Sasaki Foundation

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Sasaki Foundation



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As communities across the Commonwealth and the country face increasingly complex challenges related to climate change, community identity, social inequities, antiquated infrastructure, housing affordability, and transportation, innovative solutions are urgently needed.

The Sasaki Foundation is committed to supporting **design** initiatives that promote **equity** in order to strengthen and empower local communities throughout Greater Boston, Metro West, and the Gateway Cities. Through **research, programs, and partnerships**, the Foundation takes an interdisciplinary approach to tackling global challenges through local action.

Using **design thinking**—the iterative practice of understanding, innovating, prototyping, testing, and implementing—we bridge the physical environment, community and social needs, policies and governance, and economic forces that shape communities.

The Foundation serves as a catalyst for change, bringing researchers and collaborators into our recently opened Incubator at Sasaki's global headquarters in Watertown. Through cutting-edge research, new technologies, and fabrication strategies, the Incubator is a hub for advancing new solutions that are shared with policy makers, businesses, and others seeking change and action.

We believe in co-creating change in our world, as we work together to test assumptions, create new paths, and explore new approaches.

Alexandra Lee
Executive Director
Sasaki Foundation

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Society for College and University Planning
Transportation for MA
Venture Cafe Foundation
Watertown Public Schools

60+
PARTNERSHIPS

INCUBATOR AT SASAKI











April 11, 2018
Design industry, municipal, and nonprofit leaders gathered to launch the coworking space and the Sasaki Foundation's new direction.



May 15, 2018
A dialogue in partnership with MIT SOLVE addressed sustainable housing infrastructure, nutrition in food deserts, school





July 25, 2018
Individuals of all expertise levels collaborated in a 24-hour research and development intensive for trending technologies, encouraging cross-pollination of ideas and exposure to new skills.









SASAKI FOUNDATION DESIGN GRANTS

The Sasaki Foundation Design Grants are annual grants awarded to teams of two to four people from Greater Boston communities who propose projects in the Foundation's focus areas and that work to promote equity in design.

22 Teams individuals responded to the call for proposals

representing

9 Boston communities **2** Greater Boston cities **3** Gateway Cities



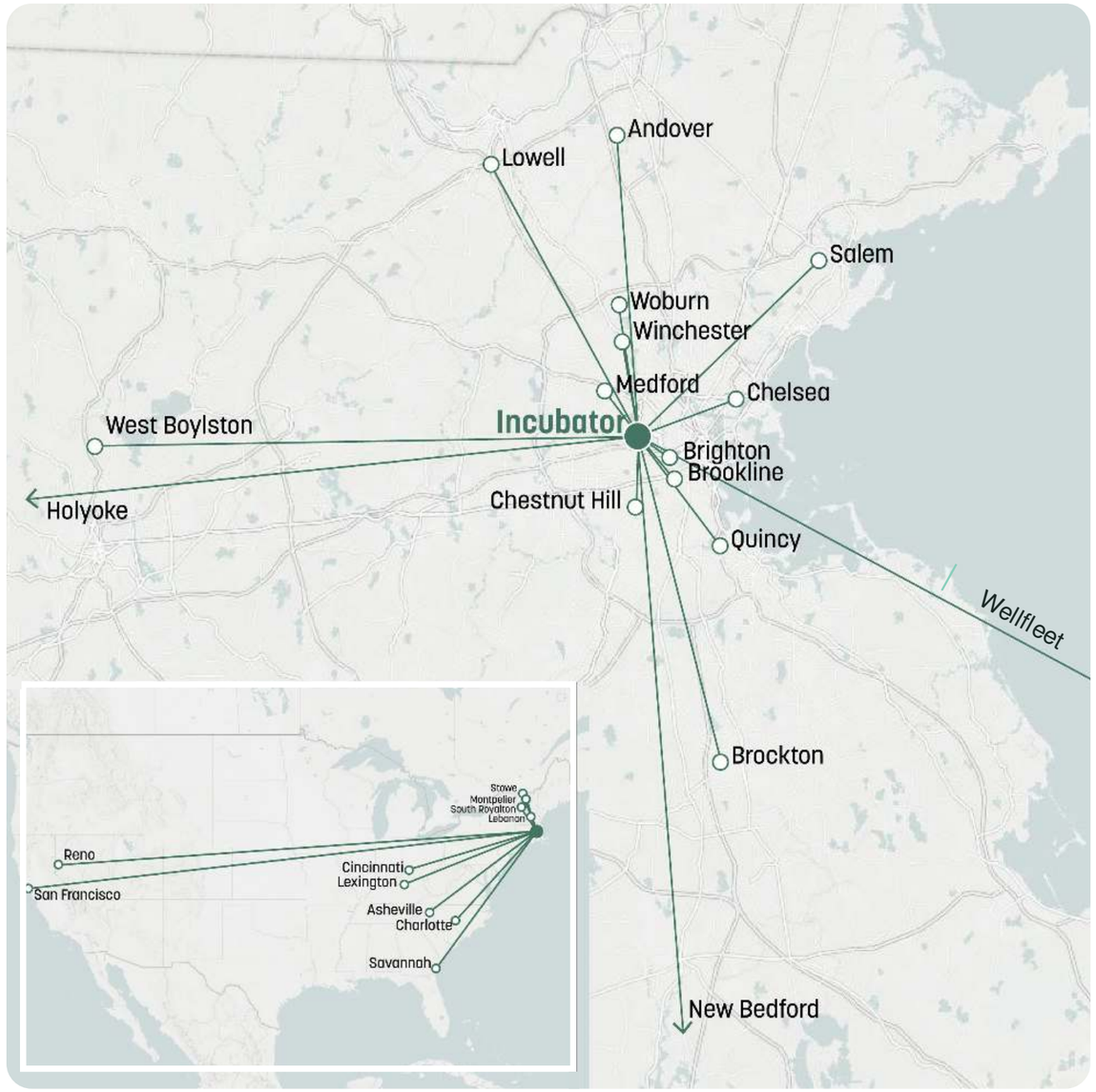
GENDER
54% Women
36% Men
2% Gender Queer / Non-conforming
8% Prefer not to answer



