



TRANSFORMING TRANSIT THROUGH ART: BUILDING TRUST AND VISIBILITY



The Voice of Public Transportation in Virginia

2025 Conference

Presenting Team



Andrea Garland
Director of TDM
Roa. Valley-Alleghany
Regional Commission



David Fols
Transit Director
Bay Aging



Mirand Hellem
Facility Project Manager
OmniRide



Perrin Palistrant
**Director of Planning and
Service Delivery**
OmniRide



BAY AGING

DIGNITY AT EVERY AGE



BAY HEALTH
A DIVISION OF BAY AGING



BAY HOUSING
A DIVISION OF BAY AGING



BAY TRANSIT
A DIVISION OF BAY AGING

Bay Transit

- Public transportation provider for:
 - Middle Peninsula
 - Northern Neck
 - Charles City
 - New Kent Counties
- Microtransit in Gloucester
- Two Fixed Route Lines in Tappahannock and West Point
- Seasonal trolleys in Colonial Beach and Urbanna

Accessible, affordable transportation for all.



Last year, Bay Transit provided **over 140,000 rides** to individuals across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.



artin transit

PREVIOUS YEAR WINNERS





Jumping for Joy

Brenda Sylvia
First Place, 2021



Cacophony

Mel Neale
First Place, 2022



Cruisin' and Racin'

Sarah Marshall Elliott
First Place, 2023



Job Satisfaction

Lara Brady
First Place, 2024



Tending the Net

Doug Mock
Second Place, 2024

...And Where They Stop, Nobody Knows

Brenda Sylvia
Third Place, 2024





Rappahannock Rockfish

Carol Vaughn
Second Place, 2023

Summer Fun

Doug Mock
Third Place, 2023





Up, Up, and Away

Laurie Breakwell
Second Place, 2022

Art in Transit – In the News



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to sponsor 2024 Art in Transit

Bay Transit, the public transportation division of Bay Aging, and the RAL Art Center announced that the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) committed to be a Gold Level sponsor of the 2024 Art in Transit judged competition.

Additionally, Jeffrey Allison, the VMFA's Director of Statewide Programs and Exhibits and their Paul Mellon Collection Educator, has agreed to serve as one of the judges of this year's art competition.

"We are thrilled to support Art in Transit this year," Allison said. "Being able to support public transportation in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula along with improved access to the arts in the region is exactly the kind of event the VMFA loves to get involved with. We were very impressed with the winning artwork from last year, and I know it will be a challenge to help select the top three works of art from this year's competition," Allison added.

Allison is very familiar with the RAL Art Center after guest lecturing there in the past. "The natural beauty of the area is a wellspring for inspiration. We see this from the artists at RAL and other art centers in the region." Allison has been with the VMFA since 1997 and has given many lectures and workshops in Kilmarnock and Tappahannock over the years.

Artists throughout the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Richmond area will be invited to participate in the fourth edition of the regional Art in Transit contest when the call for entries is announced. The deadline for entries and art submissions to the RAL Art Center in Kilmarnock has been expanded to multiple dates in April to encourage participation. Artists will be able to submit their artwork beginning on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, as well as Sunday, April 28th, or Monday, April 29th, from 10 AM and 12 PM.

"Each year, we have received more entries from across the region and wanted to make it easier for people to travel to Kilmarnock to drop them off," said RAL Art Center Executive Director Sharon Stone. "Last year's first place winner, Sarah Marshall Elliott, is from Richmond. We want to make sure that it is convenient as possible for artists from across the region to participate, so we've added dates for them to drop off their entries."



From left to right: Michael Norvell, Bay Transit's Manager of Marketing & Public Relations with Jeffrey Allison, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Director of Statewide Programs and Exhibits and Paul Mellon Collection Educator



The Bay Transit scholarship winners were recognized at a ceremony held at the RCC Warsaw campus. Shown here are, from left, RCC alumnus and board director with both RCC and Bay Aging Stanley Clarke; B.H. Baird Insurance's Commercial Lines Team Leader and longtime RCC Educational Foundation board member Sue Farmer; Bay Transit Operations Manager Pat Sanders; Bay Transit Operations Specialist and 2023 scholarship winner Dina Cunningham; RCC president Dr. Shannon Kennedy; Bay Transit Regional Supervisor and grandmother of 2023 scholarship winner Kenedi Hence, Princess Wise; Kenedi Hence's mother, Keonte Dviedo; 2023 scholarship winner and current RCC student Kenedi Hence, B.H. Baird insurance agent Teresa English, RCC Board President Jamie Tucker, B.H. Baird/Towne Insurance Senior Vice President Brittany Totty, and Bay Transit Director Ken Pollock.

