

# REAL STORIES

An immersive art installation & spoken-word experience



# ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Real Stories is a traveling art installation and spoken-word series amplifying the voices of college students facing homelessness and basic-needs insecurities. Each portrait and performance captures courage, creativity, and resilience.

This spring, we're bringing Real Stories outdoors for the first time, in collaboration with Third Thursday, Near Southside's signature art-walk event. The installation will transform the South Main micro-park into an open-air gallery, blending art, performance, and community engagement.

## WHY IT MATTERS

In the wake of **Texas SB17**, legislation restricting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion programs on campuses, many students have lost access to spaces that affirm and protect them. Compounded with federal policies, hosting Real Stories at college campuses is no longer an option.

Real Stories at Third Thursday offers a new stage: a civic and cultural space where student champions can be their most authentic selves and where community members can stand in solidarity through art, empathy, and action. It is a space for us to continue our journey to raise awareness and drive change towards this critical topic.

## THE VENUE

Third Thursday engages the vibrant network of businesses operating in Near Southside to house artist and art work. Real Stories will occupy the micropark that anchors the entrance into South Main. The experience will engage patrons and gift them with an expanded awareness on the challenges students face as they pursue their education.

## DATE

**September 17, 2025**

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

## LOCATION

**South Main Micro-Park**

Fort Worth, TX

# PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Engagement Area

South Main MicroPark  
Main  
Installation

W.A. Powers Co., Inc

E Daggett Ave

S Main St

Executive Protective Systems

E Vickery Blvd

XS Roofing and Construction

Gordi Tatt

S Calhoun St

South Main MicroPark  
Main  
Installation

Quickway Carriers

W.A. Powers Co., Inc

Bryan Ave

E Daggett Ave

E Daggett Ave

Bryan Ave

Jar-Tex Industries

S Calhoun St

S Main St

Daggett Ave

Doggie Diggs

E Broadway Ave

E Broadway Ave

HopFusion Ale Works

The Bowery

SITE



# SITE



# INSPIRATION



Many of the plaques contain the following text:

- 神福八 (Shin-fuku-hachi)
- 願主 (Wisher)
- Various prayers in Chinese, English, and Spanish, such as "Praying for my husband's full recovery", "Wishing for good health", and "I wish for my parents' health and happiness".
- Illustrations of swans, boats, and figures.

# INSPIRATION



あけの初め  
つげもろり  
あ  
梅の花  
紅い色さる

五才の  
善長公

徳戸  
天満宮

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## PRESENTING - \$10,000

### "Center Stage for Change."

- (1) Large printed portrait (20x20 in)
- Logo on event signage, website, and all press releases
- Feature spotlight on COACT's social media and newsletter
- Recognition in opening remarks and reception program
- Opportunity for representative to welcome guests
- Supports installation build-out, content development, and artist recruitment



## LEGACY SPONSOR - \$5,000

### "Center Stage for Change."

- "Stories that shape our future."
- (1) Printed portrait (12x12 in)
- Logo on event signage and digital marketing
- Recognition during public reception and social media posts
- Helps host the Student Champions Reception, including stipends for two storytellers to share their lived experience on stage



## KEYNOTE SPONSOR - \$2,500

### "Lifting local artists and voices."

- (1) Printed portrait (12x12 in)
- Logo on social media graphics and printed materials
- Supports recruitment and compensation of local artists contributing to the Third Thursday event



## COMMUNITY PARTNER - \$1,000

### "Art with impact."

- Logo or name listed on event signage and website
- Recognition in event program and thank-you posts
- Helps fund materials for storytelling props and art displays around South Main



## FRIEND OF REAL STORIES - \$500

### "Every portrait tells a truth."

- Name listed on community donor board
- Invitation to the Student Champions Reception
- Recognition in COACT newsletter



# ADD ON OPPORTUNITIES

## STORY CIRCLE - \$1,500



**"Where art, truth, and healing meet."**

Support a live spoken-word performance led by student champions and local poets sharing personal narratives of survival, courage, and hope.

- Logo featured on performance signage and program listing
- Recognition during emcee introduction and COACT's social media reels
- Reserved seating for sponsor guests at the live performance
- Optional opportunity for representative to introduce or close the segment
- Inclusion in post-event thank-you reel featuring performers and sponsors

## STUDENT STIPEND FUND — \$2,000



**"Investing in the storytellers themselves."**

The heart of Real Stories lies with our student champions—individuals who courageously share their lived experiences of housing insecurity and resilience

- Acknowledgment as a Student Champion Sponsor on signage and website
- Option to be paired with a student story (with consent) to learn their journey
- Recognition in COACT's newsletter and donor impact stories
- Invitation to private meet-and-greet reception with student storytellers
- Inclusion in COACT's annual report impact section

## EDUCATIONAL PARTNER SESSION — \$1,500



**"Bridging awareness with action."**

Sponsor a brief pop-up session or panel in partnership with advocates, faculty, and community leaders to discuss college homelessness, policy barriers, and solutions following SB17.

- Recognition in event program and digital promotions
- Logo placement on session signage and discussion materials
- Opportunity to nominate a moderator or representative speaker
- Inclusion in COACT's advocacy communications post-event

## PHOTOGRAPHY & STORY ARCHIVE — \$1,000



**"Preserving every moment, every voice."**

Support the documentation of Real Stories through professional photography and digital storytelling. Your gift ensures the exhibit's legacy continues to inspire beyond Third Thursday.

- Credit in photo gallery and COACT's online archive
- Recognition in press releases and post-event media kits
- Exclusive access to select photos for sponsor's internal communications

# HOW TO SUPPORT

## SPONSORSHIP

To schedule your sponsorship to contribute to lasting impact, please use the following QR Code or visit the webpage below!



## DONATION

For small gifts, consider an individual donation to help us with raising funds to host Real Stories at Third Thursday. Every dollar helps us with raising awareness and supporting the students directly impacted by college homelessness.



## PROJECT INFO AND HISTORY

To learn more about the project, please feel free to visit the website below or use the following QR Code.



## LINKS

### Project Webpage:

[www.coactntx.org/real-stories](http://www.coactntx.org/real-stories)

### Sponsorship / Donation Information:

[www.coactntx.org/real-stories-info](http://www.coactntx.org/real-stories-info)



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