



## PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Friday, June 12, 2026  
12:00 PM Remote via Zoom

### 1. Zoom Meeting Information

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue, the Portland Temporary Art Review Panel will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S., section 403-B and the City Council's Remote Participation Policy.

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. For more information on how to use Zoom, please go to <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/remotePUD>. Public comment will be taken and written comments may be submitted to [publicart@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:publicart@portlandmaine.gov)

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!  
When: Jun 12, 2026 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Temporary Art Review Panel - Arise

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:  
<https://portlandmaine.gov.zoom.us/j/88056107934?pwd=sXCIucWbzWoMXgNQWjdL04K0v5Lu4q.1>  
Passcode:551518

Phone one-tap:  
+13017158592,,88056107934#,,,,\*551518# US (Washington DC)  
+13052241968,,88056107934#,,,,\*551518# US

Join via audio:  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 305 224 1968 US  
+1 309 205 3325 US  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 931 3860 US  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 689 278 1000 US  
+1 719 359 4580 US  
+1 253 205 0468 US  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 360 209 5623 US  
+1 386 347 5053 US  
+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

Webinar ID: 880 5610 7934

Passcode: 551518

International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/kctEFzkcqQ>

## **2. Introduction**

Moderator - Taylor Colbeth, Planner with Planning & Urban Development at City of Portland

Applicant - Arisa White and Pamela Chevez

Description - An application for temporary public art 'Arise' - a painted mural to be installed on the brick sections at monument Square by Pamela Chevez which also features a thirteen word poem by Arisa White.

Review Panel Participants

1. Sean King - Urban Designer, Planning & Urban Development, City of Portland
2. Matt Grooms - Deputy Director, Planning & Urban Development, City of Portland
3. Alex Marshall - Parks Division Director, Parks, Recreation, & Facilities, City of Portland
4. Cary Tyson - Executive Director, Portland Downtown
5. Sharon Dennehy - Vice Chair, Portland Public Art Committee
6. John Hall - Designated Local Artist

## **3. Artist Organization Presentation**

## **4. Review Panel Deliberation**

## **5. Review Panel Discussion**

**Next Meeting -**

*Application for Temporary Public Art*  
 City of Portland ~ Planning & Urban Development Department, Public Art Committee  
 (Allow up to 3 months prior to installation date)

Today's Date: 4 / 9 / 2026		Name(s): Arisa White + Pamela Chevez		(Alternate Designee):	
Artist Name: (if different from above)			(Alternate Designee Cell):		
Company (if applicable)TEMPOart					
Address: P.O. Box 4101					
City: Portland		State: Maine		Zip: 04101	
Telephone: 724-875-1046		Work:		Fax:	Cell:
Email Address:director@tempoartmaine.org; arisawhite@gmail.com					

**Title**

Arise

**Summary**

Location Monument Square  
 Materials (please be specific) Exterior acrylic latex paint  
 Dimensions, Height, Weight, Title 105' x 50', "Arise"

**Technical Requirements and Description**

Arise is a painted mural installed by artist Pamela Chevez on the brick sections at Monument Square featuring a thirteen word poem by Arisa White. The poem: Let your hearts canary. No one stands solitary. We are each other's sanctuary.

**Maintenance and Safety**

Painted on the ground, the mural will see natural degradation through public use of the square. Winter snow removal methods will impact the work as well. In spring 2027, TEMPOart, in partnership with the artist and City, can assess the condition to determine whether to repair or remove. It is our understanding that the City of Portland has intentions on renovation of the Square, should the mural's condition be maintained to an acceptable level, it may be possible for an extension beyond June 2027.

**Proposed Schedule**

Installation Date(s): June 22 to July 13, 2026	Display Dates: July 13 to April 1, 2027 — at which point the condition will be assessed	Removal Date:
TEMPOart has researched paint removal on historic brick and surfaces. Deinstallation can be accomplished with no damage to the surface through dry ice blasting.		

