

25 years advancing equity in design

Hideo Sasaki Foundation

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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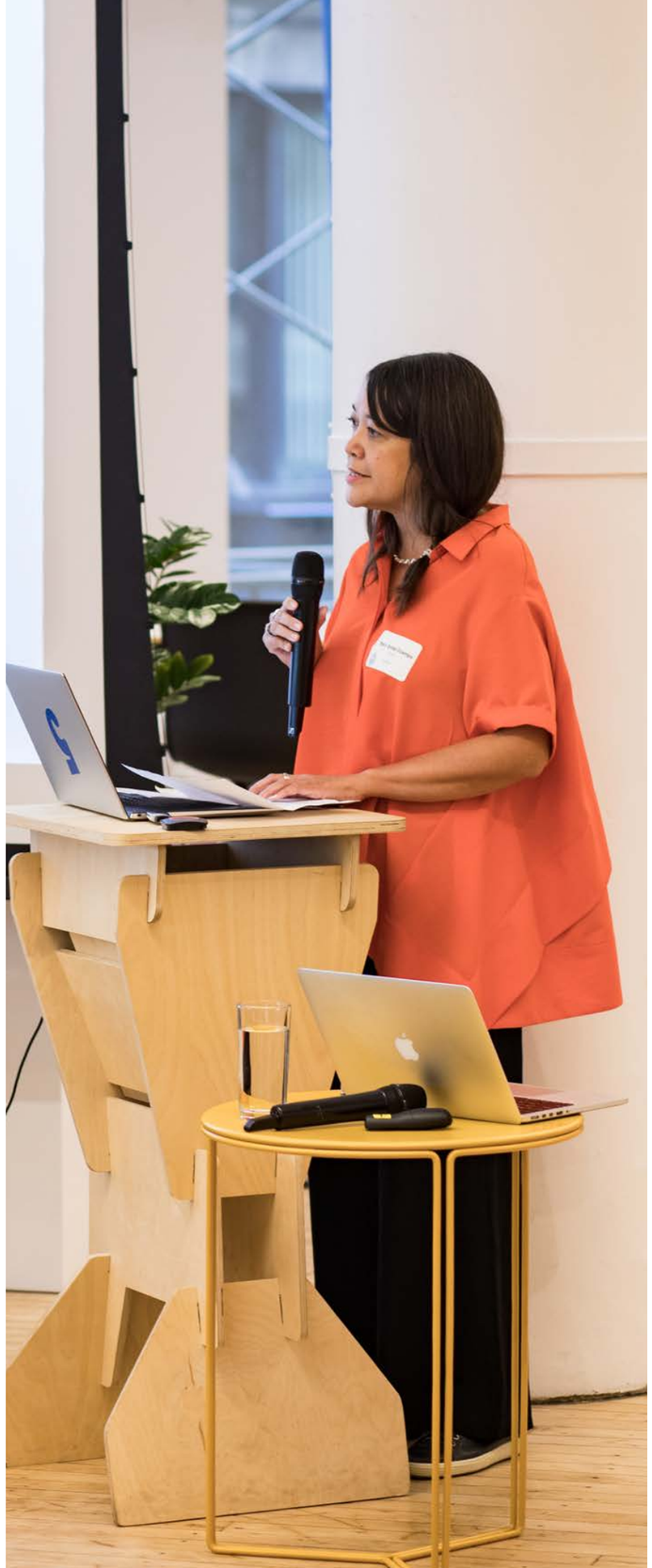
On the cover: 2025 Celebration of Design, Boston, MA

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Hideo Sasaki Foundation Board of Trustees Chair, Mary Anne Ocampo, at the Future of Collaborative Design Symposium, Boston, MA

In 2025, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation celebrated 25 years of advancing equity in design. We continue to create local impact through active community-based research, public programming, and design education, serving the communities of Boston and beyond. Thank you for joining us on our mission.

Investing in **research**, our sixth cohort of Design Grants wrapped up their projects in June 2025. The teams positively impacted the communities of Mission Hill and Roxbury, Dorchester, and Chinatown. And our seventh cohort, which will complete their projects in June 2026, is already doing incredible work. We also continued our partnership with the Cambridge Public Health Department on the Health Promotion Mini Grants. In 2025 the program funded 14 community organizations working towards a healthier Cambridge.

Our 2025 **public programming** sparked conversation around mobility equity and explored the past, present, and future of collaborative design. We also celebrated the power of women in the design industry. These programs brought more than 1,150 people together from Greater Boston and, thanks to virtual platforms, around the country.

Our **design education** efforts created space for young people to explore careers in design. Our Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) hired 45 high school interns and 10 college teaching assistants to advance design projects for local nonprofits. Our Designing Environmental and Social Impact (DESI) after-school program hired 10 high school interns and 3 college teaching assistants to use design to improve their own communities. We are grateful for the meaningful experiences, volunteer design professionals, and support we receive from state and local funders.

Wrapping up this milestone year for the foundation, we press on to set ambitious goals and generate a meaningful agenda of research, programs, and partnerships that grow our impact in communities throughout Greater Boston. In these uncertain times, we still envision a future where 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

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.

2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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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.

Friends of the Chinatown Library tabling, October 2024, Chinatown, MA | Planning for a Chinatown Library Park

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 pillars: research and grants, community learning, and design education.

We develop our research agendas, public programming, and design education initiatives through the lens of equity in design—prioritizing inclusive engagement, amplifying underrepresented voices, and addressing systemic barriers in the built environment.



The Hideo Sasaki Foundation is named after Hideo Sasaki, a Japanese American landscape architect who came of age in WWII and went on to become a leading figure in America's twentieth century modern design movement. In 1953, he founded the firm that would evolve into Sasaki and joined the faculty at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. By 1958, he was chair of Harvard's Department of Landscape Architecture. Through his teaching and practice, Hideo helped revolutionize the study of landscape architecture, pioneering the concept of collaborative design.

2025 DESI field trip to Eastie Farm, East 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 and grants bring 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.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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 provides youth 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 the community of lived experiences, to the benefit of all.

We hold the following strategic focus areas:

Creative Community Building
We support 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.

New Uses for AI in Design
We support strategies for utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly and effectively in the pursuit of community-led design solutions. The integration of AI in the design industry has raised several concerns, spanning the ethical, practical, and social, but also offers immense opportunity.



Future of Collaborative Design Symposium, Boston, MA

Research & Grants

This pillar has roots in Hideo’s impact on the design industry. He was a pioneer in the concept of collaborative design, insisting we should use the whole depth of human knowledge to solve problems.

The **Hideo Sasaki Foundation Design Grants** fund community experts to create design solutions for challenges in their neighborhoods. The program seeks ideas that promote equity and empower local communities in Greater Boston and the Massachusetts Gateway Cities.

Each spring, we issue a call for proposals. Our board and volunteer jury evaluate proposals through the lens of our strategic focus areas. We also evaluate proposals on the criteria of design, equity, inclusion, innovation, and impact. Finalists pitch their project ideas to a jury at Pitch Night, a public event attended by designers, community and civic leaders, funders, entrepreneurs, and more.

Grant winners receive funding and nearly a year of access to design experts to advance their projects. The cohort kicks off in the fall, and we recruit volunteer designers based on the needs each team identifies. We coordinate support ranging from one-on-one Q&A sessions to larger design workshops.

Design Grants teams also participate in monthly lunch and learns to benefit from Sasaki expertise. Topics include Sasaki's in-house data and design tools, community engagement, sustainability, Sasaki's Fabrication Studio, storytelling and presentation, graphics and diagramming, communications and effective marketing, and public policy.

In June, the cohort wraps up their grants by sharing final presentations in front of the Sasaki community and key stakeholders. Teams also have the opportunity to continue their projects through the summer by working with Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) interns.

In 2025, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation also partnered with the Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) and Cambridge in Motion for the **2025 Health Promotion Mini-Grants**. The annual program funds projects that promote healthy eating, physical activity, or youth mental health. Eligible groups include community organizations, schools, businesses, garden and farm programs, and government agencies that serve Cambridge.

$45k
awarded to community-led projects



Roxbury Food Truck Park design work session, Dorchester, MA



2024-2025 DESIGN GRANTS WINNER

Jardines Para Todos *(Gardens for All)*

Angela Rodriguez, Stephanie Aguayo, Veronica Taylor, Sociedad Latina Environmental and Food Justice Youth Leaders

Sociedad Latina's Youth Leaders published *Jardines Para Todos (Gardens for All): a Guide to Simple, Accessible Home Growing*. They developed this guidebook after recognizing the inaccessibility of healthy, affordable foods, the limited or nonexistent community garden spaces, and limited access to local agriculture in their neighborhoods. This guidebook, designed with support from the Hideo Sasaki Foundation and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, offers practical, easy recommendations and solutions for growing produce at home, particularly in small urban spaces.

