

CONVIVENCIA

LIVING TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENCE





The theme of Convivencia was such an exciting opportunity for so many talented Kansas City area artists to unpack the meaning of diversity, inclusion, community, tension, expansion and mutual respect. It has been an incredible series and I am so grateful to be able to share a part in this project, alongside the Art in the Loop team and the bright voices and engaging visual and performing artists. Deep gratitude to all of the artists who approached this project with creative openness and who created transformational experiences for Kansas City audiences.

— **Jade Osborne, Performance Art Director**

It has been an honor to see so many remarkable artworks come to life and fill the heart of Downtown Kansas City throughout this year. Art in the Loop is a special experience that gives public arts access to new and emerging artists and helps them to find success along the way. As the Visual Arts Director for the past two years it has been a truly special experience to watch artists and their artwork go from an idea to a streetcar, billboard or a streetcar shelter! Thank you to the artists and the community for sharing your art with us for another year.

— **Marissa Starke, Visual Art Director**

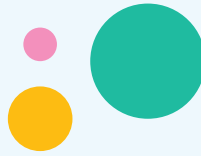
2024 was an exciting year for Art in the Loop, filled with vibrant and moving performances and temporary art installations by our creative, highly skilled, and thoughtful artists you can get to know through this catalog! Their interpretations of our theme “Convivencia” took our project to a new level! Art in the Loop is all about partnerships and making new connections. Our relationship with the Kansas City Public Library led to this year’s theme when they brought Tommi Laitio to Kansas City to kick off their year-long 150th Anniversary celebration. Laitio spoke on the importance of public spaces as places with convivencia — a Spanish word that means to coexist with others by sharing space and resources despite our differences. This concept lies at the heart of Art in the Loop – this year and always. We appreciate our partners including KC Streetcar, Downtown Council, Downtown & River Market CIDs, City Market, and Union Station to name a few. We appreciate our artists, musicians, performers, audiences, selection panel members, board members, graphic designers, photographers, funders, public officials, media and interns who are all part of the Art in the Loop experience!

— **Ann Holliday, Executive Director**

JULIA MORRIS

EPH 4:2

KC Streetcar #806

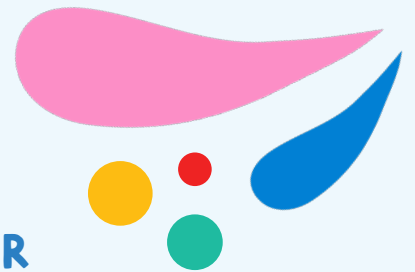


Wrapping streetcar #806, *Eph 4:2* is a visual meditation on relationships that occupy the liminal space between love and conflict. To exist in community with others requires grace, compassion, and a tolerance for friction; it requires an allowance for the other to exist exactly as they are—however flawed—and an attempt to love them even so.

“I’m so thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in the Art in the Loop program. Designing artwork for a surface as large and unique as the streetcar was a new challenge for me, but it pushed me to grow as an artist, and the payoff of seeing the final result at full scale was hugely rewarding. Art in the Loop also afforded me opportunities to connect with other local artists and foster relationships in the creative community here. I’ve been blown away by the excitement and support of friends, family, and fellow Kansas Citians when they learn about the project. It’s made me feel connected to my city and my community in ways I didn’t anticipate.”

— Julia Morris

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”
– Ephesians 4:2



“**ART IN THE LOOP ALSO AFFORDED ME OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH OTHER LOCAL ARTISTS AND FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY HERE.**”





MERANDA MCDERMOTT

THREADS OF CONVIVENCIA: EMBRACING DIVERSITY THROUGH FIBER ART

River Market West Streetcar Stop

“*Threads of Convivencia: Embracing Diversity through Fiber Art* is a public art project that represents my second foray into the world of public installations. As an emerging artist, my work has always gravitated towards sculpture, with a deep focus on the connections between place, people, and the stories they bring to the art. This project offered me a unique opportunity to integrate these elements into an interactive experience that engaged directly with the community.

The core of *Threads of Convivencia* involved transforming a streetcar stop into a vibrant hub of creativity and conversation through live sewing sessions. By inviting the public to participate in the mending of clothing sourced from Goodwill bins, I sought to create a space where art and everyday life intersected. These sessions were not just about teaching practical skills like sewing or thrifting; they were about building connections—between the participants, the community, and the artwork itself.”

