

HENNEPIN AVENUE UTILITY ART BOX PROGRAM



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

HENNEPIN THEATRE DISTRICT • MINNEAPOLIS



Greetings!

Last summer a group of community residents initiated a program to dress up the utility boxes on Hennepin Avenue. With a grant from the City of Minneapolis and matching funds provided by Hennepin Theatre Trust, we hired local artists to transform these 24 utilitarian, unattractive boxes along Hennepin Avenue from functional infrastructure into colorful and inspired works of art by painting them using a common theme.

We invited artists to interpret the famous speech on the Seven Ages of Man from Shakespeare's *"As You Like It."* The Design Guidelines required artists to design their work around this passage (Act II, Scene 7) and each side of the utility box was required to interpret at least one of the Seven Ages of Man passage.



Lisa Goodman
Minneapolis City Council
Seventh Ward Council Member



Tom Hoch
President/CEO
Hennepin Theatre Trust

Now professionally decorated with each artist's interpretation, these utility boxes are resistant to graffiti and have become interesting contributors to the vitality and attractiveness of the urban streetscape along a major thoroughfare.

We hope you enjoy these spectacular additions to Hennepin Avenue as much as we do and invite you learn more about each of the artists by reviewing the materials that follow.

Thank you to all of our artists for using their talents to make our city a better place to live, work and play.

Enjoy!

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;
Then the whining school?boy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick to quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capron lin'd,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends his strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

Hennepin Avenue

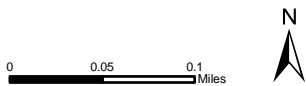
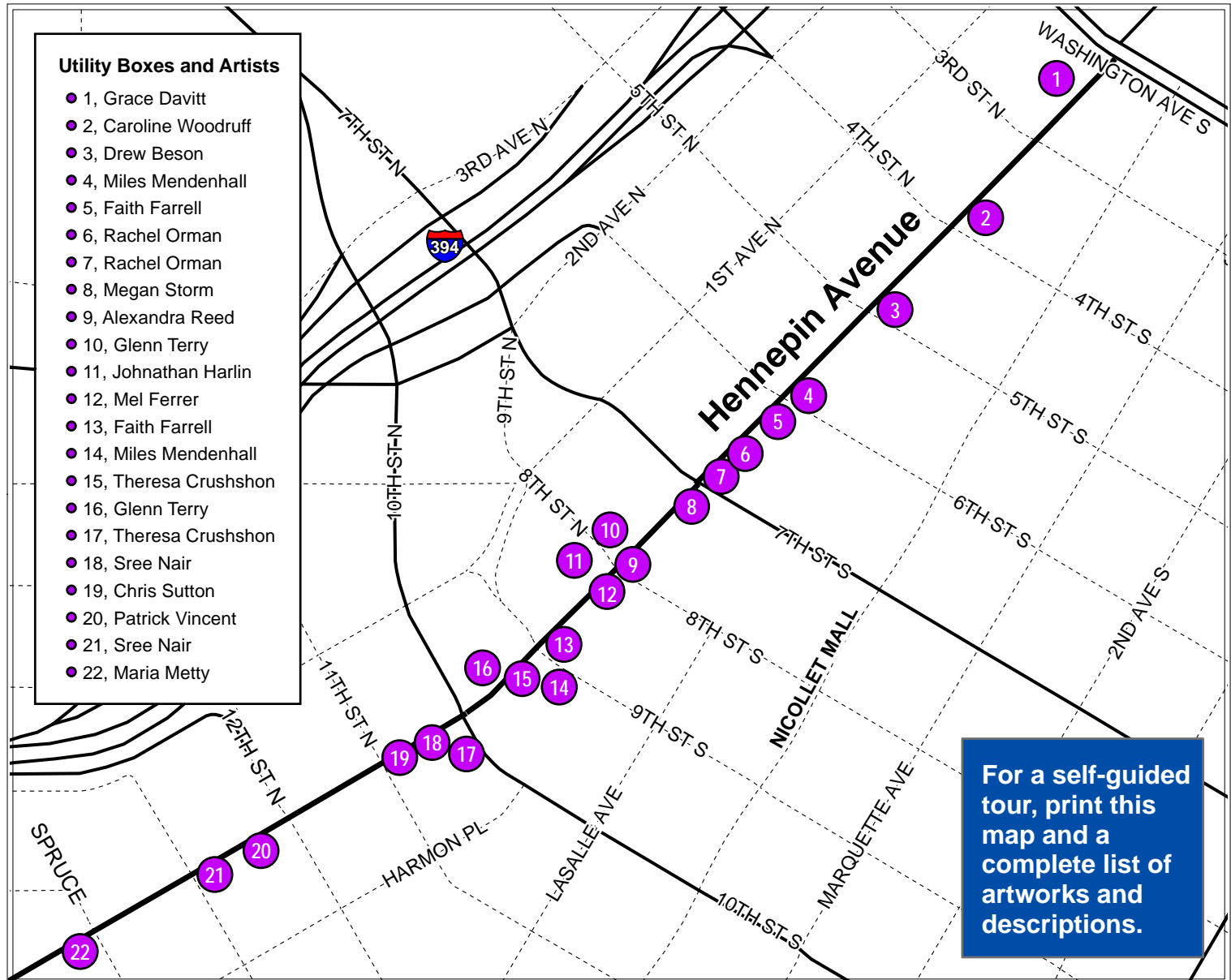
Utility Art Boxes

