

# PROJECT HISTORY: NEIGHBORHOOD PAST AND FUTURE

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The work represented in this exhibition took place in and addresses the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. We acknowledge the importance of advancing the rightful citizenship of the Dakota and Ojibwe, and are grateful for their stewardship. These lands continue to be the site of rich histories and struggles for these Indigenous Nations who were forcibly removed and relocated in the late 19th Century.

More recent populations exist in the context of centuries of economic extraction from forced labor and enslaved Black people. The Northside

neighborhood is predominantly populated by Black Americans now and has been a sanctuary for minority groups such as Jewish refugees from World War II, Hmong refugees following the American War in Vietnam, and Native Americans. The culturally diverse and complex recent political history includes a combination of national crises, such as the 2008 recession and resulting foreclosures, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the tornado of 2011, all of which has taken a particularly hard toll on North Minneapolis.

Additionally, the murder of George Floyd and other police killings have inflicted

trauma upon the community. Although for several years since 2019 a number of shootings have taken place in Northside neighborhoods, recently peacemakers' activity on the neighborhood streets, has significantly reduced the problem.

Honoring the Dakota and Ojibwe legacy of land stewardship, this project aims to address the injustices of the past and to uplift the residents of the North Minneapolis neighborhood with beautiful, safe, sustainable, equitable and wealth-building designs.

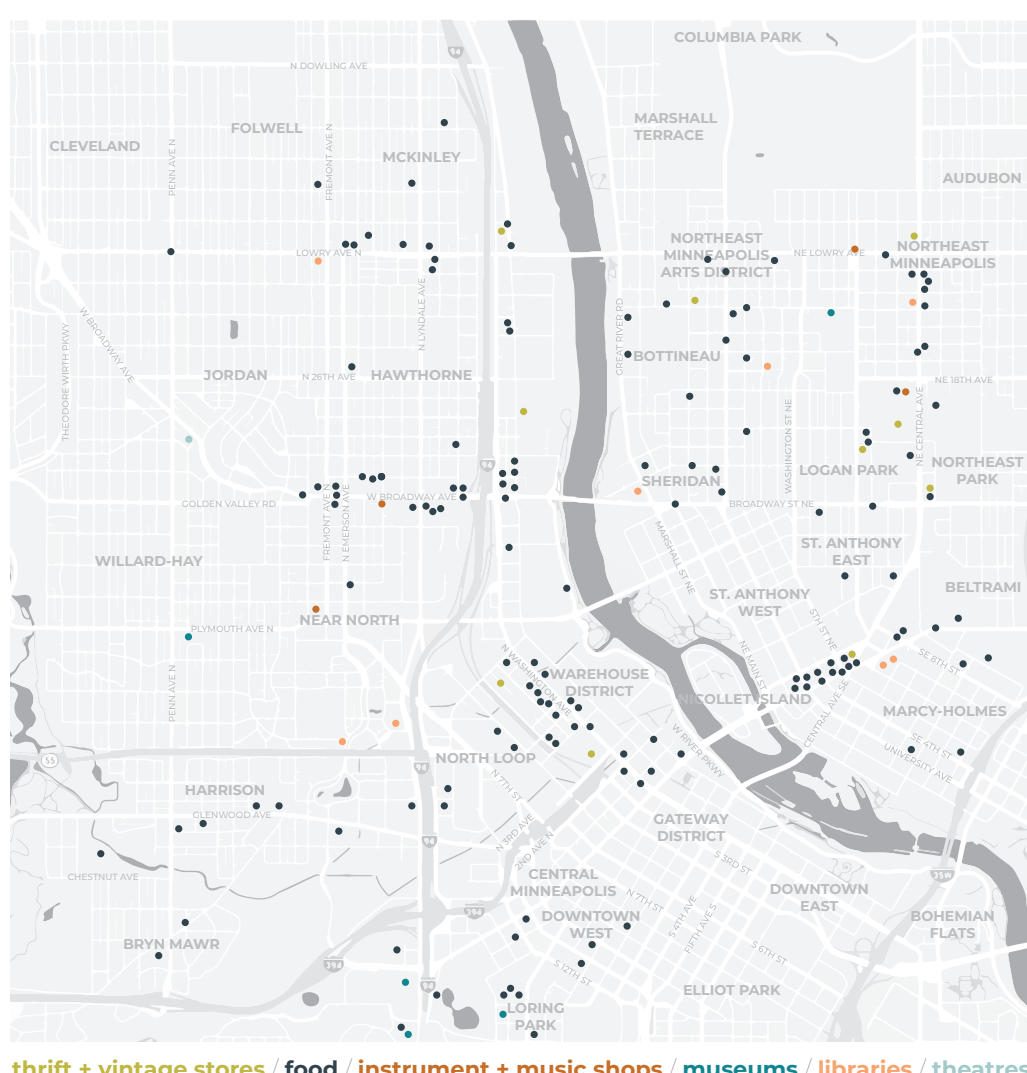
## URBAN CONNECTION + ASSET DEVELOPMENT

Construction of the I-94 freeway in the 1960s separated North Minneapolis from the Mississippi River. These neighborhoods remain isolated from the rest of the city by freeways and busy arterial roads, by inequitable public investment, and inequitable wealth accumulation. Unlike other neighborhoods to the South that incorporate the Great River Road, parkland, pedestrians, and