ETHNIC DIVERSITY
48% White
8% Hispanic, Latino, Spanish
15% Black
21% Asian
6% Other
2% Preder not to answer



DISABILITIES
79% No
9% Yes
12% Prefer not to answer



PITCH NIGHT

In the inaugural year, the Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas for projects that address climate adaptation, new models for housing, transit access, and creative community building.

140+ attendees including designers, entrepreneurs, investors, civic leaders, and corporate and nonprofit leaders

45+ organizations in attendance

2018 COHORT OF RESEARCH TEAMS

The Sasaki Foundation provided an opportunity midway through the grant cycle for all research teams to work with design professionals from Sasaki to create their narrative for their projects.

$75,000 awarded to **5** research teams

the Sasaki Foundation grants funded **58%** of the research teams' collective project budgets

15 organizations represented in the **5** research teams

2018 DESIGN GRANTS

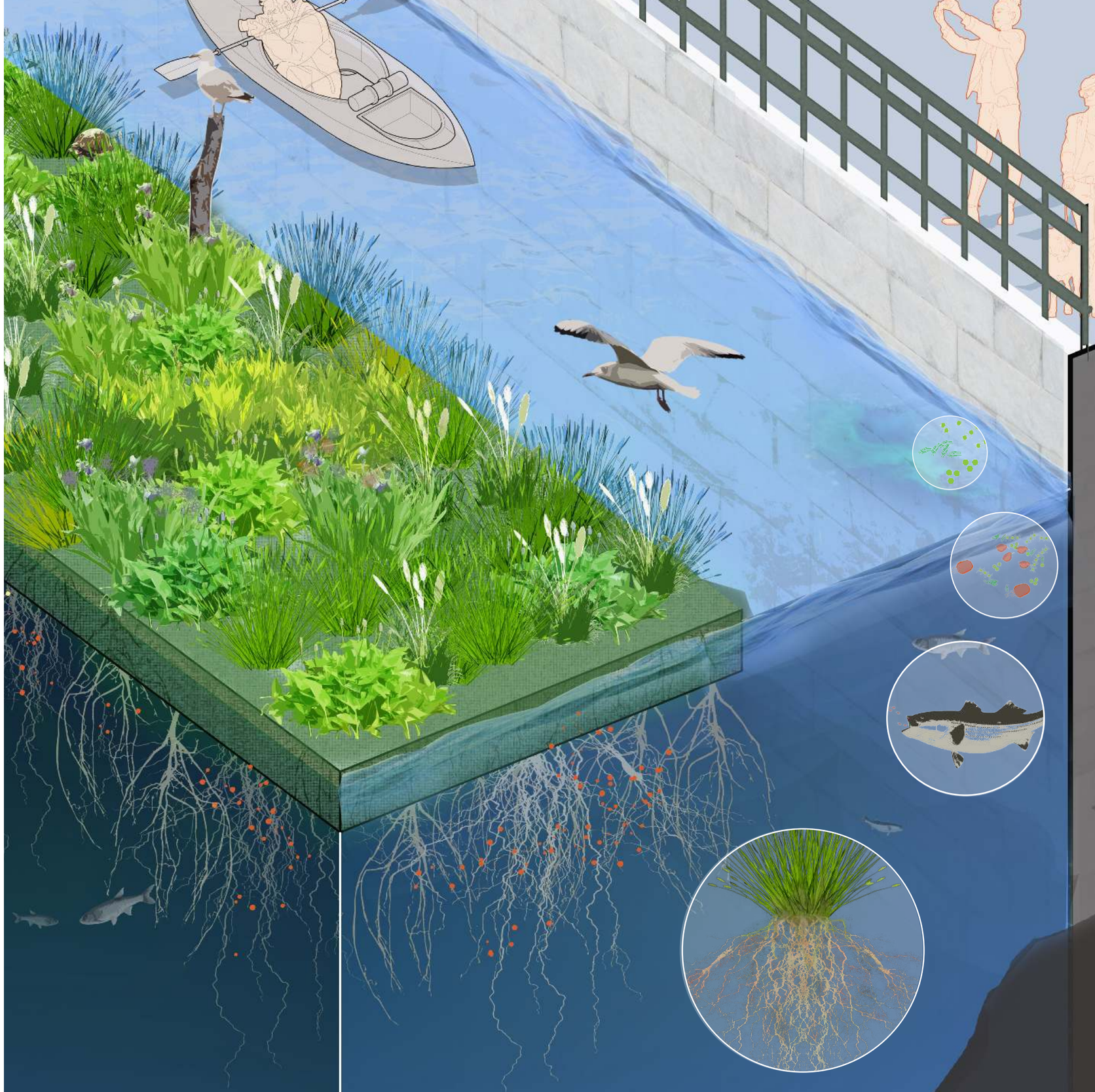
CHARLES RIVER FLOATING WETLANDS

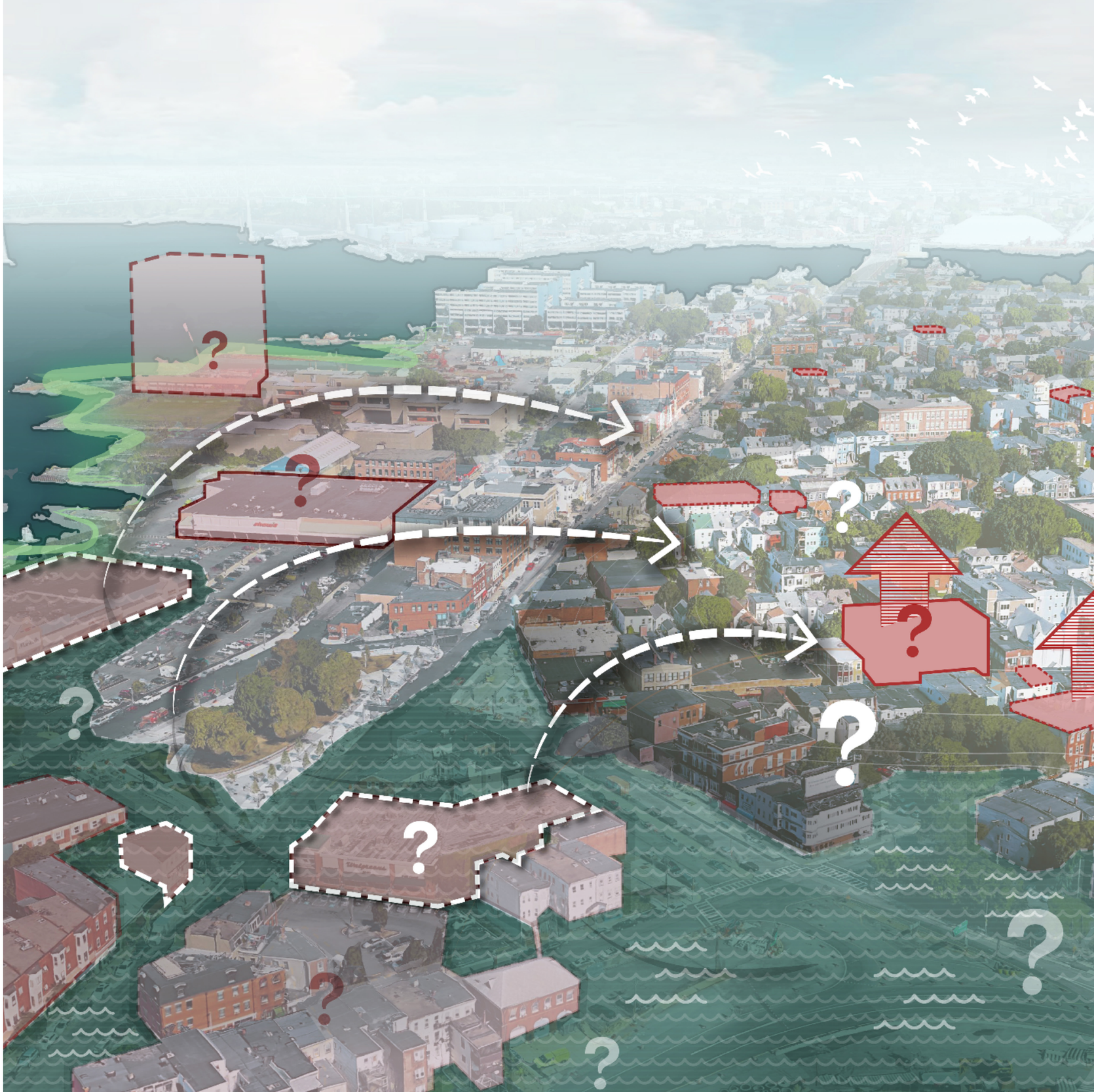
EASTIE FOR EASTIE

G|CODE HOUSE

THE ECHOLOCATOR

PLEASE TOUCH THE ART





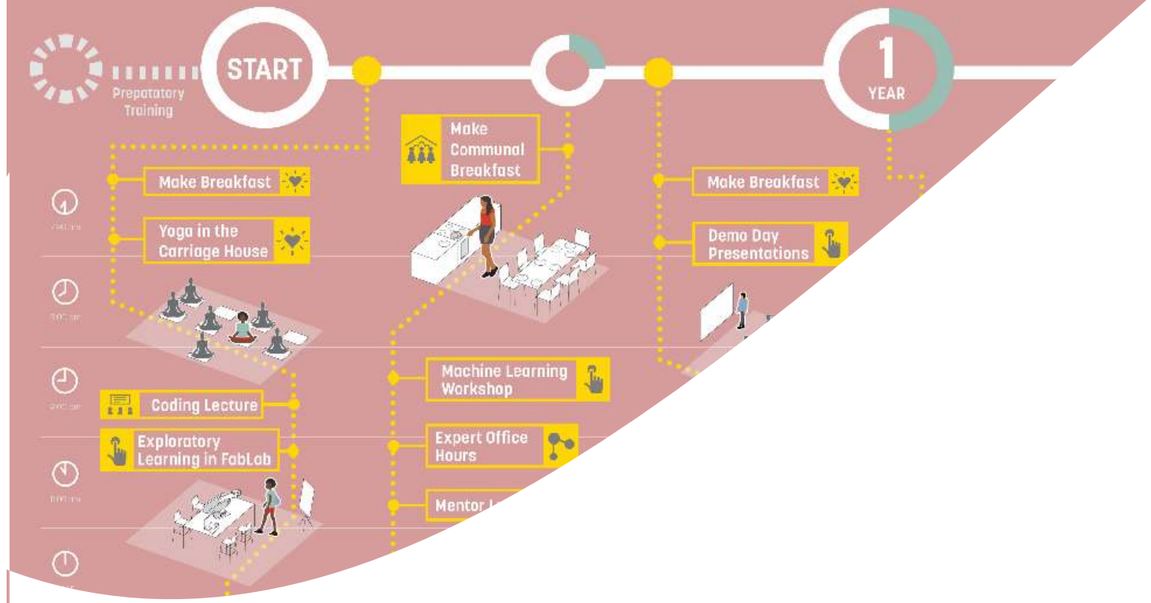
G|CODE HOUSE

NEW MODELS FOR HOUSING
CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

RIZEL BOBB-SEMPLE, LINDSAY NUON, BRIDGETTE WALLACE

G|Code House is a proposed pilot program that will serve young women of color ages 18 to 25 who have an interest and/or aptitude for computers or technology, but don't know how to develop their interest or understand the opportunities. Designed as a co-living, -learning, and -working community, these women will attain technology instruction and skills, gain employment experience, and find support in a safe, focused home. The house is designed to improve outcomes of disconnected youth. The program consists of nine months of in-class training, six months of an internship/co-op, and nine months of specialty training.

