

MADE TO LAST

A FIELD GUIDE TO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

VOLUME 1

CLIMATE + CULTURAL RESILIENCE

2018

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2018

Produced by

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

with support from

**THE KRESGE FOUNDATION and
THE KENDEDA FUND**

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THE KRESGE FOUNDATION is a private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development in Detroit. Through their arts and culture lens they seek to build strong, healthy cities by promoting the integration of arts and culture in community revitalization.

The Kresge Foundation believes creative approaches are required to meaningfully address the systemic barriers facing low-income residents. As part of a suite of solutions, arts, culture and community-engaged design can influence the built environment, enhance engagement, give residents a sense of agency, and contribute to the narrative of a place. Through grants and investments, Kresge seeks to make Creative Placemaking an integral element of equitable community development and urban planning practices.

THE KENDEDA FUND is a private grantmaking foundation based in Atlanta, Georgia. The Kendeda Fund empowers communities across the US and around the globe to develop solutions that increase equity, vibrancy, resourcefulness, and resilience. The Kendeda Fund also helps underrepresented voices build and sustain social and community capital by supporting experienced and emerging leaders who have the vision to see problems differently and the courage to challenge conventional thinking. The Kendeda Fund works to shift perceptions and disrupt the status quo by supporting projects that challenge social, economic, and ecological assumptions.

THE CLIMATE AND CULTURAL RESILIENCE PROJECTS were made through partnership with community development organizations and local communities across the country. The following projects received grants from Enterprise Community Partners to do projects using creative placemaking as a strategy for building climate and cultural resilience in place:

American Indian Housing Organization
Duluth, MN

Coalfield Development Corporation
Wayne, WV

Chinatown Community Development Center,
San Francisco, CA

Chicago Connections (Chi-Go)
Chicago, IL

This Belongs to Us
Atlanta, GA



Challenges
 Ticker Ave
 Strengths



Challenges
 Truly Living Well
 from around the
 area around the
 Hammad House
 WFN's NEQT
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel
 Atlanta Beltline
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel
 WFN's NEQT
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel

Strengths
 Local food to a
 desert
 Strengths
 Truly Living Well
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 Hammad House
 WFN's NEQT
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel
 Atlanta Beltline
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel
 WFN's NEQT
 Challenges
 to preserve the world
 of travel

Deep Roots

1. S. + C.
 2. Activities to see
 3. Storage, planning & maps sites

★ Spelman College/ Museum
 ★ Adair Park
 ★ Ticker Ave. @ COB of
 Spelman-Beltline
 C. trash everywhere
 comes out of place is needed

Deep Roots: Site Visit Notes

Notes on the site visit, please take notes on the following items and provide a brief description of what you observed and any recommendations you have for the site.

★ Truly Living Well of the
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★ Spelman College/ Museum
 ★ Adair Park
 ★ Ticker Ave. @ COB of
 Spelman-Beltline

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FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Resilience is shaped by context. How we adapt to physical and social vulnerabilities is a function of our location, resources, and relationships. Physical threats - flooding, fire, landslides, or infrastructure disruption - reflect a place's climate, topography, geology, and patterns of development. Social resilience is shaped by income, education, housing costs, access to transportation, fresh food, and health care. But are there other more subtle qualities of communities that deeply influence resilience? Identity, history, and culture intertwine in the stories we tell about our communities. And these stories influence how we respond to shocks and stressors from neglect, discrimination, limited opportunity, gentrification, or a changing climate. How can the way community expresses identity and culture be part of what shapes its resilience?

Working with Climate and Cultural Resilience grantees, our objective was to identify what combination of physical, social, and cultural factors can make a community strong and flexible; able to bend but not break, and not just bounce back, but to bounce forward toward a better, more sustainable and more resilient future. As we began learning from and about our grantees, it quickly

WRITTEN BY
Walker Wells
Executive Director,
Global Green USA

became clear that this would not be a linear process. While the threats, vulnerabilities, risks, and mitigation measures may emerge from an analytical process, the social and cultural dimensions of resilience are more organic and take time and trust to be revealed.

Starting with the first site visit to Atlanta's Oakland City neighborhood, the issue of trauma came forward as a critical concern. Each of the communities we partnered with has suffered trauma in some way, ranging from being neglected as a people and a place, having limited or predetermined opportunities, being disconnected from family, losing contact with places, landscapes, and traditions, repression of culture, and generational gaps in the transfer of knowledge, culture, and heritage. These experiences of trauma continue to cast a long shadow into the present.

Through our discussions with community stakeholders, the concept of trauma-informed and healing centered communities came forward. They expressed how trauma can have multi-generational effects and to

break the cycle and move toward healing requires acknowledgement of the extent of trauma that the grantee communities experienced. To make the emotional investment in resilience, a community needs to feel valued, recognized, and that it has the ability to shape the future.

We also experienced the depth of love that people have for their community, both the places and the people. The stories that were told about each place have incredible power in affirming identity and value. The narratives of how neighborhoods and communities are characterized - as being good or bad, safe or dangerous, engaged or disconnected - are easily perpetuated and carried forward throughout a city and over generations. Recognizing the unique qualities of these people, places, and cultures is a way to for communities to reshape the narrative, and with it, their sense of identity and agency.

Recent advances in epigenetics show that our DNA does not fully predetermine our destiny. Our genetic code includes a number of

factors that can be turned on or off, up or down, depending on environmental and behavioral factors. How we ultimately evolve into ourselves truly is an outcome of where we live, what we experience, and how we act. Even more surprising is that some biological or genetic markers can be carried forward into future generations. The level of stress hormones generated in pregnant women can influence the genetic expression of their children.

Can a neighborhood experience similar effects? As communities change and evolve, how can we turn on and amplify certain factors like empathy, agency, strength of identity, pride, and optimism and turn down anxiety, apathy, and pessimism? The key is finding the critical point of intervention in both the historic narrative and the prevailing system and understanding what type of influence is needed for communities to own their narrative into the future.

People protect what they love, and most people love their community. Working with the Climate and Cultural Resilience grantees demonstrated the depth of this connection and how it is a powerful motivator. By supporting these beloved communities' efforts to heal, express

their identity, and create new narratives that fold in culture both past and present, we can begin to build bridges to a future founded on hope and resilience.



TO CONNECT

-WANT TO

GRANTEES

FUTURE

WEBINAR?

HOW WE GOT HERE

One of the most challenging aspects of working in the community development sector is balancing a mission focused on people and their long-term well-being with a process for developing built projects often driven by deadlines, money, and regulatory constraints.

So many tensions exist in our world, and in community development no less. The pace at which communities heal from generations of historic trauma does not move at the pace of development. As an intermediary that values people and wants to make sure that the places where they live, work, gather, and play are the best they can be, Enterprise Community Partners is positioned to step into these tensions and ask how we might address them.

Enterprise offers many tools that aim to improve people's long-term wellbeing. These range from traditional and creative financing strategies to policy research and advocacy to technical assistance and grants. Since 2000, we have created programs that explicitly leverage design and creativity as an essential tool to address the challenges of community development. From partnering architectural designers with community

WRITTEN BY**Nella Young**

Senior Program Director,
Design Leadership
Enterprise Community Partners

development organizations through our Rose Fellowship, to empowering developers to be leaders in design excellence through our Affordable Housing Design Leadership Institute, to launching our nationally recognized Green Communities Criteria, we have seen the valuable ways in which design can improve community development outcomes. The first decade of this explicit investment in design built a foundation for further evolution. The Rose Fellows, in particular, were pioneers in integrating creativity, art, culture, and community voice into the development process and the resulting built projects. Through our Collaborative Action Grants, we asked how design could be a force for love, forgiveness, and compassion – all essential for healing. This led us to our current investigation of the role of art, culture, and creativity in community resilience.

Globally, we are experiencing an increase in weather-related events due to climate change. This has created an urgency to address the built environment so that it is more resilient to these stresses. Yet quickly, we see these increased stresses and

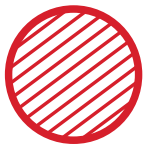
catastrophes shine a spotlight on the chronic conditions that many communities in America face, and that will not be remedied by infrastructure improvements alone.

The Climate & Cultural Resilience program was born out of the idea that a great deal of resources are invested in building resilient infrastructure and protecting physical assets from damage due to weather- and climate-related impacts. At the same time, we know that social cohesion is a primary factor in survival rates during disasters and in people's ability to thrive in the face of chronic stress. So we asked ourselves, what would it look like if each building or infrastructure project also built social cohesion – strengthening the built environment, as well as the connections between people? We had a theory that cultural and creative activities would be a natural part of the answer. And we wanted to understand what this all could mean for diverse community development organizations across the U.S. We invited proposals from community development

organizations to share their projects and ideas and we partnered with five of them for one year. We supported their work through grants and met with them as a cohort to more deeply understand what resilience, culture, and creative placemaking means in each of their unique places, as well as across the country.

This book includes the stories of each of these places and networks of people, their specific challenges and the projects they chose to undertake. Much of this work is ongoing, so the long-term impact remains to be seen. But in the meantime, we have witnessed important results that are the ingredients of the bigger outcomes we hope to see over time. Whether it is through residents of Duluth taking part in the first public depiction of a native person to be created by a native artist, or sustainability experts in Atlanta becoming more fluent in and committed to creative placemaking activities, these seeds of change are planted to help us all grow a more healing, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary approach to community development that centers around

residents and their leadership. We offer the stories from our collective journey so far, in the hope that what we have learned in each place and across them all is useful and translatable in the context where you live or work. This book represents a landmark, not the final destination; we are committed to continuing along our journey to deepen and increase our understanding, and hope you will join us along the way.

**2000**

First class of Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship, pairs architectural design with CDC's to bring community-engaged design skills to the community development field.

**2004**

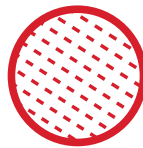
Enterprise collaborates with leading national experts to launch the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria, the nation's only green building certification program designed specifically for affordable housing.

**2010**

The Affordable Housing Design Leadership Institute launches, bringing developers and designers together to charrette projects and build CDC's leadership in design.

**2012**

The Collaborative Action grant program launches with eight pilot grants for projects led by Rose Fellows, increasing focus on cultural institutions, cultural districts, and creative economy investments that benefit and stabilize low-income communities.

**2013**

Enterprise expands programming - such as convening the Design for Equity forums and the Undesign the Redline exhibition - to investigate the role of culture, creativity, design, and participatory process in equitable community development.

**2016**

Enterprise receives support from the Kresge Foundation for continued learning about equitable creative placemaking strategies with a deep investment in the Climate and Cultural Resilience Program. This allows Enterprise to build skills in creative placemaking, participatory research and evaluation, to convene learning communities, and implement a cross-disciplinary perspective with expertise in public health.





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Through our work rebuilding communities after natural disasters and strengthening them in preparation for extreme weather and climate change, Enterprise has learned that for a community to be truly resilient, we must also focus on human networks and be sensitive to the unique culture of each place.

Climate resilience is the ability of a community to adapt in the face of climate stressors and shocks while cultural resilience is the ability to maintain and uplift cultural identity and heritage through those same circumstances. A dual focus on climate and culture, which we see as two critical determinants of a community's success, can increase the resilience of communities in the face of acute and chronic stressors and shocks.

The Climate and Cultural Resilience Grant Program funded five community-based projects in Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; Duluth, MN; San Francisco, CA; and Wayne, WV, to connect climate and cultural resilience through creative placemaking, which we define as the intentional integration of arts, culture and creativity in community

development. By integrating creative placemaking into our work with community development organizations, Enterprise added to our understanding of best practices useful to support community members in their development activities and set the table for resident leadership, ultimately leading to more just and equitable communities.