**Required Supporting Materials**

- Resume
- Structural Sketches of the proposed work
- Detailed photo, map, or maquette of proposed piece on site
- Up to 10 images of relevant work with slide sheet
- Optional statement of intention (limited to one page)
- Signage Listings

**(Please read all attachments included with this application.)**

**FOR CITY USE ONLY**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Sketch Attached: \_\_\_\_\_ Resume Attached: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

DIG SAFE (1-888-344-7233): \_\_\_\_\_ Security Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed Agreement Attached: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Denied (reason): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

# TEMPOart Public Art Commission

## Arisa White

**Project Title:** Arise!

**Site:** Monument Square

The triangular area inlaid with brick, forming a sunburst with thirteen sections (like pie slices), will be the focus of this installation. The idea is to create a poem, painted on the brick in regular and glow-in-the dark paint, starting north, then east, going south, and west. Since Monument Square is a public space that has hosted protests, gatherings, and markets over the centuries, the poem is a call to action, a directive, an aphorism, and/or a spell.

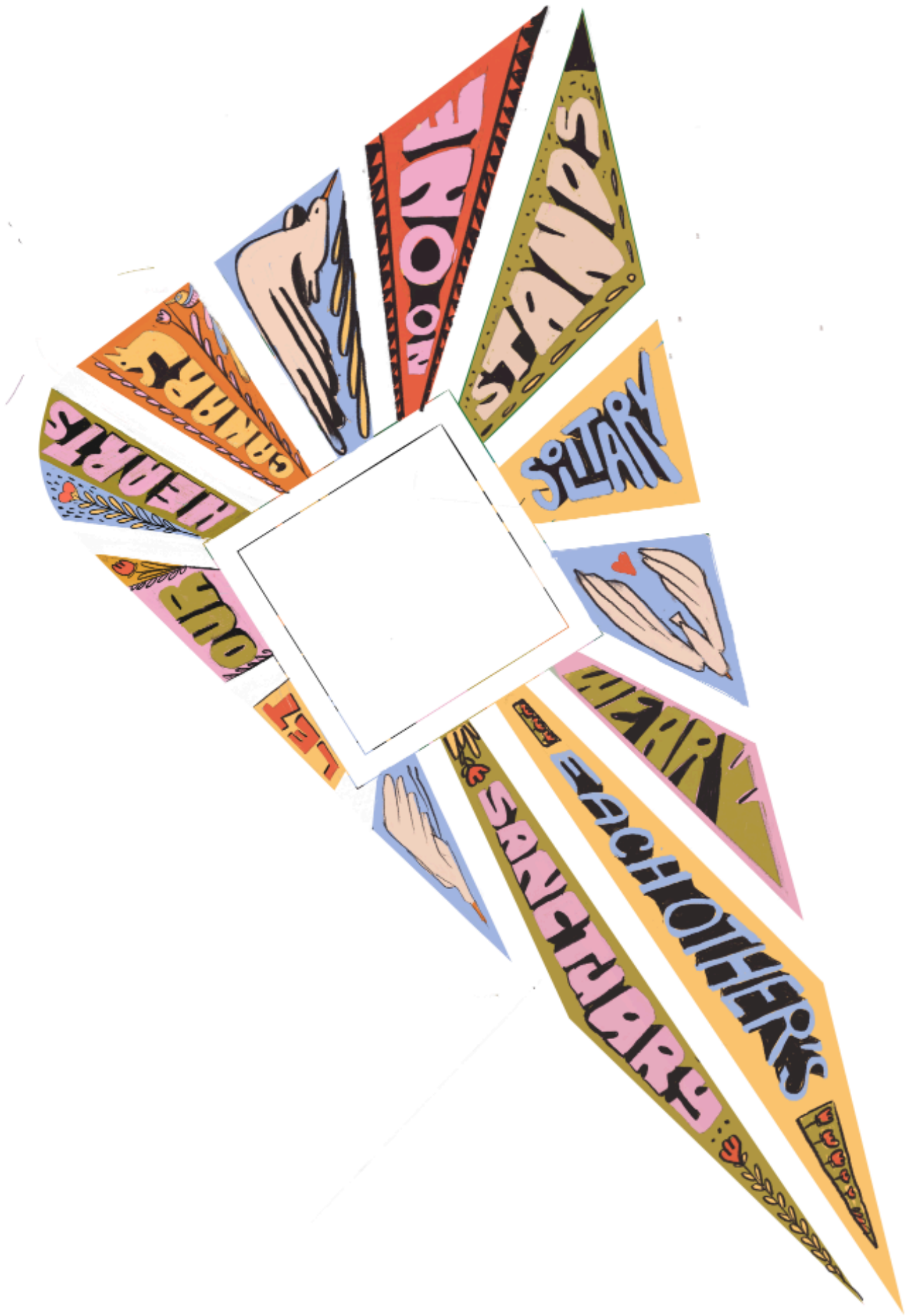
**Final text for poem:**

Let your hearts canary

No one stands solitary

We are each other's sanctuary







# TIMELINE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE:

- June 19: Washing of Monument Square
- June 22-July 13: Muralist Pamela Chevez paints the Square
- Community Paint opportunities: Saturday mornings (10 am to noon)
- July 6-13: MECA students help with finishing details
- July 13: Installation completed

The timeline is subject to weather. With the painting happening in the Square, the artists are aware of potential event impacts during the installation. Chévez would be primarily painting in the morning hours (7 am to noon).

**Washing of Monument Square:** TEMPOart will coordinate volunteers to assist with washing the Square for site preparation. The City has indicated that power washing would not be suitable for the site. We will use mops, water, and vinegar to prepare the surface.

**Installation:** Chévez plans to paint section by section. Each brick “slice” will be roped off while she is working, with construction cones and signage “Artist at Work” with additional information about the installation. Drop cloths and kraft paper will be used to ensure that the paint does not interact with the stone work that separates the brick slices.