— Meranda McDermott

McDermott’s process included four community engagement sessions that included photographing participants’ arms and later incorporating these images into the installation. The use of magnets to affix the sleeves allowed for an ongoing interaction with the artwork, where participants could take ownership by sewing on the pieces themselves.



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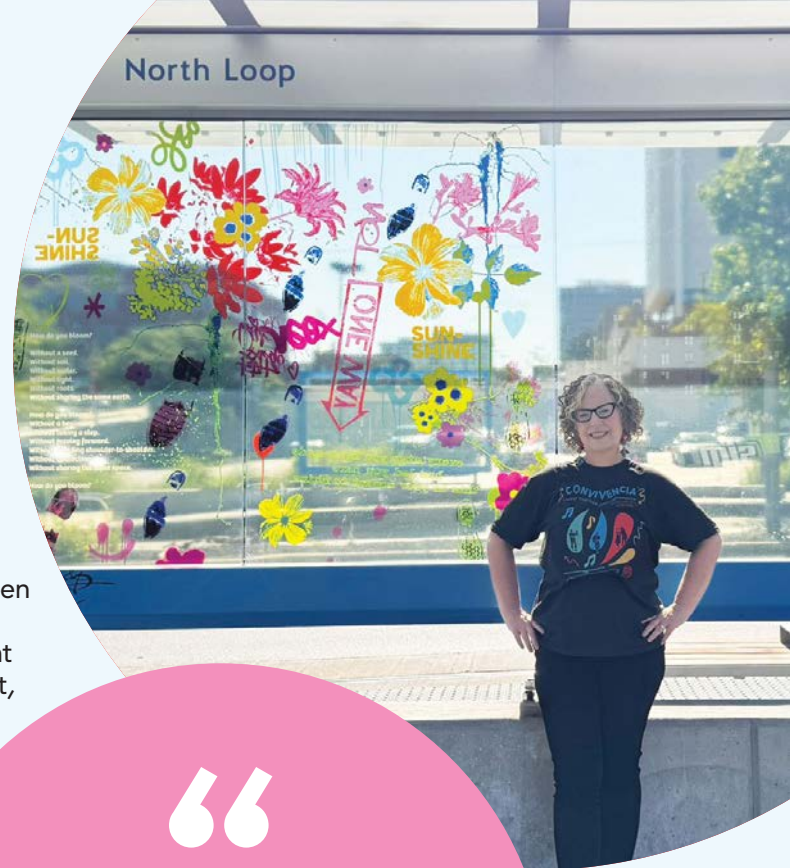
KATRINA REVENAUGH

HOW DO YOU BLOOM

North Loop South Bound Streetcar Stop

“For the first time, I was able to merge my visual art with my poetry. The combination invited riders to read the poem “How do You Bloom?” on the shelter and to place themselves in any of the shoe prints in front of the shelter — walking to a point that is next to another rider for a creative navigation of space. The visual art features street-art ephemera and original photographic drawings of elements referenced in the poem – roots, sunshine, seeds etc. Text of the poem appears on the shelter from both views. The poem speaks to how botanicals and people “bloom” and draws an association between what nature and humans need to exist. Each of the shoe prints were hand printed from the soles of shoes I thrifted to represent various sizes and types to emphasize that while we are different, we often arrive at the same place—the way a streetcar ride unites us in a shared experience. Knowing that my work has an impact on riders every day brings me such joy as an artist and resident of Kansas City. Overall, the spirit and intent of Convivencia— a joint achievement and celebration of opposing energy—brought me closer to other artists and their perspectives. For that, I’m truly grateful.”

— Katrina Revenaugh



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ZACH FRAZIER AND NASIR MONTALVO

