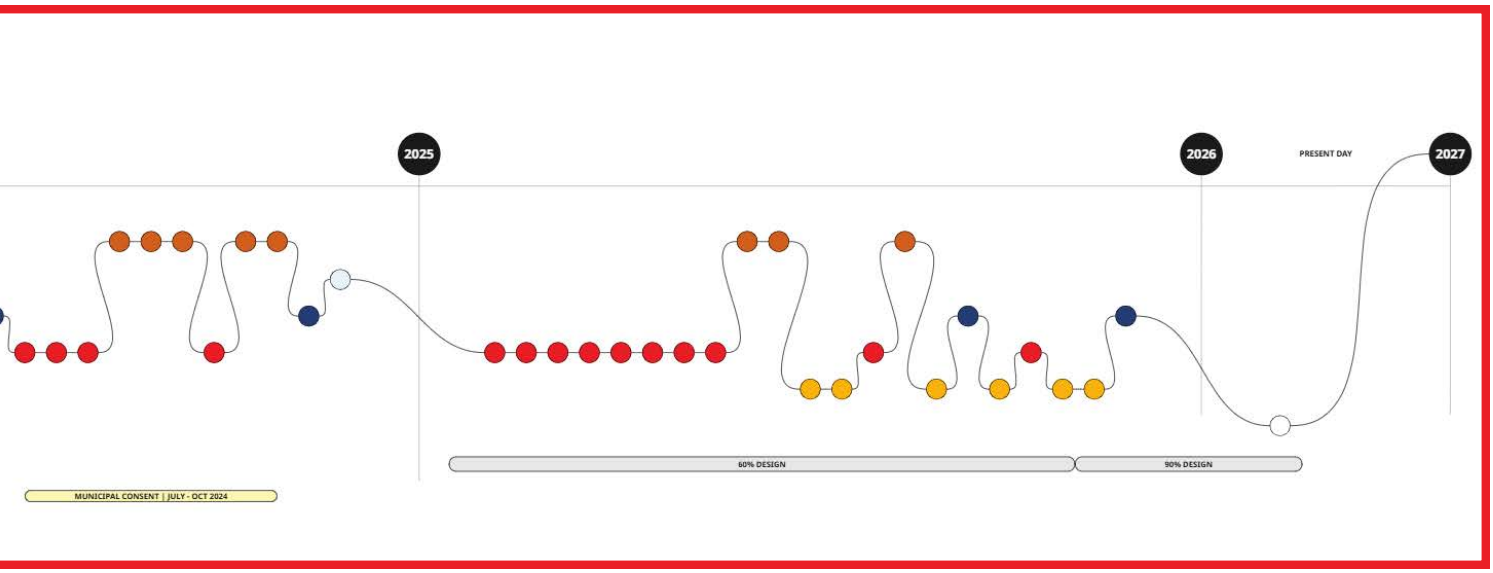
The survey included questions such as, "Describe your lived experience in the city you are interested in participating in a design-focused group for," and "Describe your experience creating and working collaboratively in small group settings." These questions were intended to help the project team understand participants' backgrounds, skills, and perspectives, and to identify gaps in community representation (including diverse perspectives, location of employment or residence, design experience, etc.).

As gaps in representation became apparent during the survey period, the project team conducted additional targeted outreach through community outreach events, partner referrals, and translated materials to strengthen diverse participation across the four corridor cities. These efforts resulted in an increase of 14 respondents to the survey with increased participation of residents from Robbinsdale, Brooklyn Park, and Minneapolis.

All respondents who provided contact information (36 of 38 responses) were invited to participate in the working group and added to an ongoing communications list. Of those, approximately 18 community members actively participated in the 6 meetings and activities throughout 2025.

In addition to community representation, the project office enlisted staff from each of the corridor cities - Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Minneapolis - to serve as staff liaisons throughout the process. These staff members actively participated in working group activities and helped ensure clear, consistent communication between the project office and their respective city leadership.

The Cultural Placekeeping Working Group met between May and November 2025 and was convened to provide input on design elements, guide cultural representation, and co-create a theme for each station grounded in its unique community and culture. Gatherings were held once a month in Robbinsdale and included free meals, free bus passes, and a family-friendly environment.




METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION
Station Area
BLE Route Recommendation
West Broadway Roadway Updates
OAK GROVE PARKWAY
93RD AVENUE
85TH AVENUE
BROOKLYN BOULEVARD
63RD AVENUE
BASS LAKE ROAD
DOWNTOWN ROBBINSDALE
LOWRY AVENUE
PENN AVENUE
LYNDALE AVENUE
JAMES AVENUE
PLYMOUTH AVENUE
WEST BROADWAY
TARGET FIELD
West Broadway
610
694
94
100
55
BROOKLYN PARK
BROOKLYN CENTER
CRYSTAL
NEW HOPE
ROBBINSDALE
GOLDEN VALLEY
MINNEAPOLIS
Mississippi River
Twin Lake
Crystal Lake
Bottineau Blvd (County Rd 81)
N 42nd Ave (County Rd 9)
Penn Ave N
Fremont Ave N
Lyndale Ave N
Lowry Ave N
Washington Ave
21st Ave N
Golden Valley Rd
10th Ave N

Project Engagement Venues

MINNEAPOLIS



Location	#	Event
UROC	8	DREAM Series [7]; Anti-Displacement Working Group [1]
Capri Theater	5	Quarterly Meeting [2]; Open House [2]; Anti-Displacement Working Group [1]
Metro Transit North Loop Garage	5	Quarterly Meeting [2]; DREAM Series [2]; Community & Business Working Group [1]
Minneapolis Public Service Center	2	Municipal Consent Hearing [2]
NorthPoint Conference Center	2	Municipal Consent Hearing [1]; Anti-Displacement Working Group [1]
U of M- Humphrey School	2	Anti-displacement Working Group [2]
North Regional Library	1	Open House [1]
Urban League	1	DREAM Series [1]
YMCA	1	DREAM Series [1]
JXTA	1	Anti-Displacement Working Group [1]
Episcopal Church of MN	1	Open House [1]
Sanctuary Church	1	Open House [1]