"G|Code House is honored to be a part of this inaugural Sasaki Foundation Design Grants cohort and its mission to include equity and inclusion in planning and design. It takes a village to do this work that we hope will be impactful and life changing."





RIGHT IMAGE: WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE AT THE G|CODE HOUSE?
G|GODE HOUSE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SASAKI

THE ECHOLOCATOR:
EXPANDING CHOICE IN HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MODELS FOR HOUSING
INNOVATION IN TRANSIT AND ACCESS TO MOBILITY CHOICES

NICHOLAS KELLY, ANSON STEWART, ROBERT TERRELL

Low-income tenants face significant housing barriers when attempting to rent housing in the Boston metropolitan area, deepening segregated housing markets throughout the region. A new digital interface, the ECHOLocator, will provide housing choice voucher holders with customizable information on communities that are both affordable and serve their public transit needs. We will use this opportunity to pilot and refine the tool alongside our clients, as well as expand it across our 15,000+ voucher holders and to housing authorities nationwide.

“The charrette was incredibly helpful for a number of reasons. It helped our team step back and rethink our user experience from the ground up. Working with Sasaki’s team of designers and planners, we were able to quickly design extremely helpful materials for our project that will be incredibly useful for clients. The combination of Sasaki’s design-oriented thinking and technical expertise were really invaluable for us.”

