Sasaki Foundation

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Sasaki
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Letter from the Executive Director



The power of design belongs to all of us. This is the mantra of the Hideo Sasaki Foundation and a sentence I say over and over again at presentations, with funders, and to our grantees and youth interns. We believe this strongly and are honored to walk this walk every day. Thank you for joining us on our mission towards building a more equitable design industry. Together we have accomplished so much, but we still have lots of work to do!

Our fourth cohort of Design Grants teams wrapped up their projects in June 2023, positively impacting the communities of Chinatown, Chelsea, Somerville, and Mass. and Cass. In an effort to amplify even more community voices, we reached a growing number of community organizations through our 2023 call for proposals. We look forward to seeing what our fifth cohort is able to accomplish by the time they wrap up their projects in June 2024. We are already in awe of the incredible body of work that continues to grow and flourish through their design processes.

Through the lens of community learning, our events sparked conversations around cultural planning, Boston's equity vision, the historic erasure of Indigenous peoples, human-centered design, the role of design education, and more. These programs brought more than 1,100 people together from Greater Boston and, thanks to virtual platforms, around the country.

Reflecting on design education, some of the most powerful and meaningful work we do is to create space for young people to explore a career in design. Our Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) internship grew from 11 to 43 high school interns, and hired an additional 5 college students to guide the program. We are grateful for the meaningful experiences for all our students and volunteer design professionals.

We continue to focus on issues of equity in shaping our communities. We are well positioned to grow through our next strategic plan, currently in ideation by our Board of Trustees and staff. We are hopeful for the future of this work and honored you would come along the journey with us.



Jennifer Lawrence
Executive Director

2023 Celebration of Design, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

People

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation is governed by a board of trustees who provide strategic direction and oversight. Trustees bring a wide range of expertise in design, youth engagement, and financial management. Foundation staff are responsible for managing and supporting day-to-day work and programs.

2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Intern



Sabiha Miahjee
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2023 AMBASSADORS

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's ambassadors volunteer their time and effort in all areas of our work. Our success relies on their commitment to and belief in our mission.

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Tamar Warburg
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Fangli Zhang
Tianjiao Zhang
Martin Zogran

Mission Statement

Our work aims to advance equity in design. We support community-based organizations with funding and access to design expertise. We amplify voices and work toward systemic change through events and discussions. We engage students in career exploration through internships, camps, and after-school programs.

Reggie Wong Park Day, October 16, 2022 | Billy Chen of the Chinatown Project, courtesy Chinatown Energy Literacy Campaign

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 Hideo 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 Hideo Sasaki Foundation is committed to advancing the value of design, inviting diverse partners to co-create change.

The Hideo 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 grants, community learning, and design education.

Our intent is to test new models and projects that can work within communities and then scale to other communities with similar characteristics. Our research agendas, public programming approaches, and design education objectives are all developed through the lens of equity in design.



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.

2023 SEED construction site tour, 10 World Trade, Boston. MA

RESEARCH AND GRANTS

Large-scale, complex challenges require cross-disciplinary thinking. That's why the Hideo Sasaki Foundation convenes experts and innovators from all backgrounds. Our research programs focus on bringing issues of inequity in design to the forefront. This means supporting active research projects that center on inclusion and collaboration with communities who have historically been removed from the design process. Advancing interdisciplinary design research is in service to building more equitable cities and communities.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

Informed and engaged residents are central ingredients of a successful community. That's why the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosts public programs that amplify a diversity of voices and address socially relevant topics as we work toward systemic change. Our public programs engage civic leaders, educators, economists, and technologists to connect design and community-driven action.

DESIGN EDUCATION

A thriving design industry relies on a pipeline of diverse, talented, and passionate practitioners who infuse new ideas and disrupt established patterns. That's why the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosts design education programs for youth, providing them with opportunities to discover and explore careers in design. Our work advances diversity and inclusivity in the next generation of design professionals. A more equitable design industry requires a workforce that reflects a diversity of lived experiences, to the benefit of all. We hold the following strategic focus areas:

Creative Community Building
We support projects and organizations on themes of collective memory and community storytelling, investment in historic neighborhood fabric, and local business development. Designing and planning for our communities can extend beyond the concept of placemaking to include the idea of placekeeping—the preservation of local identity through strengthening social bonds, celebrating neighborhood history, and developing strategies for enhancing neighborhoods.

New Models for Housing
We support strategies to improve housing affordability, promote a more diverse housing stock, and address gentrification and displacement. Housing shortages in Massachusetts cities require innovative approaches to planning and design. Displacement of families, caused by economic and environmental forces, is exacerbated by the limited supply of affordable, family-oriented housing units.

Innovation in Transit and Access to Mobility Choices
We support design solutions for challenges to our transportation systems. Strengthening public-private partnerships, expanding transportation choices, bringing safety to the forefront, and leveraging technology can provide a more accessible and functional transportation system. In Massachusetts, local mobility networks and regional systems have tremendous potential to improve accessibility, equity, and safety for users.

Innovation in Health and Wellbeing
We support efforts to enhance community health through the built environment. Equitable access to outdoor spaces, creative reuse of the public realm, and innovative and inclusive programming are integral to our collective community health. Codesigning innovative solutions to challenges within our built environment can begin to positively affect our physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing in cities across Massachusetts.

Proactive Approaches to Climate Adaptation
We support responses that address the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, stormwater, flash flooding, and coastal and river flooding. Challenges associated with climate change, especially related to the urban heat island effect and flooding, disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities.



PARKing Day in partnership with the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, Boston Green Academy, Brighton, MA

IMPACT: Research & Grants

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation issues an annual call for proposals seeking projects that engage with communities in Greater Boston and the Gateway Cities. Our Design Grants fund community experts to create design solutions for challenges in their neighborhoods. We evaluate proposals through the lens of our strategic focus areas. We also evaluate proposals on the criteria of design, equity, inclusion, innovation, and impact. Grants include access to design expertise from design professionals at Sasaki, a world-renowned design firm.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation issued the 2022 Design Grants call for proposals under the theme of Shared Voices: Charting a Course for Community Action. This theme recognizes the need for interdisciplinary approaches, diverse community voices, and regional cooperation as key drivers to find shared solutions and create shared impact.

