#### UNDISCOVERED WORKS

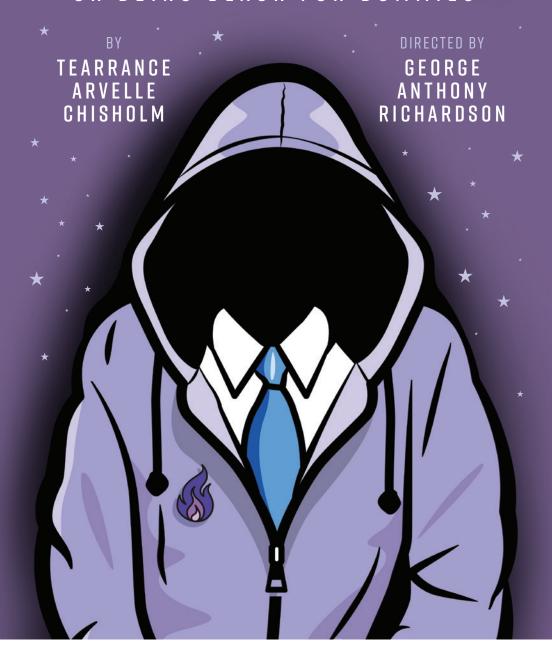
WITH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

RUTH & WILLIAM ISENBERG AND LEAH S. ABRAMS

PRESENTS



OR BEING BLACK FOR DUMMIES



THEATER C

JUNE 11 – JULY 3

59 59

## UNDISCOVERED WORKS

WITH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

RUTH & WILLIAM ISENBERG AND LEAH S. ABRAMS

PRESENTS



## OR BEING BLACK FOR DUMMIES

TEARRANCE ARVELLE

CHISHOLM

DIRECTED BY

GEORGE ANTHONY RICHARDSON

#### CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

OFFICER BORZOI / APOLLO	MIA Y. ANDERSON
TRU	TARRENCE J. TAYLOR
MARQUIS / NEW BLACK KID	LAMBERT TAMIN
DEBRA / PRAIRIE	TJAŠA FERME
CLEMENTINE	EMMA NADINE ONASCH
MEADOW	MADDIE SMALL
HUNTER / HEADMASTER BURNS	ZACHARY DESMOND
FIELDER / DIONYSUS / CONCERNED CITIZEN	HENRY JAMES EDEN
UNDERSTUDY FOR BORZOI / APOLLO	HALIMA HENDERSON
UNDERSTUDY FOR MARQUIS / TRU	TRAJAN CLAYTON
UNDERSTUDY FOR DEBRA / PRAIRIE / CLEMENTINE / MEADOW	MADDIE THOMAS
UNDERSTUDY FOR CLEMENTINE / MEADOW / PRAIRIE / DEBRA	ELLA STOLLER
UNDERSTUDY FOR HUNTER / FIELDER / BURNS / DIONYSUS	KEITH WEISS

## **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM**

PLAYWRIGHT	TEARRANCE ARVELLE CHISHOLM
DIRECTOR	GEORGE ANTHONY RICHARDSON
U.W. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRODUCER	LEAH S. ABRAMS
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	JOSH-ANDREW WISDOM
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	KIRK BALTZELL
SCENIC DESIGN / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	TARA HIGGINS
PROJECTIONS DESIGN	HAO BAI
COSTUME DESIGN	LATIA STOKES
LIGHTING DESIGN	NYLE FARMER
SOUND DESIGN	. YM (FKA CHAD BROWNE-SPRINGER)
PROPS DESIGN	JESS ADAMS
CHOREOGRAPHER/DANCE CAPTAIN	TARRENCE J. TAYLOR
ORIGINAL COMPOSITION (FEATURED SONG)	JAY WILL
ADDITIONAL GREWSAEBYU	L CHOE, GIANA DEGEISO, JOHN LAHEY
COI	LIN LEWELLYN, AND JESSIE WAYBURN

