

**LESSONS FROM THE SURGE:  
PHOUSE EDITION**

THIS IS A GRAPHIC REFLECTION OF A FEW DAYS IN JANUARY 2026 DURING OPERATION METRO SURGE, THE DHS OCCUPATION OF MINNESOTA. IT IS ALSO A LOVE NOTE TO MY COWORKERS, NEIGHBORS, AND THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ACTION ACROSS OUR S. MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

IT WAS INSPIRED BY, AND USES THE FORMAT OF THE #ICEOUTCOMICS PROJECT INITIATED BY ARTISTS K. WOODMAN-MAYNARD, TRUNG LE NGUYEN, AND JASON WALZ, THE PROJECT SERVES AS A VISUAL, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RECORD OF FEAR, RESISTANCE, AND SOLIDARITY.



WE WELCOME OUR YOUNGEST COMMUNITY MEMBERS INTO THE NURTURING EMBRACE OF OUR CHILDCARE STAFF, WHILE 3-5 VOLUNTEER PARENT/GUARDIANS OCCUPY SPACE IN OUR LOBBY AND PATROL OUR CORNER,

ARMED WITH ONLY A WHISTLE AND A PHONE, WE BEAR WITNESS TO FEDERALLY SANCTIONED VIOLENCE ACROSS OUR NEIGHBORHOODS IN -15 DEGREE WEATHER.

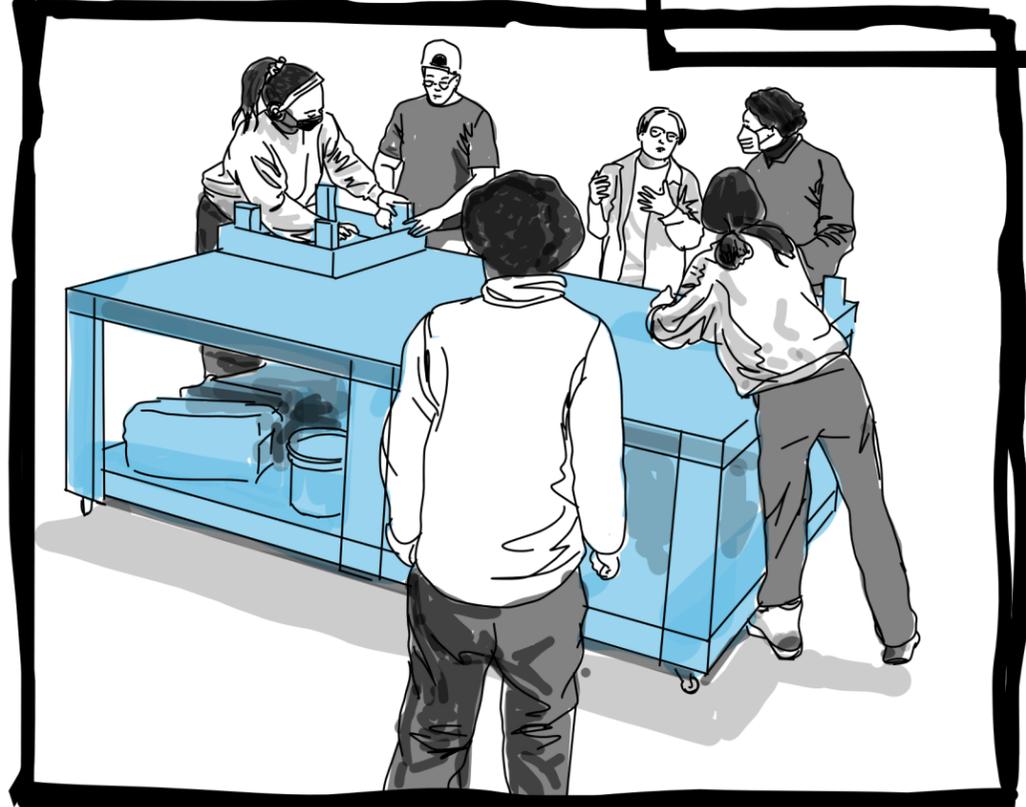




WE SHOVEL AND SALT OUR WALKS SO ALL CAN NAVIGATE THE WINTER TERRAIN.



WE BREW FRESH COFFEE, MOP YESTERDAY'S SALT RESIDUE FROM TILE FLOORS, PREPARE A WELCOMING SPACE, WHILE MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF ARE PICKED UP AT HOME AND DRIVEN SAFELY TO OUR CENTER SO OUR CHILDCARE CAN OPEN ON TIME.



