



Art + Policy

Critical planning. Creative doing.



July 2024

Art + Policy



To truly Imagine 2050, there is an opportunity to bring in the arts and artists to synthesize and amplify the Regional Development Guide's Values, Goals, and Policy Areas.

- Make policy playful and fun with creative practices and artistic expression
- Break down complex issues through continued arts-based engagement
- Produce art for policy, using our buildings, parks, infrastructure, fleets, and cities as the canvas

Regional Development Guide (RDG)

Policy Plans

Land Use & Housing 

Parks & Open Space 

Transportation 

Water 

Issue Areas: Climate, Equity, Natural Systems, Public Health, Safety, and Well-being

Regional Goals

- Our region is equitable and inclusive
- Our communities are healthy and safe
- Our region is dynamic and resilient
- We lead on addressing climate change
- We protect and restore natural systems

Art + Policy Project Scope

Phases

1. Regional Arts Exhibition

- Four artists create illustrations for regional display (bus & train wraps, park signs, public site posters, etc.)

2. Artist-Led Engagement

- Nine artists do pop-up engagement, any artistic medium

3. Council Engagement Tools

- Games, interactives, Social Pinpoint

4. Community Conversations

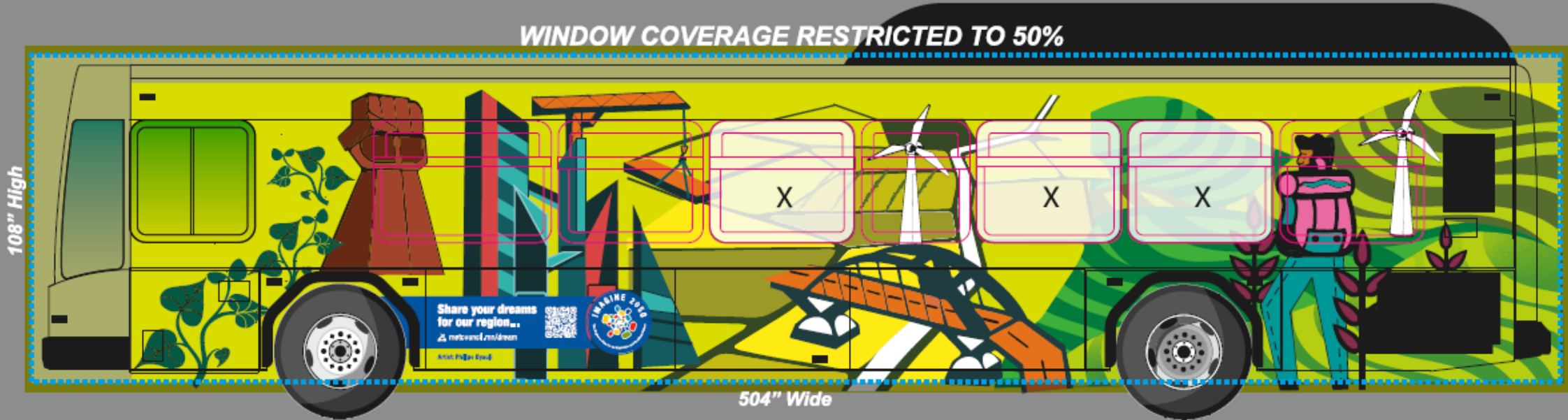
- Multi-part speaker series focused on RDG goals and themes



