To commemorate the Rome Print Shop, where the first edition of Leaves of Grass was printed, we created a design that frames the view of the original location. In conceiving this design, we used a curved form to represent Whitman's open and inclusive nature. The two forms that meet to form a circle allude to two leaves of grass.

Located in a high traffic commuter area, we are excited that many people will see and interact with the piece on a daily basis. The walkway represents a moment where you can quite literally break from your everyday path — a small, poetic gesture touching on how Whitman was always defying norms in large and small movements. As you walk down the path you pass through a sweeping line of poetry that reads “I dream in my dream all the dreams of the other dreamers, / And I become the other dreamers.”

Our hope is that people will take a moment to enjoy the poetry, learn a bit about the history of the neighborhood, and make an intentional break from their routine.

Please contact Karen Karbeiner, President of the Walt Whitman Initiative, for more information: karen@whitmaninitiative.org
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:
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ABOUT THE WALT WHITMAN INITIATIVE:
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Honors and Awards:
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ABOUT THE DESIGNERS:
Megan Lee is a Brooklyn based designer who recently graduated from Pratt Institute in 2018 and currently works in digital marketing at Byte, London’s fastest growing agency. Her passion for creativity roots in fine art, and through the years she has explored communication design across many mediums. Her goal is always to create informed, conceptual designs that tell a narrative.

PROJECTED TIMELINE:
FUNDRAISING GOAL AMOUNT: 75,000

Word on donors of $5,000 or more: personalized paving stone in their choice of typeface (?)

Link for donors: www.waltwhitmaninitiative.org
Contact email: probably karen@whitmaninitiative.org