

# Listening through Seeing

A photovoice project by youth artists from Van Go Arts, Inc.

Conducted as part of the Lawrence-Douglas County Community Health Assessment

Coordinated by the KU Center for Community Health and Development &

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

August 16, 2017

# About

- Van Go Mobile Arts Inc and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department partnered to complete a photovoice exploring how identified health issues are experienced in Lawrence.
- A total of 10, 18-24 year olds participated in the project.
- After completing a photography assignment, participants identified themes and captions for the more than 130 photos taken. Participants curated the photos and selected 21 photos that reflected their understanding the identified health issues.

Theme: Drugs and alcohol are a very public thing, that we are silent about.

“It could have been anyone who dropped it, and we walk past it everyday without saying anything.”

Photo credit: Alex



Theme: Cigarettes are everywhere. They are part of the scenery.

“Tar, ash, and smoke, what could be more natural? The cigarette butts are in bloom. Prohibited by law with up to \$5,000 in fines, not to only mention poisoning the air, water, and your own lungs.”

Photo credit: Donovan



Theme: Signs are background, part of visual noise.

“So much noise, what do we listen to?”



Theme: We know about the homeless, but do we really see it?

“This is where I sleep. Where do you?”

Photo credit: Alex



# Theme: Stigma for homelessness

“I feel like that some people that are homeless always seem to be down, but every time I walk by this man he always seems to be in the best way. He’s never down and always happy. He always talks about what he has going on in his life.”

Photo credit: Donovan



Theme: Things are being built, but not for those who need them

“New housing can’t help the homeless”

Photo credit: Alex



# Theme: Hope and class

“These photos convey the stark contrast in ability to feel hopeful between people with money, class, privilege, and people who are living with the homeless. This mural is in an alley that often offers shade to homeless people asking for money. Hope relies on our current situation and can aid in mental healing. Assisting each other in achieving our individual goals is how we allow hope to homeless people and people living with disabilities”

Photo credit: Kyana and Jax



## Theme: Children are affected

“Everyone has potential, but it could be lost without help.”



# Theme: Lack of sidewalks

“There isn’t a sidewalk but over time it seems like some people made their own path. I think that there can be a sidewalk so people don’t have to walk on the grass”

Photo credit: Donovan



# Theme: Lack of sidewalks

“Lack of sidewalks can be dangerous because people are forced to walk on the roads so they aren’t walking in someone’s yard.”

