

NEXUS

In Appreciation

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

This body of work is a visual representation of how a community, brought together by adversity, pauses to give thanks to the staff and volunteers supporting cancer patients each year.

THE CREATIVE PROCESS

It begins with the name; **Nexus** in reference to a central point, in which people intersect in the community seeking answers and healing.

As a contemporary art installation the materials selected and the quantities used have great meaning.

- Historically **ribbons** have been used to visually share a connection to a cancer story. Nexus is comprised of **1700 strands** - one for each new patient that begins their cancer journey annually on site.
- **White** is the sum of all colors coming together as one community.
- The **light** symbolizes hope, courage, and healing amid the darkest days of winter.
- Heartfelt notes encapsulated within each of the **170** bulbs show appreciation of the tremendous work of the **170** staff and volunteers walking alongside each patient.

NEXUS

ON EXHIBIT THROUGH APRIL 2022

Michelle Kiley
Emerging Public Artist
michelle@insite360.design

It was shortly after midnight, I was sitting in the emergency room with my father, who was seeking an answer to the intense pain he was experiencing the past two months. On that early morning, in September 2012, my father was diagnosed with stage four cancer. This life changing moment rippled through our small, close-knit family.

Approximately 1,700 individuals begin their cancer journey at the Coborn Cancer Center in St. Cloud, MN, with an additional 3,300 individuals continuing their care from the previous year(s). Each patient is supported by 170 staff and volunteers - willing to walk alongside patients and their family members living with pain and grappling with uncertainty.

It was because of the care my father received over the course of three years, the Nexus project was created. This is my version of art therapy - showing thanks; using public art as a platform to contextualize the depth of my emotion and heartfelt appreciation.