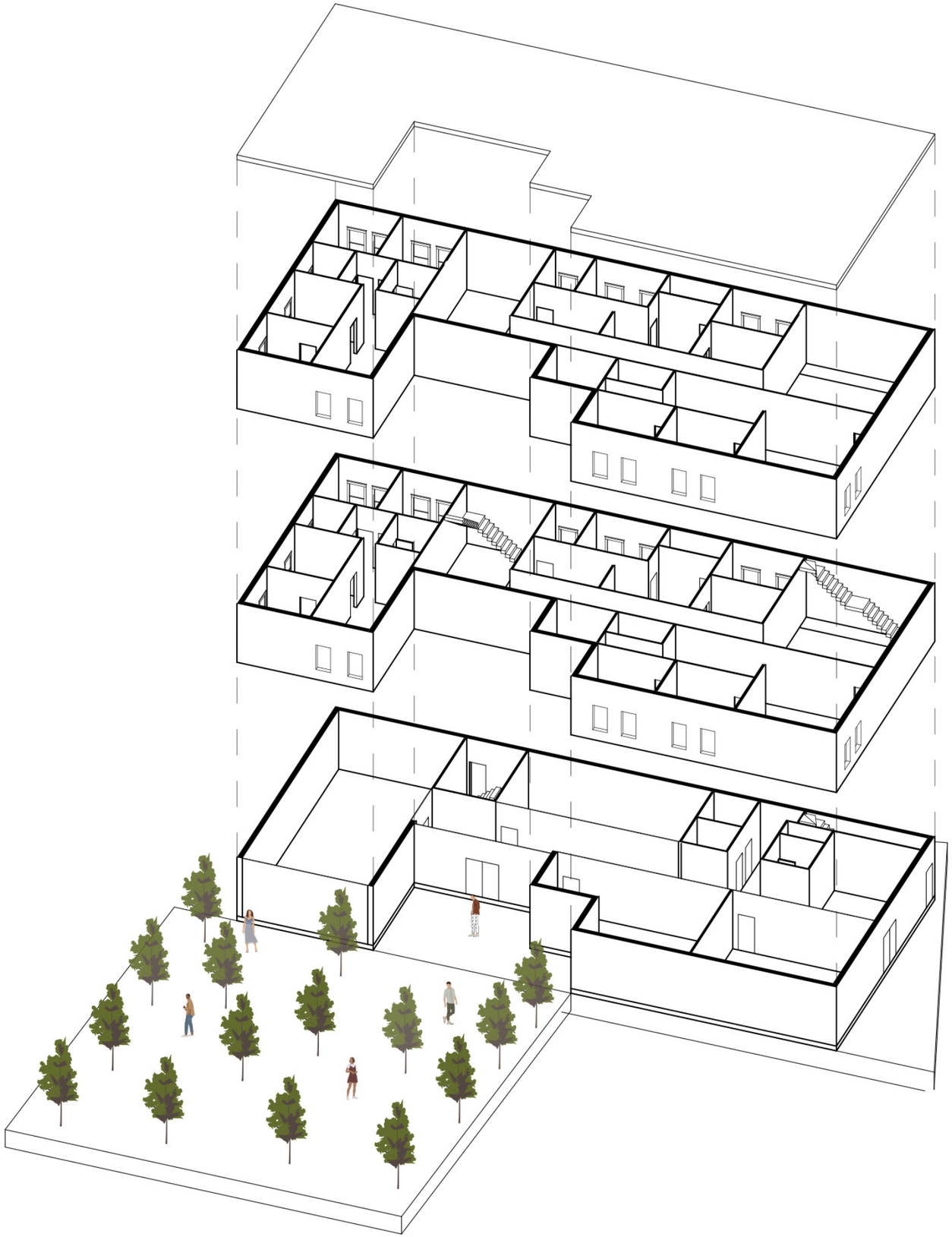
To amplify the guide's impact, Sociedad Latina Youth Leaders hosted a series of community workshops. Participants learned gardening basics and created seed starts to take home for the summer growing season. Through this hands-on engagement, the project fostered environmental awareness, self-reliance, and local leadership.

Ultimately, the Jardines Para Todos project exemplifies how youth-driven design and community collaboration can address social equity and environmental resilience, making sustainable food growing accessible to all.

100

printed and digital guidebooks distributed

Jardines Para Todos community workshop | Sociedad Latina



2024-2025 DESIGN GRANTS WINNER

Inclusive Four Corners

Marcos Beleche, Azia Carle, Marilyn Forman, Sara Kudra

Inclusive Four Corners is building stakeholder and community capacity to address critical development needs and opportunities in the Four Corners Main Street commercial district. The team's objective is to ensure participation of sectors often left out of conversations regarding the needs in their community.

Team members sought to educate themselves on tools and practices that could build on inclusive approaches to engaging those without a history of engagement. The tools they created help establish a practice of dialogue that takes into account technical expertise and lived experience, intentionally selecting and transforming them into more familiar and collective activities. These resources will inform and engage the community about their ability to shape the future of their neighborhood.

During the project, the team collaborated on a neighborhood-scale analysis of Four Corners, looking at factors like demographics and the existing business landscape. The area has a strong presence of minority-owned businesses, and a broader city-wide need for housing. The team explored potential uses for four vacant city-owned parcels in the neighborhood to address both needs. They commissioned a more detailed exploration of 317 Washington Street as a mixed-use site combining community-serving commercial space with housing. This helped translate broader planning ideas into a more tangible architectural framework. The project also developed precedent studies of shared commercial spaces in Greater Boston and Massachusetts to communicate development possibilities in an accessible way.

Cesar Diego, 2023 SEED alum and 2025 DESI teaching assistant, worked with 2024 Design Grants winner Inclusive Four Corners. His work supported their effort to build an inclusive learning experience for community members to understand the neighborhood planning process and advocate for their community's vision.

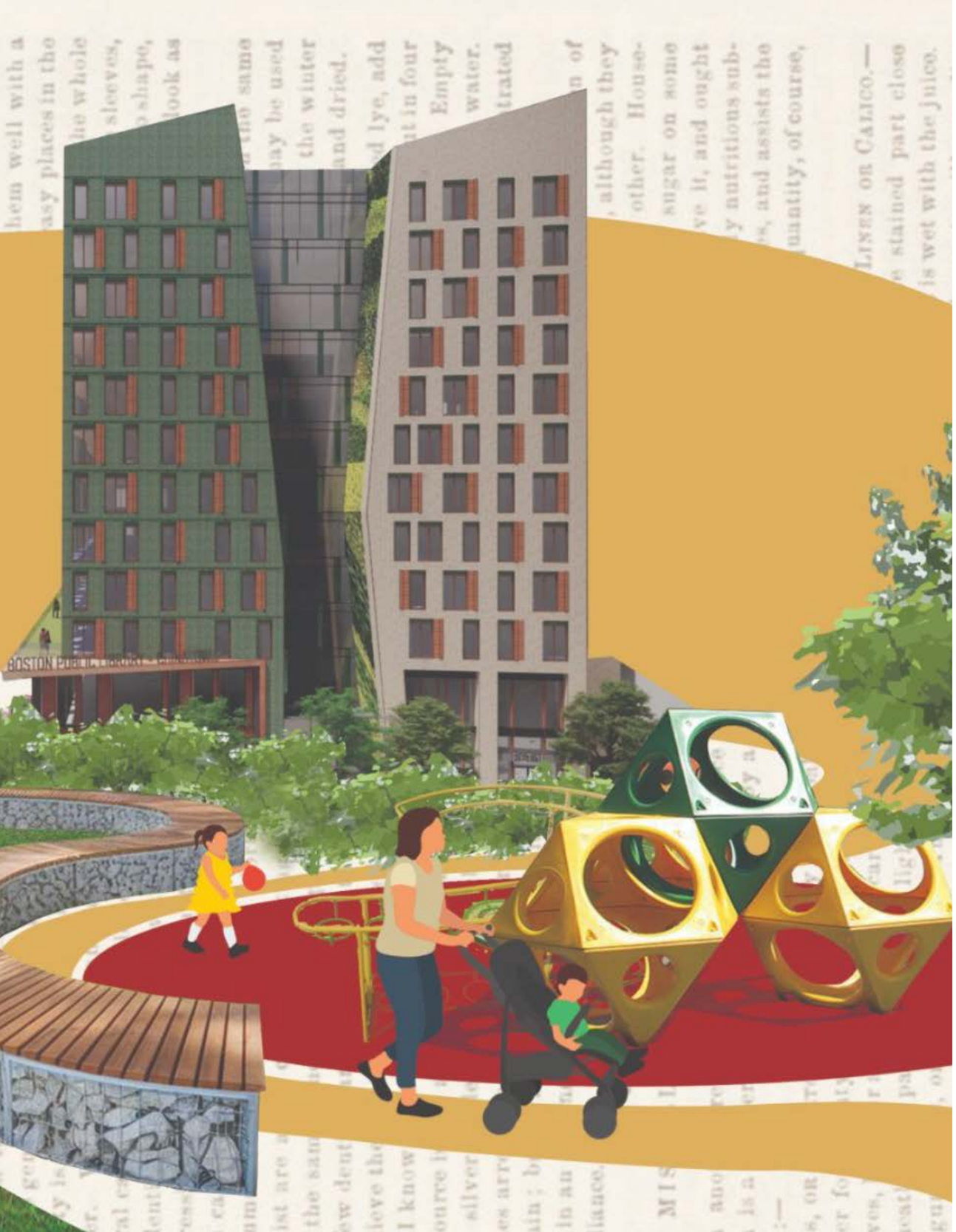
To wrap up his internship, he presented a proposed design for two of the city-owned parcels in the Four Corners neighborhood of Dorchester. The first floor of Cesar's design is a small business incubator and community space, with housing on the two floors above.

This work was made possible through grant funding the Hideo Sasaki Foundation received from the City of Boston's SuccessLink program.

74

residents and businesses completed the storefront evaluation survey

Four Corners mixed-use development | Cesar Diego with Four Corners Main Streets



2024–2025 DESIGN GRANTS WINNER

Planning for a Chinatown Library Park

Vivian Wu Wong, Lydia Lowe, Anita Yip, Angela Soo Hoo

With a permanent Chinatown branch of the Boston Public Library scheduled to break ground in fall 2025, the Friends of the Chinatown Library (FOCL), Chinatown residents, and community groups have expressed interest in creating a small park or community garden next to the new library branch. Since the land is privately owned and the landowner has not yet demonstrated interest in selling this parcel, FOCL has begun a multifaceted community campaign to win over key stakeholders and mobilize support for this proposed green space.

With a tree canopy of less than 10 percent and 88 percent of the land deemed impervious, Chinatown is the densest and hottest neighborhood in Boston, and one which is also vulnerable to flooding and prone to language and cultural isolation. As the sole surviving Chinese ethnic enclave in New England, Boston Chinatown serves as a vital gathering place and home for a variety of people. While its population has increased by 25 percent from 2000 to 2020, socioeconomic polarization has also increased within the neighborhood. Presently, more than 20 percent of households have an income of $200,000 or more, with a third living in poverty.

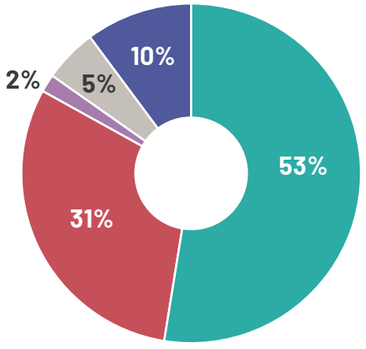
A library park can be an important civic space linking people from many walks of life, and the process of planning for one should be inclusive. Through community tabling to shape the park's vision, FOCL actively involved at least 160 Chinatown residents at four community-wide events during summer and fall 2024. The team also worked with Hideo Sasaki Foundation SEED 3 interns in summer 2025 to further involve community members in developing the vision. This co-design process ensures that the park will reflect the diverse voices, needs, and aspirations of the community it serves. With the support that FOCL received from the Hideo Sasaki Foundation, the project team received the guidance and support needed to move the campaign forward.