In documenting the Climate and Cultural Resilience Projects over the past year, we discovered that most communities imagined spaces that met the needs of residents while maintaining the diverse cultural identity of those places. Through natural disasters and economic shifts, communities wanted places *Made to Last*. In many instances, resilience is thought of as people's ability to survive, but we wanted to focus on the creative mechanisms employed by community to push past basic survival into "thrivability."

We share these experiences in the form of a field guide for community resilience that highlights the following five diverse exemplars of leveraging culture and creativity to strengthen climate and cultural resilience:

 **THE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANIZATION IN DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

Revitalizing a rooftop garden as a native community collaborative space with public art, green infrastructure and traditional foods.

 **CHICAGO CONNECTIONS IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Creating a social and environmental justice initiative with local partners and developing four site-specific art and green infrastructure installations within a half-mile of transit stops in areas of high economic hardship.

 **THIS BELONGS TO US IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Building community understanding of design and development initiatives while embedding community-engaged arts strategies into rainwater retention efforts.

 **CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

Enhancing social cohesion and climate resilience by building local and government partnerships in redesigning a more resilient Portsmouth Square Park for the people of Chinatown and implementing an ecofair featuring multigenerational sustainability education and community art installations.

 **COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN WAYNE, WEST VIRGINIA**

Providing out-of-work coal miners with retraining in jobs that grow the cultural economy and restore the environment, including reforestation, solar installation, furniture making, and sustainable agriculture on former mountaintop removal sites.

The cases in this book are specific to the communities represented and may not be replicable in the same ways in other communities. However, in the ways each of these cases inspired us, we hope they may inspire you in your own unique community context.

This book is organized in two parts. Part 1 describes the framework with which Enterprise approached this program and an overview of each grantee's climate and cultural resilience activities. Part 2 applies this framework to the case studies of each of the grantee communities and their specific projects.

PART 1

Knowing What You're Up Against sets the context, explaining why climate and cultural resilience matter in society today and in the future.

Preparing For The Elements lays out Climate and Cultural Resilience activities you will want to know, along with pro tips we have learned along the way. You will also find these tips throughout the case studies in Part 2.

Along the way, you'll find icons in the Activities table in this section. The icons are associated with the Climate and Cultural activities used by the participant organizations to address community challenges. You can use these to track activities of interest throughout the case studies.

Creative placemaking is one strategy that the Climate and Cultural Resilience program used to support building community resilience. **Knowing What To Pack** provides the essentials for your Creative Placemaking toolkit.

PART 2

Putting Plans Into Action features case studies that include detailed stories and lessons from the field.

Each of the cases is coded to reflect the icons from the Climate and Cultural Resilience activities table in Part 1, with a short summary of their climate and cultural activities for those seeking a quick summary. You can follow the icons through the case study to see how each group used climate and cultural activities to address the "challenging terrain" they are facing in their communities. At the end of each chapter you will find a specific example of how creative placemaking was used to advance the project's climate and cultural goals.







MAIL

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

970

KNOWING WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST

The first step in building community resilience is to know your community and the challenges it faces.

Across the nation, heatwaves, droughts and floods are becoming more frequent and severe, increasing risks to all people, but disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations. Between 2011 and 2013, the U.S. experienced 32 weather events, each causing at least one billion dollars in damages, and two-thirds of counties nationwide experienced presidentially declared disasters (1). Low-income, communities of color, immigrant, elderly, and homeless populations are disproportionately affected by these events. These communities are at greater risk from the impact of climate change and often have constrained resources to respond to the resulting challenges and stresses they face (2).

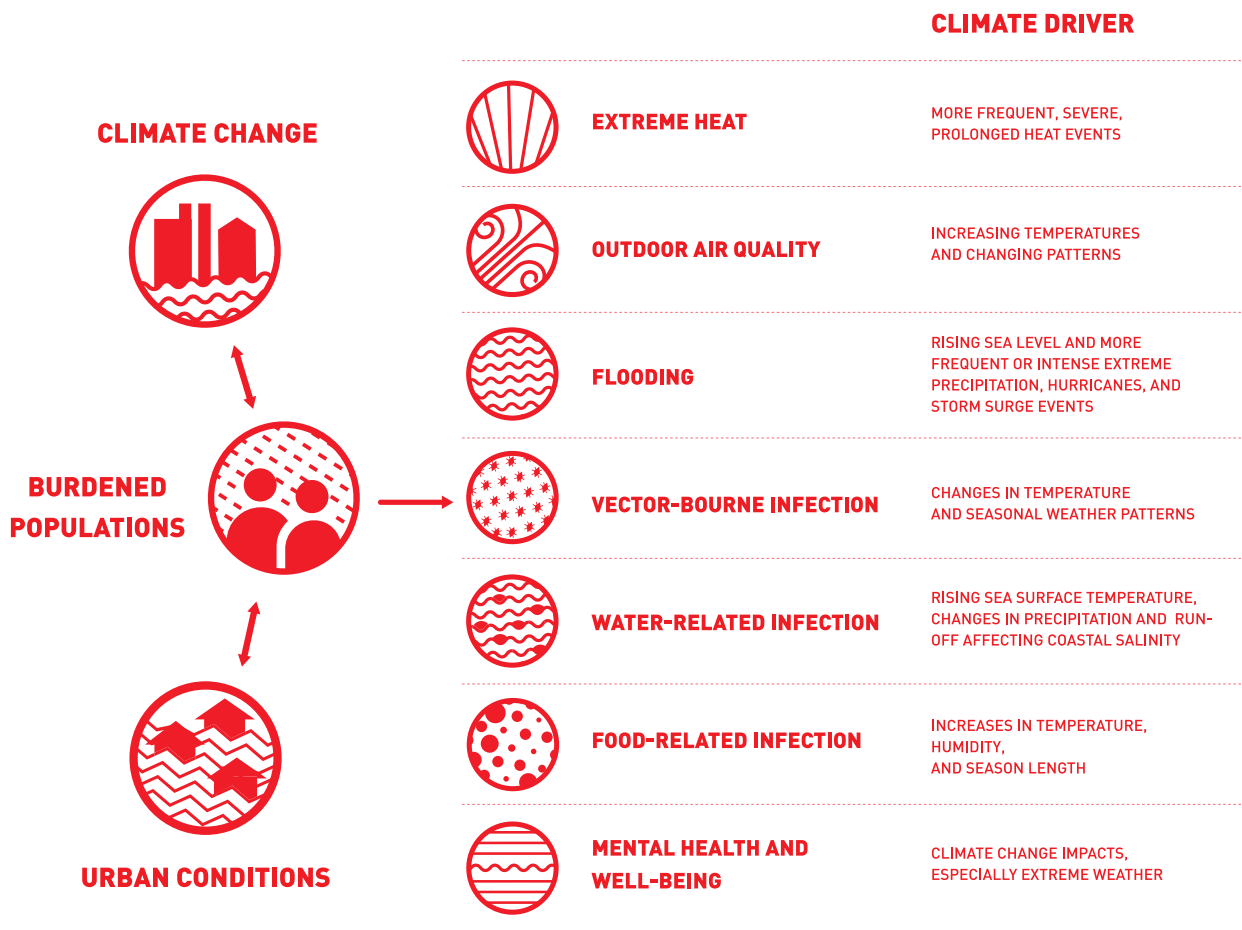
Climate change reaches across all areas of human life, and increasing global temperatures could ultimately lead to negative environmental, population, and social health consequences. Simultaneously, amplified and rapid urbanization continues to increase pressure on the environment and

basic resources, aggravating the difficulty local governments have with managing the confluence of these trends. The United Nations projects that by 2050, 75% of the global population will live in increasingly large, dense urban centers (3). While growth continues, vulnerable populations in these urban centers are consistently threatened with displacement. A recent New York State report determined that climate change impacts are extremely unequal across families in underserved communities (4).

Income-restricted people are negatively exposed in a multitude of ways, "including higher energy costs, dependence on public transit and lack of access to health care" (4). The threat of these stressors and shocks on vulnerable populations, who have consistently experienced trauma, disinvestment, and discrimination, can present significant health implications. The diagram (*fig.1*) on the following page captures these findings. In the face of these market, social, and natural forces, organiza-

tional allies must work with community residents to advocate for and support community-informed investment. If nonprofit, community, and government organizations' missions are to serve low-income communities, then strengthening

Figure 1. Climate and Health



community resilience must be part of that responsibility. This starts with creating environments for collaboration, lifting residents' voices, and building social cohesion and capital. Communities most resilient to disaster are not only structurally sound but also socially empowered and connected.

EXPOSURE	HEALTH OUTCOMES	IMPACT
ELEVATED TEMPERATURES	HEAT-RELATED DEATH AND ILLNESS	RISING TEMPERATURES WILL LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN HEAT-RELATED DEATHS AND ILLNESSES
WORSENERD AIR QUALITY (OZONE, PARTICULATES, AND HIGHER POLLEN COUNTS)	PREMATURE DEATH, ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARDIOVASCULAR AND RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES	RISING TEMPERATURES AND WILDFIRES AND DECREASING PRECIPITATION WILL LEAD TO INCREASES IN OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER, ELEVATING CARDIOVASCULAR AND RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES AND DEATH
CONTAMINATED WATER, DEBRIS, AND DISRUPTIONS TO ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE	DROWNING, INJURIES, MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES, GASTRO-INTESTINAL AND OTHER ILLNESSES	INCREASED COASTAL AND INLAND FLOODING EXPOSES POPULATIONS TO A RANGE OF NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER EVENTS
EARLIER AND GEOGRAPHICALLY EXPANDED TICK ACTIVITY	LYME DISEASE	TICKS WILL SHOW EARLIER SEASONAL ACTIVITY AND A GENERALLY NORTHWARD RANGE EXPANSION, INCREASING RISK OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LYME DISEASE-CAUSING BACTERIA
RECREATIONAL WATER OR SHELLFISH CONTAMINATED WITH DANGEROUS VIRUSES	VIRUS-INDUCED DIARRHEA & INTESTINAL ILLNESS, BLOOD INFECTIONS, DEATH	INCREASES IN WATER TEMPERATURES WILL ALTER TIMING AND LOCATION OF VIRUS GROWTH, INCREASING EXPOSURE AND RISK OF WATER-BORNE ILLNESS
INCREASED GROWTH OF PATHOGENS, SEASONAL SHIFTS IN INCIDENCES OF SALMONELLA EXPOSURE	SALMONELLA INFECTION, GASTROINTESTINAL OUTBREAKS	RISING TEMPERATURES INCREASE SALMONELLA PREVALENCE IN FOOD; LONGER SEASONS AND WARMING WINTERS INCREASE RISK OF EXPOSURE AND INFECTION
LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO TRAUMATIC EVENTS AND DISASTERS	DISTRESS, GRIEF, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS, SOCIAL IMPACTS, RESILIENCE	CHANGES IN EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE OR WEATHER RELATED DISASTERS EXACERBATE STRESS AND MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES, WITH GREATER RISK FOR CERTAIN POPULATIONS



