

ON
OP

ARTS
FOR
EVERY
BODY

One Nation/One Project
RESEARCH BRIEF #2

MAY 2024

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

One Nation/One Project + Arts for EveryBody

Arts for EveryBody is a national arts and health communications campaign, led by One Nation/One Project (ONOP), a national initiative designed to engage the arts to strengthen the social fabric of communities in the United States on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ONOP initiative leverages collaborations between the arts, public health, and municipal sectors to build health, health equity, and wellbeing, and the campaign is designed to communicate the relationship between the arts and health to the general public.



Photo by: Scout Tufankjian, youth dancing at the Caring & Sharing Academy, Gainesville, FL

How and Why this Data was Collected

In 2022 and 2023, *One Nation/One Project* conducted site visits in the first nine communities participating in the project to get to know the communities and to engage in project planning. At this time, two One Nation/One Project leaders, Michael Rohd and Christina Eskridge, both with extensive backgrounds in theater, created a sensory exercise activity that **invited community members to reflect on and describe the sights, sounds, smells, touch and tastes unique to their communities**. This sensory data, and the resulting data poems, were intended to create a “portrait” of each community to help ground ONOP’s research and researchers in the words and experiences of each community’s members.

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

How the Poems Were Created

Nine groups of people in nine communities spoke the words that made these poems, in response to the question:

What do you see/hear/smell/touch/taste that is unique to your [community]?

Following the sensory exercise, *found poems* - poems composed directly from participants' responses- were created by *Gray Davidson Carroll*, a member of the Research and Impact team with extensive personal and professional experience in writing and performing poetry. These poems were then reviewed by the Director of National Research and Impact, Dr. Jill Sonke, and subsequently by members of the One Nation/One Project team who had been present during the visit. After this initial process of review and revision, the poems were then sent to the leadership teams of each participating community for a final round of review and edits. With this community review and additional revisions in some cases, the poems were given to the community. **This represented the first return of data collected within the ONOP research agenda, in keeping with the initiative's commitment to local data ownership.**

Why Poetry?

In the ONOP initiative, art and science are not separate or disparate but are innately interwoven. Poetry and research are both tools of inquiry - of asking and answering - as well as of communicating meaning and lived experience. Poetry, at its best, interrogates what it means to be human, what it means to move in relationship to the world around us. Research, at its best, is an artform that uncovers that which may be hidden. **We believe that the arts are a powerful means for communicating in a uniquely holistic and embodied way**, and that poems made of the words of ONOP community members are uniquely well suited for creating community portraits that can hold a diversity of experiences and perspectives.



Photo by: Scout Tufankjian, Musicians participating in a music circle in Edinburg, TX

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Phillips County, Arkansas

Water is Everything Here

Jesus met the woman at the well and gave her water
 Auntie taught niece how to boil water
 Father made sure family never went to bed
 without the water bucket being filled

Collected the rainwater
 in barrels for animals
 for washing cloths
 Have to pump the water
 Have to have water to prime the pump
 But believe me, there's nothing better than pumped water

The land moves uniquely here
 Where the St Frances ties into the Mississippi
 We owe everything to that river
 Fishing holes and fishing lakes
 Levees and levee roads

High road, low road
 Crowley's Ridge
 stretching from Missouri
 to the edge of Helena

Water is everything here
 We boil water every day and every night before bed
 Here we know unboiled water makes kids sick
 Boil water for drinking and for babies bottles

Playing in puddles
 when we were little
 because we didn't have pools to swim in
 we used to swim in ditches after rain

continued on next page >>>

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Water tastes and smells like chemicals here
 Gravel in it like the silt
 The sandy bottom of the river
 There are churches here
 A church on every corner
 What this place looks like is different
 depending on whose histories get told
 The air smells uniquely here
 Cotton seed oil and fertilizer
 Sticky sweat of humidity
 Too many chemicals
 The gas, burning, burning
 The trash
 The fields

The earth tastes uniquely here
 The catfish and barbecue
 The dirt and field peas
 Okra and tomatoes

The sky sounds uniquely here
 The geese and crop dusters
 The talk and tractors
 Barges and trucks
 The thunder
 The rain
 The singing
 singing
 singing

The earth looks uniquely here
 Cotton and cotton gins
 Wildflowers blowing in the wind

We need good, clean water for fishing, and flushing
 for showering and washing
 for keeping the house clean
 for making tea and lemonade

Water is everything here.



