Sasaki Foundation

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Sasaki
Foundation

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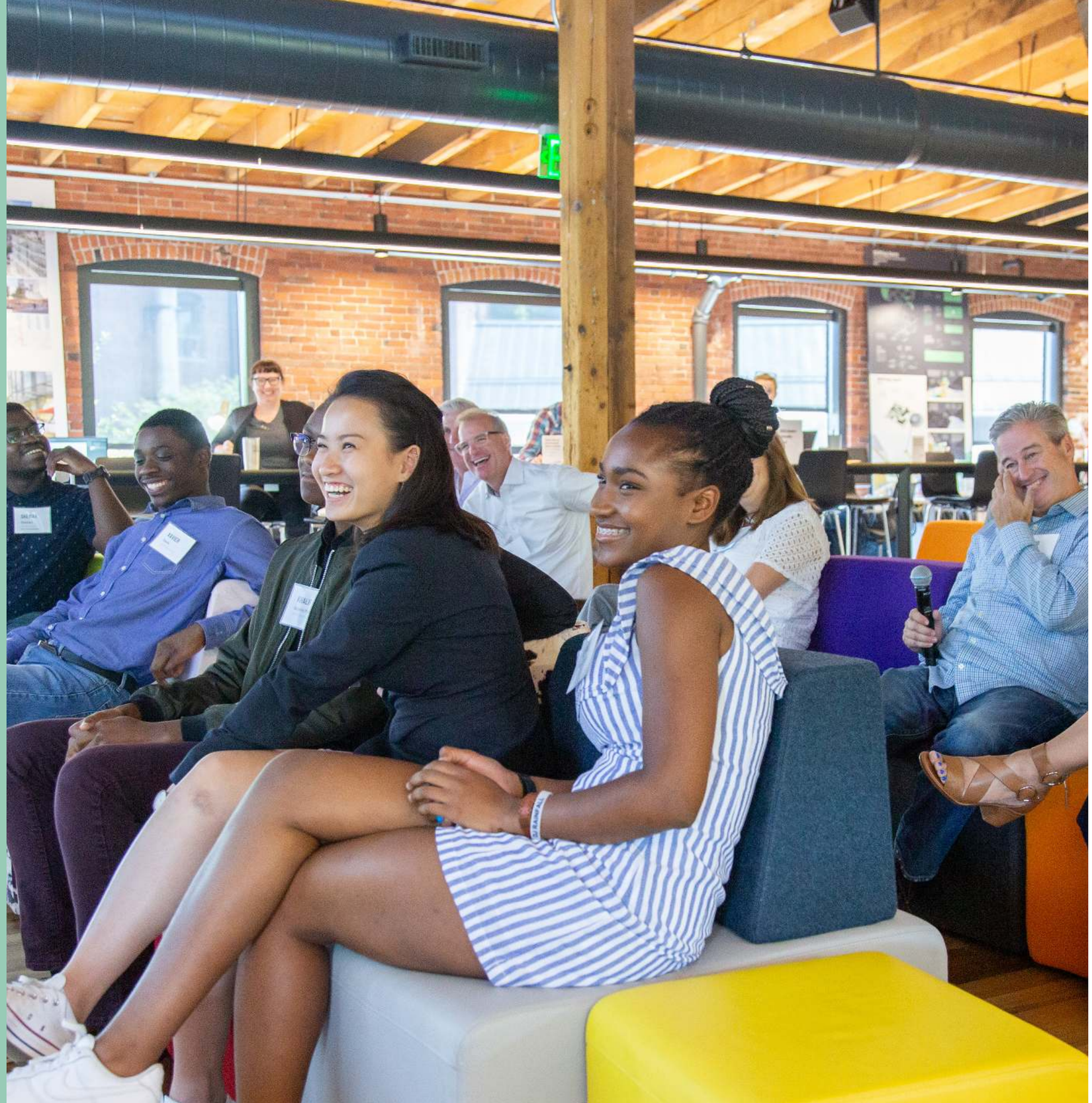
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019, through generous donors, thoughtful partners, and engaged research teams, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation was able to deliver on our mission and celebrate impact in the communities we serve.

Leading with research and experimentation, the Sasaki Foundation saw the first research cohort in the Incubator at Sasaki accomplish their projects, publish their results, and pursue their work in their communities. We selected our second research cohort, who began their work in the Incubator while leveraging the design expertise at Sasaki.

Through the lens of community learning and engagement, the Sasaki Foundation sparked meaningful conversations on the future of transportation in the Commonwealth, the health of the Charles and Mystic Rivers, innovative solutions to the affordable housing crisis, and the expansion of creative ways to sustain our communities.

Of particular significance was the partnership between the Sasaki Foundation and American Student Assistance that allowed us to scale our youth programming and open up possibilities and career choices for middle and high school students, pushing forward professional practice and growth.

These highlights of the past year are outlined in the following report, and new initiatives are underway. Please consider getting involved with the Sasaki Foundation—as a research team, as a program partner, or as a donor—and help support this important work of providing access to design for communities that need it the most.

Alexandra Lee
Executive Director

Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) final presentations, Incubator at Sasaki

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The Hideo Sasaki Foundation is named for Hideo Sasaki, an internationally renowned landscape architect who was admired for his teaching, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary approach to design.



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The Sasaki Ambassadors volunteer their time and effort. Our success relies on them.