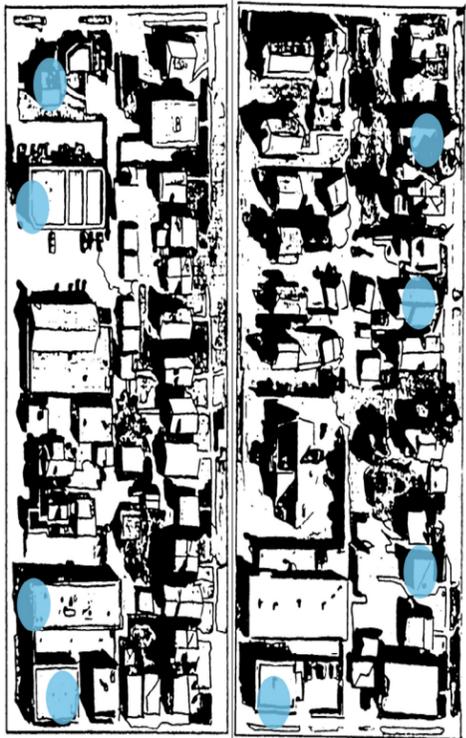
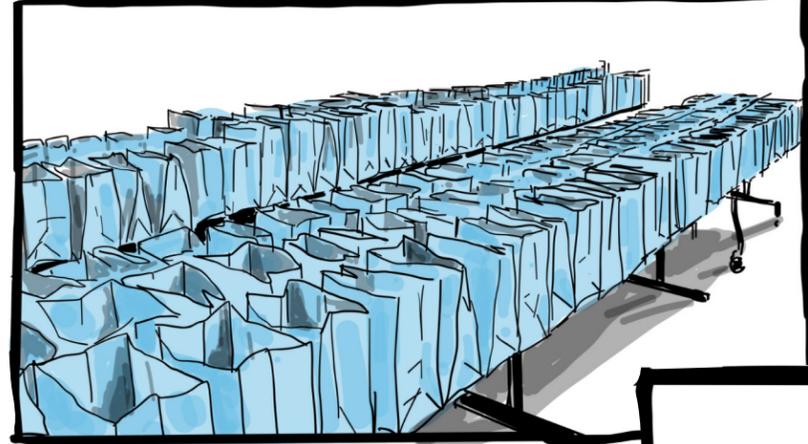
WE TRAIN A COHORT OF ADULTS IN THE TECHNICAL TOOLS OF THE THEATRE INDUSTRY AND MATCH THEM TO PAID INTERNSHIPS...

...WHILE A SLOW ROLLING PARADE OF UN-MARKED VEHICLES CIRCLE OUR BUILDING, TAUNTING AND SURVEILLING... A FACIAL RECOGNITION RECORD OF EACH OF US.

WE DOCUMENT THEIR MOVEMENTS. WE SIGNAL AND RESPOND, SIGNAL AND RESPOND, WITH RAPID MESSAGING AND A CACOPHONY OF WHISTLES, HONKS, AND BANGING POTS AND PANS.



WE ORGANIZE FOOD DONATIONS AND DELIVER FOOD TO FAMILIES SHELTERING IN PLACE.



