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# ENVISION: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN ALGIERS, NEW ORLEANS

## ROLES: CONCEPT & DESIGN

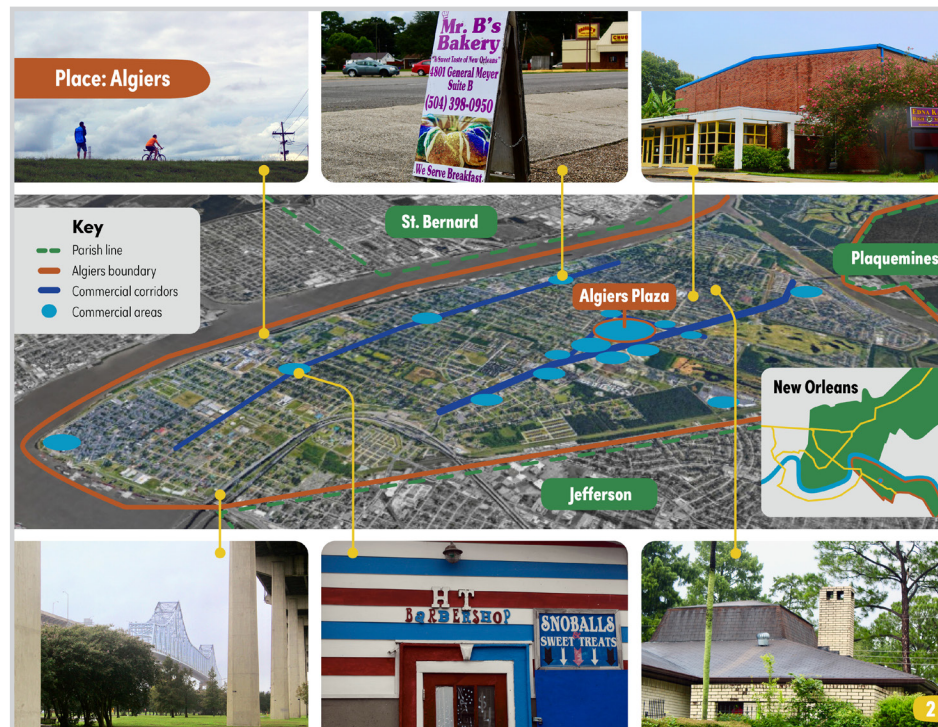


*Activating Vacancy via Art* proposes temporary and permanent art interventions in the heart of Algiers, a predominantly Black suburban community on New Orleans' west bank by transforming an underutilized shopping center into a "Temporary Museum," increasing economic activity, social cohesion and arts accessibility within the suburban context. The museum will feature exhibitions from 10 local artists over six months and a permanent public art piece at the regional library (co-located at the shopping center) to create lasting access to art in Algiers. For each opening, the parking lot connecting the shopping center and library will be transformed into a block party. The project uses a collaborative model to socially reintegrate outlying suburban communities into the city's narrative, transforming ample commercial space into much-needed accessible art venues, and reimagining suburbs as places of beauty and opportunity.

Left: cover page of NEA Our Town proposal's visual narrative.

Below left: a place-setting spread that shares the visual context of the neighborhood.

Below right: site map highlighting key facilities and assets for the proposal.