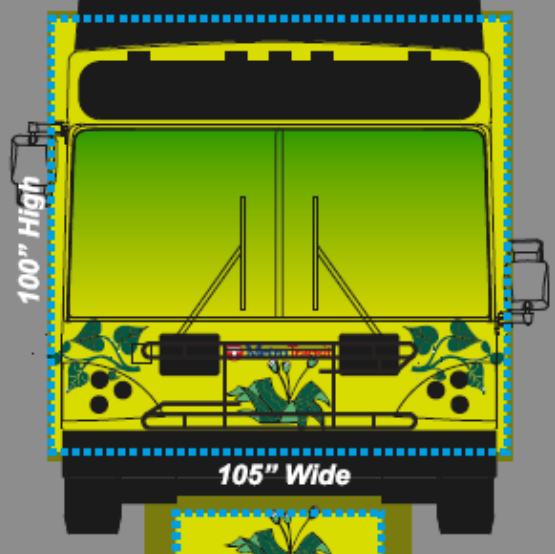
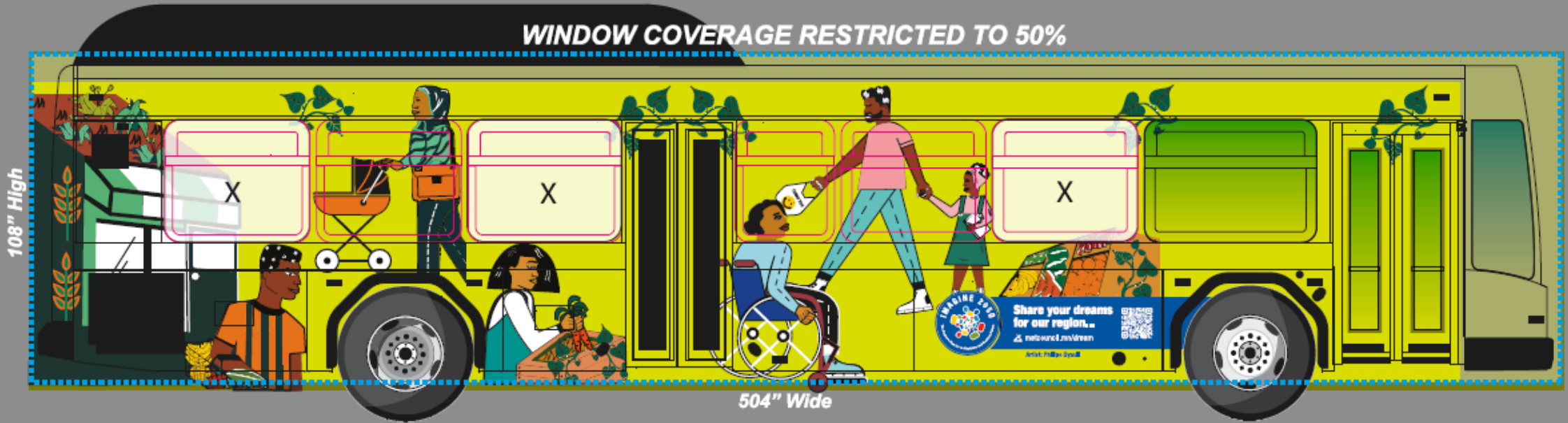
Visual Artists



