

Artist
Portfolio
2026

Team Members: Rhea, Dev, Kabir, Ghaniya

Project Name: Invisible Lines

A city belongs to everyone only when everyone feels safe in it.

Inset

Intro

Invisible Lines is a youth-led activist campaign that explores how fear and safety shape the way girls and young women experience public spaces. Through community mapping, street photography, spoken-word performances, interactive installations, and public storytelling, the campaign documents the invisible boundaries that many young people navigate every day. By transforming lived experiences into art, the campaign aims to spark conversations around inclusion, mobility, and the right of all citizens to fully participate in public life.

The Why:

This section reflects on why this issue matters to us, the experiences that shaped our understanding of it, and the change we hope to contribute towards.

The Issue:

Drawing on research, reports, media, and lived experiences, this section examines the issue, its causes, impacts, and the conversations already shaping public understanding.

Our personal profiles:

Through these artistic self-portraits, we introduce ourselves, our creative identities, and the unique perspectives we bring to this campaign.

Our Campaign:

From ideas to action, this section captures how we translated research and community insights into a campaign, highlighting key activities, creative outputs, and outcomes.

Safety Audits:

Through safety audits, observations, and field documentation, we explored how public spaces are experienced by different people. This section highlights our key findings and learnings.

Future Planning:

This section explores how our work can continue after the fellowship, highlighting opportunities for future action, partnerships, and community engagement.

Postcards from the future:

Written from an imagined future, these postcards explore the world we hope to create and the lessons we carry forward from this journey.

Artist Showcase:

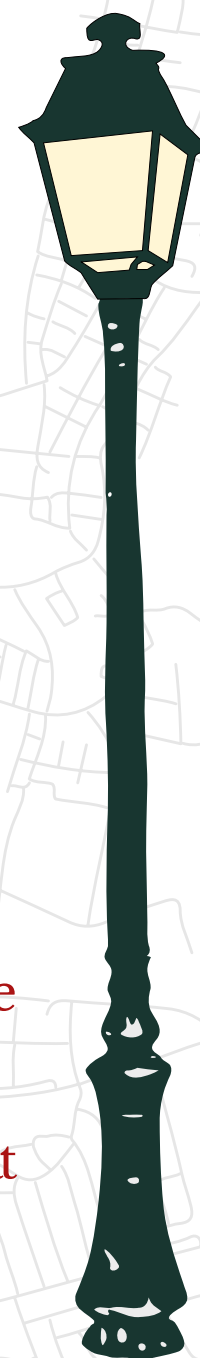
A showcase of the creative work, artistic expressions, and campaign materials produced as part of our advocacy efforts.

The *Why*

Public spaces are often described as places that belong to everyone. Yet, through our own experiences and conversations, we realised that not everyone experiences these spaces in the same way. While some of us move through our neighbourhoods without much thought, others carefully plan routes, avoid certain areas, or feel restricted by concerns about safety.

Our interest in this issue emerged from everyday observations. Many girls in our school spoke about being told not to stay out after dark, avoid travelling alone, or limit where they could go. These conversations made us question why public spaces that are technically open to everyone can feel inaccessible to some. We wanted to better understand how safety, confidence, and belonging shape people's experiences of the city.