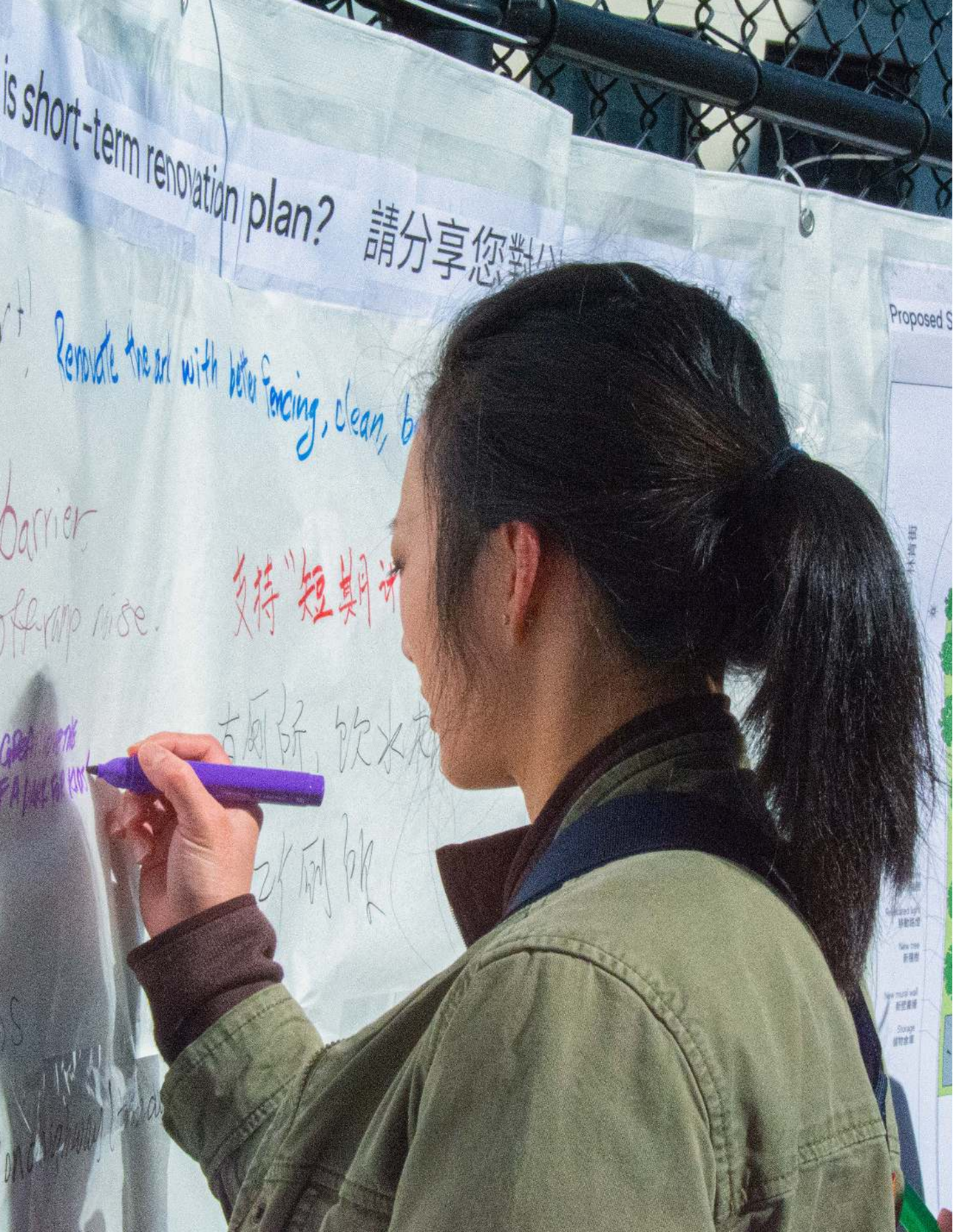
The 2022 Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas to a jury that represented design, transit, housing, and environmental organizations. The Hideo Sasaki Foundation selected the following four grant recipients who completed their projects in June 2023.

- Chinatown Energy Literacy Campaign
- Combating Green Gentrification: Exploring Green Roofs on Affordable Housing
- Groundwork Somerville's New Urban Farm
- See You in the Future

Their complete reports are available in the Sasaki Foundation 2022-2023 Design Grants Research publication available at sasakifoundation.org.



2022 Design Grants Cohort Final Presentations, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chinatown Power, Inc., Chinatown Community Land Trust, and Climable crafted an energy literacy campaign tailored to Boston's Chinatown. It includes a suite of educational materials covering energy resilience as well as environmental justice and public health risks, written in plain, easy-to-understand language in both English and Written Chinese.

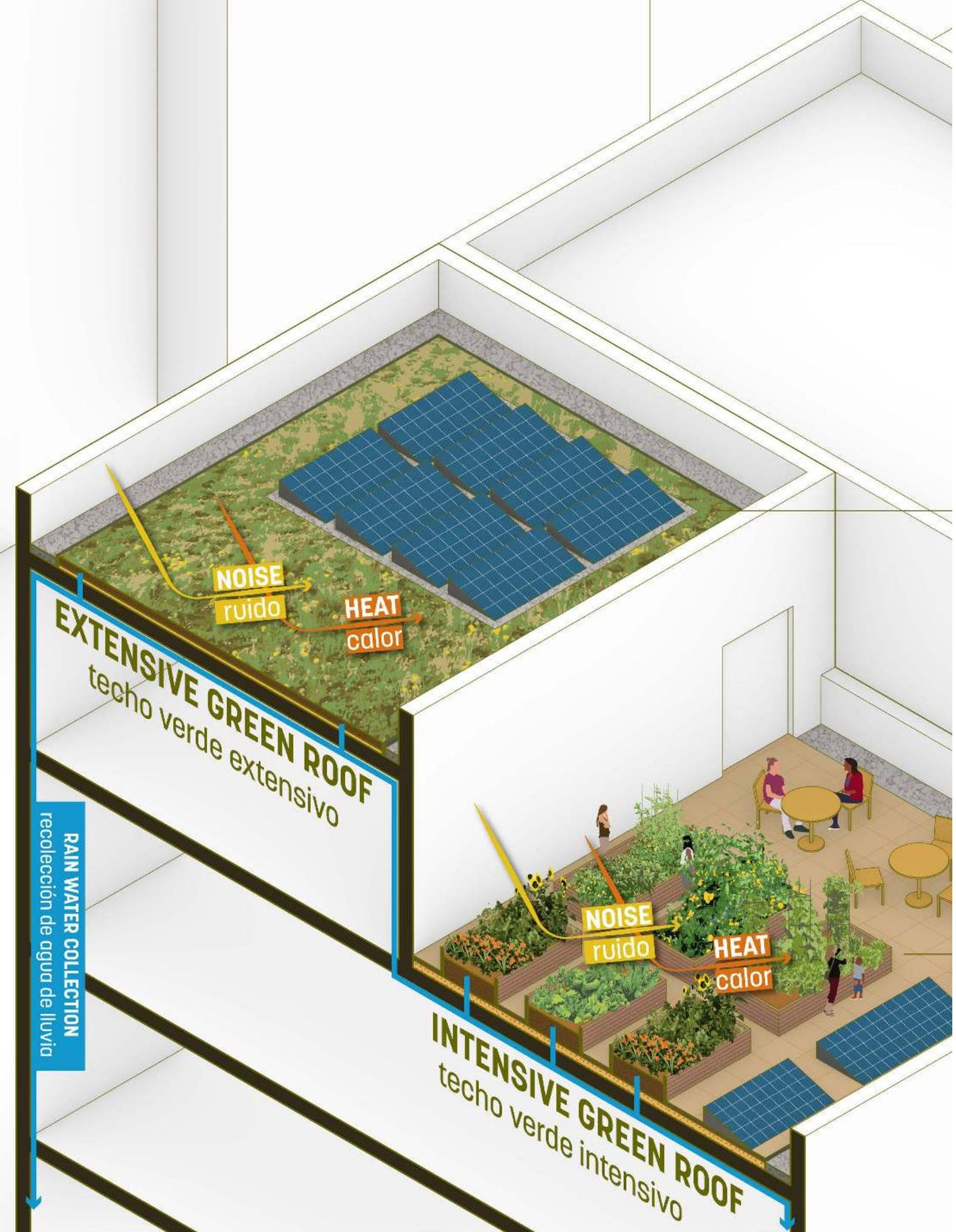
Chinatown Energy Literacy Campaign

Lydia Lowe, Franny Xi Wu, Sari Kayyali, Maisy Rohrer, Caroline Fraser

This project complements ongoing work around energy democracy, climate resilience, heat mitigation, and open space in Chinatown. This includes advocating for community governance and improvements for Reggie Wong Park, a new community-oriented park in Parcel 25 development, and green space next to the future Chinatown Library. It also includes the development of a community-owned, clean energy virtual microgrid in Chinatown. A microgrid is typically a series of interconnected buildings that share a local energy generation source. In Chinatown, rather than interconnecting buildings, the project is installing solar panels and battery storage in buildings around Chinatown and coordinating their loads together virtually. This design will provide resilience and democratic decision-making control, as well as cost savings and improved comfort, to residents of the participating buildings.