2023 Bay Transit – RCC Scholarship winners announced

Bay Transit, the public transportation division of Bay Aging, announced recipients of its 2023 Bay Transit – Rappahannock Community College Scholarships on April 17. The scholarship winners were recognized at a ceremony held at the RCC Warsaw campus and hosted by college president Dr. Shannon Kennedy and board president Jamie Tucker.

The Bay Transit – RCC Scholarship is paid for with funds generated from sponsorships of Bay Transit's annual "Art in Transit" judged competition, as well as a \$1,000 match from the RCC Educational Foundation. The scholarship is awarded each spring to one or more of Bay Transit's frontline employees, the employee's children, or employee's grandchildren, who are, or will be, attending RCC.

The scholarship is one of several measures Bay Transit has taken to bolster their ongoing frontline employee recruitment and retention efforts to help ensure continued excellent customer service standards during the ongoing tight labor market. Bay Transit Director Ken Pollock said he had hoped to increase the total scholarship amount to \$1,500 or even \$2,000 this year. "We were optimistic that our Art in Transit sponsors would really get behind increased funding of the Bay Transit – RCC Scholarship and some of these sponsors, such as B.H. Baird/Towne Insurance, specifically requested that their donations be earmarked for the Bay Transit – RCC Scholarship. Combined with the RCC Educational Foundation's decision to increase their scholarship match to \$1,000, we were able to award several scholarships this year and still have money left over to support additional New Freedom rides," Pollock added.

This year's winners include two frontline Bay Transit employees and two of the grandchildren of frontline staff Trinity Puckett, a Bay Transit mechanics assistant, and Dina Cunningham, Bay Transit's Operations Specialist, each received \$500 scholarships. "You have no idea how much this means to me," Cunningham said. "I will be enrolling in a spreadsheets course to strengthen my Excel skills and help me do my job more effectively. The tremendous support I've received from Bay Transit is overwhelming. They believe in me, and for that I am so grateful." Kenedi Hence, granddaughter of Regional Supervisor Princess Wise, received a \$1,000 scholarship, and Ava Oliff, the granddaughter of Bay Transit bus operator Wayne Oliff, received a \$500 scholarship. Hence was the winner of last year's inaugural Bay Transit – RCC Scholarship and will be using this year's scholarship to help complete her associate degree in business management in the spring of 2024. "I have really enjoyed the business and math classes that I've been taking at RCC this year," Hence noted. "I'm honored to have received scholarship support from Bay Transit two years in a row and believe it reflects my commitment to my classwork." "We are hoping to get the scholarship winners to attend the Art in Transit reception as well," Pollock added. The 2023 Art in Transit award winners will be recognized at the Art in Transit 2023 reception at the RAL Art Center in Kilmarnock on Friday, May 19. The culmination of the reception will once again occur when a copy of the first-place entry is unveiled on the side of a Bay Transit bus. For more information about Bay Transit, visit the Bay Transit website at www.Bay-Transit.org. To learn more about Bay Aging, visit the website at www.BayAging.org.

Gazette Journal
4/27/23



*Bus Stop
Beautification
Project*

Est. 2021



OMNIRIDE
GET THERE SMARTER



In Fall 2021, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) under the brand OmniRide was approached by Keep Prince William Beautiful (KPWB), to establish a program to display art in bus shelters throughout Prince William County.



A committee comprised of KPWB, PRTC, Prince William County, Amazon, and Apple Federal Credit Union was formed.

KPWB put out a “Call for local Artists” based on a theme.

Artists were required to submit renderings of their proposed art for review and selection by committee.