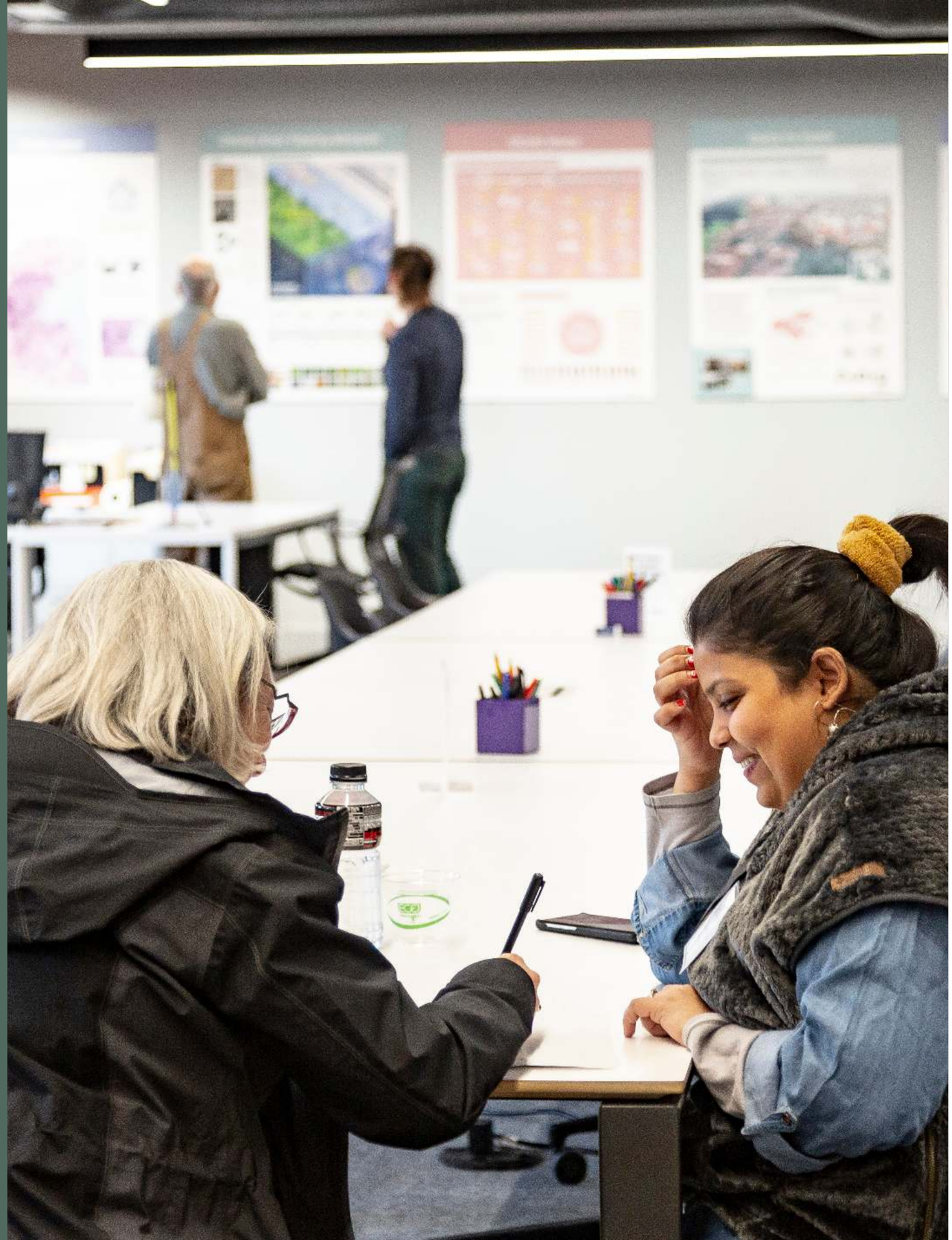
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MISSION STATEMENT

Through research, programs, and partnerships, the Sasaki Foundation takes an interdisciplinary approach to tackling global challenges. Using design thinking—the iterative practice of understanding, innovating, prototyping, testing, and implementing—the Sasaki Foundation supports approaches that bridge the physical environment, community and social needs, policies and governance, and economic forces that shape communities.

2019-2020 Design Grants Charrette, Incubator at Sasaki



OUR PRIORITIES

We believe design has the power to address the most urgent challenges facing us, from social equity to environmental resilience. Design is an agent of change. And yet, access to design—for communities who need it the most—is often limited. From our unique position at the intersection of research, practice, and community, the Sasaki Foundation leverages design to tackle these challenges and more—especially for communities that are disproportionately vulnerable to them.

Making meaningful and lasting change requires designers to blur the boundaries that separate practice and research, academia and industry, the profession and the public. Making change requires designers to embrace vastly different points of view. Above all, making change requires collective impact. At the intersection of research, practice, and community, the Sasaki Foundation is committed to advancing the value of design, inviting diverse partners to co-create change.

The Sasaki Foundation's strategic objectives translate its vision into a more focused, actionable set of outcomes. We focus on the following three key priority areas: **Research and Experimentation**, **Community Learning and Engagement**, and **Professional Practice and Growth**.

Our intent is to test new models and projects that can work within communities and then scale to other communities with similar characteristics. Our agenda and approach in all three priority areas are developed through the lens of equity in design.

◀ *Incubator at Sasaki*

RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

Large-scale, complex challenges require cross-disciplinary thinking. That's why the Sasaki Foundation convenes experts and innovators from all backgrounds. Our research and programs are focused on bringing issues of inequity in design to the forefront. In many cases, this means a focus on helping communities of color and low-income communities, who have historically been removed from the design process.

COMMUNITY LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Informed and engaged residents are the central ingredients of a successful community. The Sasaki Foundation invests in ideas and strategies that engage community members in the design process—and contribute meaningfully to its outcomes. To that end, we work with civic leaders, educators, economists, and technologists to connect design and community-driven action.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & GROWTH

A thriving design industry relies on a pipeline of diverse, talented, and passionate practitioners who infuse new ideas and disrupt established patterns. The Sasaki Foundation supports professional organizations and initiatives that prepare such future leaders. We also advocate for innovative design practice, seeking ways to cross discipline boundaries and amplify impact. Of special interest are programs that advance diversity and inclusivity in the next generation of design professionals.

The Sasaki Foundation's biennial theme emphasizes **resiliency**, as it relates to challenges that adversely impact communities, including the following:

Proactive Approaches to Climate Adaptation
We are committed to exploring strategies for strengthening environmental and social resiliency in the face of major climate change events.

New Models for Housing
We support strategies to improve housing affordability, promote a more diverse housing stock, and address gentrification and displacement.

Innovation in Transit and Access to Mobility Choices
We support solutions for challenges to reliable transit, strengthening public-private partnerships in expanding transportation choices and leveraging technology to eliminate barriers to accessing transportation options.

Creative Community Building
We support projects and organizations on themes of collective memory and community storytelling, historic preservation, and local business development.



Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) sketching field trip, Sasaki's Chase Mills campus ▶

Our Impact:

Research & Experimentation

Sasaki Foundation Design Grants

The Sasaki Foundation issues an annual call for proposals seeking interdisciplinary, creative approaches to test new design concepts in Greater Boston, MetroWest, and the Gateway Cities. Proposals are evaluated through the lens of our strategic focus areas—Proactive Approaches to Climate Adaptation, New Models for Housing, Innovation in Transit and Access to Mobility Choices, and Creative Community Building—and based on the following criteria: design, equity, inclusion, innovation, and impact. Grants include time in the Incubator at Sasaki—an open and collaborative shared studio space for innovators—and access to design expertise from Sasaki professionals.