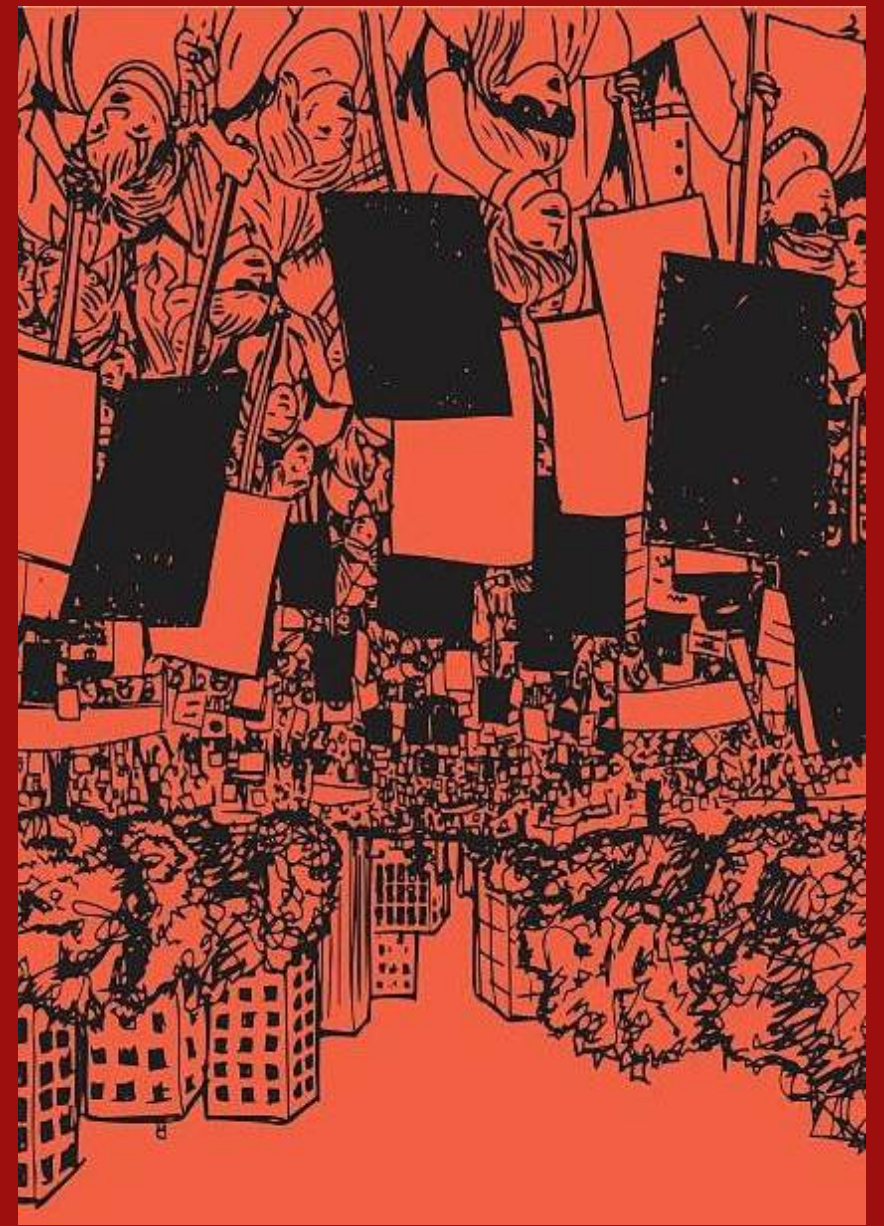
As we explored the issue further, we learned that concerns around safety influence more than just movement. They affect participation in education, recreation, community life, and opportunities available to young people. We also realised that safety is not only about the absence of danger—it is about whether people feel welcome, comfortable, and included in public spaces.



Through this campaign, we hope to highlight the lived experiences behind statistics and create opportunities for dialogue. We chose to engage students, parents, and community members because all of them influence how young people experience public spaces. By bringing different perspectives together, we hope to encourage greater empathy and understanding.

We believe art can make these conversations more accessible and meaningful. Stories, photographs, illustrations, and creative expression allow people to connect with experiences that may be different from their own.

Through our campaign, we hope to make invisible barriers visible and inspire conversations about what it would take to create public spaces where everyone feels they truly belong.



I collect stories in shadows and light,
In empty benches and crowded streets.
My camera pauses where silence lives,
Capturing the spaces between presence and absence.
Some places welcome us without question.
Others ask us to leave before we've arrived.
Through every frame, I search for belonging—
Not just where people stand,
But where they hesitate, wait,
Or quietly turn away.
I am **Kabir**, A storyteller with a camera,
Trying to make the invisible visible.

