

# SUBWAY PEOPLE

(A PHOTO SERIES)



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### CECIL B. MOORE (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY)

Located on Temple University's campus, Cecil B Moore has a rich influx of history, community, cultivation, and civil rights. People (of all ages) come and go for classes, work, and events. Most of the people consist of students, artists, and the African American Islamic neighborhoods.

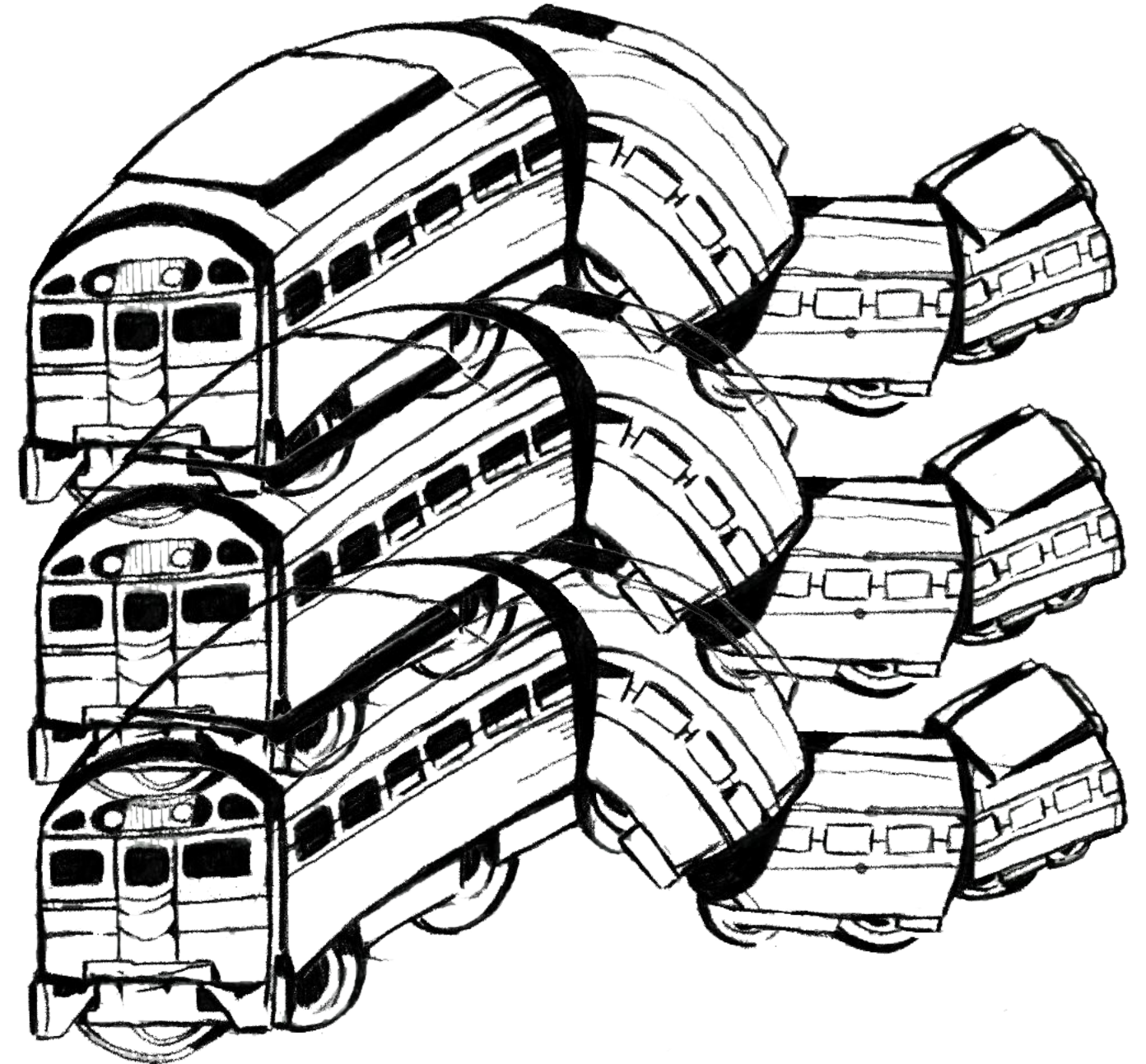


### CITY HALL

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, City Hall has a rich history of culture, diversity, and architecture. Featuring over 250 sculptures by Alexander Milne Caulner, each piece brings out the history of Philadelphia and its creation. City Hall is especially known for its various transportation centers, featuring an array of passageways and people.