Project Engagement Venues

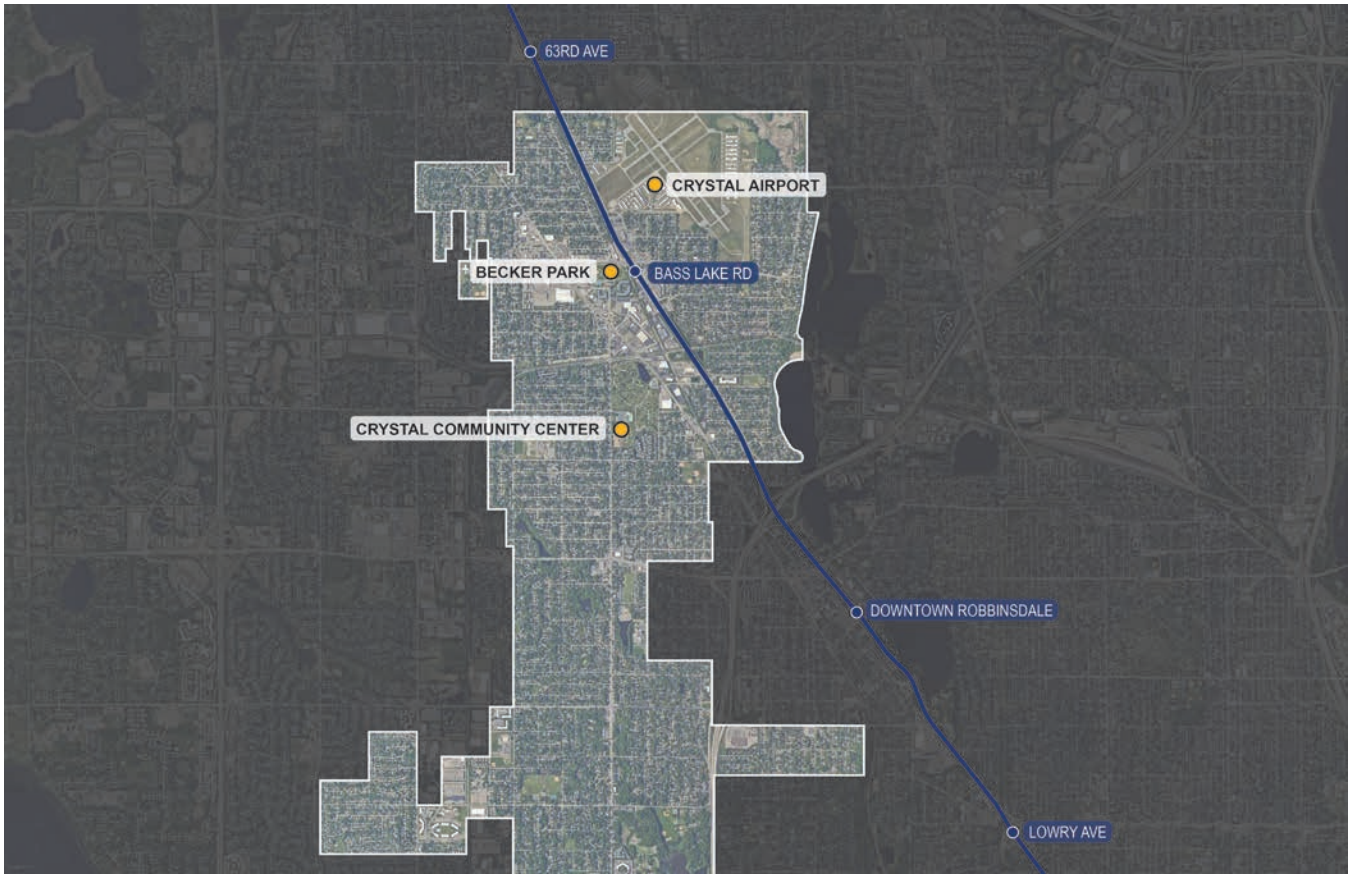
ROBBINSDALE



Location	#	Event
Elim Lutheran Church	12	Cultural Placekeeping [6]; Open House [5]; DREAM Series [1]
Parkway United Church	1	Open House [1]
Robbinsdale Police and Fire Station	1	Open House [1]
Robbinsdale City Hall	1	Municipal Consent Hearing [1]

Project Engagement Venues

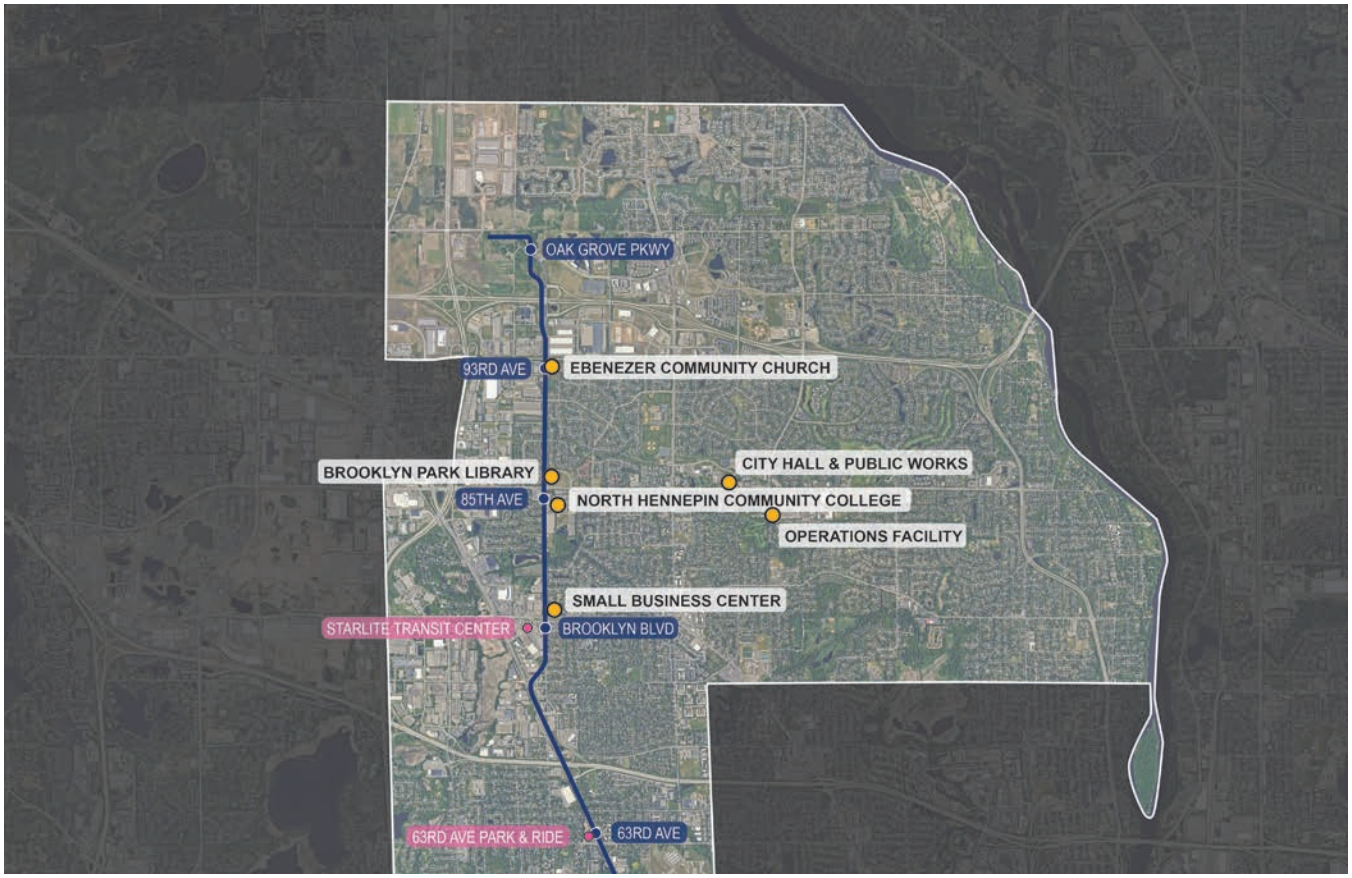
CRYSTAL



Location	#	Event
Crystal Community Center	6	Anti-Displacement Working Group [2]; Open House [2]; Municipal Consent Hearing [1]; Quarterly Meeting [1]
Crystal Airport	5	Open House [4]; DREAM Series [1]
Becker Park	2	Open House [2]

Project Engagement Venues

BROOKLYN PARK



Location	#	Event
Brooklyn Park Library	4	Open House [4]
Brooklyn Park Public Work	1	Open House [1]
Brooklyn Park Operations and Maintenance Facility	1	Open House [1]
Ebenezer Community Church	1	DREAM Series [1]
Brooklyn Park Small Business Center	1	Open House [1]
Brooklyn Park City Hall	1	Municipal Consent Hearing [1]
North Hennepin Community College	1	Cultural Placekeeping [1]
Virtual Meetings	6	Anti-Displacement Working Group [3]; Quarterly Meetings [2]; DREAM Series [1]

The Project Team

The Cultural Placekeeping process is guided by a collaborative network of project partners who provided facilitation, planning, and coordination support to the Cultural Placekeeping Working Group and continue to support the project through the design phase.

Metro Transit, Mend Collaborative, and 4RM+ULA led facilitation and guided discussions for the working group meetings, while Metro Transit, Hennepin County, and DREAM BLE provided oversight and planning direction during earlier process development. Mend Collaborative and Kimley-Horn Associates contributed to materials development and event coordination for working group events. Metro Transit and Miller Dunwiddie Architects are leading the final design, with support from Mend Collaborative and 4RM+ULA.

At the center of this effort is the Cultural Placekeeping Working Group. Facilitators from Metro Transit, Mend Collaborative, and 4RM+ULA led inclusive and participatory discussions with working group members. Community members, city staff liaisons, and graphic facilitators worked together to share stories of their communities, shape ideas for cultural placekeeping opportunities, and identify guiding themes for the final outcome. Miller Dunwiddie staff participated in working group sessions to listen and hear community feedback firsthand, ensuring their work remains grounded in community voice and lived experience.



The Cultural Placekeeping Working Group met in October 2025 to review graphic facilitators' theme development and provide feedback.

WHAT THIS REPORT IS, & WHAT IT ISN'T

This Report & Placekeeping

This report documents the ideas, priorities, and cultural insights developed through the Cultural Placekeeping Design Group and translates them into a clear framework to guide the ongoing design of the Blue Line Extension. It also provides important cultural context for project partners, including corridor municipalities and others responsible for managing the public realm. Together, it serves as both a record of community input and a practical tool for integrating cultural placekeeping into the physical elements of the project, including station areas, sidewalks, lighting, and other public-facing infrastructure.

The report provides guidance to project designers, engineers, and agency partners by identifying key themes and design principles that reflect the identities and histories of corridor communities. Rather than prescribing a single outcome, it establishes a shared foundation that can be applied across different components of the project, ensuring that placekeeping is embedded consistently while allowing for site-specific interpretation.

More importantly, this document also helps carry community voices forward into future phases of design and implementation. As the project advances, it can be used to inform decision-making, evaluate design options, and maintain alignment with the values expressed by residents, stakeholders, and local graphic facilitators. In this way, the report supports continuity between engagement and execution, helping ensure that cultural placekeeping remains an active and visible part of the project as it is realized on the ground. It is also intended as a starting point rather than a final outcome. Each element of the report will benefit from continued public engagement and co-design with community representatives to further refine and strengthen how placekeeping is expressed in the built environment.