My name is **Ghaniya**, and I have grown up experiencing Delhi through its buses and metro lines. For years, I have collected metro tokens and ticket stubs from journeys across the city. Each ticket reminds me of a place visited, a memory made, or a new perspective discovered. Together, they form a map of my relationship with Delhi and inspire me to explore how public spaces shape our sense of freedom, belonging, and connection.

My name is **Rhea**, and I have spent years photographing the streets of Mumbai through my camera lens. From crowded railway stations to quiet neighbourhood corners, I am drawn to the stories hidden in everyday moments. Photography helps me notice how people move through, interact with, and experience the city. Through my work, I explore questions of belonging, identity, and how public spaces shape our lives in ways we often overlook.

My name is **Dev**, and illustration is how I make sense of the world around me. I enjoy turning ideas, emotions, and everyday experiences into visual stories. Through sketches, digital art, and character design, I explore themes of identity, belonging, and social change. I believe that illustrations can communicate complex issues in ways that are both accessible and deeply personal, helping people see familiar realities from a new perspective.

The Issue



95% of women and girls in a Delhi survey reported feeling unsafe in public spaces.

(https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Women-and-Mobility_India.pdf)

56% of women reported experiencing sexual harassment while using public transport

(<https://sprf.in/womens-mobility-and-public-transportation/>)

50%+ of women in one study reported avoiding opportunities because of unsafe commutes.

(<https://sprf.in/womens-mobility-and-public-transportation/>)

Public spaces—such as streets, parks, markets, bus stops, and public transport systems—are essential for accessing education, employment, recreation, healthcare, and civic life. However, research across India suggests that women and girls often experience these spaces differently due to concerns around safety, harassment, and social norms.

Studies have shown that safety concerns significantly affect women's mobility and participation in public life. A UN Women-supported survey in Delhi found that 95% of women and girls felt unsafe in public spaces. Experiences of harassment and fear can influence travel choices, limit opportunities, and restrict participation in community life.

The issue extends beyond physical safety. Researchers argue that access to public spaces is closely linked to inclusion, belonging, and the ability to participate fully in society. Factors such as poor lighting, inadequate infrastructure, overcrowded transport, and the normalisation of restrictions placed on girls and young women often reinforce these barriers.

In response, initiatives such as Safetipin and Why Loiter? have worked to make cities more inclusive through safety audits, community engagement, and advocacy.

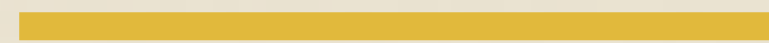
Our research suggests that creating inclusive public spaces requires more than improving safety. It also means ensuring that everyone can move through, occupy, and experience their cities with confidence, dignity, and a sense of belonging.



To better understand how public spaces are experienced, our team conducted safety audits of roads, pedestrian pathways, and public transport access points in our neighbourhood. We observed factors such as lighting, visibility, accessibility, foot traffic, and overall perceptions of safety. By documenting these observations through photographs, sketches, and field notes, we identified patterns that influence how comfortable and welcome different people feel in public spaces. The findings helped inform both our research and creative advocacy efforts.

