

The Exhibits...

March to Equality

SEGREGATED MILWAUKEE

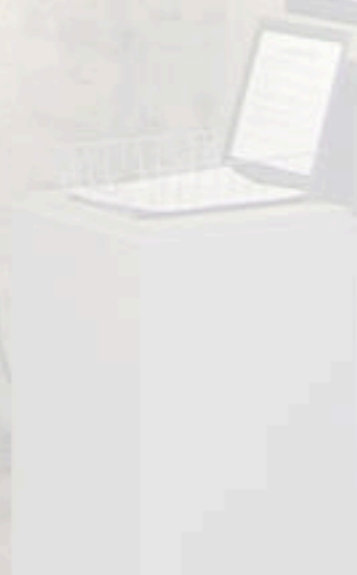
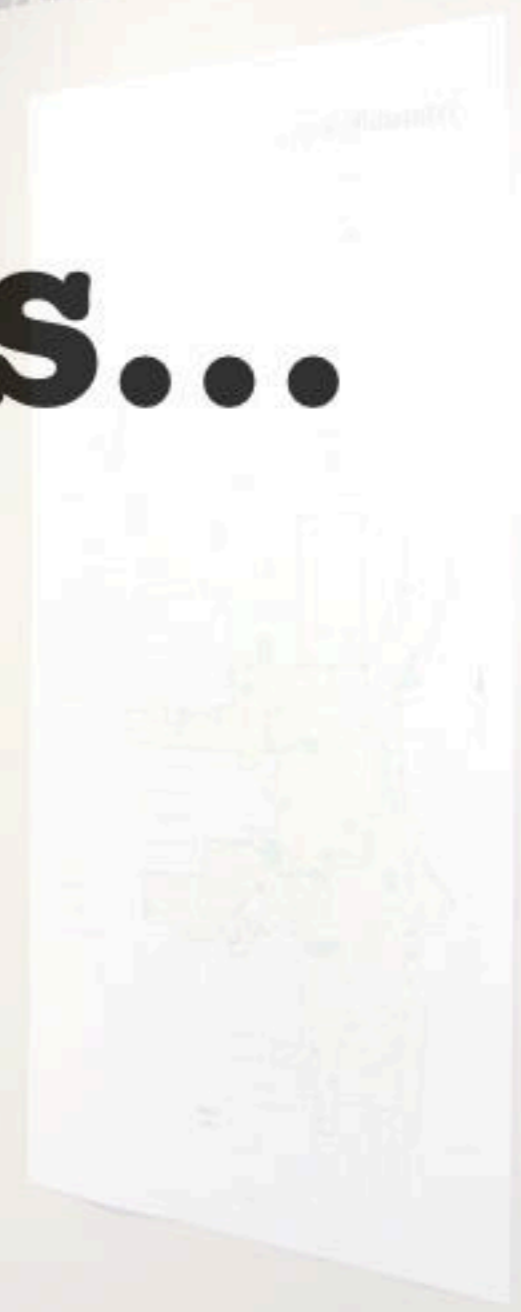
That Square

The square to the EAST, that shined so bright,
The square to the WEST, that lit up the night,
Those squares to the SOUTH that said stay put,
And the silence of the NORTH, that said just look.

That square could not hold a circle of PEOPLE.

For Protest 2017
At American, West High School, and
West Division High School

THE ISLANDERS



Introduction...



This introductory exhibit of student collage art was done with visual artist, Kim Abler, also Arts @ Large Founder and Co-Director and the MPS Art Curriculum Specialist.

Students selected images and words to communicate important ideas in the exhibition.

Quotations...