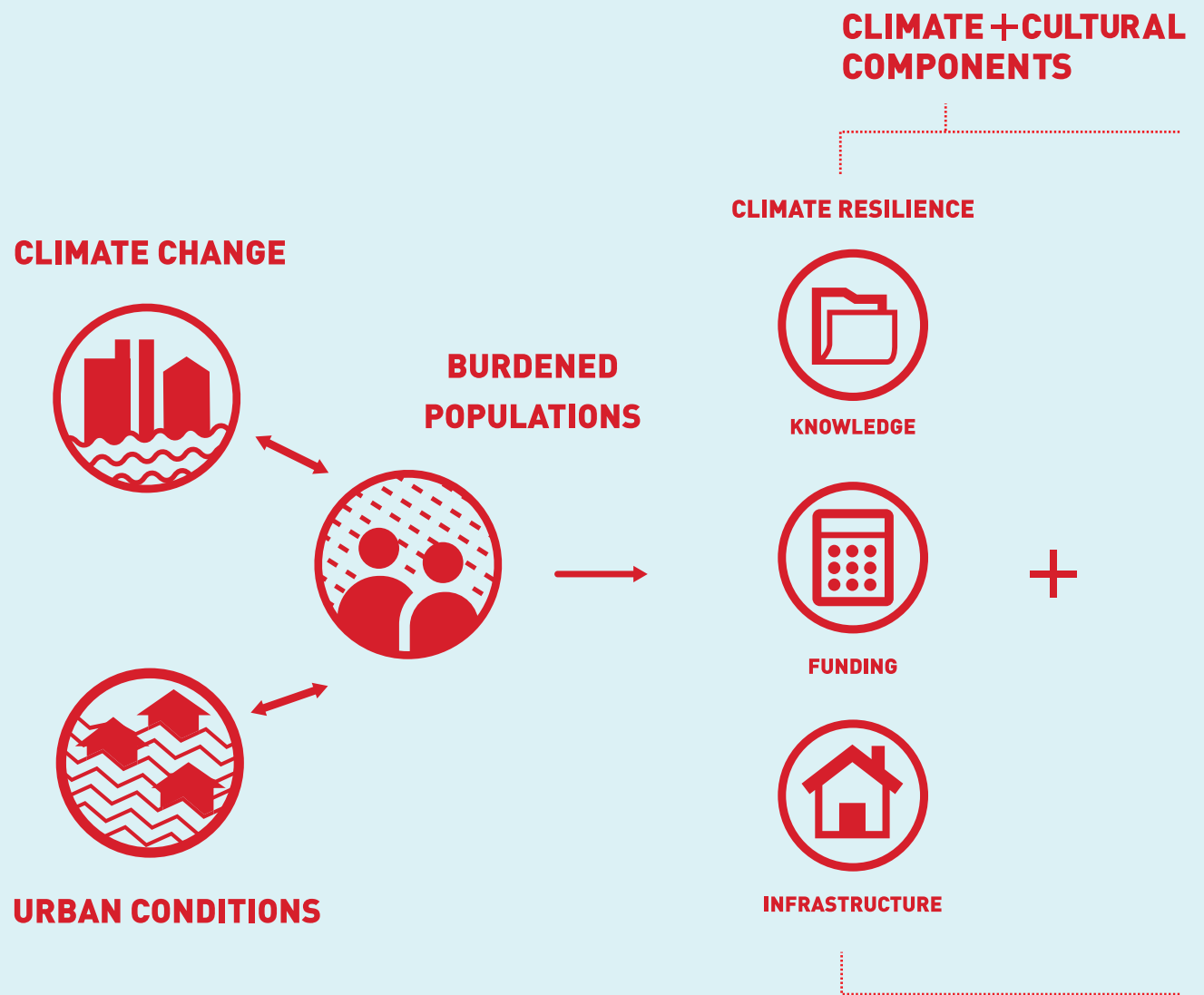
PREPARING FOR THE ELEMENTS

The Climate and Cultural Resilience Program sought to investigate how investing in cultural resilience in the context of building climate-related infrastructure might improve community resilience overall. Cultural resilience is “the capacity to maintain and develop cultural identity and critical cultural knowledge and practices” (5), and this program paired it with climate as an essential component of a holistically resilient community. Could supporting climate knowledge and infrastructure while increasing participation and culturally relevant practices lead to an increase in social connection, a key component to community resilience? **We found that incorporating cultural practices into resilience strategies supported trust building and feelings of inclusion, representation, empowerment, and social connection.**

This program also revealed that cultural resilience is not only integral to the ways in which communities understand and experience resilience but it is an approach that supports better connection of residents on a personal level to the broader issues they face. Vulnerable communities often experience disinvest-

ment and inequity based on discrimination of the cultural groups that they identify with, so many of their resilience challenges are inadvertently connected to their cultural identities. However, we learned through this program that climate and culture alone do not fully conceptualize the community resilience model. There are additional components brought forward by community members that are important to a community’s ability to be resilient. These include economic and social issues, on top of the experiences of pre-existing trauma. The next graphic (*fig. 2*) depicts our model of community resilience in practice.

Figure 2. Components of Community Resilience



ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

CULTURAL RESILIENCE



CULTURE



PARTICIPATION



SHARED ACTIVITY

+



ECONOMIC



HEALING



SOCIAL



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE





Small postcard with a floral design and some illegible text.

Postcard with the word "CARD" at the top and some illegible text below.



Postcard with a pinkish background and illegible text.



Small postcard with a floral design and illegible text.

Postcard with a brown background and illegible text, including the word "COMMUNIST" at the bottom.

Small white card with illegible text.

Postcard with a brown background and illegible text.

Postcard with a white background and the letters "CNT" printed on it.

Postcard with a brown background and illegible text, including the word "COMMUNIST" at the bottom.

Postcard with a white background and illegible text.

Postcard with a white background and illegible text.

Postcard with a white background and illegible text.

Small postcard with a yellow background and illegible text.

Deep Roots: Site Visit Notes

During the site visit, please take notes of Strengths (S) and Challenges (C) at each location. Think about how these places connect to one another and potential opportunities for creative placemaking to leverage connectivity.



1 Ashview/Ht neighborhood
 Truly Living Well Urban as non profit former public house 2000 -
 S: self-sufficient, jobs, skill development
 integrate sustainable practices, sell/year
 C: food desert; instability food
 govt land; non secure ownership

people

2 Hammond House (Wren's Nest)
 Folklore Slaves
 S: Historic designation; slave history
 "integrated neighborhood"
 C: relevance to generation today?

3 Atlanta Beltline \$4 billion, 1 well old
 S: 3 mi trail + attraction
 nature preservation; increase
 open space; economic stimulus
 C: no controls on who serves,
 no sense of community or
 culture

Creative Placemaking Co

Enter

KNOWING WHAT TO PACK

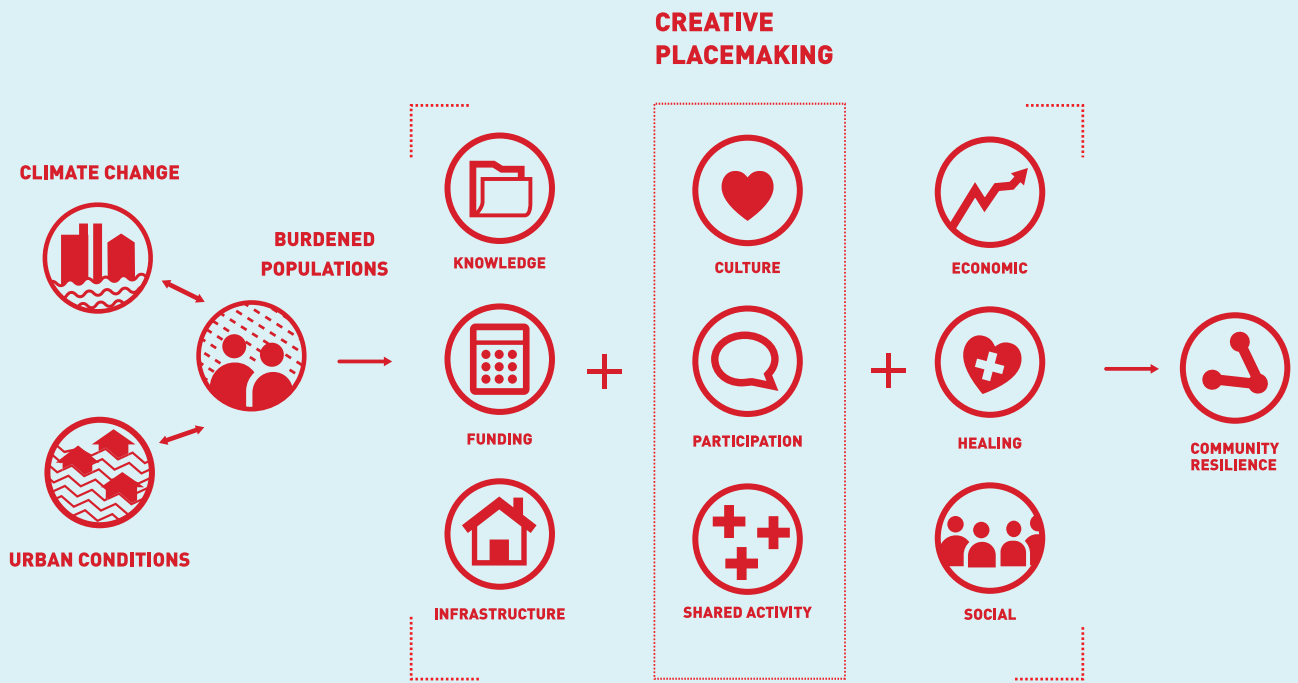
What is creative placemaking? How does it help with cultural resilience?

Enterprise defines creative placemaking as a collaborative process for integrating art, culture, creativity and design into community development. Creative placemaking is an important tool for creating resilient communities. Communities that are able to recover from adverse events, shocks or stressors are not only structurally sound, but they are also socially empowered and connected. Cultural resilience has been recognized as important for connecting groups to one another, and to the environment they exist within, while uplifting cultural identity and increasing empowerment. You can see this model illustrated on page 36 (*fig. 3*).

In the Climate and Cultural Resilience Program, creative placemaking is a strategy for participatory engagement that promotes cultural resilience. In the next few pages (*fig. 4*), and in each of the case studies, you can find specific creative placemaking activities and

approaches used in the specific projects, as well as insights from participants with additional “pro tips” you might use for your own creative placemaking practice. Creative placemaking strategies for promoting cultural resilience center on practices that uplift cultural identity, promote community participation, and incorporate shared activities.

Figure 3. Creative Placemaking As A Strategy for Climate and Cultural Resilience





CREATIVE PLACEMAKING APPROACHES

Community Committee for Decision Making

A small group of community stakeholders who decide what intervention to perform on behalf of the whole community.

Artist Led Installation

An artist leads an intervention or develops an artwork on behalf of the community.

Community Led Installation

The community works together to create an intervention in the form of an art installation.

Community Participatory Design Activity/Design Charettes

The community comes together to design a solution to the issues they are experiencing.

Cross-sector Partnerships/Local Institutions/Community Groups

Local groups collaborate with community stakeholders to design an intervention.

Incorporates Social Issues

The design intervention addresses social issues that impact the community and its members.

Place-based Interventions

The intervention relates or responds to the physical space that the community inhabits.

Publicly Visible Interventions

The intervention is visible to the public so as to have impact in the community as well as on visitors.

Equal Community Partnership

Community stakeholders have an equal say in how to create an intervention within the community.

Local Artists/Designers/ Culture Bearers

A local artist, designer, or culture bearer plays a lead role in the intervention or artwork.