RIGHT IMAGE: RENTAL MAP
FOR ECHOLOCATOR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SASAKI

PLEASE TOUCH THE ART

CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

KARISSA COADY, SANDRA JAFFE, MATT JATKOLA, GEORGINA KLEEGE, TANJA MILOJEVIC, ANELEISE RUGGLES

"Please Touch the Art" is a tactile art exhibit and companion humanities exhibit accompanied by a curator's talk and panel discussion at the Mosesian Center for the Arts. The exhibit will provide a multi-sensory art experience that is accessible to all audiences, taking special care to provide an immersive, tactile experience for visually impaired community members. Blind scholar and *More than Meets the Eye, What Blindness Brings to Art* author Georgina Kleege will guest curate. The exhibit will include a gallery that is dedicated to the history of accessibility in arts programming.

"The Sasaki Foundation provided our team with invaluable resources that have been vital in elevating the standard for what success of this project looks like. The design charrette that our team participated in produced a strategy for wayfinding and accessibility that we would not have been able to achieve without the expertise and resources of the Sasaki designers."







TOP IMAGES: GEORGINA KLEEGE TOUCHING ARTWORK BY ELISABETH HIGGINS

GIRL UNINTERRUPTED

The Sasaki Foundation supported the Girl UNinterrupted project, which brings transparency to current challenges that emerging designers face. The project creates a bridge between generations while sharing perspectives and best practices in order to empower emerging designers to have a proactive