Safety Audits

The *Community Audit*



Lanes with sufficient lighting and footpaths for walking



Lanes with insufficient lighting, some dark spots



Lanes with no lighting, multiple dark spots, unsafe places to walk



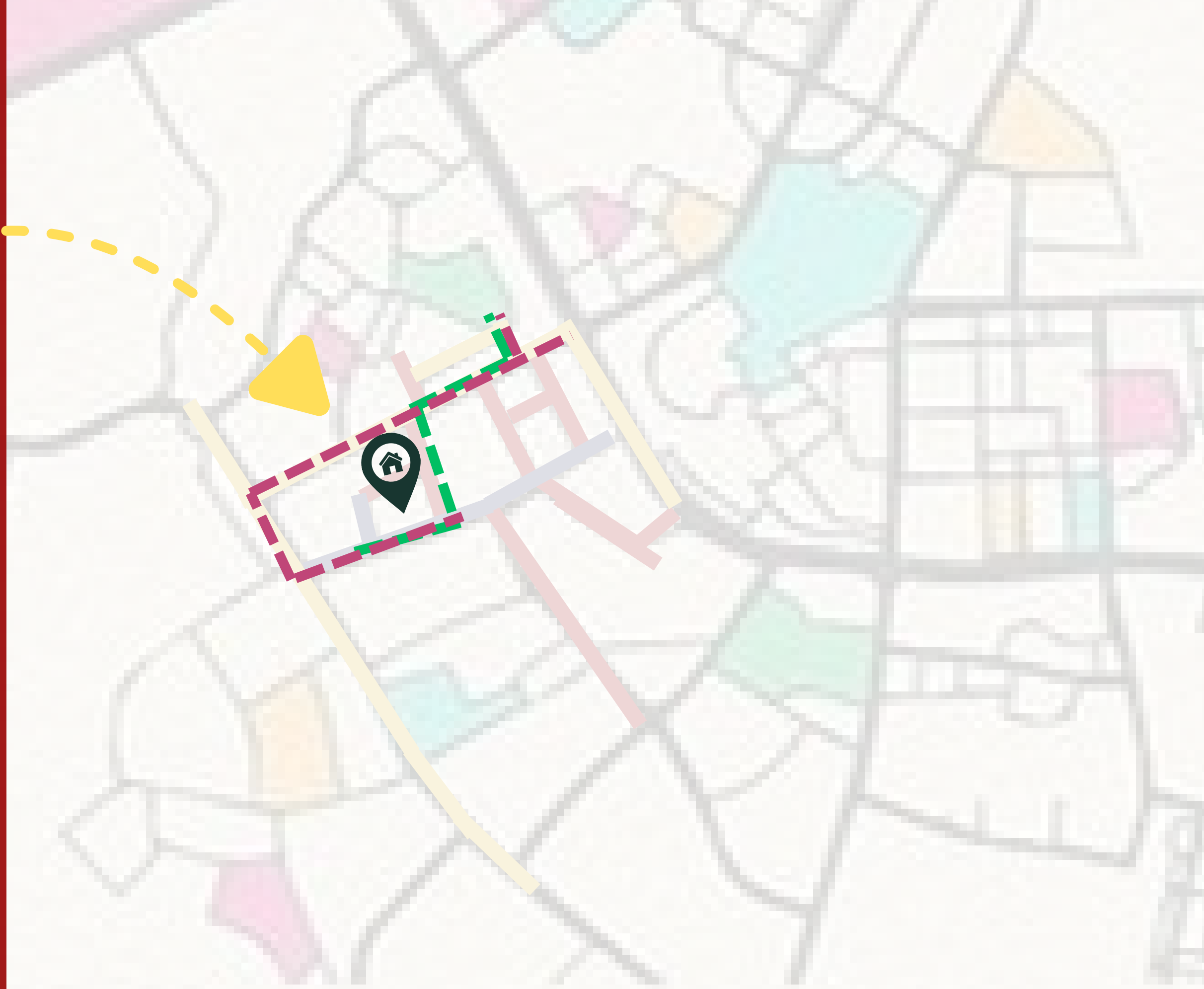


Meet Preeti, who walks an extra 15 minutes to go to the local park because smaller routes in between her commute are unsafe.