## CONCLUSION

Final thoughts, views, and summaries about this magazine.



# INTRO.

People make the world go round. This is a quote pulled from a track by Michael Jackson, the well-known “King of Pop.” It’s a line that I repeat to myself daily, especially when I’m around the presence of other creatives and individuals. What is so powerful and grounded about this track is that people make the world as it is - a world. People form the basis of the society and communities we live in. And in these communities, people need time and money to get through work and other activities, which all require transportation. Transportation comes in many different forms, and brings people together for one thing: to get from point a to point b. SEPTA has been a channel of this in Pennsylvania, being a foothold for cultural exchange and diversity, while also being a reliance for those traveling. I’ve always been observant, and therefore one who likes to document the world around him through either design or photo. And oftentimes, I wonder who are these people, what do they do, and what does their style have to do with what they’re doing or traveling to. SEPTA has become my palette, a channel for individuality.

## What is SEPTA?

SEPTA was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly on August 17, 1963. SEPTA was founded to connect the countryside and boroughs of PA directly to Philadelphia, which includes but isn’t limited to: Montgomery, Chester, Bucks, and Delaware counties. Ease of transportation includes the subway/elevated lines, buses, trolleys, and the regional rails respectively, all of which are used heavily within Philadelphia. Popularly used lines include the BSL (Broad Street Line) and MFL (Market Frankford Line), with the BSL traveling north to south, and the MFL traveling east to west. Trolley systems are also used as midway points to get to specific neighborhoods that the BSL and MFL lines otherwise couldn’t

reach, while the regional rail system allows ease of transport to the different boroughs. Based on recent data by SEPTA from early 2026, individual ridership can sometimes surpass 200,000 riders a day.

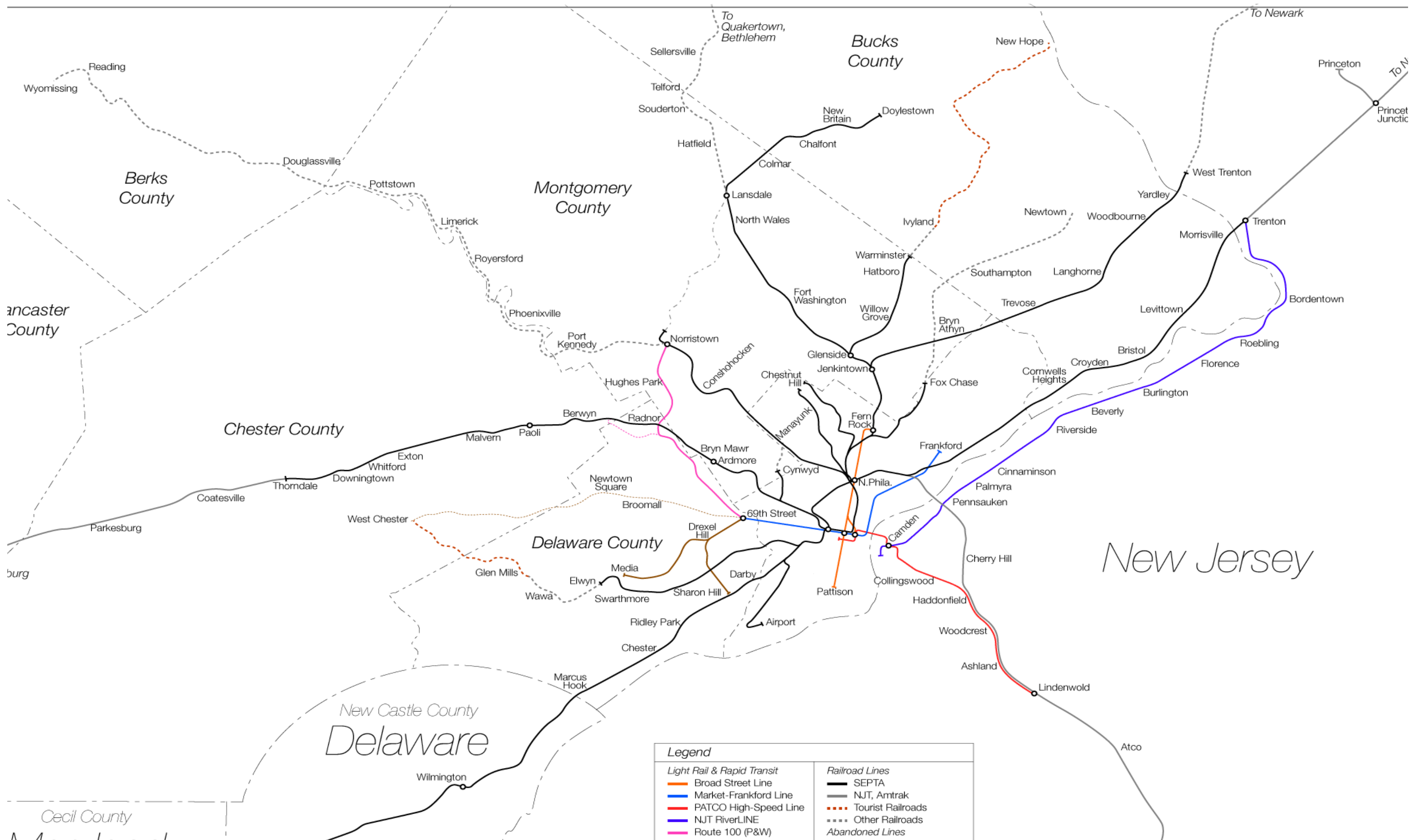
## Why SEPTA?