WELCOME TO SOAKIE'S

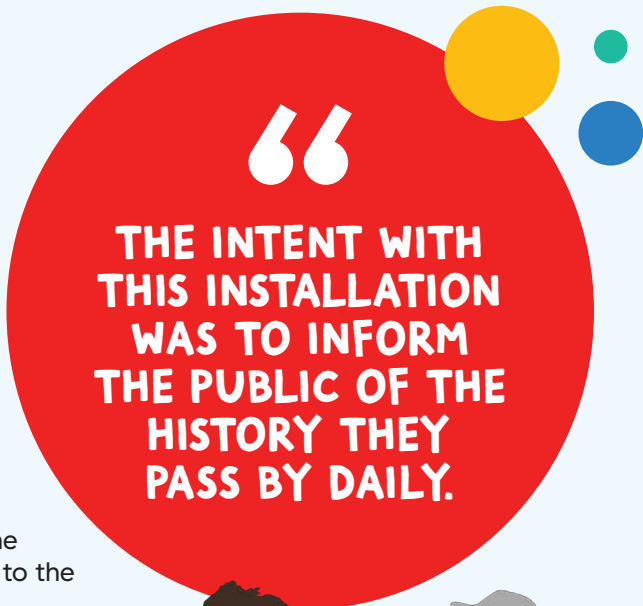
Power & Light District North Bound Streetcar Stop

“The intent with this installation was to inform the public of the history they pass by daily. Before Power and Light, there was Soakie’s — Kansas City’s first Black-operated and frequented queer bar. Existing for roughly a decade, Soakie’s was a home for many of the elders in our community, namely, Tisha Taylor, Gary Carrington, and Starla Carr. These three individuals serve as founding donors to the {B/qKC} archive (founded + operated by Nasir Montalvo), and it has been deeply gratifying to illuminate their work in a proudly public display.

The Art in the Loop Project is one of the best opportunities for public art in Kansas City. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to share the story of Soakies and {B/qKC} with a broader public and to contribute to the celebration of Kansas City’s richly diverse residents past and present.

Participating in the Art in the Loop Project has been an affirming delight. Sharing the history and renewing the presence of Soakie’s in its former neighborhood has been an honor.”

— Zach Frazier and Nasir Montalvo



BEI HU

OUR SKY PROJECT

Kauffman Center South Bound Streetcar Stop

“The artwork features individual sky photographs, each labeled with the participant’s name and location, forming a visual metaphor for equality and belonging. Displayed in a uniform square format, these images suggest that no single perspective is more important than another—each one is unique, just as each person, regardless of background or language, contributes to the richness of our world.

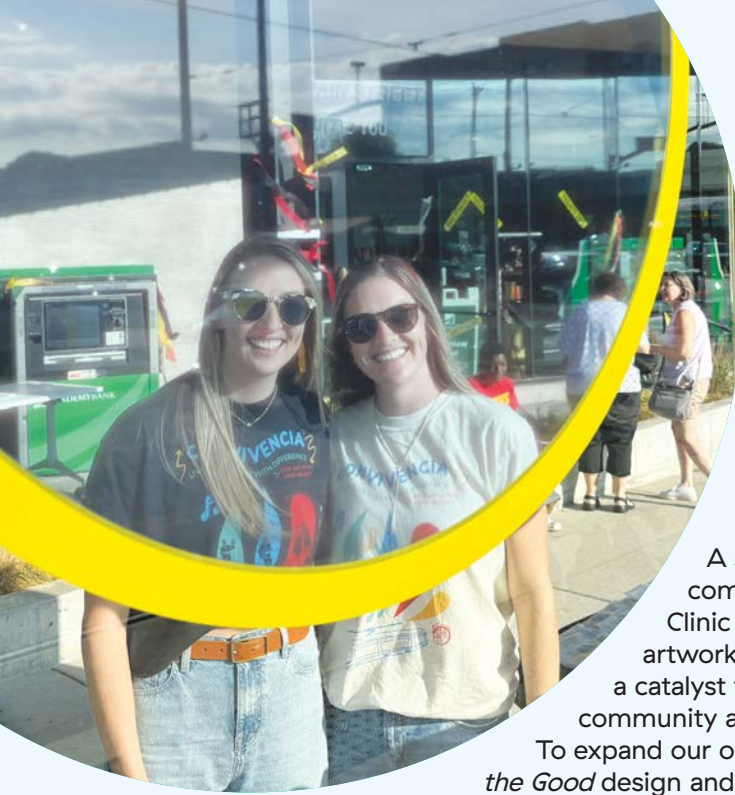
The installation at the KC Streetcar Shelter—an everyday transit space—invites people to pause and reflect on our shared experience under one sky. By merging images of skies from around the world with the local sky, this site-specific artwork transforms a mundane commute into a moment of reflection on our shared humanity and interconnectedness. My goal was to create a visual dialogue about diversity and equality, encouraging passersby to consider how we coexist amidst our differences.