**Paint:** It is our understanding that the City of Portland that removal of the paint is a priority. Exterior acrylic latex paint will be the best option that would be easiest to remove. Since power washing is not an option at the Square, TEMPOart has researched alternative methods of zero impact removal. Dry ice blasting is a preferred method for brick surfaces.

**Community painting opportunities:** TEMPOart and Chévez will work together on Saturday mornings (or another day that suits City schedule) to offer an opportunity for community volunteers to help paint the large areas of color.

The artists have coordinated with four MECAD students to help with finishing the mural. They will be paid for their time.

**Maintenance:** It is understood that the mural will be walked on and danced on and protested on. There will be wear and tear. This is expected and accepted. It is TEMPOart’s recommendation that the artwork be assessed in early spring, after winter maintenance of the Square concludes, to understand if repair or removal is a better option depending on condition. This will be coordinated in partnership with the City. Should the mural be vandalized, TEMPOart will clean and coordinate with the artists for repair.



CURRICULUM VITAE  
**ARISA A. WHITE**  
5256 MAYFLOWER HILL, WATERTOWN, ME 04901  
(207) 859-5256 ARISA.WHITE@COLBY.EDU [ARISAWHITE.COM](http://ARISAWHITE.COM)

**EDUCATION**

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**MFA in English—Poetry, 2006**

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST, MA

**BA in Creative Writing and Literature, 2001**

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE, BRONXVILLE, NY

**Embodied Social Justice Certificate Program, 2022**

THE EMBODY LAB, 60 HOUR ONLINE PROGRAM

**CSA: Ghana: African Diaspora Studies, 2000**

SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, Brattleboro, VT

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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**2018-Present** COLBY COLLEGE, WATERTOWN, ME

Creative Writing Program, Associate Professor of English

**PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)**

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**POETRY BOOKS & CHAPBOOKS**

*A Trusted Spectacle in a World of Incomplete Sunshine*, Airlie Press, 2027.

*Post Pardon: The Opera*, Mouthfeel Press, 2026.

*Who's Your Daddy*, Augury Books, 2021.

*Fighting for Justice Series: Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, Heyday Books, 2019.

*You're the Most Beautiful Thing That Happened*, Augury Books, 2016.

*A Penny Saved*, Willow Books, 2012.

*Hurrah's Nest*, Virtual Artists Collective, 2012.

**EDITED ANTHOLOGY**

*Home Is Where You Queer Your Heart*, edited by Miah Jeffra, Monique Mero-Williams, and Arisa White, Foglifter P, 2021.