# ENVISION: PUBLIC ART FOR PUBLIC SPACES

ROLES: CONCEPT & DESIGN



## Central City, New Orleans

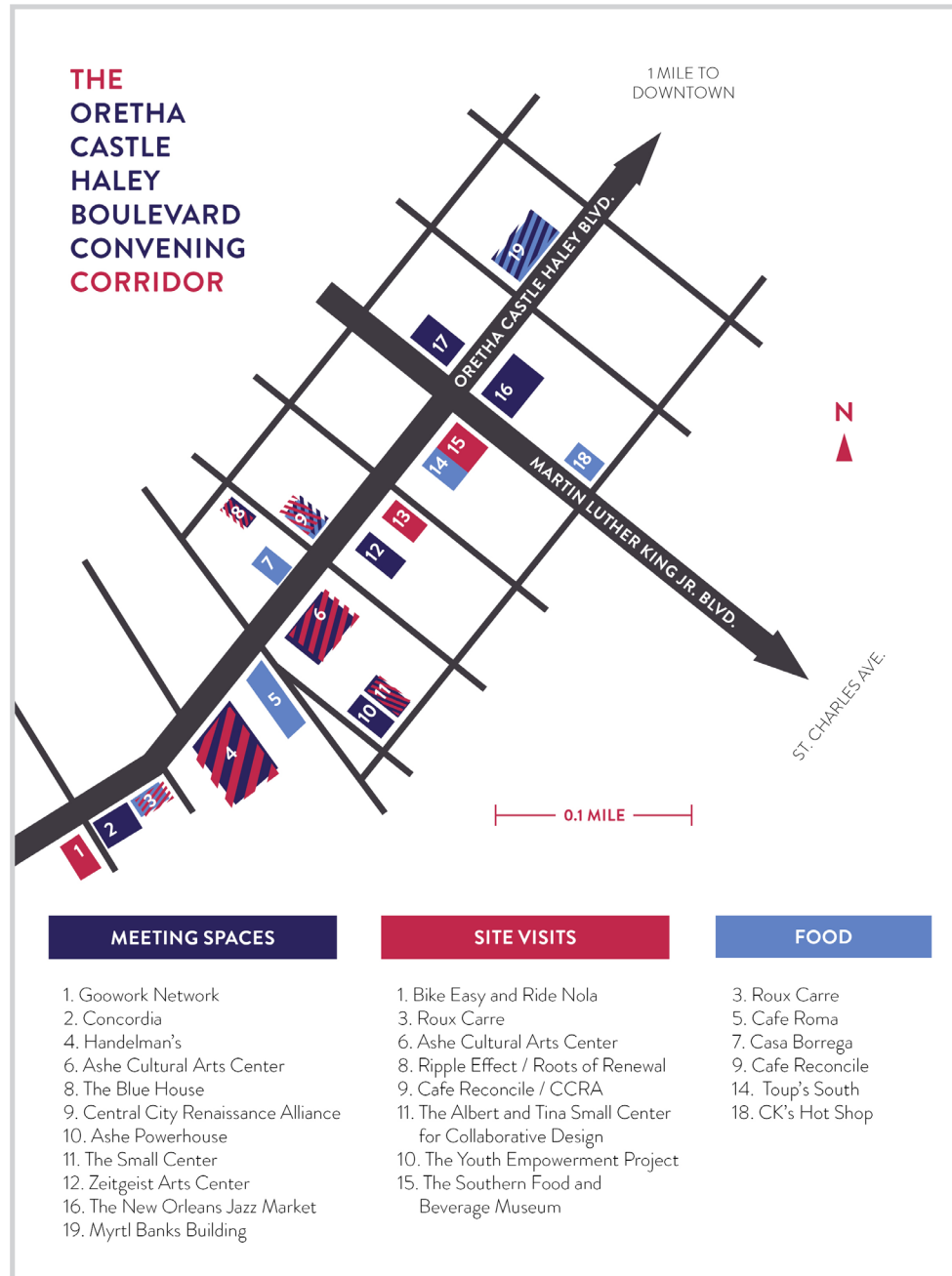
Rendering of *Pillars*, a temporary monument to the spaces in which people convene. Honoring the pillars of the Central City community, this work transforms transcripts from personal interviews into human-scale paper-mache pillars, grounded by concrete. The pillars are then installed on the neutral ground, a gathering place for New Orleanians.

## Washington, D.C.

Concept renderings for *Sinking Land*, which calls for federal action on Louisiana's coastal land loss. The installation envisions 750,000 submerged roof lines in the Potomac River to represent future displaced households in south Louisiana.

# ENVISION: CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION VIA SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

## ROLES: CONCEPT & DESIGN



The Corridor is a concept proposal that I developed for Central City Renaissance Alliance, which leverages the assets of the neighborhood's mainstreet—a historic gathering place for makers and doers in New Orleans. Before desegregation, the boulevard was a multi-cultural business district, buzzing with European merchants and African-American doctors and lawyers. It was also the birthplace of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and New Orleans' civil rights organizing.

Realizing that many of the corridor's nonprofits and businesses rented their space for special events, this proposal suggested a collective structure that leveraged the area's diverse facilities, knowledge, culture, and hospitality assets to develop a walkable conference hosting district to increase foot traffic, sustain under-utilized venues and support Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard in continuing its legacy as a place of convening, exchange, and transformative change.

