



STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST: JUXTAPOSITION ARTS: ENVIRONMENTAL LAB TEAM

Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA) is a teen-staffed social enterprise rooted in North Minneapolis. Since 1995, JXTA has trained and employed young people through paid apprenticeships in art, design, and creative placemaking. Its mission is to build equity in the creative economy while transforming the built and natural environment of historically underinvested communities. The Environmental Design Lab is JXTA's architecture and urban design arm, where apprentices are trained in urban design, architectural theory, research, design/build and planning at all scales. The Lab activates street corners, vacant lots, and in between spaces to reimagine a community based public infrastructure. The Environmental Design Lab stands at an international forefront of design justice, demonstrating why Black youth leadership in architecture and urban design is essential to reimagining our communities in our current times.

For more information please contact the artist
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JUXTAPOSITION ARTS



NORTHSIDE SINCE '95



STORIES OF
CONNECTION



STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST: JUXTAPOSITION ARTS: ENVIRONMENTAL LAB TEAM ARTIST STATEMENT

Belonging is a community-designed bench created in collaboration with apprentices from Juxtaposition Arts' Environmental Design Lab. Drawing from conversations about identity, healing, stewardship, and connection, the project combines white oak, weathering steel, North Minneapolis graffiti vernacular, and cultural symbols from Hmong, Lakota/Dakota, and Adinkra traditions. Each symbol represents a value shared by community members: belonging, healing, connection, stewardship, liberation, growth, legacy, and voice. Located within Theo Wirth Park, the bench invites visitors to see themselves reflected in the landscape while strengthening connections between community, culture, and nature. Designed to age gracefully over time, the piece celebrates the stories and people that continue to shape North Minneapolis.



STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST: MIA VUE JENNINGS

Mia Vue Jennings is a young Hmong-American artist based in the North Minneapolis, growing up near Theodore Wirth Parkway. Mia is someone who's been creating art for as long as she can remember. Her Hmong identity has been a huge inspiration and motivation for most of her work. Throughout her life, she's worked with many different mediums, but her current focus is mainly on digital art, paintings, murals, and street art. Some of her most notable accomplishments include creating a mural for the 2023 Minnesota State Fair, illustrating for Minnesota Public Radio, and creating 6 large murals for the children's area in the Merriam Park Branch Library in Saint Paul. She is currently working on another exciting opportunity with North Commons Park to create an entry-way mural that will celebrate the North Minneapolis community and the meaningfulness of North Commons. Something that she always strives for in creating art is bringing joy and encouragement to others, because she believes that art always has the power to do good.

For more information please contact the artist
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STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST: MIA VUE JENNINGS ARTIST STATEMENT

This pair of benches celebrates the past, present, and future of the North Minneapolis community through its connection to Theodore Wirth Park and the natural world. Featuring local fauna such as the Northern Bluet Damselfly, each bench offers a unique community-centered perspective. One honors the rich history of North Minneapolis and the diverse cultures that have shaped and continue to strengthen the neighborhood, while the other highlights the many ways people of all ages and backgrounds can engage with and enjoy Theodore Wirth Park through accessible outdoor recreation. Located near Wirth Beach, this seating area invites visitors to pause, reflect, connect with one another, and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding landscape.



STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST: SILENT FOX

Silent Fox is a multidisciplinary artist, graphic designer, and muralist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Grounded in drawing and painting, they create colorful figurative works that re-envision childhood narratives. Fox uses art as a form of alchemy, turning hypothetical theory and imagination into physical works of art. Their artistic philosophy, reflected in their chosen name Silent, emphasizes the power of quiet reflection and meaningful exploration in their creative process. They have participated in residencies at Proof Public, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Mango Days, and Grand Marais Art Colony. Fox has exhibited their work in the Twin Cities, including a solo exhibition at Public Functionary, and group exhibitions at Augsburg University, Vine Arts, Creative Gallery, and The Show Gallery-Lowertown. Curating exhibitions in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and the Hennepin Theatre. From 2020 to 2025, Fox has collaborated with local artists to work on multiple murals in Minneapolis under Creatives after Curfew Collective. The collective was community-driven as the artist created public art in solidarity with the uprising, pushing back against police violence and supporting community healing.

A graduate of Augsburg University with a BA in studio arts and graphic design, they have established themselves as a versatile creator under the banner of Silentfox.Studio, with their work supported by MSAB grants in both 2021 and 2022. For Fox, graphic design is a tool for collaborative storytelling, reflecting on the times, bringing awareness, amplifying voices, and envisioning possibilities for the future. Fox's work can be seen in branding designs, book layouts, billboard banners, and illustrations, etc. In their graphic design practice, Fox has created a pathway that allows them to connect and collaborate with community members. Collaborating with local businesses and collectives such as Know Your Worth, Zero Coalition, Black Family Blueprint, Minnesota Environmental Justice Table, and The Ujima Collective.

For more information please contact the artist
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**STORIES OF CONNECTION STORY BENCH ARTIST:
SILENT FOX**

ARTIST STATEMENT

Silent Fox is a multidisciplinary artist, graphic designer, and muralist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Grounded in drawing and painting, they create colorful figurative works that re-envision childhood narratives. The four benches are reflections of the community and the stories we hold. Whether stories about summer day fishing or sitting in your cars as you observe the falling leaves, the benches create a space to sit and share your stories in nature.