160+

Chinatown residents connected to FOCL through community tabling events

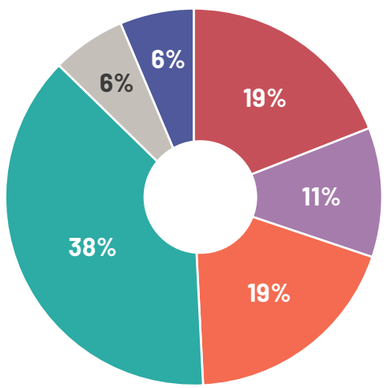
Chinatown Library Park graphic | SEED 3 and Improving Open Space in Chinatown

In 2025, our seventh annual Design Grants call for proposals received 20 applications representing 40+ organizations and institutions, 8 Boston communities, 2 Greater Boston cities, 3 Massachusetts Gateway Cities, and multiple proposals focusing on Greater Boston.



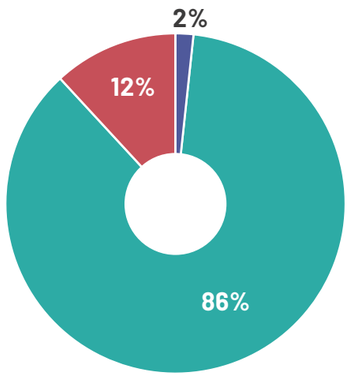
GENDER

- Cisgender woman
- Cisgender man
- Genderqueer/non-conforming
- Not listed
- Prefer not to answer



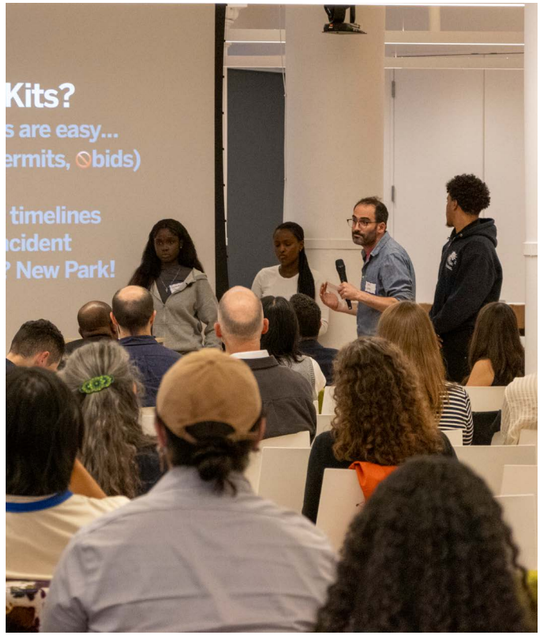
RACE AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

- American Indian, Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black, African American
- Hispanic, Latino, Spanish
- Middle Eastern, North African
- White
- Other
- Prefer not to answer



DISABILITIES

- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to answer



2025 Design Grants Pitch Night, Boston, MA

2025 Design Grants Pitch Night, Boston, MA

PITCH NIGHT 2025

At Pitch Night 2025, eight Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas for projects that address creative community building, new models for housing, transit access, health and wellbeing, climate adaptation, and new uses for AI in design, receiving a stipend for their time. The 85+ attendees included designers, planners, artists, community leaders, civic leaders, and entrepreneurs.

Thank you to our 2025 jurors for all of your time and effort supporting the Design Grants program: Timothy Gale, Jury Chair, of Sasaki, Eudad Gonzalez of Turner Construction Company, Nigel Jacob of New Urban Mechanics Labs, Liz Luc Clowes of the Boston Food Forest Coalition, and Julia Wallerce of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.



Culinary Commons

Mark Araujo, Andrea Catania

Culinary Commons from EquiTable Food Systems is an initiative focused on establishing public kitchens as essential community infrastructure to foster food justice and social cohesion in urban areas like Boston. These sites serve as more than just cooking spaces; they are platforms for social change, enabling individuals to connect with their culinary heritage and build community ties. By addressing the lack of accessible venues for food-related gatherings, the team aims to create spaces where people can share meals, engage in culinary activities, and organize for food justice.



Upham's Corner Public Kitchen in 2024, photo courtesy EquiTable Food Systems

Roxbury Food Truck Park

Courtney Roy Branigan, Oswald Black, Daryl Moore, Akeem Raphael

CommonWealth Kitchen is excited to partner with the City of Boston, Madison Park Development Corporation, and the community to launch the Roxbury Food Truck Park. Roxbury, one of Boston's historically underserved communities, has limited access to diverse and affordable food options. This initiative will transform underutilized public space along Malcolm X Boulevard to establish a food truck park, increasing access to healthy, culturally inclusive foods while creating economic opportunities for local entrepreneurs.



Food Trucks, photo courtesy CommonWealth Kitchen

SHADE

Jeff Goldenson, Debbie Bonilla, Matthew Keane, Samadhi Simmons, Eliseu Goncalves

SHADE is temporary, teen-led public art in public parks for public health. Over the next year, the team hopes to transition from a grant-funded organization to a teen-led earned income non-profit by further developing, open-sourcing, and leasing their product, SHADE. SHADE is a safe, affordable, temporary outdoor building system. Their mission is to empower regional teen teams and communities, like theirs, to address the teen mental health crisis by creating new destinations in public parks for teens to hang out, find friends, and make new ones in real life.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation also serves as SHADE's fiscal sponsor, supporting the organization as they grow.



SHADE's Friday Night Hype in Cambridge, MA, photo courtesy SHADE, Leise Jones Photography



2025 Design Grants finalists and jurors at Pitch Night, Boston, MA

Charles River Floating Wetland

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation celebrates 2018 Design Grants winner Charles River Floating Wetland, from the Charles River Conservancy (CRC). The project received both a 2025 Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and a 2025 Honor Award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA).

Urbanization severely impacts waterways, leading to nutrient pollution, biodiversity loss, and degraded ecosystems. This collaborative investigation, conducted by the CRC, Dr. McNamara Rome at Northeastern University, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation, and Sasaki, explored floating wetlands as an innovative solution to improve degraded urban waters. This research addresses the linked challenges of missing habitat, degraded water quality, and impoverished public perception of urban waters. By combining scientific research, design experimentation, and public outreach, the project demonstrates how floating wetlands can enhance water quality, support biodiversity, and provide educational opportunities. The findings offer a defensible method for sizing floating wetlands and highlight their potential as an effective tool for landscape architects to address urban water quality challenges and foster environmental stewardship.

The multi-year monitoring results show that one acre of floating wetland can offset nutrient loading from 7 to 15 acres of dense urban development, comparable to infiltration-based green infrastructure and more effective than biofiltration methods and green roofs. Ecologically, they also enhanced aquatic habitat, attracting native fish, improving macroinvertebrate diversity, and supporting zooplankton dynamics that suppress algal blooms.

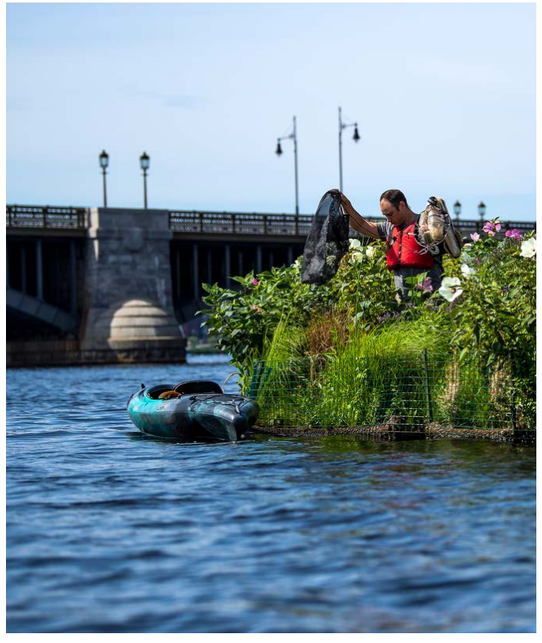
Community engagement was central: students built mini floating wetlands using STEAM kits, kayak tours introduced residents to the project, and a solar-powered underwater camera connected the public to river life. These efforts boosted environmental awareness and participation.

The award recognizes not just the project's excellence in research and environmental impact, but its creative blend of science, design, engineering, and public engagement. Floating wetlands are now being celebrated as a powerful, scalable solution for making cities healthier, more beautiful, and more resilient.

Learn more at thecharles.org/floating-wetlands.



BSLA Awards Ceremony at Fieldday 2025



Charles River Floating Wetland, courtesy Charles River Conservancy

Improving Open Space in Chinatown

2023 Design Grants winner Improving Open Space in Chinatown developed a long-term vision for interconnected open spaces in Chinatown, with a particular focus on the eastern edge of the community.

The grant process helped energize and encourage residents to advocate for open space improvements. They have continued to be active in many public workshops and discussions about Phillips Square, Reconnecting Chinatown (air rights over the Mass Pike), and the vision of a park next to the future Chinatown Library. The community also has continued to advocate for better pedestrian connections to link isolated open spaces.

Chinatown Community Land Trust, Friends of Reggie Wong Park, and Sasaki have been moving forward with the redesign plan for Reggie Wong Memorial Park,



Chinatown Garden Brigade, courtesy Chinatown CLT

expecting to break ground lin late 2026, after MassDOT completes soil remediation. The community is 67 percent through its $3 million capital campaign.

Boston Transportation Department and Sasaki are finalizing the design proposal for Phillips Square, and community advocates have called for the project to be named Tunney Lee Plaza.

G{Code}

G{Code}, a 2018 Design Grants winner, empowers Black, Brown, and Indigenous women and nonbinary 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.

G{Code}'s current 12-week virtual programs for individuals between the ages of 18 to 25 teach the foundations of web development and explore the world of data analytics. Their Tech Apprenticeship Program is in partnership with the City of Boston's Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity. This after-school apprenticeship grants 10 Boston Public high school students 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.