Run time: 120 minutes, including a 10 minute intermission

#### MIA Y. ANDERSON

Officer Borzoi / Apollo



Mia is an actress, director, and writer. A NY native, she was born and raised in the Republic of Brooklyn. She spent over 10 years in Boston, where she founded, directed, and produced the all-female cabaret troupe Drag Kings, Sluts & Goddesses, running for a decade and profiled in the Boston Globe, winner of the Fresh Fruit Festival. Since returning to

New York, she's been featured in award-winning films, including Queen of Glory and A Chance, and worked with The Civilians, National Black Theater, and Poetic Productions. Directing work includes Rising Sun Co., The Road Company of LA, and Culture Project, 2014 directing fellow with New Perspectives Theater, Lincoln Center's Director's Lab alum. As a writer, she's shared at Nuyorican Poets Café, NY Public Library, and The New American Theatre and has published essays in Pinned Down by Pronouns and Getting Bi. Solo work her, him, prince, michael, and marvin aka love is love featured at the Failsafe Festival, workshop production by the Dirty Blondes Theater, and 2019 QuickSilver Theater POC Summit Finalist. Improvscience's Performer Director for the past 10 years. www.miayandersonchannel.com

#### **ZACHARY DESMOND**

Hunter / Headmaster Burns



Regional: Shakespeare on the Sound, A Midsummer Night's Dream and A Christmas Carol, dir. Claire Kelly. New York City: StudioNYC, Troglobites, dir. Piper Patterson; Columbia/Lenfest Center for the Arts, Pullman Car Hiawatha, dir. Logan Reed. Juilliard: Fucking A, dir. Erin Ortman; The Seagull, dir. Jackson Gay; Life Is A Dream, dir.

Shaun Patrick Tubbs; *Tango Palace*, dir. Orlando Pabotoy; *Antony and Cleopatra*, dir. Tim Hoare. Training: Juilliard, Group 50. Zachary is also a playwright whose recent New York productions include StudioNYC's *Troglobites*, directed by Piper Patterson, and No. 11's *Friends Call Me Albert*, directed by Ryan Emmons.

#### HENRY JAMES EDEN

Fielder / Dionysus / Concerned Citizen



Henry is an actor, writer, and musician living in Brooklyn. He is thrilled to be part of *HOODED*, a favorite new work of his. New York stage credits include *God and Girl* with the Columbia University MFA program, as well as Janice Lagata's *Scandusical* at the People's Improv Theater. Recent film credits include *Untitled Growing Up Series* with

director Yara Shahidi, and the feature film *Against The Wall* with Juan Pablo Ceja. Henry is represented by Shannon McHale of Take 3 Talent for Film & Television.



## TJAŠA FERME

Debra / Prairie



Tjaša is an award-winning actor, playwright, and creator; Slovenian National Film and Stane Sever classical stage Award recipient. Founding Artistic Director of Transforma Theatre, creating interactive theatrical experiences at the nexus of science, consciousness, and ritual, she created The Female Role Model Project, premiering Off Broadway at 3-Legged

Dog and at Edinburgh Fringe; the play received a NYITA nomination for Outstanding Innovative Design and Fast Company's honorary mention for World Changing Ideas Awards. In 2021, Ferme created and produced the sold-out Science in Theatre Festival at NYC's cell theater, covered by Forbes and American Theatre Magazine. Tjaša is the creator of the short film Ophelia's Flip (Cannes), farce stage hit Cocktales - Confessions of a Nymphomaniac, and interactive solo shows, Wild Child in the City and My Marlene (HERE). Acting credits include The Upper Room (NY Times Critic's Pick), Three Trembling Cities (Best of Stereable, Toronto, Brooklyn, Philly Web Fests), Larry Gone Demon (10 film awards), and Dutch Kills (Best Thriller Manhattan FF).

#### EMMA NADINE ONASCH

Clementine



Emma is a New York City-based voice actor and theater artist. She is thrilled and very grateful to be making her Off Broadway debut with the company of *HOODED*. Emma has been seen on stages across the country, from California to Washington, D.C., and she has lent her voice to national commercials and beloved toy brands alike.