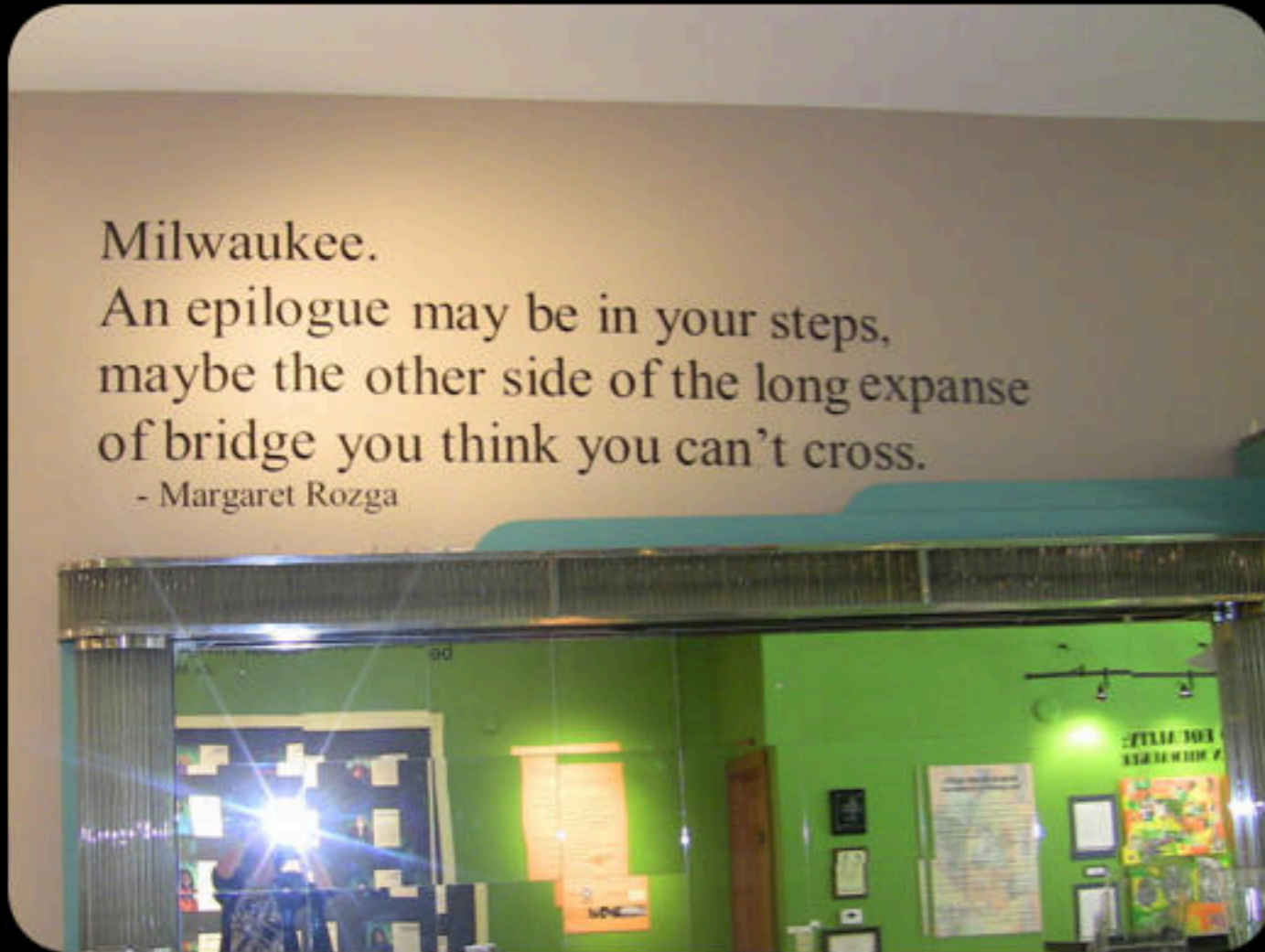
Important quotations were featured throughout the exhibition.

Milwaukee.

