

DESERVING

Humanity evolves
through those least likely to prevail
lives entangled in the weeds
opposing a well-worn illusive trail

Look for us in the phosphenes
the unique allure in dancing light
unveiling our dynamic complexity
behind your eyelids squeezed tight

Listen for us in the instinctual calls
to connect and secure authentic support
those subdued voices previously unheard
now given the airtime sorely deserved

Hold space for us to explore
to play, to thrive, to be free
embrace our diverse experience
a superpower for creativity

Build with us a community of belonging
colourful and diverse
to flourish safely in surroundings
secure to contribute and converse

Fiercely defend
our precious access to education
to nurture curious minds
relinquishes chains from expectation

We are problem solvers by nature
wisdom gained through challenging norms
conscious of inequity
curating courage in many forms

Undervalue us at your own cost
for we hold insights we have earned
given meaningful opportunity
we gift them to fulfilling work

Avert your gaze no more
it would be a shame to be sure
for our ideas to fall on silent
due to barriers in our environment

Radiate this plea with me
fostering a world where it's the norm to see
the gift of universality
and the power this can be

Where differing abilities are embraced
differing perspectives are admired
leaders are unearthed from the margins
worthy of any hope desired

—Tayla Richardson