Due to Philadelphia’s tight-knit residences and communities, parking has become burdensome and difficult, whereas the ability to walk anywhere has become a fairly accessible good to most people. With an average of 70% of households owning a car, most who own them are families or those living in the less denser areas of Philadelphia. Whereas, 30% of households don’t own a car, making Philadelphia the most car-free city in the US. In turn, SEPTA has become a necessity for those getting to work, and also a reliance for myself when I decide to travel for work or go to an event.

## Final Thoughts

As one of many passengers on these subways, I’ve become interested in who these other passengers are, what they do, and how they present themselves. This interest has grown for several reasons: my interest in hidden and undocumented history and narratives, my love for clothing, my interests in art, and most of all, storytelling. As a creative, and more specifically a graphic designer, I’m often interested in detail, documentation, and composition. These fixations have led me to document what I see through either drawings or pictures on my free time. And in turn, the documentation of people. My goal with this magazine is to document the people who rely on SEPTA for transportation, while also exploring their stories and what they wear on the daily.





# WHAT IS THE SUBWAY

A vehicle of destination. This is the subway. It brings everyone to and fro. It is a checkpoint for any spot. The subway is a centipede in the ruff, endlessly burrowin. Moving.....

A culmination of culture, tradition, and exploration. A vessel of doing.

An underground electrical system. A body of steel. Wheels pounded into discs. An engine fueled by the very stones that make these lands.

Of becoming. This is the subway.



# PEOPLE.



**DESTINATIONS.**

**CECIL B MOORE  
CITY HALL**





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# CECIL B MOORE.

A paradigm of history, religion, and community, Cecil B Moore has a legacy devoted to the civil rights activist and educator of the same name. Cecil B. Moore is the primary subway station for Temple University students and local residents (most of which are composed of the black Islamic community) in North Philadelphia. Further, Cecil has a diverse community, with a majority of the community consisting of Temple students. Located next to the skatepark, it has become a landmark to an already diverse community.





A typical busy morning on the BSL line. SEPTA can get crowded to the point everyone must stand. I noticed that the weekends are the busiest, especially when there are local gatherings, events and games.



Standard baseball cap

Cotton white button-up

Faux leather jacket

Sonic the Hedgehog sweater

Samie is a singer-songwriter and musician at Temple University. On the first day of shooting, I ran into him at Cecil. There, students rely on this station to get to work, home, or other excursions in the city.

His style is inspired by various interests, which include video games,





I forgot her name, but I got the chance to talk to this lady. She's a teacher in North Philadelphia. There, she has helped students who has behavioral problems throughout their middle school and elementary school years.



— Vintage faux fur jacket

Olivia is a graphic design student who is currently attending Temple University. A good friend of mine, much of their work focuses on mental health and the sciences.

Olivia was on their way home as I ran into them. Their fur coat is a standout piece during the colder early spring months within Philly.