**DRAFT**

### VENUES

**FRANZ BUILDING/GOODWORK NETWORK**  
Provides business development services to minority- and women-owned businesses in Southeast Louisiana.  
**Capacity:** 30-40 people  
**Hours Available:** flexible  
**Assets:** meeting space, conference, strategy  
**Good for:** meeting space, conference, strategy

**HANDELMAN'S/LEADING EDUCATORS**  
Catalyst for minority- and women-owned business success  
**Capacity:** training room: 50 people; conference room: 8 people  
**Hours Available:** flexible; training room \$100/day, conference rm \$25/hr  
**Assets:** movable furniture, office equipment, private space  
**Good for:** breakout, strategy meetings, workshops, activities

**ASHE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**  
Afro-Caribbean community center that supports arts and social programming  
**Capacity:** 120-150 people  
**Hours Available:** flexible; day-rate available  
**Assets:** stage, A/V lighting  
**Good for:** luncheons, performance, keynote, workshops  
**Contact:** ashevents@gmail.com

**THE BLUE HOUSE**  
Shared workspace with focus on civic dialogue, collective learning, and collaboration  
**Capacity:** 10-15 people; conference room: 5-7, total sq ft: 2000  
**Hours Available:** flexible; nights and weekends, small groups whenever  
**Assets:** Small meeting space, kitchen, projector, workshop supplies + space  
**Good for:** break-out, after-hour meetings, informal events + dinners  
**Contact:** helloblu@thebluehouse.com

**Cafe Reconcile**  
Culinary work training program  
**Capacity:** 10-15 people  
**Hours Available:** flexible  
**Assets:** private event space, hospitality and catering, diners  
**Good for:** receptions, seated meals, luncheons

**CENTRAL CITY RENAISSANCE ALLIANCE**  
Neighborhood advocacy organization  
**Capacity:** 10 people; conference rooms: 4-7  
**Hours Available:** 9-5 PM  
**Assets:** A/V, projector, computers, workshop supplies, monitors, whiteboards  
**Good for:** meetings, presentations, community organizing  
**Contact:** tjames@myccra.org

**DRAFT**

**10 ASHE POWERHOUSE**  
Afro-Caribbean community center that supports arts and social programming  
**Capacity:** 175 in theater, 125 in gallery  
**Hours Available:** flexible  
**Assets:** theater, tables, chairs, sound, A/V, stage, in-house catering  
**Good for:** films, dinners, luncheons, presentations, receptions  
**Contact:** jennine2009@gmail.com

**11 THE ALBERT AND TINA SMALL CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN**  
Community Design Center connected to Tulane University with exhibition space  
**Capacity:** 50-100  
**Hours Available:** flexible  
**Assets:** projector, large screen tvs on movable carts, pin-up space, rectangular tables (no rounds), chairs  
**Good for:** luncheons, workshops, small-medium events  
**Contact:** Doris Peabody (334-2330, dpeabody@tulane.edu)

**12 ZEITGEIST INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS CENTER**  
Multi-use space with movie theater, upstairs patio, coffee shop and gallery  
**Capacity:** Seated, 120 people; Concert, 450 people  
**Hours Available:** flexible  
**Assets:** digital projector, sound system, sofas, chairs, tables, two stages, gallery  
**Good for:** movie screenings, open space, gallery exhibitions, indoor market  
**Contact:** rene@zeitgeistinc.net

**16 NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MARKET**  
Culinary work training program/neighborhood advocacy organization  
**Capacity:** 45 people in seated theater  
**Hours Available:** 1:00 AM - 4:00 AM  
**Assets:** world class theater, seating, bar, reception area  
**Good for:** keynotes, speakers, performance, reception, party, celebration