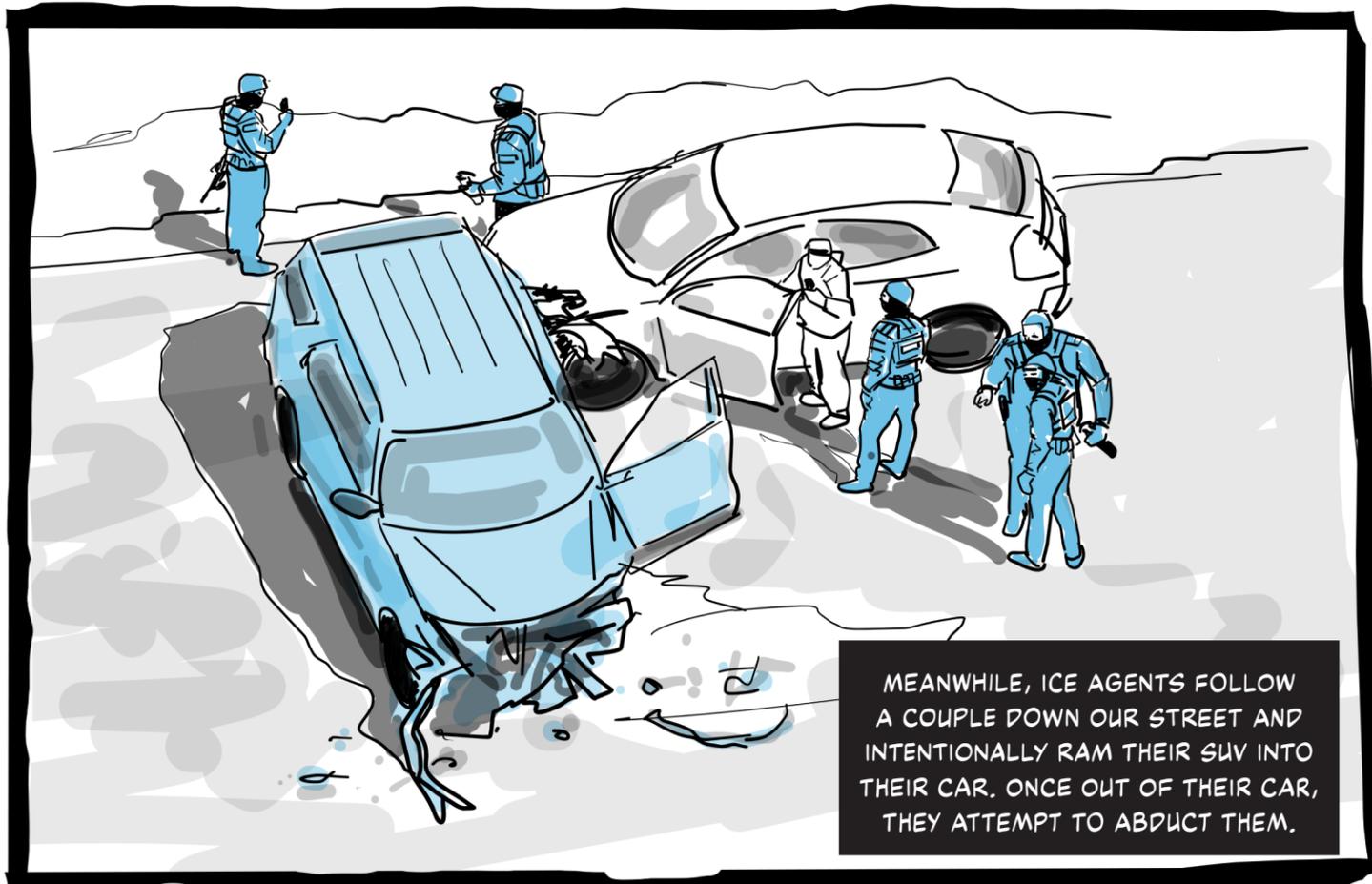
WE CREATE SANCTUARY ROOMS THROUGHOUT OUR BUILDINGS THAT WE AREN'T CERTAIN WE CAN SAFEGUARD.



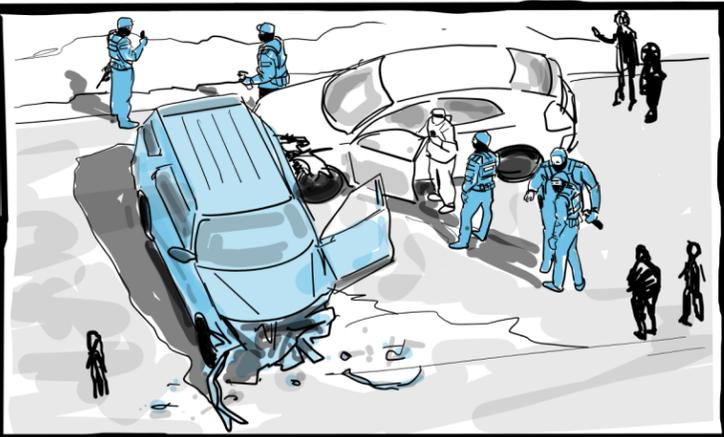
WE LOAD PARTICIPANTS INTO PASSENGER VANS TO DROP THEM HOME, WHILE ENSURING THAT ON THIS DAY, ICE ISN'T PARKED ON THEIR BLOCK WAITING TO SNATCH THEM AT THEIR DOOR.