Oliver (aka Ollie) is a musician, songwriter, and multidisciplinary artist who goes to Drexel University. Ollie also helps with both hosting and setting up PHL and house show events.



Handmade necklace

War-time trench jacket

Bookbag

Camo pants



Cora is a clothing designer based in Philadelphia. With up to 4 years in experience, many of her pieces (and what she wears thereof) uses color palettes straight out of Barbie's dreamhouse. Her use of pinks and neutrals give brightness to a world that can be quite grey.



Bow hairtie

Handmade necklace

Aeropostale blouse

Leather black purse



Carhartt jacket

Ryan is a screenwriting major and friend at Temple University. His vast knowledge of film history, movies, and moments are an influence on both his style and his short films.



Jael is a student at Temple University who is also a part of the local NextUp collective. His many ventures include modeling and acting.



Seb is a local of Philadelphia is also a part of the NextUp collective.

Mouhamed is a student located in Delco. He tends to go for casual and contrasting forms and compositions.



Messenger bag

Genuine leather jacket

Levi chinos





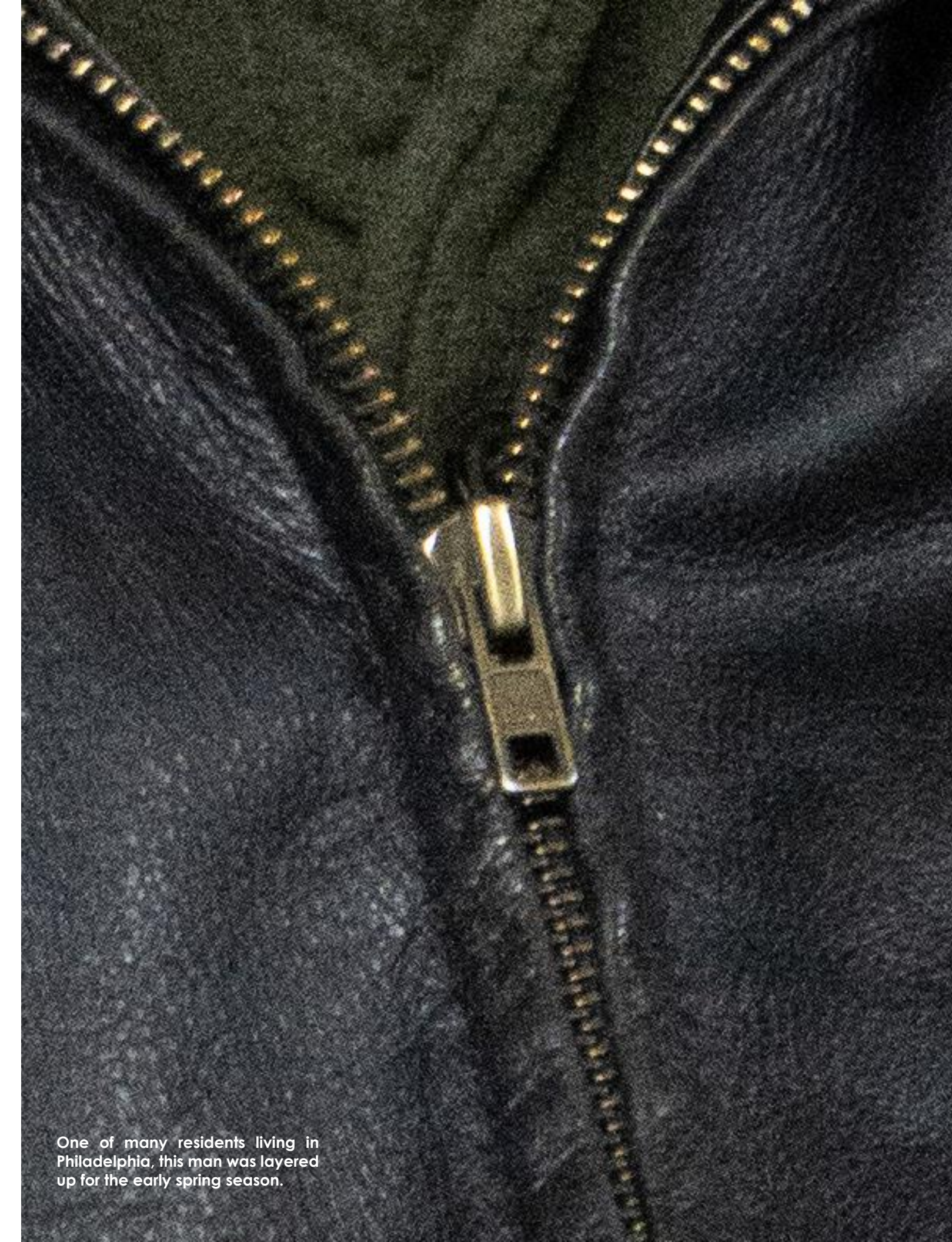
# CITY HALL.