Twitter and Instagram: @emmao\_vo www.emmanadineonasch.com

#### MADDIE SMALL

Meadow



Off Broadway debut! New York theater: The ABCs (The Tank), Hot! Festival (Dixon Place), Ophelia in Hamlet and Duke Senior in As You Like It (NYU Classical Studio), Pope Joan in Tops Girls (NYU Meisner Studio), and Conference of the Birds (NYU Tisch Stageworks). Select TV/Film credits: Issa Rae's Rapsh!t (HBO), a recurring role in

Tough Love (Daytime Emmy Award-nominated digital series, YouTube/Cleo TV), Skin the Wire (dir. Erin Greenwell). Maddie would like to thank her family, Lorna, Evelyn, Ana, Daniel, Darci, and Gigi. Proud graduate of New York University's Tisch School for the Arts, BFA.

#### **LAMBERT TAMIN**

Marquis / New Black Kid



Lambert Tamin most recently appeared before New York audiences in the leading role of Taylor Mac's world premiere of *The Fre* at The Flea Theatre. Other stage credits include Mac Wellman's *Bad Penny* and *Southern Promises* (The Flea), *The Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey), *Naisula* (Guild Hall, John Drew

Theater), In Mysterious Ways (Theater at St. Clements), and Cupid's Corner (Facebook Livestream). Film: Idea (by Itamar Moses), On The Floor, N.ot W.ithout A.lonzo, Paranoia, Vignettes, The Ballad of Bobby Carr. TV: Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil (ID Discovery), Mysteries at the Museum (Travel Channel). Lambert completed the 2 Year Conservatory Program at William Esper Studios and is currently pursuing his MFA in Drama at the Juilliard School.

## TARRENCE J. TAYLOR

Tru / Choreographer & Dance Captain



Tarrence, a TV/theater/film actor, is very excited to be performing in this show. With everything that went on during these last two years, he was eager to get back on stage and practice his craft. Some of his most recent works are the Hulu series WuTang: An American Saga (S.2 E.10) and Next Stop Christmas on the Hallmark Channel. He's thrilled to be

working with new actors again and reliving his adolescent years. God Bless you all! And I hope you enjoy the show!

#### TRAJAN CLAYTON

Understudy for Tru / Marquis / New Black Kid



Originally from Georgia, trajan is an artist capable of many things. After college, he plans to continue his journey as a student of life and theater, spreading love and laughter. For there is enough for us all.

## HALIMA HENDERSON

Understudy for Officer Borzoi / Apollo



Halima Henderson is an actor and teacher artist. She has performed Shakespeare in parking lots, dark comedy at HERE Arts, sketch comedy at The PIT and is a former member of the Bats, the resident acting company at The Flea Theater. Most recently, she played a myriad of roles onstage in Two Headed Rep's *The Collision/The Martyrdom* at 59E59.

Additionally, Halima self-produced and starred in the award-winning short film Sorry. She has trained with The Peoples Improv Theater, Upright Citizens Brigade, Shakespeare & Co., The Freeman Studio and Fiasco Theater Company. When not performing, you can find her teaching yoga and learning to play her guitar "Hattie." A proud Univ. of Michigan alum, Halima is thrilled to be a part of this cast. Thank you Undiscovered Works! www.HalimaHenderson.com

#### **ELLA STOLLER**

Understudy for Debra / Prairie / Clementine / Meadow



Ella Stoller is delighted to be making their 59E59 Off Broadway debut. Recent credits include: *Ulysses Missa* (New York Theater Festival), *The Words* (CultureHub NYC & Seoul Institute of the Arts), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Classic Theater of Maryland). Upcoming: *Unorthdox Methods of Cosmic Flight* (Philadelphia Fringe). BA: Fordham University

at Lincoln Center, Class of 2020. They'd like to thank Quinn, Tiff & Patty. www.ellastoller.com