Finally, the report reinforces the broader goals identified by the Design Group, including strengthening cultural identity, fostering a sense of belonging, and supporting anti-displacement efforts. By grounding design decisions in community-defined priorities, it contributes to creating transit spaces that feel welcoming, recognizable, and reflective of the people and histories that define each corridor community.

Funding Eligibility & Limits

Cultural placekeeping within the Blue Line Extension is shaped by a set of design opportunities as well as important funding and regulatory constraints. The project is able to incorporate cultural expression into elements that are directly tied to transit infrastructure, such as station platforms, wayfinding features, railings, lighting, signage, and other functional components. These elements create meaningful opportunities to embed cultural identity through materials, patterns, colors, and interpretive features that are integral to the user experience of the transit system.



Cultural Placekeeping Working Group June Meeting

At the same time, federal funding requirements place clear limitations on what can be included as part of the project. Investments must serve a functional transportation purpose, which means that elements defined as primarily aesthetic, such as standalone art or non-functional landscaping, cannot be funded through the project. As outlined by the Federal Transit Administration, federal funds cannot be used for the "incremental costs of incorporating art or non-functional landscaping into facilities" (transit.dot.gov). In practice, this means that features such as freestanding sculptures, decorative murals without a functional role, or landscaping installed solely for visual appeal are not eligible.

By contrast, cultural placekeeping can be incorporated into elements that serve a clear function within the transit system. This may include integrating culturally specific patterns or materials into platform paving, designing custom railings or fencing that reflect community identity, incorporating designs into wayfinding or interpretive signage, or embedding cultural narratives into lighting, shelters, or other required infrastructure. Similarly, improvements located on private property fall outside the scope of eligible expenditures, though they may be pursued through other partnerships.

These constraints do not limit the importance of cultural placekeeping, but instead shape how and where it can be implemented by the project. They encourage a focus on integrating cultural expression into the core design of transit infrastructure rather than treating it as an add-on. In doing so, placekeeping becomes embedded in the everyday experience of the system.

Importantly, ideas that fall outside of these funding parameters still have value. As reflected in this report, they can inform future efforts led by cities, community partners, developers, and cultural organizations. By documenting these ideas, the project creates a bridge between what can be implemented through transit investment and what may be advanced through other partnerships and initiatives over time.

Role of Artists in the Cultural Placekeeping Process

Artists played an important role in the Cultural Placekeeping process by helping translate community conversations, stories, and ideas into visual concepts. Participating artists were selected from the Cultivate Artists roster of artists who had previously worked with Hennepin County on Blue Line Extension outreach and engagement activities. Their familiarity with the corridor and experience working alongside Blue Line communities provided a valuable foundation for this work.

The artists participated as graphic facilitators, working with Cultural Placekeeping Working Group members to listen, interpret, and visually communicate ideas that emerged through the process. Their role was not to develop final artwork for incorporation into the Blue Line Extension, but rather to help communities explore what cultural identity, history, and belonging could look and feel like within future station areas. The resulting illustrations document community aspirations and provide inspiration for future design and implementation.

Because custom artwork is not eligible for federal transit funding, the artists' participation was funded separately by Hennepin County, outside of Blue Line Extension project funds, as part of the Cultural Placekeeping anti-displacement work. This distinction allowed artists to contribute meaningfully to the planning and engagement process while maintaining compliance with federal funding requirements.

What Happens Next

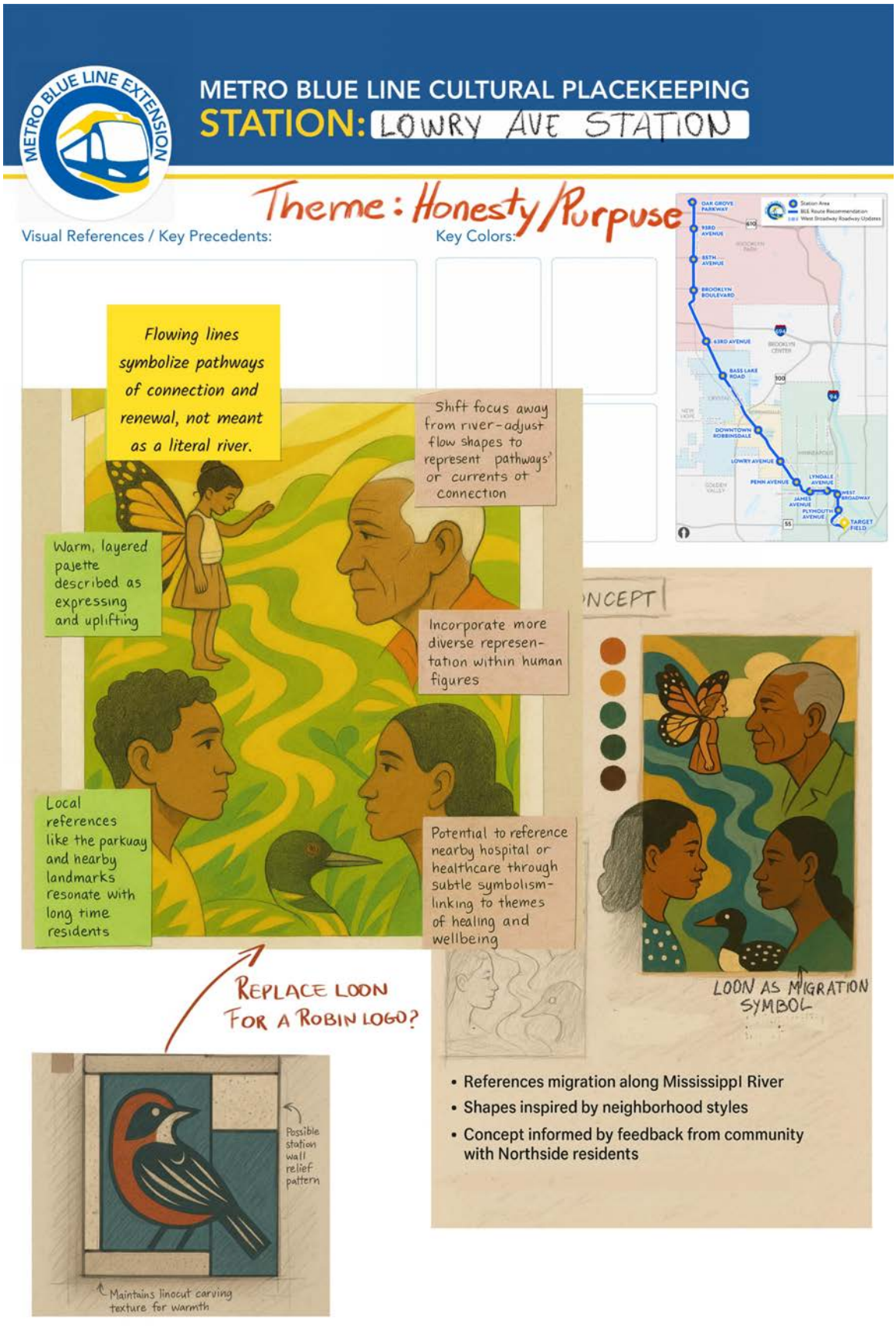
As the project moves through final design and required federal review processes, a major focus is the integration of cultural placekeeping elements into station design and the broader corridor experience. These elements are being developed alongside engineering work to ensure they are fully incorporated into the project.

Design of cultural placekeeping features is in progress, with draft concepts being shared at public events as they become available. Ongoing community input will help refine these designs, identify missing stories or perspectives, and ensure that each station reflects the communities it serves. Each station includes multiple opportunities for cultural expression, allowing for a range of community-driven elements.

Some features (such as station markers) will be designed earlier and shared with the public prior to construction. Others, like surface-level treatments (for example, utility cabinet wraps), will be finalized later in the process and installed closer to when stations are prepared for service. Because of this, timelines will vary by element, with cultural placekeeping integration continuing through both design and construction phases.

At the same time, the project team continues advancing the work needed to move toward construction, including final design coordination and required approvals. A detailed construction schedule will be established once these steps are complete and a contractor is selected.

Overall, the project is progressing from design toward construction, with cultural placekeeping playing a central and ongoing role throughout each phase of the work.



Sample cultural theme development for the Lowry Ave Station

CHAPTER 2:

CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING WORK

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETINGS & MEETING SCHEDULES

Cultural Placekeeping Working Group Timeline & Key Topics

The Cultural Placekeeping Working Group process was structured as a series of working sessions between May and October 2025. Each meeting built on and responded to the previous one, moving from foundational understanding toward more specific design direction and application. While the overall sequence was intentional, the process remained flexible and participant-driven. In several instances, the original plan for a session shifted to better reflect the needs and interests of the group, whether that meant spending more time deepening discussion, providing additional context, revisiting earlier ideas, or allowing graphic facilitators more time to refine concepts in response to feedback. This adaptive approach ensured that participants could first ground their input in lived experience and cultural context before translating those ideas into design strategies tied to the Blue Line Extension.

