

# Audio transcripts

## Rivers can remember

### Katya Zapeta

My name is Katya Zapeta. I am originally from Mexico City but I have been a part of the Crookston community for over 25 years.

So when I get asked or when I start thinking about water, the first thing that comes to my mind is this African proverb that says, a river that forgets its source runs dry. That has truly resonated with my life because I know where my source is. I am from Mexico City. And when you come to this land, you realize that you are a foreigner, this isn't your land. This isn't your home at the beginning.

And so you get that thrown at you a lot, like, why are you here? And you start questioning like, who am I? What am I really doing here? And that proverb, you know - a river that forgets its source runs dry - my father from a very young age instilled in me what I am, who I am. The many things that Mexico has to offer, the beautiful and rich culture that is a part of me.

And so when I know the rich history that I come from, that has helped me with dealing with racism in standing strong and saying, no, I am someone of value. I am someone of worth.

I guess you could say the Mississippi River is kind of a reminder when I live here because I can see how a river flow and how it comes from a beautiful place, the park where the river is born, you know, it's just beautiful.

And that's one of the lessons that I want to teach my children too, is to be proud of their roots, to not forget their source. And also to take pride in being an American too because that also plays into how they are shaped as human beings.