Figure 4. Creative Placemaking Activities Table

	ACTIVITIES	DULUTH, MN AICHO	WAYNE, WV COALFIELD DEV. CORP.
	LEARN AND SHARE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES	C&CR Speaker Series	Clients trained in fields relating to sustainability
	PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHALLENGES	Rooftop Garden Redesign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of 12kW photovoltaic array • Installation of composting system • Installation of water capture system • Natural food production 	Address both climate and economic challenges by hiring out of work coal miners on projects that contribute to sustainable community development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting trees • Growing and harvesting local produce • Installing a solar farm • Repurposing wood from cut down trees
	PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH CULTURAL RESILIENCE	Planting/Canning Development of C&CR Committee	
	PARTNER WITH ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY TO CREATE PRODUCT REFLECTING COMMUNITY IDENTITY	Mural	Mentorship program by local artists for former coal miners in: quilting, woodworking, mountain music, foraging/canning, beekeeping, pottery, & glassblowing
	CONDUCT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL EXPRESSION	Rooftop garden redesign process	Every program incorporates a design process including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community design charette facilitated by LEED-certified architects • Partnership with community groups to ensure broad outreach and involvement • Locally-hired trainees • Local partnerships to select artist mentors who develop the mentorship curriculum
	USE CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES TO DELIVER SERVICES AND GAIN STAKEHOLDER INPUT	Planting/Canning	Local craftsmanship and artists

<p>SAN FRANCISCO, CA CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEV. CENTER</p>	<p>CHICAGO, IL CHI-GO & CNT</p>	<p>ATLANTA, GA THIS BELONGS TO US</p>
<p>EcoFair</p>	<p>Community events</p>	<p>Asset/risk mapping</p>
<p>Develop a city plan and conceptual design for the redevelopment of Portsmouth Square Park that positions it to be a resilience hub for Chinatown residents</p>	<p>Rain water infrastructure projects installed in 4 neighborhoods near metro stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Line (51st St.): rain gardens on Boxville community market • Blue Line (Homan Square): 10 trees planted of a 7,000 tree planting project • Pink Line (California): rain boxes at leaking overpass • Blue Line (Logan Square): rain runoff splashboxes 	<p>Support the development of a local climate resiliency plan to identify climate-related risks and opportunities</p>
	<p>Development of Chi-Go Collaborative Bringing together climate and cultural practitioners for innovative community development</p>	<p>Conduct a community-led arts-based needs assessment to identify climate and cultural facility needs</p>
	<p>Local cultural events positioned near metro stations w/ climate infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Line (51st St.): mural depicting the local black community • Blue Line (Homan Square): crafting of shovels by local artists from reclaimed weapons-highlighting the issues of community violence • Pink Line (California): placement of public art gallery under overpass with local Mexican artist's work • Blue Line (Logan Square): creation of a mural by local youth depicting the cultural Puerto Rican assets of the community 	<p>Wayfinding</p> <p>Develop a cultural facility plan</p>
<p>Develop a city plan and conceptual design for the redevelopment of Portsmouth Square Park that reflects the culture of Chinatown residents</p>	<p>Each area had a lead partner nonprofit that worked to:</p> <p>(1) Involve local artists; (2) Connect to local anchor institutions such as schools and houses of worship; (3) Direct local implementation efforts with community residents and stakeholders.</p> <p>A community-led committee selected the local artists, who then engaged in multiple community participatory sessions to identify and develop public art installations, programs, and community gardens</p>	<p>Design and launch public art way</p>
<p>CCDC employed a community planning process for Portsmouth Square that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four community meetings • One-on-one interviews with stakeholders • Intercept surveys with users of the park 		<p>Community mapping activities</p>



PRO TIPS

Flexibility and Diversity

Resilience is a flexible concept that acknowledges the need to integrate physical and social factors to adapt to changing conditions. The challenge for practitioners is to be sensitive to local needs in both understanding a place and determining how to help community. Diversity of ideas, culture, governance, and action enables strength, flexibility, and creativity in responding to stresses, both physical and socioeconomic. Reaching out and being inclusive toward people and ideas is fundamental to increasing resilience.

Pride and Identity

Identity influences action. Several communities expressed a feeling of not just being overlooked but of being invisible or dismissed, the result being a feeling of having no value. Past experiences of broken promises, disinvestment, and neglect make it difficult for many communities to feel like it is worthwhile to invest in new initiatives. A community that has an identity of being neglected may be resigned toward neglect in the future. Several of the communities expressed

a desire to be seen, whether it was through architecture, a mural, wayfinding signs that reveal the unique history of a place, or the ability to demonstrate new knowledge and skills.

Change is Both Evolutionary and Transformative

Clearly, the state of affairs in many communities is not acceptable and change is needed. But what type of change is not always clear. An emphasis on transformative change can send a signal that the character of a place and the people who live there today are deficient and thus need to be completely replaced. Evolutionary change recognizes the need for change but does it with respect for the assets, culture, and history of a place.

Short-Term Actions Toward Long-Term Change and the Power of Making Things Together

Trust takes time to build and needs ongoing reinforcement. Making and doing things together fosters relationships and enhances cohesion within the community and can build toward long-term change. The challenge is to align near-term actions

with the goals and aspirations of the future, so that efforts are done in a strategic, rather than ad hoc fashion.

It Takes Time to Know a Place

It takes time to get an authentic sense of a place - to walk the streets, to read the history, to listen to the stories, to understand how a place influences its people and vice versa. The stories of a place are powerful in explaining character, culture, and identity, but these stories take time to be told. As practitioners we need to understand that the deep stories are not told right away. Trust is built through shared experiences over time. It is challenging, but important, to spend the time needed to understand what really shapes a place and what types of interventions can truly change the trajectory.

Diversity, Inclusiveness, and Collaboration

It is through a diversity of people, perspectives, and ideas that solutions come forward that can match the magnitude of the issues facing a community. It is important to both recognize historic traditions, organizations, and leaders, and engage with new members of the community, as a diversity of stakeholders can lead to new coalitions and alliances. Collaboration among residents, local community-based organizations, and public agencies is essential to move from ideas to proposals to implemented projects.





The American Indian Community
Housing Organization (AIHO)

DULUTH, MN

46.7867° N, 92.1005° W

Supporting Cultural Identity
for Sustainability



DULUTH, MN

46.7867° N, 92.1005° W

Duluth is located in northern Minnesota on the shores of Lake Superior, populated by 87,000 people (93% white, 7% people of color). American Indians make up about 2% of the total population but disproportionately represent the homeless population and face a wide range of barriers related to housing, employment and education. Michelle LeBeau, Director of AICHO, described the residents served: “Many Native American people move to Duluth in search of opportunities they can’t find on their own reservations or in Minnesota’s rural towns. As a whole, however, Duluth has not been welcoming to its Indigenous population and tensions arise quite often when it comes to including the Native voice in the city’s urban planning and public arts initiatives”.

AICHO defines their community as the Indigenous community, the adults and children who live in Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin (“We are, All of us Together, Beginning a Good Life”), as well as the Indigenous artists they work with. Their project is rooted in Indigenous values but encourages participation from the greater Duluth community, especially local children.

Clint Austin / Duluth News Tribune

ABOUT THE TEAM

The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)

The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) is one of 27 facilities nationwide that house a specific ethnic group. They provide housing and services for people suffering from long-term homelessness, offer transitional housing for survivors of domestic abuse, and run a 10-bed domestic violence shelter — the only Native American shelter that serves battered women and their children in the seven-county area surrounding Duluth, Minnesota. AICHO has a vibrant cultural arts program that features Indigenous artwork, music, performance art, and film and a gallery for visual arts. AICHO recognizes the humanity in people living in poverty and envisions an innovative approach to addressing poverty that includes building a robust Indigenous strand to a strong, local economy.

PARTNERS |

- RESEARCH FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY HEALTH
- RURAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE
- DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
- TWO AMERICORPS VISTAS
- DULUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN
- LAVERNE’S WORMS
- GROWING POWER
- HONOR THE EARTH





CLIMATE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



LEARN AND SHARE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES



PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHALLENGES



PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH CULTURAL RESILIENCE



PARTNER WITH ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY TO CREATE PRODUCT REFLECTING COMMUNITY



CONDUCT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL EXPRESSION



USE CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES TO DELIVER SERVICES WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING TOOLS USED



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



ARTIST LED INSTALLATION



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN



CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS



INCORPORATE SOCIAL ISSUES



PLACE-BASED INTERVENTION



PUBLICLY VISIBLE



CHALLENGING TERRAIN**Lack of awareness and knowledge of climate change concerns**

One key challenge was the lack of awareness and knowledge of climate change concerns and how to effectively and creatively address solutions to these issues.

**Lack of inclusiveness and knowledge of American Indian culture in local community**

There were larger cultural issues such as the dominant Duluth society's lack of cultural awareness of the issues plaguing American Indian communities and those affected by being low-income and homeless. American Indians face a wide range of challenges relating to housing, employment, education, the criminal justice and social service systems, and concerns with overall implicit bias and discrimination. Additionally, AICHO has been invisible to those who hold the power and status in the Duluth community in the past.

**High levels of food insecurity**

Downtown Duluth is considered a food desert. There is not one grocery store in this area. The one store near downtown closed in recent years, making it especially hard for low-income residents to access food and basic necessities. AICHO is surrounded by concrete streets and buildings, with limited environment for gardening or growing food.

**Persistent power outages with increased severe winter weather**

In 2012, Duluth experienced a flood that knocked out power, overflowed storm sewers, and caused roads to buckle. In 2016, a storm with 80MPH straight-line winds and torrential rain knocked out power in some neighborhoods for weeks. The downtown area has experienced significant flooding during recent summers.

STRATEGY

Increasing knowledge and impact of climate and cultural practices



AICHO hosted 24 educational Climate and Cultural Resilience focused events. The staff attended 12 conferences or trainings related to Climate and Cultural Resilience. AICHO formed partnerships with over 13 community organizations, businesses, foundations and individuals (such as Indigenous elders and those knowledgeable on the threats to the local environment and other issues), who helped them achieve success by increasing their knowledge and services, and sharing this information with their community members. AICHO believes this will have a long-standing impact on their residents and the Indigenous community.

Addressing climate and cultural resilience



Through the expansion and implementation of their gardens, composting and vermiculture, solar panels, and other sustainable practices, AICHO has set the tone for years to come. In 2018, they

built capacity and expanded their organizational cultural resilience by working on housing, food sovereignty, climate change, and using art and culture to address individual trauma.

Connecting residents and community to Native culture and inclusion of residents in development



Alongside the tangible additions to their space, the AICHO staff has involved Gimaajii residents in more ways than they had previously. They have increased access to both the arts and the conversations taking place around collective futures, creating opportunities to build cultural resilience. According to a staff member, “the impact of this, especially for youth, is something that only time will tell.” There is something notable about the atmosphere in the Gimaajii building – when you walk in, it doesn’t feel like a traditional institution. There is a sense of dignity, security, and respect – but beyond that, there’s always something positive happening. For example, “Victor” – who is an elder at Gimaajii – expressed that he would like to see cilantro planted in the gardens as he loves to cook with it. The

staff gave him the opportunity to plant the seeds in a garden bed, which he tends to as the plants grow. The Gimaajii Youth continue to be proud of their Miinikaan Munchers logo, brand, and Youth Market, which empowered them to create Indigenous recipes and a logo through consensus as a collective. The team at AICHO is also integrating youth into helping with events and cultural activities which teaches them about individual and community responsibility and engages them more into the world around them - inside and outside of Gimaajii.