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Harlan County, Kentucky

Love of This Place

Here
you will see mountains
see fog and familiar faces
hear waterfalls and coal trucks
4-wheelers and folks walking the bypass
See the miners and the lightning bugs
lighting the night sky like the stars

Here you will hear frogs
hear crickets and coyotes
dogs barking and the chirping of cicadas
Here you will hear trains; the grind of heavy equipment
Here you will see fireworks
Hear gunshots and air evacs
And above it all
you will hear laughter
and you will hear music

Here you will smell rain
Smell the jasmine and honeysuckle
Sulfur and mine runoff
Here you will smell forest fires and fresh cut grass
Smell country breakfasts and Grippo's seasonings
Diesel and wet dogs and the good BBQ
And if you're in the right place at the right time
you just might smell the ramps

Here you'll taste Bennie's BBQ
Taste chicken dumplings'
Fried baloney and bourbon
Taste mint juleps and moonshine
Tomatoes and cornbread
Biscuits & gravy

continued on next page >>>



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Hear you will find robins
Find black bear and deer
Find snakes and kudzu
Churches and tipples

Hear you will touch
the dirt of the garden
Touch the briars and coal breezes
Here you will touch hoe handles
Feel your feet against the road
Here you will find trees
the leaves of changing seasons
Here, do you hear it?
You will touch the running of creek water
Will touch the wildflowers

And here
here
here
here
here
you will touch love
the love of this place

Here.



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Rhineland, Wisconsin

Community Poem

What you see here is a canvas
Dirt roads & deep ruts
Open water & ambition

Here you will see the city
quiet & safe
& if you look hard enough
you might just see the real Hodag

Here you will hear quiet
hear laughter and loons
industry & eagles
Will hear the fish jumping
in and out
of water
The snorting of deer
wind through the trees
The howling of coyotes

Hay! Here you will smell hay
will smell the paper mills & pine trees
Diesel & fresh cut grass
The crisp leaves & CT's deli
The milkweed
& manure

continued on next page >>>



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Here
 You will touch pinecones & snow
 cameras and canoe paddles
 fish & fishing rods
 will touch the grass & fur
 And here, yes, too,
 here you will touch guns & guts
 touch fur & gravel
 skateboards & the freedom
 to appreciate what you have

Our community is uniquely here
 Our beauty is uniquely here

Here
 community means family

Here
 Our stories shape
 who we are
 Here.



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Providence, Rhode Island

Our Home

Here you will touch the morning
Touch green & transformation
Season to season

Gray & dirty in winter
becoming beautiful
in spring

And when summer comes
you'll see people
sitting outside

to gossip
about everything
and nothing at all

Here you will touch community
Touch things in the making
Laughter & color

Handshakes
from gentlemen
in the street every morning

No one holds
my hands
in other cities

Here you will taste diversity
If you walk through Washington Park
you'll smell the industry

Oil & asphalt
Rice & stewed beans
Cookies baking in morning

continued on next page >>>

Nuestro Hogar

Aquí tocarás la mañana
Touch verde & transformación
Estación a estación

Gris y sucia en invierno
se transforma bella
en la primavera

Y cuando llegue el verano
verás gente
sentada afuera

para chismear
sobre todo
y nada

Aquí tocarás la comunidad
Toca cosas en la fabricación
De risas y colores

Apretones de manos
de señores
en la calle cada mañana

Nadie me toma
de la mano
en otras ciudades

Aquí saborearas la diversidad
Si caminas por Washington Park
olerás la industria

Aceite y asfalto
Arroz y frijoles guisados
Galletas horneadas por la mañana

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Ham & cheese
from the local markets
Frozen lemonade in summer