In 2018, the program's inaugural year, Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas to a jury that represented design, transit, housing, and environmental organizations. The Sasaki Foundation selected the following five grant recipients who completed their projects in June 2019.

- Charles River Floating Wetland
- Eastie for Eastie
- ECHOLocator: Expanding Choice in Housing Opportunities
- G|Code House
- Please Touch the Art

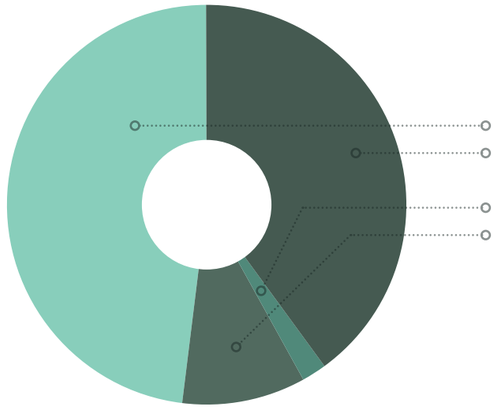
Their complete reports are available in the Sasaki Foundation 2018-2019 Design Grants Research publication available at www.sasakifoundation.org.



Pitch Night 2018, Incubator at Sasaki ▶

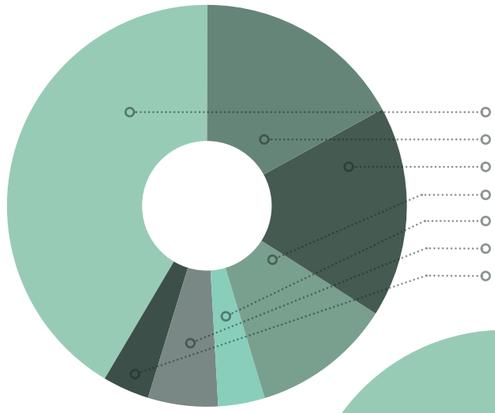
In 2019, the Sasaki Foundation's call for proposals garnered responses from 18 teams that included 50 individuals and represented 22 Boston communities.

2019 CALL FOR PROPOSALS RESPONSES



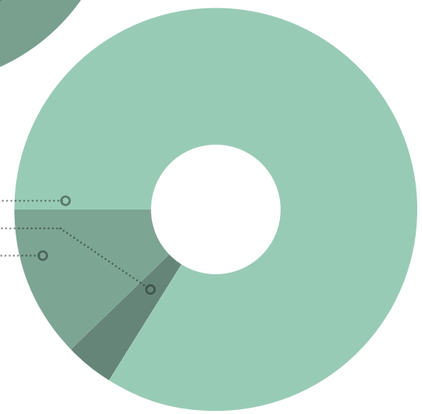
GENDER

48%	Cisgender Women
40%	Cisgender Men
0%	Gender Queer/Non-conforming
2%	Not Listed
10%	Prefer not to answer



ETHNIC DIVERSITY

44%	White
18%	Asian
18%	Black/African American
12%	Hispanic, Latino, Spanish
4%	Middle Eastern
6%	Other
4%	Prefer not to answer



DISABILITIES

84%	No
4%	Yes
12%	Prefer not to answer



PITCH NIGHT 2019

At Pitch Night 2019, sponsored by Columbia, 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. The more than 115 attendees included designers, entrepreneurs, investors, civic leaders, and corporate and nonprofit leaders, and represented more than 60 organizations.

◀ *Pitch Night 2019, Incubator at Sasaki*



▲ *Pitch Night 2019 jury, Incubator at Sasaki*

2018-2019 Design Grants Recipient

CHARLES RIVER FLOATING WETLAND

PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION

LAURA JASINSKI, VANESSA NASON, MAX ROME, PENELOPE TAYLOR

By installing a floating wetland on the Charles River, the team plans to create a visually impactful statement about missing habitat, to engage the public in an important conversation about the relationship between ecology, pollution, and water quality, and to conduct unique research that can be used to design and size future installations in order to curb harmful algal blooms through increased herbivorous control.

The Charles River Floating Wetland, an initiative of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), will be the first project of its kind in Greater Boston. An important aspect of this project is the role that it will play in informing future work by serving as a case study for designers and river advocates and as a point of reference for regulators unfamiliar with a project that does not fit easily within the typical permit process.

The floating wetland island will be assembled from self-buoyant modules, which will be roughly 57 feet by 19 feet when assembled and will be anchored to the bottom of the river. The island will be planted with a variety of native wetland plants. Those plants will grow through the matrix, their roots reaching into the water to serve as additional habitat for microscopic zooplankton. A research program will examine whether the additional habitat has a meaningful impact on zooplankton species distribution and size. Because zooplankton can be efficient grazers of cyanobacteria, supporting their population could provide another tool for controlling harmful algal blooms.

On a fundamental level, the health of the Charles River is an issue of equity. As recently as the 1950s, the banks of the Charles River were a public space where, during the hottest days of the summer, families of all incomes and backgrounds gathered to swim and cool down. The hope is that this project will contribute to the restoration of the Charles River and that this installation will help visitors to imagine a future in which plantings and restored ecology lead the way to a river that is healthy, safe, and swimmable.

The floating wetland installation, which includes 800 plants representing more than 20 native species, is planned for late April 2020 and will include participation by community members who will help plant the materials on the floating island.

At the Kendall Square Challenge, a CRC staff member explains the ecological concepts behind the floating wetland | Flavio D. Photography

