

Nancy Ann Coyne
Speaking of Home
111 Marquette Avenue #2608
Minneapolis, MN. 55401
4.30.2019

Dear Property Management of US Bank and Alliance Centers, Townsquare and Securian Center,

On behalf of Speaking of Home leadership, first thank you for your partnership and support. We are thrilled to inform you, the project recently won prestigious international and national awards: HOW 's International Design Merit Award and PRINT's Regional American Design Award.

Due to Speaking of Home's local, national and international success, we are requesting an extension from June 30th, 2019 until November 8, 2020.

Per on-site survey and evaluation, the major public artwork -- designed from the community's stories and images -- has proven successful by generating vitality and social impact, positively transforming the Skyways' experience for thousands of Saint Paul downtown residents, business owners, employees and visitors. Its presence has created a sense of place and a safer environment for Skyway pedestrians while underscoring Saint Paul as inclusive, welcoming to all.

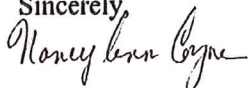
Connecting our community of many backgrounds, it has created vital conversations about our shared heritages and equity -- from Skyway audiences to K-12 school classes and senior tours.

Garnering local and national and international press coverage and recently two distinguished awards, it has brought important attention to Saint Paul, demonstrating how the city embraces public art and innovation and its community.

More timely than ever, Speaking of Home creates a place of peace, tolerance and connectedness amidst a divided nation and tumultuous political climate.

On behalf of Speaking of Home leadership, we look forward to your on-going partnership and a positive decision in regard to this request. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Nancy Ann Coyne AIGA SEGD



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-8989
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION

Applicant

Name: Nancy Ann Coyne
Address: Studio 2608, 111 Marquette Avenue
City, State, Zip: Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: 612-702-7336
763-218-4051
Email: info@speakingofhome.org
mike@michaelhaugdesign.com

Organization Name: Speaking of Home

Purpose of Use: EXTENSION OF CURRENT PERMIT. Public art installation and display. Removal of display elements and any repairs that may be needed to be completed within two weeks after final date. Permit extension also applies to Ongoing Activities Permit and School Group Tour permit and will follow same conditions outlined in attached addendums.

Location: Downtown skyways #11, 17, 21, 18 and adjoining skyway corridors.

Date(s): June 30, 2019 — November 8th, ~~2020~~ 2019

Hours: Normal skyway hours Tours and activities only from 9-11 am;
1:30-4pm; 6-9pm; 10am-9pm weekends

I, by signing in the appropriate space below, affirm that (1) I am an authorized representative of the applicant;(2) I have read the rules and regulations governing skyway use; and (3) I agree, on behalf of the applicant, to abide thereby.

Nancy Ann Coyne
Applicant

5.9.2019
Date

Building Manager

Name: MADISON EQUITIES INC.
Building Name: ALLIANCE BLDG & US BK BLDG.
Building Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: 651-492-7676 Email: _____

I, by signing in the appropriate space below, authorize the above named group to use the portion of the building requested in this application and accept full responsibility for applicant's use of space.

J. Crowl
Building Manager

JUNE 20, 2019
Date

DSI Review Comments: _____

City Staff Approval

Date



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-8989
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION

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Name: Nancy Ann Coyne
Address: Studio 2608, 111 Marquette Avenue
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Hours: Normal skyway hours Tours and activities only from 9-11 am;
1:30-4pm; 6-9pm; 10am-9pm weekends

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Nancy Ann Coyne
Applicant

5.9.2019
Date

Building Manager

Name: LAURA MAGNUSON
Building Name: SECURIAN 401 BUILDING
Building Address: 401 ROBERT STREET NORTH
City, State, Zip: ST PAUL MN 55101
Phone: 651-665-4476 Email: laura.magnuson@bushwake.com

I, by signing in the appropriate space below, authorize the above named group to use the portion of the building requested in this application and accept full responsibility for applicant's use of space.

Laura Magnuson
Building Manager

6/24/19
Date

DSI Review Comments: _____

City Staff Approval

Date



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-8989
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION

Applicant

Name: Nancy Ann Coyne
Address: Studio 2608, 111 Marquette Avenue
City, State, Zip: Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: 612-702-7336
763-218-4051
Email: info@speakingofhome.org
mike@michaelhaugdesign.com

Organization Name: Speaking of Home

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Date(s): June 30, 2019 – November 8th, 2020

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1:30-4pm; 6-9pm; 10am-9pm weekends

I, by signing in the appropriate space below, affirm that (1) I am an authorized representative of the applicant; (2) I have read the rules and regulations governing skyway use; and (3) I agree, on behalf of the applicant, to abide thereby.

Nancy Ann Coyne

Applicant

5.9.2019

Date

Building Manager

Name: Julie Pertee
Building Name: Town Square
Building Address: 443 Minnesota Street
City, State, Zip: St Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 952-897-7734 Email: julie.pertee@colliers.com

I, by signing in the appropriate space below, authorize the above named group to use the portion of the building requested in this application and accept full responsibility for applicant's use of space.

Julie Pertee

Building Manager

10-12-2019

Date

DSI Review Comments: _____

City Staff Approval

Date

Speaking of Home Public Art Installation Attachment A

Public Works will grant permission for an art installation to be installed by Speaking of Home ("Applicant") beginning approximately early February of 2017 and ending approximately April of 2017 with the ability to extend the permit once for an additional 90 day period contingent upon the approval of the Director of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections. The Project total will not exceed 180 days not including set up and take down time allowance.

The applicant understands that any related programming during the Project, including tours and celebrations will need separate permits through DSI or any other applicable city department.

The Applicant understands that there may be no advertising or corporate logos and sponsorship information may not be included on any approved static materials.

The Applicant understands that Public Works may install banners on the outside of the same skyway bridges as the Project during the course of this permit that may obscure the artwork.

The Permit for the Project proposes the following installations on each skyway bridge and adjacent area as defined below and illustrated more specifically below:

Skyway 11

- 14 approximately 12'x10' photographic artwork panels printed on scrim fabric
- 2 approximately 27"x 107.5" photographic artwork panels printed on scrim fabric
- 8 biographical panels 32" x 44" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 6 overhead signage panels 10" x 36" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 1 10" x 5" vertical brochure holder inside Skyway 11
- 1 transom graphic approx. 72" x 12" installed over entrance to Skyway 11 from Securian Building
- 1 directly wall mounted, adhesive-backed informational signage 89.5" x 60" with 10"x 5" brochure holder installed on left side of entrance to Skyway 11 near lavatories in Town Square

Skyway 17

- 16 approximately 12'x10' photographic artwork panels printed on scrim fabric
- 8 biographical panels 32" x 44" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 6 overhead signage panels 36"x 10" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 1 transom graphic 30"x 130" installed over entrance to Skyway 17 from Town Square
- 1 directly wall mounted, adhesive-backed informational signage 90.5"x 55.5" with 10"x 5" brochure holder installed on right side of entrance to Skyway 17 from Town Square
- 1 transom graphic 19" x 207" installed over entrance to Skyway 17 from Alliance Bank
- 1 directly wall mounted, adhesive-backed informational signage approximately 98.5" x 164" (height x diameter) with brochure holder installed on pillar next to food court in Alliance Bank