Here you will smell fresh air
flowers and food
soups & seasonings

You will hear guys
screaming in the yard
Sometimes I hear

sirens screaming
and every time I hear them
I pray

and every time
I hear the police
I get nervous

Here you will feel loss
In the pandemic we lost
many in our community

Here you will feel dancing
hear children & language
moving together

Bachata in the street
People laughing
Birds fluttering & peeping

Here you will feel the ocean
The ocean feels different here
When you touch this place

you won't forget it
Providence is our city
Providence is our home

Jamón y queso
de los mercados locales
Limonada congelada en verano

Aquí olerás aire fresco
flores y comida
sopa y condimentos

Escucharás a los chicos
gritando en el patio
A veces oigo

sirenas gritando
y cada vez que las escucho
rezo

y cada vez
que escucho a la policía
me pongo nervioso

Aquí sentirás pérdida
En la pandemia perdimos
a muchos en nuestra comunidad

Aquí sentirás bailar
escuchar a los niños y el lenguaje
moviéndose juntos

Bachata en la calle
Gente riendo
Pájaros revoloteando y espiando

Aquí sentirás el océano
El océano se siente diferente aquí
Cuando tocas este lugar

No lo olvidarás
Providence es nuestra ciudad
Providence es nuestro hogar

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

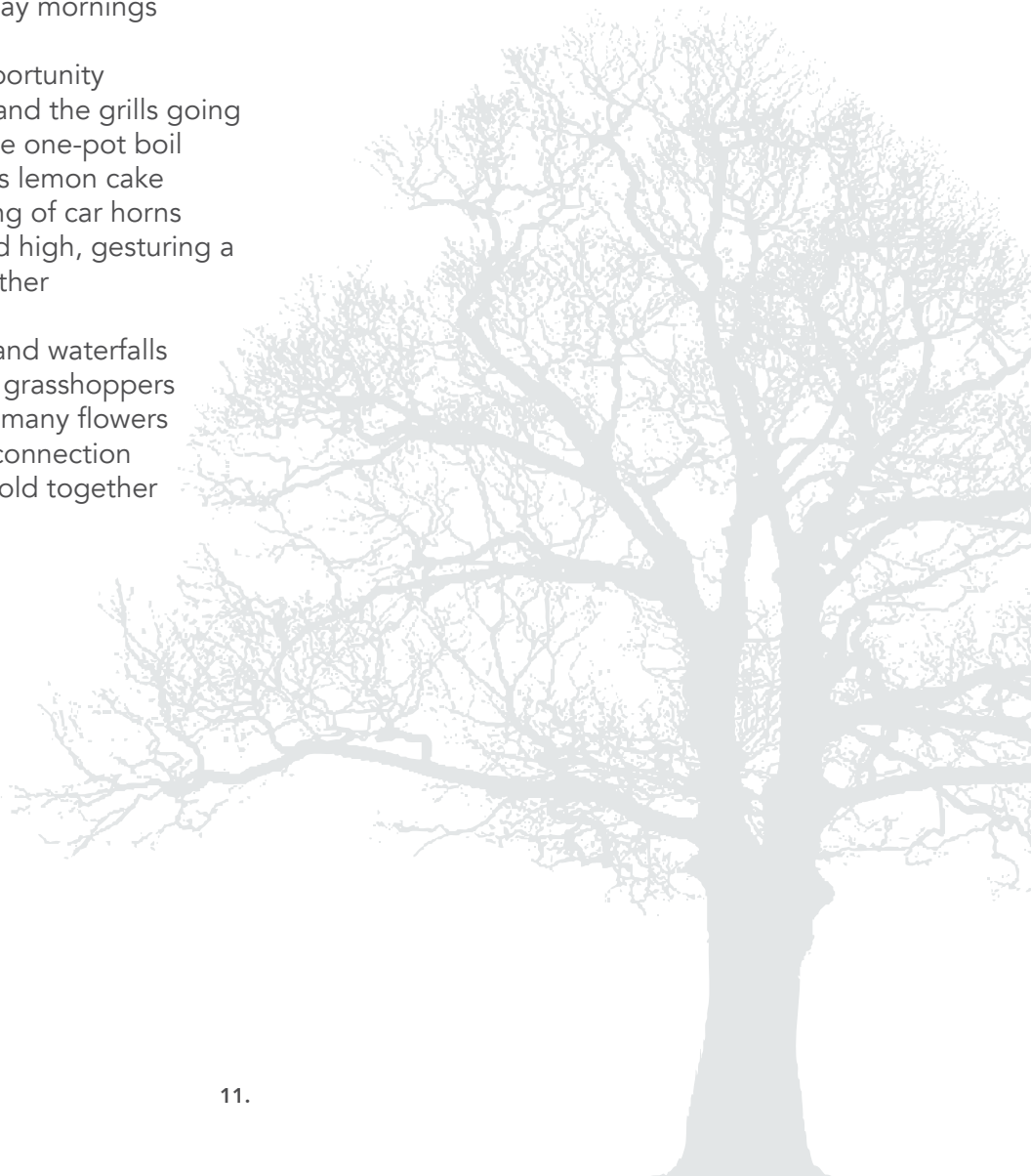
Utica, Mississippi