Overcoming lack of greenspace and food insecurity



AICHO addressed the lack of green space by expanding healthy garden spaces. One garden is centered behind the housing building in what used to be a parking lot. There, they have a total of 16 garden beds and several additional areas where they have planted healthy vegetables and traditional medicines. In the back lot garden, AICHO hosted educational programs that informed residents and community about traditional uses of the tobacco and sweetgrass grown there as

well as teaching gardening practices. In 2017 and 2018, AICHO staff and residents constructed 25 new garden beds that are now located on the rooftop next to the 16.5 kw solar array. The foods grown in both gardens supplement residents' meals in the late summer and fall. The roof garden offers increased access to healthy foods, engaging and informing residents of all ages about gardening and the benefits of having healthy foods available at their fingertips.

Creating more sustainable practices



As an organization, AICHO began to look at the ways they are dependent on grants and fossil fuels. With this funding they realized they need more sustainable practices and services for, and with, residents and outside community. They revisited their emergency plan and are investigating the ways their space could serve as a secure shelter in times of disaster.





PRO TIP

Pride and Identity

Identity influences action. Several communities expressed a feeling of not just being overlooked, but of being invisible or dismissed, the result of which is a feeling of having no value. Past experiences of broken promises, disinvestment, and neglect make it difficult for many communities to feel like it is worthwhile to invest in new initiatives. A community that has an identity of being neglected may be resigned toward neglect in the future. Several of the communities expressed a desire to be seen, whether it was through architecture, a mural, wayfinding signs that reveal the unique history of a place, or the ability to demonstrate new knowledge and skills.

*Photo:
Clint Austin / Duluth News Tribune*

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Prior to installing any climate infrastructure, AICHO had a community meeting to determine the type of programming and art that the community would want to see. AICHO partnered with Honor the Earth, a nonprofit environmental conservation organization, and Mayan artist Volton Ik, with the assistance of Derek Brown of the Dine or Navajo tribe, to design and paint a mural on the rooftop. The artists designed and painted the piece and some residents of the building assisted in painting. Once it was complete, AICHO had a community event with a cultural fair to unveil the mural. The cultural fair included booths discussing climate and American Indian cultural topics, as well as a table facilitating a participatory activity where community members mapped different things they wanted to see in the rooftop community garden space. These maps were used to inform the design for the rooftop. The event also featured drum circles, presentations about local events, and prayers for the community space by a tribal elder before the unveiling of the mural.

As people lined the street to watch the unveiling of the mural, you could feel the excitement in the air. A dark sheet

dropped to reveal a 30-foot portrait of an American Indian woman. On her body she wore a jingle dress, a dress traditionally worn by Ojibwe women during powwows that, when danced in, creates an airy, jingling sound. The artist explained that the red bandana covering her face represents the women who “participated in the Zapatista uprising in the Mexican state of Chiapas in 1994” as well as the “Water Protectors at Standing Rock”. From the crowd, sighs, cheers, and sniffles trying to hold back tears marked an emotional moment. In a building that houses Native women from some of the most difficult circumstances, in a city that has no public art for or by indigenous people, this was a symbol of resilience. Ivy Vainio of the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe, and program coordinator at AICHO reflected, “the mural is powerful, in a spiritual and deep-down emotional way. Its interconnections with the importance of protecting our water, Indigenous women, and cultural ways will now be front and center in downtown Duluth.”





ARROWHEAD
PLACE

205



Coalfield Development
Corporation

WAYNE, WV

38.2215° N, 82.4424° W

Creating a Culture
of Revitalization

WAYNE, WV

38.2215° N, 82.4424° W

Appalachia has been economically, culturally, and socially defined by coal, and its legacy – both good and bad – will be part of the narrative for a long time. According to the Energy Information Administration, total coal output from West Virginia underground and surface mine operations fell to 113 million short tons in 2013, marking the lowest amount produced in the state since the early 1980s.

The five counties in Coalfield CDC's current service area have high poverty rates: 25.8% in Mingo, 27.3% in Lincoln, 35.5% in MacDowell, 20.6% in Wayne, and 21.7% in Cabell. These figures are significantly higher than the national average of 15.5%, the Appalachian Region of 17.1% and the West Virginia average of 18%. The economic impact of the coal industry has contributed to some of the most impoverished communities in Central Appalachia and the nation.

A 2015 US Census Bureau national population survey showed that West Virginia has the 3rd lowest median household income. Conversely, the Nature Conservancy has identified Central Appalachia as a crucial region to positively impact global environmental health because of the potential to reforest mine lands and maintain large forested areas.

Appalachia can serve as a climate resilient landscape and a key "carbon-sink." Such environmental value, though, is inhibited by mountaintop removal mining. Large forested tracts are interrupted by these massive blast sites. Reconnecting forested tracts, then, becomes paramount.

ABOUT THE TEAM**Coalfield Development Corporation**

Coalfield CDC’s vision is to develop the potential of Appalachian places and people as they experience challenging moments of economic transition. The organization retrains out of work coal miners in reforestation, solar installation, furniture making, and sustainable agriculture on former mountaintop removal sites. Since 2009, after significant community engagement, Coalfield has pioneered a relationship-based, holistic approach to on-the-job training. They hire unemployed and underemployed people to construct green affordable housing. Trainees work Coalfield’s “33-6-3” model each week: 33 hours of paid labor, six hours of higher education class time, and three hours of life-skills mentorship. Today, Coalfield CDC has grown into a collection of social enterprises working throughout Appalachia to create a more sustainable economy in the wake of the coal industry’s rapid decline. The organization has created more than 40 on-the-job training positions,

more than 200 professional certification opportunities, redeveloped more than 150,000 square feet of dilapidated property, and successfully launched five new businesses in real estate development, construction, woodworking, agriculture and artisan trades—all of which are industries based on local assets in the Appalachian region.

PARTNERS |

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINGO COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
UNEMPLOYMENT AGENCIES





CLIMATE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



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ARTIST LED INSTALLATION



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN



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INCORPORATE SOCIAL ISSUES



PLACE-BASED INTERVENTION



PUBLICLY VISIBLE

CHALLENGING TERRAIN



Rich coal heritage with declining industry

This area of West Virginia is marked by many coal mines that are no longer in use. This has left many miners unemployed and natural areas destroyed and barren.



Underemployment and lack of economic diversification

Lack of economic diversification coupled with decline of the primary industry created generational cycles of poverty that are difficult to overcome.



Scarred landscape due to deforestation and mining

The coal mining process has left thousands of acres of land deforested and difficult to cultivate.

STRATEGY**Revitalizing mountaintop
removal sites**

Trainees are hired in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to do reforestation work, solar installation, sustainable agriculture, and green housing on former mountaintop mining sites. Illustrated on pages 64-65 is one of the former mountaintop mining sites, which is now testing sustainable agriculture and reforestation. By revitalizing the land with activities grounded in local culture and heritage, they are creating a new and regenerated place that reflects their vision for the future of their community directly on former mine sites.

**Connecting to rich
cultural heritage**

In addition to reclaiming the scarred landscape, this project enables laid-off coalminers and other low-income Appalachians to rediscover their land and culture and to appreciate the local craftsmanship and artistry. Local artists and artisans mentor trainees in trades unique to Appalachia: quilting, woodworking, mountain music, foraging, canning, beekeeping, pottery, and glassblowing.

Investing in social and economic capital



Each trainee devotes three hours a week to life-skills mentorship. During the three hours, local artists and artisans connect creativity to life skills such as problem solving, teamwork, communication, personal health, and financial literacy. Because of the 33-6-3 model, formerly unemployed people gain employment and renewed self-confidence.

Increasing community ownership and maintaining identity



Cultural expression is enhanced over the course of the two-year contract granted to each trainee. By completing transformative community projects, participants manifest a greater sense of community ownership and develop grassroots leadership skills. Coalfield is creating an opportunity for former coal miners to reinvent themselves - to be resilient, while maintaining their identity and reinvesting in their traditional cultural practices.





PRO TIP

It Takes Time to Know A Place

It takes time to get an authentic sense of a place – to walk the streets, to read the history, to listen to the stories, to understand how a place influences its people and vice versa. The stories of a place are powerful in explaining character, culture, and identity, but these stories take time to be told. As practitioners we need to understand that the deep stories are not told right away. Trust is built through shared experiences over time. It is challenging, but important, to spend the time needed to understand what really shapes a place and what types of interventions can truly change the trajectory.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Every development project Coalfield undertakes begins with a community design charrette. They hire LEED-certified architects to facilitate these day-long events and partner with community groups to ensure broad outreach and genuine involvement in the design process. When Coalfield's 33-6-3 model is replicated in a rural community, they launch a year-long process of listening and learning before any programming starts. Coalfield establishes local boards to ensure local ownership of projects. They call these SEEDs: Social Enterprise and Economic Diversification boards. Low-income representation on SEEDs is mandatory. All trainees are hired locally, thus ensuring local job creation, local investment, and local ownership. Recruitment for trainees is community-based; key partners are local Health and Human Services offices, unemployment agencies, vocational schools, and union halls. Coalfield has many established partners who assisted in the arts and culture-based mentorship efforts (the 3 in the 33-6-3 model). The Marshall University Visual Arts Department helped in curriculum development and the Huntington Museum of Art included Coalfield trainees in its programming. The

Tamarack mentorship component of this project is the Heritage Farm Museum and Village, a living-history Appalachian village that all trainees visited regularly towards the goal of increased knowledge of Appalachian history, culture, and collective creative capacities. Importantly, social-enterprise is another key strategy that undergirds this holistic work and also ensure's Coalfield's organizational sustainability. Partnering with The Nature Conservancy to hire unemployed coalminers (according to the 33-6-3 model) allowed trainees not only to plant trees, but also to work with SolarHoller, LLC to install a solar farm on a former mountaintop removal site. Trainees partnered with Refresh Appalachia (Coalfield Development's sustainable agriculture enterprise) to plant, maintain, and harvest fresh, local produce and with Rediscover Appalachia (Coalfield Development's woodworking enterprise) to make sustainable wood products. Through solar contracts, produce sales, and wood-product sales, they earn unrestricted revenue which can be reinvested in other training programs. Combined, these lines of business have netted over \$250,000 in the past year.



PRO TIP

Short-Term Actions Toward Long-Term Change and the Power of Making Things Together

Trust takes time to build and needs ongoing reinforcement. Making and doing things together fosters relationships and enhances cohesion within the community and can build toward long-term change. The challenge is to align near-term actions with the goals and aspirations of the future, so that efforts are done in a strategic, rather than ad hoc fashion.



It's important to articulate why we call this 'Reclaim and Rediscover.' Indeed, all of our enterprises start with '**Re-**'

That's because instead of turning our place in to something it is not (like a city or a suburb) we want to honor what it is. We feel as though many of our problems are a result of getting away from who we really are and becoming dependent on outside corporations or the federal government for survival.

So, our message is to return to the real Appalachia, to tap back into our self-reliant closeness with the land, our close-knit-community perseverance, and our unique creativity.



45 in Pots
\$7.50
6.5 in Pots
\$13.00



Chinatown Community
Development Center

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

37.7749° N, 122.4194° W

Strengthening Greenspace
with Community Participation

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

37.7749° N, 122.4194° W

ABOUT THE TEAM

Chinatown Community Development Center

The Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) is at the forefront of community advocacy, planning, and affordable housing development in San Francisco. Since 1977, the organization has developed thirty-two affordable housing projects serving low-income families, seniors, veterans and formerly homeless adults. Chinatown CDC employs a culturally diverse group of staff members who play the roles of neighborhood advocates, community organizers, planners, developers, and managers of affordable housing. Chinatown CDC believes in a comprehensive vision of community, a quality environment, a healthy neighborhood economy, and active grassroots leadership. Chinatown CDC is committed to the empowerment of low-income residents, diversity and coalition building, and social and economic justice.

