This project proposes a digital portrait gallery for the state of Minnesota located in the room-like space of Library Park. An open source monument, the Portrait Gallery is composed of a non-hierarchical field of transparent digital display panels. Users upload portraits of loved ones that deserve recognition. These could be volunteers, veterans, teachers, mothers, helpers, or simply a great friend. The public portrait provides a living book. The portrait database provides visualization as users and urban events influence the changing portrait display within the park. As the database grows, guest curators begin to organize the portraits spatially and thematically.

Each portrait is an expression of individuality, admiration, and respect. At the same time, the 750 portraits begin to create new relationships with each other and with visitors to the portrait room, expressing a shared commonality and creating a shifting dynamic whole that is much larger than the sum of its parts.

There are 6 gathering spaces distributed within the field of portraits—each with a unique scale and program. The 6 rooms provide spatial relief from the forest of images while creating a variety of activity destinations for visitors. The park’s informal organization invites access from all directions.

The Portrait Gallery attempts to leverage technology to create a new paradigm for 21st century public space. It aspires towards placemaking that is beautiful, distinctive, dynamic, participatory, and above all, meaningful.

“A house must be like a small city if it’s to be a real house; a city like a large house if it’s to be a real city.”

-Aldo Van Eyck

The Portrait Gallery is an open source monument to the people of Minnesota.

2015 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship
PORTRAIT GALLERY
AN OPEN SOURCE MONUMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA
2015 RALPH RAPSON TRAVELING STUDY FELLOWSHIP

SCENARIO - TYPICAL
EVERYDAY

MEMORIAL DAY
NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

PARK

PORTRAITS ORIENTED THROUGHOUT THE PARK

PORTRAITS ORIENTED TOWARDS THE FORUM
PORTRAITS ORIENTED TOWARDS CANCER SURVIVORS PARK

1. CASTELLED MOUND: THE CASTELLED MOUND BELONGS TO THE SITE WEB
2. VEGETATION & PLANT
3. CONCRETE PLANTERS
4. TRANSPARENT LEADED GLASS: 3/8" ART GLASS WITH COLOR PRINTED INSIDE
5. PLANTER PRINTED PLASTIC INSIDE
6. END-UPON PLANT PRINTED INSIDE