Philipo Dyauli: Housing and Land Use



For the rear, graphics must be printed in HORIZONTAL panels, not vertical panels



Please provide artwork for this area

Kao Lee Thao: Water

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%



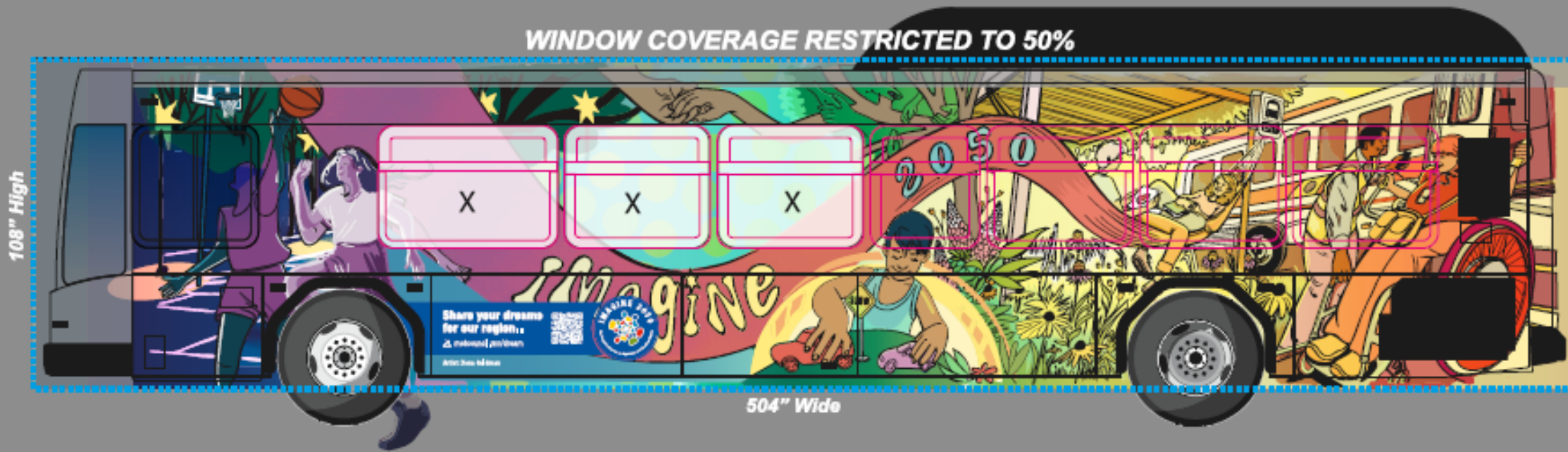
For the rear, graphics must be printed in HORIZONTAL panels, not vertical panels

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%

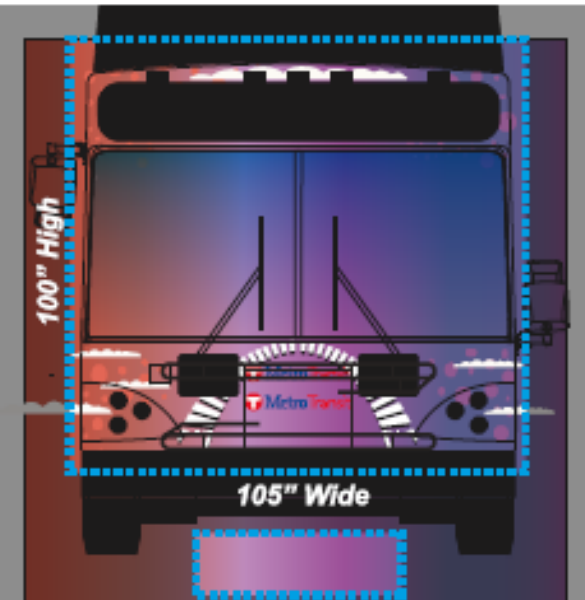
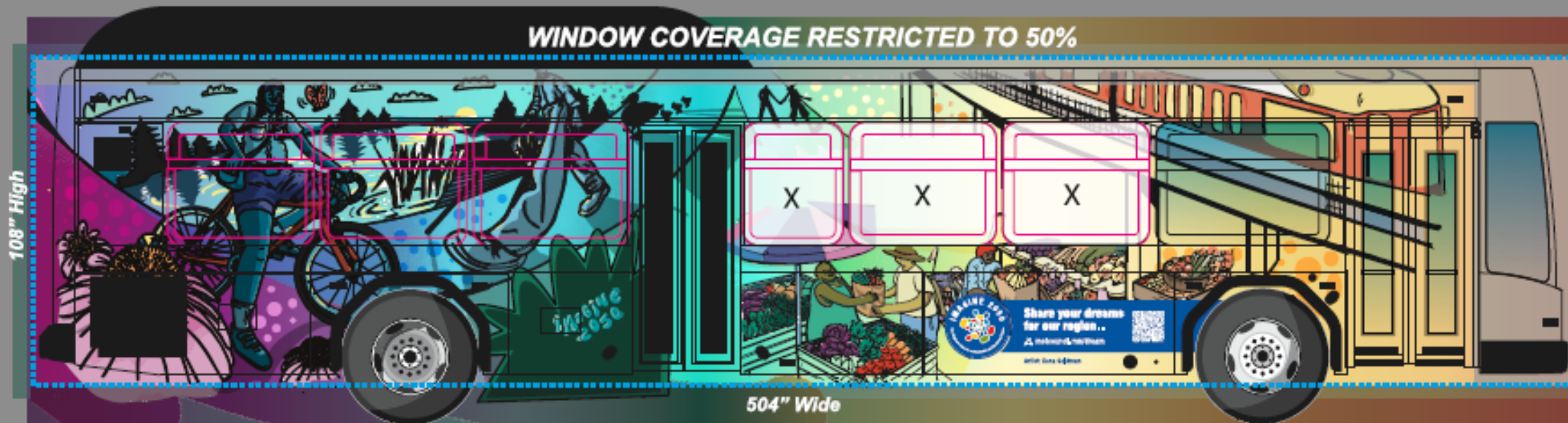