MEETING 1: PROJECT INTRODUCTION & FOUNDATIONS (MAY 17, 2025)

MEETING 2: CULTURAL THEMES & LIVED EXPERIENCE (JUNE 25, 2025)

MEETING 3: TRANSLATING CULTURE INTO DESIGN ELEMENTS (JULY 23, 2025)

MEETING 4: DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS (AUGUST 27, 2025)

MEETING 5: SYNTHESIS (OCTOBER 22, 2025)

MEETING 6: COMPLETION (NOVEMBER 19, 2025)

WHAT HAPPENED DURING & BETWEEN MEETINGS

MEETING 1: PROJECT INTRODUCTION & FOUNDATIONS (MAY 17, 2025)

The first meeting established the foundation for the Cultural Placekeeping Working Groups. Participants were introduced to the Blue Line Extension project, its timeline, and the role of cultural placekeeping within a broader anti-displacement framework. The group discussed expectations, shared individual connections to the corridor, and began identifying initial themes related to identity, belonging, and neighborhood change.

A key focus of this session was defining cultural placekeeping and distinguishing it from related concepts such as placemaking and public art. Participants explored how cultural identity is expressed in the built environment and how transit investments can either support or erode that identity. This conversation set the stage for subsequent meetings by emphasizing that placekeeping is not additive, but embedded in how infrastructure is designed and experienced.



Design Group at the June meeting, 2025

MEETING 2: CULTURAL THEMES & LIVED EXPERIENCE (JUNE 25, 2025)

The second meeting focused on identifying cultural themes rooted in participants' lived experiences. Following the first session, the project team recognized that the original schedule and structure did not fully align with participants' needs and expectations. In response, this meeting included an activity that invited participants to co-design the flow of the process, helping to establish shared goals and priorities for what should be accomplished and when. This reset created a stronger foundation for the work moving forward.

Through facilitated discussion and exercises, participants described what makes their neighborhoods feel welcoming, recognizable, and culturally specific. Common themes included walkability, local businesses, public gathering spaces, cultural markers, and everyday interactions that contribute to a sense of belonging.

The group also explored factors contributing to cultural displacement, including rising costs, loss of locally owned businesses, and physical changes to the built environment that diminish cultural expression. This dual conversation—what creates belonging and what threatens it—helped clarify the role of placekeeping as both a design and anti-displacement strategy.

Outputs from this meeting included an initial set of cultural values and priorities that would inform later design discussions. These themes emphasized the importance of visibility, representation, and designing spaces that feel familiar and accessible to existing residents.

MEETING 3: TRANSLATING CULTURE INTO DESIGN ELEMENTS (JULY 23, 2025)

Building on the themes identified in Meeting 2, the third session focused on translating cultural identity into physical design elements. Participants were asked to consider how culture could be expressed through materials, patterns, colors, language, and form within transit infrastructure. This meeting also marked the introduction of graphic facilitators into the process. The graphic facilitators shared examples of their work and spoke about their personal connections to corridor communities, then spent time listening and engaging with participants to help carry ideas forward into future design exploration.

The group reviewed precedent examples from other cities, discussing what resonated and what did not. Participants responded positively to concepts that were visually distinctive, locally grounded, and integrated into functional elements such as paving, fencing, and signage. There was a strong preference for approaches that felt authentic and community-driven rather than generic or purely decorative.

At the same time, participants raised important considerations around functionality, accessibility, and safety. There was a clear interest in ensuring that cultural expression does not come at the expense of usability, but instead enhances the experience of moving through the system. This meeting marked a shift from conceptual discussion toward more applied thinking about how placekeeping can be realized within project constraints.

MEETING 4: DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS (AUGUST 27, 2025)

The fourth meeting introduced the specific opportunities and constraints associated with implementing cultural placekeeping within the Blue Line Extension Design. Participants were presented with the types of elements that could incorporate design input, including platform features, wayfinding, lighting, fencing, and landscape-adjacent elements. The group also discussed funding and regulatory limitations, particularly those related to federal transit funding, including the requirement that design elements serve a functional purpose. This helped ground earlier ideas in the realities of implementation and clarified where cultural expression could be most effectively integrated.

This session also marked the first presentation of initial concepts from the project's graphic facilitators. To allow for more focused discussion, participants split into two groups aligned with the corridor geography: a northern group representing Crystal and Brooklyn Park, and a southern group representing Minneapolis and Robbinsdale.

In the northern group, participants generally aligned around a set of shared themes and directions, building on earlier conversations. In contrast, the southern group engaged in a more complex and, at times, divergent discussion of the graphic facilitators' concepts. The proposed approach explored shared themes across multiple stations, which prompted mixed reactions. Some participants expressed concern that this approach risked diluting or subsuming distinct community identities. Others reflected on the historical separation between these communities, noting that it represents a legacy of forced segregation and an imposed division, and expressed support for design strategies that acknowledge shared histories and connections.

Participants worked to align previously identified cultural themes with the available opportunity areas, identifying where and how placekeeping could be most effectively integrated. This session helped refine ideas into more actionable directions, while also reinforcing the importance of balancing place-specific identity with broader corridor narratives.

Following the meeting, the project team made a decision to push the next meeting a month later to allow more time to work directly with the graphic facilitators on the proposed station materials and to develop strategies for consensus building within the groups.



Community Design Group meeting in October, 2025

MEETING 5: SYNTHESIS (OCTOBER 22, 2025)

The second-to-last meeting focused on synthesizing the work of the Design Groups and reflecting on key takeaways. Participants reviewed the major themes, design directions, and priorities that had emerged over the course of the process, reaffirming the importance of integrating cultural expression into functional infrastructure and ensuring that designs reflect the lived experiences of corridor communities.

The session was structured as a gallery walk, allowing participants to engage directly with proposed station-level concepts. Each station's artwork or design direction was presented individually, giving participants the opportunity to review, discuss, and provide direct feedback to the graphic facilitators. This format created space for more detailed and focused input, enabling graphic facilitators to refine and revise their work in advance of the final meeting.

The group also discussed how their input would be used moving forward, emphasizing the importance of continued engagement as the project advances.

MEETING 6: COMPLETION (NOVEMBER 19, 2025)

The final meeting took the form of an open house, during which participants reviewed the final revisions to the graphic facilitators' work and provided additional feedback. This feedback was documented for consideration during the subsequent design development process as station themes are refined into final designs. However, no further revisions were made to the graphic facilitators' work following this meeting. As a result, the representations shown in the following chapter are the same as those presented at the open house.

SELF-REFLECTION & ADJUSTMENTS ALONG THE WAY

Overall Process Insights

Across all meetings, several consistent themes emerged. Participants emphasized the importance of designing for belonging, ensuring that spaces feel welcoming and reflective of existing communities. There was strong support for integrating cultural expression into everyday elements of the transit system, rather than relying on standalone features.

The process also highlighted the importance of balancing creativity with functionality. Participants consistently supported concepts that were both meaningful and practical, reinforcing the idea that cultural placekeeping should enhance, not compete with, the usability of transit infrastructure.

Finally, the timeline reflects a deliberate progression from listening to application. Early meetings focused on understanding and defining culture, while later sessions translated those ideas into design strategies aligned with project constraints. This structure ensured that final recommendations are both community-informed and implementable within the context of the Blue Line Extension.

CHAPTER 3:

CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING OUTCOMES

FINAL PRODUCTS BY STATION

This chapter presents the final visualizations developed through the Blue Line Extension Cultural Placekeeping Working Group process. Organized by station, the following pages illustrate how community members, project partners, and our graphic facilitators worked together to identify the stories, values, histories, and cultural assets that make each station area unique. These themes are intended to serve as a foundation for future station design, helping ensure that each station reflects the character of its surrounding community while contributing to a cohesive corridor-wide experience.