And G{Code} has reached a major milestone, with construction officially underway at the G{Code} House. They continue to work towards completely renovating 43 Hutchings Street in Roxbury into a state-of-the-art tech center that combines training with housing for G{Code} fellows. By addressing basic needs, G{Code} can facilitate a conducive environment for up to 14 individuals to hone their technical skills, build professional networks, secure internships, and transition into the workforce. The space will foster peer learning and mentorship.

Learn more and get involved at thegcodehouse.com.



G{Code} House in Roxbury, MA, courtesy G{Code}

Public Programming

This pillar reflects Hideo’s time as Harvard faculty. He invited busy practitioners in a variety of disciplines to guest teach, enriching the curriculum and connecting it to the real world.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's **public programming** amplifies a diversity of voices and addresses socially relevant topics as we work toward systemic change. Our panel discussions and workshops bring together a variety of experts for impactful conversations. Our social events foster deeper community and support within the design industry.

In 2025, our public programming centered on exploring the past, present, and future of collaborative design, of which Hideo was a pioneer. This kicked off in May with a conversation between two of Hideo's former students and colleagues and Sasaki's current president. In the fall, we hosted a symposium that reflected on Hideo's legacy, then connected it to the current work of designers, civic leaders, and community organizers who are taking collaborative design into the future.

We also hosted a workshop that challenged participants to explore how to find common ground for more effective antiracism, and a panel discussion centered on designing mobility equity.

Our annual Women in Leadership Happy Hour built connections between women at every stage in their career and life, from students to principals. Supporting underrepresented groups enables the design professions to better reflect a diversity of lived experiences. This benefits not only the design industry, but the communities it serves.

We also were honored to present at two conferences in 2025. At BSLA's Fieldday, we shared a lightning talk on educating and empowering the future design workforce. At Leading Locally from the Council on Foundations, SEED 3 alum Mohammed Arham joined us to present how we partner our SEED high school interns with our Design Grants teams to further design impact in our communities.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation serves as fiscal sponsor for the Hispanic Professionals in Design and Construction Network, which emerged from our 2024 Women in Leadership Happy Hour. HPDC desires to empower Hispanic professionals in the design and construction industry by creating a vibrant community that fosters engagement and collaboration through networking opportunities, educational resources, and mentorship.

1,150+
attendees at our public events



Women in Leadership Happy Hour, Boston, MA

Design Professionals Trivia Night



February 13, 2025
This event brought together emerging design professionals to enjoy an evening connecting on a fun personal level.

It It Racist? Is It Sexist? Workshop



March 12, 2025
With author Betsy Leondar-Wright, attendees unpack their values and habits, practice conversations, and offer recommendations for more effective antiracism.

Hideo Sasaki: a Legacy of Collaborative Design



May 15, 2025
In this conversation, two of Hideo Sasaki's former students and colleagues explored Hideo Sasaki's legacy and practice, and the genesis of collaborative design.

2025 Design Grants Pitch Night



May 29, 2025
Sasaki Foundation Design Grants finalists pitched their ideas for projects in front of 85+ designers, planners, artists, community leaders, civic leaders, and entrepreneurs.

Women in AEC Leadership Happy Hour



August 21, 2025
This networking event celebrated all individuals who identify as women in the design industry. Attendees enjoyed drinks and appetizers while building meaningful connections.

Designing Mobility Equity



September 25, 2025
This panel discussion explored how mobility equity takes shape in design. Leaders in mobility and urban design considered how equity is embedded in both process and outcome.

The Future of Collaborative Design Pre-convening



September 30, 2025
This keynote and panel discussion explored Hideo's pivotal role in shaping an integrated, multidisciplinary design education and practice, and what radical collaboration means today.

The Future of Collaborative Design Symposium



October 3, 2025
This day-long symposium included keynote discussions, panels, and workshops that explored the past, present, and future of collaborative design.

Hideo Sasaki Foundation
Harvard University Graduate School of Design



Future of Collaborative Design Poster

On Friday, October 3, 2025, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosted the Future of Collaborative Design Symposium at Sasaki's Boston office, with a pre-convening at the Harvard Graduate School of Design the Tuesday evening prior. Across both days, 250+ individuals joined us in exploring Hideo Sasaki's enduring legacy of radical collaboration in design. We are grateful to all our speakers and panelists for their insights and to our attendees for engaging in these important conversations about the past, present, and future of collaborative practice.



Future of Collaborative Design speakers and panelists

Thank you to event sponsors Sasaki, Harvard GSD, Arielly Photography, Boston Society for Architecture, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, Reed Hilderbrand, Acentech, McNamara Salvia, Stimson, and Ummo.

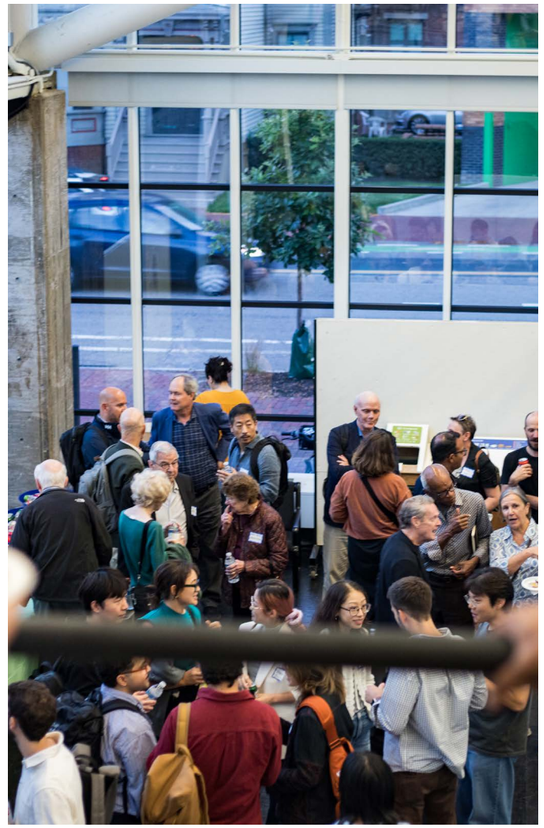


Our pre-convening at Gund Hall examined Hideo Sasaki's influence on post-war American landscape architecture and his pioneering vision for an integrated, multidisciplinary design education at the Harvard GSD —alongside his founding of a firm that embodied this approach. Keynote speaker Gary Hilderbrand, Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard GSD and founding principal of Reed Hilderbrand, explored how Hideo's ideas were radical for his time and how his approach to solving complex problems created permeability between the GSD and Hideo's firm.

In the discussion that followed, panelists Stephen Gray, Grayscale Collaborative; Dennis Pieprz, Sasaki; Thaïsa Way, Dumbarton Oaks; Tao Zhang, Sasaki; and moderator Mary Anne Ocampo, Sasaki; joined Gary in reflecting on the meaning of Hideo's legacy today.

Watch the pre-convening on our YouTube page.

Future of Collaborative Design Pre-convening keynote, Cambridge, MA



Future of Collaborative Design Pre-convening reception, Cambridge, MA



Future of Collaborative Design Pre-convening panelists, Cambridge, MA



Future of Collaborative Design keynote, Boston, MA



The State of Integrative Design keynote, Boston, MA

At our day-long symposium, held in Sasaki's Boston office, we saw designers, planners, municipal leaders, community organizations, and young professionals come together to explore the future of collaborative design through keynotes, panels, and workshops.

Opening keynote speaker Maurice D. Cox, Emma Bloomberg Professor in Residence of Urban Planning and Design at the Harvard GSD, examined the intersection of architecture, design, and politics in equitable city development. He was followed by Marta Guerra and Margit Liander, associate principals at Sasaki, who shared the State of Integrative Design, highlighting how Hideo's firm continues to lead with radical collaboration.

Our lunch panel, Collaborative Design as World Building, brought together city leaders from Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville to discuss how municipalities are leading collaborative design initiatives. Diana Fernandez Bibeau, Deputy Chief of Urban Design at the Boston Planning Department; Luisa Oliveira, Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry at the City of Somerville; and Julie Wormser, Chief Climate Officer at the City of Cambridge; shared their work alongside moderator Tiffany Chu, Chief of Staff to Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

Throughout the day, lightning talks and small sessions addressed critical questions about inclusive design practices, new technologies, community-led initiatives, and empowering the next generations of design professionals.

Our Environment and Technology lightning talks examined what new expertise is required to design projects in 2025, with Ken Goulding, Sasaki; Nigel Jacob, RethinkAI; Allentza Michel, Powerful Pathways; and David Morgan, Suffolk Construction.

Our Designers, Clients, and Communities lightning talks explored how the design process can include everyone as designers, with Gabriel Cira, ARCH CIRA; Meera Deean, City of Boston; Melissa Peters, City of Cambridge; Patricia Gruits, MASS Design Group; Heang Leung Rubin, CHIC Community Engagement; Chuyi Yin, Sasaki; and moderator Felicia Jiang, Sasaki.

Our Implementing the Future small session shared how local organizations are empowering the next generation of design professionals, with Estefany Benitez, Hideo Sasaki Foundation; Neil Daniel, YouthBuild Boston; Taylor Johnson, Boston Society for Architecture; Beth Lundell Garver, Boston Architectural College; Taylor Powers, PowerCorpsBOS; and moderator Folajimi Bademosi, Hideo Sasaki Foundation.

Our Building Community Power, Capacity, and Ownership small session discussed what radical collaboration looks like in today's political climate, with Caroline Ellenbird, Comunidades Enraizadas Community Land Trust; Lydia Lowe, Chinatown Community Land Trust; Minnie McMahon, Greater Boston Community Land Trust Network; Armani White, Reclaim Roxbury; and moderator Gabriel Ramos, Sasaki.

We wrapped up the day with a reception that created space for attendees to connect and discuss what they would like to take away from the symposium.