Please provide artwork for this area.

Xena Goldman: Transportation

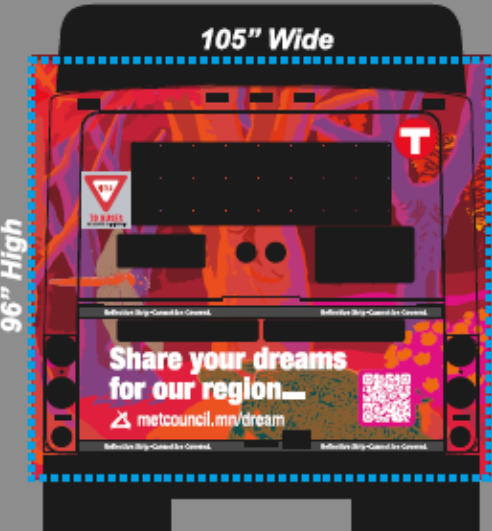
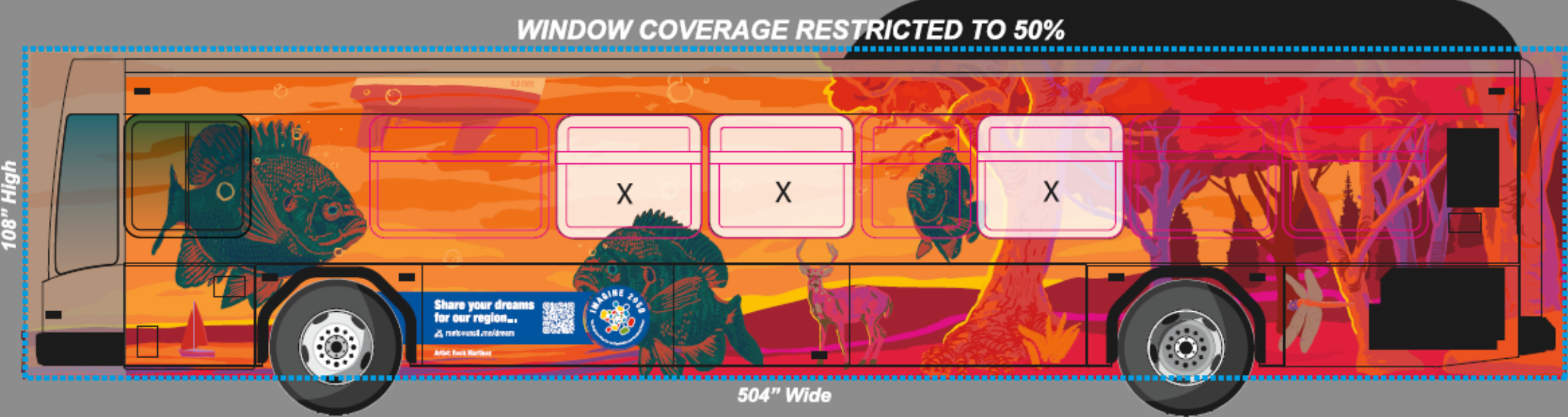