**SINGLE POEMS**

**Print**

"Dwarf Cinquefoil," *Cape Cod to Nova Scotia: Art, Ecology, Poetry of the Gulf of Maine*, Workman Publishing, 2025 (forthcoming)

"We Not Crazy, We Feeling Irie," *This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets*, edited Kwame Alexander, Little, Brown, and Company, 2024.

"Not Today," "This Is What You Get," "I Bank on Love She Manumits," *Conduit*, no.3, Fall 2023.

"It was easier to manage," *Ideas in Literature: Building Skills and Understanding for AP English Literature Course*, 1st Edition, edited by John R. Williamson, Mary Jo Zell, Elizabeth Davis, MacMillan Learning, 2023.

#### **ART INSTALLATIONS (COMMISSIONED POEMS FOR PUBLIC ART)**

*look after your heart*, 25 Jul 2025. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Boothbay, Maine.

"Sovereign Ruler of the Universe," *BEGIN AGAIN: reckoning with intolerance in Maine*, 27 May -31 Dec 2021, Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.

#### **AWARDS & GRANTS (SELECTED)**

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- **2025 Airlie Poetry Prize**, *A Trusted Spectacle in a World of Incomplete Sunshine*
- **2022 Golden Crown Literary Society Awards, Poetry Winner** : *Who's Your Daddy*
- **2022 Maine Literary Awards, Memoir Finalist**: *Who's Your Daddy*
- **34<sup>th</sup> Lambda Literary Awards, Lesbian Poetry Finalist**: *Who's Your Daddy*, 2022
- **FOCAL Award Winner**, Los Angeles Public Library, *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, 2021
- **Best of Net Nomination**, "Smoke is caught . . ." *The Night Heron Barks*, 2020
- **Nautilus Book Award—Gold Winner**, *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, May 2020
- **Independent Publisher Book Awards—Silver Winner**, *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, 2020
- **Maine Literary Awards, Young People's Literature, Winner**: *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, 2020
- **American Library Association's Over the Rainbow 2018 Recommended Book List**, *You're the Most Beautiful Thing That Happened*
- **29<sup>th</sup> Lambda Literary Awards in Lesbian Poetry Finalist**: *You're the Most Beautiful Thing That Happened*, 2017
- **2016 Julie Suk Award Longlist Finalist**, *You're the Most Beautiful Thing That Happened*
- **Augury Books Poetry Prize Winner**, *You're the Most Beautiful Thing That Happened*, 2015

#### **FELLOWSHIPS & ARTIST RESIDENCIES (SELECTED)**

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- **Arteles Creative Center**, Artist in Residence, Haukijärvi, Finland, 2024
- **Hewnoaks Artist Colony**, Artist in Residence, Lovell, ME, 2024
- **Hedgebrook**, Writer in Residence, Whidbey Island, WA, 2023 & 2010
- **Indigo Arts Alliance**, Mentor Artist-in-Residence, Portland, ME, 2022
- **James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center**, Artist in Residence, San Francisco Public Library, RADAR Productions, CA, 2018
- **Ground Floor Summer Lab Residency**, Artist in Residence, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, CA, 2018
- **Distinguished Visiting Poet in Residence**, Saint Mary's College of California, 2017
- **Visiting Scholar**, The Poetry Center & American Poetry Archives, San Francisco State University, CA, 2016
- **Headlands Center for the Arts**, Artist in Residence, Sausalito, CA, 2014
- **Port Townsend Writers' Conference Fellowship**, WA, 2012
- **Rose O'Neill Literary House Summer Residency**, Washington College, MD, 2011
- **Squaw Valley Community of Writers**, Cave Canem Scholarship, CA, 2010
- **Atlantic Center for the Arts, Your Word Fellow**, New Smyrna Beach, FL, 2009
- **Fine Arts Work Center**, Archie & Bertha Walker Scholarship, Provincetown, MA, 2006
- **Atlantic Center for the Art, Associate Artist**, New Smyrna Beach, FL, 2006
- **Cave Canem Fellow**, Cave Cane Foundation, Summer Residencies 2003-2008

## Arisa White work samples



*look after your heart, 2025*

Coastal Maine Botanic Garden, Boothbay, ME

Informed by the parabolic shape of the Reiser Woodland Garden path, *look after your heart* consists of the mirror poem "revolution is ritual," inlaid into the ground on 45 cedar planks, and speaks to the themes of belonging, safety, rootedness, compassion, and love.