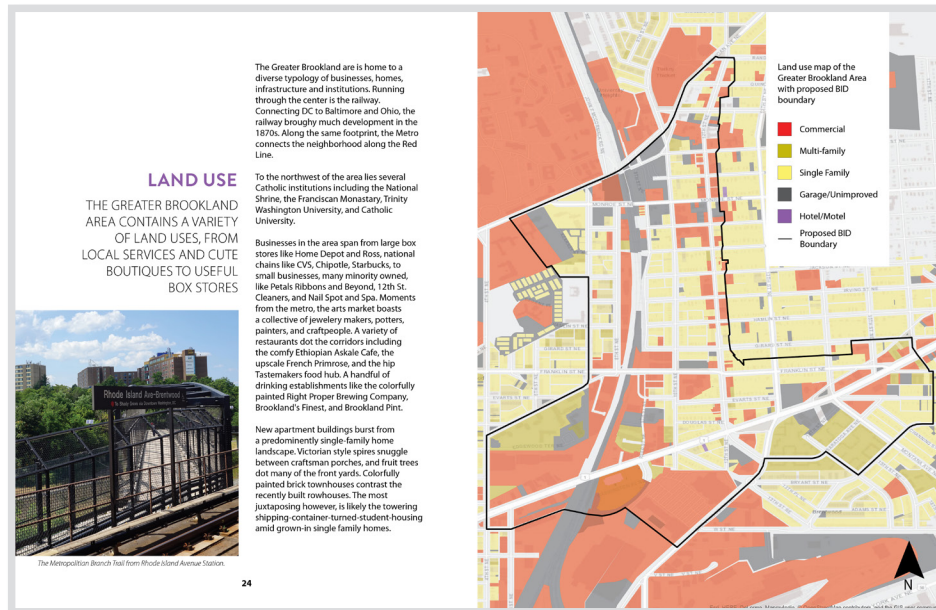
**19 MYRTLE BANKS BUILDING**  
Mixed-use community market development  
**Capacity:** Semi-Private second floor: 40 people; private conference room: 25  
**Hours Available:** 10am-8pm weekdays, weekends case by case  
**Assets:** tables, chairs, presentation screens, HDMI, whiteboard  
**Good for:** second floor: luncheons, events, casual meals; conference room: meetings, classes, cooking demonstrations

**208 THE REVOLUTION**  
Hip bar with outdoor gathering space and stage and private event space  
**Capacity:** Semi-Private second floor: 40 people; private conference room: 25  
**Hours Available:** 10am-8pm weekdays, weekends case by case  
**Assets:** tables, chairs, presentation screens, HDMI, whiteboard  
**Good for:** second floor: luncheons, events, casual meals; conference room: meetings, classes, cooking demonstrations



# RESEARCH: EQUITABLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

## ROLES: RESEARCH & DESIGN



"Best Practices and Strategies for Community Engagement in Business Improvement Districts" made the case for a local steering committee to incorporate equitable practices and community engagement into their BID formation attempt. Produced for Local Initiative Support Corp., DC on behalf of [bc]Workshop, this report weaves local knowledge and national expertise to propose a relevant place-based strategy for resident engagement that elevates the neighborhood context and assets, informed by site analysis, academic literature and interviews with key experts and stakeholders. LISC has since distributed this report to their other offices.

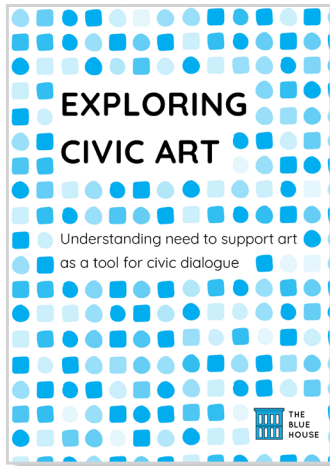
Above: review of neighborhoods land use.  
Top right: the conclusion of the literature review on business improvement district policy and implementation . Bottom right: A case study developed via interviews with an anti-BID group from Queens, NY.