Skyway 21 and Alliance Bank Center

- 16 approximately 12'x10' photographic artwork panels printed on scrim fabric
- 8 biographical panels 32" x 44" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 6 overhead signage panels 36"x10" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 1 acrylic 10"x 5" vertical brochure holder installed inside Skyway 21 on left side adjacent to entrance to US Bank Center
- 1 freestanding informational signage (72" x 30") with brochure holder with adhesive-backed vinyl on gator board installed to right of skyway entrance using a Mightee Mount freestanding base.
- 1 wall graphic 122.5" x 52.5" installed on right side near entrance to Skyway 21 from US Bank Center (transom not available)
- 1 directly wall mounted, adhesive-backed informational signage approximately 100" x 40" with 10"x 5" vertical brochure holder installed on right side of entrance to Skyway 21

Skyway 18 and U.S. Bank Center

- 16 approximately 12'x10' photographic artwork panels printed on scrim fabric
- 8 biographical panels 32"x44" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 6 overhead signage panels 36"x10" digital silk-screened polycarbonate
- 1 acrylic approximately 10"x 5" vertical brochure holder installed inside Skyway 18 near entrance to Securian Building on right side
- 1 freestanding informational signage 4'x8' with brochure holder with adhesive-backed vinyl on ½" gator board installed next to escalator railing in US Bank Center using a Mightee Mount freestanding system
- 1 transom graphic approximately 35"x181" installed over entrance to Skyway 18 from US Bank
- 1 transom graphic 72"x12" installed over entrance to Skyway 18 from Securian Building

The Applicant understands that this permit covers installation, exhibition and removal of the static material in the Project and any activities or installations not outlined in the application including but not limited to additional displays, performances, promotions, interaction, smartphone apps and surveys are not covered by this permit and, unless permitted, not allowed.

The Applicant further understands engaging in unpermitted activity or failure to follow any term outlined in this resolution will result in revocation of the Project's Permit.

1) Coverage and Duration of the Permit: This permit covers Project installation, Project exhibition and Project removal. The permit runs from February of 2017 through April of 2017, unless a 90 day extension has been granted in writing by the Director of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections, in which case the permit will run from February of 2017 to August of 2017.

2) Maintenance: The Project will adhere to the maintenance guidelines outlined in the Project's application for permit and, in addition:

The Project shall maintain all installations to the satisfaction of the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections. The Project shall inspect each of this four skyway sites identified above every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Installations that are identified as damaged, broken or in need of maintenance will be repaired or restored within 48 hours of the inspection.

The Project shall provide contact information for the individual(s) in charge of maintenance. Contact information shall include an individual(s) responsible for the work and shall include the name and phone number where the person(s) can be reached 24 hours a day.

The Project shall respond on to any request from the City for maintenance with correction of any all noticed issues within forty-eight (48) hours. An email to the individual identified by the Project as the Project Manager shall constitute sufficient notice.

All equipment needed for maintenance of the project including but not limited to ladders, rolling carts and hand tools will be provided by staff hired by Project to complete maintenance.

3) Complaints: The Project shall implement a mechanism to log and address complaints.

The complaint system will allow for complaints to be entered via email, phone, text or filed electronically. The complaint system will copy the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections all complaints.

The Project shall respond on to any complaint with correction of any all noticed issues within forty-eight (48) hours. An email to the individual identified by the Project as the Project Manager shall constitute sufficient notice.

4) Project Installation: All equipment needed for installation of the project including but not limited to ladders, rolling carts and hand tools will be provided by staff hired by Project to complete the installation.

6) Project Removal: Unless the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections have granted a 90 day extension for the Project, removal will begin at the end of April, 2017. If the request for a 90 day extension is granted, removal will begin on at the end of August, 2017.

All equipment needed for removal of the project including but not limited to ladders, rolling carts and hand tools will be provided by staff hired by Project to complete the removal.

7) Limitations: This Project is limited to the items covered in the permit request only. Unless permitted through other means, there will be no attempts at performance, electronic interpretation or any other interruptions.

8) Insurance: Liability insurance for City entities and all four private properties will be provided as outlined in the permit application.

SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION—Addendum General/Ongoing Use Request

Ongoing Activities

Activities we anticipate would be ongoing throughout the duration of the Speaking of Home project include small group tours, school classroom field trips, media interviews and photography. This permit application will apply to those activities requested and scheduled through Speaking of Home and hosted by a representative of Speaking of Home.

As a requirement from the State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, an evaluative impact study of the project is also an ongoing activity at the Speaking of Home site. This will include brief interviews of visitors by members of our team.

Equipment

Photography equipment that will be allowed include a camera tripod and stand lights. Microphone stands are also allowed for recording purposes. Microphones and speakers to amplify a speaker's voice are not allowed. Tables, podiums, stools, and chairs will not be allowed. A separate application is required for events using such equipment.

Equipment used during an allowed activity must not block the use of the skyway by other pedestrians. A 48" wide accessibility pathway must be maintained at all times during the activity/tour to comply with ADA and Fire Emergency requirements.

Group Control

A Speaking of Home representative along with at least one representative of the outside group will be responsible for control and management of the group. Groups will be asked to follow these guidelines:

- > Groups must check in at one of the security desks near the project
- > Maintain an accessible pathway of at least 48"
- > Maintain noise levels at or below conversation level
- > Maximum group size of 15
- > Groups be kept together throughout the tour
- > Groups will be required to defer to building security if necessary
- > Groups not following these guidelines and/or create a disturbance will be asked to leave

Photography

Although photos of the artwork and the group itself on the skyway bridges are permitted, the building pathways between the bridges are not public property. Photography of items, areas and people not associated with the project and/or tour is typically prohibited by building management.

Emergency Response

The Speaking of Home representative will be responsible to call 911 Emergency if necessary.

SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION—Addendum

School Groups

School and Classroom Tours

School groups (K through college) that wish to visit the project in the skyway must fill out a Skyway System Use Application and send it to the City of Saint Paul to obtain a permit.

The skyways are intended for public pedestrian traffic between buildings and are used by thousands of people every day. Groups touring the Speaking of Home project must respect this purpose by providing ample room for others using the skyways. Each group must include responsible adult supervision to help control noise and behavior while in the skyway and maintain a minimum pathway of 48" wide for others at all times during the tour per ADA and Fire Code requirements. Groups visiting the project must do so during these times: Weekdays 9:00 – 11:00am; 1:30 – 4:00pm; and 6:00 – 9:00pm. Tours on Saturday and Sunday can be scheduled anytime between 10:00am – 9:00pm.

Group Control

Adult supervision of school age children is required for control and management of the class. Groups will be asked to follow these guidelines:

- > Groups must check in at one of the security desks near the project
- > Maintain an accessible pathway of at least 48" for others in the skyway
- > Maintain noise levels at or below conversation level
- > Maximum group size of 15. Larger classes must be divided into smaller groups
- > Groups must be kept together throughout the tour
- > Groups will be required to defer to building security if necessary
- > Groups not following these guidelines and/or create a disturbance will be asked to leave

Permit Process

Fill out and sign the permit application and email a copy to the city for review and approval prior to conducting your tour. Failure to do so may result in a violation of the legislative code and orders to cease the tour immediately.

Email the completed permit application to: dsicomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us and tom.ferrara@ci.stpaul.mn.us

If you have any questions about the permitting process contact the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections at 651-266-8989.

