

Creative CityMaking Artists and Staff

Creative CityMaking artists will help eliminate disparities in Minneapolis by working alongside City staff this year on the 2020 Census, Midtown Greenway wayfinding and South Side Green Zones. Creative CityMaking is a program of the City of Minneapolis Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy that partners department staff with experienced community artists to advance the City's goal of eliminating economic and racial disparities. Creative CityMaking develops new arts-based field-tested approaches to engage people in traditionally underrepresented communities and stimulate innovative thinking and practices for more responsive government.

In 2019, Creative CityMaking selected artists will work on three projects. These projects are:

2020 census

Artists Anna Meyer and Roxanne Anderson will collaborate with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations on the 2020 census. The census has long been a controversial tool used by government to organize and provide resources to communities, but it has undercounted the same communities that are underrepresented in decision-making. The City's interest in collaborating with artists on this project is to acknowledge the historic racism of this tool and data collection process and to evaluate how racial equity can become the core of the City's census activities.

Midtown Greenway wayfinding

Artists Molly Van Avery and Masanari Kawahara will collaborate with the Department of Public Works. A 2016 study, *Making the Connection: Midtown Greenway to Lake Street*, found that traditional and untraditional wayfinding elements are needed on the greenway to enhance usage of the corridor, particularly among communities in neighborhoods close to the trail that don't know that it's there or don't feel like they are welcome to use it. Artists will provide creative insights into community needs and expand the definition of wayfinding to include access, learning and connection to the greenway for underserved and underrepresented communities including people with low incomes who have a first language other than English, people with limited literacy, and people who require Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility.

Southside Green Zone

Artist Rory Wakemup will collaborate with the Office of Sustainability. The Southside Green Zone program is in transition from a more top-down, City-led process to a more community-led organizing structure. The Southside Green Zone program has 14 priority action items that include equity and anti-displacement; air, water and soil quality; healthy food access; and health and energy in housing for these neighborhoods: Ventura Village, Phillips West, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips and Cedar Riverside. Rory Wakemup will collaborate with City staff and community organizers to co-create and organize community-led solutions to environmental problems that overburden communities in the Southside Green Zones areas that have low incomes and are indigenous and communities of color.

Read below for more information on the projects and artists.

2020 census artists and staff

Artists Anna Meyer and Roxanne Anderson will collaborate with City staff members Karen Moe and Alberder Gillespie on 2020 Census Complete Count.

Artist Anna Meyer



Anna is an organizer, consultant, artist and healing practitioner who has been working in local and national LGBTQ and BIPOC communities for almost 25 years. Her experience includes two decades working with youth and families experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities and in Washington DC, Volunteer Management and Human Resources. Anna was the Co-Owner of Cafe SouthSide. She is skilled in creating, supporting and holding space for folks to be seen, supported and resourced with an intersectional harm reduction framework. Presently, Anna is focused on healing justice within our communities and is training to be a Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapist. She works with RARE Productions and is a fierce supporter of art, joy and expression as survival and liberation tools. She holds a B.A. in Women's Studies with an emphasis on Queer & Gender Studies from the University of MN. Anna lives, loves and works in south Minneapolis and beyond.

Artist Roxanne Anderson



Roxanne is a 2018 Bush Fellow. Rox is a community activist who's been working in social service for 30 years. Rox has been honored with the 2017 Beautiful Humans Award for BIPOC LGBTQI2S Media, 2016 Twin Cities Pride Grand Marshal, University of Minnesota's Community Excellence Award, Lavender Magazine's 100 Fab Community Organizer Award, Twin Cities Black Pride Community Service Award for Diversity & Inclusion and featured in Curve Magazine for community leadership. Roxanne is the Director of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, the co-founder/managing director of RARE Productions a multimedia arts and entertainment company focusing on producing and promoting queer artists of color. Roxanne is a broadcast journalist/on air DJ with KFAI and KRSM radio stations and is a published contributing writer for Gay/Queer Scene Magazine. Rox is a skilled and highly sought facilitator, topics of expertise include LGBTQ identities, Cultural Competency, Transgender Awareness, allyship, Strategic Planning and Organizational Development.

City staff member Karen Moe



Karen is currently the Deputy Director with Neighborhood and Community Relations. She joined the City with Regulatory Services in 2016. Prior to that, Karen worked at Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County and at the state association of Community Action agencies for a total of seven years, focusing primarily on energy and housing related programs. Originally from Chicago, Karen first came to the Twin Cities to attend the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. In her free time, Karen spends her time with family and friends and enjoying all the great greenery that Minnesota offers. She lives in the Keewaydin neighborhood in a duplex. Her parents live in the first floor unit (also recent transplants from Chicago) and she lives in the second floor unit with Lula the dog and Gerald the geriatric cat who insisted on coming home with her one day from Minneapolis Animal Care & Control.

City staff member Alberder Gillespie



Alberder is the City of Minneapolis 2020 Census Project Coordinator. Alberder has over fifteen years of experience in campaign strategy and coalition building. She has been an active member of many cross-cultural organizations, boards and coalitions, including the Minnesota Attorney General transition team, MN2020, Common Cause Minnesota, the League of Women Voters, Restore the Vote Minnesota and the University of Minnesota's Presidential Advisory Board.

Midtown Greenway wayfinding artists and staff

Artists Molly Van Avery and Masanari Kawahara will collaborate with City staff Julieann Swanson on Midtown Greenway Wayfinding.