[Return to Downtown Public Art](#)
[Return to Anti-Graffiti Micro Grant Murals](#)



Twenty-two frequently-tagged utility boxes in the Hennepin Theater District have been transformed by artists who interpreted Shakespeare's famous speech on the Seven Ages of Man from the play "As You Like It."

*All the world's a stage,
 And all the men and women merely players;
 They have their exits and their entrances;
 And one man in his time plays many parts,
 His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,
 Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;
 And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel
 And shining morning face, creeping like snail
 Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
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 everything.*



DREW BESON

Edina, Minnesota

Drew Beson loves making art. He is a talented and influential artist, and has differentiated himself and his personal brand from other artists by using revolutionary techniques. As a creative bon vivant, Beson has a tremendous following and has received exposure on an international scale through "DrewTube" videos and weekly auctions, which have tens of thousands of views. Combine that with his unique haircut, and he is a hit at parties! Beson has a passion for philanthropy and is actively involved with several charities. His involvement with the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, which helps families in crisis, has been the focus of most of his work over the last several years. Beson also acts as the art director of FRESH Marketing Group LLC in Edina, MN. He feels tremendously fortunate to have a supportive family, and great friends who appreciate him as much as he appreciates them. Check out more at www.DrewBesonArt.com



LOCATION: CORNER OF HENNEPIN & 5TH STREET

GRACE DAVITT

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Grace Davitt tries to create art that enhances everyday experiences and is accessible without becoming mass produced and losing vitality. Particularly, Davitt hopes to create an alternative to the repetitive imagery of the mass marketed toys and clothing that surround the everyday life of children. The colors she used in her art box design are subdued primary tones that are both playful and serene. This complements the open ended characters and supports a calm, contented space.



LOCATION: ON HENNEPIN, BETWEEN 3RD STREET & WASHINGTON AVENUE

THERESA CRUSHSHON

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Theresa Crushshon is a native of Minneapolis who spent more than half of her life in the southern United States. She currently studies art at the University of Minnesota. "My goal is to create work that culturally reflects the stories of African American people living in the United States. We have a unique and rich history and I use that as my backdrop in my creative works. Whether it's a book, a sculpture, or a painting I am proud to promote the black experience," says Crushshon. Her paintings are collected and exhibited nationally. In 2002, she authored "Malcolm X" and is currently working on her second children's book entitled "Sea Monsters Don't Sleep," scheduled to be released in 2009.



LOCATIONS: HENNEPIN & 9TH STREET AND HENNEPIN & 10TH STREET

FAITH FARRELL

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Faith Farrell is a Northeast Minneapolis artist who loves glitter, pop culture, polka and making art out of meat products. Farrell has a B.A. in art from Gustavus Adolphus College and a graduate degree from the University of Minnesota in theatrical design. Farrell freelances around town working on murals, faux finishes, props and theatre - check out her stuff on www.FaithFarrell.com



LOCATIONS: HENNEPIN & 6TH STREET AND HENNEPIN & 9TH STREET

MEL FERRER

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Mel Ferrer's approach to the art box project is a literal interpretation of Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man" with characters in 16th century costume and colors appropriate to the period. He chose a darkened background for the subjects as well as facial expressions and gestures that would feel dramatic and engage the viewer. "I felt this approach would best represent the theme while acknowledging the Hennepin Theatre Trust, sponsor of the project, as well as the tradition of theatre here in the Twin Cities," says Ferrer, a painter/visual artist currently living in Minneapolis. He has a BFA in Applied Visual Arts from Memphis College of Art in Tennessee, where his course studies focused on painting, drawing and graphic design. After 15 years as a graphic artist, Ferrer is now perusing a career in the fine arts.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 8TH STREET