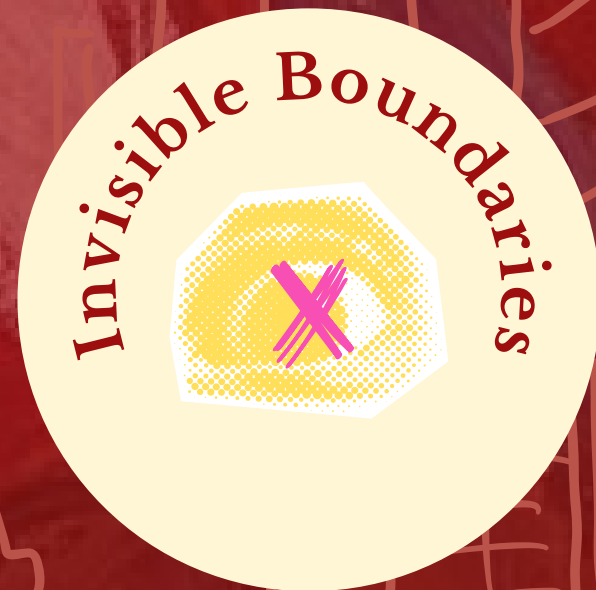
Shortest Route



Route taken by Preeti



Our Campaign



Invisible Boundaries

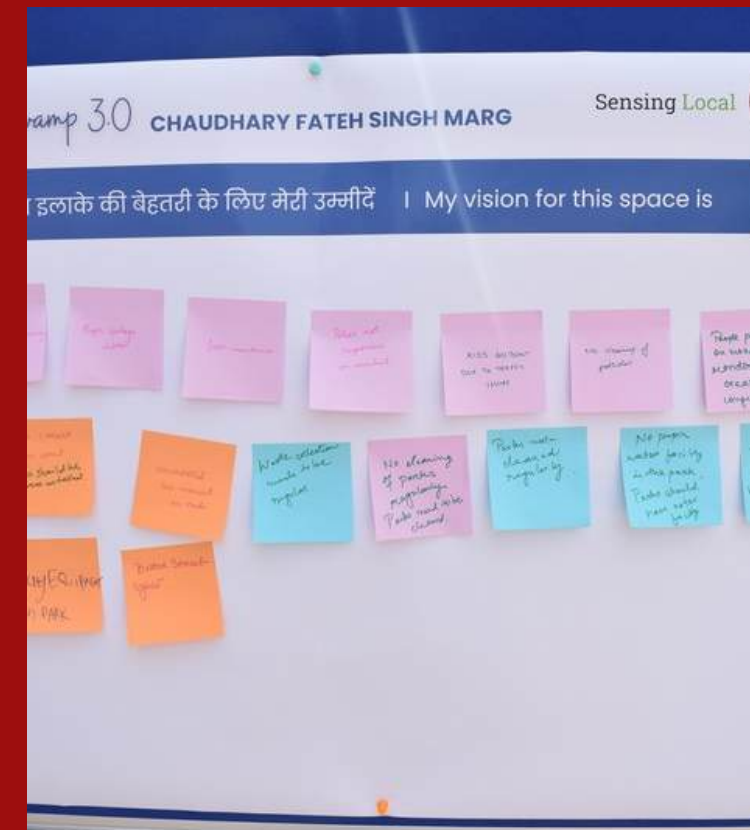
Invisible Boundaries Installation:

We created an interactive installation where participants received stickers and placed them on a city map:

- Places they love
- Places they avoid
- Places they wish they could use more freely

Reach: 150 visitors

Key Learning: People quickly recognised that experiences of the same spaces differed dramatically for different people who came from different context.



After Sunset

As part of our campaign, we organised Stories After Sunset, a spoken-word showcase that invited young people to share reflections on safety, belonging, and their experiences of navigating public spaces. Through poetry and personal narratives, participants explored how everyday journeys are shaped by confidence, caution, and social expectations. The event brought together students, parents, and community members, creating a space for dialogue and encouraging audiences to reflect on how differently people experience the same city.

After Sunset
-Rhea Shah

They say the city belongs to everyone.
Yet some of us walk freely,
While others walk carefully—
Carrying warnings,
Live locations,
And the weight of "be home before dark."
The streets are the same,
But the experience is not.
A city truly belongs to everyone
Not when everyone can enter,
But when everyone can stay,
Explore,
And return home without fear.
Until then,
There are invisible lines
Across our streets,
And across our lives.