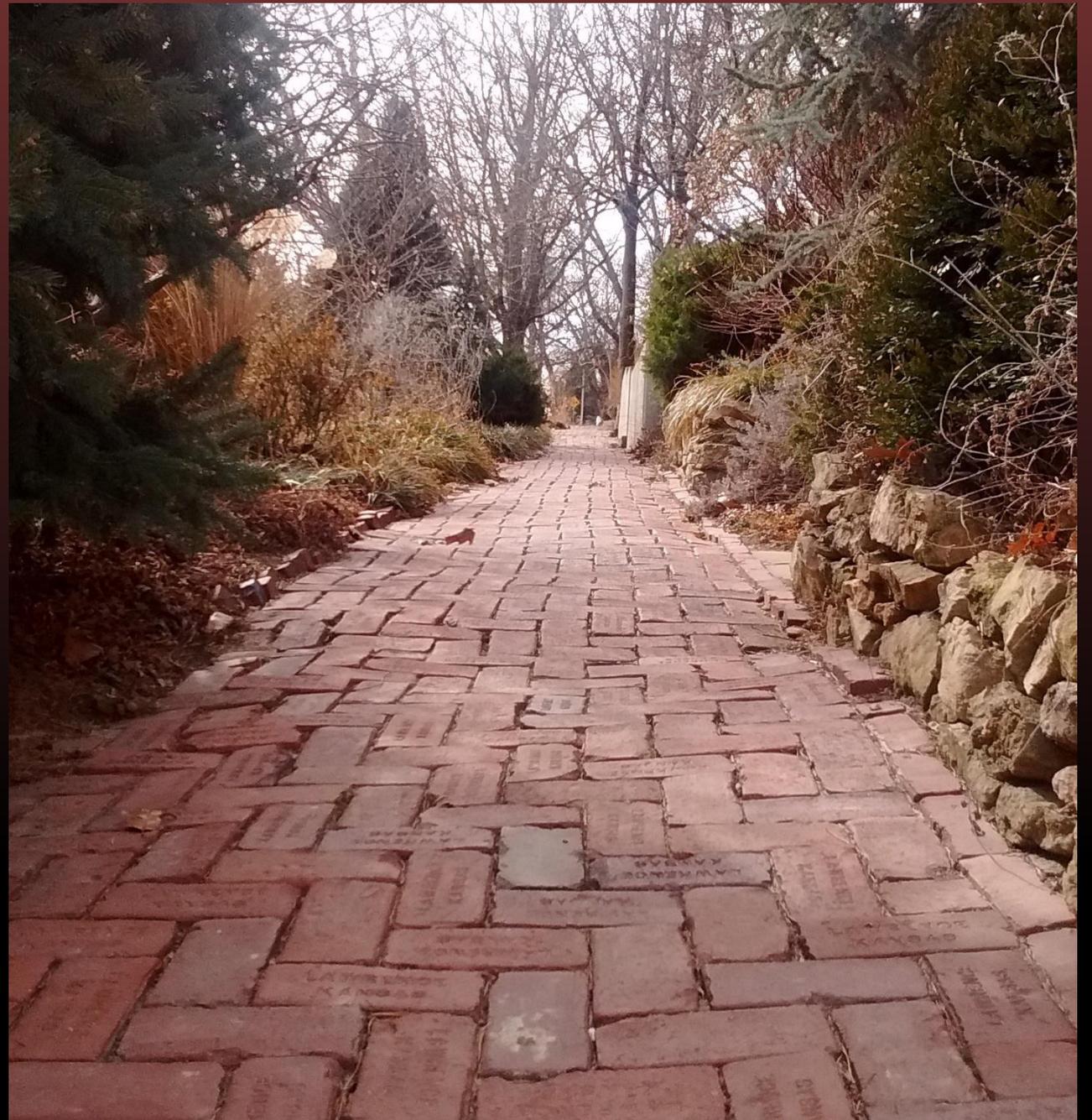
Photo credit: Ethan



# Theme: Accessibility and maintenance of public sidewalks

“Maintenance of public sidewalks and roads is an important part of their access, and access is important for physical activity, whether it be walking, hiking or otherwise.”

Photo credit: Jax



# Theme: Access to physical activity

“The basketball at the East Lawrence Rec. Center. It’s in good condition and can be a great place for young kids to get active in a world becoming more focused on technology. To made kids more aware that you can go here to play during the winter when it is cold and less likely for outdoor activities.”