Collaborative Design as World Building panelists, Boston, MA



Future of Collaborative Design Symposium audience, Boston, MA



Building Community Power, Capacity, and Ownership panelists, Boston, MA



Future of Collaborative Design reception, Boston, MA

Design Education

This pillar is our oldest, connecting to Hideo’s time as faculty and landscape architecture department chair at the Harvard GSD. He broke down the traditional barriers between practice and teaching.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's **design education** provides youth with paid opportunities to discover and explore careers in design. We recruit students from diverse backgrounds and identities, and show them the power they have to shape their world. We support them on their journey from curious student to design professional.

Designing Environmental and Social Impact (DESI) is a semester-long paid internship that engages Greater Boston high school students in researching and developing solutions to environmental and social issues in their own communities. Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) is a 6-week paid internship that provides career exploration for students new to design and valuable experience for students pursuing a career in the design industry.

In addition to our own youth programs, we pursue partnerships that advance diversity and inclusivity in the next generation of design professionals. We are part of a growing coalition connecting students and young adults with design practitioners through deep and meaningful experiences. This work is an investment in a more equitable design industry, to the benefit of all.

We are an engaged member of the City of Boston Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA) Partner Network and the Boston After School & Beyond network. These networks of youth-focused community partners and city agencies meet to connect, network, share resources and opportunities, and discuss topics and issues facing the city's young population.

Through our design education programs and partnerships, professional designers connect with diverse groups of youth and provide hands-on experience with the design process and design thinking. Participants come away with a greater awareness of career opportunities in design as well as direct connections to further explore their interests.

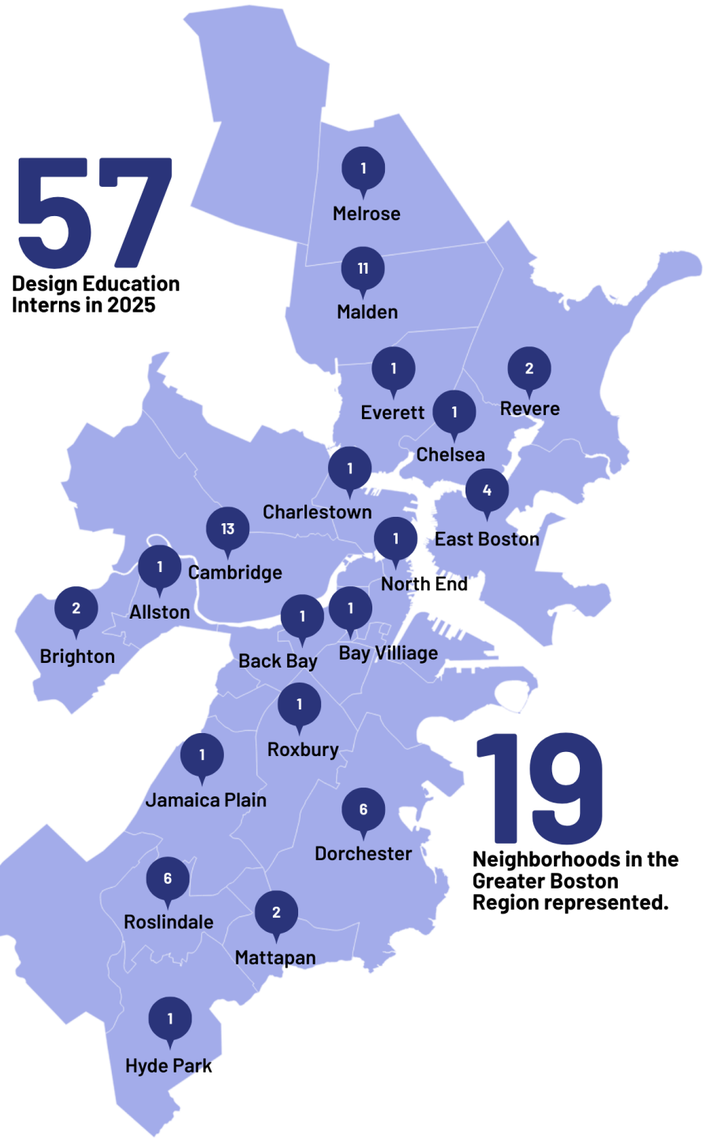
250+

students introduced to careers in design



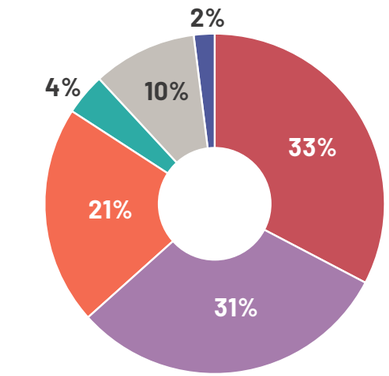
2025 DESI site visit at the Boston Public Library Leventhal Map and Education Center, Boston, MA

Our 2025 paid design education interns reflect the diversity of communities they represent, advancing equity in the next generation of design professionals. A thriving design industry requires a pipeline of diverse, talented, and passionate practitioners who infuse new ideas and disrupt established patterns.

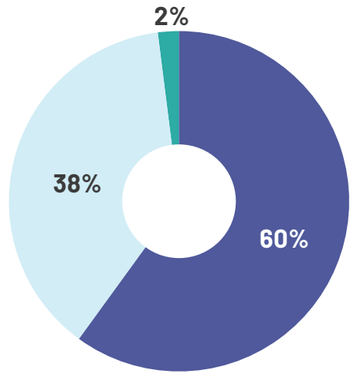


57
Design Education Interns in 2025

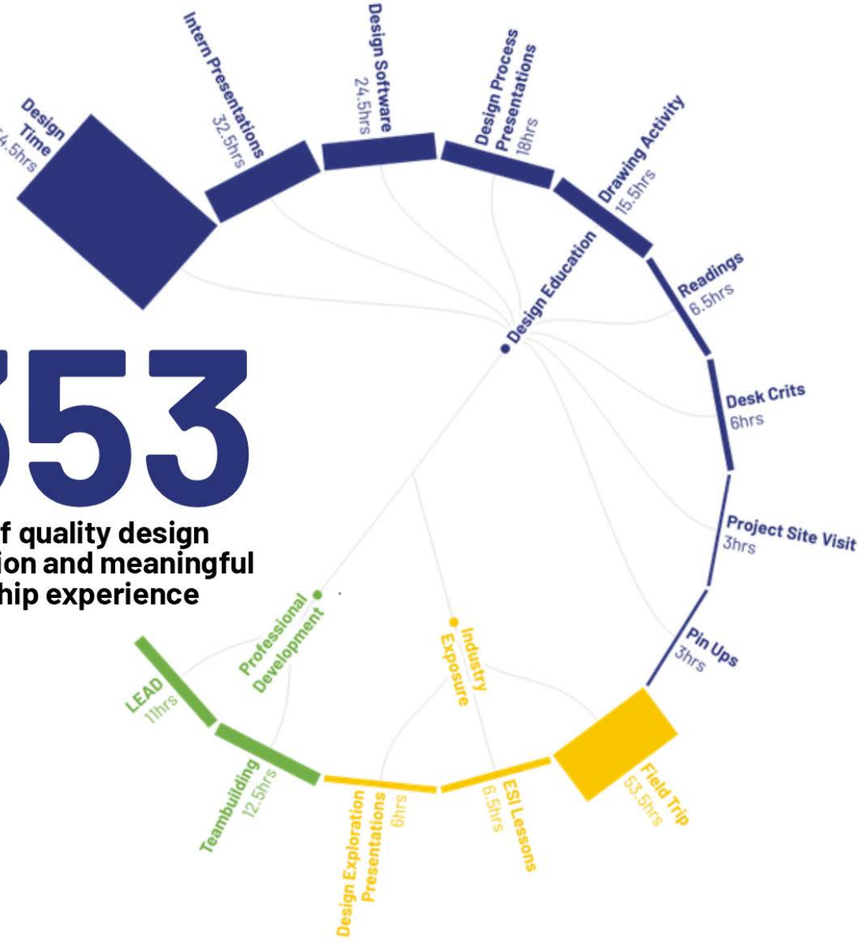
19
Neighborhoods in the Greater Boston Region represented.



- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Two or more races
- Prefer not to answer



- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer



353
hours of quality design education and meaningful internship experience

Summer Exploratory Experience in Design (SEED) is a six-week paid internship for high school students from the Boston area. With the help of teaching assistants, professional designers, and partner organizations, interns learn about careers in the design field and develop real local projects.

in 2025, we welcomed 45 high school interns and 10 teaching assistants to design for 6 nonprofit organizations. In SEED 1, our first year interns worked to design concepts for the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) and the Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC). In SEED 2, our returning interns designed for Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI). In SEED 3, our advanced interns designed for Sociedad Latina, the Elizabeth Peabody House, and Friends of the Chinatown Library (FOCL).

In 2025, we notably had six SEED and DESI alumni returning as teaching assistants: the highest number of returning alumni to date. Our teaching assistants are college-age design students who guide our high school interns while learning about leadership, team management, project management, and communication.

SEED 1

SEED 1 is open to all high school students, providing an introduction to the design industry. Students work collaboratively in teams to advance their project, while learning about the design process and tools designers use.

Collaborating with MyRWA, three teams of SEED 1 interns redesigned Barry Field as a welcoming public park for community members of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy. The field is located next to the Tobin Bridge and along the Little Mystic Channel. MyRWA, in partnership with the Charlestown community, the City of Boston, and Massport, has been creating a vision for a high-quality park along the Little Mystic Channel to provide better opportunities for recreation, access to nature, social gatherings, and climate resiliency. This waterbody is a long-forgotten corner of Boston's waterfront, with years of deferred maintenance and a lack of open space amenities. This is area is also susceptible to coastal and inland flooding, and the entire neighborhood is threatened by increasing surface temperatures in the summer.

Our 2025 SEED interns represented 10 Boston neighborhoods as well as Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Melrose, and Revere. Our interns also represented 19 local and regional schools.

2024 SEED final presentations, Boston, MA

Special thanks to our 2025 volunteers.

SEED 1 project advisors were Isaac Andrade, Sasaki; Michael Chavez, Social Impact Collective; Nick Dyer, Sasaki; Carley Elliott, Sasaki; Emely Fernandez, Sasaki; Wilcox Hallahan, Sasaki; Lauren Li, Sasaki; Shiyao Liu, Sasaki; Noah McAllister; Elise Park, Sasaki; Rinika Prince, Sasaki; Eial Rosenstock-Levy, Sasaki; Agustin Sanudo, Sasaki; and Ankita Shah, Peabody Office.