Digital Storytelling

As part of our advocacy efforts, we launched a social media campaign that used original illustrations, photography, and visual storytelling to spark conversations around public spaces and belonging. Through a series of creative posts, we encouraged audiences to reflect on how different people experience the same environments and invited them to share their own perspectives. The campaign helped extend our message beyond in-person events and engage a wider online community.

Reach: 200k views online, 3k followers, 2.5k shares



The *Impact*



200+ Community members engaged through events and installations



13 Safety Audits completed



200k+ views online



50+ community members interviewed



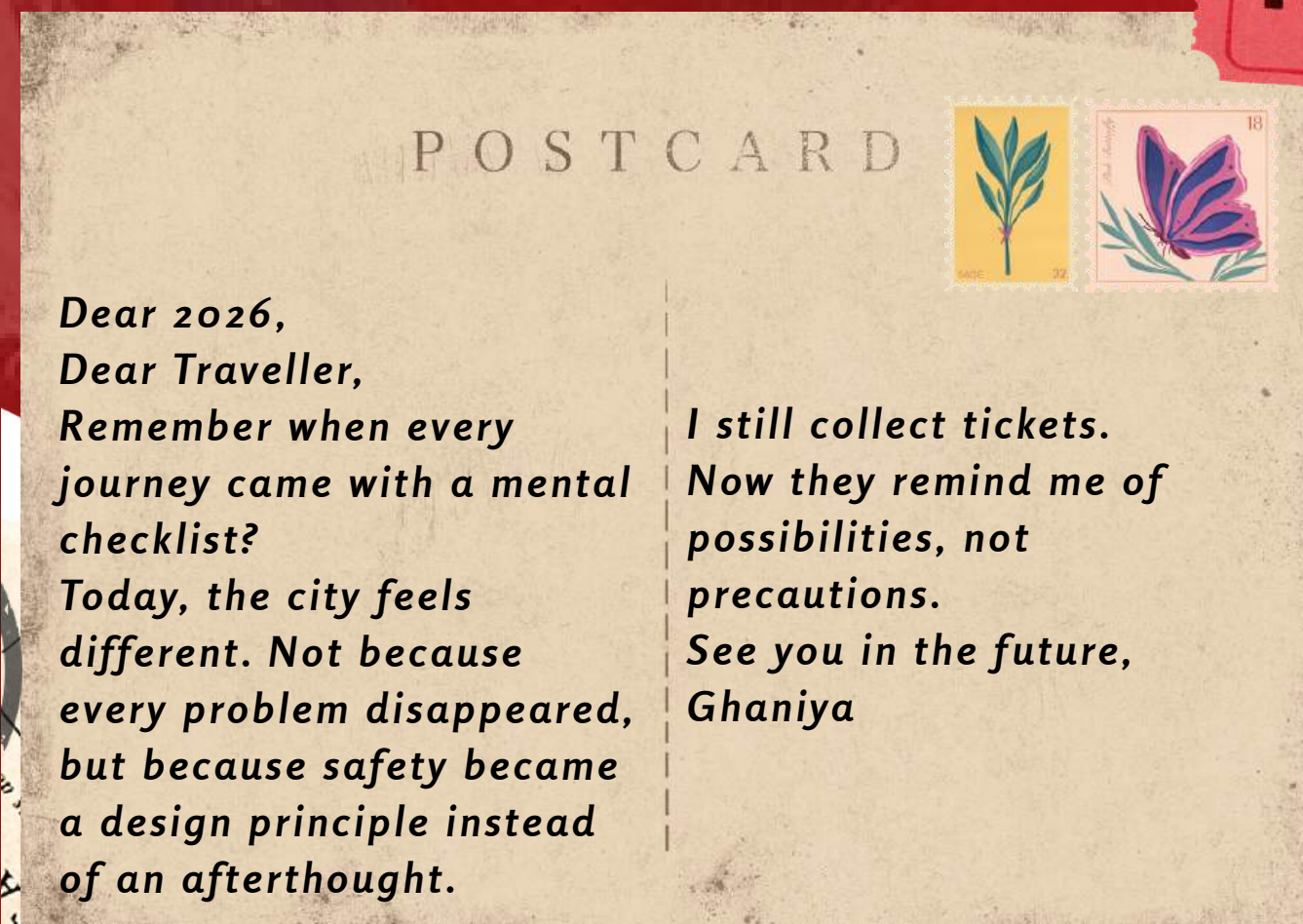
20+ artwork created around gender and mobility



Postcards

From the future

These letters from our future selves serve as both reflection and aspiration—reminding us of the world we hope to build and the path we must take to get there.



