

**Photo Exhibition by Amy Forestieri and Rory Shelton  
September 10 - December 15, 2022**

**Photo exhibition by Amy Forestieri at the 'House of Friendship', 9641 E 16th Ave. Aurora  
Photo exhibition by Rory JS at the MLK Jr. Library, 9898 E Colfax Ave. Aurora**

We are thrilled to present Visual Art for the second edition in two photo exhibition that will be open to the public at certain times throughout the festival duration and beyond.

**Amy Forestieri, Photographer**

"I asked "G" if I could photograph him in front of a mural he loved (@colfaxcanvas mural created by @detour303, @a.l.\_grime, and @annacharneyart in the Aurora Cultural Art District @acadartists). G said "man, I haven't had a haircut," but pulled up his balaclava and humored me with his best model pose. I promised to make G a print to add to the collection I'd already made for him.

It feels awesome giving someone a memory they can hold and look at whenever they want. Having affordable, convenient, and easy-to-use access to digital media isn't the reality for many in our community. I made G copies of this picture...but he passed away before I could deliver them. G was the 10<sup>th</sup> person who died shortly after I photographed them. Being the last person to photograph someone before their unexpected death, instilled a sense of urgency and deepness in my approach to (and value of) photography. I've come to realize that I may only have one fleeting moment to create something that says "I see you...you matter...you will be remembered...I have the pictures to prove it." I never regret the pictures I make; I regret all the ones I didn't take." –

Amy Forestieri

@amy.forestieri; #amyforestieriphotography

**Rory JS, Photographer**

I grew up in Texas, in a poor neighborhood. In my late teens, I discovered cameras and took to it, like a fish to the waters. I was drawn to portraits, candid moments of people, when they are caught off-guard. I wanted to be a film camera operator but was told it wasn't a realistic idea, so I began cooking. I greatly enjoyed the process and it became my creative outlet.

A decade later my life stagnated and my mental health declined. Everything seemed bleak and meaningless. Then one day at the edge of a precipice, it dawned upon me that I was the block preventing me from finding my joy. With that, I rediscovered my passion for photography.

The ability to capture these candid moments mean more to me than simply documenting it. It means that, even though I may not open my mouth, I am speaking. **More information about my works:** <https://www.instagram.com/rjs.portraits/>