This literacy campaign provides necessary background information and vocabulary around environmental justice issues in the community and contextualizes the need for and benefits of a community microgrid. This will empower residents to provide input on the design of the microgrid and to get involved in work addressing heat mitigation, open space, and green infrastructure. The campaign will be shared on social media, and live on the Chinatown Power website that is under development with the Hideo Sasaki Foundation's support.

Chinatown community member attending a neighborhood event gives input on open space and green infrastructure designs for Reggie Wong Park, a new community-oriented park, and green space next to the future Chinatown Library | Chinatown Energy Literacy Campaign



How do we make our city greener and healthier for residents without displacing those who call it home? This question frames Combating Green Gentrification, a collaboration between GreenRoots and Comunidades Enraizadas Community Land Trust, two resident-led organizations in Chelsea, MA, exploring the potential for green roofs on community land trust (CLT) homes.

Combating Green Gentrification

Bianca Bowman, Caroline Ellenbird, Jacqueline Segovia, Ana Vanegas

Chelsea is a low-income, immigrant, environmental justice community facing increasing development pressures. Lack of green space negatively impacts residents of Chelsea in many ways, including poor air quality, high rates of asthma, greater flood risk from impervious surfaces, higher temperatures in hot months, and limited access to open space. Green roofs have the potential to address all of these issues. However they are costly to install, require maintenance, and can increase the value and appeal of a home, making them less accessible to low-income homeowners and potentially displacing existing residents. What would it take to install them on permanently affordable homes? What are the options, costs, and benefits for homeowners? Are they desirable to future CLT homeowners?

The project team researched green roofs, developed interactive materials to share with community members, and engaged the community in conversations about green roofs on CLT homes with an enthusiastic initial response. The team will continue to engage with community members and explore implementation with partners, funders, and green roof professionals. A pilot green roof on a CLT home will inform future efforts to realize this green infrastructure strategy in Chelsea through a framework of social, environmental, and economic justice.

Combating Green Gentrification graphic | Combating Green Gentrification in partnership with Sasaki



A Bountiful Future graphic | Envisioning Somerville's New Urban Farm in partnership with Sasaki

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Envisioning Somerville's New Urban Farm

Geri Medina, Juliana Soltys, Jessie DeLano, Emily Reckard-Mota

Envisioning Somerville's New Urban Farm was created to help Groundwork Somerville address a challenge they are facing as a small organization in a neighborhood that's rapidly developing. After 12 years of stewarding the land at their current location, their urban farm will be displaced by new development. They have support from the City of Somerville, MA, and the primary developer to move nearby, but the process has been challenging with no clear timeline and many stakeholders involved. Through the support of the Hideo Sasaki Foundation, Groundwork Somerville will be able to present, and advocate for, their vision of a new farm space to key decision-makers and stakeholders.

This project conducted a site analysis of two potential future farm sites, compiled a detailed list of current elements of the farm, and outlined new features that could contribute to Groundwork Somerville's overall effectiveness and organizational impact through careful planning and creative design.

The team envisioned well-designed raised beds, a greenhouse, and added infrastructure, like a wash station, for the health and safety of their staff, youth, and volunteers. If given an accessible space, they have the potential to offer a fully-functional market space to sell their food and to educate the community on their programs. This added space can also be used to host community events and workshops. Thanks to this project, Groundwork Somerville will be able to co-envision a new farm with the community to retain a sense of ownership and critical involvement.