Future Planning

While our fellowship journey may be coming to an end, the conversations it started do not have to. We envision this campaign growing beyond a single project through school-based toolkits, community mapping exercises, and partnerships with local stakeholders. By sharing our findings, creative outputs, and learnings with schools, youth groups, artists, and community organisations, we hope to encourage continued dialogue and action around creating more inclusive public spaces. Our goal is not only to raise awareness, but to inspire ongoing community engagement and collective ownership of the issue.

We are creating a toolkit to take to students to help them continue these conversations around mobility and safety in our cities.

THE ACTIVIST STARTER KIT

Tools to Observe. Listen. Create Change.

A starter kit for young changemakers to explore public spaces, uplift voices, and build more inclusive communities.

1 COMMUNITY MAPPING TEMPLATE

Map the spaces you love, the spaces you avoid, and the spaces you wish were better.

- Places I feel safe
- Places I avoid
- Places I wish were better
- Important places (school, home, park, etc.)

2 SAFETY AUDIT CHECKLIST

Observe your surroundings and rate the following:

Lighting Is it well-lit at night?	1 2 3 4 5
Visibility Can you see and be seen clearly?	1 2 3 4 5
People Presence Are there people around?	1 2 3 4 5
Access & Connectivity Is the space easy to reach and navigate?	1 2 3 4 5
Maintenance Is the space clean and well-maintained?	1 2 3 4 5
Comfort Does the space feel welcoming?	1 2 3 4 5
Safety for All Does this space feel safe for everyone?	1 2 3 4 5

1 = Very Unsafe 5 = Very Safe

3 INTERVIEW GUIDE

Use these questions to start conversations and listen to different experiences.

ABOUT THEIR ROUTES

- Where do you usually go in this area?
- How do you travel (walk, bus, metro, etc.)?

ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

- Do you feel safe in this space? Why or why not?
- Are there times (day or night) when you feel less safe?
- Have you ever changed your route or plans because of safety concerns?

ABOUT THE SPACE

- What do you like about this place?
- What would make this space better for you?

ABOUT THEIR IDEAS

- What changes would you like to see?
- Who do you think should be involved in making this change?

4 POSTER TEMPLATES

Use art and words to raise awareness and spark conversations.

WHO GETS TO BELONG?

OUR SPACES. OUR STORIES. OUR RIGHTS.

THE SAME PLACE. DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES.

LET'S BUILD CITIES FOR EVERYONE.

SAFETY IS NOT A PRIVILEGE. IT IS A RIGHT.

LIGHT UP OUR STREETS. OUR FUTURES.

5 REFLECTION PROMPTS

Take time to reflect on your journey, learnings, and hopes.

WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT MY COMMUNITY?

WHAT MOMENT INSPIRED ME THE MOST?

WHAT WAS CHALLENGING? WHAT DID I LEARN FROM IT?