#### MADDIF THOMAS

Understudy for Debra / Prairie / Clementine / Meadow



Maddie Thomas (she/her) is a queer theater artist from small town Vermont, currently based in Worcester, MA. She is a Clark University '20 graduate (Theatre Arts and Psychology). She was last seen with Undiscovered Works' virtual new play reading of **Poor Connection** and is thrilled to be back! Maddie is a horror film fanatic who recently starred

in the comedy short Maneater! (Best Local Film, MA Indie Film Fest.) Favorite credits include Sprite in *The Tempest*; Love and Information (Women's Theatre Festival), Rory in Jacob's Ladder Surface, and Mrs. Givings in In The Next Room, or The Vibrator Play. She thanks her friends, family and mentors for the endless love and support! And thank YOU - welcome back to live theater! maddieruththomas@gmail.com

## **KEITH WEISS**

Understudy for Hunter / Fielder / Headmaster Burns / Dionysus / Concerned Citizen



Keith is immensely grateful to be returning to 59E59 and excited to be working on his first Off Broadway production since the pandemic. The 39 Steps (Strongbox Theater), Hindsight's 2020 (24 Hour Plays), Off White: or The Arab House Party (Breaking&Entering Theatre), Secret Identity (TOSOS). A founding member of The Fled

Collective, an artist collective providing a radically equitable, anti-racist, anti-oppressive platform for theater artists, where he serves as Co-Chair of Development & Engagement. Much love to Leah for bringing him into this production, this breathtaking cast, Anthony, SMs for their magnificent resourcefulness, Mom, Dad, Staci. For John.

#### TEARRANCE ARVELLE CHISHOLM

Playwright

Tearrance premiered his play *P.Y.G.* at Studio Theater as both playwright and director. He won a Helen Hayes award for *Hooded; Or Being Black for Dummies* at Mosaic Theater. *Br'er Cotton* had a critically-acclaimed production by London's Theatre 503 (nominee, Evening Standard Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright), and received an NNPN Rolling World Premiere. He was a finalist for the Inaugural Relentless Award, part of Pacific Playwrights Fest at South Coast Rep with Anacostia Street Lions, developed *Black Lady Authority* at the Sundance Theater Lab and *Black Dick* at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. Tearrance holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Catholic University of America and is a graduate of the Juilliard Lila Wallace American Playwrights program. In Hollywood, Tearrance has written for a number of TV series and is currently developing his own show, the sci-fi dramedy, *Demascus*, with AMC and Gran Via Productions.

### GEORGE ANTHONY RICHARDSON

Director

The roots of George Anthony Richardson are grounded in the quaint town of Merced, CA. He ultimately found purpose in facilitating healing and opening people's hearts in the medium of theater through his involvement in his church as a child. In 2014, he attended Santa Monica College, to further hone his craft until moving to New York City in 2017. A recent graduate of The Juilliard School, some of his prior acting credits include Tanya Barfield's *Blue Door*, Hansol Jung's *Cardboard Piano*, and Tearrance A. Chisholm's *The First Story That Ever Lived. HOODED* marks Richardson's NY Directorial debut. "Chisholm has carved not only an indelible story with *HOODED*, but an experience. One that feeds off of our basic principles of live theater. I'm incredibly grateful to join this team of dedicated and consummate artists."

#### TARA HIGGINS

Scenic Design / Technical Director

Tara is a British Columbia-based visual artist with a background in theater and interior design, construction, furniture restoration, and painting which is her current primary medium. She has studied art in Oxford, Venice, Amsterdam, and in the US, including painting under the mentorship of world-renowned landscape painter K.B. Hancock and being mentored by reputed Canadian figurative artist Angela Morgan. Ms. Higgins' work has appeared internationally in magazines, newspapers and television and is hung in private and corporate collections around the globe. Her residential and commercial interior design include hotels and estates worldwide. She served as technical director and artist on the 2018 Off Broadway premiere of *Kurt Vonnegut's Mother Night*, produced at 59E59.

