

## LINDEN HILLS PUBLIC ART - INITIAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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***Goal: to create a work of public art commemorating Brenda Ueland for the Linden Hills neighborhood. This work will celebrate reading, writing, gathering, and the independent spirit of writer and teacher Brenda Ueland.***

The initial proposal includes three interrelated components:

1. Neighborhood Art Objects for Reading and Writing  
(Bigger than a Breadbox / Knighted by the King of Norway)

Curious art containers bigger than a breadbox will be placed in three public and semi-public indoor locations around the neighborhood. Part of the fun of these art objects is that they hide in plain sight, that there's something just a little out of the ordinary about them. These mysterious boxes tempt the user to open them and interact with the art objects inside. The experience will encourage reading, writing, conversation, and a sense of play based on texts by Brenda Ueland. For willing participants, the encounter becomes an interactive art experience.

The boxes will have a related look and feel to help make a connection across the spaces in the neighborhood. The Library has welcomed exploring this initial idea for their space. Other ideal locations could be Wild Rumpus or a coffee shop. The first step would be to engage the community around this idea and find willing partners and available sites to collaborate.

2. Pop-up for Local Knowledge  
(Tell the Truth / And Set an International Swimming Record for Over-80-Year Olds)

A second component of the project is a series of pop-up experiences for cultivating local knowledge and imagining new futures. Using temporary and decorative strategies to transform familiar neighborhood spaces, we will gather together to read some of Brenda Ueland's work, practice deep listening (something Brenda has written about), and enjoy each others' company around various activities—ways of knowing through gentle body movement and tea. Within the eight to ten sessions we will work with neighborhood groups and provide the sessions as a space for processing current ideas and issues important to the community. In preparation for this project proposal, in February 2020, we produced a prototype version of the pop-up experience with a session of tea and conversation. The session was a productive way to get to know some of the community members who have an interest in this public art project.

*"I want to write about the great and powerful thing that listening is. And how we forget it. And how we don't listen to our children, or those we love. And least of all – which is so important too – to those we do not love. But we should."*

### 3. Circles with Writers (Don't Do Anything You Don't Want To Do / But Do Do What You Want To Do)

This third component completes our triptych of reading, gathering, and writing. We want to promote local writers as a way to commemorate Brenda Ueland's legacy as a writer and teacher of writing. Working with the Library, we would like to curate a series of writers and speakers framed around specific quotes and passages from Brenda's own works. Through this framing we could explore many topics important to us today – equity, belonging, and place – among others. This last component will be developed more in process and discussion with the Library and other interested community members in the initial engagement phase.



#### PROJECT TIMELINE:

- March / April
  - Reconnect with Library and neighborhood groups
  - Determine sites for boxes
  - Select and begin work with collaborating artists and designers
- May / June
  - Design phase
  - Start production of boxes & curation of contents
  - Start production of pop-up tea house
- July / August
  - Installation of boxes
- September / October
  - Speakers circles
  - Pop-up experiences
- November
  - End of project

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LIBERATE  
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