Cultural Themes

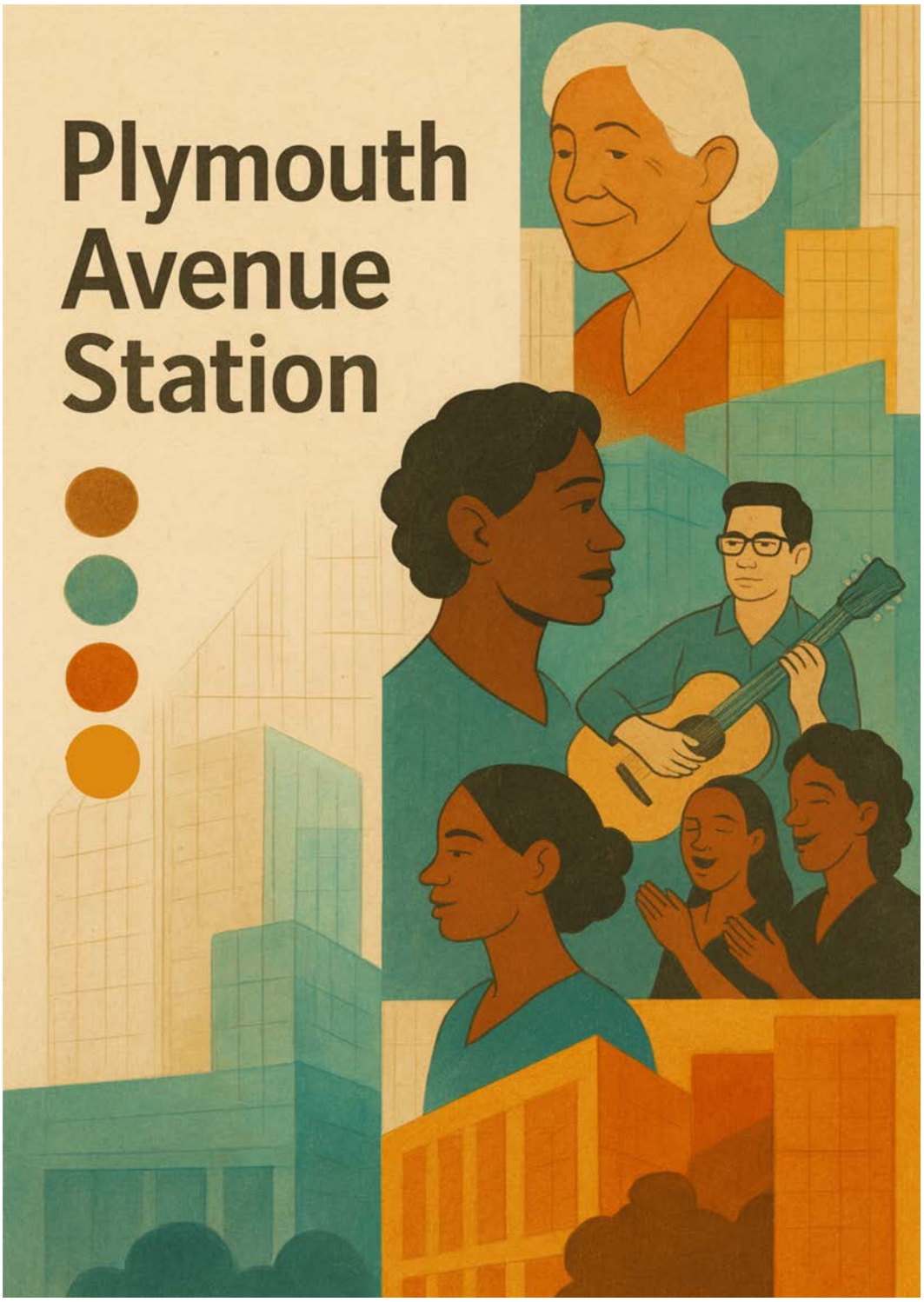
The cultural themes presented in this document were developed through a collaborative working group process that brought together community members and staff from the project office, Hennepin County, and the cities along the corridor with local graphic facilitators to synthesize and visualize the community feedback. Through a series of gatherings held over the course of 2025, participants worked collectively to define themes that express the character, history, and cultural identity of the communities that will be served and connected by the Blue Line Extension.

The working group was open to all community members and centered on establishing a distinct theme for each station – one that reflects the richness and uniqueness of its surrounding culture. Local graphic facilitators played a key role in this process, translating group discussions into statements and accompanying visualizations that helped ground the work in a shared visual language.

These cultural themes will guide the design team as the project advances, informing how functional architectural elements are integrated into station platforms so that each station develops a unique sense of place. Draft station designs informed by these themes will continue to be shared through future community outreach, allowing for ongoing collaboration as the designs are further refined.



PLYMOUTH AVENUE



"Threads of Resilience"

by Constanza Carballo

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The design focuses on community strength, cultural creativity, and the interwoven histories of the Near North neighborhood. The core theme highlights people as the heart of Plymouth Avenue's identity- artists, elders, families, and long-standing residents- those who sustain the area's spirit.

KEY COLORS

#c67131 *#94bea8* *#79a489* *#c08d56*

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

The artwork reflects the industrial and warehouse history of the North Loop as well as the legacy of Black commerce, arts, and social life along Plymouth Avenue. Color choices draw from storefront murals, jazz/blues poster culture, and palettes associated with neighborhood cultural expression. Rather than depicting specific structures, the revised graphics use architectural abstraction to reference change, memory, and continuity.



STORYTELLING FOCUS

Portraits of diverse community members capture themes of pride, creativity, and shared cultural heritage. Musical references subtly nod to the area's long history of artistry and performance. Background architectural forms, rendered in a sketch-like state, acknowledge the industrial past while remaining open and contemporary, reinforcing feedback asking for a brighter, more modern expression.

RATIONALE

This vision responds to community requests for increased diversity in represented figures, clearer acknowledgment of the area's evolving character, and a more contemporary visual tone. The final concept honors both historic and current identities without relying on literal building depictions. It uses people-centered storytelling to celebrate belonging, creativity, and resilience, grounding Plymouth Avenue's past and future in its community.

WEST BROADWAY



"Earthseed / Ode to Ancestors / Shoulders of Giants"

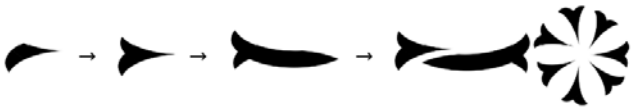
by Phili Irvin

SEED TO BLOOM SYMBOL

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

This visual system moves from earth (seed) → growth (bloom) → expressions (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.



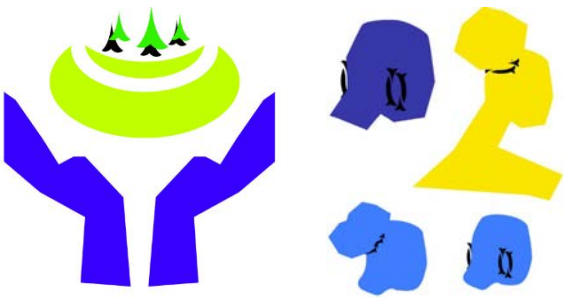
KEY COLORS

#1e1767	#3217de	#27ab33	#d9c703

AGRICULTURAL REFERENCES

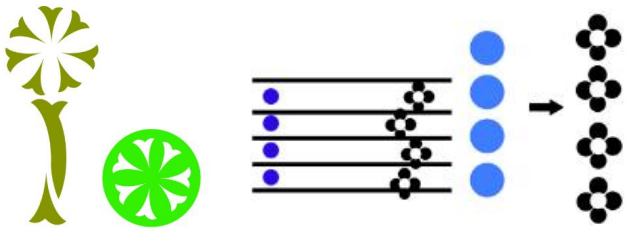
Conventional farming (grid pattern): Represents mass production, Eurocentric imposed order

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.



HEALING PAVILION REFERENCE

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



COMMUNITY EXPRESSION

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.

LYNDALE AVENUE



"Love Letter 2 Lyndale"

by Phili Irvin

THE VISUAL SYSTEM

Lyndale Avenue's concept 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.

KEY COLORS

#fffce1 *#963d01* *#67140e* *#261305*

INSPIRATION & MATERIALITY

- 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



BASE FORM

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



LYNDALE FIGURES

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



JAMES AVENUE



"Youth Movement + Park Life"

by Phillí Irvin

THE VISUAL SYSTEM

James Avenue's concept 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 abstract, 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.

BACKGROUND

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.

KEY COLORS

#f8cb32 *#56f302* *#5ca9f9* *#467c02*



FIGURE STYLE

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



PARK AS GATHERING SPACE

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.