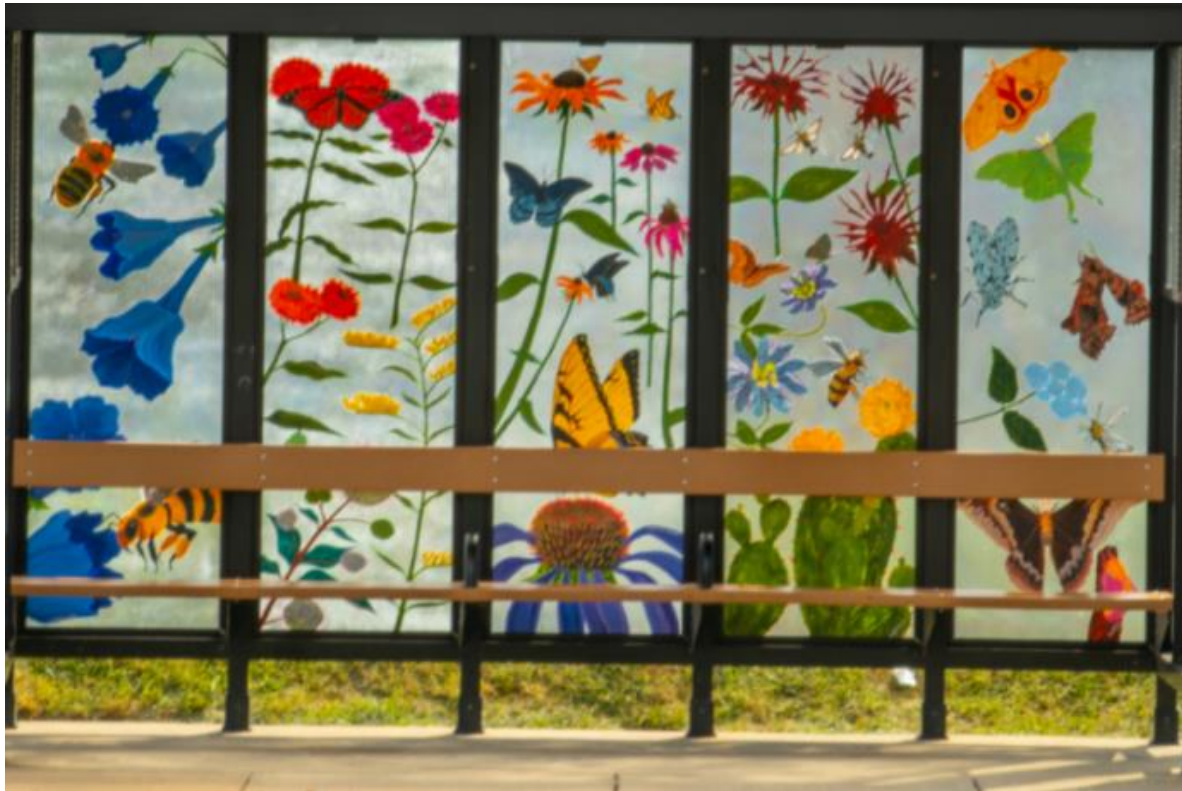
Selected Artists were to originally have art displayed for a period of one (1) year and after that time, the art would be auctioned off.

Summer 2022 – Environmental Sustainability



- Ribbon Cutting for Dale Boulevard at Minnieville Road in August 2022.
- Artist Amanda Griffith

Summer 2022 – Environmental Sustainability



Location: Sudley Rd @ Digges Rd
Artist: Emily Thomson



Location: Old Bridge Rd @ Antietam Rd
Artist: Tamo Nakayama

Past themes

- 2021/2022 : Environmental Sustainability
- 2022/2023 : Clean Communities – Clean Waterways
- Summer 2024 : Environmental Awareness
- Summer 2024 : Your Street Is My Street
- Fall/Winter 2024: Water Quality

Upcoming Installations



Location : Old Triangle Road at Kearsage Drive

Artists: Theresa Spoth / Laila Eeazzouki



Location : Manassas Mall

Artist: Ryiah Rand - PWCS Student / Winner of Prince William Water 2024 Art Contest



Lessons Learned :

- Large format artwork is difficult to auction off. Currently we are working with KPWB to determine other solutions.
- Decreased vandalism of locations prone to excessive graffiti.
- Digital imagery used to create a polyurethane wrap has shown the greatest resiliency against the elements.
- Passengers have a preference to wait in a bus shelter with art.