SKYWAY USE COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMPONENTS

Property owner request/authorization to conduct proposed activity in and/or impacting public easement space through their property with acknowledgement that property owner accepts responsibility/liability for the activity:

- per past practice, property owner consent typically accepted in the form of a "SKYWAY SYSTEM USE APPLICATION;"
- in circumstances when additional insurance coverage(s) required of event organizer by property owner and/or City of Saint Paul, a Certificate of Insurance is required naming the City as an additional insured Certificate Holder (City of St. Paul c/o DSI, 375 Jackson St., Saint Paul, MN 55101, Fax 651-266-9124).

Location specifics in format of a site/floor plan illustrating the width (minimum of 48" required) of public pedestrian passageway to be kept open at all times during course of event in easement/bridge and indicating where all associated activities, equipment, etc. will be placed in relation to event.

Time and duration of event (specify time for setup, performance/activity, takedown, etc.).

Activity specifics including:

- event type (exhibit, performance, fundraiser sale, etc.) and content;
- total number of people anticipated including event staff/organizers, participants, performers, spectators, tech assistance, etc. (note how event to be promoted);
- crowd control plan (limit size of crowd, actively prevent blockages of pedestrian traffic & exits, monitor and intervene in unruly behavior, etc.);
- equipment, furniture, signs, etc. to be used/present in space;
- sound/volume level and clarify whether sound will be amplified;
- note whether filming/photography planned.

Except where a use application review specifically provides, the regulations set forth in Chapter 140 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, the General Policy Statement for the Construction of the Saint Paul Skyway System last amended 2/24/2006, the applicable easement agreement terms for affected properties, and other applicable City Ordinances and State Statutes are still in effect and enforceable during all phases of a reviewed/approved skyway activity, performance, use, etc.

Failure to comply with these conditions and those outlined in communications preparing for the event may result in the event being temporarily halted and/or immediately cancelled by City/DSI staff, the Saint Paul Police Department, and/or the property management along with potential criminal citations to all responsible parties, summary abatement proceedings and/or revocation of the Fire Certificate of Occupancy.

To review the applicable ordinance, the City of Saint Paul Legislative Code is available online at www.stpaul.gov and www.municode.com (search Chapter 140. Skyway Conduct). Contact the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) at 651-266-8989 or dsicomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us for more detail.



City of Saint Paul

Signature Copy

Resolution: RES 18-1172

City Hall and Court
House
15 West Kellogg
Boulevard
Phone: 651-266-8560

File Number: RES 18-1172

Approving a second extension of the Permit for Speaking of Home for the installation of Public Art in the Public Right-of-Way.

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home, an organization established to empower immigrants and draw attention to their lives and struggles through the power of design and the arts, wishes to utilize two skyway bridges on Minnesota Street between 7th Place and 5th Street and two skyway bridges on 6th Street between Cedar Street and Robert Street for a temporary public art exhibition; and,

WHEREAS, resolution #02-1108 adopted by City Council on November 27, 2002, provides the permitting policy and process for the review and approval of public art proposed in the ROW, and sets forth general conditions for artwork installation; and,

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home has submitted complete and proper applications for the project which meet all conditions laid out in resolution #02-1108; and,

WHEREAS, as outlined in the approval process of resolution #02-1108, Public Works has reviewed Speaking of Home's application and the Director of Public Works has convened a panel to evaluate the proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections are recommending approval of the application, subject to all conditions outlined in attachment A, and,

WHEREAS, the Capitol River Council's Skyway Advisory Committee, Building Owners and Managers Association "BOMA" and adjacent property owners have been consulted regarding the project and their input has been included in the conditions upon which the Permit for the Project is dependent; and,

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home has also applied for a Skyway Use Permit under Chapter 140 of the St. Paul Legislative Code and understands both the Public Art permit as contained in this Resolution and the Skyway Use Permit are necessary to proceed with the installation of the Project; and,

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2016 in RES-PH 16-213, the City Council approved the application of Speaking of Home for the installation of Public Art in the Public Right-of-Way for a 90-day period; and,

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2018, the City Council approved an extension of the Skyway Use Permit until June 30, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home wishes to extend the exhibit in the skyway bridges until June 30, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, adjacent property owners have been consulted on and support the extension of the

exhibit; and,


WHEREAS, Speaking of Home has also applied for an extension of the Skyway Use Permit originally issued for the project to June 30, 2019 as described in the attached application;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby grants approval to Public Works to issue an extension of the Permit to Applicant for the Project until June 30, 2019, subject to the conditions described in the attached application.

At a meeting of the City Council on 7/18/2018, this Resolution was Mayor's Office.

Yea: 7 Councilmember Bostrom, Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Thao, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, and Councilmember Henningson

Nay: 0

Vote Attested by  Date 7/18/2018
Council Secretary Trudy Moloney

Approved by the Mayor  Date _____
Melvin Carter III



City of Saint Paul

Signature Copy

Resolution-Public Hearing: RES PH 16-213

City Hall and Court
House
15 West Kellogg
Boulevard
Phone: 651-266-8560

File Number: RES PH 16-213

Approving the application of Speaking of Home for the installation of Public Art in the Public Right-of-Way for a 90 day period.

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home, an organization established to empower immigrants and draw attention to their lives and struggles through the power of design and the arts, wishes to utilize two skyway bridges on Minnesota Street between 7th Place and 5th Street and two skyway bridges on 6th Street between Cedar Street and Robert Street for a temporary public art exhibition; and,

WHEREAS, resolution #02-1108 adopted by City Council on November 27, 2002, provides the permitting policy and process for the review and approval of public art proposed in the ROW, and sets forth general conditions for artwork installation; and,

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home has submitted complete and proper applications for the project which meet all conditions laid out in resolution #02-1108; and,

WHEREAS, as outlined in the approval process of resolution #02-1108, Public Works has reviewed Speaking of Home's application and the Director of Public Works has convened a panel to evaluate the proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works and the Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections are recommending approval of the application, subject to all conditions outlined in attachment A, and,

WHEREAS, the Capitol River Council's Skyway Advisory Committee, Building Owners and Managers Association "BOMA" and adjacent property owners have been consulted regarding the project and their input has been included in the conditions upon which the Permit for the Project is granted set forth in Attachment A; and,

WHEREAS, Speaking of Home has also applied for a Skyway Use Permit under Chapter 140 of the St. Paul Legislative Code and understands both the Public Art permit as contained in this Resolution and the Skyway Use Permit are necessary to proceed with the installation of the Project;


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby grants approval to Public Works to issue a Permit to Applicant for the Project, subject to the conditions described in Attachment A.

At a meeting of the City Council on 7/6/2016, this Resolution-Public Hearing was Passed.


Yea: 6 Councilmember Bostrom, Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, City Council President Stark, Councilmember Noecker, and Councilmember Prince

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Councilmember Thao

Vote Attested by 
Council Secretary Trudy Moloney

Date 7/6/2016

Approved by the Mayor 
Chris Coleman

Date 7/8/2016



For Immediate Release
www.howdesign.com

***Speaking of Home* Named Merit Winner
in HOW International Design Awards**

Project selected as one of 226 winning designs from around the world

[Cincinnati]— *Speaking of Home* a project developed by Nancy Ann Coyne Studio, with firms Archetype and Engrafik was chosen as one of 226 award-winning designs in the most recent HOW International Design Awards. This prestigious competition sponsored by HOW magazine recognizes excellence on a global scale—and every year honors entries from all over the world. Each year, the International Design Awards receive stunning works, and the Merit Award winners are demonstrating design at a very high level.