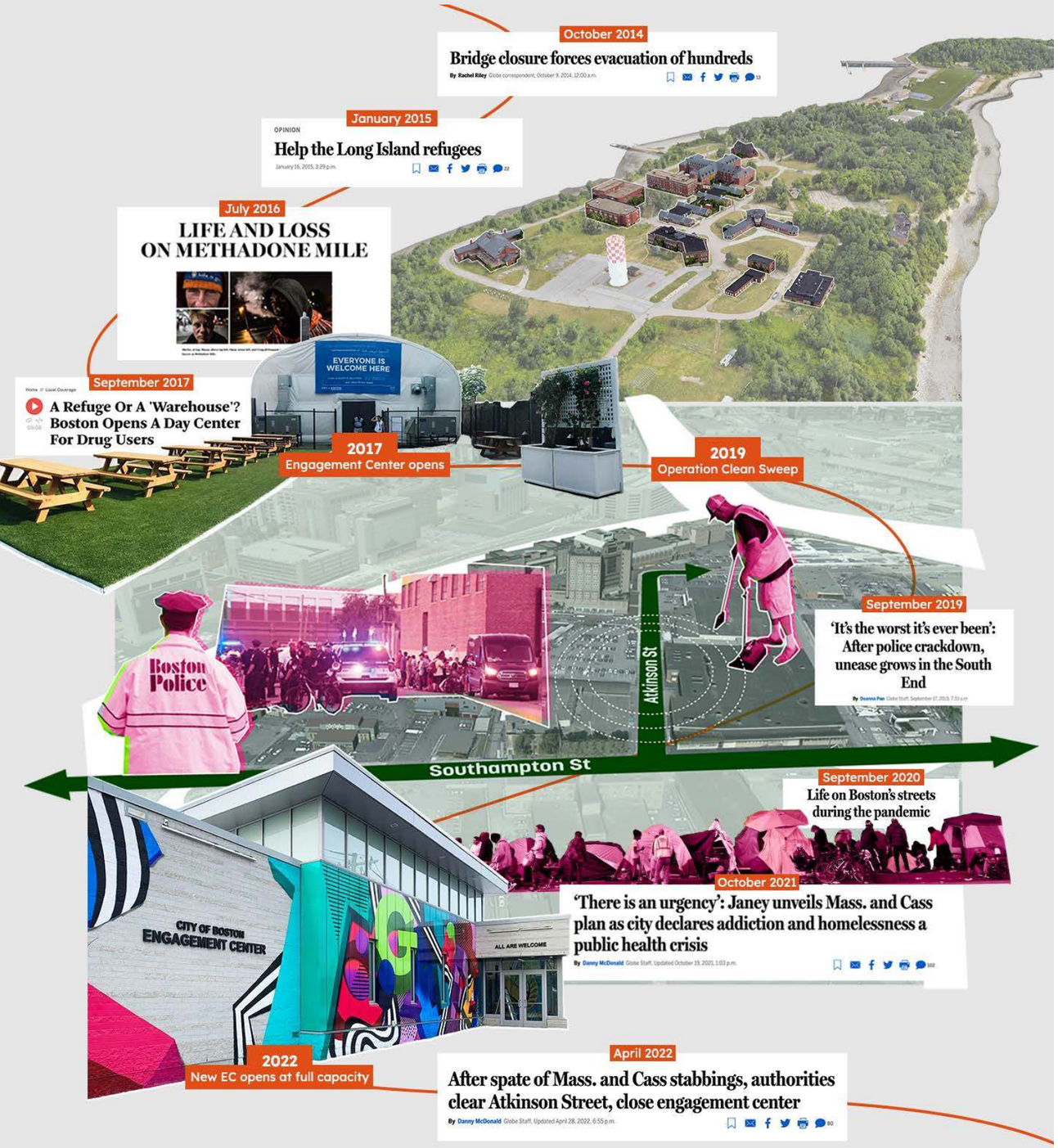
See You in the Future

Melissa Q. Teng, Sabrina Dorsainvil, Stephen Walter, George Halfkenny, Evvy Diego

See You In The Future is a place-based storytelling and art project with the residents, workers, and visitors of a stigmatized informal area of Boston known as Mass. and Cass. The team is motivated by the fact that these residents were being written out of the future in the City of Boston's latest neighborhood plan, by the criminalization and dispossession of this complex community where people have developed unsung care and survival practices, and by the relationships they have with folks on the ground, rooted in deep listening, building trust, and committing to co-creation as best as they can.

The team uses storytelling, public art, and design research to advocate for this complex community's needs and to learn what spatial justice means in this context. Over the grant period, they have hosted regular arts workshops at a local community center; listened to and recorded stories with staff, guests, service providers, and advocates; started a participatory mural at the local men's shelter paid by the Boston Public Health Commission; and begun a partnership with the Boston Society for Architecture to formalize and share their design methods and approach.

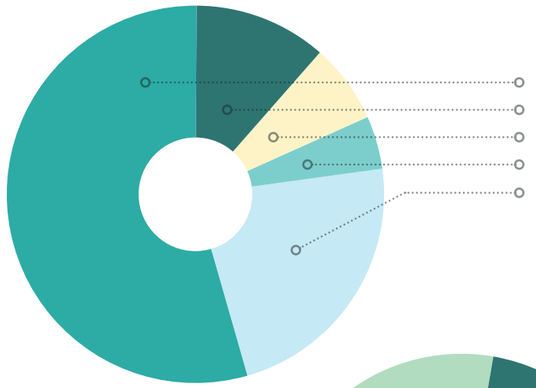
It is clear that neighborhoods live in us as much as we live in them, so this community art and storytelling project lays the foundation for a more intentional approach to designing the future of Mass. and Cass.



See You in the Future timeline graphic | See You in the Future

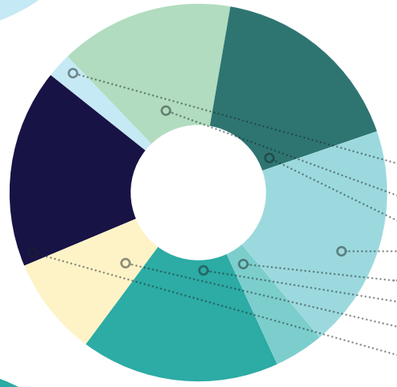
In 2023, we launched a call for proposals for our fifth annual Design Grants competition. We received 19 applications representing 30 organizations and institutions, 5 Boston communities, 4 Greater Boston cities, and 1 Gateway City, with multiple proposals focusing on Greater Boston.

2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS RESPONSES



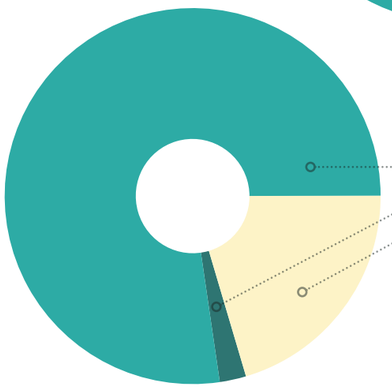
GENDER

55%	Cisgender Woman
11%	Cisgender Man
7%	Gender Queer/Non-conforming
5%	Not Listed
23%	Prefer not to answer



ETHNIC DIVERSITY

2%	American Indian, Alaska Native
15%	Asian
17%	Black, African American
19%	Hispanic, Latino, Spanish
4%	Middle Eastern, North African
17%	White
9%	Other
17%	Prefer not to answer



DISABILITIES

77%	No
2%	Yes
21%	Prefer not to answer



2023 Design Grants Pitch Night, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

PITCH NIGHT 2023

At Pitch Night 2023, eight Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas for projects that address creative community building, new models for housing, transit access, health and wellbeing, and climate adaptation, receiving a stipend for their time. The nearly 100 attendees included designers, entrepreneurs, investors, civic leaders, and corporate and nonprofit leaders, and represented more than 70 organizations.

Thank you to our 2023 jurors for all their time and effort supporting the Design Grants program: Elaine Minjy Limmer (jury chair) of the City and County of Denver, Timothy Gale of Sasaki, Wendell Joseph of Toole Design Group, Penn Loh of Tufts University, Lily Song of Northeastern University, and Dominick Tribone of Lyft and Bluebikes.

2023 Design Grants Pitch Night jury, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA



Action Grant

EarlyEducatorSpace 2.0:
Reimagining Public Housing with Childcare in Mind

Kimberly Lucas, Isabella Buford, Taylor Cain, Rahul Ramesh

EarlyEducatorSpace 2.0 from the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is a unique opportunity to bring together family childcare providers, families, neighbors, and affordable housing property managers in a way that expands access to childcare, creates opportunities for economic mobility for public housing residents, and enhances affordable housing spaces. In three design sessions, participants will reimagine and codesign common green space in one BHA development as a site inclusive of care for young children.



Action Grant

Survival Guide to Living and Staying in Roxbury

Armani White, Lauren Miller, Kai Palmer-Dunning

The Survival Guide to Living and Staying in Roxbury from Reclaim Roxbury is both a storytelling and practical information project on the current and past fights for community land development, how to develop land, and how to apply for rental and homeownership opportunities. Roxbury is a rapidly gentrifying, predominantly Black, working-class community in Boston. The multimodal document will serve as a conversation starter within the community, to help connect people to advocacy resources and share their own stories. The guide will help with creative community building, using art and storytelling to enhance community planning.



Discovery Grant

Building Food Resilience through Urban Container Gardening from the Comfort of Home

Magdalena La Battaglia, Elsa Flores, Ana Martinez

The Harborkeepers proposes Building Food Resilience through Urban Container Gardening from the Comfort of Home, addressing food waste and food resiliency challenges in East Boston through a series of educational and problem-solving workshops and activities focused on growing food in limited urban housing spaces, such as people's homes, terraces, or even inside from their window sills, as a way to address that people in densely populated urban communities may not have access to local community urban gardens or yards to grow their own fresh and healthy produce.