#### LATIA STOKES

Costume Design

Latia is a teaching artist, actor and costumer. She is a graduate of Catholic University of America. Her costume experience includes designing for *The Vagina Monologues* (FSU), *Pirates of Penzance* (HB Woodlawn Theater), *Witch of Edmonton* (HB Woodlawn Theater), *Mary Q Contrary* (PG Children's Theater), *PYG or the misedumacation of Dorian Belle* (The Juilliard School), and various children's theater performances and film projects. www.LatiaStokes.com

#### HAO BAI

**Projections Design** 

Hao is a multidisciplinary designer in lighting, sound, video projection, and world-building (environment) for live and virtual performances. Hao works with groundbreaking and innovative artists including Charlotte Braithwaite, Abigail DeVille, Mei Ann Teo, Ping Chong, The Talking Band, Mabou Mines, The Wooster Group, The Builders Association, The Hawtplates (Justin Hicks), and Loco7. International work at Asia Culture Center (South Korea), WuZhen Festival (China); in the states at Woolly Mammoth Theater, TheatreWorks Hartford, and Baltimore Center Stage (MD); and NY at The Public, NYU Skirball, Bushwick Starr, La MaMa, JACK, Performance Space New York, New Stage Theatre, 59E59, A.R.T/New York Theatres, 14 Street Y, HERE, The Gallery Players, The Tank, etc. Recent: Virtual - *Final Boarding Call* (Ma-Yi +WP Theaters), *Nocturne in* 1200s (Ping Chong); Lighting- Waterboy and the Mighty World (Bushwick Starr & The Public); Projection - *Electronic City* (NYIT Awards); Sound - Walden (TheatreWorks); Production Design - Where We Belong (Woolly Mammoth, National Tours). Upcoming - Arden (The Flea) and 7Mins (HERE).

www.haobaidesign.com

#### **NYLE FARMER**

Lighting Design

Nyle is a lighting designer native of Brooklyn, New York, also working as an assistant and associate designer in theater, dance, and live events. Recent assistant lighting design credits include: Broadway - The Music Man (2022), COMPANY (2021), and Lackawanna Blues (2021); Off Broadway - Whitney White's DEFINITION (Bushwick Starr), STEW (Page 73), and For all the women who thought they were Mad (SOHO REP). Many thanks to friends and family for their unwavering love and support!

## YM (FKA CHAD BROWNE-SPRINGER)

Sound Design

Ym (they/she) is an artist's artist. A maestro of many disciplines, their work as a musician, singer, songwriter, producer, and designer creates more than a performance, but a full sensory experience. Incorporating ethereal, futuristic, nostalgic, and psychedelic elements into fundamentally grounded artforms like hip hop, metal, and soul creates a sound that is innovative, intoxicating, and refreshing.

## **JESS ADAMS**

**Props Design** 

Jess is a Queens-based theater designer focusing on prop and object design. During/since the onset of the pandemic, they have worked on *Dark Girl Chronicles: Chronicle X* (The SHED and Rattlestick, props and fabrication) and *The Violet Hour* (Caveat, puppets), and has assisted their partner with many a Switch n' Play virtual drag show. Prior to Covid-times, Jess worked as a fabricator and prop associate on projects both on Broadway and off with Propstar, propped benefit shows for The Actor's Fund and Tectonic Theater Project, and designed and dressed productions at Fordham University and NYU. Jess currently serves as the Director of Operations for Newel Props. Instagram: @jessmadeathing

#### **JOSH-ANDREW WISDOM**

Production Stage Manager

Josh-Andrew Wisdom is a New York City-based freelance stage manager who just recently finished a Stage Management Apprenticeship at The Juilliard School. Wisdom is an alum of The University of Miami with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Stage Management. Previous credits include Juilliard productions of *Indecent, The Rakes Progress,* and The University of Miami's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He is so excited to join the team at Undiscovered Works.

#### KIRK BALTZELL

Assistant Stage Manager

Kirk is a stage manager and composer based in New York City. They recently completed the Professional Apprentice Program at The Juilliard School after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin where they studied theater, music composition, and classics, and are now freelancing in the city with hopes of working on and around Broadway in various capacities. Ultimately, they hope to build a vast and varied life that is centered on genuineness, empathy, and love.