Here/

you will find Memories of Depot Street
 the Breakfast Committee who hang out
 at the pit stop every morning
 Small town- see buildings that aren't up to code
 Here, the people help each other. You'll find them here
 Larry on the corner, children on bikes
 People in their yards on Sunday mornings

Here, you'll find land and opportunity
 Will smell the sawmill's dust, and the grills going
 taste the hog cracklins and the one-pot boil
 And if you're lucky, Grandma's lemon cake
 Here, you will hear the honking of car horns
 See people throwin' one hand high, gesturing a
 greeting and hugging each other

Here, you'll see motorcycles and waterfalls
 Will find cast-iron skillets and grasshoppers
 the black bears, deer, and so many flowers
 you'll find an atmosphere of connection
 here, you'll find, we hold the old together



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Intersections

Here you will touch cobblestones
 Feel your feet against the sidewalk
 against the fresh-cut grass
 Touch the leaves of the magnolia tree
 Touch the sand of the beach
 & clay of the earth
 Here, you will touch connection

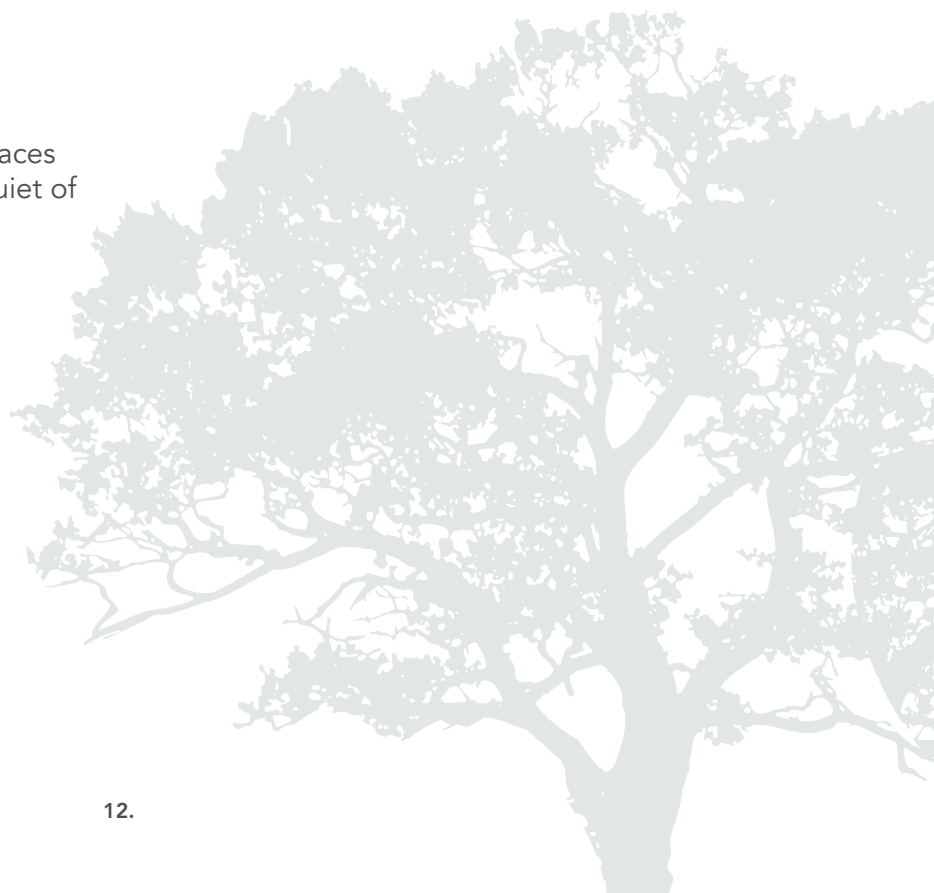
Buildings and trees
 Art & families
 Here you will see diversity
 & disinvestment
 See streets & segregation
 Roads & change
 Real estate signs
 & too much trash
 Major intersections
 & changing landscapes

