

Soft Spots

artist Annelise Kinney
curated by Reality Club



Soft Spots are little creatures. They ask people to hold them close, to listen, and to care. They promote softness, gentleness, and safe vulnerability.

Kansas City based artist, Annelise Kinney, volunteered and worked to support people experiencing homelessness. During this time, they saw how the vast majority of our spaces are defined by hardness. This hardness creates powerlessness. In response, Kinney has focused on promoting softness, especially as it arises from and relates to queer spaces and the queer community.

Most recently, they created *Soft Spots*. These fur balls whisper to us. To listen, we gently bring them to our ears. They are cute, so we hold them, and pet them.

We propose to bring *Soft Spots* to the Kansas City Public Library. Kinney will input various audio readings (books, poetry, etc.) into the *Soft Spots*. Library goers can pick up the *Soft Spots* and listen to the readings. At night, the *Soft Spots* will go to sleep in their charging station.

As someone who experiences dyslexia, Kinney has a strong interest in the audio experience of books. They will share these audio experiences in a way that empowers library patrons to be gentle and soft.



figure 1: Soft Spots on the shelves of H&R Bloch Artspace

figure 2: interacting with a Soft Spot

figure 3: Annelise Kinney and Jill Downen with Soft Spots on the news



Annelise Kinney Artist Statement



Reality Club works together with open minds and compassion to explore reality through the arts. Our past projects include a crystal growing party, an film screening, an interactive art party, and a science class taught in a garage. We always collaborate, and our past partners include Future Total Group, Stray Cat Film Center, Potluck, and Open House.