This project has allowed me to use design to address issues of diversity and cultural connection. It has been deeply rewarding to see the artwork—originally created during the pandemic as a video installation with participants from over 20 countries—take on new meaning in a public context. This installation brings digital stories into a shared public space, fostering conversations about diversity, inclusion, and coexistence.”

— Bei Hu

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ELLIE & MAGGIE NEWLIN

K.SEE. THE GOOD

Crossroads North Bound Streetcar Stop



“Our project involved creating an installation for a high-traffic area, aiming to infuse the space with artistic reflection and positivity. We chose the title *K.See. the Good* to celebrate coexistence and shared experiences, encouraging viewers to engage with and appreciate different perspectives. The artwork invited interaction and aimed to foster a sense of connection and positivity.

A significant aspect of this project was our engagement with the community, including a partnership with the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic for a community event. This collaboration not only enriched the artwork but also deepened our understanding of how art can serve as a catalyst for community engagement and dialogue. Interacting with the community and supporting the Free Eye Clinic’s mission was deeply rewarding. To expand our outreach, we created and distributed postcards featuring the *K.See. the Good* design and information about the clinic.

The feedback we received from the public was incredibly rewarding. Observing how people interacted with and responded to *K.See. the Good* reinforced the impact art can have on individuals and communities. It was fulfilling to see the piece inspire optimism and reflection, validating our artistic vision and the project’s purpose.”

— Ellie and Maggie Newlin

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SUSAN MORENO

LIVING TOGETHER

Union Station Streetcar Stop

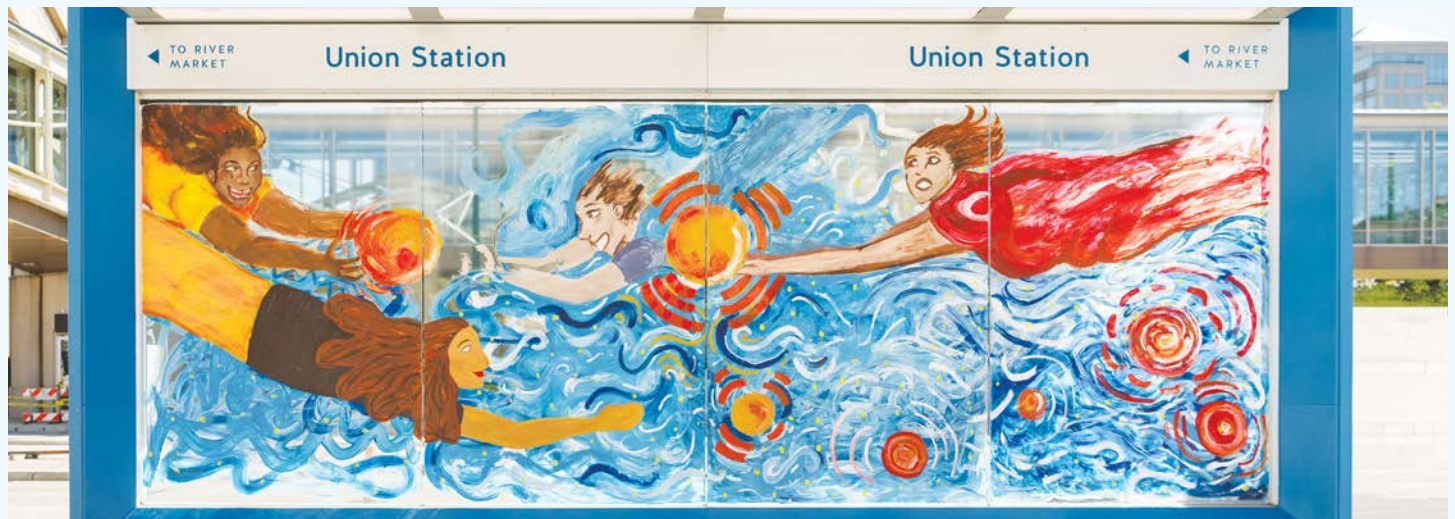
“The mural, which explores themes of unity and diversity, was a way for me to express my vision of a community where people of all backgrounds live harmoniously together. This theme is deeply personal to me, and translating it into a large-scale public work allowed me to refine my skills in conceptualization, composition, and technical execution.