Here, you will find poverty & vacant spaces
 colleges & chemicals & the peaceful quiet of
 night

Will see churches & children playing
 Hear church bells & children crying
 Gunshots & the flash of sirens
 Helicopters & places left behind
 Here the behind
 have been left behind

Here you will hear fireworks
 sounding from the stadium
 Hear music & festivals

continued on next page >>>



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Here, you will smell sugar cane
Smell flowers in the spring
Gardenias, poking their way
into the world

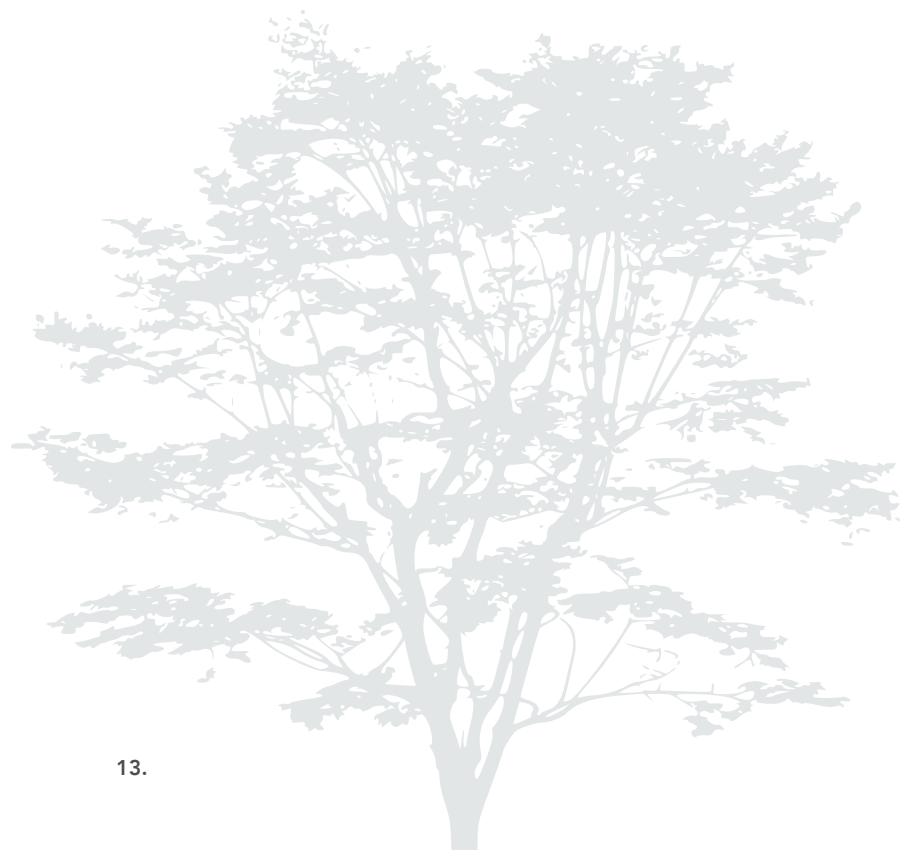
Here, you will smell cookouts
& collard greens
Taste fried-chicken & fish
Sweet potatoes & honey
Muscadine grapes
& the rush of wine
Fresh-cut grass
on Saturdays
Tobacco & the sticky-sweet
of donuts frying