HOW's editorial and design team—along with judges Zipeng Zhu, Giorgia Lupi, Jessie Kuhn, and Gemma O'Brien—evaluated more than 1,100 entries and selected winning projects that will gain international exposure in the HOW + Print book *The Best of Design* (Summer 2019), and online at HOWDesign.com.

Speaking of Home is a major public installation transforming four of St. Paul, Minnesota's famous skyways into an episodic narrative of immigrant experiences—questioning assumptions about what comprises “home.” *Speaking of Home's* design inverts the divide between the native-born and newcomers, situating immigrants as stationary onlookers as the locals pass by and move through the city. The ground-breaking 600-foot project marks the first time St. Paul's skyway system has been sanctioned for a public artwork project is a public-private partnership with the City of St. Paul, private property and local and national funders and businesses. Principal Nancy Ann Coyne working with St. Paul's City Council and *Speaking of Home* leadership created the first-ever use policy to enable art and design projects in the fifty-five-year old Skyway system.

The project team includes:

Creative Director: Nancy Ann Coyne
Design Director: Michael Haug, Engrafik
Photographer: various (family photographs)
Writers: Nancy Ann Coyne, Tom Fisher
Cinematography: Adrian Danciu, Kinocut Pictures
Fabrication and Installation: Archetype
Photo Printing: DesignTex and Big Ink
Textile Manufacturer: Fisher Textiles
Website Design: Azul 7 and Software for Good
Video Post-production: Pixel Farm and Jagged Edge
Photo/Video Documentation: Peter Von De Linde and David Turner
Copy Editor: Ilze Mueller
Non-Latin Font Consultant: Kamal Mansour, Monotype
Photo Retoucher: Brad Palm LLC
Scans: Eric Rektenwald, the Lab Digital
Attorney: Carol Lansing, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

We are honored to work with Minnesota's rich immigrant community in partnership with the City of St. Paul and private building owners to create *Speaking of Home* in the world's largest, publically—owned Skyway system,” states Coyne.

As is tradition, HOW will be accepting entries for next year's International Design Awards starting in spring 2019; competition details and submission information can be found at HOWDesign.com/design-competitions once available.

About HOW

Founded in 1985, HOW helps designers—whether they work for a design firm, an in-house design department or themselves—to be more inspired, creative, and successful. As a publication, HOW unites and engages the graphic

design community by sharing information about design as a business, as a career, and as creative inspiration. The HOW brand encompasses several creative components, including its popular design competitions, online education site, website, social media platforms, and industry-leading event, HOW Design Live.

PRINT

For Immediate Release
www.printmag.com

Speaking of Home Named as a Regional Winner in Print's Regional Design Awards

Project selected as one of 265 winning designs from around America.

[Cincinnati]—SPEAKING OF HOME, an environmental design and public installation project developed by Nancy Ann Coyne, with firms Archetype, and Engrafik, was chosen as one of 265 Regional Winners in the most recent PRINT Regional Design Awards; sponsored by PRINT. The RDA is the industry's most prestigious and well-respected American design competition.

PRINT's editorial and design team—along with judges Sagi Haviv, Rebeca Méndez, Nancy Skolos, Alexander Isley, Chad Michael, Gail Anderson and Justin Peters—selected the winning projects that will gain international exposure in the all-new HOW + Print book *The Best of Design* scheduled to be released in Summer of 2019, as well as [online at PRINTmag.com](http://online.at.PRINTmag.com).

Speaking of Home is a public installation transforming four of St. Paul's famous skyways into an episodic narrative of immigrant experiences—questioning assumptions about what comprises “home.” Speaking of Home's design inverts the divide between the native-born and newcomers, situating immigrants as stationary onlookers as the locals pass by and move through the city. The ground-breaking 600-foot project marks the first time St. Paul's skyway system has been sanctioned for a public artwork. The project is a public-private partnership with the City of St. Paul, private property and local and national funders and businesses.

The project team includes:

Creative Director: Nancy Ann Coyne
Design Director: Michael Haug, Engrafik
Photographer: various (family photographs)
Writers: Nancy Ann Coyne, Tom Fisher
Cinematography: Adrian Danciu, Kinocut Pictures
Fabrication and Installation: Archetype
Photo Printing: DesignTex and Big Ink
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PRINT will be accepting entries for next year's Regional Design Awards in the coming months. Once available; information will be at printmag.com/design-competitions/regional-design-annual/

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Design Observer



Julie Anixter | Essays

10.04.17

Speaking of Home: Saint Paul Skyways become Immigrant Portrait Gallery

“The goals of empowering new Americans, supporting diversity, and teaching tolerance are all critical to the long-term health of our city.”—Chris Coleman, mayor of Saint Paul



Julie Anixter is the executive director of AIGA.

More from **Julie Anixter**

Should Designers Be Swiss Army Knives?

An Interview with Victorinox’s Pierre Salamon on culture, creativity and the famous multipurpose tool.

Understanding is the Hard Part

TED founder Richard Saul Wurman’s new book, *Understanding* reminds AIGA executive director Julie Anixter that while mastering any discipline is a difficult task, designers might be the ones best suited to guide the journey from inquiry to insight.



Photo: Peter Von De Linde

How do our cities demonstrate a “welcome” to immigrants and refugees? The kind of welcome that makes them feel at home? Can public art play a role in that welcome? Certainly murals, signage, exhibits of immigrant artist works, and other examples exist.

When artist Nancy Ann Coyne moved from New York City to Saint Paul, she looked up. She saw the Skyways. While other cities have them, the Twin Cities are known for their winter-friendly network of passageways that float above and connect many of the major downtown buildings. As a photographer, journalist, designer, and public artist who focuses on social impact, Coyne was also moved by the intense diversity of the immigrant and refugee population, where over 120 languages are spoken.

The Twin Cities are an exemplary melting pot, and in a moment when acceptance, tolerance for the very idea of immigration, and safe passage for refugees all seem to be melting, she took her experience in creating large-scale public artworks and decided to take a stand. She met with, interviewed, photographed, and videotaped over 60 people with the aim to integrate photography as narrative documentary, and storytelling into an immersive experience. She wanted to celebrate Saint Paul’s immigrants and decided to attempt to literally elevate their stories to the Skyways,

Just Keep Walking: An Interview with Paula Scher

Called “the most influential woman graphic designer on the planet” by fellow designer extraordinaire Ellen Lupton, Pentagram partner Paula Scher has left an undeniable imprint on the American design psyche.

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where the citizenry could experience them as they passed by—up close and personal. But first she had to get permission.

This project was the antithesis of a slam-dunk. Anyone who knows Coyne knows her to be relentlessly focused, a persistent advocate for her project. Along with a team that resembled a real estate developers office—zoning lawyers, architects, project managers, and many others since 2009, Coyne literally willed this project into existence.

While I never met [Christo](#), I can imagine he was equally determined. Nancy falls into that tradition: the tradition of using the landscape—the world as it is—as a gallery space, a stage to show something new that provokes, inspires new perceptions, and challenges our assumptions.