The public nature of the Art in the Loop program also provided invaluable exposure, enabling me to connect with a diverse audience and receive feedback in real time. Interacting with the community as they encountered my work was incredibly rewarding and has informed my approach to future projects. The experience highlighted the power of art to spark dialogue and bring people together, reinforcing my belief in the importance of public art. Moreover, the collaborative aspect of the project—with city officials, other artists, and the community—broadened my professional network and opened doors to new opportunities.

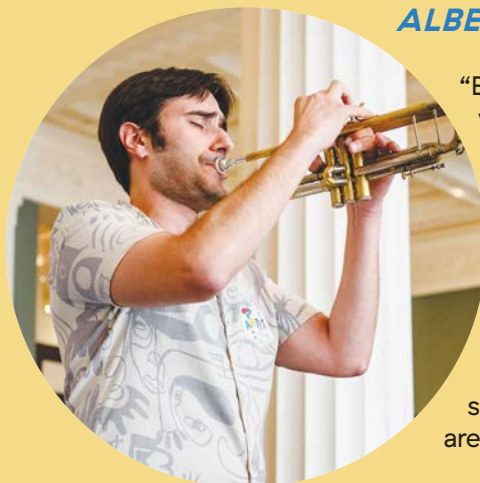
My involvement in Kansas City’s Art in the Loop with *Living Together* has been a pivotal moment in my artistic journey, fostering professional growth and deepening my commitment to creating art that resonates with and reflects the communities it inhabits.”

— Susan Moreno

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KICK OFF EVENT, JUNE 12, 2024
KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL LIBRARY



ALBERTO RACANATI (ALBER)

“Being a part of Art in the Loop is always an amazing experience in so many ways. First of all, they did a great job at putting together so many different local artists. I feel like each year’s roster is representative of the local scene at large, and it is always a joy and an honor to be considered a part of it. I also think their idea of matching urban development with local arts is fantastic, and it gives us artists great opportunities during their events to network in circles we wouldn’t otherwise be in. Lastly, as a proud adopted Kansas Citian I believe it is paramount for the city to develop in a less car-centric way, and to revitalize our downtown area. Therefore playing for Art in the Loop becomes for me something much larger than just networking, it becomes service to our beloved city. I love Art in the Loop and their mission, I think they are doing a fantastic job for our city and our local artists.”

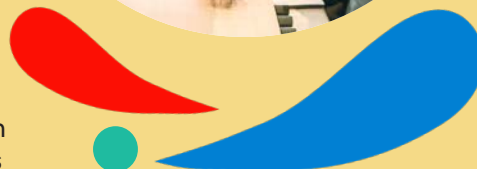
**VIVA LA TINTA - EDWING MENDEZ,
JENNIFER SU AND ERICK FELIX**

“This was our first year officially running Viva La Tinta as a group. Being selected to participate in Art in the Loop gave us so much validation for the concept we are trying to build. At the kick-off event, it was great to see so many folks from the community show up. Printing inside the walls of our historix KC library just made it all the more special!”



KAT KING

“The Art in the Loop Kick-Off provided us with the chance to play in front of a wide range of new art supporters as well as a networking opportunity with other artists of all mediums in Kansas City. Through this performance, we challenged ourselves to rework our songs for a stripped-down setting and to perform in an unconventional space. It also gave me the opportunity to understand my art in a deeper way through the application process.”



GLENN NORTH

Esteemed local poet and spoken word artist, Glenn North recited his poem “All Are Welcome Here: An Abecedarian for the Kansas City Public Library’s 150th Anniversary.” His poem was inspired by the term *convivencia*, which is defined as conviviality and also sharing spaces and resources in public spaces as presented by Tommi Laito, the keynote speaker for the KC Public Library’s anniversary luncheon.



ART CAR CELEBRATION + RIDE, JULY 17, 2024
UNION STATION STREETCAR STOP & ONBOARD KC STREETCAR #806



JAMOGI AND THE JAMMERS

“I’ve always dreamed of performing at the Art in the Loop events ever since they began. I remember riding past those celebrations with my mentor, watching from the sidelines, and thinking to myself, “One day, that’s going to be me.” When I received the email saying I’d been selected, I was over the moon. Meeting the incredible team behind Art in the Loop and witnessing the kickoff events made me realize how much they truly value community. Performing for Art in the Loop taught me an important lesson: opportunities are always there, but it’s up to us to decide whether we’ll let fear keep us on the sidelines or take the reins and make it happen.”