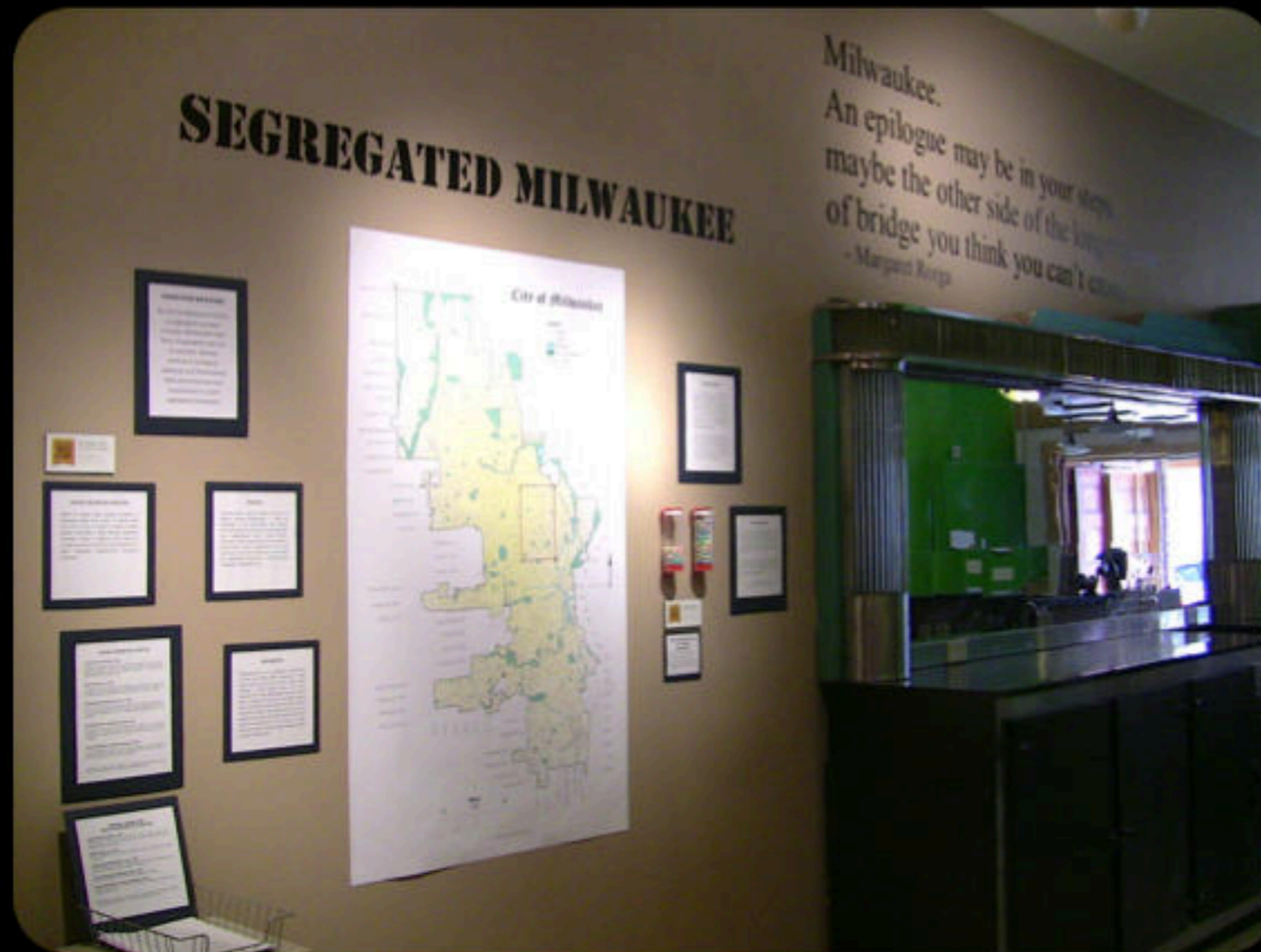
An epilogue may be in your steps,
maybe the other side of the long expanse
of bridge you think you can't cross.

- Margaret Rozga

This quotation is from a poem in Margaret Rozga's book, 200 Nights and One Day, (2009), which tells the story of the Milwaukee civil rights movement through poetry.