Here you will hear the churn of trains
Hear barking and find dogs on the loose
Through the hills & changing seasons

Here
you will touch cobblestones
Touch buildings and trees
Poverty & vacant spaces
Church bells & the sounds of children
Here you will find fireworks
& the smell of sugar cane
Cookouts & connection
& the churn of trains

Here

You will find us at the intersections



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Edinburg, Texas

Here, You Will See

Here, you will see sky
and open spaces
The flatlands and children playing
Corn, cotton, and sorghum
stretching up to the sky
The cactus and citrus flower
The schools and sun

Here, there are trucks and canals
The palm trees and the birds
flying over the beach
Sand and squirrels
Mesquite trees
Parties and sunsets
And sunrises
more beautiful than anything else

Here, you will hear music
Music that crosses generations
You will hear coyotes and cicadas
The construction and the rumble of trains
Traffic and dogs barking
And as always, children
And everywhere,

Here you smell sugar cane burning
Smell heat on the asphalt roads
Smell water from the canals
Here you smell the ocean
Smell fresh corn tortillas and BBQ

continued on next page >>>

Aquí Se Ve

Aquí se ve cielo
y espacios abiertos
La llanura y niños jugando
Maíz, algodón, y sorgo
extendiéndose hasta el cielo
El cactus y flores cítricas
Escuelas y sol

Aquí se ve camiones y canales
Las palmeras y los pájaros
sobrevolando la playa
Arena y ardillas
Árboles de mezquite
Fiestas y puestas de sol
Y amaneceres
más hermosos que cualquier otra cosa

Aquí se oye música
Música que cruza generaciones
Se oyen coyotes y chicharras
La construcción y el estruendo de trenes
Tráfico y perros ladrando
Por siempre, se oyen niños
Y en todas partes, se oye el español

Aquí hueles quema de caña de azúcar
Hueles calor en las calles asfaltadas
Hueles agua de los canales
Aquí hueles el océano
Hueles tortillas frescas de maíz y barbacoa

ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Here, too, you can taste BBQ
Taste cilantro and cumin spice
Onions and sauce
Beers and cigarettes
Chamoy and avocado
Salt and citrus and chili powder and tequila
Here there are slushies and sweet bread
and the lemons of the valley

Here, you touch the cactus and the thorns
(and the aloe when you need it)
Touch the sea breezes
and the sap of the mezquite trees
Touch dust
and the red rock on the gravel roads
Grapefruits and flowers
Humidity and wet grass
And before, and after everything
here, you will touch the dew in the morning
Here, you will touch here.

Aquí también, se puede degustar barbacoa
Degustar cilantro y especia de comino
Cebollas y salsa
Cervezas y cigarrillos
Chamoy y aguacate
Sal y cítrico y trechas y tequila
Aquí sobran granizados y pan dulce
y los limones del valle

Aquí se toca el cactus y la espina
(y el aloe cuando lo necesitas)
Se siente la brisa marina
y la savia de los árboles mezquite
Sientes el polvo
y caliche en el camino de ripio
Las toronjas y flores
Humedad y hierba húmeda
Y tanto antes como después de todo
aquí si toca el rocío en la mañana
Aquí se toca aquí



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Chicago, Illinois

Sweet & Bitter

Here you will see diversity.
Hear traffic horns and children laughing.
Smell spices and curries; BBQ in the summer.

Hear you will taste coffee,
wild onion, and Harold's Chicken
& that good pizza cuz we do it different here.
Here you will touch greystones,
& exposed brick, touch the metal gates
of apartment buildings; flower petals, morning dew.

Here you will smell fresh cut grass
Smell the water from the reclamation plant,
donut shops and fresh bread from the bakery

and the Greenline overhead
Hear the sounds of Lake Michigan hitting the rocks
Touch the sand of the beach, taste choice & connection.