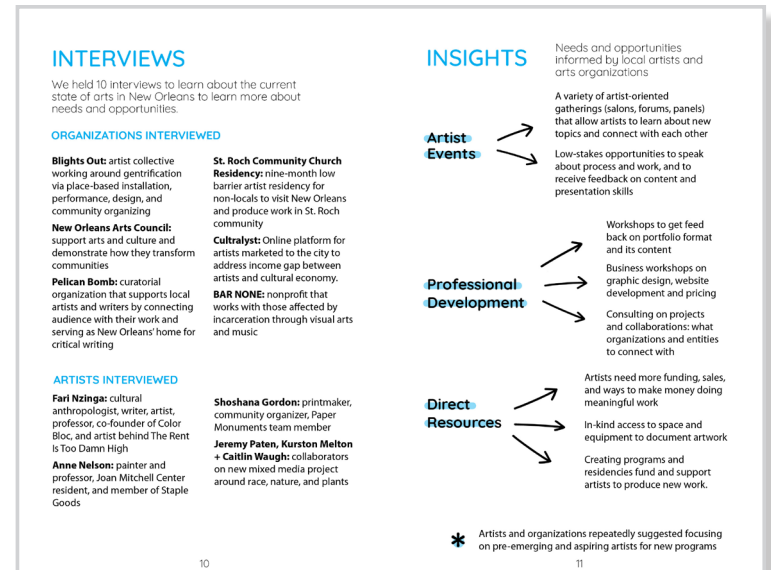
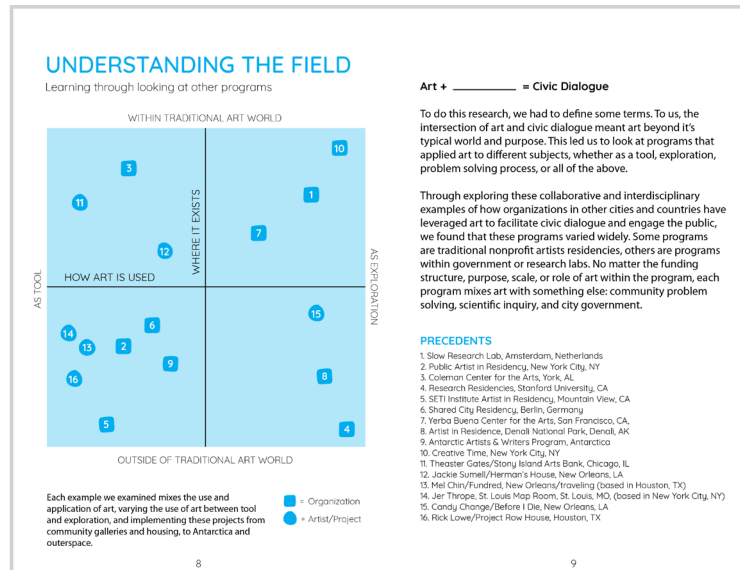
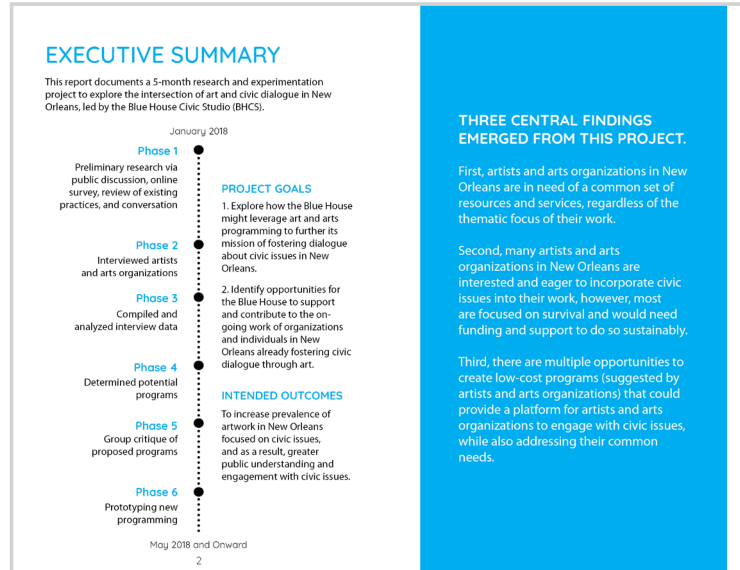
# RESEARCH: CIVIC ART IN NEW ORLEANS

## ROLES: RESEARCH & DESIGN



Exploring Civic Art was a five-month exploratory asset and needs assessment to understand the potential for and barriers to using art to facilitate dialogue around civic issues in New Orleans.

The concise visual report captured the research projects methodology, field scan summary, interview findings, suggested solutions, potential funding, and next steps.



Four spreads from the report. From top left to bottom right: the executive summary, report introduction, a graphic which organized other civic art organizations and civic art precedents, and the summary of the interviews.



# ENGAGE: ST. ANTHONY GREEN STREETS

ROLE: VIEWING BOX DESIGNER



The St. Anthony Green Streets weekend event asked neighborhood residents to engage with proposed plans for two corridors and parks, including green infrastructure adaptations.



Five viewing boxes were temporarily installed at the two parks and along the proposed streetscape (above and middle top), which allow residents to see infrastructure proposals overlaid onto the existing landscape (middle) in real space. One enthusiastic resident (middle bottom) took a playful approach.