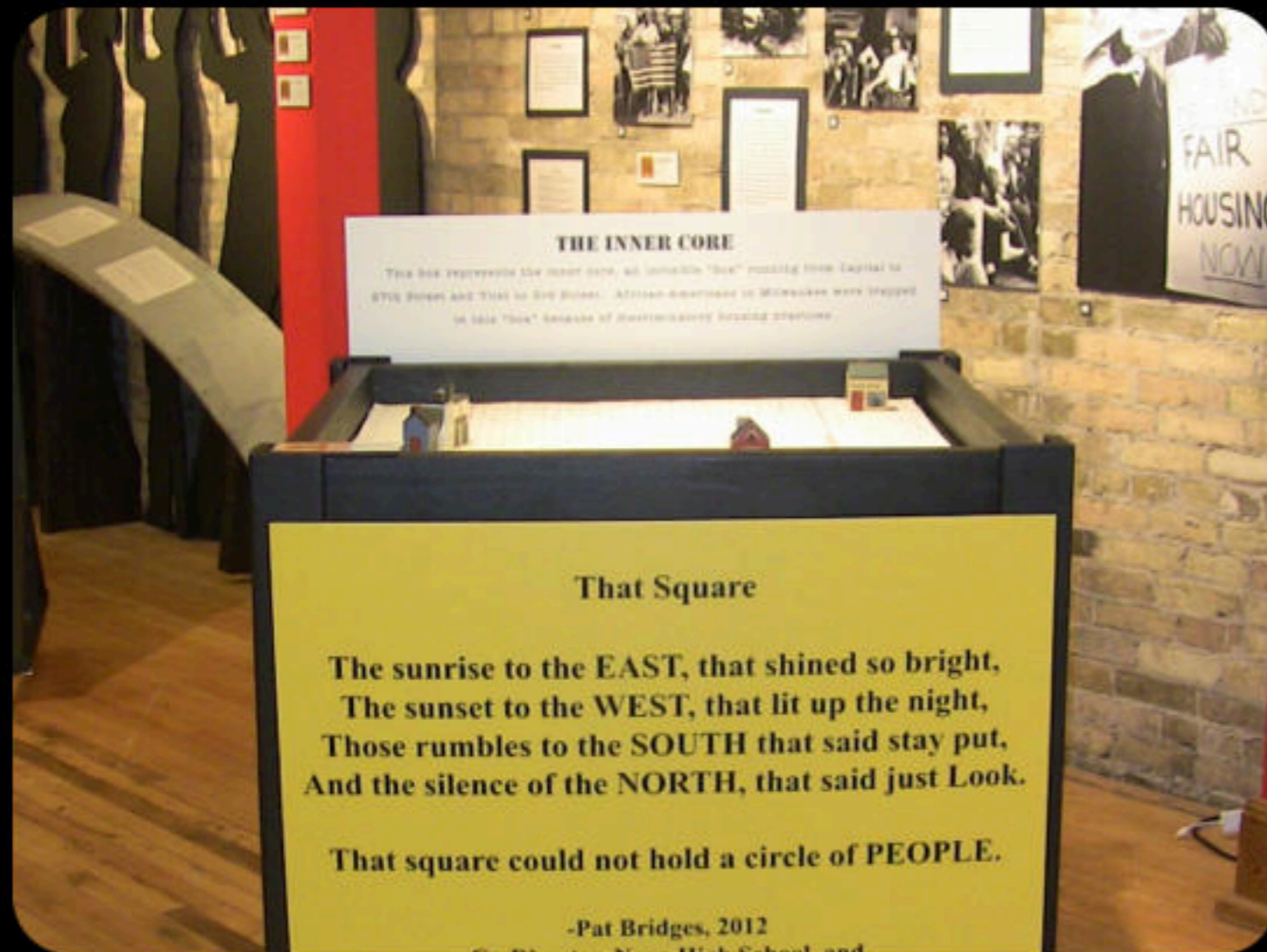


Segregated Milwaukee...



This exhibit explained several of the unfair housing practices that led to a segregated Milwaukee and contributed to an overcrowded “core”.