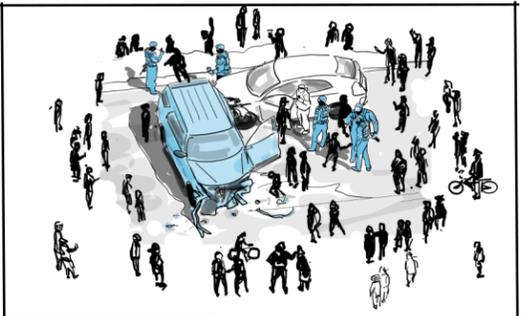
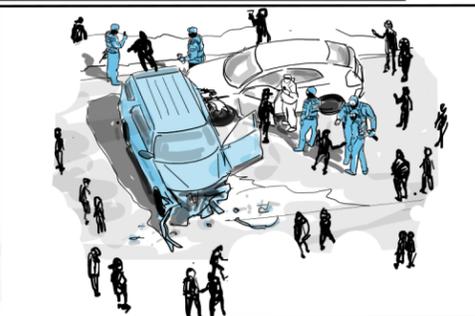
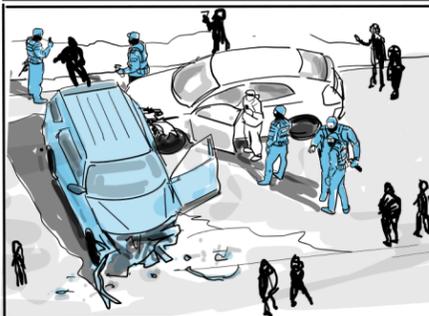
**CRASH  
CRASH  
CRUNCH**



MEANWHILE, ICE AGENTS FOLLOW A COUPLE DOWN OUR STREET AND INTENTIONALLY RAM THEIR SUV INTO THEIR CAR. ONCE OUT OF THEIR CAR, THEY ATTEMPT TO ABDUCT THEM.



WE HEAR THE CRASH AND A SWELLING CHORUS OF WHISTLES.



PEOPLE QUICKLY GATHER, A CROWD GROWS. MORE THAN 30 ICE AGENTS ARRIVE SOON AFTER.



THANKFULLY IN THIS INSTANCE,  
NO NEIGHBOR IS KIDNAPPED.

WE BECOME STREET MARSHALLS TO SAFELY DIVERT TRAFFIC WHEN ICE HAS BLOCKED OFF OUR MAIN NEIGHBORHOOD THOROUGHFARES.



**BOOM  
CRASH  
BOOM**



AND WHEN THEY RETREAT, THEY ALWAYS LEAVE A CLOUD OF MILITARY GRADE CHEMICAL AGENTS TO REMIND US THEY WERE HERE.



THEY LEAVE BEHIND THE WRECKAGE OF THEIR DOING, BUT TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION.



WE FORM A PLAN, UNDERSTAND THE PLAN, AND CONSENT TO EXECUTING THE PLAN.  
WE LEAVE TOGETHER AND RETURN TOGETHER.



WE PREPARE FOR, AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE TO NEIGHBORS.



THEY WILL LIE...



...PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION...