PARTNERS |

ENTERPRISE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICE

SF ENVIRONMENT

SF PLANNING

SF RECREATION AND PARKS

SF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MEI ARCHITECTS

SWA ARCHITECTS

With a history spanning over 130 years, San Francisco's Chinatown has long served as an immigrant gateway, cultural mecca, and tourist destination. Chinatown is also a severely disadvantaged neighborhood with a population of over 14,000, comprised of largely foreign-born Chinese immigrants, who are slightly older than the City average. The poverty rate for Chinatown is almost three times the citywide norm and the unemployment rate is over two times the norm. Approximately 60% of Chinatown families and seniors live in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels in rooms that typically measure 8 feet by 10 feet, sharing kitchens and bathrooms.

According to the SRO Families Collaborative 2015 Census, there are 530 SRO buildings in Chinatown. As the cost of housing in the city soars, more families are forced to live in these cramped units. This overcrowding frequently results in physical and mental health problems. These buildings are also increasingly threatened by

years of deferred building maintenance and gentrification pressures. Despite the challenging conditions, the alternative is homelessness. The dual solution is stabilized housing, so families can become more self-sufficient, as well as accessible outdoor space that serves as a respite from crowded SROs.

Along with these immediate challenges is the rising threat of climate change. In a study by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Chinatown will be one of San Francisco's neighborhoods most impacted by climate change – with a threat of increased heat waves, flooding, and air pollution.

Chinatown's current conditions of having primarily non-permeable surfaces, a lack of trees, the city's lowest rate of parks per capita, and high volumes of auto traffic make the neighborhood vulnerable to extreme heat and flooding. Chinatown's tree canopy (percent of land covered by trees) is only 5% compared to 14% citywide. 88% of Chinatown is covered by pavement and buildings

with few green spaces. Climate change will disproportionately burden Chinatown – with its low-income, immigrant, and non-English speaking populations – and especially affect seniors and children. Therefore, the Sustainable Chinatown program defines "sustainability" as being not only about environmental performance, but also about the long-term resilience of its culture in the face of larger looming threats such as gentrification and climate change.



CLIMATE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



LEARN AND SHARE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES



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CONDUCT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL EXPRESSION



USE CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES TO DELIVER SERVICES WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING TOOLS USED



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN



CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS



INCORPORATE SOCIAL ISSUES



PLACE-BASED INTERVENTION



FEEDBACK USED FROM LOCALS



PUBLICLY VISIBLE



CHALLENGING TERRAIN



High poverty rates

Chinatown is one of the most economically strained areas of San Francisco.



Severely disadvantaged immigrant neighborhood

The residents of Chinatown experience many forms of oppression because they are viewed as an immigrant population.



Extremely cramped affordable housing is the only option for many people

Most people in Chinatown live in very small single room occupancy housing units. This is the only housing available to them that they can afford.



Physical and mental health issues resulting from overcrowded living conditions

The living conditions of many Chinatown residents are not healthy and many people experience health issues from the overcrowding.



Chinatown is especially threatened by climate change

The design of the neighborhood, as well as its poor upkeep, has made the space especially susceptible to higher temperatures and extreme amounts of rain. The poverty of many of its residents leave them ill-prepared to adapt to the change.

STRATEGY**Addressing climate and cultural resilience**

Chinatown CDC's efforts to advance climate and cultural resilience in the Sustainable Chinatown Initiative included innovative greening strategies and community participation for the Portsmouth Square Improvement Project. Chinatown CDC also hosted an EcoFair to promote greater awareness of the environmental challenges facing the neighborhood's most vulnerable populations. Both focused on community engagement and culturally-specific "placekeeping" tactics that are central elements to Sustainable Chinatown's strategy for resilience to climate change and gentrification.

The Chinatown EcoFair was a creative strategy to engage residents on climate change and understand what environmentalism means to a low-income community that is already "green by necessity" (living in dense housing, walking or taking public transit, and generally consuming fewer resources). Participants, primarily Chinatown seniors and youth, were asked to share their wishes for the

future of Portsmouth Square and the future of Chinatown. The Wishing Tree activity highlighted desires for health, housing security, increased greenery, and neighborhood cleanliness. These materials were shared with the Portsmouth Square design team and Sustainable Chinatown Steering Committee to inform future educational campaigns to reach the most vulnerable residents.

Celebrating immigrant identities and creating a resilient community

Chinatown CDC received technical assistance from the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) and landscape architects SWA Group to explore how the future Portsmouth Square Park could be designed to preserve culture and build resilience. Staff led regular meetings and neighborhood tours with various city agency partners and community groups to discuss sustainability interventions and build broad support for the Portsmouth Square Improvement Project. Chinatown CDC worked with the

design team to host three community workshops, each attracting an estimated 250 to 300 participants – with over 70% identifying as Chinese American. These meetings provided space for local stakeholders and residents to develop priorities, participate in designs, and provide feedback and direction for the park redesign.

Identifying local climate and cultural assets through community participation



The Portsmouth Square Improvement Project was a way to improve climate and cultural resilience. Portsmouth Square has long been recognized as the heart of the San Francisco Chinatown community. For Portsmouth Square, the idea of “placemaking” was rejected early on through one-on-one stakeholder interviews conducted by the design team.

The idea of “placemaking” suggested that a collective memory and identity was absent, drawing fear of gentrification and community displacement. In response, “placekeeping” strategies were developed throughout the four community workshops. Additional one-on-one interviews with stakeholder social service organiza-

tions revealed that Portsmouth Square serves a multitude of uses – including socialization, recreation, community fairs, refuge, and creative and political expression. Chinatown’s local disaster preparedness group, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition – authored the Chinatown Disaster Preparedness Plan – listing Portsmouth Square as the primary Chinatown Disaster Command Center.

Many stakeholders view Portsmouth Square as a focal point for the community. They quickly realized that the park itself was a ‘resilience hub’ that supported day-to-day recreation and emergency needs. These narratives influenced the design priorities for Portsmouth Square Park.

Investing in Portsmouth Square to support the quality of life for the Chinatown community



Through numerous meetings with SFRPD and SWA, the design team shifted priority from standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) to first focus on how Portsmouth Square can better support the quality of life for the Chinatown community. These strategies are detailed in the Portsmouth Square Improvement Project Progress Report for Sustainable Chinatown.

In addition to designing the park facilities to be as low impact as possible, the park is guided by the following values: 1) Maintain and enhance Portsmouth Square as the Community Living Room; 2) Improve the safety of Portsmouth Square; and 3) Better support diverse activities and community events. Overall, this program allowed for focused discussions about how the park redesign may mitigate various health impacts brought on by climate change – such as extreme heat illnesses. CCDC’s year-long discussions and workshops led to a culminating progress report and

preliminary Sustainability Matrix, which featured over twenty-five green interventions considered for the future design. The overall design aims to honor the cultural traditions and history of the Chinatown community, while mitigating the health impacts of climate change.



PRO TIP

Diversity, Inclusiveness, and Collaboration

It is through a diversity of people, perspectives, and ideas that solutions come forward to match the magnitude of the issues facing a community. It is important to both recognize historic traditions, organizations, and leaders – as well as engage with new members of the community – as a diversity of stakeholders can lead to new coalitions and alliances. Collaboration among residents, local community-based organizations, and public agencies, is essential to move from ideas to proposals to implemented projects.

China Town ECO Fair

綠化華埠展

POWER
約力量

Relevance: Community-based organizations are essential to the success of the Green New Deal. The City of New York is committed to the Green New Deal and is working to ensure that the benefits of the Green New Deal are shared by all. The City is also committed to the Green New Deal and is working to ensure that the benefits of the Green New Deal are shared by all.

CTA
214

CTA
213

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

One of Sustainable Chinatown's key strategies was to engage community members in building social capital and improving neighborhood connections. The EcoFair and environmental education programs led to more robust and culturally-specific messaging to engage their most vulnerable youth and seniors.

On August 12, 2017, Chinatown CDC hosted the neighborhood's first EcoFair to engage and teach community members about environmental efforts that can be undertaken in Chinatown. Their staff worked closely with youth leaders to develop intergenerational activities – including hands-on displays and printed materials in Chinese and English to engage seniors, who are at risk of climate change-related health illnesses due to social isolation and pre-existing medical conditions.

The youth led interactive community exhibits on conservation practices, solar energy, indoor air quality, and water filtration. A stamp card activity encouraged participant engagement and offered chances to win prizes. A highlight of the fair was the Sustainable Chinatown booth's "fun facts" game. This activity educated the community about the environmental challenges facing this vulnerable neighborhood.

Most senior participants admitted not knowing the health impacts brought on by climate change such as extreme heat and lack of greenery. Afterwards, participants were asked to write their wish on a Wishing Tree for the future of Portsmouth Square and the Chinatown environment. Over 240 participants attended the event, with nearly 70% identifying as Chinatown residents over the age of 60. The Ec Fair was a successful effort to increase social cohesion and build neighborhood connections that can be useful for everyday life and in times of disaster.



Chicago
Connections (Chi-Go)

CHICAGO, IL

41.8781° N, 87.6298° W

Connecting through Art
and Green Infrastructure



CHICAGO, IL

41.8781° N, 87.6298° W

The four communities participating in Chi-Go face myriad challenges, including high levels of economic hardship, urban flooding, and high combined housing and transportation costs for residents. Equity issues are also a concern, as the neighborhoods face questions of affordability, safety, and disinvestment. The four community areas are designated by Chicago Department of Public Health 2014 statistics as “high” levels of economic hardship:

Green Line – 51st Street: Population of 6,646, with 94% Black and 31% living in poverty. There were 38 acres of vacant land and 97 flood insurance claims from 2007 to 2011.

Blue Line – Logan Square: Population of 19,148, with 44% Hispanic and 20% living in poverty. There were three acres of vacant land and 88 flood insurance claims from 2007 to 2011.

Pink Line – California Station: Population of 12,463, with 79% Hispanic and 39.9% living in poverty. There were 11 acres of vacant land and 223 flood insurance claims from 2007 to 2011.

Blue Line – Homan Square: Population of 9,612, with 96% Black and 47% living in poverty. There were 37 acres of vacant land and 333 flood insurance claims from 2007 to 2011.

Each location has distinct cultural histories and populations, and because of the segregation across the city, collaboration and connection is needed but is not the norm. These collaborators recognized the importance of pooling their resources to have a more collective and impactful effort for the residents of Chicago.

ABOUT THE TEAM

Chicago Connections (Chi-Go)

Chicago Connections (Chi-Go) is a coalition of six nonprofit organizations across the city. Four are local leaders in their respective communities and two provide community-based art, stormwater management, and technical and analytical support to the four communities. All share a history of collaboration and a dedication to equitable and sustainable community development. Chi-Go is a social and environmental justice initiative that aims to strengthen social networks and climate resilience through public arts and stormwater projects. This project is unique in that they are working to connect four neighborhoods across Chicago, each of which has a very different experience in the city. Chi-Go facilitates cross-cultural learning between each of the four areas.

For example, the lead nonprofit groups come together to support one another and share their approach, processes, barriers, and results. The two convening nonprofits – **Center for Neighborhood Technology and Arts + Public Life** – are documenting and communicating the results.

The **Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)**, is a nonprofit organization committed to improving urban economies and environments across the United States. They do this by researching and analyzing urban problems, testing and promoting economically efficient and environmentally sound solutions, and demonstrating the value of investing in sustainable solutions.