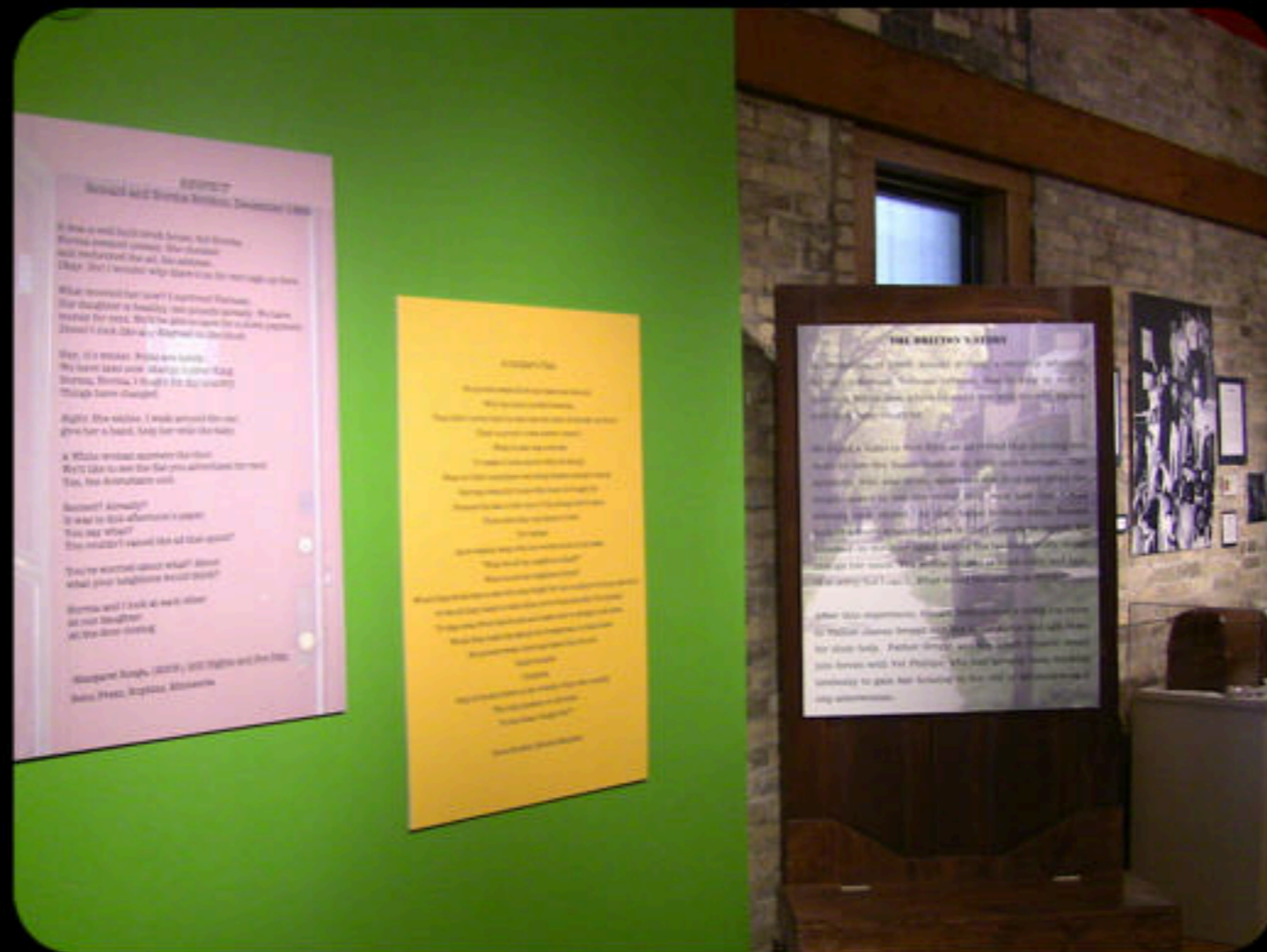
The Inner Core...



A map of the inner “core” of Milwaukee was displayed in this exhibit, delineating the boundaries within which African-Americans were restricted in terms of housing during the 1960s.

A poem written by Pat Bridges, NOVA School co-director and a child marcher in the movement, was affixed outside the “box”.

The Brittons' ...



This exhibit told the story of Ronald Britton (a returning Vietnam veteran) and his family, who were unable to rent a home on 29th and Burleigh because they were African-American. Their story, along with similar other stories, propelled the fair housing movement.

The Britton story is told through the poetry of Margaret Rozga and student poet, Neohsa [REDACTED].

RESPECT

Ronald and Norma Britton, December 1966

It was a well-built brick house, but Norma,
Norma seemed uneasy. She checked
and rechecked the ad, the address.
Okay. But I wonder why there's no for rent sign up here.

What worried her now? I survived Vietnam.
Our daughter is healthy, ten pounds already. We have
money for rent. We'll be able to save for a down payment.
Doesn't look like any Negroes on the block.

Hey, it's winter. Folks are inside.
We have laws now. Martin Luther King.
Norma, Norma, I fought for my country.
Things have changed.

Right. She smiles. I walk around the car,
give her a hand, help her with the baby.

A White woman answers the door.
We'd like to see the flat you advertised for rent.
Yes, the downstairs unit.

Rented? Already?
It was in this afternoon's paper.
You say what?
You couldn't cancel the ad that quick?

You're worried about what? About
what your neighbors would think?

Norma and I look at each other.
At our daughter.
At the door closing.

-Margaret Rozga, (2009), *200 Nights and One Day*,
Benu Press, Hopkins, Minnesota

Respect, by
Margaret Rozga.

A Soldier's Tale

He poured sweat blood and tears into the soil
With his multi-colored brethren
They didn't notice that his skin was the color of smooth cut wood
Their country's views weren't their's
What he saw was survival
To make it home and be with his family
What he didn't anticipate was being denied a simple luxury
Having a beautiful home with those he fought for
Because his skin is the color of his young child's eyes
Those eyes that only know of love
Not racism
As he walked away with the words stuck in his head
"What would my neighbors think?"
What would her neighbors think?
Would they think that a man who has fought for our country is living next door
Or would they chant to their kids a word that shouldn't be spoken
To stay away from that house and make sure to always look down
Would they make his family the boogeyman on that block
He poured sweat, blood and tears into the soil
Bullet wounds
Gunshots
Only to be shot down in the vicinity of his own country
The only question on his mind
"Is this what I fought for?"