Here you will see segregation,
hear police sirens, the ambulances wailing.
Hear hellos in the streets on the South & West Side.

Here you will find Pride & Hope
Hear backyard music, drums & people singing
And the giggles of children, laughing & frolicking.



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Chicago, Illinois

When We Dream

When we dream
the future comes back
tasting sweet, with a little bitter.

Lemon drops & Starburst
It is peaceful, in the dream
There are no guns. There is no violence.

Difference is respected in the dream.
We can see people coming together
to restore the rich history of our community

can hear the sounds of ice cream trucks,
see children laughing together in a safe space.
There, we can see other people's dreams.

What has been torn down will be rebuilt.
The community coming together from birth to old age
When people hold out their hands, life gathers in the palm

In the dream there is harmony
There is laughing & singing,
fresh air & clean linen.

And the wind is lightly blowing.



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Gainesville, Florida

Here We Dream

Here you will find art
Find community

Gators and
organic markets

Different accents
Slang on humid air

Concrete buildings
Graffiti walls

Love bugs
and local parks

Here you will see owls
See history

The clock tower
and museum

Bullet grapes
and loquat trees

Here you will taste food
Sweet berries from the market

Smell coffee
on swampy air

Here you will see joggers
and reckless driving

continued on next page >>>



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

See nature
& littering
Children playing
Angry voices

Here, we know gun violence
does not only happen in gangs

Know what it means
to be without support

Here, you will find
the Forgiveness Bell

A reminder
to hold each other

Divided people
seeking connection

Here we dream of vibrance
Safety and inspiration

Youths' voices
Hope that we'll be something

Public college
An end of violence

A spirit of reciprocity
What can I learn? What can I teach?

Inspiration & passion
Freedom of expression

continued on next page >>>



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Here we dream of art
Of celebration & creation

The community coming together
across divides. Race, class, ability

Connection across cultures
Working for a better environment

Building community
ownership & pride

Here, we dream of a stage
where everyone can hold the mic

Where everyone has space to speak



ONOP RESEARCH BRIEF #2

What Do You See Here? Data Poems as Community Portraits - MAY 2024

Acknowledgements

This report was authored by Gray Davidson Carroll, MPH, and Dr. Jill Sonke, and includes the direct words and editorial input of community members in Chicago, IL, Edinburg, TX, Gainesville, FL, Harlan County, KY, Phillips County, AK, Providence, RI, Rhinelander, WI, Utica, MS and Winston-Salem, NC.

Poems in this brief were authored by Gray Davidson Carroll in collaboration with participating communities and with editorial support from Dr. Jill Sonke. Additional review was provided by members of One Nation/One Project's leadership team, including Michael Rohd, Christina Eskridge, Nicole Morgan, Clyde Valentin, Lear deBessonnet, Tyler Thomas and Georgia Gempler of the National League of Cities. Community participants included among others, Andrea Gluckman, Carlton Turner, Carrie Mikalauski, Kathryn Handzlik, Melinda Childs, Nicole Garneau, Robert Gipe, Trice Hickman-Hayes, Chase Law, Susan Brittain, Shannon Stokes, Lynda Summerlin Lotich, Kevin Bitterman, Denise Price, Leo Rucker, Mona King, Lové Lemon, Tonya Atkins, Renee Griffin, Yosi Alvarez, Marianne DiNapoli-Mylet, Michele Ward and Brisa Areli Muñoz.

ONOP is supported by partnership with the University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine and the National League of Cities.



One Nation/One Project Partners is fiscally sponsored by Tides Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

ONOP is supported by Anne Clarke Wolff and Ted Wolff, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Create Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, Frances Clayton & Jessi Hempel, Hull Family Foundation, Jason Cooper, Katie McGrath & J.J. Abrams Family Foundation, Kevin Ryan, The Kresge Foundation, Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, Lyle Chatelain Family Foundation, Mellon Foundation, The Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation, Sozosei Foundation, and The Tow Foundation.