Artist Molly Van Avery



Molly is a writer, collaborator, and connector. She received her BA from Goddard College in Social Ecology and her MFA in Poetry from Hamline University. Van Avery taught art and social change courses with Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs and has been the Artist and Community Coordinator at Pillsbury House Theatre. Van Avery co-directs Poetry for People (PfP) which received the Americans for the Arts' Public Art Award for “this house is not for sale” a collaboration between Witt Siasoco, seven poetic luminaries, and the City of Lakes Community Land Trust. Van Avery has collaborated with Mike Hoyt and the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development office on “Imagining Equity”, and with Hoyt and Dameun Strange and Northern Lights for Illuminate the Lock. Molly is thrilled to embark on this new collaboration with Masa. Molly lives in the Powderhorn neighborhood with her dog and kiddo.

Artist Masanari Kawahara



Masanari is a performer, educator, and Butoh practitioner who incorporates puppetry, mask and movement into his work. Recent theater works include Speechless by The Moving Company as an actor; Immigrant Journey Project with Theater Mu as the lead artist; and The Oldest Boy by Jungle Theater as a puppeteer/actor/designer/builder. Also with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, he collaborated on Make Believe Neighborhood, The Story of Crow Boy and Queen. Other notable work includes the solo show Little Boy commissioned by Pangea World Theater's Alternate Vision series.

Masanari is currently a resident teaching artist at Pillsbury House + Theatre and teaching artist for Upstream Arts working with preschoolers to elders. He is a member of the Butoh group Nenkin Butoh Dan, which received a 2015 Sage Award for outstanding dance ensemble for Fu.Ku.Shi.Ma. He is a Playwrights' Center McKnight Theater Artist Fellow (2010-2011, and 2018-2019).

City staff member Julieann Swanson



Julieann is an Associate Transportation Planner for the City of Minneapolis. Among her many assignments, Julieann manages bicycle and pedestrian projects for the city including working in collaboration with local agencies to help ensure her hometown ranks high in bicycle and pedestrian friendliness. With a master's degree in Geographic Information Science from the University of Minnesota, Julieann also manages mapping and data projects for her department, the Traffic and Parking Services Division in Public Works.

Southside Green Zone artist and staff

Artist Rory Wakemup will collaborate with City staff Kelly Muellman on South Side Green Zones.

Artist Rory Wakemup



Rory is a Native American (Bois Forte Band of MN Chippewa tribe) artist, activist and community organizer working to flip the script on misappropriation of native culture for his campaign to "Kill the Idiot, Save the Fan." He has collaborated with K-12 education, pop culture and media to raise awareness for Indigenous social and environmental justice through "funktavism" aka fun activism. Rory is the sole proprietor of Wakemup Productions whose mission is to celebrate Native American people through art in the 21st century. Rory served as Gallery Director for All My Relations Arts Gallery from 2016 to 2019 and holds an MFA in Studio Art from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts.

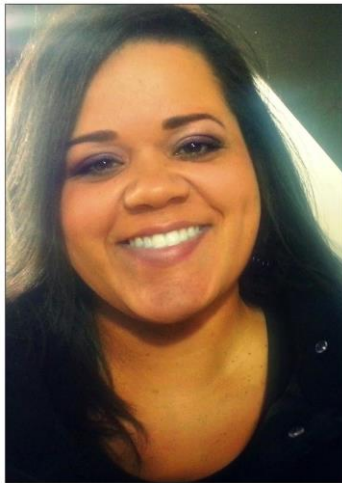
City staff member Kelly Muellman



Kelly (she/her) is a Sustainability Program Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis. Kelly's work focuses on the intersections of climate change, sustainability planning, and structural and institutional racism. Kelly leads the City's role in the Green Zones environmental justice initiative, supports broader engagement of underserved residents and businesses in energy cost saving programs, and advances conversations on climate vulnerability and resilience in the City.

Creative CityMaking Staff

Creative CityMaking Program Manager Amelia Brown



Amelia is a consultant, writer, speaker, and artist with more than 20 years of community development experience bridging four continents. She earned the first and only self-designed master's degree from the University of Minnesota integrating arts, emergency management, and community development. She managed the first Twin Cities placemaking residency while organizing community partners in the development of the Cultural Corridor to maximize arts and cultural assets and increase economic growth along the Metro Green Line light rail with Twin Cities LISC. Amelia's presentations and articles are the first to focus on the role of arts in disaster recovery in multiple publications, conferences, and locations from New Orleans to New Zealand. She developed the first Community Emergency Relief Fund with Springboard for the Arts to support artists response to urgent community needs with creative leadership. As the Creative CityMaking Program Manager, she was the first to implement the program in the City of Minneapolis that partners artists with City staff to work on addressing the City's equity

goals. Amelia created Emergency Arts to strengthen community resilience by integrating art and emergency management.

Creative CityMaking Project Manager Teeko Yang



As the Project Manager for Creative CityMaking Minneapolis, Teeko does more than wrangling project tasks. With more than five years working in place-based work, Teeko is obsessed with infusing arts and culture to build healthier communities. Previously, Teeko was the Program Council and Projects Manager at Northern Lights.mn, championing a diverse team of artist leaders to develop and co-create the Northern Spark festival in neighborhoods across the Twin Cities, leading her to speak in Vancouver, BC on Digital Placemaking. Before that, she worked at the Asian Economic Development Association, supporting the Creative Placemaking team by leveraging arts and culture for economic development in the Frogtown/Rondo neighborhood, creating the largest Southeast Asian Night Market in the Midwest. Teeko received her graduate degree from the University of Minnesota in Arts and Cultural Leadership, and her undergrad from the University of Oklahoma in Fine Arts. She is also a food and lifestyle photographer.

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