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING FIKA SERIES

ROLES: ORGANIZER & FACILITATOR

Fika is a weekly public coffee hour dedicated to collective dialogue and learning; we invite local civic leaders to share about their work in an informal, conversational setting

In the Fall of 2018, I organized and facilitated a special 2-month Affordable Housing Fika series, which featured local lawyers, activists, developers, advocates, academics, and practitioners. Through these weekly dialogues, participants and speakers collectively examined the different facets of housing access in New Orleans.



## Affordable Housing Fika Series Topics:

- Real Estate, Law, and Equity
- Short Term Rentals & Affordability
- Reimagining Housing Workshop
- Neighborhood Segregation
- Home Ownership & Empowerment
- Community Land Trusts
- Indigenous Housing & Policy
- Blight & Preventing Displacement



# ENGAGE: MIXED MEDIA PILOT

## ROLES: CO-FOUNDER & CURATOR

The two year-long *Mixed Media* pilot aimed to diversify the audience engaging with civic issues through weaving art, storytelling and journalism together. Exploring the issues of incarceration and water management, we gathered curators, journalists and topic experts to support six selected artists in creating original work on one of the thematic issues. Through the artwork, events, and website, the project fosters nuanced dialogue around these local issues by centering the voices of marginalized people most affected by these systems.



## MIXED MEDIA PILOT PROCESS

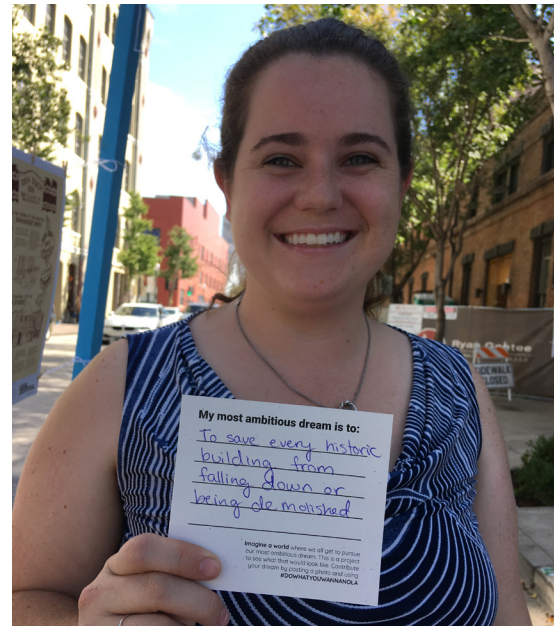
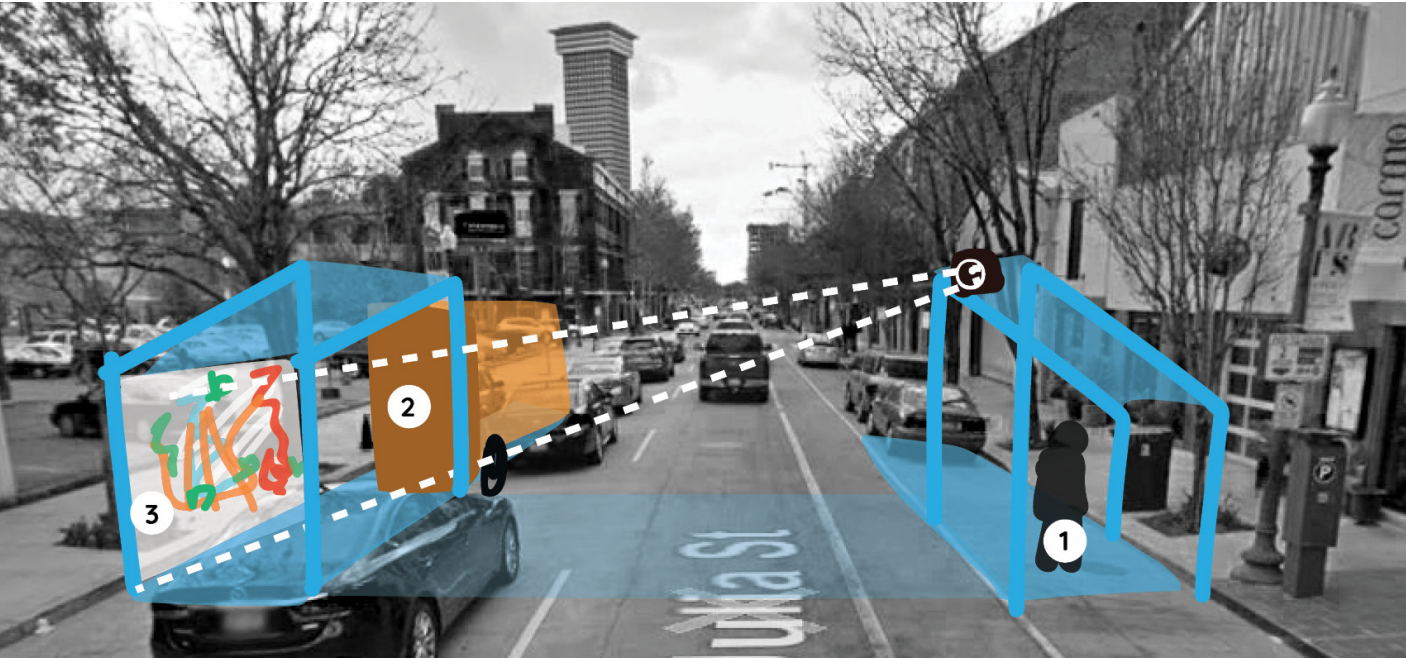