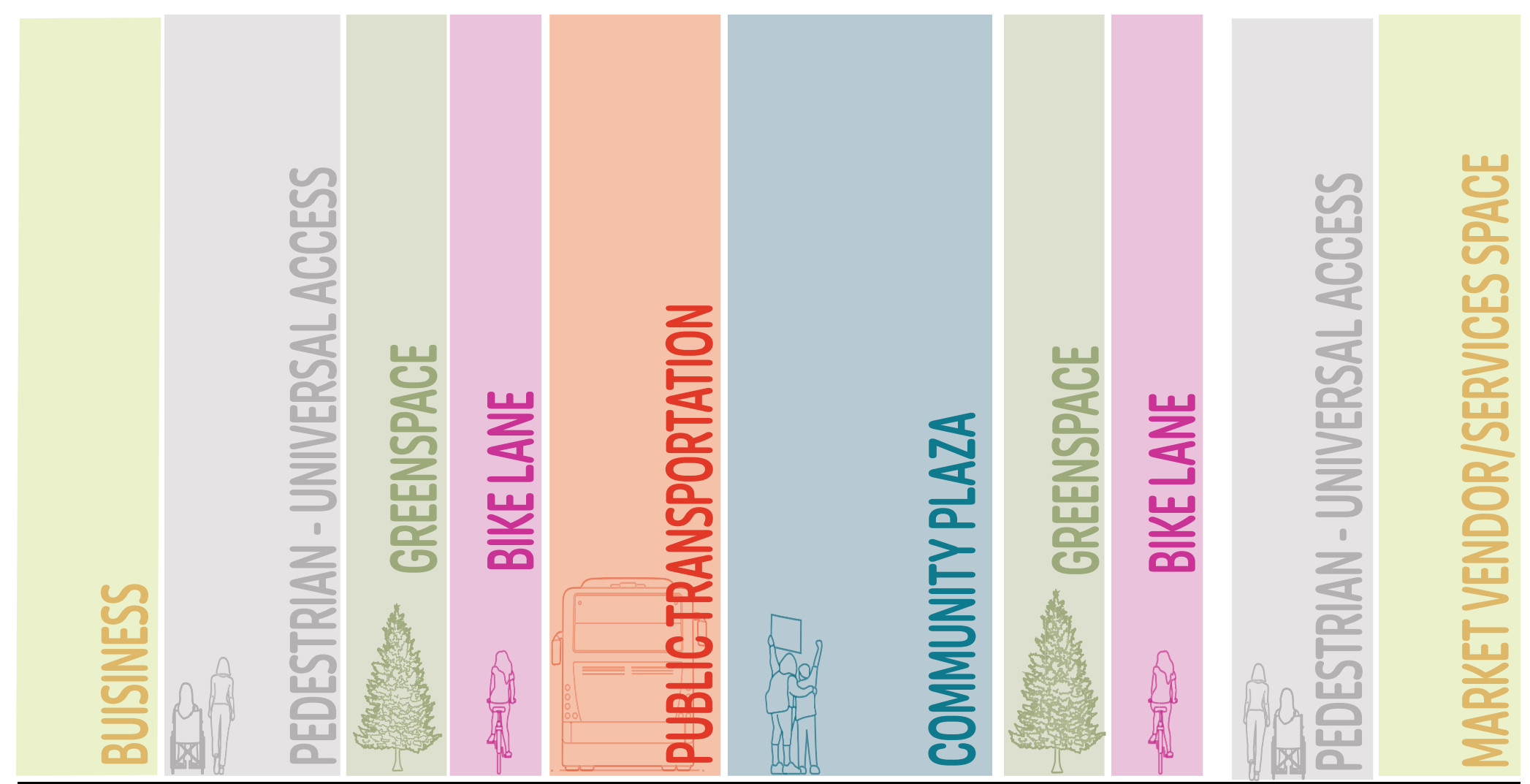
bicycles on the riverbank, in this neighborhood, the river area is industrial, with unpaved streets, few sidewalks, and disorganized parkland, pedestrian and bicycle paths. Access to the river remains blocked by the highway ravine, except for street access across West Broadway Avenue, 26th Street N, and Lowry Avenue.

Transforming North Minneapolis involves building on its assets in conjunction with the

efforts of other organizations. In addition to reconnecting the neighborhood to the river, we seek further development of such vital resources as businesses on West Broadway and other streets, health clinics, community gardens, arts venues (e.g. Juxtaposition Arts, Capri Theater, and music performance locations), local schools, churches, parks and housing.



NORTH MINNEAPOLIS ASSETS



REIMAGINING NORTH MINNEAPOLIS STREETS