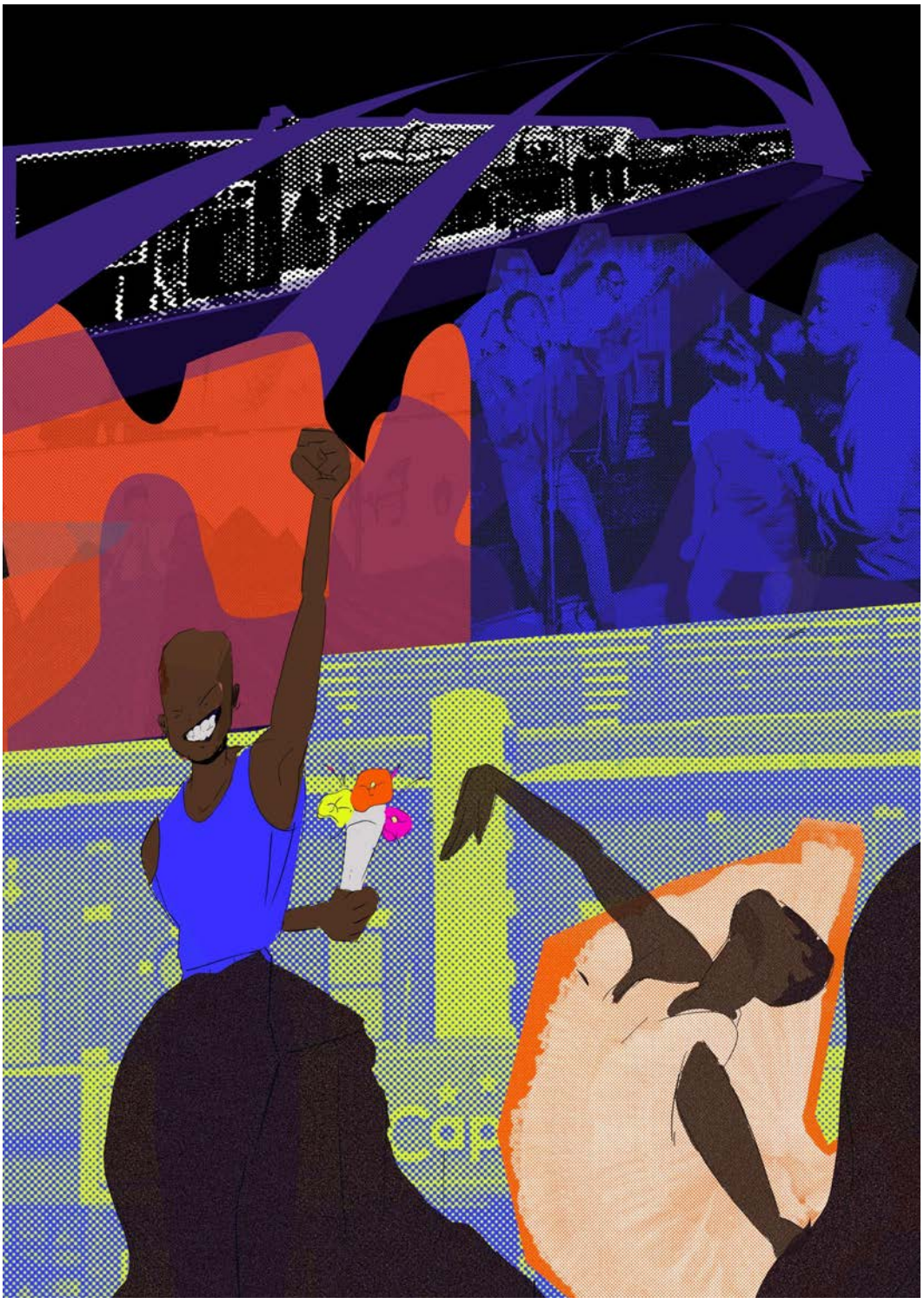
YOUTH IN MOTION

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.

PENN AVENUE



"Minneapolis Sound + Black Cultural Power"

by Phillí Irvin

VISUAL SYSTEM

Penn Avenue's concept 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 transactions, they are performances; 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.

LAYERED TEXTURES

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 the markets on top of history on top of activism.

KEY COLORS

#e2f819

#f85601

#fb01c5

#3217de

#3c1f7c

#000000

BLACK WALL STREET / COMMUNITY MARKETS

Market scenes showing economic self-determination:

- Vendor stalls
- Exchange and commerce
- Community gathered around buying/selling

Entrepreneurship as resistance.

ACTIVISM & GATHERING

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 acts of cultural power.





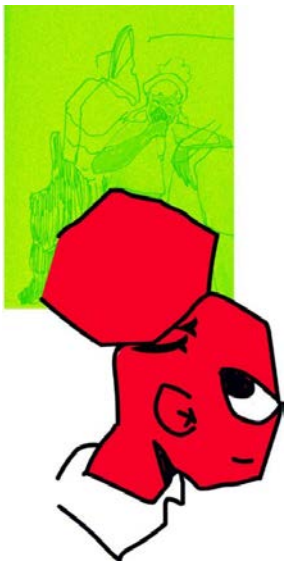


FIGURE STYLE

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

LOWRY AVENUE



"Currents of Community"

by Constanza Carballo

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The concept expresses connection, belonging, and transformation within a neighborhood shaped by many cultures, generations, and personal histories. Flowing shapes represent the movement of people, stories, and relationships, not geographic features reinforcing Lowry Avenue as a place where community paths intersect.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

The concept incorporates the area's long-standing cultural diversity and the lived experiences shared by residents during engagement. The inclusion of a robin emblem acts as a nod to regional identity, used here as a unifying symbol rather than a literal wildlife reference. The design avoids specific architectural or geographical landmarks to honor community feedback asking for a more universal, people-centered focus.

KEY COLORS

#ad461b *#5d7b21* *#99570d* *#db910c*

STORYTELLING FOCUS

The imagery centers human connection and transformation. Winged symbols reference themes of migration, growth, and the evolving identities within the Lowry community. The warm, layered palette supports a tone described by residents as expressive, uplifting, and reflective of neighborhood pride. Diverse faces highlight representation across age, culture, and lived experience.

RATIONALE

This theme directly integrates community feedback by removing literal river imagery, expanding demographic representation, and emphasizing relational themes rather than physical landmarks. The flowing graphic forms now symbolize shared pathways and the movement of community life. The robin logo replaces the loon to provide a more locally resonant symbol while avoiding unnecessary environmental specificity. Overall, the design offers an inclusive, grounded visual narrative that honors the voices and stories of Lowry Avenue residents, celebrating connection, resilience, and belonging.

DOWNTOWN ROBBINSDALE



"Main Street Continuum"

by Constanza Carballo

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The principal theme centers on Robbinsdale's long-standing identity as a welcoming Main Street community defined by connection, local business life, and shared civic pride. The emphasis is on continuity, renewal, and everyday movement through communal spaces.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

The concept draws from Robbinsdale's historic trolley line, its "Bird Town" heritage, and the architecture of the downtown commercial corridor represented through warm, mid-century influenced shapes and colors. The robin emblem appears as a unifying symbol of place, used sparingly and respectfully to avoid repetition across stations while maintaining authenticity.

KEY COLORS



#ea992d *#d7650c* *#992c03* *#145245*

STORYTELLING FOCUS

The artwork focuses on the rhythm of Main Street movement, gathering, and small-scale urban life. The trolley motif connects past and present transit histories, while the storefront geometry reflects the architectural character of the downtown area. The palette evokes warmth, inclusivity, and a sense of renewal noted as important during engagement.

RATIONALE

This revised direction responds to community feedback by shifting away from the Terrace Theater as a focal point and instead grounding the artwork in Main Street identity. It avoids swallows or other repeated motifs, honoring requests for historical accuracy and a forward-looking representation. The robin emblem is retained as a symbol deeply tied to Robbinsdale's heritage but presented in a clean, linocut-inspired style that matches the corridor's visual language. The final concept creates a balanced narrative rooted in place, community pride, and evolving identity.

BASS LAKE ROAD



"Home and Here to Stay"

by Adrian Lowe

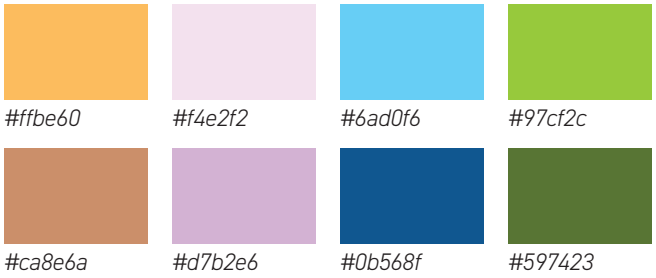
CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

A strong emphasis on homes. The main aesthetics the theme highlights are family, parks, and Crystal's unique 14-point star that represents its 14 neighborhoods.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

The star is reminiscent of a compass with each point meant to represent a neighborhood. The emphasis on home comes from this community's high rates of homeownership and collective feeling of being at home in Crystal.

KEY COLORS



STORYTELLING FOCUS

Home is at the heart of the image with its 4 segmented parts to represent different times of the day for a "day in the life" feel.

RATIONALE

People come into Crystal and end up staying, magnetizing feeling of pieces coming together around the home.

63RD AVENUE



"The Meeting Point"

by Adrian Lowe

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

This station is in a mostly residential area, but there is a convergence of city borders and communities here – Crystal, New Hope, Brooklyn Park, and Brooklyn Center.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

There are several ethnic populations that live in the converging cities, from Liberians and other West African communities, Hmong, and Laotian amongst many others.

KEY COLORS



#e22124 *#0f978d* *#f7af1d* *#7a3576*

STORYTELLING FOCUS

This theme shows different motifs and cultural clothing that depict the diverse demographics to make a quilt-like pattern with components representing things that make this area unique. A nod to Crystal Airport as well, as this is the closest station to it.

RATIONALE

I wanted to depict that people from all over the globe have made it here, although they are together in this larger fabric, they still are bold individual pieces and have made significant contributions to the community.