Left: Dinner Dialogue on water infrastructure; top right: snapshot from painting by Anne Nelson about flooding; bottom right: Mixed Media: Incarceration feature in the New Orleans Advocate



# ENGAGE: PARK(ING) DAY

ROLE: PROJECT LEAD



On behalf of the Blue House and in partnership with New Orleans' design firm Colloqate's Paper Monument project, I led a pop-up "Civic Studio" in which we engaged passer-byers to reimagine public space in New Orleans and think how they would contribute to a more inspired New Orleans.

Above left: proposal for Park(ing) Day temporary installation that activated the entire streetscape by using opposite-facing parking spots. Above right: an interactive map where residents could imagine where they wanted monuments. Bottom: participants reflect on what an inspired New Orleans looks like to them.



# CREATE: FAB LAB & RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION

ROLES: DESIGN, BUILD, SITE MANAGER



Above: The finalized interior of the Fab Lab, a satellite makerspace for the D.C. Public Library that I worked on with [bc]Workshop. The project included weatherizing an altered shipping container and outfitting the interior into an adaptable and flexible makerspace.



Top right: an interior lighted wall installation I was commissioned to design/install using salvaged cedar tiling for House Healers' Chinook House project in Seattle, Washington.

Bottom right: a process shot of residential renovations of the Roots of Renewal construction site, which I managed for six months with a crew of six trainees and construction lead. The house was fully gutted, renovated and sold.

