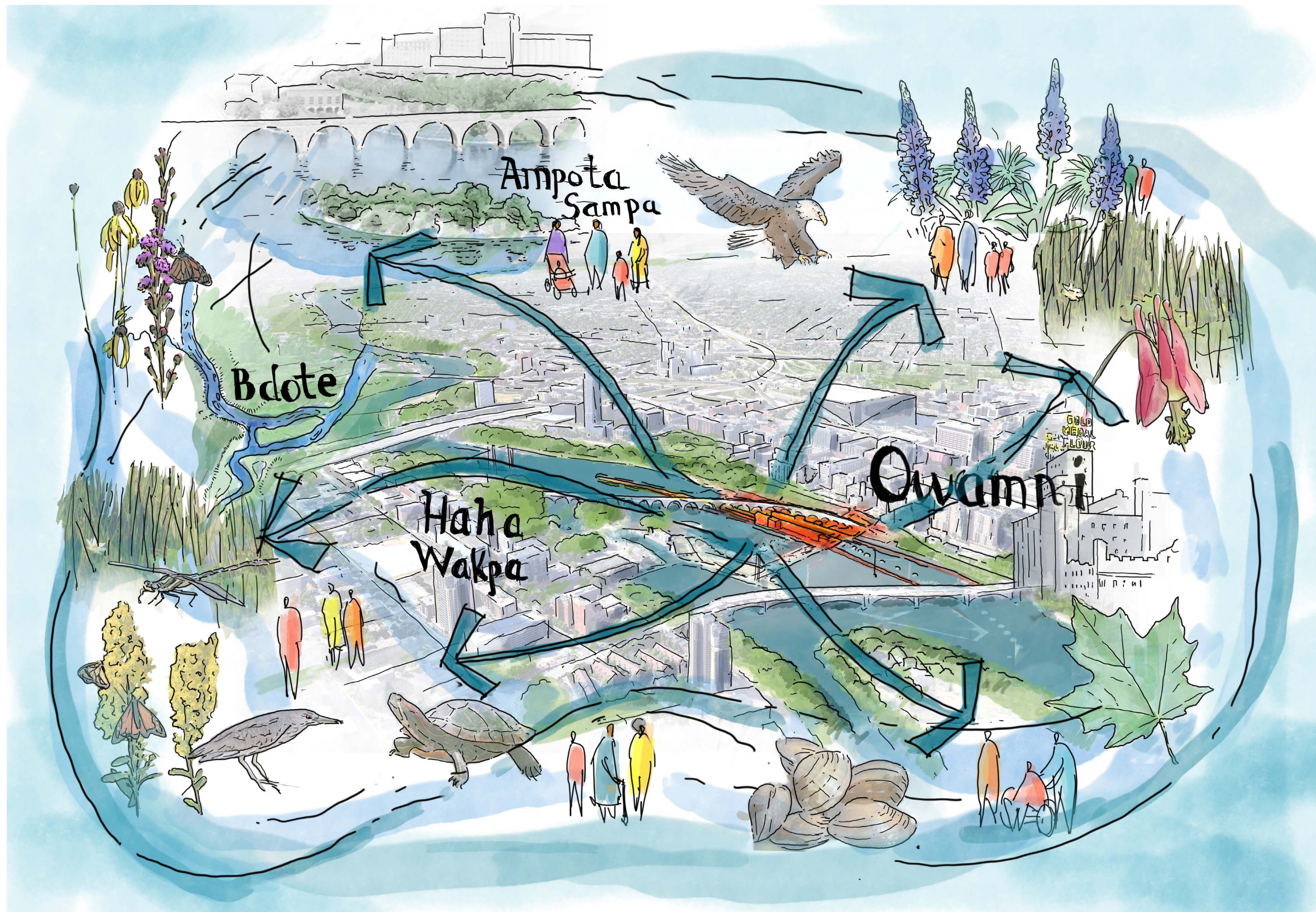


# A Place of Connection

The Falls is a Place of Connection. How can this place and process support connecting?



## What we've heard so far...

"Water is a spirit, and medicinal, and has life of its own... but cannot be understood as separate from the other parts of the living beings that interact with the River."

- Maggie Lorenz

"Communities should embrace the notion of indigenous people wanting to re-imagine a contemporary city that includes more of who they are." - Melissa Olson

"Having a way to hear the language can help Dakota who are trying to regain their language, also helps nonnative learn the language, and the River gets to hear what she's missed for so long." - Shelley Buck

"In the future I'd like to see Native Youth have access to this site. Be able to revitalize knowledge and future. Not having access definitely getting in the way, having access allows for that knowledge."

- Wakinyan LaPointe

"How can we capture more Dakota voices? We want a line about how many people are caring about this River, like Sharon Day's work. River is important to our continued existence. We still try to understand it in our own way."

- Juanita Espinosa

"20 years from now, what are the youth going to see. Will they see themselves in this place? Power is relationships, and nourishing them. Are they going to see the names of their water programs? The names of their communities there? Native organizations? Are they going to have canoes there? Be able to fulfill their roles of the River? Are they going to be able to dance there and sing there?"

- Wakinyan LaPointe

"It is made invisible the more eminent connections the Dakota have to the River. Minneapolis often times has a line of demarcation of time and the time after, and if we were asked to define it we'd have different ideas of what that would be."

- Melissa Olson

"What I'm interested in lately is the spontaneous way that people have come to form community again, whether it's Ojibwe, Dakota..."

- Shelley Buck

"A lot of our medicine is from the river, and it's surviving without us, been excited to forage and see new things. I'm from spirit lake, and think about things to go look for - and they're all around me." - Juanita Espinosa