MILES MENDENHALL

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Miles Mendenhall was born and raised in rural Minnesota. He spent his younger years in the woods behind his parents' house making but not using, a variety of wooden weapons which included: bows, arrows, catapults and swords. Influenced by the escapism of Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes cartoons as a child, Mendenhall's early attempts at art making focused on the creation of bizarre worlds. His more recent works carry this theme. His self-portraiture exists within a formula based around segmenting an individual into imagery and very specific characters representing aspects of their personality, memories, and perceptions, creating a fully realized

ecosystem, alive with the Darwinian relationships of its inhabitants. Providing an example of the duality of action versus inaction within an individual by segmenting his persona into the aspects which create such dissonance, Mendenhall's work questions the relationship between complacency and conviction within society. His bright, vibrant, and sometimes obnoxious colors intertwined through voyeuristic insight into a person mimics the aesthetic of our culture, although at points grotesque, is curiously entertaining. This young, technically advanced artist has shown his work throughout the Midwest in venues ranging from coffee shops to the Weisman Art Museum.



LOCATIONS: HENNEPIN & 6TH STREET AND HENNEPIN & 9TH STREET

JOHNATHAN HARLIN

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Johnathan Harlin is a junior at the University of Minnesota who has been painting for over six years. Art has "morphed" his life in many ways, and helped him realize his future aspirations of being an art therapist. "The therapeutic quality of art has touched us all in some form or another, which is why I chose a tarot card design for my box to reflect the theme; the tarot is a guide used to help you gain greater awareness into your own life with various symbols," says Harlin. The cards I have used are the Fool, Lovers, Adjustment, Prudence and the Moon. The Fool represents the soldier for his openness, trust, willingness to take risk, courage to your ground, and freedom. The Lovers card means attraction, connection, and union of opposites through love. Adjustment represents justice and a peacock feather means warding off evil. The ostrich feather stands for truth. Combined, they keep the individual pure to pass judgment. Prudence in meaning of wisdom, flowering internal and external richness, carefulness and development. The Moon shows the cycles, which bring them all together means, final testing, wrong turns, illusion burning off karma, interaction or struggle with the subconscious and the threshold to new levels of consciousness.



LOCATION: ON HENNEPIN, BETWEEN 8TH & 9TH STREET

MARIA METTY

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Maria Metty is an actuarial science student at the University of Minnesota. Her world-view emphasizes an interpretation of consistent with various statistical data, which greatly influenced her interpretation of Shakespeare's quote concerning "All The World's A Stage" from "As You Like It." Because the art box is close to Minneapolis Community and Technical College, she wanted to focus on education as an important stage of life, and interprets the concept of economically "developing countries" into the representation of children who are in the first stages of their own intellectual development. Metty's representation of an ideal education embodies the concept of opportunity. She believes this opportunity transforms the social view of roles people are allowed to assume, which is also consistent with the goals of the art box program, seeking to transform Minneapolis surfaces covered in graffiti to ones finished in art.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & SPRUCE PLACE

SREE NAIR

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sree Nair is a professional artist who was quick to sign onto the art box program, as public art ranks highly on his list of objectives. He cherishes the opportunity to openly share beautiful and meaningful things with the entire community. "Perhaps it may sound naive, but I do hope that the art I work on immerses my viewers in a transporting sense of gorgeousness," said Nair. "I hope it provokes them to consider not so much the charm of the actual piece, as much as the beauty it draws its inspiration from. I would like these images to be in homage to the enchanting worlds all around and within us." His first

offering, on 13th and Hennepin, is loosely inspired by the "Tree of Life" motif, well-known from rugs and wall-hangings. It interprets the selection from Shakespeare through the emergence and dissipation of flower-blossoms, from bud to seed. His second art box, on 10th and Hennepin, uses abstract masks to suggest key phases in the quoted passage. For comments, questions and correspondences, Nair can be reached at Sn6hi10@aol.com.