Symbolically

referencing the plants located in the woodland beds, the poem also serves as a ground that you can stand on and affirms one's "hereness." It serves, too, as a spell for opening, encouraging, and healing the heart. Guests are invited to walk the poem, sit on the bench, and

play "grand revolve," a song created to tend to the light in your chest. Composed by cellist Robin Lane, vocals by Jazmin DeRice, and lyrics were sourced from the Latin and common names of the botanicals found in the Woodland Garden.

I've chosen the mirror poem because it embodies self-reflection and offers a different perspective on the same thing. The mirror form is magical when you notice how it works to create alternative meanings—the poem can sometimes answer itself, contradict itself, or be a wish come true.



*Who's Your Daddy: At the Planetarium, 2021*  
Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium, Orono, ME

The poetic memoir is a lyrical, genre-bending coming-of-age tale featuring a queer, Black, Guyanese American woman who, while seeking to define her own place in the world, negotiates an estranged relationship with her father. Incorporating poetry and prose, *Who's Your Daddy* employs the motif of stars and constellations to navigate and populate the distance that characterizes the father-daughter dynamic. For this immersive, animated starlight and sound show, Colby's assistant professor of music, Jose G. Martinez, created original music, and students Roshana Follett '22 and Becky Antoine '23 provided back-up vocals. Audience members commented that the dramatic reading was "amazing," "beautiful," and "mesmerizing."

# Pamela Chévez | Visual Artist

pam.chevez@gmail.com | pamchevez.com

## Education

Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana | Mexico City, MX

- Bachelor's of Design for Visual Communications

## Experience

**Freelance Designer, Illustrator & Muralist.**

### Mural Work | 2023-2025

- Design and implementation of **Mural for main hall at Reiche Community School**. I met with students, staff and board to design a mural according to the needs, vision and values of the school.
- Designed and Implemented a **mural at Bodega Latina** in Congress st, Portland Maine.
- Designed and Implemented a **mural at Quiero Café Saco and Portland**.
- Designed and Implemented a **mural at Pacífico** in Saco.
- Designed and Implemented a mixed media **mural at Space Gallery** in Congress st, Portland Maine.
- Designed and help Implement an interactive mural for a UNE event where people were able to transform the mural depending on how often they did and outdoor activity of their choice

### Yes Yes Know | 2024

- UI Design for a customer service app.
- Designed responsive components that which remain functional in desktop and mobile devices.
- All designs were based on the users needs while meeting a marketable appeal.

### More Women+ Surf | 2022-Current

- Co-founder and Organizer of programs.
- Visual Identity and Graphic Design and Website design.

### Perch Design Studio | 2022

- Design and animations for **Interactive mural** for UNE event.
- Designing and Illustrations for interactive app for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)

## Pamela Chévez work samples



*You Belong Here, 2025*  
Reiche School, Portland, ME

Reiche School, nestled in the heart of Portland, ME, is home to a vibrant and diverse student community. To add a splash of joy to their daily routine, the school decided to create a welcoming mural. This colorful project was brought to life with the enthusiastic participation of students and staff, who contributed their ideas and aspirations.





SPACE Gallery, Portland, ME, 2022



La Bodega Latina, Portland, ME, 2020



Packaging design: Allagash Upward Movement, 2024

The name "Upward Movement" is a nod to the Allagash River in Maine, which flows northeast. More symbolically, the name represents women making upward strides in the brewing industry, an industry heavily dominated by men.

The Allagash Pink Boots+ Team created this Czech-style amber lager, inspired by a brewer's love for her Czech grandparents. Its flavor is a big hug of grain, caramel, and brown sugar notes with a subtly floral finish. In the end, the brief was to create a label that represents the idea of empowerment and community.