Discovery Grant

Improving Open Space in Chinatown

Lydia Lowe, Kathryn Friedman, Sari Kayyali

Chinatown Community Land Trust (CLT) seeks to improve and expand open space in Chinatown, Boston's densest and hottest neighborhood. Chinatown CLT will engage designers in supporting community planning efforts to secure community governance and improvements for Reggie Wong Park, to advocate for a new community-oriented park in Parcel 25 development, and, longer term, to advance the vision for a green space next to the future Chinatown Library. Chinatown CLT is also part of the Chinatown HOPE initiative, which is focused on moving the Phillips Square public space into a second phase community design process.

Discovery Grant

Movement Training and Cultural Center:
Envisioning Hope

Gloribell Mota, Vanny Huot, Carlos Saavedra, Rodrigo Saavedra

The Ayni Institute is an organization rooted in the working class, immigrant, BIPOC communities and Indigenous wisdom. Boston's rapid gentrification and the pandemic have displaced the organization and impacted its ability to train leaders in social change. To address this, the Ayni Institute committed to jointly buy a building with Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE). Recently, the partnership raised funds to purchase a 4,500 square foot building in Revere with the capacity to house trainings and a cultural center, and serve as a regional movement hub, providing inclusive and strategic meeting space for movement leaders.

Sasaki Foundation Design Grants include engagement with the Hideo Sasaki Foundation and access to design expertise from professionals at Sasaki, a world-renowned design firm. Grant winners have the opportunity to spend 10 months working at 110 Chauncy alongside designers and to participate in programming curated specifically for the cohort.

In January 2023, the 2022 Design Grants project teams participated in all-day charrettes with volunteer Sasaki designers to advance their projects, each creating graphics and poster boards to communicate their work with their target audiences. In June 2023, they wrapped up their grants by sharing final presentations in front of the Sasaki community and key stakeholders.

The 2023 Design Grants projects kicked off with our annual Cohort Welcome Reception in September, providing time and space for the teams to connect with each other as well as the Hideo Sasaki Foundation staff and board. The grant teams also had an opportunity in the fall to introduce their projects to the Sasaki community, highlighting their work in front of designers who could then volunteer to help advance the projects using their perspectives and skills. These volunteers have collaborated with the 2023 Design Grants teams through two targeted charrettes, with a third planned for spring 2024.

Design Grants teams also participate in a monthly lunch and learn to benefit from Sasaki expertise. For each cohort, topics are identified with grant team input and presented by Sasaki designers. Topics include Sasaki's in-house data and design tools, community engagement, sustainability, Sasaki's Fabrication Studio, storytelling ad presentation, graphics and diagramming, communications and effective marketing, and public policy. Design Grants finalists not selected for a grant are invited to several of these lunch and learn events.



Site walking tour in conjunction with the first Design Grants charrette for Improving Open Space in Chinatown, Boston, MA



2022 Design Grants Cohort Charrette Day, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

Charles River Floating Wetland

The Charles River Floating Wetland, a 2018 Design Grants winner, explores an ecological intervention to reduce harmful algal blooms in the Charles, which threaten the river's health and limit the feasibility of swimming. Reducing nutrient pollution remains a vital method for preventing blooms, but this approach depends on increasingly complex upland solutions. In-stream interventions like floating wetlands offer a complementary strategy that can absorb and remove nutrients from the water, increase biodiversity, support local ecological changes, and provide other co-benefits, like additional green space.

In June 2020, in partnership with MassDCR, the team installed the floating wetland in the Charles River in Cambridge downriver of the Longfellow Bridge. The team then spent three summers collecting data to understand the wetland's impact on the local ecology. Team member Max Rome concluded research for the pilot stage of the project with his doctoral dissertation at Northeastern University, *From Water Quality to River Health (2022)*.



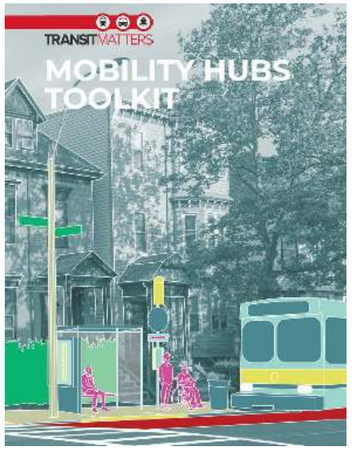
Charles River Floating Wetland, courtesy Charles River Conservancy

In 2023, the Charles River Conservancy publicly shared the research results at an event co-hosted with the MIT Museum and released a comprehensive report: *Lessons Learned from the Charles River's First Floating Wetland*.

Throughout the project, the CRC has used the wetland to engage youth and the community in understanding the ecology of the river and ways that we can all help make it a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. For the project's next phase, the CRC is working with public and private partners to realize a floating wetland expansion in the Broad Canal, as well as other feasible locations in the Charles River basin, to harness the full benefits that floating wetlands can provide.

The report is available at thecharles.org/floating-wetlands.

East Boston Mobility Hubs



East Boston Mobility Hubs, a 2019 Community Grants winner, was seeking to address East Boston's unique mobility challenges by designing a prototype mobility hub: a place that connects different modes of transportation with accessible and user-friendly infrastructure and improves the transit experience, adding vibrancy, safety, and legibility to the public realm.

In February 2023, TransitMatters released the Mobility Hubs Toolkit. This toolkit is targeted for community organizations and members, rather than planners and technical experts. It provides a description of each element of a mobility hub, as well as its benefits and any considerations, such as cost and equity. The toolkit intends to empower communities to implement relatively low-cost solutions that can be scaled to fit an individual community's needs.

The toolkit is available at transitmatters.org/mobility-hubs.

G{Code}

G{Code}, a 2018 Design Grants winner, is working towards equity and social justice by empowering Black, brown, and/or Indigenous young women and non-binary people of color to thrive in the tech industry. Their programs provide a supportive, inclusive, and safe environment for individuals to explore coding, web development, and data analytics, bridging the gap in opportunities for underrepresented communities in the tech industry.

In 2023, G{Code}'s first year as an independent nonprofit organization, they graduated approximately 100 fellows from their no cost, 12-week virtual programs. They doubled capacity for Intro to Web Dev, which grew from two to four cohorts a year, and piloted Intro to Data Analytics.

G{Code} also received significant funding in 2023. They secured a substantial $750,000 grant from Massachusetts' Community One Stop for Growth program, allowing the carriage house renovation to move forward in spring 2024. They also received $300,000 from the Massachusetts' Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development for the second consecutive year, and a $75,000 grant from the Liberty Mutual Foundation to enhance their programming.

In spring 2024, G{Code} will launch their new Tech Apprenticeship Program in partnership with the City of Boston's Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity. This program will grant 10 students from Boston Public Schools the opportunity to learn web development, gain career insights from tech professionals, secure mentors, and grow personally and professionally while assessing their fit in the tech industry.

Learn more and get involved at thegcodehouse.com.



The future G{Code} House location, Roxbury, MA

2018 Design Grants Winners

Charles River Floating Wetland

Eastie for Eastie

ECHOLocator

G{Code} House

Please Touch the Art

2019 Design Grants Winners

Designing Shelters for Dignity

Energy Shift Boston

Rentify Chinatown

East Boston Mobility Hubs

Knitting the Alewife

2020 Design Grants Winners

Columbia Road Gender and Mobility Initiative

Economic Development in Codman Square

The Mattapan Mapping Project

IMPACT: Community Learning

In 2023, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation relaunched in-person programs in our beautiful new space at 110 Chauncy, thanks to our partners at Sasaki. Our public events saw 1,100+ in-person and virtual attendees from Greater Boston, across the country, and beyond, with our YouTube channel expanding our reach even further.