2018-2019 Design Grants Recipient

EASTIE FOR EASTIE

PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION
NEW MODELS FOR HOUSING

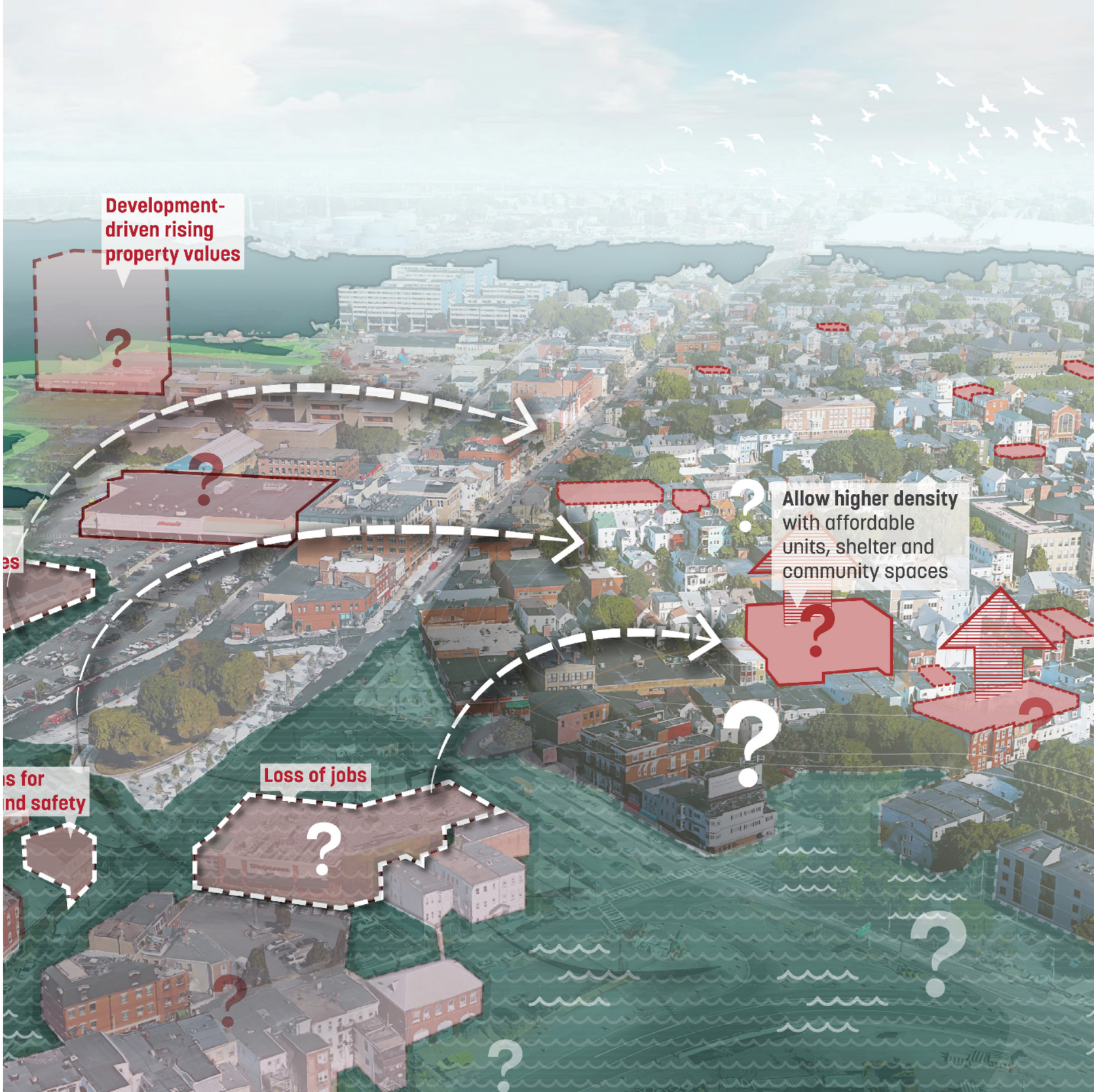
COLLYN CHAN, MARIO GIAMPIERI, KELLY MAIN, KANNAN THIRUVENGADAM

Traditional managed retreat projects do not often take into consideration community coherence or community agency in redesigning the coastline. A community-based managed retreat dialogue and design process is a viable first step in climate adaptation. Eastie for Eastie (E4E) is a project between community partners and urban planners to co-create a toolkit to discuss long-term climate impacts and managed retreat in East Boston.

The toolkit employs a combination of digital and analog tools such as interactive models, web mapping, and games to give community members the opportunity to experiment with the physical and spatial consequences of adaptation strategies. Adaptation scenarios are further developed through engagement workshops that focus on pathways to implementation, as well as the costs and opportunities of such actions.

E4E co-creates best practices to help guide community understanding and build power to act on the long-term effects of climate change on current and future life in East Boston.

The E4E team engaged more than 150 individuals through seven partnership events and twelve small group discussions to push forward a community-based managed retreat dialogue and design process. The team also created an interactive flood map available at www.eastieforeastie.com.



Eastie for Eastie concept | Eastie for Eastie in collaboration with Sasaki

Work: Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St,

2018-2019 Design Grants Recipient

Peak

ECHOLOCATOR

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

NICHOLAS KELLY, ANSON STEWART, ROBERT TERRELL

The ECHOLocator project—ECHO stands for Expanding Choice in Housing Opportunities—is a new digital tool in development to help improve information on neighborhoods available to low-income families in Massachusetts. Motivated by research that neighborhoods can profoundly affect the outcomes of low-income children, this tool is inspired by the idea that improved information on neighborhoods can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Alternatively use

Evidence has never been stronger in support of the fact that where individuals grow up strongly affects their life opportunities. The housing choice voucher program provides subsidies to five million Americans and represents a powerful, yet mostly untapped, mechanism for reducing inequality by enabling low-income individuals to access neighborhoods that provide increased opportunities for their children. However, voucher holders are frequently barred from doing so due to unaffordable rents, expensive or nonexistent transit, information shortfalls, and a rightful desire to remain connected to their communities.

Est. max rent

Schools

Public safety

Rental units

Designed in conjunction with MIT, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and Conveyal, the ECHOLocator uses the latest in transportation analytics in combination with cutting-edge data on neighborhoods to help low-income families using housing choice vouchers navigate neighborhoods within Boston and the Greater Boston area. As the first housing search tool of its kind, the ECHOLocator will hopefully provide a new interdisciplinary platform for other housing authorities to adopt in order to empower low-income families across the state and across the country.

