

○ On the Bus:

An art project intended to spark interest in those around you

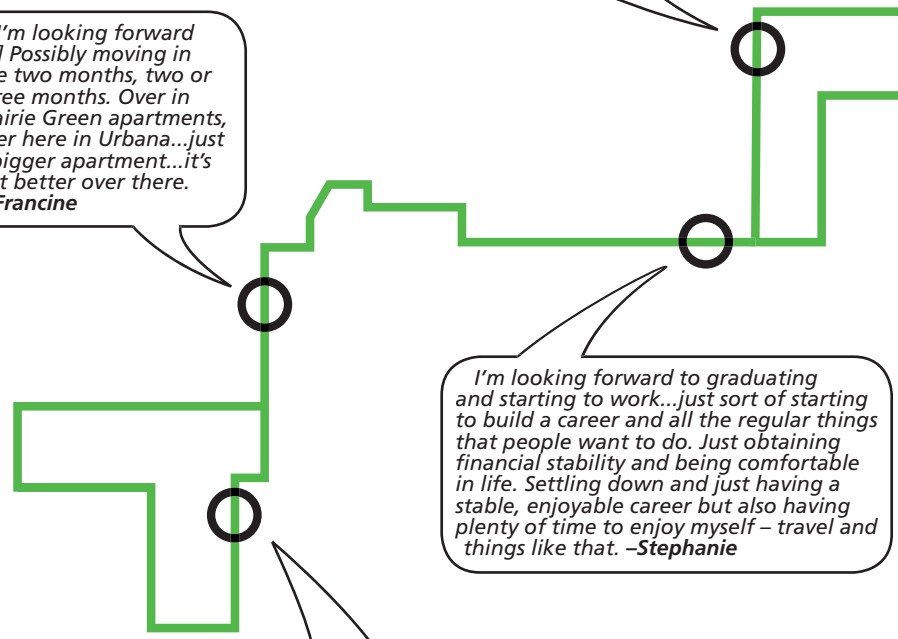
America is a peaceful country that is why everybody come here. And nobody wants any harassment, intimidation. And since I came here I have not come across such attitudes so America is a good place to live. I don't want any intimidation, harassment like some other countries in Africa. Since I've been here I have not come across such attitudes. So America is a good place to live. **-Togea**

I hope to graduate from here, the university, and then get into a DPT program in physical therapy and then be a physical therapist and work with the elderly, hopefully...I don't know, I'm just comfortable with the elderly...It's rewarding. I mean, you get to learn about a lot of people with different backgrounds, different experiences. I find it more rewarding than upsetting. 'Cause, I don't know, I figure they go, I'm very religious and spiritual, and I figure they go to a better place anyway. So I try to look on the bright side I guess. **-Carmen**

Every year I'm really depressed that I haven't died. I have to put on a good front at work...on stage...You can actually be reprimanded for not putting on the right face in front of guests, a happy smile. [I'm not looking forward to] My review that's coming up in a couple months...I get really nervous on my reviews. **-Minnie**

I've got a choir director at Urbana High School. I just graduated in January but I still go back. We're getting ready to go to New York City this next month. Performing Carnegie Hall under the gospel mass with Robert Ray...What I really want to be is a professional football player. **-George M.**

Right now, I thought I would be in vet school so my future is kind of up for grabs now as to what I'm going to do. I'm hoping to stay down here but it's dependent on whether I find a job or not. I'm trying to get into Kraft but I don't know. I really want to be a vet but this is the second time I've gotten on the alternate list so I don't know if it's worth it to keep going. 'Cause I get financial aid every year so I keep putting myself in debt trying to get into vet school. **-Kathy**



I met my wife 'cause she worked at Hardee's. We both worked at Hardee's in high school, that's where we met. My Junior year. We got married about three years ago. My life's going pretty good...You think about that when you go through fast food places. You think, I won't even know who these people are, you know. Or they'll be on going doing bigger and better things. You think back and I could have been talking to that movie star or something at the drive-thru. -Rustin

[I'm looking forward to] Possibly moving in like two months, two or three months. Over in Prairie Green apartments, over here in Urbana...just a bigger apartment...it's just better over there. -Francine

I'm looking forward to graduating and starting to work...just sort of starting to build a career and all the regular things that people want to do. Just obtaining financial stability and being comfortable in life. Settling down and just having a stable, enjoyable career but also having plenty of time to enjoy myself - travel and things like that. -Stephanie

Well, I'm looking for the Ph.D. in Art History and I would like to move to California or some warmer place...I think that it would be better to work in the U.S. if it's possible [instead of native Argentina]...in the real future I would like to have a family, maybe a daughter or a son. Yeah, I would like to form a family. -Ana

○ The Project

From February to April of 2002, I began an interview-based art project about the bus system in Champaign-Urbana. I rode five bus lines (yellow, red, blue, orange, and green) from beginning to end and back again. Trying to maintain a diverse group, I approached people with two questions: "What are you looking forward to?" and "What are you not looking forward to?". With these two questions as a starting point, conversations developed, each one as unique as the people I met.

This project is about increasing awareness of and appreciation for people we encounter in our daily lives. Have you ever wondered what the person sitting next to you on the bus is thinking about? Is she on her way home to check the day's lotto numbers? Are he and his wife trying to decide what to name their baby?

Because having a specific purpose makes it easier to ask personal questions of strangers, this project gave me the excuse to approach people and ask them what was on their minds. The recorded conversations resulting from this process are the basis of the project installations on the buses and in the bus station. Audio recordings of the interviews are installed in the transit building and quotes from these conversations can be found on area buses. As people encounter these remnants of my experiences on the bus, I hope that their interest in their own fellow passengers is heightened.