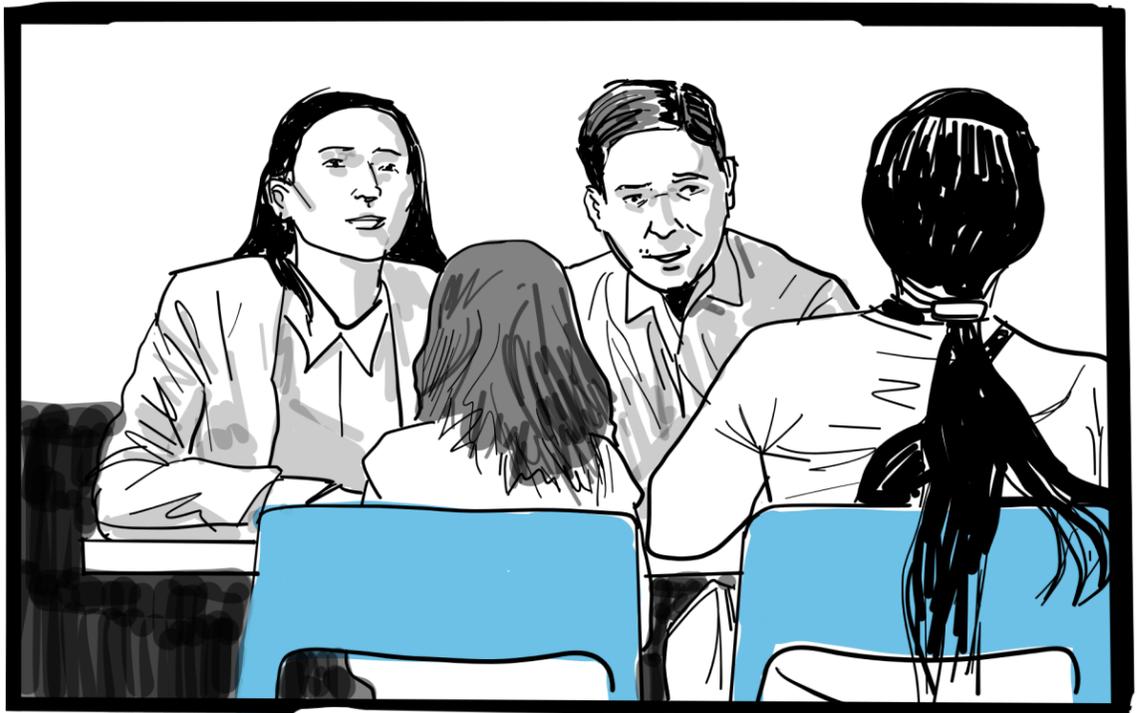


...AND LABEL OUR MURDERED NEIGHBORS "TERRORISTS" BEFORE THEIR BODIES ARE EVEN COLD.



WE HOLD SPACE TO MAKE AND DISTRIBUTE SOLIDARITY ART TO THOUSANDS...

CONTENT CREATION FOR THE SAKE OF STOKING FEAR OR HATRED IS NOT ROOTED IN TRUTH SEEKING. WE USE OUR PLATFORMS TO COUNTER MISINFORMATION WITH FACTS AND OUR PUBLIC RECORD. WE TRAIN OURSELVES TO BE COMMUNITY DOCUMENTORS, IN REAL TIME. ON THE GROUND ACCOUNTS MAY BE CRITICAL EVIDENCE LATER ON.



...WHILE LAWYERS FACILITATE FREE COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS SO THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN COMPLETE HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS FOR FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS.

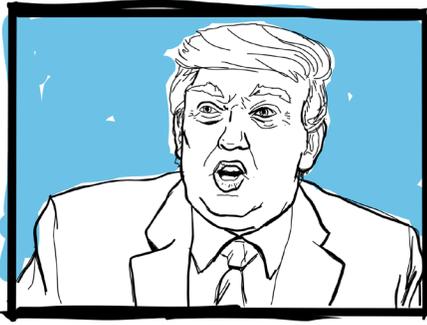
AND WE ENDURE. WE CONTINUE TO WITNESS AND RESPOND, RESIST AND RESPOND,  
TO EVERY MOMENT WITH EVERY OUNCE OF COMPASSION AND CREATIVITY THAT WE HAVE.

IN THESE MOMENTS WE ARE ALL EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE; EXHAUSTED, INFURIATED, INSPIRED, AND  
HOPEFUL. SO WE PAUSE TO SING TO ONE ANOTHER, IF ONLY TO REPLENISH OUR DEPLETED HEARTS.



THANK YOU TO THE ONES WHO NURTURE OUR LITTLES, TO THE DOERS AND FIXERS AND PERPETUAL  
PROBLEM SOLVERS, THE SCHEDULERS AND ORGANIZERS AND KEEPERS OF OUR SPACES,  
THE BREAKERS OF THE ICE, THE HUNDREDS OF CENTRAL CARERS, THE DISMANTLERS OF PIL-  
LARS OF COMPLIANCE, THE STORYTELLERS AND GATHERERS, THE ARTISTS TEACHING THE "WAY",  
THE BRASS IN SOLIDARITY, THE RISERS AND REMEMBERERS, THE FOLKS WHOM L.E.A.D. WITH  
COMPASSION AND CARE, THE ONES WHO FILL OUR AIRWAVES WITH JOY AND TRUTH TO MOVE  
OUR BODIES AND SOULS, THE TRAINERS AND APPRENTICES COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE, THE  
DRIVERS AND MARCHERS AND HOLDERS OF GROUND, THE BILINGUAL CONNECTORS, THE THE-  
ATERS OF THE OPPRESSED, THE ARTIST ORGANIZERS BUILDING OUR BETWEENNESS, THE ME-  
CHANIC MENTORS, THE RIGHTEOUS PUPPETEERS, THE COOKS OF HOPE, THE ONES WHO LEAD US  
IN SONG AND BREATH, THE NEIGHBORS WHO PATROL OUR STREETS AND ALLEYS, THE MOURNERS  
AND MENDERS, THE GATHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF SUSTENANCE AND RELIEF, THE LEADERS  
WHO LISTEN AND SHOW UP FOR US EVERY DAY AND LONG AFTER WE ARE GONE, THE TRAIN-  
ERS AND EXPERTS BOTH LOCALLY AND AFAR, THE RESIDENT LED ORGS MOVING IN UNISON, THE  
PRO-BONO LEGAL AIDERS, AND THE FAMILIES AND LITTLE ONES WHO PERSEVERE.

WE KNOW NOW  
MORE THAN EVER  
THAT WE TOGETHER  
KEEP US SAFE.



**THEY LIE,  
democracy dies.**