LOCATIONS: HENNEPIN & 10TH STREET AND HENNEPIN & 13TH STREET

ALEXANDRA REED

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Alexandra Reed is nineteen and a student at University of Wisconsin - Madison, majoring in strategic communications and Spanish. She has always loved to paint and once worked for the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, where she took classes there at a young age, but otherwise has no other formal training. Reed's art box shows two different ideas (the opposite sides correlating with one another). One is an old man looking in to a mirror and the opposite side is his reflection shown as a drooling baby. This represents the seven stages of life by showing that when we get to a certain age our brains revert to how we were when we were young. The other two sides are a young girl day dreaming about being older, while the opposite side shows the same girl older, dreaming about being young. This represents the theme by showing that we mostly are not content with our age or where we are in life.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 8TH STREET

RACHEL ORMAN

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rachel Orman is an expressionist oil painter whose work explores the psychological world through the figure. The saturated blends of color and exaggerated movement of the subjects break open commonplace living into raw expression. She adores the shape and the ability the human body has to move, and the strength the human soul has to adapt and endure. "I explore the differing consolations and needs of human beings, and our individual and collective connections to the world," says Orman, who designed two neighboring boxes near Block E.



In creating the art box based on Shakespeare's "As You Like It", she took the poetic vision of Shakespeare's words and translated them into color and form. A word or a verse conjures different images and memory for each individual who reads it. "Painting the art boxes provided an opportunity for passerby's to talk with me about my work and about their reflection on this Shakespeare verse," says Orman. "It made art feel very alive and I hope it brings much joy and conversation to those visiting and working in downtown Minneapolis."

LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 7TH STREET FOR BOTH

MEGAN STORM

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Megan Storm gleefully romps between genres and disciplines exploring film, music and visual arts. Recently, she produced a documentary film for the Minnesota Greatest Generation Film Project and wrote a score for a 48-hour Film Project. Storm finds great solace and inspiration in painting, and she is very proud to be among the artists in the streets for this project. Recently, she taught classes at the Science Museum of Minnesota's Learning Technologies Center and offered technical support to musicians and music educators at MakeMusic, Inc. For her art box, Storm isolated specific, colorful phrases and interpreted them imaginatively. For more information about Megan and her artistic adventures, visit www.explodingtulip.com.



LOCATION: ON HENNEPIN, BETWEEN 7TH & 8TH STREET

CHRIS SUTTON

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chris Sutton is originally from Detroit, MI. He has dealt with art school, art critics and other artists. Despite this, he continues to make art.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 11TH STREET

VINCENT PATRICK

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Patrick Vincent is a Minneapolis native who graduated from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities with a B.F.A. in printmaking, and works as a Minneapolis artist. His work is concerned with how human cultures use symbols and icons, through imagery and language, to shape and influence our world. Vincent explores how these symbols change over time, or how they can contain conflicting meanings. Recently, he has explored how animal symbolism is imbedded with political and cultural ideologies. The utility box design references the animal metaphors used in Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man," using vivid imagery attached to a perception of age and the progression of life. A banner with a common Latin expression compliments each panel with an animal image. These expressions are meant to juxtapose the images to further their potential meanings. To view other samples of Vincent's work, visit www.twinbeepress.com.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 12TH STREET

GLENN TERRY

East Bethel, Minnesota

Glenn Terry started life as an architectural designer and after being commissioned to create a bronze statue for a building he had designed, his world turned around. He loves creating bronze and marble sculptures, fountains, murals, bas-reliefs and portraits. Terry's work can be found around town, including a mural at Ellis Drum Shop in St Paul and a bronze statue at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. His design for two art boxes comes from a love of Greek art. Terry utilized the style of ancient Greek vase painting to depict an interpretation of the age of lovers for the art box outside of the Orpheum Theatre, and that of a soldier for the art box on 8th Street. The art box depicting the lovers has a young man wooing his intended lady, and a young woman seated and holding her newborn child who

is now entering the first of the seven ages. To view other samples of Terry's work, visit www.GlennTerryArt.com