The core of Philadelphia, City Hall is considered the tallest masonry building in the country, and was once the tallest habitual building until 1901. City Hall features over 250 sculptures as well, all composed in various forms and framing. Although, what the City Hall makes up architectural aboveground, its vast subway networks makes up underground. City Hall contains BSL, MFL, Regional, and Trolley lines respectively. These vast networks connect each part of Philadelphia, while certain extensions reach into the suburbs. City Hall is a great example of culture, community, and inclusion, giving way to different religions, groups, and ethnicities throughout the city.



People traveling to and fro, you never know what's behind the door.





One of many residents living in Philadelphia, this man was layered up for the early spring season.



Beanie

Orvis green button-up

Orange t-shirt

Genuine Leather Wilsons jacket





Paul is a resident of Philadelphia who was coming from church the evening I took this picture. He was a chill guy.

Paperboy hat

Denim jacket

T-shirt

Levi jeans



A local riding the BSL home. He noticed I was taking pictures of him.



A local resident who came from the inner city bars heading home.



Sean, a father and a teacher, heading home from a day of shopping.



Jah is a clothing conoseur, friend, producer, and buyer at the clothing store, 2nd Street. A lover and conneseur of clothes, it guides him in his sense of style and taste.





I feel that much of the youth (especially those who live in North and West Philadelphia), get a bad reputation. Although there are many who can be wild or violent, people may forget the factors that come into the forefront: economic discrimination, overpolicing, lack of third space, and single parent households all become factors for why much of the youth “act” the way they do. What I’ve come to realize is that much are an aspect of an environment and influences that they take in like a sponge, as anyone anywhere. Most often, older folks and even those living in the city will call the youth “yuns” to describe their antics and violence. As much as I can understand the irritation, throwing the youth into a “category” starts to feel more like a demonization than an understanding at all.

In my understanding of the youth, streetwear has become a go to for wear, as much as many other people living day-by-day. Puffers, all black outfits, independent streetwear brands, and sneakers (such as Nikes, New Balance, Asics, and Solomons), have become an element of the very streetwear I see around me. Looseness and textures become as important as contrasting elements of minimal and maximalist forms.





A resident of Philadelphia on his way home.



An unknown resident of Philly on his way to a party. The leather jacket and piercings really set the mood.



A man who I met off the MFL. He was listening to music on his way home.



Two teachers with the same motive: to educate the youth. The woman on the left is the dean of Temple University, while the woman on the right is a teacher who educates elementary school students in North Philadelphia.



A local graphic design student who I happened to run into at the BSL stop.