For the rear, graphics must be printed in HORIZONTAL panels, not vertical panels

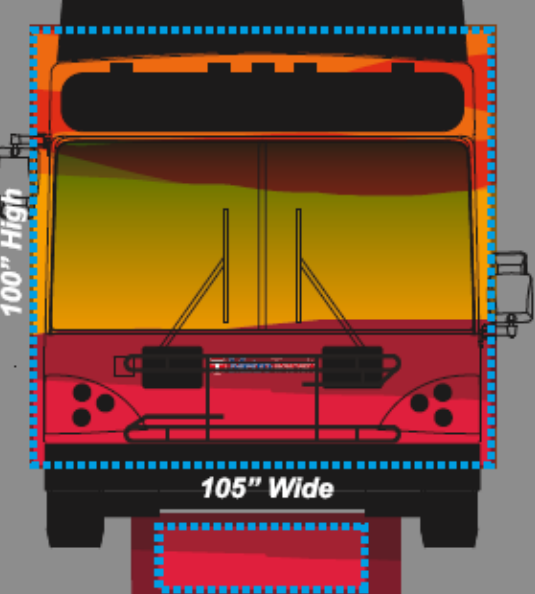
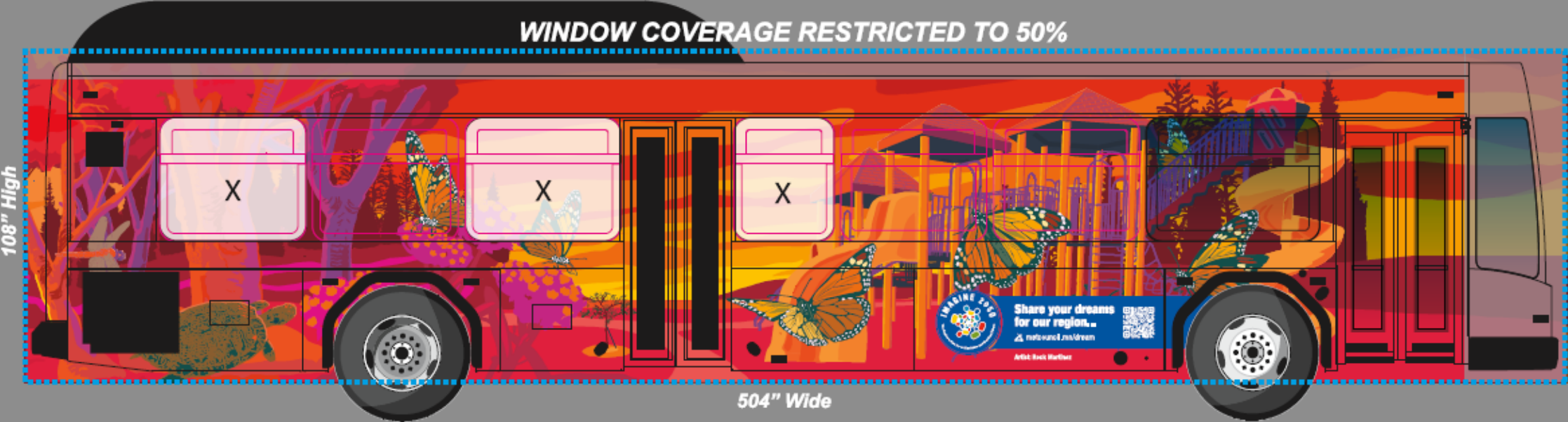


Please provide artwork for this area.
Background color or logo allowed.

Rock Martinez: Parks



For the rear, graphics must be printed in HORIZONTAL panels, not vertical panels



Light Rail

There are a total of 15 windows, 7 1/2 windows must be left completely open (No Creative)

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%



Reflective Strip is placed here on the train wrap. Please do not put any text or critical elements on this area.