The faces and stories of immigrants from over 55 countries comprise the [Speaking of Home](#) installation, which is now open. Coyne was very conscious of the role of light as an element of the installation. The exhibition was constructed in the interiors of a set of the skyways that join major buildings in Saint Paul as galleries, windows, with the floor to ceiling portraits looking out to street and in to the passageway.

“Coyne invites the viewer into their world, and the challenges they have faced coming to a foreign place and making it their own.” —Tom Fisher, University of Minnesota

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the skyway system in Saint Paul. For 50 years, the only function of the Saint Paul skyways has been to move pedestrians, as ordinances prohibit their use for anything other than foot traffic. While the skyways are publicly owned, the buildings connecting them are private. Coyne worked with four city departments, the City District Council for the downtown (District 17), and four private property owners to get buy-in and support to issue a permit for her project.



Photo: Designtex

Public art may be the most challenging form of art-making. First you have to have a willingness to deal with the constraints and politics of zoning, public officials, city councils, civil engineers, property owners, non-profits, funders, local media, and...then implement, install and perform your work in public. On July 6th, 2016, Nancy Ann Coyne, assisted by Steve Carpenter, CEO of Archetype, Michael Haug, design director and Carol Lansing, attorney at Faegre Baker Daniels, created with the Saint Paul City Council, a new ordinance to enable the skyway to be permitted for *Speaking of Home* and for future artwork installations. The City of Saint Paul, and all of its beautifully diverse citizenry, owes her a debt of gratitude for making their home a home for art in the sky.

Reflecting on what she's learned in this eight year journey, Coyne says

Speaking of Home demonstrates how, as creative professionals, we have the tools to change urban planning policies and design new experiences to democratize and add value to the public domain; moreover, we can impact not only the public's experience of a place—but how one feels and

behaves towards one another.

When randomly interviewing on site, I'm astounded how the project resonates viscerally with viewers throughout the ethnic and class spectrum—homegrown or immigrant.

Speaking of Home could have been subtitled, "What it feels like to be here." Psychologist [Paul Ekman](#)'s research told us decades ago that the face was the screen for emotions. And that no matter where you are from—how different, diverse, or difficult your family of origin was, we all share a common set of emotions: fear, anger, shame, sadness, and joy.



Photo: Peter Von De Linde

The exhibit is a visual testament to the inclusiveness of the Saint Paul community. The many people in power who had to say "yes" have included these newcomers in the fabric of the city. Their images speak: "These immigrants belong." "Refugees are welcome." *Speaking of Home* makes the obvious profound. This is their home. They are with us.

The Chilean neuro-biologist, Humberto Maturana, wrote in his classic, *The Tree of Life*, that acknowledgement—the act of truly recognizing an "other"—is the biological form of love. By working for years to realize her vision for *Speaking of Home*, Coyne has written a very visible public love letter to our newest neighbors, people we can get to know and befriend, and in doing so, used art in a profound way to say, "Welcome."

[Speaking of Home](#) was created in partnership with the City of Saint Paul and the firm Archetype in association with the University of Minnesota, District 17, Forecast Public Art, and Springboard for the Arts. Major funders include the National Endowment for the Arts, Minnesota State Arts Board, Knight Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.

Posted in: [Arts + Culture](#), [Social Good](#)



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ST. PAUL

New St. Paul skyway photo project explores 'home' for 58 immigrants

Immigrants who settled in Minnesota are featured in St. Paul art installation.

By James Walsh (<http://www.startribune.com/james-walsh/10646161/>) Star Tribune |

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 — 9:58PM

The large black and white photograph shows a 9-year-old Elizabeth Suszynski when the “storyboard of my life was empty” and her future bleak.

“It was a socialist country,” she said of her native Poland. “You could do nothing on your own.”

Years later, as a young woman, she emigrated to a new home in the promise of America, “where you are the master of your life,” she said.

Suszynski’s photo and story are part of a new project called “Speaking of Home” that is being installed in four downtown St. Paul skyways. Created by Nancy Ann Coyne, an international artist, designer and photojournalist, the project seeks to connect the meaning of home for 58 immigrants to Minnesota with the lives of the thousands of people who pass through the skyways daily.

For at least the next six months, the project will display the personal stories of people from Romania, Kenya, Laos, Sweden and dozens of other countries to leave one home in search of another. Their own words accompany the photographs:

“Home is a place of being anchored down. I feel I contribute to the society through my job and volunteering in the local Muslim community. Having come from a war-ridden place, security is important and it means not being attacked, robbed, or fearing that bombs would fall on your house.” — Tamim Saidi, Afghanistan.

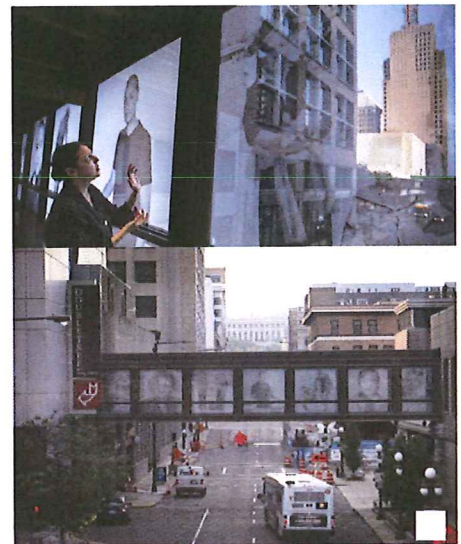
The project, years in the making, is a partnership with the city, Alliance Bank Center, US Bank Center, Town Square and the Securian Center. It is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Minnesota State Arts Board and local foundations.

“Home is the place just to be you. The fact that we run our own lives, independent of other people’s expectations, makes me feel like we truly found ourselves here in Minnesota.” — Nese Yurttas, Turkey.

To Coyne, a photojournalist whose work has taken her to battlefields and refugee camps, the idea of using immigrants’ own family and personal photos instead of taking her own was critical to conveying a shared sense of home, to telling their family stories. Above each panel is the word “home” written in the subjects’ native languages.

“I hope it helps people feel empathy, compassion, understanding,” Coyne said of photos that convey common themes of family, love and hope. “The beauty of the project is people can be interactive with it in the way that they choose to be.”

“This photograph reminds me of our hard times in Austria and why we left to begin a new life. We first became indentured agricultural workers in Alberta, Canada. A decade later, we came to Minnesota where my husband joined the University of Minnesota geology faculty.” — Olga Zoltai, Hungary.



LEILA NAVIDI - STAR TRIBUNE

The art project “Speaking of Home” was installed inside the St. Paul skyway.

Coyne said she hopes the project provides a place for immigrant voices and histories, but also transforms the skyways and attracts more people to downtown St. Paul. "Speaking of Home" is the first public artwork installed in the publicly owned St. Paul skyway system.

Its 47 bridges serve thousands of people every day going to and from work and lunch and shopping. The St. Paul City Council last year passed a city ordinance permitting artwork to be displayed in the skyways.

"The terrible political and economic environment in Poland during the 1970s led to my unexpected, permanent stay here. Minnesota really became my home when I started my own family. People by nature will often discriminate against things new or different. When I got my first job, some people welcomed me while others accused me of taking the job from Americans." — Elizabeth Suszynski, Poland.