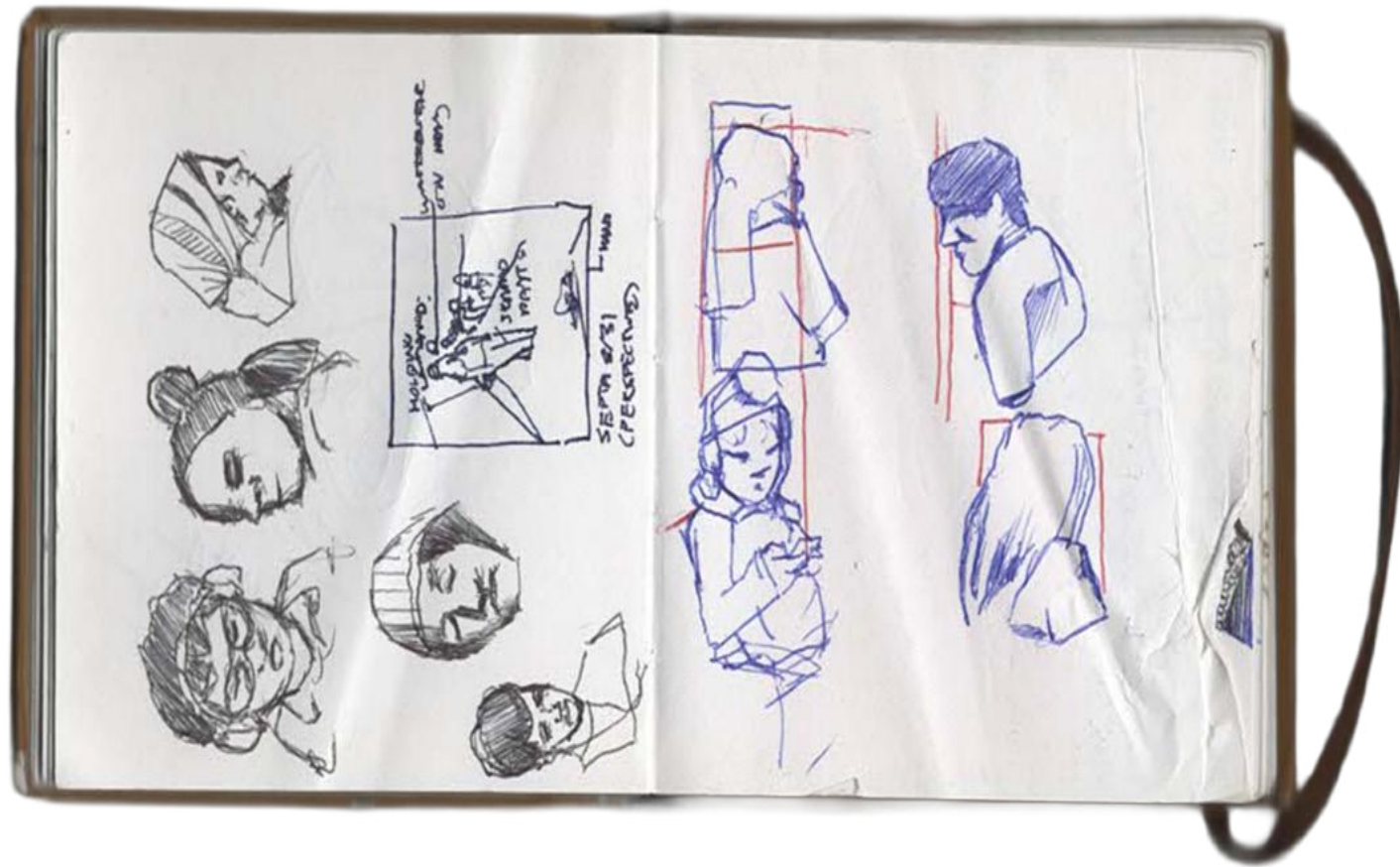
A saw this guys hat and thought it would be a cool shot going into the spring season. He seemed pretty chill.

# CONCLUSION

We hustle and bustle everyday, locked in our mindsets and digital devices. We take the SEPTA lines to get to work, home, or events. These lines become a lifeline to many, the very people facilitating the services and businesses within Pennsylvania. Forgotten are these people, as we become invested by short term stimuli such as social media. But we can often forget the very people we surround ourselves with: regular people.