"We Are Brooklyn Park"

by Marlissa Karpeh

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The principal theme is unity in diversity – showing Brooklyn Park as a mosaic of cultures, histories, and people who together form the identity of the city.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

- Colorful silhouettes represent the wide array of ethnic and cultural backgrounds living in Brooklyn Park.
- Patterned African textiles, Liberian symbols, and cultural motifs celebrate the city's global heritage.
- Puzzle-piece components represent community interconnection – each piece necessary to form a whole.
- Local photographs and map-like textures reference the literal geography of the Brooklyn Park community.

KEY COLORS

#b13a32 *#daa442* *#447c57* *#2c4fdf*

STORYTELLING FOCUS

The focus is on collective identity. Each silhouette represents a different voice, a different story, yet together they create a unified image of pride and belonging. Boulevard Station becomes a cultural tapestry – reflecting who Brooklyn Park is today.

RATIONALE

"We Are Brooklyn" positions Brooklyn Boulevard Station as a civic statement: this is a community shaped by its people. It acknowledges the contributions of immigrant families, long-term residents, artists, workers, and youth who create Brooklyn Park's identity.

85TH AVENUE



"Family Ties"
by Marlissa Karpeh

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The artwork highlights intergenerational connection, family strength, and the cultural webs that bind people together in Brooklyn Park's diverse neighborhoods.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

Images of Hmong and Liberian traditional dancers and attire celebrate heritage, celebration, and collective memory.

- The open book symbolizes education, wisdom, and knowledge passed down through families.
- Houses and community symbols reference long-standing immigrant and Liberian settlement patterns in the city.
- Silhouettes of community members reflect the multicultural unity and shared identity within the area.

KEY COLORS

#c9c3ad

#d2a90f

#d9730e

#d35a3f

#442dc5

#0f0065

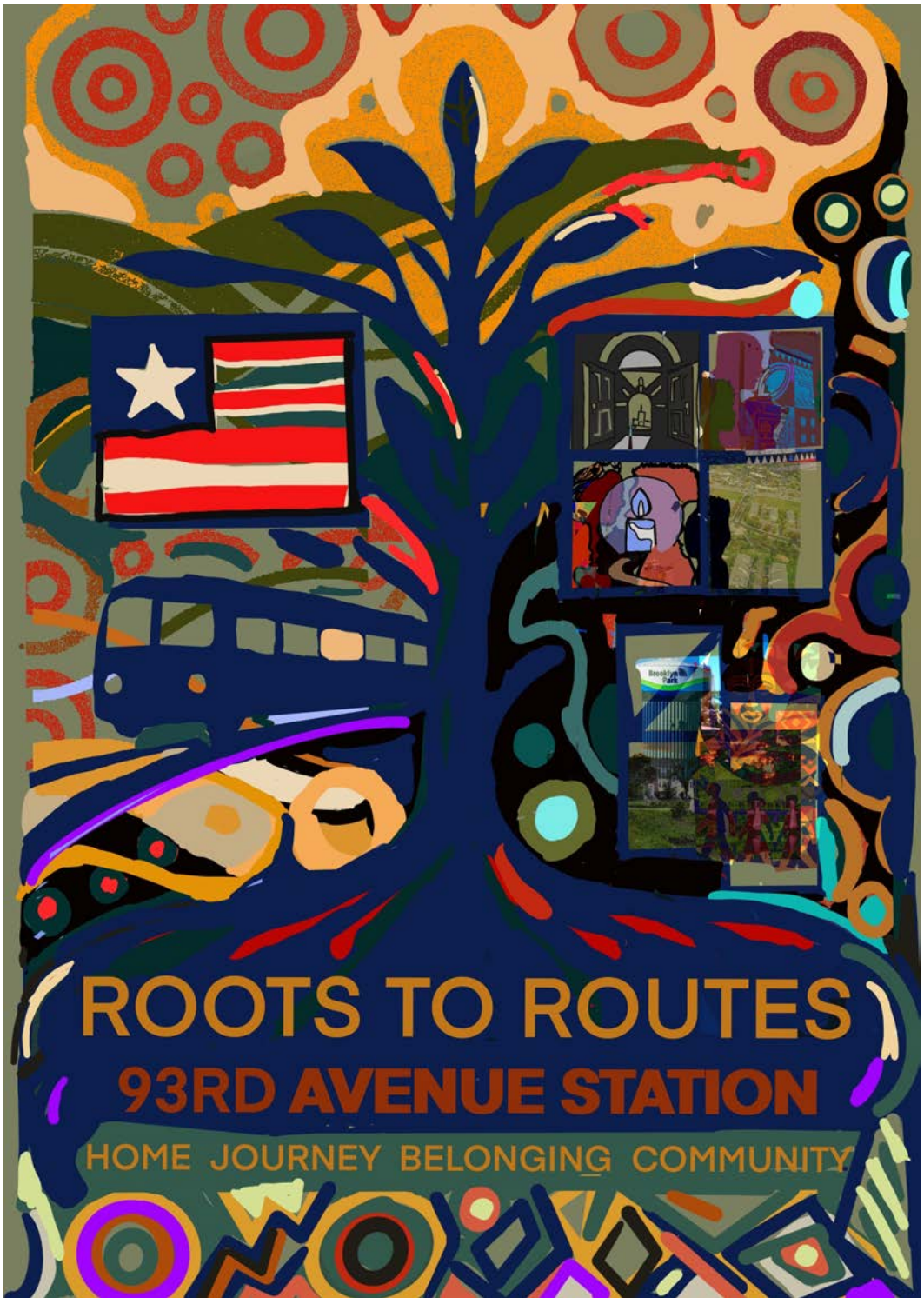
STORYTELLING FOCUS

This piece emphasizes family as community infrastructure. It portrays Brooklyn Park as a place where culture, joy, and resilience are nurtured across generations. The central tree, again, symbolizes rootedness – but this time, rooted in family, memory, and the shared responsibility of raising and uplifting one another.

RATIONALE

"Family Ties" reflects the heart of 85th Avenue Station – a residential corridor shaped by families from around the world. The design elevates family as a source of strength, belonging, and cultural continuity.

93RD AVENUE



"Roots to Routes"

by Marlissa Karpeh

CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

The theme centers on migration, belonging, and the pathways that connect Liberian, immigrant, and multigenerational families to Brooklyn Park. It symbolizes how stories, journeys, and cultural identity flow into a shared community "route."

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

- The Liberian flag represents Minnesota's vibrant Liberian population – the largest outside Liberia.
- The bus and transit lines reflect the literal and symbolic routes immigrants take toward stability and opportunity.
- African pattern motifs and sun imagery reference traditional Liberian artistry, textile symbolism, and communal cultural storytelling.
- Photographs of neighborhoods and community scenes highlight Brooklyn Park as home for many immigrant families.

KEY COLORS

#efb77a

#e3930a

#f51314

#0db8b2

#a302fd

#0c1e4e

STORYTELLING FOCUS

This piece tells the story of movement – how individuals and families travel across continents, cities, and generations. The central tree represents rootedness, growth, and reconnection with identity despite displacement. The artwork frames 93rd Avenue Station as a threshold: where past and present meet, where travelers transition from their personal journeys into a shared place of belonging.

RATIONALE

"Roots to Routes" visually honors the narratives of Brooklyn Park residents – especially African immigrant families—who navigate change with resilience. The station becomes a cultural gateway that welcomes all community members while acknowledging the histories, memories, and cultural ties carried with them.

OAK GROVE PARKWAY



"Growth & Opportunity"

by Adrian Lowe

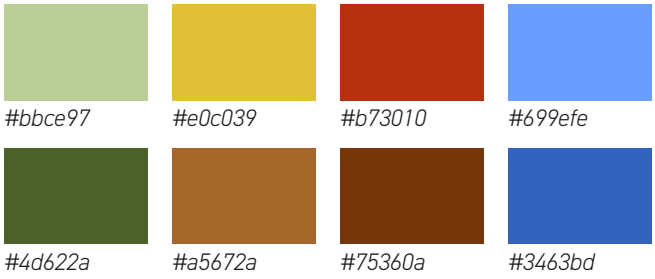
CORE THEME OR PRINCIPAL

Growth and development – this station, being the last stop on the Blue Line Extension, is, depending on which way you're headed, either the end or the beginning.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL REFERENCES

The landmark brought up for this space is Target Headquarters. Many people noted that most of the surrounding area is still undergoing development.

KEY COLORS



STORYTELLING FOCUS

A water basin that flows and joins at the root of a tree, which then depicts several branches extending in different directions. Leaf patterns in various colors also represent change.

RATIONALE

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

CHAPTER 4:

NEXT STEPS

FROM THEMES TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Cultural Placekeeping Working Group process generated a wide range of ideas about how the Blue Line Extension can reflect, celebrate, and strengthen the communities it serves. Throughout the process, participants emphasized that cultural placekeeping is not limited to station design alone. Rather, it is an ongoing commitment to ensuring that the stories, identities, histories, and aspirations of corridor communities remain visible as the corridor evolves.