SEED 2 project advisors were Beril Gök; Emily Menard, Weston and Sampson; Risako Nozaki, Institute for Human Centered Design; Lucia Pena-Banda, Boston Planning Department; Ashley Pepen; James Poche, Sasaki; Shovan Shah, Sasaki; and Carlos Torres, Sasaki.

SEED 3 mentors were Josue Cisneros, Avid Engineers; Ivelisse Otero, Sasaki; and Ian Scherling, Sasaki.

Presenters were Jose Cotto, Utile; Muhan Cui, Sasaki; Krista Easterly, Sasaki; Kate England, MassDEP; Clare Liu, Sasaki; Sidney Marcey, Sasaki. Principal interviewees were Mary Anne Ocampo, Sasaki; and Eudad Gonzalez, Turner.

Thank you to the following organizations:

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

Partners: Boston Food Forest Coalition (Orion Kriegman), Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (Rene Mardones), Elizabeth Peabody House (Matthew Caughey), Friends of Chinatown Library (Vivian Wu Wong), Mystic River Watershed Association (Karl Alexander and Marissa Zampino), Sasaki, and Sociedad Latina (Stephanie Aguayo)

Supporting Organizations: Basis Tech, City of Boston Disabilities Commission (Patricia Mendez , Andrea Patton, Sara Leung, and Kristen McCosh), Commodore Builders (Karellis Rivera and Mariana Zapata), The Curious Design, DREAM Collaborative (Laura Neubauer, Troy Depeiza, and Michael Paganetti), and Recover Green Roofs (Katina Bentley and Steph Almasi)

Our remaining SEED 1 teams collaborated with BFFC to develop design concepts for the garage located at the back of the Upham's Corner Food Forest. The Upham's Corner Food Forest was collaboratively built in 2021 by dedicated neighbors, the Boston Food Forest Coalition, the City of Boston's Grassroots Program, COGdesign, and Restoring Roots Coop. Today, it is a space where community members can engage with nature, relax, and grow food. However, an old three-car garage has remained untouched for decades. The structure has some historic elements dating back to the early 20th century. It is also part of the retaining wall for abutting properties. Through conversations with BFFC staff and key community stakeholders in Upham's Corner, each team developed a concept to redevelop the garage and engage the community through programming.

SEED 2

SEED 2 is open to all high school students who have previously participated in SEED 1. they also work collaboratively in teams, building on the knowledge and skills gained the previous summer.

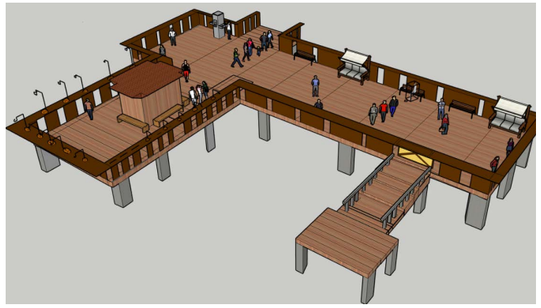
Our SEED 2 teams collaborated with DSNI to explore concepts for creating a climate resilience hub in a vacant lot in the neighborhood. The undeveloped area at the corner of Dudley Street and Brook Avenue has been vacant for many years, but has been used by community members in different ways at different times. Thanks to community pressure in 2020, the site came back to the forefront as needing investment and attention. DSNI conducted a community process around site development. DSNI was formed by Dudley residents 35 years ago seeking to reclaim a neighborhood ravaged by disinvestment, arson fires, and dumping. This movement has led to family stability and the creation of a community land trust. Today, the once garbage-strewn lots have been rebuilt with quality affordable houses, parks, playgrounds, gardens, community facilities, and new businesses. The climate resilience hub designs will extend DSNI's research in response to the disproportionate effect of climate change on their community.



Team Aquila's design for Barry Field
Anisa, Aron, Sophie, Joudia, and Henry with TAs Sophia and Karina



Team Corvus's design for Barry Field
Constance, Ketlyn, Jessica, and Le'Shawn withTA Parmis



Team Dorado's design for Barry Field
Ariyanna, David, Nhi, Raul, and Sara with TA Arham



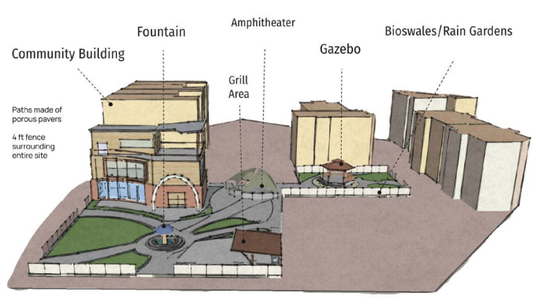
Team Lynx's design for Upham's Corner Food Forest
Alexander, Darlin, Kamari, and Derlene with TA Mubarak



Team Pegasus's design for Upham's Corner Food Forest
Abdullah, Maranda, Eric, Kiara, and Annaka with TA Alina



Team Vulpecula's design for Upham's Corner Food Forest
Zein, Ilyssa, Matthew, and Angela with TA Maryam



Team Andromeda's Roxbury Corner design
Siena, Ryan, Jaysen, Nhi, Musie, and Byron, with TA Jharitza



Team Draco's Plaza Merced design
Keala, Ermias, Suely, Salina, and Emma, with TA Nik

SEED 3
SEED 3 aims to prepare SEED and DESI alumni who will enter university in the fall. The SEED 3 interns were hand-chosen based on their dedication and initiative in their past projects, their ability to collaborate, and their ability to work independently.

We match each SEED 3 intern with a leader in the design industry to mentor them through the design process. Leading them through their experience was SEED 3 design lead, Alexis Mazzatta, who provided support as they learned how to draw, use the design software, and manage their project.

Nelly Bautista Matias, SEED 2024 and DESI 2025 alum, and **Yohan Pareek**, 2023 and 2024 SEED and 2024 DESI alum, worked with 2024 Design Grants winner Sociedad Latina to transform the Tobin Commmunity Center Garden in Mission Hill into a dynamic space that encourages engagement, sustainability, and year-round use. The garden is in a good location but lacks visibility and opportunities to participate. Sociedad Latina would like to see the garden transform into a dynamic, multifunctional space through thoughtful and creative design that encourages participation, sustainability, and year-round use. Nelly and Yohan's design is an efficient garden space that is more appealing and useful to the community. Their design allows the garden to fulfill its potential as a vibrant, inclusive, and educational green space.

Nelly started at Wentworth Institute of Technology in fall 2025, studying architecture. Yohan is a senior in Cambridge.

Samuel Falke, 2023 and 2024 SEED and 2024 DESI alum, **Elfe Hughes**, 2024 SEED and 2025 DESI alum, and **Kathleen Yick**, 2024 SEED and 2025 DESI alum, worked with 2024 Design Grants winner FOCL to envision a permanent green space near the new Boston Public Library Chinatown branch. The library is broke ground in fall 2025. Keeping in mind the needs of the Chinatown community, Sam, Elfe, and Kathleen designed an outdoor space to help the community envision the adjacent site as a park. Their design will support the multifaceted community campaign that FOCL is launching to win over key stakeholders and mobilize support for this proposed green space.

Elfe started at Syracuse University in fall 2025, studying architecture. Kathleen started at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying architecture and engineering. Samuel is a senior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science.

Garabed Kalajian and **Safiwah Yesmin**, both 2023 and 2024 SEED alum, worked with the Elizabeth Peabody House to design an outdoor space for young children to learn and play together while connecting with nature. Elizabeth Peabody House recently opened a new educational center for toddlers in a historic church building in Somerville. The site has limited outdoor space available to connect their youngest learners with nature while providing them with adequate physical play time. Garabed and Safiwah developed concepts for an outdoor space connecting nature and the importance and power of play with a calming space for children to be together. Their concept aligned with the limitations and goals of a historic preservation restriction that exists on the old church building, while also incorporating the characteristics of the Reggio-Emilia educational philosophy. Their design envisions a space where students can connect with nature and learn and play together.

Garabed started at Northeastern University in fall 2025, studying civil engineering and architecture. Safiwah started at Wentworth Institute of technology in fall 2025, studying architecture.



rendering of redesigned Tobin Community Center Garden | SEED 3 with Sociedad Latina



model of a future Chinatown library park | SEED 3 with Friends of the Chinatown Library



rendering of Elizabeth Peabody House Toddler Center outdoor space | SEED 3 with Elizabeth Peabody House



2025 SEED interns first day, Boston, MA

2025 SEED STAFF

Estefany Benitez, Program Manager
Folajimi Bademosi, Program Coordinator
Alexis Mazzatta, SEED 3 Design Lead
Mohammed Arham, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Parmis Mokhtari-Dizaji, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Maryam Khramaz, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Alina Dixon, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Sophia Allen, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Karina Malm, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Mubarak Ware, SEED 1 Teaching Assistant
Jharitza Cruz Lami, SEED 2 Teaching Assistant
Nikolas Romano, SEED 2 Teaching Assistant



7,052

cumulative hours of programming attended by 2025 SEED interns

94%

of 2025 SEED interns described SEED as providing relevant workforce development experience

"[This internship] helped me realize that I want to be a part of some sort of design career, and more so, that skills with such careers can easily be applied in the real world to help real people."

2025 intern



Designing Environmental and Social Impact (DESI) is a semester-long paid internship for high school students in the Boston area. With support from teaching assistants, professional designer mentors, and partner organizations, students learn how to use design thinking to create solutions to the environmental and social issues in their own communities.

In 2025, ten interns participated in this work-to-learn program, which blends career exploration and community impact. Over the course of the semester, each intern developed their own independent design project centered in their own neighborhood.

Interns learned to draw, use design software to visualize their designs, and effectively communicate their ideas. They also connected with community organizations, nonprofits, firms, and city staff to learn about the impactful work being done to address the effect of historical social and environmental issues in the city. These experiences influenced their design process and allowed them to think of incredibly thoughtful ways they could address transportation, accessibility, and recreation challenges their communities face.