## Regular People

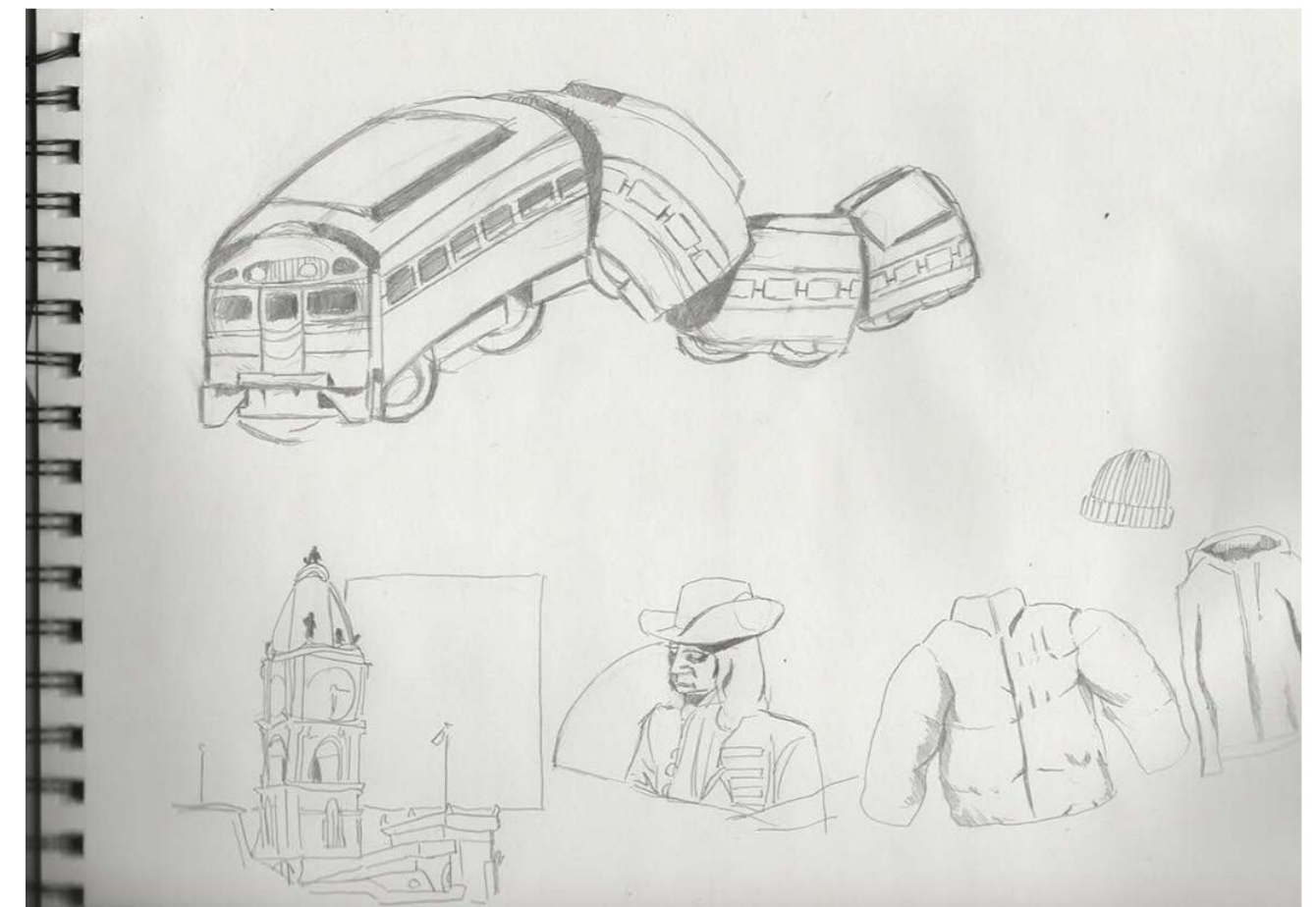
Subway People, a subseries to a mainline series I'm working on called Regular People, is a series made to document, photograph, and illustrate the people taking the subway systems in Philadelphia. These are the people who may not be seen as a celebrity, but if anyone were to really dig into their life, their stories, and the people that make them up, one could potentially realize the guidance, motivation, and realities that a person lives. In a reality where we look up to celebrities and idols, there's nothing wrong with that, but to find



an inspiration amongst our peers can become a moment of clarity, realization, and motivation for anyone.

## Sketches

On this page, you'll see a series of sketchbook scans. These sketchbooks contain sketches that I did while taking the SEPTA to work or events. Much of these people I haven't interacted with, although there are some who saw me drawing them. Drawing people became the start for this series, and as a result, would lead me to exploring other mediums and ideas. Such examples include photography and fashion design.





US 202

PA 73

Norristown

Whitemarsh

Abington

Bryn Athyn

Bensalem

Newtown

PA 532

Bensalem

Bridgeport

PA 532

Conshohocken

Rockledge

Northeast Philadelphia

West Conshohocken

PA 412

Cheltenham

US 13

PA 23

Glenwynne

PA 232

Delanco

PA 23

Riverside

Narberth

(613)

Roxborough

Palmyra

Riverton

Cinnaminson

(603)

Narberth

(607)

East Lansdowne

Philadelphia

Pennsauken

Maple Shade

Moorestown

Upper Merion

Carle Place

Meridianville

Charlton Hill

(616)