

Desire Path

Nicole Sansglyph

This project explores the CDPHE story maps documenting the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) communities in Denver, near Commerce City, Colorado. These neighborhoods share common challenges, including limited food access and the impact of industrial and automotive pollution. For a detailed look at these challenges, visit the story map here: [CDPHE Story Map](#).

Desire Path seeks to connect the concept of desire paths to community building, a desire path emerges when people repeatedly choose to leave sidewalks in favor of more direct routes. These paths are local and organic, maintained by the collective agreement of a community seeking a better way. Referencing *Learning mutual aid: Food justice public pedagogy and community fridge organizing online, published in the Journal of Applied Communication Research* “ Living within crises requires learning and practicing mutual aid. Mutual aid refers to the often informal, radical care work that communities do for each other in the face of state and institutional neglect or catastrophe (Gordon) I want to celebrate the moments of mutual aid contained within the Arcgis storymap ; the ways the GES Neighborhoods are building their own support systems, addressing food and housing inequalities, and fostering genuine connection within their neighbors.

In keeping with my studio practice as a manuscript artist, every page is hand-painted and lettered. While the aesthetic is informed by the medieval styles my hands know best, this project emphasizes note-taking as a reflection of my perspective as a student. “In an age of a digital media content flood, there are high stakes involved in which storytelling energies we choose to invest in or dismiss” (Cook) From : *Amplifying desire-centered research beyond deficits and fatigue: A case study of environmental justice Arcgis StoryMaps in Colorado*. There are elements here that fit more comfortably in a fine art setting, and to provide context I need to explain that my artwork primarily focuses on how people express care and devotion to what they value. Pencil drafting lines, mistakes, and imperfections are intentionally included, leaving these moments on display feels vulnerable and human to me. I want to be seen in the process of learning, and I feel strongly that in the face of the overwhelming digital media movement we are experiencing, that the tenderness of handpainted mistakes feel all the more important.

In the context of this November 2024, I am reflecting on what it means to be part of a community. By highlighting the initiatives in North Denver, I am following my own desire path—a journey of reflection and understanding the roots of social change.

Cook, W., Albidrez, A., Collier, S., Furuichi, D. M., & Pezzullo, P. C. (2024). Amplifying desire-centered research beyond deficits and fatigue: A case study of environmental justice Arcgis StoryMaps in Colorado. *Environmental Justice*, 17(2), 152–159.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2023.0009>

Gordon, C. (2024). Learning mutual aid: Food justice public pedagogy and community fridge organizing online. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 52(2), 158–178.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2024.2327417>



DESIRE PATH



-CO Environmental Justice
Storytelling Project

CDPHE StoryMaps

storymaps.arcgis.com

North Denver
Communities




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Walkway - MUTUAL AID

Living within crises requires learning and practicing Mutual Aid. Mutual aid refers to the often informal, radical care work that communities do for each other in the face of state and institutional neglect or catastrophe.

Learning Mutual Aid: Food Justice, Public Pedagogy and Community Organizing Online - Journal of Applied Communication Research.

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Walkway
"Solidarity, not Charity"



North Denver

Families Friends Neighbors
3 Rooted Networks - Communities

Globeville
Elyria -
- Swansea





DESIRE PATH

My visible drafting, unrefined polish, and human hand here display my desire.

Desire paths often remain stamped into the dirt, agreed efficiency.

Carved and maintained one step at a time when community sees a better way.

Birds Eye View



In Flight

NOVEMBER 2024

CU BOULDER

3 Community hubs - Facing -
Industrial Activity

Automotive Pollutants

I-25 I-70

150,000 and 250,000 vehicles per day

Culturally rich, diverse, historic
68% Latino/LX

Suncor Refinery Looming

Odors - Noise

Water Quality - Air Quality - Soil

A Community Nesting





www.thegrowhaus.org

Food Access

UNITEDS CON EL

CO-ELYRIA-SWANSEA

G
R
O
W
H
A
U
S



Closing the
Nutrition gap -

- 2.6 million meals via Food Boxes
community driven nonprofit



Fresh Food to 5,000

Colorado Community members
addressing food insecurity
by providing fresh produce,
Education, and
fostering well being



3840 York Street, Suite 210
Denver CO 80205



Birdseed Collective is a Community nonprofit Working together to improve Denvers Socioeconomic Climate through arts and Humanities Offerings.

Arts

Community

Healthy Living

Birdseed Facilitates Public art installations, murals, and fine arts classes, as well as food distribution - community event hosting - and empowering under resourced communities.



BIRDSEED
COLLECTIVE

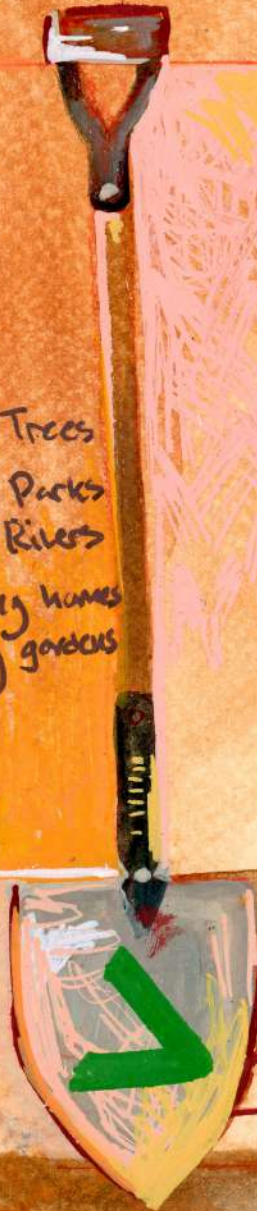
4496 Grant St
Denver CO
80216



Globeville
www.birdseedcollective.org

GROUNDWORK DENVER

- Planting Trees
- Improving Parks
- Cleaning Rivers
- Insulating Homes
- Cultivating Gardens



Groundwork Denver
Partners with youth
and community to build
Healthy

Equitable
Sustainable
Environments

www.groundworkcolorado.org

Part of the Groundwork USA
Network, Groundwork Denver
aims to build connections between
residents, businesses, and government to
enact change.

<https://groundworkcolorado.org>

3280 N Downing St
Ste E Denver 80205

Globeville, Elyria-Swansea Coalition
Organizing For Health and Housing
Justice.



GES Coalition

TIERRA COLECTIVA

"Organized to prevent the displacement
of our neighbors through the
Creation and Preservation of affordable
and accesable housing, real estate and
Community Ownership of Land."

Keeping residents
in their homes
in face of gentrification
pressures.

Developing Affordable
housing, as well as
libraries, commercial spaces
and community engagement
events.



gescoalition.com

4700 Claude Ct, Denver, CO 80216

Sincerely...



@ Sans_glyph

Subconscious - Sublime . Com
Sansglyph@gmail . Com

Thank you for exploring this project.
I'm Nicole Sansglyph, a fine arts
undergrad at CU Boulder. And a student
in professor Phaedra C. Pezzullo's
Storytelling and Climate Justice course.

This project celebrates the powerful work
of the CDPHE Storyways initiative, and
if you haven't already, I urge you to visit
their page to learn more.

North Denver Communities - Storyways.arcgis.com