There are a total of 15 windows, 7 1/2 windows must be left completely open (No Creative)

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%



Reflective Strip is placed here on the train wrap. Please do not put any text or critical elements on this area.

Light Rail

There are a total of 15 windows, 7 1/2 windows must be left completely open (No Creative)

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%



Reflective Strip is placed here on the train wrap. Please do not put any text or critical elements on this area.

There are a total of 15 windows, 7 1/2 windows must be left completely open (No Creative)

WINDOW COVERAGE RESTRICTED TO 50%



Reflective Strip is placed here on the train wrap. Please do not put any text or critical elements on this area.

Social Pinpoint

Inviting public participation

- Collecting public input and comment through QR code on buses and at engagement events
- Funnel findings to agency partners for comprehensive planning



Share your dream for
our region...

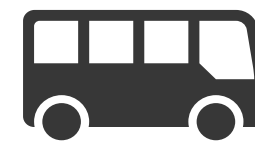
Community Engagement Artists



Thomasina Top Bear (Creative Enterprise Zone)



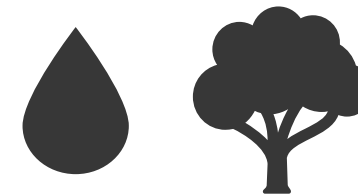
As a part of the Creative Enterprise Zone's Chroma Zone Mural Festival, Thomasina will lead the festival's first community mural project, speaking to the future of our region.



James Everest



James will create interactive sound gardens in our Regional Parks showcasing connections between parks and water and prompting conversations about the future of these systems.



Peter Haakon Thompson



Peter will host flag making workshops where community members can visually represent their hopes for the future of Met Council systems, with flags then displayed in public spaces.



Racquel Banaszak



Racquel will host art-making workshops with Indigenous youth, looking to the future and exploring topics of land use, the environment, and Indigenous knowledge. These ideas will be visually translated through a community mural.



Witt Siasoco



Witt will host a series of community conversations and interviews and create 8-10 portraits fabricated on metal signs, focusing on people not traditionally engaged in housing policy.



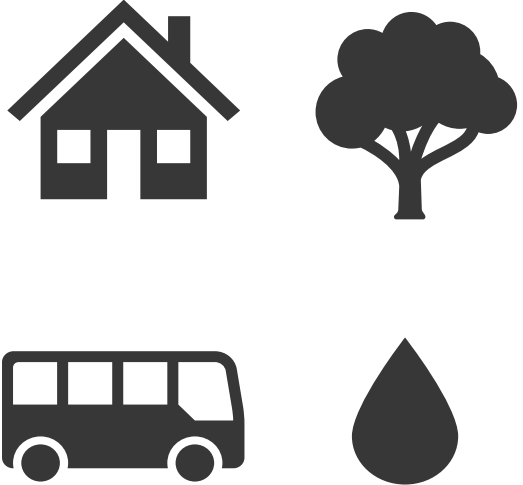
Con Rice



Con will create artistic projections across 3-4 sites to celebrate water and its future, focusing on hidden water systems and environmental justice.



Luis Fitch



Luis will design a poster series visualizing Council policy areas and highlighting the RDG in new, more accessible ways for display across the region on transit stops, US Bank Stadium, and other prominent locations.

Corrin Wendel



Corrin will host seven hands-on youth and family workshops collaborating with Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other youth serving organizations in each of the seven counties.



Melodee Strong



Melodee will host 3-4 art-based engagement pop ups, working with students in North Minneapolis to explore select policy areas.



Community Engagement Artists

Schedule of events

- **Racquel Banaszak:** Workshop Series (July 29–August 1)
- **Corrin Wendel:** Youth events (August and September)
- **James Everest:** Sound Garden (September 14–15; September 20)
- **Thomasina Top Bear:** Community Mural Creation (September 17–21)
- **Peter Haakon Thompson:** Flag Workshops (Weekends in September)
- **Con Rice:** Projection events (October 12–13; other dates TBD)
- **Melodee Strong:** Pop-up engagement with youth (Fall dates TBD)

Artists Witt Siasoco and Luis Fitch will not have specific events, as their projects are visual based and will be constructed through one-on-one interactions.