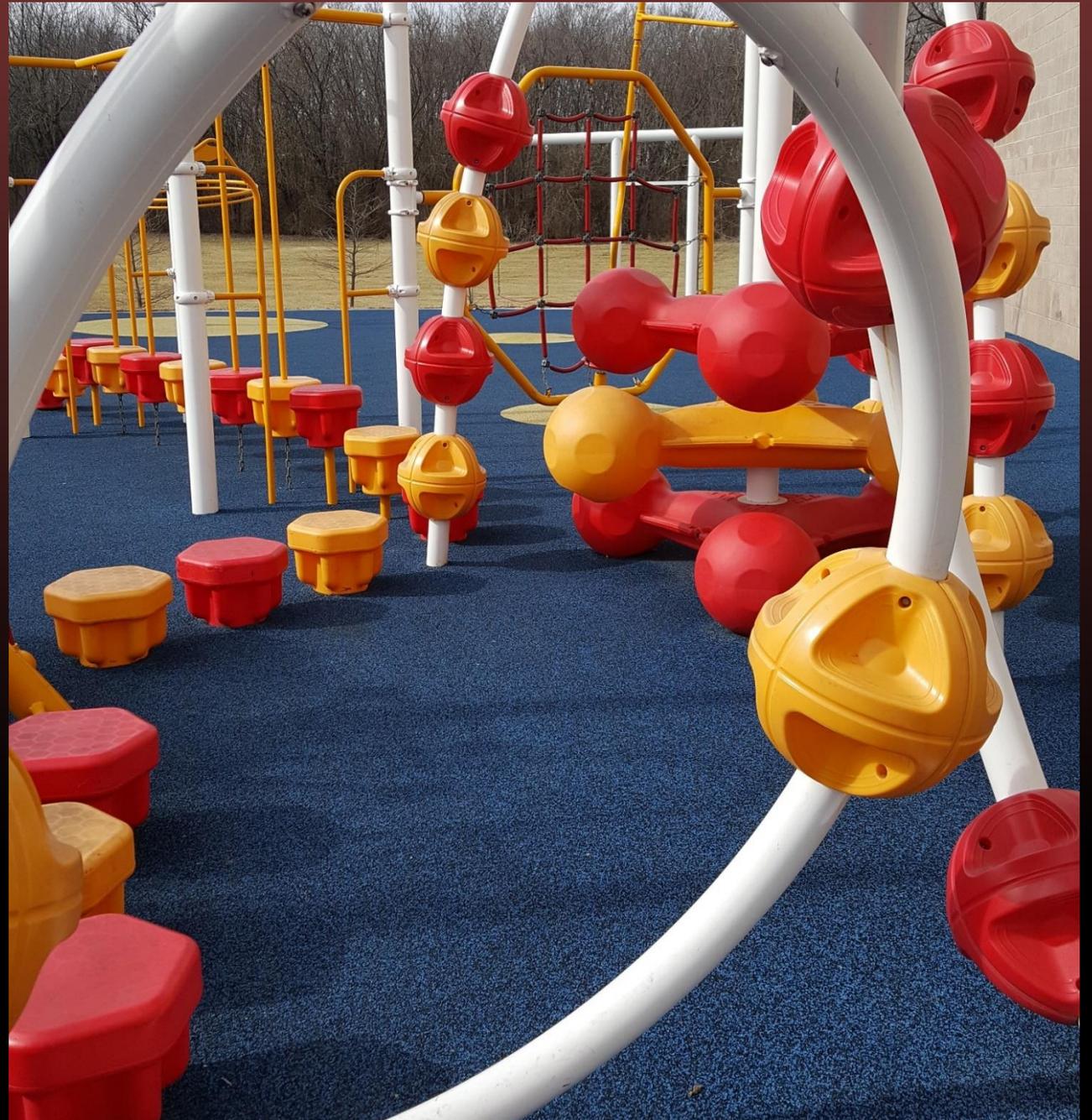
Photo credit: Ethan



# Theme: Access to physical activity

“A high quality playground outside of a rec center. Parks like this kept us active as children and continue to make children happy. Public funding helped create this resource and more parks like this would increase accessibility.”

Photo credit: Sam



# Theme: Discrimination (Silent Protest)

“A poster on a wall advocates protest. A difference in society is made when common people band together. Social unrest and the silencing of protestors led to this poster. Protest should be encouraged and nurtured to reach the goal this poster aims for.”

Photo credit: Kyana



# Theme: Discrimination (Silent Protest)

“Discrimination is at the heart of the BLM movement. While the accompanying “no=no” knife may be about consent, the imagery draws a connection to anti-violence. The act of ‘sticker vandalism’ and this imagery culminate in a silent demonstration of anti-discrimination in a non-violent way; and in direct opposition to media representation of the BLM movement.”



# Theme: Child Abuse and Neglect

“Named child’s object left at Hobbs Park. The focus of this photo is the hidden narrative of how a named child’s object can be discarded. The image brings to mind child homelessness, due to its location, and that it is an important childhood artifact exposed to the elements.”

Photo credit: Donovan



# Theme: Accessibility of healthy foods

“The back stock of Just Food; seems to be a lot of free food for those in need. People have organized behind Just Foods to provide for others selflessly as we’re all connected to a person who could use more healthy food. Establishing more pantries like Just Foods could have enormous potential benefit.”