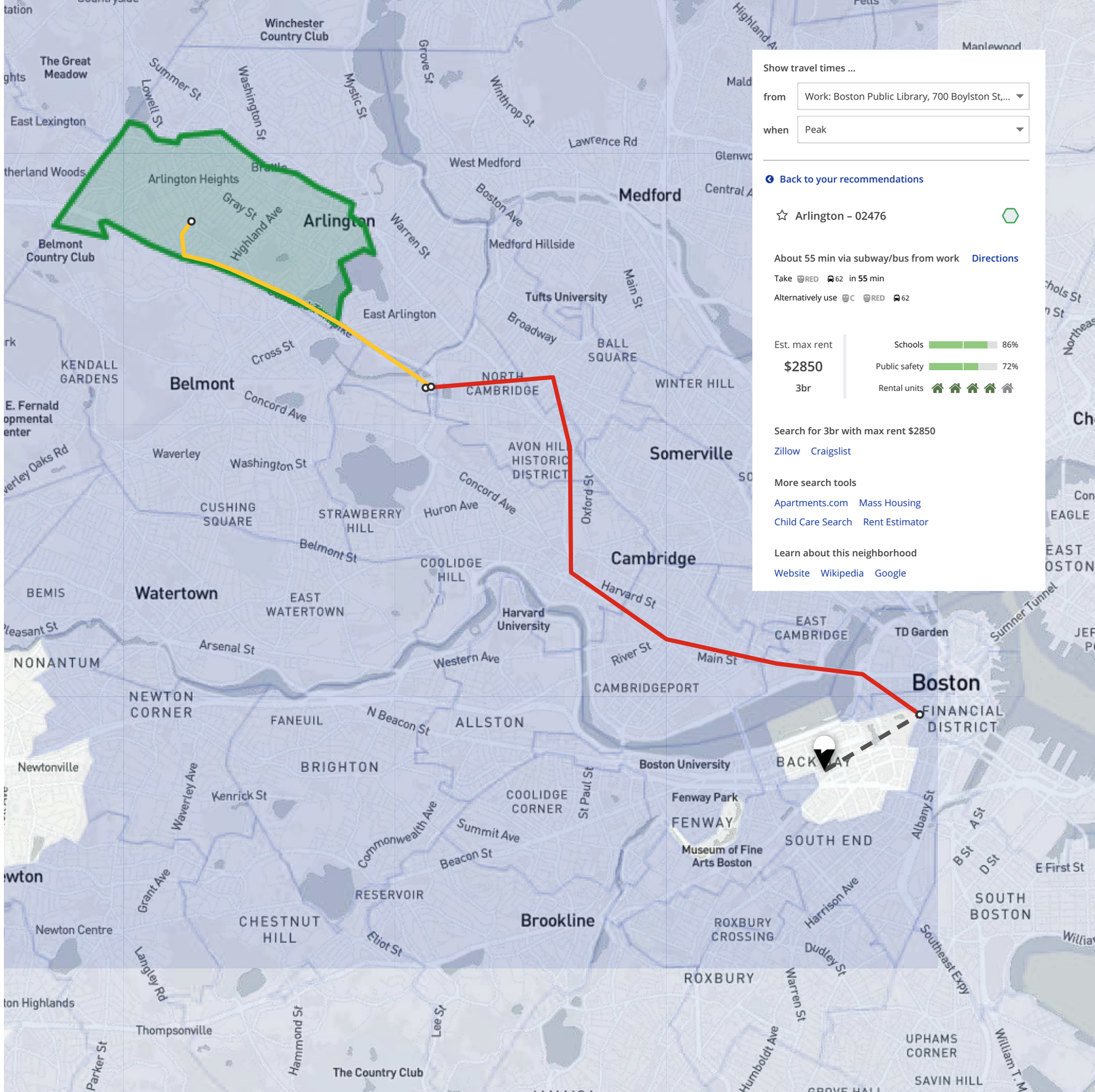
Zillow Craigslist

Apartments.com Mass Housing

Child Care Search Rent Estimator

A pilot program of the ECHOLocator, which includes more than 750 families, has begun and BHA staff have traveled throughout the Commonwealth to explain the initiative. The ECHOLocator team has been accepted into the DesignX program at MIT, where the team will receive more resources and support for continuing this work that is critical in tackling the affordable housing challenges in Massachusetts.

Arlington is a town in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, six miles northwest of Boston. Arlington's excellent access to metropolitan Boston has made it a very desirable place to live. The town is bordered on the north by Winchester, on the east by Medford and Somerville, on the south by Cambridge and Belmont and on the west by Lexington. Arlington



Neighborhood search results | ECHOLocator

2018-2019 Design Grants Recipient

G|CODE HOUSE

NEW MODELS FOR HOUSING
CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

RIZEL BOBB-SEMPLE, LINDSAY NUON, BRIDGETTE WALLACE

G|Code House is an innovative co-living, -learning, and -working incubator based in Roxbury, Massachusetts, dedicated to providing young women of color between the ages of 18 and 25 with the tools they need to succeed in today's business world. G|Code aims to produce change makers who are not only ready to make an impact in their careers, but are prepared to be leaders, innovators, and young women who collectively advance to make a difference in their communities. The crossroads at which many girls find themselves after graduating from high school can be intimidating and confusing, and for many young women of color, securing food, shelter, and safety often takes precedence over pursuing post-secondary schooling or careers.

As a proposed pilot program, G|Code House is designed to help young women of color who have an interest and/or aptitude for computers or technology, but do not know how to develop their interest or understand the opportunities. G|Code's co-living environment helps address many challenges these young women face, such as housing insecurity, access to post-secondary education, and placement support, while helping to minimize outside distractions. The program consists of nine months of in-class training, six months of an internship/co-op, and nine months of specialty training.

By collaborating with industry partners, these young women will have opportunities for internships and entry-level jobs, and will be better prepared if they choose to attend a four-year college. In addition to learning cutting-edge technology skills and gaining employment, they will find support, mentoring, and counseling in a safe, focused home.

The G|Code House is currently under renovation. In preparation for the full two-year program, which currently has commitments from 10 tech companies to provide internships, students are invited to participate in an Intro to G|Code prep program hosted over 12 weeks at the Boston Public Library from February 9 to April 26, 2020. Students will learn to build a web application, craft their personal brand, gain career insight from tech professionals, obtain mentors, and acquire more industry-specific skills.



G|Code House ▸

2018-2019 Design Grants Recipient

PLEASE TOUCH THE ART

CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

Presented by the Mosesian Center for the Arts located in Watertown, Massachusetts, Please Touch the Art was a multi-sensory exhibition aimed at creating an immersive artistic experience that engages all of the senses. Not only did Please Touch the Art challenge visitors to consider how they may engage with a work of art beyond seeing, it also challenged visual artists to consider how their work engages a diverse range of audience members.