Our continued strong partnership with Sasaki, a world-renowned design firm, ensures that a valuable design perspective is present in all our conversations. Sasaki design professionals often serve as moderators for our panel discussions, bringing together experts from our extended network of academic, professional, and community partners. Sasaki ambassadors, who volunteer their time and expertise to support our programming, are integral to the Hideo Sasaki Foundation's impact.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation shares space downtown with Sasaki. This partnership allows us to expand our impact, reaching even more young designers and engaging meaningfully with community partners. The central and easily accessible location provides space to bring together perspectives and communities through our research initiatives, public programming, and design education, allowing both Sasaki and the Hideo Sasaki Foundation to work with our neighbors to co-create change.



2023 SEED final presentations, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

2023 PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Mohammed Arham, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
Hansel Bauman, MIXdesign, HB/a+p
Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Boston Planning & Development Agency
Jeena Chang, Asian Community Development Corporation
Chris Downey, Architecture for the Blind
Emely Fernandez, Sasaki
Claudia Fox Tree, Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness
Lydia Lowe, Chinatown Community Land Trust
Aubrielle Lyons, Community Academy of Science and Health
Amira Madison, Mayors Office of New Urban Mechanics
Mary Anne Ocampo, Sasaki
Ben Perez, University of California, Berkeley
Jean-Luc Pierite, North American Indian Center of Boston
Ian Scherling, Sasaki
Lily Song, Northeastern University
Evie Tran, Boston Latin Academy
Cynthia Woo, Pao Arts Center



SPONSORED EVENTS

In addition to hosting events, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation sponsored events hosted by our partners.

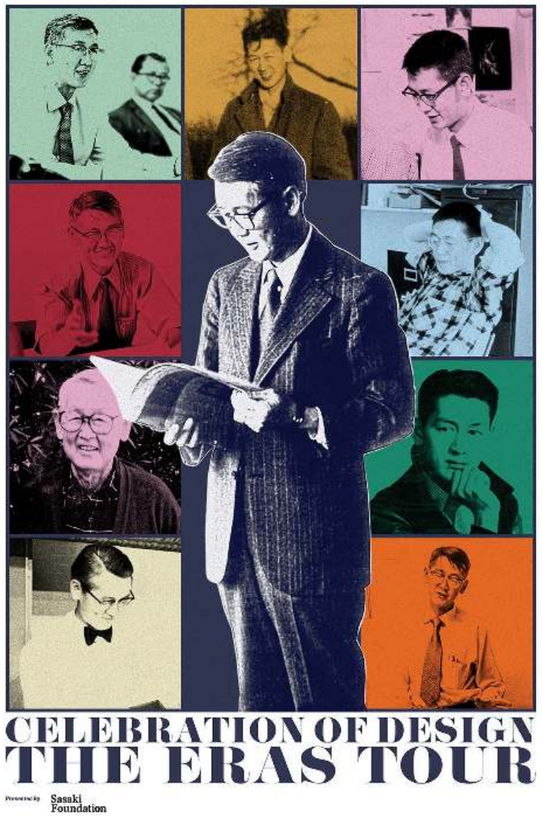
Charles River Conservancy's City Splash
June 2023
The Charles River Conservancy's City Splash is a community event raising awareness to bring river swimming back to Boston. The 2023 annual state-sanctioned swim was canceled due to predicted heavy rainfall and threats of thunderstorms, but the CRC looks forward to celebrating in 2024.

Pao Arts Center's Experience Chinatown Art Festival
September to October 2023
Pao Arts Center's Experience Chinatown Festival is an extended celebration of arts and culture, featuring a multitude of collaborations with local artists and neighborhood organizations. In its sixth year, 2,100 visitors and community members joined the day of live performances. Throughout the festival, visitors experienced the vibrant window murals that adorned Chinatown restaurants and organizations.



Performance at Experience Chinatown 2023, October 1, 2023 | Lee-Daniel Tran courtesy Pao Arts Center

On Thursday, November 16, 2023, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosted our first annual Celebration of Design at 110 Chauncy in Downtown Boston. The event saw 130+ attendees and raised $24,000 to support our mission of equity in design. That's enough to fund a Design Grant, a public speaker panel, and 11 SEED students for a week.



Our theme, the Eras Tour, highlighted the eras of Hideo Sasaki and the eras of the Hideo Sasaki Foundation. A display traced Hideo's experiences from WWII Japanese internment camps through his career as an internationally renowned landscape architect. The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's work was also front and center. Since kicking off our own programming in 2018, we have pushed forward our mission of equity in design:

- 350+ students introduced to careers in design through our design education programs
- $271,000 awarded to community-led projects through the Design Grants
- 175+ events hosted to connect communities and design professionals

In addition to learning about Hideo and the Sasaki Foundation, event attendees enjoyed an evening of food, drinks, and fun. Cuisine En Locale and Sugar Baking Company provided delicious local food, with drinks provided by in-kind sponsors Boston Beer Company and Downeast Cider House. Activities abounded, from friendship bracelet making inspired by the Eras Tour to a giant puzzle of the event poster. A community-led open mic was another highlight:

- Fangli Zhang sang original music.
- Gabe Colombo shared place-based spoken word and Taylor Swift covers on ukulele.
- Liz von Goeler impressed with both operatic and jazzy acapella.
- David Hirzel reflected on his time working with Hideo.

A silent auction included 19 works of art and experiences donated by Sasaki staff and friends of the Hideo Sasaki Foundation. Bidding kicked off online, with participants joining from across the country.

Thank you to our event sponsors Boston Global Investors (BGI), BR+A Consulting Engineers, DLJ Real Estate Partners, Eastern Bank Wealth Management, and Naveo Credit Union.



2023 Celebration of Design, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

Cultural Planning, Community Building, and Neighborhood Stabilization in Chinatown



January 26, 2023
The first in-person event in our new downtown Boston home reflected on the last 20 years of planning in Chinatown, the importance of the current cultural planning process, and the possibilities for the future of the neighborhood.

Creating a More Just and Equitable City



May 18, 2023
This conversation explored Boston's equity vision with Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Deputy Chief of Urban Design at the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

2023 Design Grants Pitch Night



June 1, 2023
Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas for projects in front of nearly 100 designers, planners, artists, community leaders, civic leaders, and entrepreneurs.

Erasure of Indigenous Culture by Design



July 26, 2023
This panel with Indigenous community leaders discussed the painful history of design's impact on Indigenous peoples, and how planning processes can restore the landscape of Boston.

Plant Propagation Party



September 27, 2023
In partnership with Sasaki and the Cambridge Science Festival, this event created space to meet new friends and learn about the science of propagation, sending attendees home with new plants.

Towards a Human-Centered Design Practice



October 12, 2023
Hosted by Sasaki with support from the Hideo Sasaki Foundation, this panel explored how the design community and disability community can work together to unlock new ideas in the built environment that benefit everyone.

Youth Perspectives on Design Education



November 2, 2023
This youth-led panel discussion with SEED alums provided a deeper understanding of the impact of immersive design education programs on high school students.