Photo credit: Sam



# Theme: Healthy foods

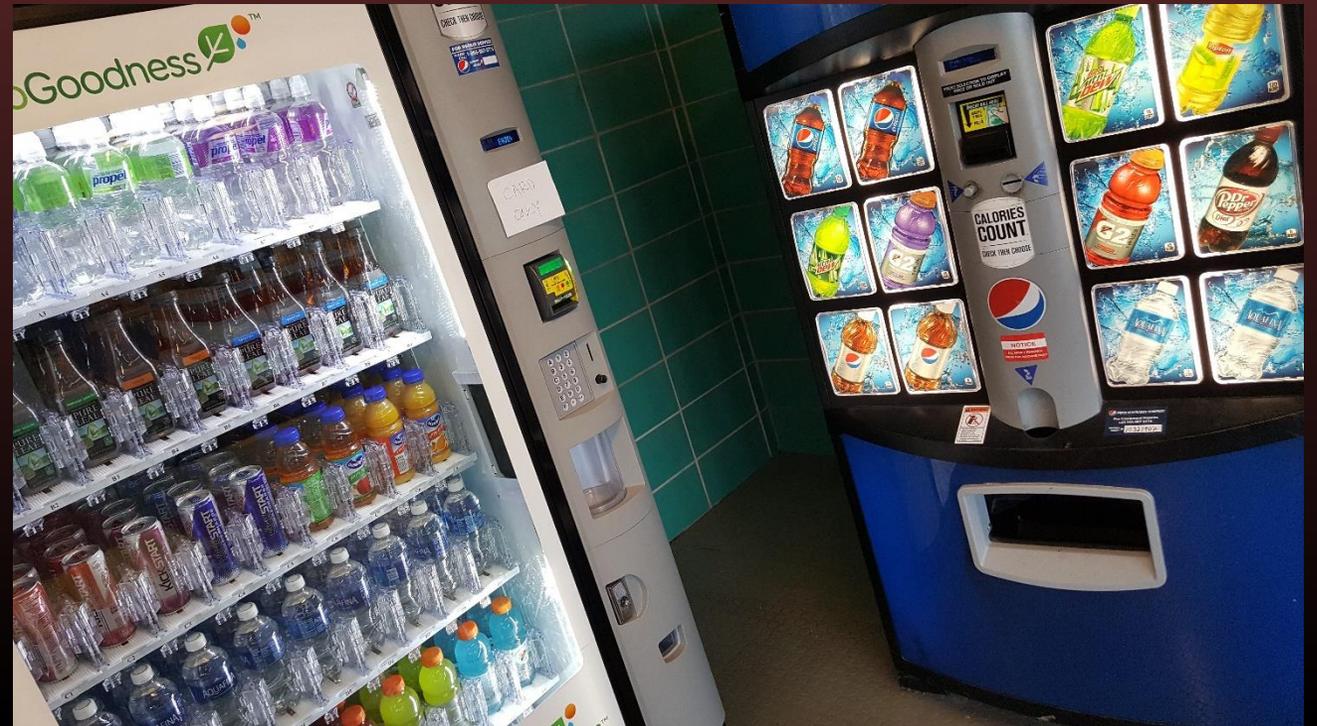
“Local healthy food given to Just Foods to give away to those in need.”



# Theme: Unhealthy foods

“ There’s not only a juxtaposition between the healthy and unhealthy options for these beverages but the placement of these machines within the East Lawrence Recreation Center highlights healthy/unhealthy behaviors, and the relationship between diet, exercise, and health.

Photo credit: Sam



# Theme: Food Waste

: Access to food, and extra food, is an important pursuit, and non-perishables should be donated. However, composting is the most constructive use of discarded perishables, and apportionment of extra food to the public may not always be an option.”



# Theme: Preventive Care and Clinical Linkages



# Special Thanks

- To the following people who made the project a success:
  - The Van Go Mobile Arts Photographers for their focus and effort in helping the community understand the issues.
  - Giselle Scott and Jeff Stoltz for guiding the process and providing full support to the effort.
  - Ann Dean for her thoughtful guidance and instruction regarding photography.