Suszynski made her way to America 41 years ago and found a life of "limitless possibilities." She reconnected with a fellow Pole, whom she would marry here, and created a home of her own.

Now a contract coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Administration, Suszynski was approached about the "Speaking of Home" project three years ago.

She said she hopes passersby will look at the photos, read the biographies and be inspired by people who made a leap into the unknown to find a new home.

"It is a wonderful project because it actually shows how people started their life again and what their values are and how they perceived this country when they arrived," she said. "I think we can all learn something from everybody's life."

James Walsh is a reporter covering St. Paul and its neighborhoods. He has had myriad assignments in nearly 30 years at the Star Tribune, including federal courts and St. Paul schools.

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Immigrants Are People, Too

By: Steven Heller | October 30, 2017

In 1984, Nancy Ann Coyne began her career working as a photojournalist, editorial photographer and foreign correspondent based out of Vienna and Tbilisi. During that time, she freelanced for the *Austrian Standard*, *London Guardian*, *Prague Post*, *Travel and Leisure* and Soviet media outlets. She was working, in part, with the legendary American journalist, the late Alan Levy. As a 25-years-old in 1987, she pioneered documenting the experiences of Vienna Holocaust survivors and resistance fighters who returned to Vienna after 1945, becoming the youngest person, ever, to receive Austria's esteemed Theodor Körner Prize for innovation in arts and sciences. In 1991, she was the first photojournalist and correspondent to witness the beginning of the Civil War in the Republic of Georgia, imbedded with the Opposition Army, leading to the overthrow of President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Coyne has participated in gallery and museum exhibitions in Austria, the former East Block and Soviet Union, China and the United States. Coyne received her MFA from the University of Applied Arts Vienna where she studied under artist Ernst Caramelle, graphic designer Tino Erben and public artist Johanna Kandl.

Coyne has been a visiting artist/curator at the University of Minnesota (2005; present), the University of California, Berkeley (2000), Hebrew University, Jerusalem (1998), Oxford University (1997), Center for International Studies, Vienna (1994) and the Republic of Georgia Film Studio, Tbilisi (1990).

Her projects have been published in *International Herald Tribune*, *www.NewYorkTimes.com*, *Public Art Review*, *UrbanLand*, *Afterimage*, *SEGDesign* and *AIGA Voice* among others. A former Fulbright scholar and fellow at Oxford University, she has received numerous fellowships and grants including from the Austrian Arts Council, the Republic of Georgia Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Her most recent project is the monumental "Speaking of Home." Coyne used the skyway system in St. Paul to frame images that represent the immigrant experience in America. "It is the grand scale of this work, offering a total aesthetic experience that makes it a powerful picture out in the world," notes Mary Jane Jacob, professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and executive director of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies. I asked Coyne to discuss this project that is so timely now yet has absorbed her life for a long time.



Exterior view of two skyway bridges experienced at the street level in downtown St. Paul (photo: David Turner)



View of one skyway bridge where immigrants' images and histories symbolically merge with those of pedestrians (photo: David Turner)

The immigrant issue is polarizing. How has it been in the Twin Cities?

Historically, for decades, Minnesota has been a major yet often unheralded safe haven for refugees from all over the world—a gentle giant in the Midwest. Today, that historical continuity is demonstrated by Senators Franken and Klobuchar, Attorney General Lori Swanson, and Governor Dayton, who have been outspoken against the Travel Ban, while the Cities of St. Paul and Minnesota are sanctuary cities.

I cannot personally speak to the state's rural areas and Twin Cities suburbs, but in the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the public generally appears very sympathetic to the plight of others and is against President Trump's Travel Ban. In January 2017, it was encouraging to see demonstrations at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. But, like everywhere, there is insularity. For example, Twin Cities residents I've spoken with (including, yes, even some designers) fear the influx of Syrian refugees to Minnesota. And, while dining out one day, I overheard people discussing their support of Trump and the Wall being built.

But to try to grasp how polarizing the issue is, talk with someone whose family fled Somalia. In Minnesota, where the largest Somali community in the United States resides, the Somali way of life has been truly threatened by the Travel Ban.

I spoke with Yassir, a Somali computer science student who works in my building and came here in 2005. Yassir says: "Since the election of Trump, I feel I have to apologize for who I am—like I'm a suspect. We're afraid. Community members have been physically and verbally attacked. Some families have been here for over 20 years and have put down roots—they advocate for hope. Others are selling their homes. After I graduate, I'm planning to leave for Africa, probably Kenya. The economy is booming there."



1. Portrait of Franklin Onyango-Robshaw and his sister in Nairobi, Kenya, right before emigrating to Twin Cities in 2009 (photo: Peter Van De Linde)



Portrait of Leila Habashi taken in Tehran, Iran, in 1988, right after Iran-Iraq War (photo: Peter Von De Linde)

What have been the responses of your community to your project?

I have observed and interviewed people in the project's four skyways and four anchoring buildings and below on the street to hear how they interact with the project and to find out from business owners, police, security guards, passersby, employees of multiple ethnicities how it impacts them. I expected a range of responses, from positive and ambivalent to caustic. Ultimately, I was rather surprised by how very positive the feedback was. Here are some snapshots.

- Kelly Smith, the owner of a yoga studio: *I see it from my studio; it makes the skyway a safer place to be.*
- Steve Papciak, a passerby: *They should keep it up forever—gorgeous.*
- David Allen, a security guard: *It brings me to pasts I never knew.*
- An employee at a Minnesota state office: *It's captivating ... and profound. In each story is a different message.*
- Adnan Shati, a Speaking of Home immigrant participant: *It elevates the spirit of the city at a time when it is really needed.*

Particularly, I was struck by Pam Krank, an exuberant business owner in one anchoring corporate building, who provides her employees with a half-hour paid break time to visit Speaking of Home. "We should welcome people with open arms. And OPEN people's eyes at a time where there is now a political debate. Immigrants are not a threat to the economy but a contribution. Minnesota's workforce needs diverse people. As an employer, I have to be able to recruit a team from different backgrounds that can get along with each other."

To date, I am impressed that no one has tried to damage it—that speaks volumes. Furthermore, this year for the first time in the St. Paul skyways' 50-year history, there has been ongoing vandalism, gang activity, and other safety issues, sparking outcry from on-site business owners, public scrutiny, and media coverage. So when a business owner, just a few days before install, warned me he thought it would certainly be vandalized in the next week, I froze like a deer in the headlights. Oh —, what was I thinking?

But I am thrilled to see how the community is embracing Speaking of Home. There has been good, positive local press. We have also begun an impact study. In what ways can Speaking of Home impact and create value for the immigrant community and the public at large, municipality and private properties? Can it serve as a model how experiential design can invoke critical thinking and build community while democratizing the built environment?



*Interior view of skyway pedestrians passing by and stopping to appreciate the installation
(photo: Peter Von De Linde)*



Three co-workers of Emmanuel Munyankusi from Kibuye, Rwanda, view his 1975 portrait [in middle] during their lunch break (photo: Peter Von De Linde)

How did you fund and otherwise organize this project?

