Within them I found graffiti, evidence of drug and alcohol use, pot holes and puddles large enough to eliminate pedestrian traffic, areas so over grown as to be completely impassable, and alleys claimed as private space.

Through my journeys and conversations I also discovered that alleys are lived in active spaces that make them unique cultural components of the neighborhood. Whether it is a pleasant off street walk or a dark wet alley to be avoided, neighborhood alleys are an imbedded special element of many residential neighborhoods.