AMADO ESPINOZA AND PEDRO CALDERÓN

“In my experience, I was able to learn to interact better with the people who got on the streetcar through Andean music, because through music as a bridge, hearts are opened and it is easier to connect with others. The importance of this action is to feed the spirit and in that way give strength to solve the problems that one is going through at that moment. I’m very happy to have been part of this beautiful project. Thank you.”



Chalk artist, Stephen Johnson Jr.

816 DAY, AUGUST 16, 2024
CITY MARKET



DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH

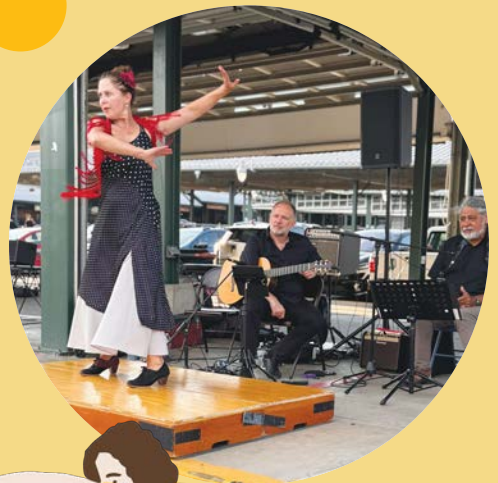
“My performance at 816 Day in the City Market during the 2024 Art in the Loop Project was a great opportunity to perform my original music at a well-known Kansas City Landmark, on a fantastic day of celebrating our city. The event brought together three very different styles/genres of artists that I wouldn’t normally perform with. This unique harmony between our different styles felt like Convivencia in practice.



Beyond my performance, the Art in the Loop project and its theme for 2024, Convivencia, was an exciting prompt to challenge the way I view the purpose and power of my work, and the way I craft my set and prepare for an event. Working with the team at Art in the Loop has given me the opportunity to connect and network with other artists in the community, and to introduce myself and my music to prominent business owners, board members and organizations in Kansas City. It was a fantastic experience and I look forward to where the connections made will take me next.”

45° FLAMENCO WITH JOSÉ FAUS

“Art in the Loop provided us with the opportunity to examine our practice and how convivencia is a part of what we do and the art that we create. We were able to work with one of my heroes, visual artist and poet José Faus, to create brand new performance pieces that combined spoken word with flamenco dance, song and guitar which we presented to the public at the City Market. It was a wonderful feeling to connect with strangers, share smiles and basically jam out on a beautiful summer evening. We also got to watch other artists perform and see how they reacted with the same theme in their artist practices which were very different from our own. I got to meet new people, share artistic expression and José and I have already decided to continue our work together. Thank you Art in the Loop for your support, planning and attention to detail to make this event happen!”



KADESH FLOW

“We don’t do fully improvised sets often. Art in the Loop provided us with an opportunity to test how far our synergy as a band can take us. We had a blast.”



KC STREETCAR PERFORMANCE, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

ONBOARD KC STREETCAR #806

LINEY BLU

“I was so excited to apply when I heard about the Art in the Loop Performance Opportunity! Being born and raised in Kansas City, I’ve always loved seeing the music and arts culture grow here especially when it comes to live music. It’s been lovely to work with such a dedicated team here at Art in the Loop and I am extremely grateful to be a part of the performances this year. I have been writing a lot and trying out different set lists. With this performance being a stripped-down acoustic set on the streetcar, it allows me to be vulnerable in a new unique and creative space.”

“

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AND ARTS CULTURE
GROW HERE.**



OPPENSTEIN PARK, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

GRACIE CAGGIANO

“Being an emerging artist in Kansas City, my participation in Art in the Loop has sparked many new connections with other creatives and arts professionals. The kick-off celebration alone was beautiful, where I mingled with this season’s diverse performers and visual artists, as well as community members, all of whom believe in the value of public art. In my continually developing practice, it becomes more apparent that artists have a responsibility to reflect the truths of human experience, and we may even inspire changes in public perception. As a disabled artist, I’m empowered to share a set of new songs, born out of months-long meditation on disability topics, conversations about and with physical and conceptual spaces, and my deepening kinship with people of all abilities in Kansas City. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to perform these songs in the open air at Oppenstein Park, which I feel is a meaningful step toward increasing the visibility of disabled artists here. Thank you to the minds and hearts behind the Art in the Loop for supporting such a stimulating project.”