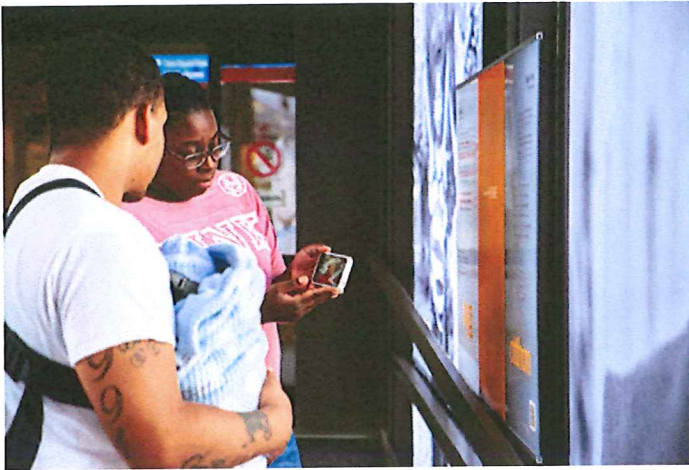
Speaking of Home was financed, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Knight Foundation among others, and in part by in-kind contributions of professional services from the local and national creative community and design industry. Senior design leadership figures who were with me since the project's inception include Michael Haug, the design director, project manager, and principal of Engrafik; and Steve Carpenter, CEO, and Jenny Kruse, VP of Archetype.

The St. Paul skyways, the world's largest publicly owned system of second-level pedestrian walkways, are owned by the City of St. Paul while building easements are owned by the anchoring four private buildings. Although the Mayor's Office gave us the initial green light to use the skyway for the project, we still had to receive a formal approval and permitting.

This led to years of endless meetings and talking with the Mayor's Office, the city's Department of Safety and Inspections, city officials, the Right-of-Way Office, the city's BOMA, private property management, nonprofits, and an advisory board. We were getting nowhere. Although this should have been the first order of business (but stakeholders always said, "no need"), I eventually engaged a permitting and zoning lawyer—a former Minneapolis city lawyer and a real pro—and worked with the project's senior design leadership to start the process

all over again and secure the approval.

Finally, on July 6, 2016 the St. Paul City Council held a public hearing to create a specific ordinance to enable public artwork and design works in the St. Paul Skyway's public right-of-way.



Michello Davis, employee of Pam Krank, visiting project with her family after work. "I would feel hurt if it [the project] was vandalized." (photo: Peter Von De Linde)



Night exterior view of two skyway bridges experienced at the street level in downtown St. Paul (photo: Peter Von De Linde)

What is your hope for its outcome? What do you want your public to learn, understand, and take away?

"Speaking of Home" questions our own assumptions and ingrained prejudices about immigrants. Simultaneously, it is designed as an homage to their journeys, transforming a pedestrian walkway into a symbolic place of safe passage, of welcome.

I never thought this country would regress to this point regarding immigration legislation. My family fled Europe for Ellis Island in the early 20th century. As immigrants, they contributed to advancing public and immigrant health and the arts and culture in New York City.

The public needs to recognize that the Trump Travel Ban undermines the fundamental ethos that the U.S. was built on, our unalienable rights. The grand irony here is that refugees who fled political hegemony and sought a new life in the U.S. are facing a form of subjugation, yet again. What do we want for this country's future? A democracy or a new segregated society where cultural xenophobia and racism are sanctioned? We cannot be complacent and go backward in time.

My intention is that Speaking of Home triggers the public's conscience and brings about a fresh awareness and

respect for our most recent immigrants – in relationship to our own roots, shared histories, and the current oppressive political climate. Moreover, my hope is to replicate Speaking of Home with immigrant communities, and private/public partnerships across the country, using the public domain to create a place that connects newcomer and homegrown alike, with a renewed sense of belonging and home.

Furthermore, there are so many underutilized, sad, mundane physical spaces and transportation systems in U.S. and international cities, begging for an overhaul, for TLC. Public officials, municipalities, and private property owners should consider how they can add value to the infrastructure and community while humanizing the environment through public installation and creative placemaking. How can the built environment be transformed from a generic “no-place” into a place that sparks critical thinking and curiosity, wonder, and joy, a place people enjoy and feel safe in, where they want to be? “Speaking of Home” contributes to this discourse.

PRINT's 2017 New Visual Artists Are Here!

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About Steven Heller

Steven Heller is the co-chair of the SVA MFA Designer /Designer as Author + Entrepreneur program, writes frequently for Wired and Design Observer. He is also the author of over 170 books on design and visual culture. He received the 1999 AIGA Medal and is the 2011 recipient of the Smithsonian National Design Award.

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MPR News Reflections and
observations on the news

Arts & Culture

St. Paul's skyway project won't let us look away from each other

Bob Collins September 14, 2017, 3:58 PM

There are occasional times when my breath is literally taken away by the beauty of the diversity of where I've chosen to call home.

A few years ago, for example, I walked up to see the very first Crashed Ice, running head-long into the A Prairie Home Companion crowd leaving the Fitzgerald Theater on a Saturday night, shortly before I faced the tide of country music fans heading to the Xcel Center, competing with the parka-and-boozed-up people checking out Crashed Ice.

Three different groups sharing a city. Each doing its part to make a shared moment alive with its own energy.

I wasn't prepared to lose my breath, however, when I made a dash to the Post Office through the skyway this afternoon. I had read in one of the papers that there'd be an installation of stories from people who also had chosen to come here from somewhere else.

But I didn't expect it would be so downright beautiful.



St. Paul's Skyway is typically a monument to desperation, the crushed dreams by empty storefronts, the fellow traveler immersed in a smartphone to avoid humanity.

But each picture, which cannot be photographed head-on because they become more translucent, comes with a story that reminds us that we've sought the same thing in choosing our home.

Elsa Mekuria, from Ethiopia, made a picture to leave with her family when she left them for us.

"I got goose bumps when I came to Minnesota she said," noting that in her home country — her first home country — she was expected to stay home.

Another picture describes a family's flight from the Soviets, arriving here from Latvia. "If I were to return there now," she says, "I would be viewed as the American and discriminated against because I'm lesbian."