- Nova Student, Neosha

A Soldier's Tale,
by Neosha

NAACP Youth Council...



This exhibit of archival photos illustrated the critical role of the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council, their protest strategies and the outcomes of their efforts.

Guiding Forces...



This exhibit highlighted the important leadership role of Vel Phillips and Father James Groppi in the Milwaukee Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Dr. Jay Larkey was also featured in this exhibit. His doctor bag is shown, on loan from the Jewish Museum Milwaukee.



MEET MARGARET ROZGA

In the summer of 1960, as a sixteen-month-old, Margaret Rozga started to learn to read. She was the first child in her family to learn to read. She was also the first child in her family to learn to read. She was also the first child in her family to learn to read.

Margaret Rozga

Prentice McKinney



MEET PRENTICE MCKINNEY

Prentice McKinney grew up on Milwaukee's north side, a block from the NAACP Freedom House. Mr. McKinney's youthful days were filled with rebellious feelings toward legislators that ignored the needs of the African American population in terms of fair housing. He became highly involved with Milwaukee's NAACP Youth Council, and found a way to express his feelings towards legislators in a political way. He's given credit for the revolutionary leadership of the Communists, who were the protectors of the marchers during the Fair Housing Movement. Today, Mr. McKinney still lives in the community and is the owner of the Sunny Night Club on 18th and Lorain.



MEET SHIRLEY BUTLER-DERGE

Dr. Shirley Butler's musical influence on Milwaukee's Fair Housing Movement was worth noting. Becoming involved with the Youth Council at 10 years of age, Dr. Butler would grow to be one of the group's leaders later in her teen years. Feeling that her involvement in the movement was her calling in life, she was responsible for writing some of the greatest songs sung during the Fair Housing Movement marches and protests. Dr. Butler has accomplished many, many things including teaching (at the same school in which she threw a textbook out of the window as part of a student protest), writing books on the movement, owning a publishing company, and has become a popular speaker.

Shirley Butler-Derge

The role of each of the featured NAACP Youth Council Activists was described alongside their portrait, which was taken by a Nova student photographer. Each display also included an historical photo of the activist during the Milwaukee Civil Rights movement of the 1960s (on the back panel).



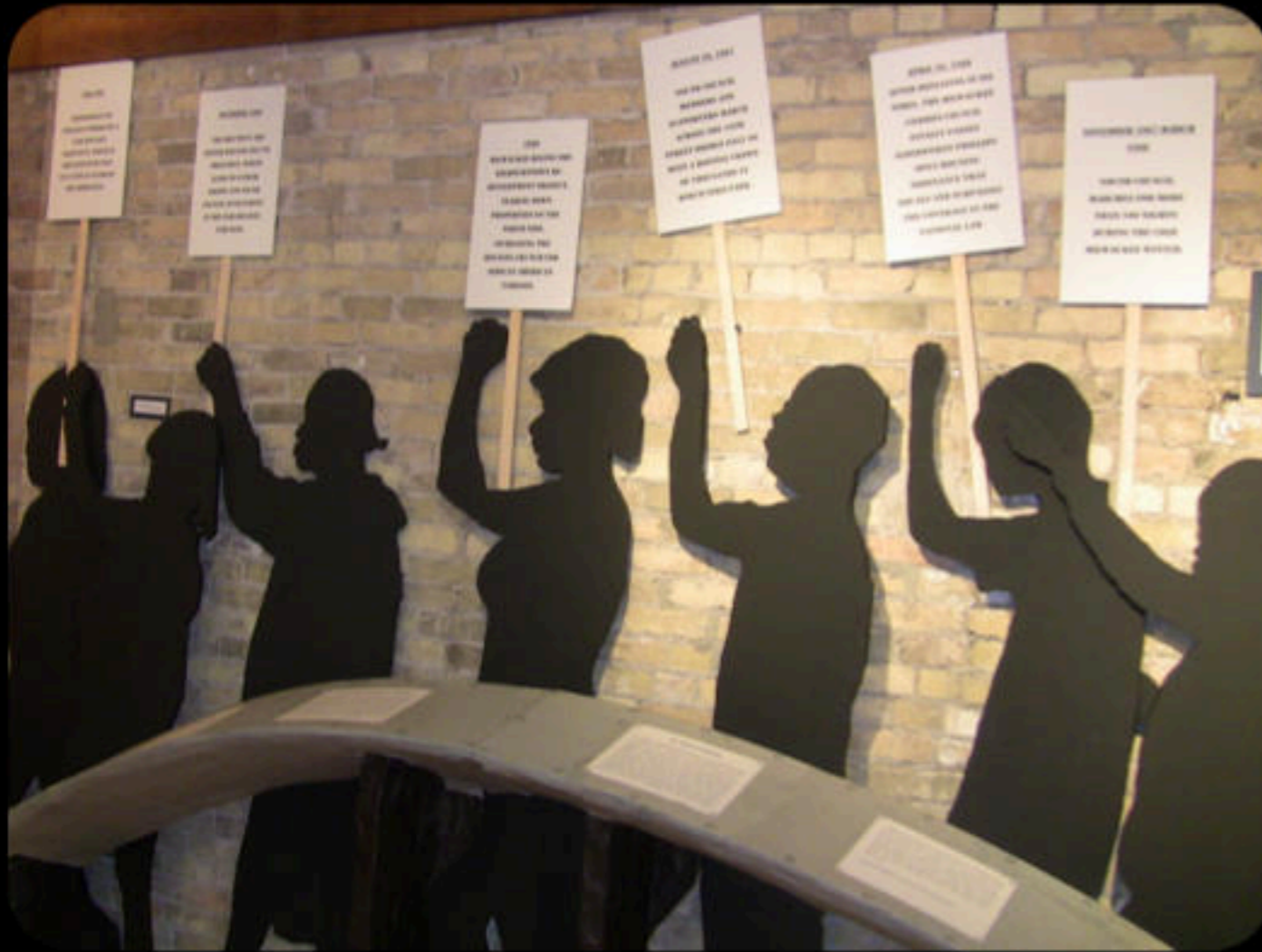
*Listen to an interview
with Margaret Rozga
for StoryCorps.*

