

## STORIES CONTINUED

way to represent the womb of a woman, and symbolize the journey through motherhood. Oftentimes, mothers who lose their babies to street violence/police brutality or cannot carry their children to full term are left postpartum or without the proper mental care afterwards. Gardening or growing a new life through the Earth can help remedy the grief and provide mothers a new sense of purpose. I want this garden space to be a safe space for these women, even a shrine of sorts, to pay homage to the loved ones that are no longer with us.

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### **Andrew Minor w/ BRICK Ceramic + Design Studio**

Artist Lead: Omid Tavakoli

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### **Shari Wolf**

I have always enjoyed gardening. For about 10 years now I have collected garden tchotchkes that can be displayed and incorporated with potted plants. I enjoy antiquing and looking for things that will enhance a garden. This project seemed to be a good fit for what I like to do and to support the area and Waterloo Arts.

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### **John Troxell**

Artist Lead: Shani Richards

John is a local artist and avid gardener. His garden functions to bring him into a community he loves and to reflect the day and night life along Waterloo, particularly as related to The Beachland Ballroom. Check out our website for an interview with John about his Storybed.

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### **Northeast Ohio Socialist Rifle Association**

Our group advocates for firearms education for marginalized communities in a safe, all inclusive, non-toxic environment. Our chapter's primary focus is on mutual aid. We work with multiple orgs across NEOH including Food Not Bombs, Serve the People, and Denison UCC.

We started focusing a lot on growing food and having fresh food available to local communities, because if people aren't being fed, then the rest of the work doesn't really matter. We're working on getting some community gardens started next year (red tape and bureaucracy for miles) so we can teach people about gardening and specifically how to maximize fresh fruits and vegetables in small spaces.

We were very fortunate this year that while scout the garden beds on Waterloo, a local business (Nagy's Monument) approached us about an unused garden plot they had available that they would let us use as a small community garden. It took a lot of people and hard work, but we got it cleared out and planted (we've named it the Green Abyss) and in the next few weeks we'll be ready to start giving out fresh produce to the local community. That's the intention of our garden boxes as well.

## The Green Palette

is a community engagement program from Waterloo Arts where participants are introduced to skills in horticulture and urban farming, and contribute to dialogue around community-informed design of green public space.

### The objective

is to envision the planter beds as a model for how we can collectively take action to make positive change in our neighborhoods.

**In the summer of 2021**, the gardeners, or Storytellers as we call them, transformed 17 of the 71 planter beds along Waterloo Road into sites of creative expression and storytelling with the help of Artist Leads and Community Garden Mentors from the Cuyahoga County Master Gardeners, inspiring others along Waterloo to activate the beds in front of their locations or assist in their care.

Visit [waterlooarts.org](http://waterlooarts.org) for more information.

# MAP & STORY GUIDE

**Waterloo Arts is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. The program of Waterloo Arts is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.**



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strengthening community





# What's your story?

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## Teri Dew

Artist Lead: Shani Richards

I moved to North Collinwood 16 years ago after 38 years in Cleveland Heights. I was drawn to the lake, and the communal lakefront parks in this area. I was soon drawn to Waterloo Arts because of my passion for the arts, which I believe both support and enhance a community. In 2017 I became the garden finder for GardenWalk Cleveland, which brought many visitors to our community for the first time. After a year off because of COVID, I agreed to recruit local gardeners again this July. The Green Palette project was a perfect fit, so I decided to "adopt" a plot (or 2). The day I started my effort, I was surprised to engage in gardening talk with the women leaving their workout at Nu Life, and to meet Darryl, who lives in a row house next door. He expressed his gratitude for "all the efforts to make the neighborhood better." The evening before was Walk All Over Waterloo and the biggest crowd ever came out of their COVID quarantines to celebrate the return to "normal," and the amazing renaissance of the "gold building," now the Blue Windmill. The excitement was palpable, and may it continue to grow.

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## Roots by Joanie Deveney

Artist Lead: Omid Tavakoli

My name is Joanie Deveney, a Collinwood resident for over 30 years. I am

2nd generation Irish off the boat on my mom's side of the family. Connell and Mary Byrne were my grandparents from Kilcar, West Donegal Ireland and they immigrated to Northeastern Ohio where they eventual met again and married. I have incorporated into the center bed of the three beds I took on, a traditional friendship Celtic knot. I am a professional artist with my main discipline in design and more specifically stained-glass design and fabrication. I also have been gardening professionally for over 17 years. I thought the opportunity to design on Waterloo Road a gardening bed to honor my Irish roots would be a wonderful and satisfying challenge.

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## Team Pollinator

(Meredith Hahn-Petrovic & Vicki Ratliff)

Artist Lead: Omid Tavakoli

Team Pollinator came into being when Omid, Meredith, and Vicki met for the first work session of The Green Palette. Vicki shared some ideas about using sculptural elements in a garden to help tell a story and Meredith presented ideas about a sunburst themed garden. The team agreed to work two plots and pursue both ideas. As the team worked to clear the first plot, they shared ideas and got to know each other. When Meredith asked about sculptural elements, Vicki brought out a photo of a ceramic pig looking for a new home. Meredith accepted the pig as one of the first sculptural elements in the newly created garden. She added a wonderful large vase and Farmer Pig adopted 2 smaller pigs to help educate the public about the need for pollinators on the farm. For the sunburst garden, Meredith shared images of gardens designed

in sunburst patterns at the first work session, and Omid came up with the final design while watching a sporting event, when he saw a sunburst pattern in a team logo. Meredith chose plants that would meet the criteria for the garden to be considered a pollinator garden, with a focus on pollinators native to the North Coast. Vicki selected stones and lumber for the rays of the sunburst. Omid added suggestions for how to make the garden flourish, along with his unending enthusiasm, and plenty of time and effort. We hope everyone enjoys our colorful and cheerful salute to pollinators.

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## Suhaylah Hamzah

Artist Lead: Shani Richards

Our planet is often referred to as Mother Earth, because earth is considered the source of all living beings and is personified as "mother" because of its life-giving abilities and nurturing aspects of nature. Mother Earth is a goddess that should be honored and protected at all times, even when she cannot produce new life. My concept is based around honoring the mothers who have prematurely lost their babies due to fertility issues or being taken away by violence. My vision is to plant a seed for the seeds we've lost. Strategically planting flowers that attract life, designed in a

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