Looking Ahead

- PRTC (OmniRide) has also partnered with Northern Virginia Community College to have art students provide graphics to be placed in two (2) on campus bus shelters.
- Two (2) additional projects to be installed in partnership with KPWB. Artists and locations have been selected.
- Additional locations have been requested by Town of Dumfries, City of Manassas, and Prince William County.

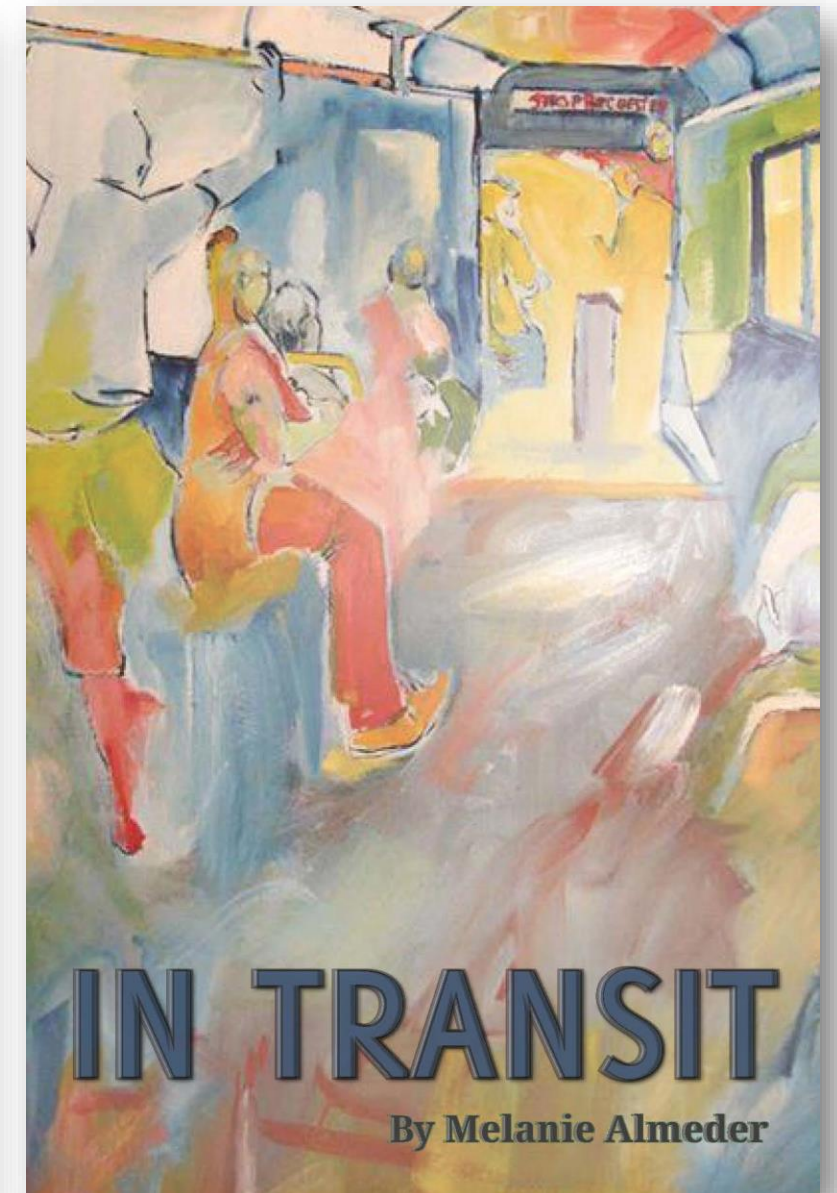
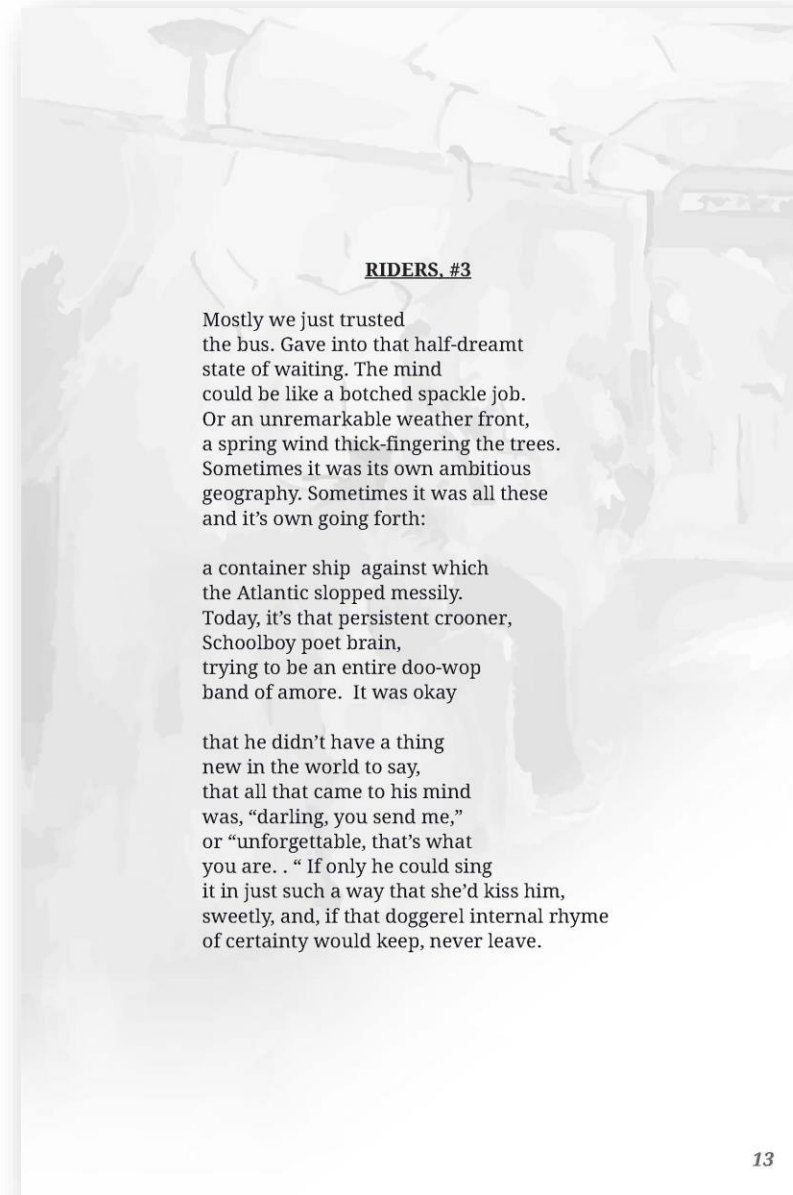
ROANOKE ART BY BUS 2015-2025