ALEXA LAINEZ AND GRUPO FOLKLORICO ALMA TAPATÍA

“We were drawn to Art in the Loop because of the way they engaged a variety of artists and art forms. We could see that Art in the Loop embraced each artist’s creativity and wanted artists who were passionate about what they present to the world. We are honored to be a part of this year’s performing artists. As a folk dance group, it’s important to us to be in spaces that are about art and creativity. We want to bring folklórico and dance into spaces with other artists and are so glad programs such as Art in the Loop exist to be able to do that.”



MUSICBYSKIPPY

“When I arrived at the Kick-Off Celebration Mixer, I felt excited, grounded, and connected to the fellow Art in the Loop artists around me! There was an air of humility and confidence, with surges of joy permeating throughout my conversations sparking among attendees and those within the 2024 program cohort. We all felt ready to create, to contribute, to be a beacon of art, together!

Being selected as an Art in the Loop artist felt like a ‘level up,’ a stamp of approval I gained fulfillment from after becoming a full-time performer and producer three years ago. My work means something to the convivencia, coexistence, to those in my city whose similarities and differences enrich my own life.

It is programs like Art in the Loop standing as a testament to what Kansas City could become: one of accessible, high-quality art-making spaces flourishing and benefiting its community, providing love and support for its citizens who continue to build its legacy to higher, better, shinier places.”



CLOSING RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 6, 2024
KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL LIBRARY

OLIVIA EMERT AND COMPANY



“Art in the Loop this year has deepened my connection with my community and fellow artists. I have been thinking in my art practice over the past year about how I hold space in a room for others and for myself. The theme of Convivencia allowed me to question and research this through movement. Art in the Loop has given me a platform to deepen my artistic practice as a choreographer and as a dancer. Diving deeper into what it means to hold

space for dancers and hold space for my artistic voice. While watching my peers perform and create, I thought about how beautiful this coexistence of the arts can be and how does my community coexist with itself. Art builds our community and challenges it.”

“
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AND FELLOW
ARTISTS.**”

SHERI PURPOSE HALL



“The beauty we experience is co-created by cultivating collective understanding with respect while welcoming diversity, intersectionality, and celebrating the rich culture of all. This is what it means to be in community.”

FENOM D. POET

“For over ten years Art in the Loop has been providing a platform for local performing artists. Helping to cultivate a culture that lies underneath Kansas City’s gritty facade. And I am ecstatic about being selected to be a performing artist this year.

Thank you AITL for the unique opportunity of sharing my work. As a poet, I pour parts of myself into each of my pieces and to have a soapbox to share those dreams, fears, aspirations and inspirations is a blessing.”



“
**THE CHANCE TO NETWORK WITH OTHER POETS, DANCERS,
AND MUSICIANS TO SHARE WORK AND IDEAS IS AMAZING.**”



The mission of the Art in the Loop Foundation (AILF) is to contribute to the visual identity, enrichment, and revitalization of Downtown Kansas City, create new opportunities for artistic development, and expand public interaction with new art of excellence. AILF seeks to play a proactive role in bringing further attention to Kansas City as a place where exciting and accomplished contemporary art is not just happening but is, in fact, helping to define the city's identity.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Cathy Smith, FSBA Co., Board President
- Jon Copaken, Copaken Brooks, Vice President
- Robin Trafton, Commerce Bank, Vice President
- William Dietrich, Downtown Council, Secretary
- Randy Williams, Kansas City Art Institute, Treasurer
- Adrienne Walker Hoard, Artist
- Donna Mandelbaum, KC Streetcar Authority
- Sara Welch, Stinson LLP

2024 ART DIRECTORS

- Ann Holliday, Executive Director
- Jade Osborne, Performance Arts
- Marissa Starke, Visual Arts

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**RICHARD J. STERN
FOUNDATION FOR
THE ARTS**

**Muriel McBrien Kauffman
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STINSON

THE ART IN THE LOOP FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



Photos by Margaret Norcross Photography, Art in the Loop, KC Streetcar, Wallace James, James Carter and participating artists.

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