



The vision of the Unity Trail is to honor and recognize the contributions of Black, Indigenous and communities of color and emphasize the connection between racial equity, sustainability and environmental conservation.

During the project's public engagement phase, community members expressed a strong interest in public art as the format for the installations, increased seating and gathering spaces and themes that celebrate Black, Indigenous and people of color, including:

- Influential Black, Indigenous and individuals of color who have had an impact on the world
- Representation of a broad diversity of cultural groups.
- Locally focused stories, such as histories of the land, locally focused Indigenous representation, and stories of Black, Indigenous and people of color that live in Inver Grove Heights.
- Highlighting different countries and cultures through symbols such as flags, food, art, and history.
- Stories of activism, resilience, and social change that highlight fighting injustice and overcoming discrimination to make a positive difference in the world.

Due to the interest in both public art and additional seating spaces, the proposed format for the installations is mosaic art benches, which depict the themes of the project, along with poetry inlays in the sidewalks near the installations. These will be complemented with wayfinding signage following Dakota County's signage standards that include the Unity Trail branding. Below are example photos from similar projects.