A Transit Awareness Campaign

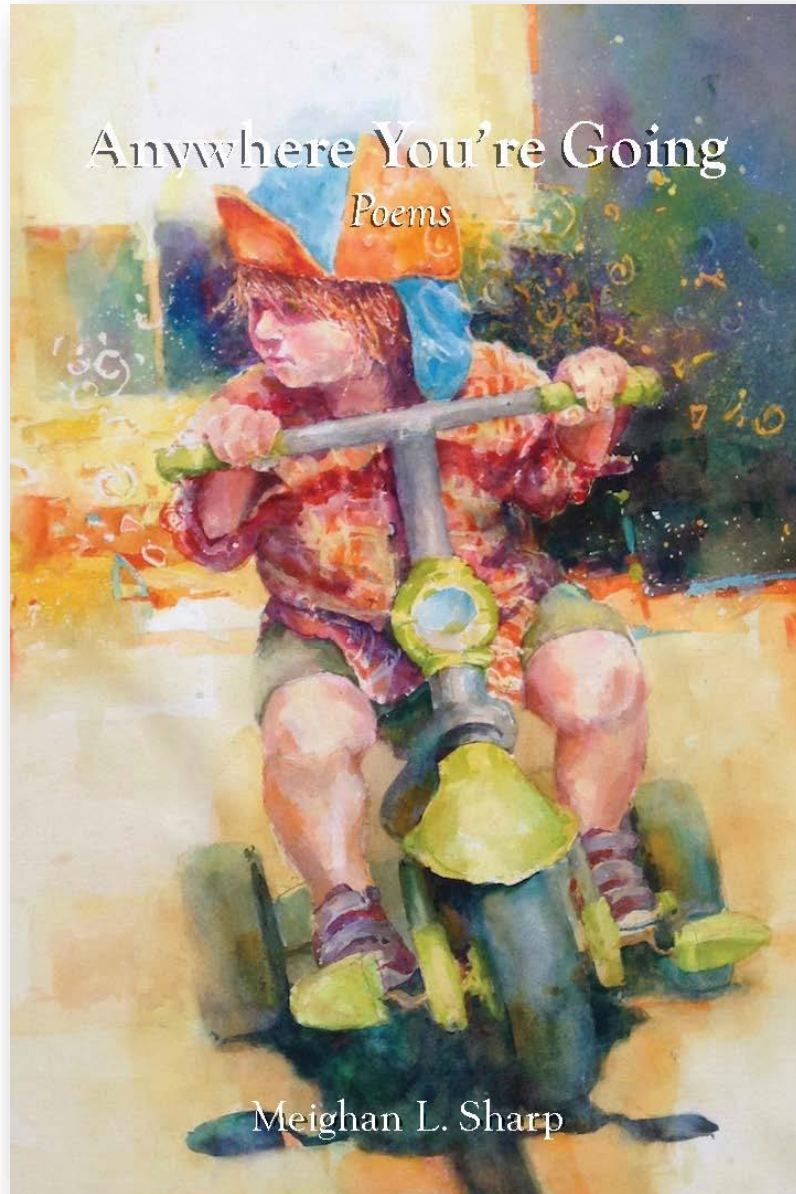
Writer by Bus 2015

Art by Bus celebrates the role public transit plays in the every day life of our community by becoming a platform to share the best of what our community can create – painting, literature, and music. RIDE Solutions, the Greater Roanoke Transit Company, and the City of Roanoke Arts Commission partner to support artist residency programs and other Art By Bus initiatives.



Cover Art – “In Transit” - Leah Thompson, Roanoke, VA
“Winner of 2014 Sidewalk Art Show Art of Mobility Award

Writer by Bus 2016



Cover Art – “We are Stardust” – Robin Poteet, Salem, VA
“Winter of 2016 Sidewalk Art Show- Art of Mobility Award

Campbell Court: March

Inside the twilight
terminal, netting filters
dimming winter sky,

barrier to sparrows
coasting the diesel-scented
air between idling buses.

A jubilant girl
disguised by her blue walker
and gray hair (spiked

like feathers ruffled
with cold), tugs her red coat, waves
her knit cap, a beanie

she's hand-bedazzled with
L-O-V-E, each letter
a different color.

*That wind, that snow,
I tell you. She pulls out her phone.
You have a garden?*

Shows me a photo—
last summer's variegated
berries, joyous, heaped

on a scarred wood table.
Ma'am, I say, as we shoulder
toward each other, I have
a square of dirt without a single plan.

Anywhere You're Going

- 10 Years - 2015 -2025
- 8 Writers
- An annual bus warp
- 2019: Music by Bus – 4 Artists