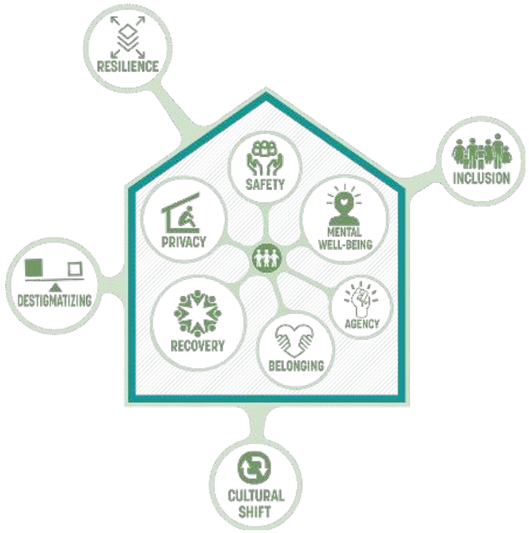
Also included in this project was a History of Blind Accessibility in the Arts exhibit, which featured a selection of artifacts and imagery related to over a century of innovation, adaptation, and inclusion. Please Touch the Art invited sighted and visually impaired visitors to go beyond looking at artwork and encouraged them to engage their other senses to experience each piece. The exhibit addressed issues about the nature of aesthetic appreciation and perception of art. It also provided an inclusive and accessible experience for all visitors with the use of braille and large-print gallery guides, audio guides, tactile maps, and navigational tools.

Creating a more inclusive and accessible model for the Mosesian Center's operations has greater implications beyond having a successful Please Touch the Art exhibition. The Mosesian Center is committed to continuing to make considerations for both its facilities and its programming to ensure anyone who enters the front door is valued, respected, and has equal artistic resources available to them.

The Please Touch the Art exhibition featured 52 pieces of interactive art, as well as 25 artifacts as part of the History of Accessibility exhibit. Of participating artists, 25% had low vision or blindness, and 92.5% were local. The exhibition received approximately 1,800 visitors over the three months it was on display.



Patron touching art | Matt Jatkola



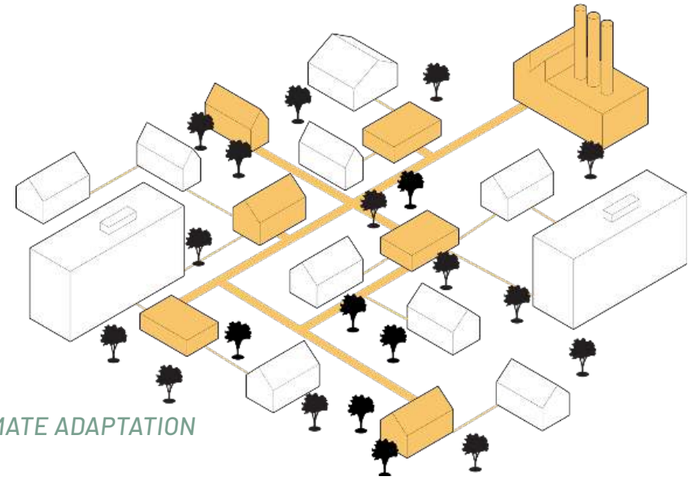
DESIGNING SHELTERS FOR DIGNITY

NEW MODELS FOR HOUSING

ELENA CLARKE, LAILA FOZOUNI

While Designing Shelters for Dignity believes everyone has the fundamental right to safe and accessible housing, the team acknowledges this will take a massive cultural shift and in the meantime many without homes are suffering in dehumanizing and degrading living conditions. Emergency homeless shelters strip those residing in them of dignity and privacy, and send a message to people without homes that they are not valued by society. Designing Shelters for Dignity believes that with design and the involvement of the community, this project can significantly improve the well-being of individuals residing in homeless shelters, at very little cost.

In 2019, the Sasaki Foundation awarded $45,000 to three research teams, funding 83% of their collective project budgets. Represented in the three teams are nine organizations.



ENERGY SHIFT BOSTON

PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION

CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

ANIA CARMARGO, RICKIE HARVEY, NATHAN PHILLIPS, AUDREY SCHULMAN

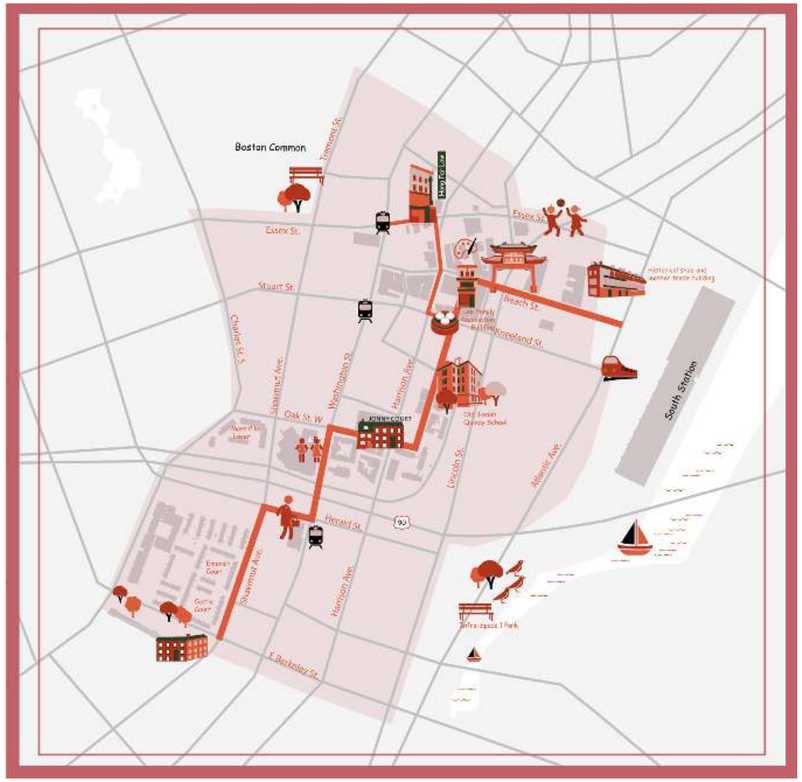
Applying lessons learned from the fall 2018 Merrimack Valley Gas Disaster, Energy Shift Boston will test and develop methods for Boston and other municipalities to effectively inventory and build household electric capacity across diverse housing stock and communities that (1) provide disaster responders with information about which houses are able to switch to electric-based heating/cooking in the event of future potential gas outages associated with deferred maintenance or climate change, and (2) simultaneously lay groundwork to prioritize electric upgrades in municipal housing stock for permanent electrification to meet aggressive climate action plans like Carbon Free Boston.