#### LEAH S. ABRAMS

#### Producer

Leah is the founder and executive director of Undiscovered Works. She has produced over 100 plays/musicals in three cities, including the world and subsequent Off Broadway premieres at 59E59 of Kurt Vonnegut's Mother Night (NY Times Top 10 Audience Pick), and Gino Dilorio's Sam & Dede, Or My Dinner with Andre the Giant which she also directed. With the cell, she produced Mark Eisman's Sightlines, starring NAACP Image Award winner Darnell Williams. In San Francisco, she produced regional premieres including Red Light Winter, starring Tony Award winner Daveed Diggs, and Catherine Trieschmann's How the World Began (also directed). She is immensely grateful to finally share this brilliant play with NYC audiences and, on a personal note, has an endless list of thank you's to those who make this all possible on many different levels.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Executive Producers, Ruth & William Isenberg;

Associate Producers, Sheri Abrams & Norman Berman, Jay Yamada, and The Cowan Slavin Foundation

Sponsors, Lewis Campbell (and, in memoriam, Kathleen Azavedo Feinblum), and Dan Zisson; and our other many individual donors;

Also, Jason Abbate, David Ampola, Lauren Blacker & Emily Weinstein; Beth Blickers; Daniel Davila, trailer videographer/editor; Darryl Gene Daughtry, Jr.; Katherine McDowell-Dugan & Christopher Dugan; Glen Shuman; The Talent Fund team; Sara, Mia & team at BAX; Gabriel & team at Queens Theatre; Thom Widmann at Juilliard; Gino & Kevin at Clark U.; Naomi & team at 826NYC. The cross-country Undiscovered Works team; the entire amazing cast and design / production team; and Team 59E59 for believing in this project with us and making it possible to be here two years on from our original dates.

# ARTISTS INSPIRE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE AND BE IN THE WORLD.

WE ASKED OUR TEAM TO SHARE JUST ONE BLACK ARTIST WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT—SOMEONE WHO HAS INSPIRED OR INFORMED OR TAUGHT OR MENTORED THEM.

**CLICK HERE TO SEE WHAT THEY SAID** 



#### **CURATOR'S NOTE**

Welcome to Undiscovered Works production of *Hooded*; or *Being Black for Dummies* by the visionary writer Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm who dares to perch his characters atop the razor thin line between comedy and tragedy. The humor is dark and sometimes deeply uncomfortable as it pokes at pop culture tropes and then darts back into a hilarious but disturbingly timely portrait of the young, black male experience in America. There is so much to enjoy and unpack here that intermission is sure to be buzzing with conversation!



VAL DAY
Artistic Director

#### 59E59 THEATERS STAFF

**ELYSABETH KLEINHANS** President/Founding Artistic Director

**VAL DAY** Artistic Director

**BRIAN BEIRNE** Managing Director

ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager

CATE PUGLIA Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

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SHANNON SMITH Theater Manager

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**CARLOS CONILL Facilities Manager** 

JOHNATHAN PRICE Facilities Assistant

WALDIN ROJAS Facilities Assistant

CHRISTIAN MILLER Director of Ticketing

LLOYD MULVEY Box Office Manager

CRAIG SCHENKER Box Office Supervisor

ANDREA ARVANIGIAN Box Office Supervisor

JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor

**CAILIN KELLY** Box Office Associate

CHARLI ARNETT Box Office Associate

**DANIELLE COVINGTON** Box Office Associate

**ALANIS MOLINA-GARELO Usher** 

ANNA BONGARDINO Usher

**ANNE RUTTER Usher** 

**BENJI SILLS Usher** 

CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher

**ERIC BERKELEY Usher** 

FLOWER RIOS Usher

ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher

JAMES SCHULTZ Usher

JOEY PITTORINO Usher

KAYLA GRANT Usher

MICIAH WALLACE Usher

NATALIE LILAVOIS YUSTY Usher

RICHARD RODRIGUEZ Usher

AMBER RIGGLE Theater Technician
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician

KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician

#### THEATER C

59E59 THEATERS

## EAST TO EDINBURGH 2022

A unique showcase of 14 New York shows headed to the world's largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, this summer.



#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta.

We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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