Writer by Bus 2017

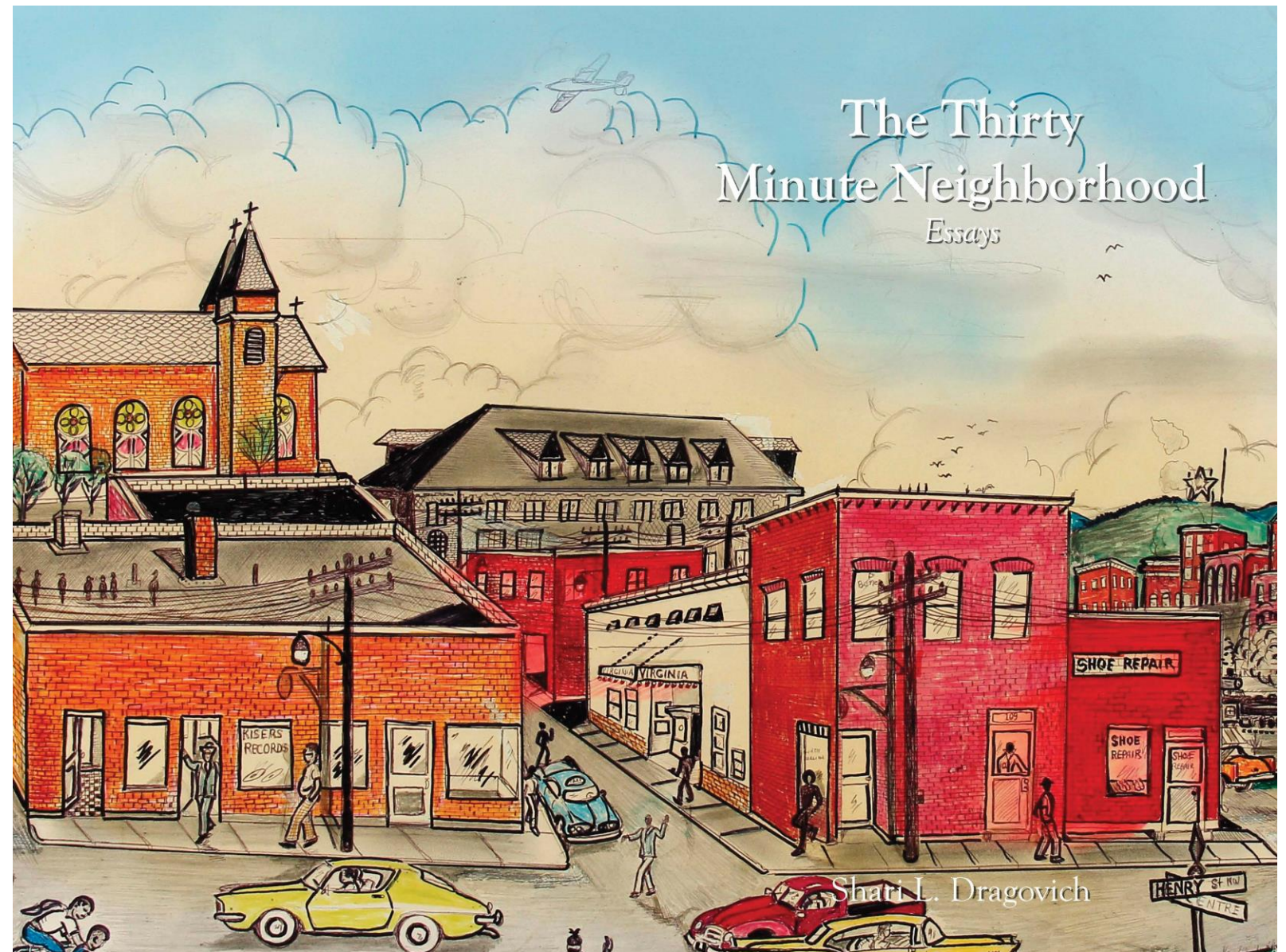
The Thirty Minute Neighborhood



A Postscript...

I could fill books telling the stories of the people I met this spring riding Roanoke's buses. Each person—each encounter—convicted me, humbled me, and dared me to live each day a truer version of myself. And so, before closing the back cover on my Writer by Bus experience, I must commend—to myself, first, and then to my reader—these final five people I hope I never forget from my bus riding time:

Build champions within local
change-agents and community
activists



Cover Art – “Henry Street” – Mr. David Ramey Sr., Roanoke, VA

Writer by Bus 2018

The Walking Man's Best Friend



Cover Art – “A Rolling Canvas” – Nancy Stark., Roanoke, VA

Snippets

Bits of bus conversation:

“I said, ‘You called my phone.’
She said, ‘Is everything all right?’
I said, ‘Well, I have a couple of cracked ribs.’”

“Ever since your sister stopped talking to me ...”

“I did some research. You hear so much these days.”