As the project advances into final design and construction, the themes documented in this report will continue to inform decision-making and guide opportunities for cultural expression. The following sections summarize key opportunities for implementation, recurring themes identified by participants, and ideas that may be pursued through future partnerships beyond the scope of the Blue Line Extension project itself.

PLACEKEEPING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE BLUE LINE EXTENSION

The Blue Line Extension includes a variety of functional infrastructure elements that can support cultural expression while meeting the project's operational and funding requirements. These elements provide opportunities to incorporate community identity into the everyday experience of riders and visitors.

Potential opportunities include station markers, interpretive windscreens, fencing and railing elements, lighting features, wayfinding systems, utility cabinet wraps, decorative banners, and other required infrastructure. When thoughtfully designed, these elements can communicate local stories, celebrate cultural heritage, reflect neighborhood identities, and create a stronger sense of arrival and belonging at each station.

The examples shown on the following pages illustrate how cultural placekeeping can be integrated into transit infrastructure. While they are not intended as final cultural placekeeping design concepts, they demonstrate the range of opportunities available to incorporate community identity into functional project elements.

Major Themes We Heard

While each station area developed its own distinct cultural themes, several ideas emerged consistently throughout the corridor. Participants emphasized the importance of creating stations and public spaces that are recognizable, welcoming, and rooted in local identity.

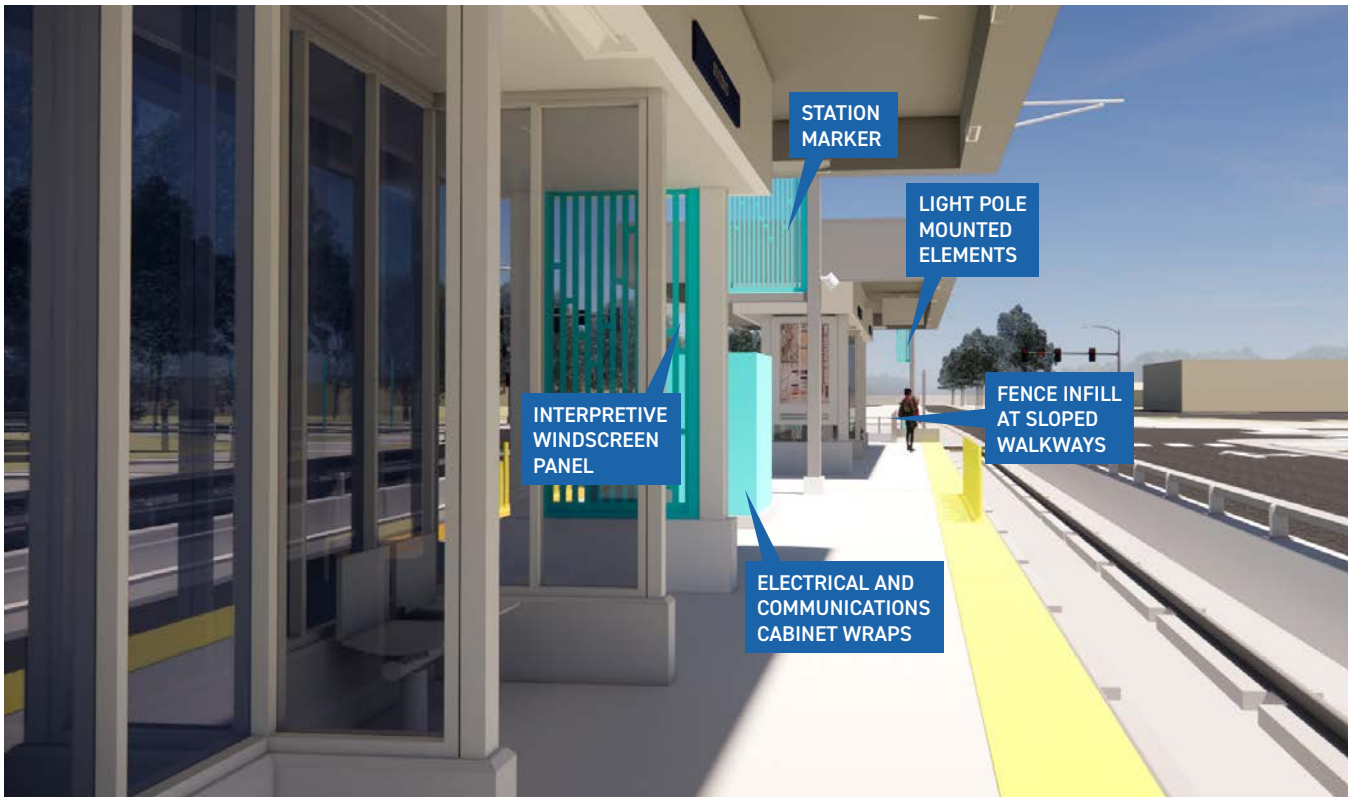
Recurring themes included:

- Celebrating community history and honoring the people, organizations, and events that shaped corridor communities.
- Creating a strong sense of place that reflects the unique character of each station area while contributing to a cohesive corridor experience.
- Supporting storytelling and education through interpretive elements that help residents and visitors learn about local histories and cultures.
- Reflecting connections to nature, ecology, and the natural systems that have shaped communities along the corridor.
- Creating spaces that foster belonging, visibility, and cultural pride for current residents.
- Recognizing resilience, movement, and the ongoing evolution of corridor communities.
- Designing for future generations while honoring the past.

These themes provide a foundation for future design decisions and can help ensure that cultural placekeeping remains a visible and meaningful component of the Blue Line Extension.



Street view of placemaking & placekeeping opportunities on the platform. Opportunities for expression highlighted in teal.
Miller Dunwiddie



On platform view of placemaking & placekeeping opportunities on the platform. Opportunities for expression highlighted in teal.
Miller Dunwiddie



Station Marker - Green Line Extension
Metro Transit



Railing Infill - Blue Line
Metro Transit



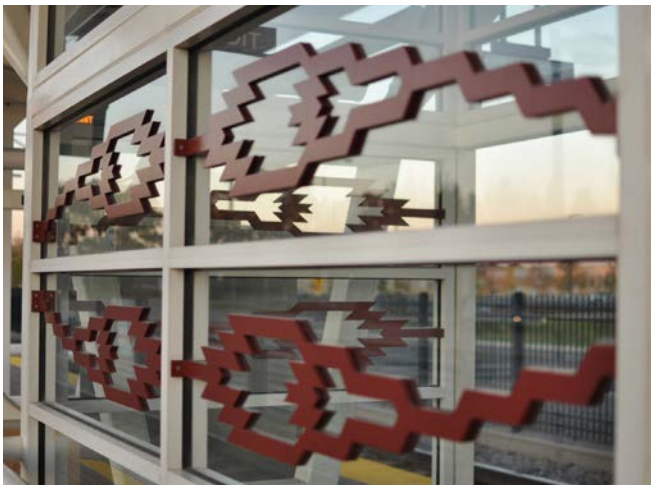
Light Pole Banners - Green Line
Metro Transit



Cabinet Wraps - Minneapolis
Minneapolis Art Wraps



Winscreen Shelters - Metro D Line
Metro Transit



Windscreen Shelters - Fort Snelling Station
Metro Transit

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES BEYOND THE PROJECT

Participants also identified a number of opportunities that extend beyond the scope of the Blue Line Extension project or fall outside eligible transit funding categories. Although these ideas may not all be implementable directly through the project, they remain important community priorities and may be advanced through future partnerships and investments.

Commonly identified opportunities included:

- Community murals and public art installations
- Greenhouses, gardens, and community growing spaces
- Native plantings, habitat restoration, and ecological education
- Community gathering spaces and cultural event venues
- Neighborhood beautification efforts and gateway features
- Graphic facilitators-led programming and cultural celebrations
- Continued involvement of residents, graphic facilitators, and community organizations in shaping public spaces

These ideas demonstrate that community members view cultural placekeeping as extending beyond transit infrastructure and into the broader public realm.

Future Partnership Opportunities

Many of the ideas identified through this process could be advanced by cities, community organizations, cultural institutions, developers, and other partners working throughout the corridor. The themes documented in this report provide a foundation that can inform future investments and initiatives, helping create stronger connections between station areas and surrounding neighborhoods.

Potential partnership opportunities include public art programs, cultural wayfinding systems, community storytelling projects, heritage interpretation, placemaking initiatives, ecological restoration efforts, and programming that activates public spaces. By continuing to build upon the ideas captured through this process, corridor partners can help ensure that cultural placekeeping remains an ongoing and collaborative effort long after construction is complete.

The Blue Line Extension represents an important investment in transportation infrastructure, but it also presents an opportunity to strengthen the cultural identity and visibility of corridor communities. Continued collaboration among residents, graphic facilitators, public agencies, and community partners will be essential to realizing that vision.