Celebration of Design: the Eras Tour



November 16, 2023
The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's first annual flagship fundraiser highlighted the eras of Hideo Sasaki's career and the eras of the foundation, celebrating with food, drinks, and fun.

IMPACT: Design Education

In summer 2023, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosted our sixth annual Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) program. SEED is a six-week paid internship for high school students from the Boston area. With the help of teaching assistants, Sasaki design mentors, and partner organizations, the students learn about careers in the design field and develop their own projects.

In 2023, we hosted 43 high school students representing 10 Boston neighborhoods and six Greater Boston communities. Students spent their summer learning, growing, and creating concepts for Groundwork Somerville's New Urban farm and the kiosk that will be used by artists at 10 World Trade.

SEED 1, an introductory experience in design, allowed the SEED interns to analyze two of the proposed sites for Groundwork Somerville's New Urban Farm. Groundwork Somerville is strongly committed to youth development, so this project was perfectly aligned with their mission to empower youth. In six smaller teams, SEED interns conducted an in-depth environmental, social, and cultural analysis of the sites to determine what activities and structures the organization could implement. With the help of their design mentors, each team took into consideration the site uses, materials to incorporate, and the structures to install, so that their respective sites would reach their highest potential. With newly acquired design program skills, students were able to create visual renderings of their site plans, which allowed them to clearly visualize how their sites would look and how they would be used.

SEED 2, our more advanced track, allowed students already familiar with design to experience the pressure of a real competition. Both teams were able to produce excellent work. One of the kiosk designs, the Chromapod, attempted to connect 10 World Trade to the natural environment by imitating a native species of octopus. The other design, WeTu, aimed to increase the representation of Indigenous cultures of Massachusetts through a weaving structure. Both designs were impressive and meticulously planned. We were honored to have been part of the first youth-led design competition and to have team Sassafras win with their WeTu design. Their kiosk will be fabricated and ready for use in early 2025.

Our 2023 SEED interns represented 10 Boston neighborhoods as well as Belmont, Cambridge, Everett, Melrose, Somerville, and Watertown. Our students also represent 13 Boston schools and 9 regional schools.

2023 SEED final presentations, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation gives a special thanks to all of our 2023 design mentors. SEED 1 design mentors were Gidiony Alves, Sophie Bellemare, Diane Athaide, Anirudh Bodempudi, Nick Dyer, Eileen Gainfort, Mario Ghosn, Kongyun He, Catherine Hunley, Seungeun Lee, Yasmin Maura-Orihuela, Jesus Mendoza Gonzalez, Aeshna Prasad, Rinika Prince, Andrew Sell, Hyeji Sheen, Fanke Su, and Chris Winkler. SEED 2 design mentors were Isaac Andrade, Jared Barnett, Naomi Canino, Hannah Gibson, Alexandre Kinney, Mytreyi Metta, Yixin Miao, Emily Parris, Liwei Shen, and Lucca Townsend.

We would also like to recognize the Sasaki principals and other staff participants: Andrew Gutterman, Meredith McCarthy, James Miner, Mary Anne Ocampo, Victor Vizgaitis, Tao Zhang, Sally Ferrell, Helina He, Felicia Jiang, Mia Kania, Alison Nash, Ponnapa Prakkamakul, Jenn Robertson, Tristan Rock, Mary Sullivan, and Debbie Wallis. Thank you also to Mubarak Ware (2022 SEED alum), who presented as a first year design student at the University of Miami.

Finally, thank you to all our funders, partners, and supporting organizations, who made the 2023 program possible.

Funders: Metro North Workforce Board via Commonwealth Corporation, City of Boston Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, Boston Global Investors, Sasaki, and LeMessurier

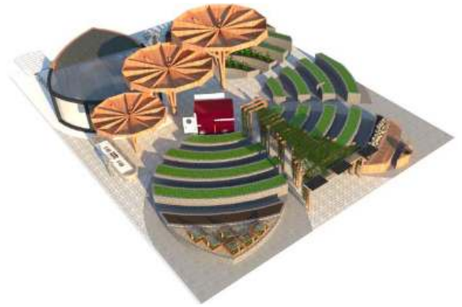
Partners: Sasaki, Artists For Humanity, Isenberg Projects, and Groundwork Somerville

Supporting Organizations: Boston Planning & Development Agency, Boston Society for Architecture, Boynton Yards, City of Somerville, DREAM Collaborative, Greentown Labs, MASS Design, Reclaim Roxbury, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, UMass Boston Urban Scholars Program, and USQ

As a part of the program, the SEED teaching assistants created workshops that introduced students to the basics of Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign, as well as the 3D modeling program SketchUp. All teams impressed staff and mentors with the level of work they were able to produce in just six weeks; many students took it upon themselves to master their favorite program. This year the Hideo Sasaki Foundation also implemented the Commonwealth Corporation's Signal Success curriculum, which was a great opportunity for personal and professional development. For a lot of students, this internship was their first job and their first chance to start acquiring the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

This year's SEED program was an incredible opportunity to see each youth blossom at their own pace. They went from nervous, inexperienced youth to knowledgeable, communicative, and poised speakers. Their final presentations demonstrated just how much young people can excel when given opportunity, support, and resources. The Hideo Sasaki Foundation looks forward to staying connected with all these wonderful individuals. Youth development truly is rewarding work; it requires a lot of time, intentionality, and understanding of each student at their current level. The SEED internship is impactful on all who are involved in it. Staff and mentors not only guide students through this experience, but also learn so much about our younger generation, how they think, and what matters to them. Each summer, we are amazed at how much SEED students grow and at what they are able to accomplish, and 2023 was our most impactful yet.

The 2023 SEED final presentations are available for viewing on the Sasaki Foundation YouTube page.



Team Sequoia's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Nathaniel, Sophia, Yohan, Divine, Robel, and Ava with TA Noushin



Team Ginkgo's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Eyasu, Malena, Amos, Victor, and Evie with TA Jillian



Team Venus Fly Trap's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Alexis, Sakina, Matteo, Angela, Naomi, and Eboni with TA Ezekiel



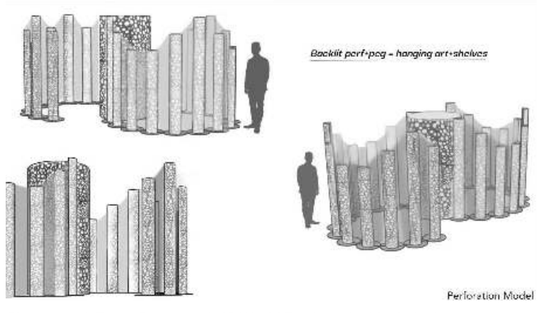
Team Aspen's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Michelle, Garabed, Violette, Mariah, and Cesar with TA Ruth



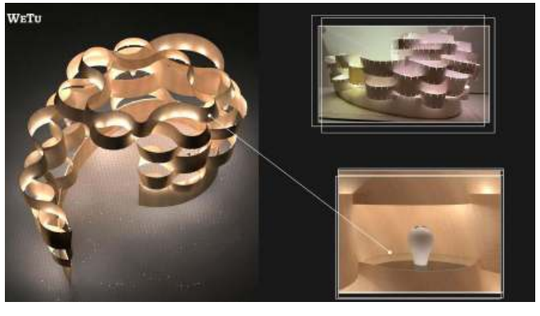
Team Cypress's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Clinton, Egal, Suhaila, Edwarda, and Aubrielle with TA Sabiha