Arts + Public Life, is an initiative of UChicago Arts. Arts + Public Life builds creative connections on Chicago’s South Side through artist residencies, arts education, and artist-led projects and events.

The Green Line – 51 Street lead nonprofit is **Urban Juncture**, whose tagline – “Where Commerce Meets Community” – is indicative of their mission. Urban Juncture serves the Bronzeville community, where it develops commercial real estate and related enterprises addressing the needs of underserved communities.

The Blue Line – Logan Square lead nonprofit is **LUCHA**, the Latin United Community Housing Association. Residents of Humboldt Park, West

Town, and Logan Square founded LUCHA in 1982 to combat displacement and preserve affordable housing in the community. LUCHA’s current work includes building affordable housing developments, as well as helping families rent decent and affordable housing.

The Pink Line – California lead nonprofit is the **OPEN Center for the Arts (OPEN)**, which provides a space where all artists can come together to educate, showcase, refine, and develop their talents.

The Blue Line – Homan Square lead nonprofit is the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)**. Through its 7,000 Oaks for Chicago project, SAIC brought artists to the mobile foundry on its North Lawndale Homan Square campus, where they held community events, art programming, and tree plantings.

PARTNERS |

CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY (CNT)

ARTS + PUBLIC LIFE

URBAN JUNCTURE

LUCHA

OPEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



CLIMATE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



LEARN AND SHARE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES



PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHALLENGES



PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH CULTURAL RESILIENCE



PARTNER WITH ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY TO CREATE PRODUCTS REFLECTING COMMUNITY



CONDUCT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL EXPRESSION



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING TOOLS USED



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



ARTIST LED INSTALLATION



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN



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INCORPORATE SOCIAL ISSUES



PLACE-BASED INTERVENTION



PUBLICLY VISIBLE



CHALLENGING TERRAIN



Urban flooding causes hardship on already struggling communities

Climate change has led to more flooding that the space is not prepared to handle.



Chicago is a city divided

In 2015, Chicago was the most segregated city in the country. The neighborhoods don't blend seamlessly together and there are harsh differences between them.



Lack of affordable housing, threat of gentrification and displacement

Residents can't afford most of the housing available to them and the affordable housing stock is limited.



Hardscape and regular rain cause severe flooding

There is not enough green space to accommodate the amount of rain that Chicago experiences.

STRATEGY

Supporting community ownership of space



Community-based public art projects, art installations, and workshops helped promote cultural resilience, community cohesion, and ownership of space. Projects included participatory murals and community festivals. Chi-Go addressed climate resilience by identifying projects that help mitigate urban flooding, an issue caused by increasing frequency of rain events, impervious urban surfaces, and over-capacity sewer systems. Projects included educational sessions, tree plantings, and the design of a green infrastructure feature for installation in a public right of way. Green infrastructure techniques are those that improve permeability throughout an urban space (e.g. parks, permeable pavers, trees, rain gardens, bioswales). In addition to providing stormwater management benefits, green infrastructure also has several associated co-benefits including improved air and water quality and local biodiversity, reduction in air and surface temperature, added recreational value, improved mental and physical health outcomes, increased safety, and increased property values.

Protecting against urban flooding causing hardship



CNT leveraged its expertise in urban stormwater management through its RainReady program, equitable transit-oriented development experience, and analytic and urban design capabilities to support to the local implementation partners. The Arts + Public Life team led cross-site artistic technical assistance and was the lead partner on documenting the best practices used in the project.

Community engagement and promotion of equality



Each community-based project was led by a local community organization: Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA) for the Blue Line – Logan Square; School of the Art Institute (SAIC) for the Blue Line – Homan Square; OPEN Center for the Arts (OPEN) for the Pink Line – California; and Urban Juncture for the Green Line – 51st Street. In addition to enhancing social

cohesion in the immediate area, these projects highlighted cultural assets to brand and connect the stations. This helped increase community ownership of the stations, increased safety and pride of the train station as a valuable community asset, and promoted increased use of public transportation – which ultimately helps decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Improving racial equity and local economic resilience through community empowerment



Over the course of the year, CNT worked closely with the partner non-profits to implement innovative creative placemaking projects in four distinct community areas that incorporate elements of climate and cultural importance and resilience within the neighborhoods. CNT guided its partners in their project development, as well as planned and executed a culminating event – the Community Resilience Festival – to celebrate the energy that went into the past year’s work. The four local organizations created and implemented projects seen as necessary

elements in the overarching goal of racial equity and local economic resilience through community empowerment.

Optimize dominant hardscape

Urban Juncture, the organizational lead at Green Line – 51st Street, was inspired by their rooftop farm – Greenline Farm – which has demonstrated the power of green in or near public places to transform mood and behavior. Their project focused on beautifying and “greenifying” the 51st Street Green Line stop through art, garden, and flower installations. They implemented a community mural (whose design was participatory), designed and installed shipping container-top flower beds, rebuilt their community garden in partnership with Southwest Airlines and Chicago Cares, and began planning for a tree planting effort along 51st Street.

Engage residents and bring the community together

LUCHA, the lead at Blue Line – Logan Square, was inspired to

beautify the area surrounding the Spaulding exit of the Logan Square Blue Line station and reclaim space for local youth in the context of neighborhood displacement. LUCHA held four visioning sessions with youth in partnership with a local partner, Logan Square Neighborhood Association's After School Matters (ASM) program. Youth participants identified that the exit lacked design elements that would make it more of a destination. They described the exit as grey, concrete-filled, and isolated. Furthermore, they identified a general sense of exclusion from the changes that are occurring in the neighborhood, and saw this project as an opportunity to create a welcoming space for neighborhood youth. Four project goals emerged from early visioning exercises: 1) amplify youth voices and values, 2) inspire collaboration among local youth, local businesses, and organizations in a participatory design process for a permanent mural and garden, 3) address displacement in Logan Square and 4) plant the seed for further community-led placemaking in the area surrounding the Spaulding exit. LUCHA led the development of a participatory

mural design process and worked with CNT to design green infrastructure for the street running parallel to the mural location.

Celebrate culture and create a feeling of ownership of the space
OPEN Center for the Arts, the lead organization for the California Pink Line, wanted to transform the viaduct near Pink Line California station with a hacienda-style mural, made up of four metal frame structures, anchored to the sidewalk and displaying murals with water and local cultural themes. OPEN selected the viaduct at California Avenue and 19th Street as its project location to create a safer, healthier and more welcoming connection for residents of North and South Lawndale, as well as to unify North and South Lawndale through art and environmental consciousness. While the project ran into some budget and timing hurdles, OPEN was able to build the four metal frames, commission and complete four murals, paint the viaduct wall a rusty orange as a nod to

the traditional Hacienda aesthetic, and ultimately received approval from the Chicago Department of Transportation to request a construction permit.

Increase the amount of greenspace

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) led project development at Blue Line – Homan Square. Their project, the Oaks of North Lawndale, is an ambitious reforestation effort in an area of Chicago that has lost much of its tree cover due to the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle. SAIC used the grant funds to kick off their project with a community festival that attracted approximately 500 attendants, where the local residents made community-fabricated shovels. The shovelheads were made from reclaimed guns that were melted and shaped on-site, and the handles were made with wood from local ash trees felled by the beetle. They used the shovel to plant the first ten of 7,000 trees, planned to reforest 3.2 square miles of North Lawndale.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Chi-Go engaged in specific place-based initiatives in each of their four areas, building upon existing community assets and resident expertise around train stops. All of the activities were linked through a common arts participation and stormwater management strategy, which engaged community residents and stakeholders. Each partner worked to: (1) involve local artists; (2) connect to local anchor institutions such as schools and houses of worship; and (3) direct local implementation efforts with community residents and stakeholders. A community-led committee selected the local artists. The artists then engaged in multiple community participatory sessions to identify and develop public art installations, programming, and community gardens.

In Chicago's Cook County, gun violence resulted in more than 744 deaths in 2016 — which is more homicides and shooting victims than in New York City and Los Angeles combined. Community members of the Homan Square neighborhood planted the first 10 of 7,000 trees in a community event where local artisans melted down reclaimed guns (right) from a gun amnesty program and repurposed them into shovels.

The opportunity to get involved in the community while opening up communication around the very pressing resilience challenge of gun violence was groundbreaking (literally and figuratively). The event was part of a larger project to continue planting trees across the neighborhood and could ultimately increase canopy coverage by more than 38%, decrease surface temperatures, reduce heating and cooling costs for residents by \$38 to \$77 per household annually and, once mature, reduce the frequency of some crimes in the 24th ward by up to 7.7%. This would result in crime avoidance savings of \$1.3 million annually. For ChiGo, this work has been integral to strengthening social networks within and across these diverse neighborhoods, especially within African-American and Latino communities.

The Oaks of North Lawndale project found its inspiration in a project by Joseph Beuys (6) that began in 1982. His plan called for the planting of 7,000 trees, each paired with a stone column, in Kassel, Germany.



PRO TIP

Change is Both Evolutionary and Transformative

Clearly, the state of affairs in many communities is not acceptable and change is needed. But what type of change is needed. An emphasis on transformative change can send a signal that the character of a place and the people who live there today are deficient and thus need to be completely replaced. Evolutionary change recognizes the need for change but does it with respect for the assets, culture, and history of a place.



The project took five years to complete and Beuys hoped to extend it in other locations worldwide. Locally, the project was a movement toward urban renewal and beautification; globally, it was part of a mission to effect environmental and social change.

Another dimension of 7,000 Oaks came into view with a visit from Mexican artist, Pedro Reyes. Reyes's project, *Palas por Pistolas* (Guns into Shovels), had been effectively utilized in Paris, San Francisco, Lyon, Colorado, Vancouver and Texas to turn guns into shovel heads.

According to Reyes, "This ritual has a pedagogical purpose of showing how an agent of death can become an agent of life." These two sources of inspiration and practice underscore Oaks of North Lawndale's mission to reimagine the North Lawndale neighborhood as a verdant, peaceful and tree-lined place. The project was and is committed to work with citizens to rebuild and take ownership in their neighborhood; finding equity in the community through an act of social sculpture.

(Left) This tree planting drive was, in the artist's mind, supposed to regenerate "the life of humankind within the body of society and to prepare for a positive future in that context." (7)

Oaks of North Lawndale aimed to transform the westside community through the planting of 7,000 trees and stones. The programming involved in this project aimed to bring together the community and become a model for future collaborations. Oaks of North Lawndale commissioned Anderson Economic Group to carry out an economic impact study and i-Tree to carry out an environmental impact study to better understand the impact of planting 7,000 trees in the North Lawndale Neighborhood. The studies will be used to measure the outcomes the tree planting will have on the health, environment, climate, and economy of the neighborhood. Oaks of North Lawndale is also working with UChicago's crime lab, which will conduct a longitudinal study to understand the correlation between tree canopy and crime. One benchmark

NICHOLS
TOWER
Tower Visitor
Parking Only
Unauthorized vehicles will
be towed at owner's expense.

OAKS OF NORTH LAWNSDALE
September, 23rd 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Community Event Open to All

SAIC School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

moment was when SAIC was invited to speak at the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) annual meeting, attended by 300 participants. This led to residents identifying spots in the neighborhood where they wanted to see trees planted.

As a symbolic start to the project, on Saturday, September 23rd, 2017, SAIC's Office of Engagement brought artist Pedro Reyes to SAIC's Homan Square campus to re-stage his *Palas por Pistolas* work. On this momentous occasion, SAIC's mobile foundry and Lawndale Forge were installed in the Homan Square parking lot and Reyes oversaw 500 SAIC students, alumni, and North Lawndale community members in melting down confiscated firearms, which formed the material for the shovel heads.

