

To: Minneapolis City Council  
Minneapolis Public Works

From: Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: January 4, 2017

Subject: January Resolutions – Minneapolis Artist Junauda Petrus' Poem

**Minneapolis Artist Junauda Petrus' Poem**

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the inclusion of Minneapolis artist Junauda Petrus' poem "A Prayer for Pussies" as part of new public art associated with reconstruction of Nicollet Mall. As part of its Strategic Plan adopted in 2015, the PAC identified placemaking and the creation of a more attractive and engaging pedestrian environment as a priority. We believe that public art has an essential role to play in nurturing an engaging, affirming, beautiful and inclusive public realm. Another priority identified was equity. Works of art by people that represent the diverse backgrounds of Minneapolitans set the tone for who is welcome in our public spaces. Our streets need to be a safe space for women's bodies, especially the bodies of women of color, and representing them positively in art is a step toward that. Therefore, the PAC rejects the City's censorship of Ms Petrus' poem.