Team Willow's Groundwork Somerville farm design
Caleb, Amelia, Sidney, Samuel, Yamanuel, and Anna with TA Nisarga



Chromapod, Team Sycamore's 10 World Trade artist kiosk design
Parmis, Avaugh, Imani, Merina, and Jay with TA Emily



WeTu, Team Sassafras's 10 World Trade artist kiosk design
Leana, Katelyn, Arham, Safiwah, and Maryam with TA Emily



SEED students visit Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor to learn about the island's history, Boston, MA

2023 SEED STAFF

Folajimi Bademosi, Youth Manager
Emily Menard, Senior Teaching Assistant
Ezekiel Lucas, Teaching Assistant
Sabiha Miahjee, Teaching Assistant
Noushin Nawal, Teaching Assistant
Nisarga Ramesh, Teaching Assistant
Ruth Saenz, Teaching Assistant
Jillian Ziegler, Teaching Assistant



GROWING SEED

SEED, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation's primary design education program, is an annual six-week paid internship structured holistically around introducing high school students to the world of design.

Since SEED's launch in 2018, the program has received 232 applicants from students reperesenting 45 communities and 66 schools. SEED has grown from 2 interns in 2018 to 43 interns in 2023, and from 2 design mentors to 28. In 2023 we also expanded the program to provide SEED 2, an advanced track for students with previous design experience.

In 2024, SEED will continue to grow. In 2024, we are piloting SEED 3, an opportunity for graduating seniors to learn the essentials for their first year in design school while also leading their own client project. In this internship, students will support community organizations through a real-world design project, receive mentorship from a principal at Sasaki, and shadow client projects at the firm.

If you are interested in building a partnership with our SEED program, please reach out.



Two SEED alums are now forging careers at Sasaki as designers working in architecture.

Shemar Stewart first joined the Hideo Sasaki Foundation's SEED program as an intern in 2018, and served as a teaching assistant throughout college. The SEED program inspired him to switch his major to architecture. Shemar graduated from UMass Amherst in December 2022, and began an internship at Sasaki before transitioning to full time staff.

Emely Fernandez served as a SEED teaching assistant in 2021, then joined Sasaki as a summer intern in 2022. Emely credits her time with SEED as inspiration to pursue a masters in architecture, which she completed in 2023 before joining Sasaki full time.

75

SEED INTERNS SINCE 2018

15+

SEED INTERNS HAVE GONE ON TO STUDY DESIGN

A thriving design industry requires a pipeline of diverse, talented, and passionate practitioners who infuse new ideas and disrupt established patterns. Preparing such future leaders requires collaboration.

To this end, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation continues to pursue design education partnerships that advance diversity and inclusivity in the next generation of design professionals. We are part of a growing coalition connecting young students with design practitioners through deep and meaningful experiences. This work is an investment in a more equitable design industry, to the benefit of all.

In 2023, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation participated in Architecture + Design Thinking Week and in Crimson Summer Academy at Harvard University. Through these programs, professional designers connect with diverse groups of local students and provide hands-on experience with the design process and design thinking. These encounters with the field of design come at a critical point in the students' career exploration. Students come away with a greater awareness of career opportunities in design as well as direct connections to further explore their interests.



"The students' creativity is without the boundaries ours has to have in the real world. I find that to be refreshing and inspiring."

Emily Parris, Sasaki Designer and Hideo Sasaki Foundation SEED Mentor

ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN THINKING WEEK

Architecture/Design Thinking Week is a paid career exploration workshop from the Boston Society for Architecture and Boston Private Industry Council, with collaboration with local design firms. Staff from the Hideo Sasaki Foundation and Sasaki, Finegold Alexander Architects, Goody Clancy, and HMFH Architects facilitate each day of the workshop. Participating Boston Public high school students work through a design prompt, gain new design skills, and learn to communicate their ideas ahead of a final presentation.

In 2023, this four-day program took place at the BSA Space and engaged 22 high school students over February school vacation week.

The program serves as a pipeline to nonprofit design programs such as SEED at the Hideo Sasaki Foundation, the Designery at YouthBuild Boston, and Digital Ready, as well as internships at local design firms, including the BSA and PIC's Architecture/Design High School Internships.



2023 Architecture/Design Thinking Week Day 1, BSA Space, Boston, MA

CRIMSON SUMMER ACADEMY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Sasaki Foundation student programming

The Crimson Summer Academy is an exciting and innovative program for public school students in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville. Each year, the program accepts 30 to 40 ninth grade students. Over the course of three consecutive summers, cohorts engage in a stimulating mix of classes, projects, and cultural activities as they prepare for success in college and beyond.

In summer 2023, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosted 15 Crimson Summer Academy students for an afternoon. Hideo Sasaki Foundation trustee Meredith McCarthy shared her background and path to her career as an architect. Students then took part in a drawing exercise, first selecting an activity that they enjoy then imagining an ideal space for that activity to take place. The students came up with incredible designs for all kinds of spaces and places to do incredible things. Meredith then led an exciting conversation about the future of design and how 3D fabrication, automation, and technology are moving the design industry forward.

Support

Thank you to our sponsors, our donors, and our 100+ academic, civic, community, industry, and nonprofit partners, who have joined us in our efforts to advance the value of design and co-create change to shape the built environment.

2023 SPONSORS

10 WORLD TRADE BGI Boston Global Investors

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A DLJ + LEGGAT McCALL Project

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City of Boston PowerCorpsBOS
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City of Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD)
City of Cambridge STEAM Initiative
City of Everett, MA
City of Somerville, MA
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YouthBuild Boston's Designery Program

A Look Ahead



The Hideo Sasaki Foundation had a successful first year in our new downtown Boston studio. We continue to create local impact through active community-based research, public programming, and design education, serving the communities of Boston and beyond.

We are excited to see what our current Design Grants cohort will have accomplished when they wrap up their projects in June, as they reimagine a BHA open space for child care, support advocacy and community building in Roxbury, address food resiliency in East Boston, advocate for open space in Chinatown, and design a new movement training and cultural center in Revere. We continue to champion the ongoing work of many of our Design Grants alumni teams, which extends their community impact well beyond the conclusion of their grants. And we anticipate the exciting new projects we will find through our next call.

We look forward to fostering important conversations on equity and resilience. We are currently planning an exciting lineup of public events for 2024, including a workshop on creating meaningful internships and a career exploration networking event between design education alums and professionals in the industry. We hope you will join us at 110 Chauncy or online.

We continue to expand our youth programming, providing additional opportunities for more students to explore a career in design. In January, we plan to launch Designing Environmental and Social Impact (DESI). This semester-long paid internship will guide each high school intern through an independent project rooted in their own community.

We continue to set ambitious goals and generate a meaningful agenda of research, programs, and partnerships that grow our impact in communities throughout Greater Boston. We envision a future in which the power of community-based planning and design is fully realized for the benefit of the public good. We hope you will join us as we continue this important work.



Mary Anne Ocampo
Board of Trustees Chair

Cultural Planning, Community Building, and Neighborhood Stabilization in Chinatown event, 110 Chauncy, Boston, MA

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