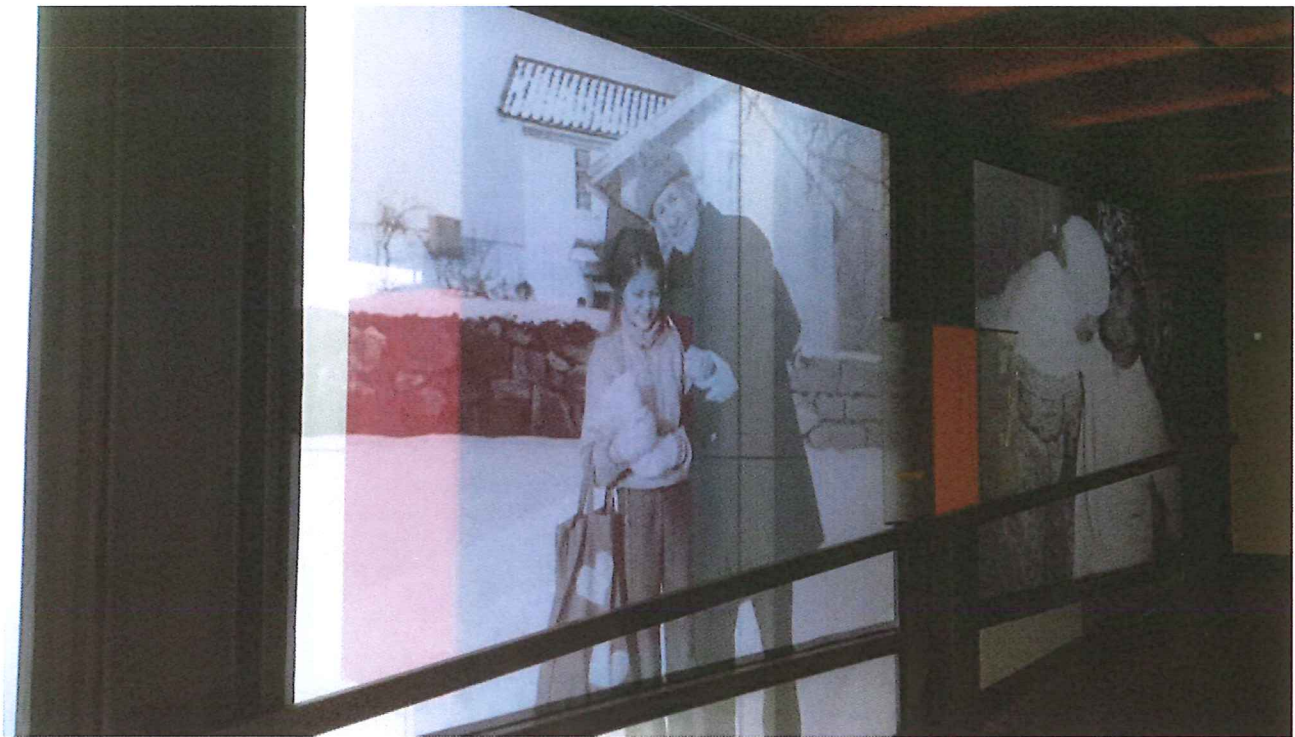
Emmanuel Munyankusi, born in Rwanda, is proud of the picture of him in the first pair of shoes he ever owned. It was taken the day he passed his high school admissions test.



Roman Avetisov recalls the first words he learned when he first arrived in America from Tbilisi in Georgia were "I'll be back." He started working in northeast Minneapolis and learned more English by practicing with his customers.



Anna Lena Skold — Sweden — didn't plan to come here. But then she met the man who would be her husband. She's a chef. She misses her grandfather.



No doubt some people will see the installation as another liberal plot to influence the current debate on immigration and there's not much we can do about them. They've chosen to live in their world, a cocktail of mistrust and desperation and fear.

But there's plenty to love about the individual stories and journeys of the people because their story is our story too.

About the blogger



Bob Collins

bcollins@mpr.org • [@newscut](https://twitter.com/newscut)

Bob Collins has been with Minnesota Public Radio since 1992, emigrating to Minnesota from Massachusetts. He was senior editor of news in the '90s, ran MPR's political unit, created the MPR News regional website, invented the popular Select A

Candidate, started several blogs, and every day laments that his Minnesota Fantasy Legislature project never caught on.

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AL287 • 2 years ago

My father's parents emigrated to the U.S. from Finland in 1910. They came through Canada.

My grandfather was a logger and met my grandmother in northern Minnesota. The two of them moved to Oregon to take advantage of the logging camps there. My grandmother cooked for the camp and my grandfather later took up carpentry.

My great grandparents on my mother's side came to the U.S. to the Gulf Coast on their honeymoon and decided to remain permanently.

I am the product of immigrants and so is my son, whose father escaped Czechoslovakia and landed in Southeast Louisiana where we met and later married.

We are a nation of immigrants as the St. Paul Skyway Project so clearly and beautifully illustrates.

It makes the xenophobia currently infecting the country that much more difficult to understand.

5 ^ v • Share



Ralphy → AL287 • 2 years ago

Well said. The first thing I thought of when I saw these photos were the historical photos of the loggers, farm workers and miners that came to America in search of...

Many did not have papers, all had a dream of building a community and a better life for their family. The only real difference between my ancestors and today's

me for their family. The only real difference between my ancestors and today's immigrants is often just the color of their skin.

4 ^ v • [Share](#) >



rtcfrtc • 2 years ago

My ESL student is a lovely young man from Guatemala. His determination to learn our language, better himself and help his family back home is so inspiring to me. I wish everyone loved these people as much as they love us.

1 ^ v • [Share](#) >



Guest • 2 years ago

"I wish dem darn furigners would jus' leave and get outta here. This usta be a decent country full of decent folks.....until the let in jus' anyone.....now looka the crap we gotta take"

signed Geronimo :)

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noodleman → [Guest](#) • 2 years ago

Coincidentally, my other half last night was overhearing a conversation behind her at the next table among a group of (white) women, complaining about (among other transgressions) how the Hmong and other immigrants should be required to speak English before being admitted as immigrants to the US.

We pick our battles, so chose not to engage these ignoramuses in a public debate. But, I truly wonder if this group of privileged people - and any others who share their opinions - have ever given one iota of thought to the difficulties and complications their ancestors encountered as immigrants, more especially if English was not their first language?

I've posted the photo already a few times before, so will refrain (but you can easily find it online), of a 1970s era New Ulm police vehicle with "Polizei" embellished on the front. There were still German-language newspapers being published in Minnesota 30 years ago, because some immigrants, I suppose, still felt more comfortable conversing in their "home" language.

Americans can tend to be way too xenophobic, sometimes, for no reason other than simple paranoia/ignorance.

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Barton → [noodleman](#) • 2 years ago

My Bavarian ancestors were in the US for nearly 100 years before English

became their primary language. And I really believe that only occurred because of World War I.

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theoacme → Guest • 2 years ago

"Yes, Geronimo, I mean, our military leaders were better than everyone that the United States ever had immediately after the Civil War (with the exception of the general that Ulysses S. Grant hate-hate-hated!!!)...I mean, really, Custer's splitting his inferior forces AND not knowing where we were? Who did Phil Sheridan think he was - William Westmoreland?"

- Sitting Bull

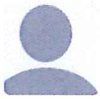
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Brian Simon • 2 years ago

Thanks for the post about positive things happening in St Paul. This one sounds like it's worth making an effort to see.

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Gordon near Two Harbors • 2 years ago

A very nice and fitting display. Of course, in this modern age the "elephant in the room" is the question as to just how many should continue to migrate here now that our population has swelled past 320 million; and sprawl, congestion, and environmental degradation threaten to destroy the opportunities and quality of life that most Americans take for granted.

No one wants this land to become like the worn-out places our ancestors fled.

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MikeB → Gordon near Two Harbors • 2 years ago

Employers can't find enough workers. There is space galore in rural areas. Cities can become more dense.

A beautiful display in St Paul

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Gordon near Two Harbors → MikeB • 2 years ago

Lots of unemployed people here, including many that are disabled. Training and providing apprenticeships, as they do in Germany, would do a lot to remedy this.

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Joe → Gordon near Two Harbors • 2 years ago

The EU has about twice as many people in about 75% of the space of the US. Meaning we could double our population and still not be as dense as them. So I'd say we have some room.

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QuietBlue → Joe • 2 years ago

And then there's Japan, with 39% of the population in 4% of the space, as another example. The U.S. has very low population density compared to the rest of the world.

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