*March on Milwaukee
Civil Rights History Project,
UWM Libraries, and
the Wisconsin Historical Society*

Quick Read
(QR) Codes
throughout the
exhibition led
visitors to
more
information...

QR Codes were developed by Trevor Berman, UW-Milwaukee
Digitalization Specialist and Zach Zdun, UW-Milwaukee
Intern, Architecture Department.

16th Street Viaduct...



Students worked with papier mache artist, Steve Wirtz, to create the bridge.

This exhibit was about the significance of the 16th Street Viaduct, now called the James E. Groppi Unity Bridge. Student silhouettes depicted marchers and their “protest” signs contained information about critical events throughout the movement, thus creating a timeline.

The Blue Goose...



Students worked with papier mache artist, Steve Wirtz, to create the bus and tree.

The NAACP Youth Council attained a new yellow bus to take to the marches and conventions in other states—most notable, the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King. The bus didn't remain yellow, it was painted blue and became known as the "Blue Goose".

Reclaiming Kosciuszko Park...



Students worked with environmental artist, Sean Kiebzak, to create the peace bench.

In this exhibit students “reclaim” Kosciuszko Park as a place of peace and harmony. (During the movement the park was the end point of many of the fair housing marches. Hostile counterdemonstrators often gathered there.)

This exhibit includes a peace bench, a poem by student Neosha [redacted] and a tree where visitors who were involved in the movement are invited to write their name on a tree leaf.

Peace Comes to Kosciuszko Park

Have you walked through this park like they did?
Thousands of people surrounding a group of one hundred

Faces of hate

Bottles of despise thrown at their heads like they were the problem

But they were the solution

Teens joining together are so uncommon now

But before this era they bonded together

Singing

"We Shall Overcome"

They shall get pass this night with their lives still intact

Only thing visible would be the blood streaming down their faces from bricks getting

thrown at their heads

In this park

It all took place

The trees ingested the hate in the counter protestor's voices

The grass swayed with rage

Everything in this park screamed

Hate

Hate

Hate a four-letter word that stood so tall

I want to walk through Kosciuszko Park and feel trees that are filled with peace

Grass that sways in a rhythm of joy

Let this park be filled with tranquility

Let the hate pass like the wind

Pick up and catch fire

Never to be experienced again

- Nova Student, Neosha [REDACTED]

Peace Comes to
Kosciuszko Park, by
student poet, Neosha
[REDACTED]

OUR BAR CODES WILL LEAD
YOU TO MORE
INFORMATION!

Download a bar code scanner app or
provide a QR code link to more

A Call to Action...



On this Tree of Promise, students share their pledge to make Milwaukee a better place and challenge visitors to do the same.