The molten metal was then smithed into shovel heads and, once cooled, they were attached to wooden handles milled from local ash trees felled as a result of the emerald ash borer beetle. The ash handles were prepared by youth involved with Greater West Town Partnerships. The shovels were then used by community members to dig holes and plant 10 trees;

limestone blocks were placed adjacent to each tree. Oaks of North Lawndale's ability to connect and build community support via NLCCC and other nonprofits in the North Lawndale neighborhood made it possible for the initiative to move forward. Community buy-in was critical for the project to succeed; local nonprofit support helped with project promotion and the activation of community members to care for the planted trees into the future.





This Belongs To Us

ATLANTA, GA

33.7490° N, 84.3880° W

Mapping Cultural
and Climate Assets



ATLANTA, GA

33.7490° N, 84.3880° W

The Lee Street Corridor includes some of the most underinvested and racially segregated neighborhoods in Atlanta and is facing development pressures from the BeltLine expansion, MARTA expansion, and the Fort McPherson redevelopment.

Forthcoming transit-related investment will bring an influx of new employment, business, housing choices, and retail opportunities to the corridor. However, it will also spur gentrification, which sparks fear of displacement in local residents. The focus area has seen a population decline of 23% from 2000 to 2010, but since 2010, population has increased by 6%. Despite this recent growth, the area's current population is still just 82% of 2000 levels. The area has a median household income of \$24,042, a little more than half of the citywide median of \$41,605; 66% of households have incomes below \$35,000; and 37% of the households live in poverty, compared to 21% citywide.

The corridor is predominantly African-American, 91%, vs. 51% citywide. The area is a multi-generational neighborhood, where 65% of area owner-occupied housing

ABOUT THE TEAM

This Belongs To Us

WonderRoot in Atlanta Georgia is an arts organization that works to improve the cultural and social landscape of Atlanta through creative initiatives and community partnerships. Its mission is to “unite artists and community to inspire positive social change”. For this project, WonderRoot partnered with Southface, a sustainable development and green building nonprofit which supports community education, research, advocacy and technical assistance. Both organizations are part of a larger collaborative called the TransFormation Alliance, a 17-member network of organizations and agencies that work at the intersection of equitable transit oriented development, racial equity, and the built environment. The TransFormation Alliance identified the Lee Street corridor in Atlanta as a demonstration site for further community investment and planning in the built environment, particularly with regard to health, climate, and creative placemaking.

PARTNERS |

SOUTHFACE

WONDERROOT

TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE

WESTSIDE ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

ATLANTA OFFICE OF RESILIENCE

GEORGIA STAND UP

units are valued at less than \$100,000, compared to 23% citywide. Further, 66% of the area households are rented, compared to 56% citywide. Even with a high incidence of renting, large apartment buildings are rare. Just 15% of area residents live in multi-family buildings, compared to 49% citywide.

The Lee Street Corridor area has 13,194 housing units, of which 3,140 are vacant. The work in Atlanta is attempting to address the resilience needs of the community while highlighting their very valuable local assets.



PRO TIP

Flexibility and Diversity

Resilience is a flexible concept that acknowledges the need to integrate physical and social factors to adapt to changing conditions. The challenge for practitioners is to be sensitive to local needs in both understanding a place and determining how to help community. Diversity of ideas, culture, governance, and action enables strength, flexibility, and creativity in responding to stresses, both physical and socioeconomic. Reaching out and being inclusive toward people and ideas is fundamental to increasing resilience.

CLIMATE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



LEARN AND SHARE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES



PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHALLENGES



PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH CULTURAL RESILIENCE



PARTNER WITH ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY TO CREATE PRODUCTS REFLECTING COMMUNITY



CONDUCT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CULTURAL EXPRESSION



USE CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES TO DELIVER SERVICES WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING TOOLS USED



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN



CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS



INCORPORATE SOCIAL ISSUES



PLACE-BASED INTERVENTION



PUBLICLY VISIBLE

CHALLENGING TERRAIN



Significant disinvestment and poor housing stock

There has been no work done to provide new or affordable quality housing for many years.



Threat of displacement due to Atlanta BeltLine development

The revitalization of a former rail corridor into a new multi-use trail is leading to new transit-oriented development, which is threatening to take away housing and displace residents.



Heavy flooding and sewage backup during normal and frequent rain events

The area is not physically prepared for increased weather impacts caused by climate change.

STRATEGY**Assessing local strengths and challenges**

Local residents and community stakeholders documented risks and challenges on large maps to begin identifying places for creative placemaking interventions. Some of the concerns identified included green infrastructure and its role in urban displacement, and educational and advocacy campaigns regarding watershed investment. A resident-led community advisory committee selected individual artist participants, beyond the cultural practitioners employed at WonderRoot, to ensure that the contributing artists were reflective of the community in which they were working. WonderRoot also commissioned neighborhood artists to develop promotional visuals for advocacy campaigns that highlighted green infrastructure investment opportunities.

Addressing climate and cultural resilience

WonderRoot is designing and installing

a public art way-finding project that denotes community assets in the natural and built environments that have been adversely impacted by (or are at risk of) poor land irrigation and overflow flooding, soil erosion due to improper storm water management, and disruptions to environmental ecosystems due to commercial development.

Creating inclusive spaces and engaging the community

With the support of individual artists and residents, WonderRoot and Southface employed a series of creative placemaking strategies to ensure that planning and decision making for green infrastructure investments were inclusive and elevated the lived experience of community stakeholders. By integrating an arts lens into the community engagement and narrative-building process for climate-related investments in the Lee Street Corridor, climate and policy partners were able to more comprehensively understand the people-level impacts and community needs.

Partnering with community members



WonderRoot also commissioned neighborhood artists to develop promotional visuals for advocacy campaigns that highlighted green infrastructure investment opportunities. By employing artists living in the Lee Street Corridor, strengthening the cultural organizing capacity of climate partners, and investing in the visual landscape of the corridor, the community was better able to retain and highlight their cultural identity and assets.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

September 26, 2017

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

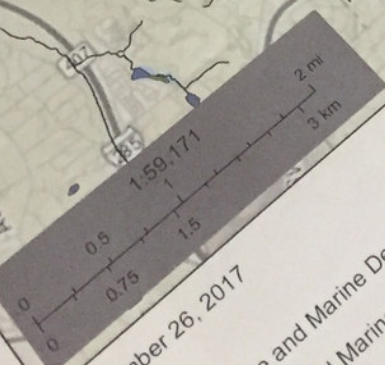
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

utoy2

Barkman

Cascadia

Adams - Alfred Tup - Holmes Golf Course



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

The This Belongs to US team engaged with the community and partners multiple times throughout the project. Four workshops related to climate resilience, stormwater and green infrastructure awareness, and education were held. Three training and survey days were conducted throughout the project. The team selected three priority areas in the region that were identified from previous community workshops and the Utoy Watershed Improvement Plan developed by the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management.

The group survey days consisted of the team and community members targeting the priority areas to find specific locations impacted by flooding. The survey template allowed surveyors to provide an address or GPS location, general description of the area (school, business, etc.), and note conditions that made the site unsafe or prone to flooding.

A total of 28 Neighborhood Flooding Surveys were completed between December 2017 and March 2018, with three of the survey sites sampled twice. On a scale from one to five (one being bad and five being good), the average

condition of the survey sites was 2.1. Impervious Surface was the dominant coverage on 17 of the surveyed sites, followed by Grass on seven sites, Trees on three sites, and Bare Soil on one site.

Ten of the sites surveyed were considered to be “unsafe/dangerous,” particularly for children due to the trash and debris found in the high flood waters. The majority of sites were experiencing flooding due to storm drains that had been clogged by sediment, leaves, and/or debris (trash, tires, etc.). However, some were due to the infrastructure being overwhelmed by the volume of stormwater generated by impervious surfaces.

THE JOURNEY ONWARD

This year has been an invaluable opportunity for us to explore the benefits of culture and creativity in community development. However, this pilot program has also shown us there is much to learn.

Through our research, we found that incorporating culture and creativity into planning and community participatory processes shifts the lens away from a deficit view of underrepresented communities – and instead – focuses on the array of cultural knowledge, skills, and abilities possessed that often go unrecognized and unacknowledged. We believe that, in addressing resilience issues, culture and creativity coupled with community participatory processes must be integrated not only in our programs but our processes, research, and grantmaking to build institutional knowledge and practice.

We will continue to research and apply these practices to better understand the long-term impact of our work. We are deeply thankful to the Kresge Foundation and the Kendeda Fund for investing in our vision to support communities across the country to create the change they want to see. We are humbled by and grateful to the

American Indian Community Housing Organization, This Belongs to Us, Chicago Connections, Chinatown Community Development Center, Coalfield Development Corporation, and the communities they touch, for opening their doors and lives for us to share, learn and grow together. Their continued commitment inspires us to keep striving for excellence, inclusion, and resilience for healthy communities across the country.

Thanks for joining in our journey and always keep creating!

WRITTEN BY

Meghan Venable-Thomas
Cultural Resilience Fellow
Enterprise Community Partners



The beautiful images in this book were generously shared from our project partners and their community members.

PG. 4 *Urban Juncture, (Boxville Project), Chi-Go Partner Organization*

PG. 6 *Meghan Venable-Thomas, Enterprise Community Partners*

PG. 10 *Harry Connolly*

PG. 16-17 *Harry Connolly*

PG. 22-23 *Harry Connolly*

PG. 24 *SAIC, Chi-Go Partner Organization*

PG. 26-27 *Original figure provided by Balbus, J., Gamble, J., Jantarasami, L., Retrieved January, 15 2018, from <https://health2016.global-change.gov/populations-concern>*

PG. 28 *Meghan Venable-Thomas, Enterprise Community Partners*

PG. 32-33 *EcoDistricts, 2017 Summit*

PG. 34 *Harry Connolly*

PG. 42-43 *Ivy Vainio, AICHO*

PG. 46 *Clint Austin, Duluth News Tribune*

PG. 48-50 *Ivy Vainio, AICHO*

PG. 54-55 *Clint Austin, Duluth News Tribune*

PG. 57-59 *Ivy Vainio, AICHO*

PG. 64-65 *Coalfield Development Corporation*

PG. 66 *Saws Edge, Coalfield Development Corporation*

PG. 70-71 *Coalfield Development Corporation*

PG. 73 *Coalfield Development Corporation*

PG. 75 *Coalfield Development Corporation*

PG. 78 *Chinatown Community Development Center, EcoFair*

PG. 81- 82 *Chinatown Community*

Development Center, Community Design Meeting

PG. 87 *Chinatown Community*

Development Center, EcoFair

PG. 89 *Chinatown Community*

Development Center, Community Design Meeting

PG. 92 *SAIC (Palas por Pistolas Project),*

Chi-Go Partner Organization

PG. 95-96 *Urban Juncture (Boxville Project), Chi-*

Go Partner Organization

PG. 103-104 *SAIC (Palas por Pistolas Project), Chi-*

Go Partner Organization

PG. 106 *SAIC (Palas por Pistolas Project),*

Chi-Go Partner Organization

PG. 108-109 *SAIC (Palas por Pistolas Project), Chi-*

Go Partner Organization

PG 112 *Harry Connolly*

PG 115-116 *Meghan Venable-Thomas,*

Enterprise Community Partners

PG. 120 *Meghan Venable-Thomas,*

Enterprise Community Partners

PG. 123 *Enterprise Community Partners*

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