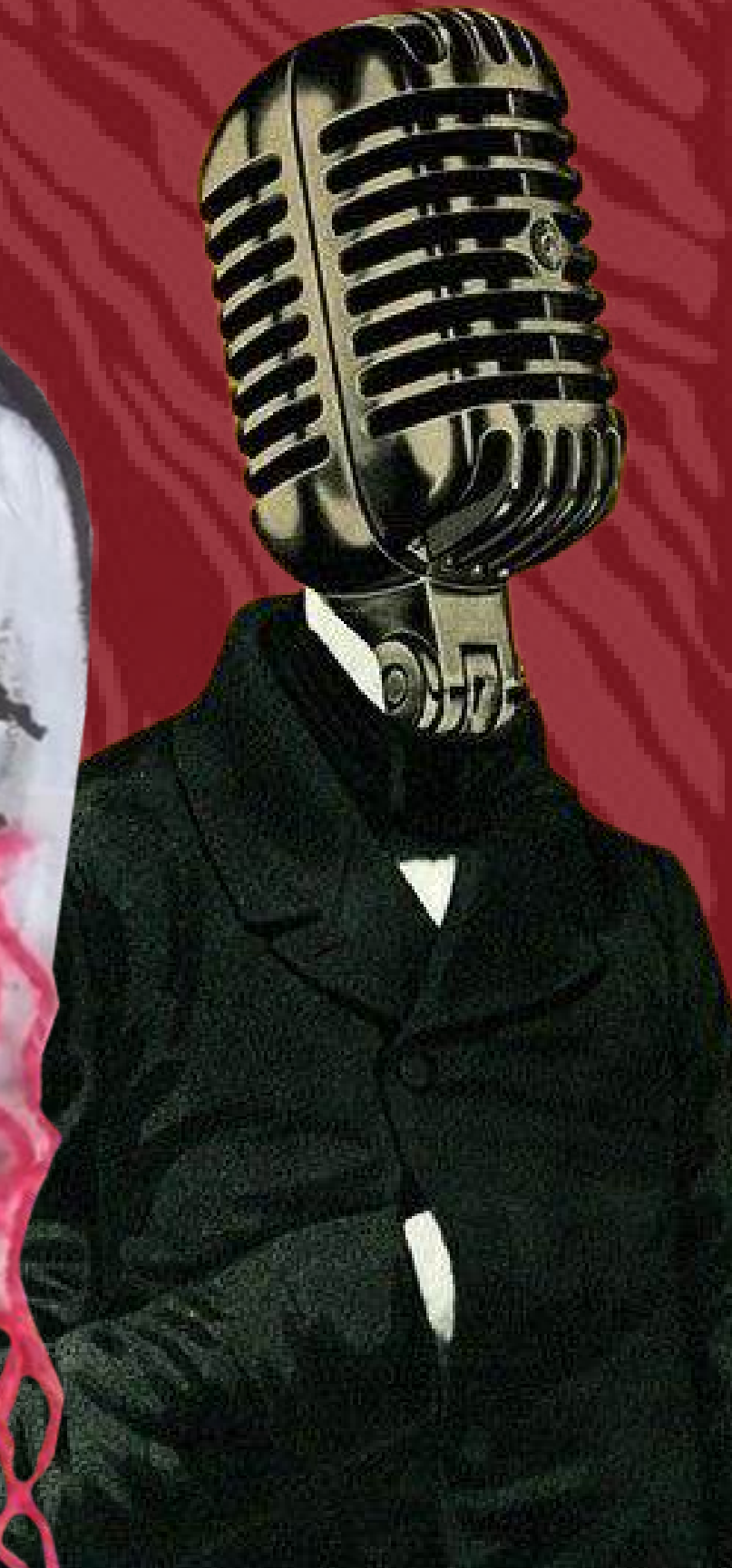
WHAT CHANGE DO I WANT TO SEE?

HOW WILL I KEEP BEING AN ACTIVIST?

USE IT. SHARE IT. ADAPT IT. THIS KIT BELONGS TO EVERY YOUNG CHANGEMAKER. ♥

Artist Showcase

INSTGRAM PAGE



Disclaimer: This portfolio has been created as a sample to illustrate what a completed Artist Fellowship portfolio could look like. It does not represent the work of any actual team or campaign. The content has been developed using a combination of artwork created by previous fellows, sourced visuals, and illustrative examples designed for demonstration purposes. Its purpose is to help participants understand the structure, expectations, and creative possibilities of the portfolio.