Each week, the teaching assistants facilitated group sessions and field trips that covered the fundamentals of design, hosted conversations with practicing professionals in the design industry, and guided interns through the design process. Students learned a new design concept every week, which they then applied to advance their projects. Each student was also paired with a mentor, a practicing design professional, to guide them through their independent projects.

For our high school interns, DESI created a deep awareness of design's social and environmental impact. For our teaching assistants, it provided a safe and engaging environment to develop academic and industry-relevant skills. And for our design mentors, it fostered a sense of professional and personal achievement.

The 2025 DESI final presentations are available for viewing on the Hideo Sasaki Foundation YouTube page.

Our 2025 DESI interns represented seven Boston neighborhoods — Bay Village, Brighton, Charlestown, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, and Roslindale — and the City of Malden. Our students also represented eight local high schools.

DESI interns at an Emerald Tutu site visit, East Boston, MA

Special thanks to our 2025 mentors.

These volunteers showed outstanding dedication as they supported our interns through their projects: Sonal Aggarwal, Sasaki; Madalyn Becker, Botanica Land Care; Gabe Colombo, Sasaki; Sinead Gallivan, Sasaki; Catalina Hernandez, Walter Jacob Architects; Mytreyi Metta, Sasaki; Allentza Michel, Powerful Pathways; Eva Peet, Institute for Human Centered Design; Lucia Peña-Banda, City of Boston Planning Department; Julian Phillips, National Park Service; Gabriel Ramos, Sasaki; Scarlet Rendleman, Klopfer Martin Design Group; Ankita Shah, Peabody Office; and Molly Wimberg, Copley Wolff.

Thank you to the following organizations:

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

Supporters: BACNOMAS, Black Girl Environmentalist, Boston Children's Museum, Botanica Land Care, Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights, Charles River Watershed Association, City of Boston Planning Department, City of Somerville, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Eastie Farm, Emerald Tutu, Institute for Human Centered Design, Mystic River Watershed Association, Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library, North American Indian Center of Boston, Sasaki, Social Impact Collective, and Stull and Lee Incorporated



Raeanna from Mattapan reimagined the Mattahunt green space with amenities to encourage the community to come together more often.



Vivian from Charlestown created a greenway on Rutherford Avenue with improved pedestrian accessibility, bike lanes, and a recreation area.



Thao from Dorchester designed bus stops better suited for winter and summer while also absorbing CO2 using algae filters.



Kathleen from Malden improved the Malden Center MBTA stop by adding better shelter and green space, and shifting the station's travel lanes.



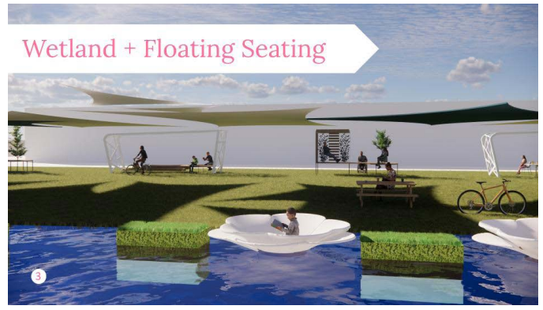
Kelly from Jamaica Plain transformed a Boston Housing Authority parking lot into a flower haven for relaxation and waiting for public transportation.



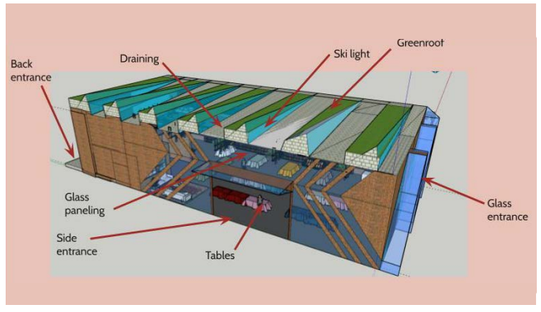
Ariyana from Brighton transformed a neglected industrial alleyway into an accessible and inviting space for businesses and community gathering.



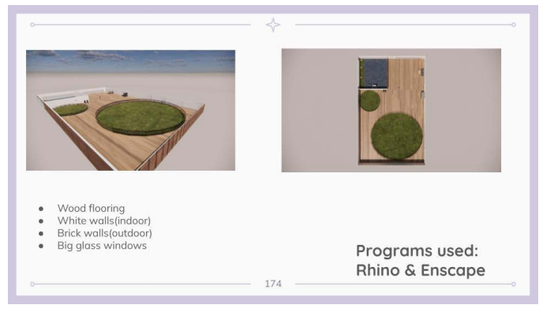
Katelyn from Bay Village transformed Tai Tung Street into a culturally responsive green space that is accessible for seniors.



Nelly from Malden designed amenities to encourage community members to visit and care for the Malden River.



Elfe from Roslindale transformed an empty storefront into the Rozzie Lounge, a third space where the community can enjoy activities for free.



Dionna from Dorchester designed the first indoor dog park, addressing the lack of indoor spaces for pets and owners.

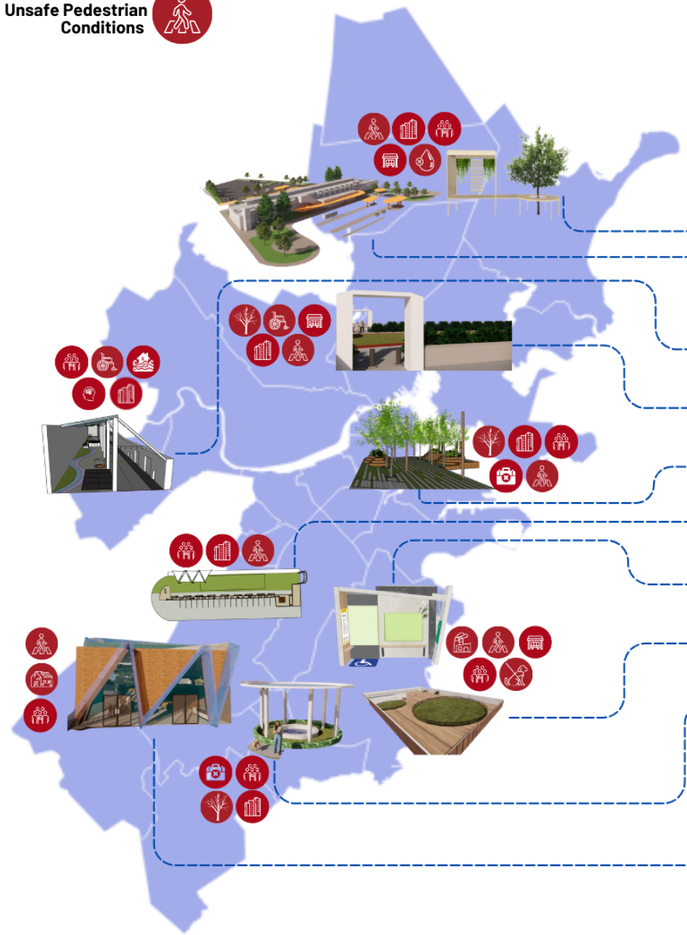
2025 DESI PROJECTS

Challenges

- Lack of Community Spaces
- Neighborhood Divestment
- Mental Health Issues
- Overabundant Urban Hardscapes
- Inaccessible Public Spaces
- Lack of Green Spaces
- Flooding
- Poor Transport Infrastructure
- Poor Water Quality
- Lack of Pet Amenities
- Poor Air Quality
- Unutilized Buildings
- Unsafe Pedestrian Conditions

88%

of 2025 DESI interns reported engaging more with environmental and social issues in their communities



Solutions

- The Malden River Corridor
- Interconnecting Malden Station
- 110 Holton Rear-vival
- Rutherford Ave Greenway
- Tai Tung Street Urban Oasis
- Jamaica Plain's Flower Haven
- Algae: The Biostop
- Boston's First Indoor Dog Park
- Mattahunt Green Space
- The Rozzie Lounge

- Icons from the Noun Project



2025 DESI interns, staff, and mentors after DESI final presentations, Boston, MA

2,815

cumulative hours of programming attended by 2025 DESI interns

2025 DESI STAFF

Estefany Benitez, Program Manager
Folajimi Bademosi, Program Coordinator
Alexis Mazzatta, Senior Teaching Assistant
Isabella Buford, Teaching Assistant
Jharitza Cruz Lami, Teaching Assistant
Sabrina Xu, Teaching Assistant



2025 DESIGN EDUCATION ALUMNI REUNION

In November 2025, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation welcomed back our SEED and DESI alumni for an end-of-year reunion. It was so great to hear from all of them and what they are up to after being part of our programs.



2025 Design Education alumni reunion, Boston, MA

Emily Menard, our first senior teaching assistant and co-creator of DESI, is now working at Weston & Sampson and was a project advisor for SEED in 2024 and 2025.

Nisarga Ramesh, SEED 2023 teaching assistant, was accepted to the University of Dublin where she will be pursuing a masters in urban design and planning after graduating from Northeastern University in spring 2026.

Sabiha Miahjee, 2020 SEED alum and 2023 teaching assistant, will graduating with a landscape architecture and planning degree from Northeastern in 2026.

Of our SEED and DESI alum, Nelly is completing her first year of architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology, while Samuel, Yohan, Divine, and Kelly are preparing to apply for college in fall 2026. Anna has decided to pursue a degree in construction management, while Suely, Maranda, and Annaka continue to explore their interests in design at school and through internships.

DESIGN EDUCATION PARTNER PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN THINKING WEEK

Architecture/Design Thinking Week is a paid career exploration workshop from the Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) and Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), with collaboration from 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 2025, this four-day program took place at the BSA Space and engaged 43 high school students over February school vacation week. We kicked off the week with an introduction to the design process. On Friday, students gave final presentations, including models, to their fellow students and volunteer instructors.

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.



2025 Architecture/Design Thinking Week Day 1, Boston, MA

GROWING WORKFORCE SKILLS WITH SEED & DESI

Our SEED and DESI programs facilitate intern interactions with peers and professionals, helping them develop communication, teamwork, leadership, interpersonal, and public-speaking skills. Additionally, our Leadership Education for Aspiring Designers (LEAD workshops provide interns with activity-based learning experiences in leadership, project management, professionalism, time management, self-advocacy, wellbeing, and mentorship. These essential workforce skills increase our interns' employability and advance their educational and career aspirations.