voice in their future. Their goal is to collectively build a culture of equity in the architecture field where the full potential of all designers can evolve. This project has since expanded to four major cities: New York,Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington DC.

The Incubator at Sasaki hosted BSA Architecture and Design Day, promoting the power of design. Sasaki welcomed students from Boston Public Schools' Brighton High School to spend a day exploring career opportunities in the design field. Students toured the o ce, then took their newly acquired ideas and spent some time creating their own personal learning space, imagining a place where they can focus, study, and prepare themselves for doing their best work. They ended their day with one- on- one interviews with Sasaki designers to talk about how best to pursue a career in design. Partners for this event were the Boston Society of Architects and Boston Private Industry Council.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PRO 0 18 171 703.9968 Tm(GIRL UNINTERRU /en-4INT3p.9968r2SC BUNINTERRUPTED)T BBT 18 08 1RU 8 17

The Sasaki Foundation welcomed Rachel Lee and Shemar Stewart as part of the High School Internship program. The Sasaki Foundation strives to increase social equity and access in design on a regional scale. In support of this goal, the Foundation funds a six-week high school internship program that offers young students the opportunity to explore architecture and design at Sasaki over the summer. The two interns came to Sasaki in early July to explore their interests in design at a professional workplace. The program featured a mentorship and shadowing component, as well as a short design charrette.