RENTIFY CHINATOWN

CREATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

TIANYU SU, ZHUANGYUAN FAN, HELENA RONG, JUNCHENG YANG, WEIYI CAO, RUICHEN NI

Chinatowns across the country are experiencing rapid gentrification and being reshaped by the influx of luxury residential developments, institutional expansions, and short-term vacation rental models like Airbnb. Rentify Chinatown focuses on Chinese families under the threat of displacement and eviction in Boston's Chinatown by utilizing Airbnb data to map and understand the issue from a top-down perspective. Meanwhile, Rentify Chinatown plans to engage with these communities through interviews and community meetings. To address a major challenge faced by the city and empower communities, the project will provide conducive insights and proofs for advocacy strategies, including policy interventions led by these organizations.





2019-2020 Community Grants Recipients

EAST BOSTON MOBILITY HUBS

JARRED JOHNSON, MATTHEW PETERSEN, ALEX YAMRON

To address East Boston's unique mobility challenges, East Boston Mobility Hubs is designing a prototype Mobility Hub: a designated, easily identifiable location where multiple modes of transportation converge, guaranteeing that on a 24/7 basis, people can find at least one and optimally several sustainable modes of transportation to get them to their ultimate destination. Mobility Hubs will fit into their specific locations and will be contextual while also being easily replicable. These hubs also will serve as a convenient place to find accurate, real-time information about transit schedules and sustainable mobility choices. A Mobility Hub also will add vibrancy, safety, and legibility to the public realm.

KNITTING THE ALEWIFE: FROM VULNERABLE TO VIBRANT

DOUG BROWN, SARAH HOWARD, PATRICIA SCHROEDER LOHEED, STEVEN NUTTER

Responding to over four decades of planning efforts by various entities, Knitting the Alewife is activating a constellation of community actors to collaboratively build resilience into the vulnerable urban system. By leveraging the Incubator at Sasaki along with public events, installations, and conversations, the project will create a regional learning community of residents and stakeholder groups, designers, researchers, and adjacent towns. Working together to find shared meaning in climate data, the team will explore and evaluate system-based strategies for the short-, medium-, and long term and co-implement a demonstration pop-up project. The project goal is to learn to knit resilience into a vibrant socioecological urban fabric.

GIRL UNINTERRUPTED

ZHANINA BOYADZHIEVA, JULIET CHUN

Inspired by the current spotlight on women and initiatives by Equity by Design, Beverly Willis Foundation, WAGE Project, and various grassroots organizations, Girl UNinterrupted seeks to bridge the gap between young female designers (and designers in general) and leaders in the architecture field. In 2019, Girl UNinterrupted worked with Sasaki Strategies and Sasaki to build a data visualization tool to showcase the project's research across five cities in the United States, including findings from Boston (2017), New York (2018), Washington DC (2018), Los Angeles (2018), and Chicago (2018). The tool allows one to examine the data results through any filters according to personal preferences. Explore the data at www.visualizations.sasaki.com/girluninterruptedproject.

In 2019, the Sasaki Foundation awarded one-time grants to three project teams focused on connecting design with community-driven action and supporting emerging professionals.

2019-2020 Community Grants Charrette, Incubator at Sasaki

Our Impact:

Community Learning & Engagement

INCUBATOR AT SASAKI

Hosted as a joint venture between the world-renowned design firm Sasaki and the Sasaki Foundation, the Incubator is a working lab, meeting place, and forum for innovators dedicated to bringing transformational change to our shared environment.

This flexible research studio and shared workspace serves as the catalyst for cross-industry collaboration, bringing academic, professional, and community partners to the table to solve complex problems.

The Sasaki Foundation serves as the steward and curator for this facility—activating it with public programs, facilitating research initiatives, and inviting new people to the mix—while Sasaki offers its expertise and resources as a global design firm motivated by working with our neighbors to co-create change.

The Incubator is located on Sasaki's Chase Mills campus, within one of several interconnected historic mill buildings along the Charles River. Sasaki is an award-winning international design firm, focused on architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, and more.

> *This is terrific that Sasaki is taking the lead on developing an incubator because no one else in the industry is doing this, and it is greatly needed to advance the profession.*
>
> —Victoria McKay, BSA Foundation

> *The Incubator at Sasaki is a splendid space to pursue an idea and start a new business. There are a lot of smart, interesting people coming and going, so you have lots of opportunities to meet folks with complementary capabilities and like-minded motivation. Yet it's also tranquil so you can focus and get things done. A super support zone with a great vibe. Oh, and a river runs through it.*
>
> —Jeffrey North, Founder & Chief Ecosystems Officer, The Commonwealth Ecological Restoration Company

PROGRAMS & COMMUNICATIONS









SPEAKER SERIES: WHAT'S NEXT FOR TRANSPORTATION?



February 13, 2019
Following the release of the Governor's Commission report on *The Future of Transportation*, this panel of industry experts responded to some of the report recommendations.

G|CODE HOUSE



March 25, 2019
Design Grants team G|Code House hosted Creating New Tech Training Grounds for Women of Color: Why it Matters, led by young trailblazing women of color who navigated the tech waters.

SPEAKER SERIES: RESILIENCE THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT



April 17, 2019
This panel discussed how proactive approaches to climate adaptation and water management in the natural and built environment both play a role in creating resilient communities.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP



May 6, 2019
MIT Solve's Coastal Communities Challenge teams shared their solutions addressing how coastal communities can mitigate and adapt to climate change while developing and prospering.

June 5, 2019
Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas, explaining how their proposed innovations will leverage design to address issues of resiliency and equity in communities. *Sponsored by Columbia*.



PITCH NIGHT

July 31, 2019
Incubator at Sasaki tenants Juan Constain and Cecilia Constain presented their responsive house prototype aimed at helping communities affected by natural disasters due to climate change.



HEXAHOME LUNCH & LEARN

October 17, 2019
A celebration of Hideo Sasaki's 100th birthday included a panel discussion, a silent auction, a pop-up shop, music, and more, with proceeds benefiting the Sasaki Foundation.



HIDEO SASAKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

November 13, 2019
This panel of housing experts discussed how displacement of families, caused by economic and environmental forces, is exacerbated by a limited supply of affordable, family-oriented housing, and explored potential solutions.



SPEAKER SERIES: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HOUSING NEEDS

Our Impact:

Professional Practice & Growth



SEED

SUMMER EXPLORATORY EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN

In summer 2019, the Sasaki Foundation held the second annual Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) program, a six-week paid internship for students from Greater Boston high schools, structured holistically around introducing young students to the world of design. The program is an intensive deep-dive into collaborative project work. Students worked alongside Sasaki designers Meredith McCarthy, Justin Kollar, Diane Athaide, Chanwoo Kim, Emily Parris, Breeze Outlaw, and Ponnapa Prakkamakul, who served as teachers and mentors to students throughout the program by sharing their expertise in their respective practices.