“They shot it and they took it to the vet and they had to euthanize it.”

“You’ll like butternut squash, I tell you.”

“Enjoy him while you can. They grow up.”

“Tell him I said hello. I never can catch him. I call him, but I can’t catch him.”

“They come from such awful broken homes. If they die tomorrow, they’re going to hell because they’re still so skeptical.”

“I know they know I know. When I get off work, I’m going to tell Mama I know.”

###

“The Walking Man’s Best Friend” – Tim Thornton

Dandelion Wishes

Artist's Statement

Thank you to the bus drivers who move us through the city every day, heatwave or downpour or snowstorm. And to the riders whose stories have moved me. To the man in the army jacket, who wrote by my side in his leather journal all the way from the VA Hospital to Campbell Court. To Mrs. Grace, who shared pictures of her seven grandkids on a rainy April day. To the little girl in blue barrettes, who watched with hands pressed to the window as JM Lamb's "Wishes" rode by on a passing bus. I'm grateful, always, for the wisdom and generosity of Jordan Humphrey and Amy Tomasso. And finally, a huge thank you to the City of Roanoke Arts Commission, RIDE Solutions, and Valley Metro for this opportunity.



Cover Art – “Wishes” – JM Lamb, Roanoke, VA

Art by Bus 2023



Cover Art – “Let Your Mind Be Creative” – J.C. Stallings, Roanoke VA

Sonder

Sonder

Eva Lynch-Comer

We are rocked back and forth,
the cobble road waves beneath a ship.

The weather forecast rolls across the screen.

The bus sighs weight of another passenger entering.

A woman with bright pink hair whispers into her phone,
Can you hear me?

The bus whirs along Colonial Ave
so quickly I can only catch the bones of trees.

The crisp air brushes my face, beads of sweat
turn into salt on my skin.

You will come see me today right?
the pink lady asks, cradling her phone against her ear.

I stare at words circling the screen, so I don't miss my stop.

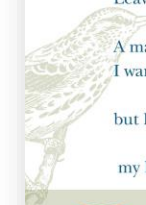
Branches scrape the bus windows, trying to sneak in.

Leaves sweep the glass, a tender afterthought.

A man with long dreadlocks bends over his phone.
I want to reach over pull the lint from his hair

but I do not know him, so I fold

my hands in my lap.



Eva Lynch-Comer is an Afro-Latina and African American poet with Costa Rican ancestry. She is a Creative Writing MFA student and teaching fellow at Hollins University. Eva holds a B.A. in Creative Writing from Hamilton College where she received the John V. A. Weaver Prize in Poetry and the Sydna Stern Weiss Essay Prize in Women's Studies. She is a two-time pushcart prize nominee. Eva's work has appeared in over 15 literary magazines including Free Verse Revolution, Honeyguide Magazine, Nightingale & Sparrow, and Capsule Stories, among others. Her writing centers on themes of healing, family, love, social justice, the divine feminine, nature, jazz, music, ecofeminism, the ocean, and magic. In her free time, Eva enjoys singing, drinking tea, and walking her dog Osito. You can find more of Eva's work at www.evalynhcomer.com

“Sonder” – Eva Lynch-Comer

Art by Bus 2024



the mountains rumble

Raising the profile of the TDM organization by associating it with creative, innovative projects.

Cover Art – “*Untitled Abstract, 1985*” – Ray Kass, Blacksburg VA



BETTER BUS STOPS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

Est. 2023



“Community” by Dan Khuel



Better Bus Stops for Neighborhoods

With the support of federal Community Development Block Grant funds, the Regional Commission partnered with Valley Metro, and the Roanoke Arts Commission to coordinate the installation of new, artistically customized bus shelters in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.



Away with the old



in with the new

“Pollinators” by Molly Kernan



Bumble Bee



The Bat



Better Bus Stops for Neighborhoods

- 6 new shelters since 2023
- 6 (+) coming in 2026

Questions?



David Fols
dfols@bayaging.org



Andrea Garland
agarland@rvarc.org



Perrin Palistrant
ppalistrant@omniride.com

Miranda Hellem
mhellem@omniride.com

THANK YOU



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