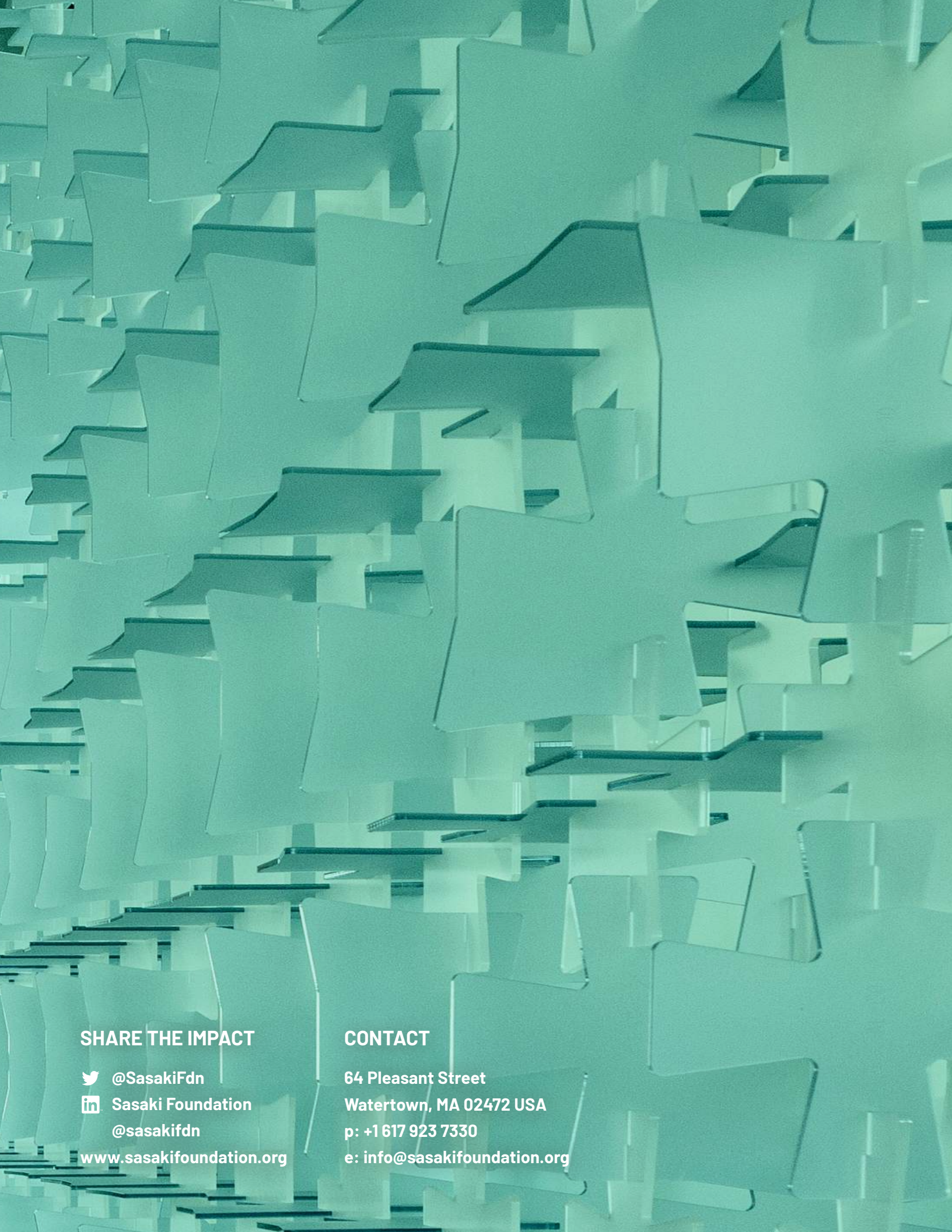












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