LOCATIONS: HENNEPIN & 8TH STREET AND ON HENNEPIN, BETWEEN 9TH & 10TH STREET

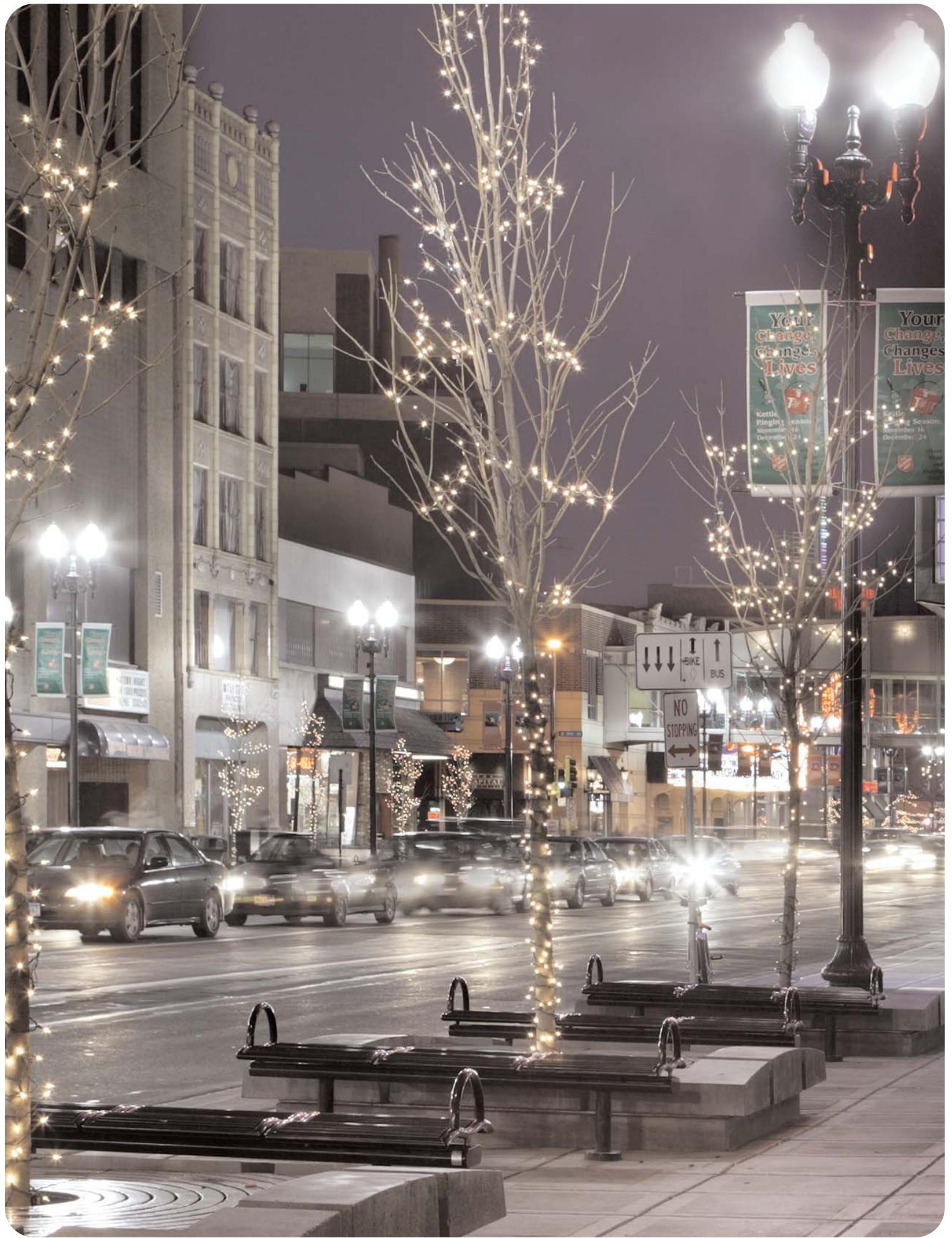
CAROLINE WOODRUFF

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Caroline Woodruff comes from a family of artists, and at age 17, she launched a career as a commercial artist, a designer and illustrator. A dozen years later, she found herself living in New York City working as a curatorial assistant in a museum and library of Spanish arts and letters, The Hispanic Society of America. The great masters of Spanish painting imprinted their art and ideas on her soul and defined her forever as a painter. Woodruff describes herself as a fine artist, a muralist, a designer and illustrator, an art history lover and a storyteller. Her design for the Hennepin Theatre Trust's art box program was indeed inspired by the passage from Shakespeare's play; she realized that we go through life hiding behind our masks, playing our assigned roles. But if we really work at self discovery, we can achieve self-realization and come to know our true authentic selves.



LOCATION: HENNEPIN & 4TH STREET



Your
Change
Changes
Lives

Kettle
Ping! Season
November 14
December 12

Your
Change
Changes
Lives

Kettle
Ping! Season
November 14
December 24

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
BIKE
↑
BUS

NO
STOPPING
← →