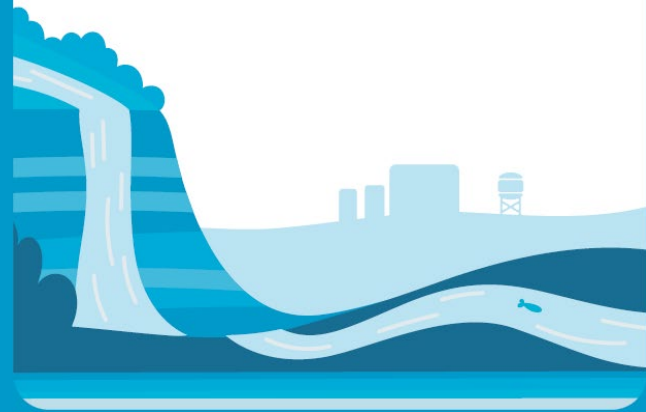
Playing Policy



Playing Policy



We are creative and innovative at addressing the threat of climate change.



Mental and emotional well-being is prioritized through access to the outdoors.



Our region grows in places well-served by transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.



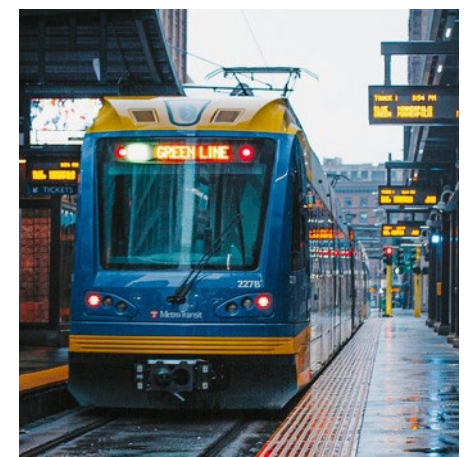
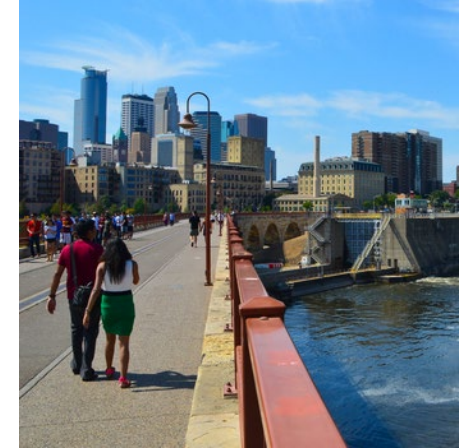
People can increase physical activity with more opportunities to walk, roll, or bike.



Community Conversations

Multi-part Speaker Series (Early Spring 2025)

- Featuring thought leaders in conversation with artists
- Foster dialogue and connection in new ways
- Celebrate the launching and start of Imagine 2050 implementation
- Partner with arts and cultural institutions with a regional draw
- Possible topics include:
 - Climate change and environmental justice
 - Combatting loneliness through social infrastructure
- Other topics you would like to see?



Discussion

Questions

- How can this project support engagement in your community?
- How else can we collaborate?
- How else can artists engage in the Council's work?





Amanda Lovelee

Senior Outreach Coordinator
Amanda.Lovelee@metc.state.mn.us

Ellie Hohulin

Cultural Policy Fellow
eleanor.hohulin@metc.state.mn.us

Erika Herrmann

Associate Planner
erika.herrmann@metc.state.mn.us

Samantha Lee

Creative Engagement Intern
samantha.lee@metc.state.mn.us

Henry McCarthy

Senior Environmental Scientist
henry.mccarthy@metc.state.mn.us