Mentors also provided feedback to students on their group projects: designing a pop-up parklet centered around voter registration. A parklet is a seasonal extension of the sidewalk into the street that provides more public space and amenities for pedestrians. Usually, parklets are installed in one or several parking spaces and offer a place to stop, sit, and rest while taking in the activities of the street. Students participated in design charrettes, worked with computer programs such as SketchUp, practiced hand-sketching techniques, went on sketching field trips to Perkins School for the Blind and Sasaki's Chase Mills campus, participated in interviews with CEO James Miner and Sasaki principals Christine Dunn, Michael Grove, Chris Sgarzi, Mary Anne Ocampo, and Kate Tooke, and so much more over the course of their six weeks in the Incubator at Sasaki.

Students presented their parklet projects—once at the midpoint of the program and once at its conclusion—to an engaged audience made up of individuals from Sasaki, American Student Assistance (ASA), and the Incubator at Sasaki tenant community. Their parklets were extremely impressive; from their overall designs to the functionality and aesthetics of their parklets, students fully grasped the design challenge presented to them. Students not only delivered thoughtful projects, but more importantly learned how to tackle a design project from start to finish while practicing an interdisciplinary approach to design, similar to how Sasaki's global practice operates.

◀ *SEED students, Incubator at Sasaki*

DESIGN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Design Mentorship Program provides the opportunity for local middle school students to discover what is possible through the field of design. Through a monthly after-school program at the Incubator at Sasaki, students receive extensive exposure to the field of design as provided by Sasaki designers.

The Sasaki Foundation aspires to help students learn how to create change through design thinking. This program has the potential to chart the course for students' education and career paths. Students are beginning to explore their interests in the field of design, and by the end of the academic year will be better exposed and more uniquely positioned to assess the future opportunities available to them.

The program includes hands-on skills guided by the design mentors, demonstrations of virtual reality, understanding of broad design concepts, and journal writing about what they are learning. The inaugural year, in partnership with American Student Assistance (ASA) and Watertown Middle School, has yielded great interest from the students, the teachers, and the design mentors.

This year's SEED program and Design Mentorship Program are made possible through a partnership with ASA, who for over 60 years has focused on helping students pursue a college degree by partnering with hundreds of colleges and universities to help students and alumni manage their student loans and maintain financial wellness. With ASA's mission of helping students know themselves, know their options, and make informed decisions to achieve their education and career goals, the Sasaki Foundation's partnership with ASA is instrumental in making the desired impact.



Design Mentorship Program, Incubator at Sasaki

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN THINKING DAY

This annual program, in partnership with the Boston Society of Architects, Boston Private Industry Council, and Boston Public Schools, is a one-day introductory career awareness initiative for high school students and serves as a pipeline for students interested in entering the SEED program. The day at Sasaki's Chase Mills campus includes an office tour, an overview of design and how designers get motivated to enter the field, followed by a real design exercise, a student presentation of their designs, and one-on-one interviews with Sasaki designers to learn more about a career in design.

CRIMSON SUMMER ACADEMY

The Crimson Summer Academy at Harvard University is an innovative program for motivated high school students with a passion for learning and a desire to excel. The curriculum focuses on citizenship in the 21st century and, more specifically, on what it means to be a responsible American in an interconnected world. Public school students who currently attend ninth grade in Boston, Cambridge, or Somerville, who have been nominated by a principal, teacher, or guidance counselor familiar with their academic and personal potential, and who have not had all of the resources necessary for success are invited to apply. Each summer the Sasaki Foundation hosts the students for a tour, presentation, and discussion of the possible careers in design.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

FIRST LEGO League is an accessible, guided, global robotics competition for elementary and middle school students. Each academic year, FIRST LEGO League introduces a scientific and real-world challenge, engaging teams of students in research, problem solving, coding, and engineering. In 2019, the Sasaki Foundation hosted a group of seven students who chose a problem close to home: overcrowding in their schools beyond what school buildings can hold.



Crimson Summer Academy, Incubator at Sasaki ▶

Support

SUPPORT

Thank you to our donors, industry partners, and sponsors who have joined us in our efforts to advance the value of design and co-create change to shape the built environment. Your support continues to help us fund grants, sponsor programming, and explore innovations in the design field.

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PARTNERSHIPS

The Sasaki Foundation thrives because of our 80+ partnerships with academia, industry and civic leaders, community organizations, and other nonprofits. The value of these relationships is made visible through our programming, events, and perhaps most importantly, through the co-creation of positive change in the communities in which we work.

A Look Ahead



A LOOK AHEAD

Looking ahead in 2020, the Sasaki Foundation is pleased to celebrate 20 years of providing support to individual scholars, design studios, and research teams working in communities to tackle challenging issues of equity. Throughout our 20th year, the Sasaki Foundation will continue building on our program and research framework to develop new partnerships as we explore innovative solutions to new housing models, climate adaptation, community building, and mobility choices.

Of particular note, the Board of Trustees will lead an initiative to tackle issues around mobility choices and equity in the greater Boston region through a variety of approaches, made possible by a generous grant from the Barr Foundation. The work will include a research partnership with the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, a series of workshops in partnership with several non-profit organizations, and the creation of a data visualization tool leveraging the assets of Sasaki Strategies that will support civic leaders and decision makers. The goal of this work is to share technology and design tools that will support advocacy and policy conversations among the leaders of the Commonwealth.

The Incubator at Sasaki is alive with energy, as we launch a call for proposals for our third annual Design Grants competition, inviting communities to pitch us their projects that may benefit from financial support and the opportunity to spend nine months adjacent to a global design firm that supports their efforts. In addition, our youth workforce development continues to scale as we host year-round and summer programs in the Incubator for middle and high school students who are eager to experience the creative process as they explore career paths.

As the Sasaki Foundation grows, we continue to set ambitious goals and generate a meaningful agenda of research, programs, and partnerships that increase our impact in communities throughout Greater Boston. We are a dynamic, nimble organization always striving to improve, and we hope you will reach out if you would like to work with us and contribute to this agenda.



Mary Anne Ocampo
Board of Trustees Chair

◀ *Sasaki firm-wide photo, 2018*



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