Our programs also provide undergraduate and graduate design students with a low-stakes environment to hone the hard and soft skills crucial to their professional development. Of the surveyed teaching assistants, 90% reported that they significantly improved their teaching and facilitation skills through participation. All report that they had considerably enhanced their leadership and management skills as a result of their experience. Teaching assistants shared that the program helped boost their confidence in using their design software knowledge and skills. They also highlighted that they developed many critical soft skills, including professionalism, self-advocacy, time management, networking, and patience.



94%

of interns reported that our design education programs were great professional and workforce development experiences

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation's SEED and DESI programs are YouthWorks nonprofit work sites. YouthWorks is a state-funded youth employment program from Commonwealth Corporation that helps teens and young adults get the skills and experience needed to find and keep jobs.

Hideo Sasaki Foundation Program Coordinator Folajimi Bademosi created Leadership Education for Aspiring Designers (LEAD) to implement Commonwealth Corporation's Signal Success. Signal Success is a comprehensive career readiness curriculum designed and tested by education and workforce development partners to help young people develop essential skills for future success in the workplace.

As our interns grow in professional experience, our goal is to ensure they have the essential skills they need to succeed personally and professionally.

Support

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation hosted our third annual Celebration of Design at 110 Chauncy in Downtown Boston, which also marked our 25th anniversary. The event saw 100+ tickets sold and raised $30,000+ to support our mission of equity in design. We highlighted Hideo's legacy, our work over the past 25 years, and Boston's design community, while looking to the future. Thanks to your generosity, we funded one of our 2025 Design Grants, all of our 2025 Design Grants finalist honorariums, and all nine of our 2026 DESI interns.

30k+

raised to support equity in design

Thank you to our 2025 Celebration of Design event gold sponsors, BOND Building, BR+A, Consigli, Naveo Credit Union, and Northern Bank, silver sponsor, Someone Else's Child, and bronze sponsors Callahan Construction Managers, Crowley Cottrell, and Middlesex Federal Savings.

In this milestone anniversary year, we reflected on the past 25 years of advancing equity in design with an eye toward the future.

Event attendees enjoyed an evening of food, drinks, and fun. Guests had the opportunity to design personalized event collateral with our Design Shop heat press. Individuals selected from an assortment of patches highlighting legacy projects from Hideo's firm and our work advancing equity in design. A raffle included exciting prizes donated by a long list of Greater Boston small businesses.

Thank you to our in-kind sponsors Sasaki, EventThem, Arielly Photography, Downeast Cider House, and Samuel Adams for supporting our event experience.

During the event, we recognized four significant supporters from the past year who have contributed to our work of building a more equitable design industry:

- Lydia Lowe: Community-led Design Award
- Gabriel Colombo: Excellence in Design Education Award
- Ponnapa Prakkamakul: Leadership in Design Equity Award
- Richard Galehouse: Hideo Sasaki Leadership Award

Thank you to the Sasaki Fabrication Studio and Hideo Sasaki Foundation design lead Alexis Mazzatta for creating our 2025 (pencil) cup trophies!

We also celebrated 2018 Design Grants winner the Charles River Floating Wetland from the Charles River Conservancy. In 2025 the project received both a Boston Society of Landscape Architect and an American Society of Landscape Architects award in research.

Thanks to the Hideo Sasaki Foundation trustees and design education alums who volunteered to support our event, with a special thanks to Danyson Tavares, Boston Society for Architecture Executive Director, for hosting our paddle raise. And thank you to all who made this event a success!









2024 Celebration of Design, Boston, MA

Thank you to our sponsors, our donors, and our 135+ 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.

2025 DONORS

Leslie Aldana | Ethan Alexander | Talin Amadon | Guillermo Bahamon | Danielle Barsky | Adam Beattie | Levi Bedall | Cory Berg | Jeffrey Berg | Caroline Berz | Jenny Berz | Phyllis Berz | Benjamin Bishop | Dan Braverman | Adam Bromwich | Brandy Brooks | Julia Carlton MacKay | Polly Carpenter | Deanna Champagne | Zachary Chrisco | Jacqueline Church | John Cinkala | Eric Colburn | Brad Conway | Rebecca Cox | Michelle Crowley | Leigh Davis | Kate Deans | Matthew Dickey | Peter Dierks | Alina Dixon | Jennifer Dixon | Nancy Dixon | Yuliya Doshen | Krista Easterly | Victor Eskinazi | Daniel Fine | Kristen Fritsch | Timothy Gale | Richard and Mary Galehouse | Janice Gardner | William Gardner | Beth Garver | Inma Gil Cerezo | Andrew Goldenson | Jeffrey Goldenson | Ronald Goldenson | Kate Goldring | Eudad Gonzalez | Andrew Gutterman | Jamie Hand | Shuai Hao | Arin Heureux | David and Beth Hirzel | Eric Howeler | Anne Hutton | Kit Hutton | Kelly Hutzell | Rachel Ishikawa | Emily Jenkins | Felicia Jiang | Paige Johnston | Wendell Joseph | Shannon Kelliher | Hillary Kelly | Slide Kelly | Renée Kirkland | Elizabeth Knourenko | Daniel Koff | Kelly Kurlbaum | Nancy Lange-Vaidya | Doug Larence | Haley Laverdiere | Jennifer Lawrence | Allison Lesch | Lydia Lowe | Ethan Manley | Edward Martell | Claire Martin | Meredith McCarthy | Richard and Donna McCarthy | Emily Menard | Allyson Mendenhall | Fred Merrill and Wendy Krum | Mytreyi Metta | Amon Millner | James Miner | Cate Mingoya | John Morrison | Charles Mouton | Alison Nash | Erwin Nash-Reeves | David Newman | Emily Newmann | Natalie Ng | Debby Ngo | Carrie Niemy | Dan O'Brien | Mary Anne Ocampo | Kathleen O'Connell | Rhoda Osei-Nkwantabisa | Ivelisse Otero | Daniel Paluska | Juan Perez | Dennis Pieprz | Amrit Pilo | Cyrus Pott | Daniel Pryor | Jennifer Quest Stern | Barbara and Earl Quist | Gretchen Rabinkin | Harsha Raju | Gabriel Ramos | Laura Regrut | Jenn Robertson | McNamara Rome | Lisa Rookard | Heidi Rosenfeld | Eial Rosenstock-Levy | Brandon Roy | Rebecca Sama | Susan Sawyer | Ian Scherling | Andrew Schutzbank | James Selvitella | Chris Sgarzi | Heidi Shalaby | Romil Sheth | Evan Simpson | Alexandra Spadola | Victoria Steinberg | April Stone | Janos Stone | Rebecca Straus Ravenel | Rob Sugar | James Sukeforth | Jason Targoff | Melissa Teng | Matthew Thomas | Bianca Toness | Jennifer Tulipani | Annette Valdez | Charlotte Van Voorhis | Adam Villa | Tamar Warburg | Katherine Watkins | CynthiaAnn Webb | Carole Wedge | Harte Weiner | Grace Whitney | Shoshana Wolfe | Bond Worthington | Yun Xian Ho | Tao Zhang | Jenya Zhilina | Rachel Zindler | Ben Zunkeler | Anonymous | BlueHub Capital | City Works | Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co.

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SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD

SUFFOLK AMERICA'S CONTRACTOR

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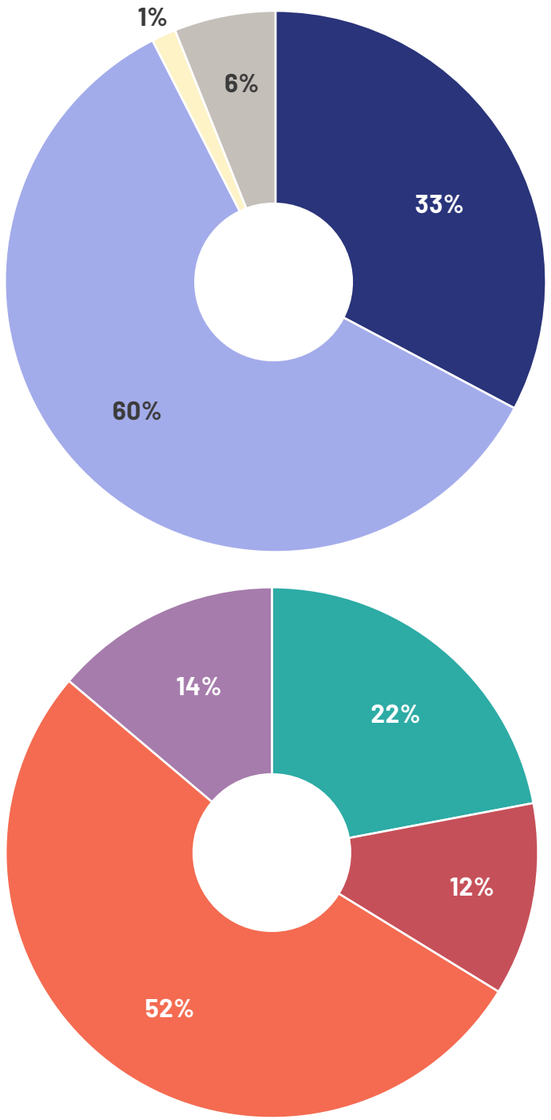
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YouthBuild Boston

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation shares space downtown with Sasaki, a world-renowned design firm. This central and accessible location provides space to bring together perspectives and communities. Our Design Grants teams sit next to design experts. Our public programs host designers and communities. Our design education programs welcome students into a vibrant design studio. Together, the Hideo Sasaki Foundation and Sasaki are working with our neighbors to co-create change.

The Hideo Sasaki Foundation is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In 2025 the foundation had **$827,456** in revenue and **$893,981** in expenses. As of December 31, 2025, the foundation had **$551,251** in net assets.



REVENUE

- State and Local Grants
- Contributions
- Programs and Events
- Investment Income

Our annual 990-PF forms are publicly available via the IRS tax exempt organization search (https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/).

EXPENSES

- Pillar 1: Research and Grants
- Pillar 2: Public Programming
- Pillar 3: Design Education
- Administration and Fundraising

Expenses for each pillar include all program costs (e.g., grants and intern wages), event costs, and associated administrative support.

2025 Celebration of Design, Boston, MA



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