I promise...

*To go to college so I can
lead the example of a
well-educated African-
American woman.*

- Tyana [REDACTED]



I promise to
change the lives
of young people.

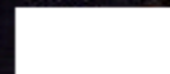
- Javaris [REDACTED]



**I promise...
To be more
involved with
my community
and be an
awesome role
model!**

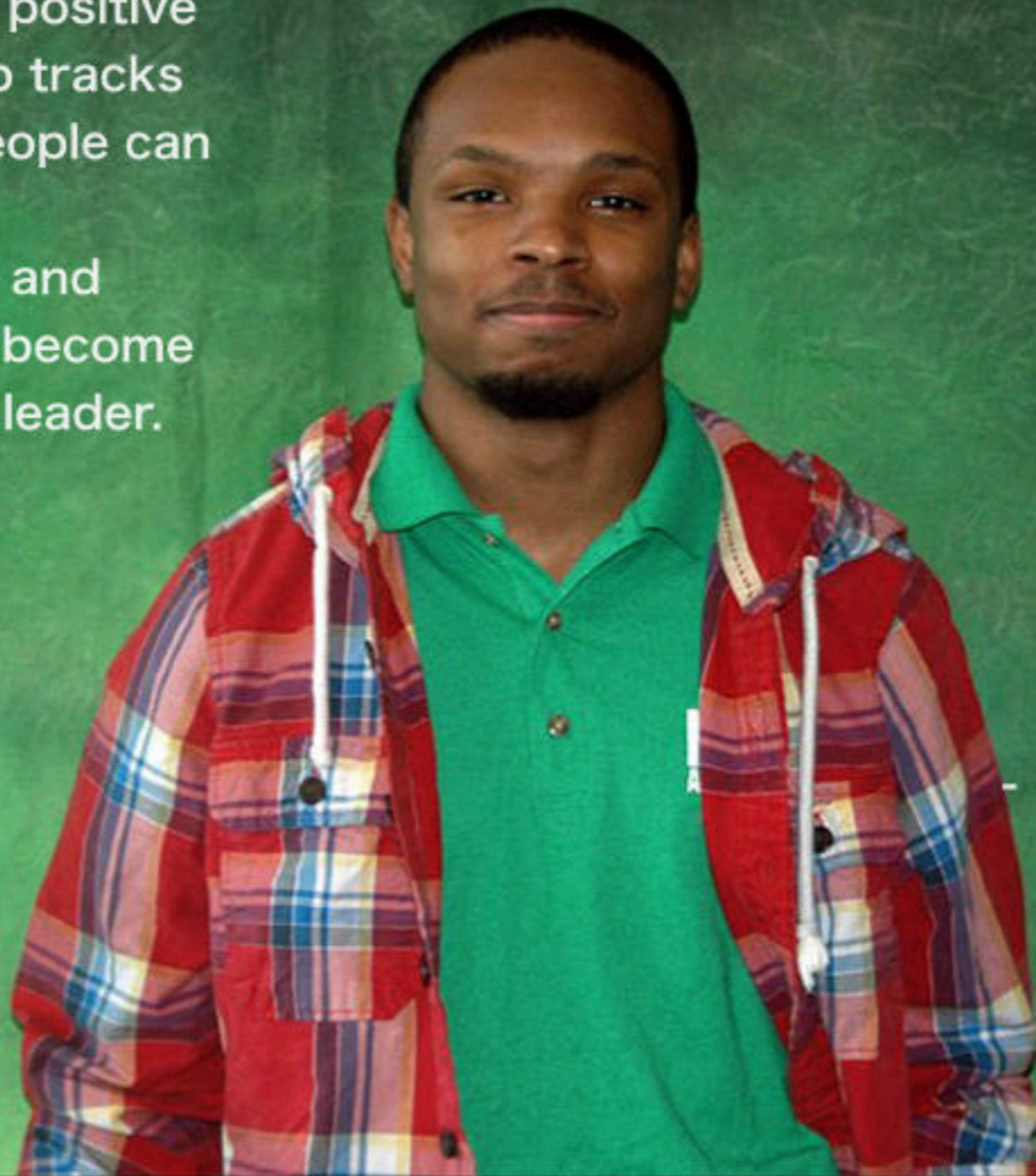


- Shaundrea



I promise...

To take a leadership role in the city of Milwaukee
and leave positive
leadership tracks
so that people can
follow my
footsteps and
hopefully become
their own leader.



- Devon [REDACTED]