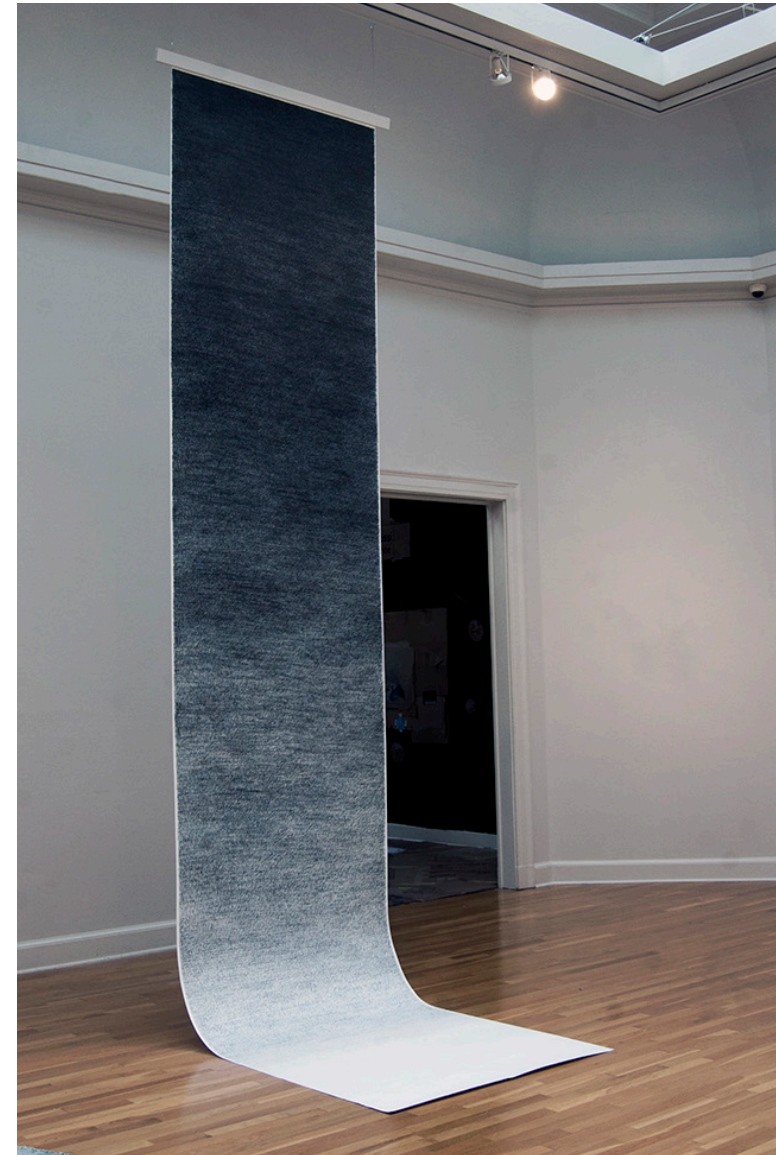




## CREATE: ARTWORK



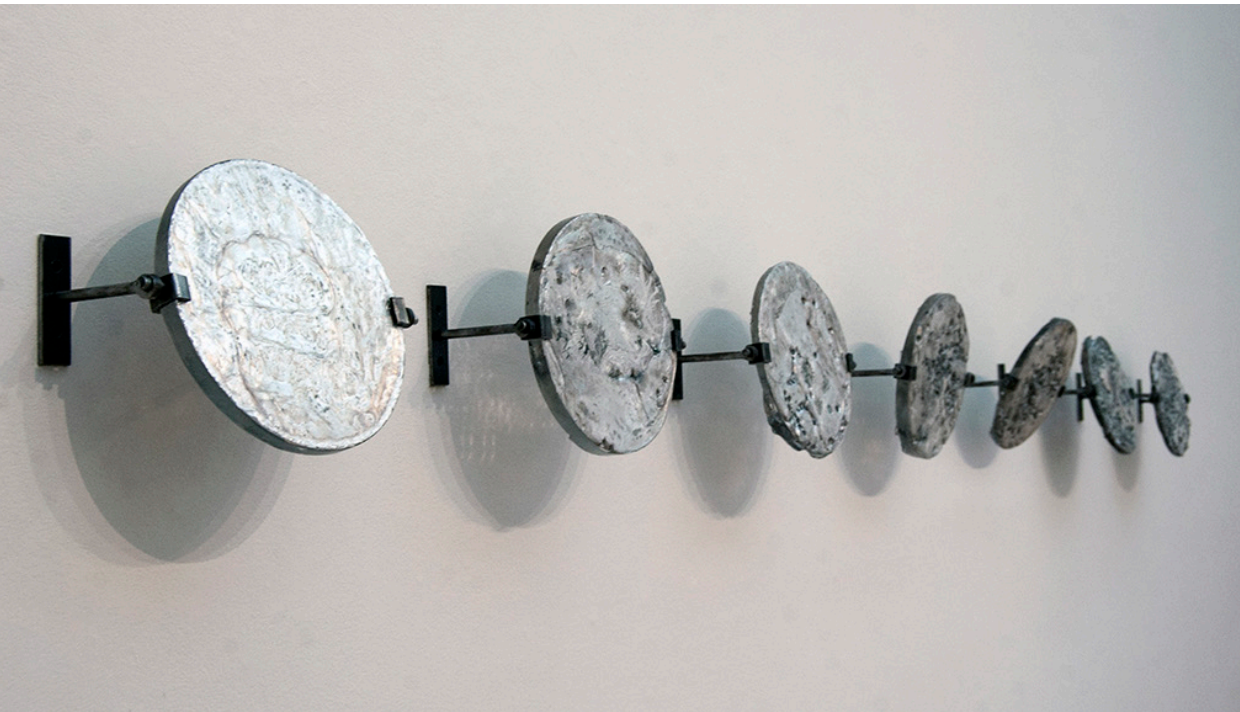
**Production Lines**, 2017  
Crochet and concrete  
8' x 12' x 4"



**No Man's Land**, 2017  
Ink on paper  
42" x 12' x 3'



**Drifting, 2015**  
Cast glass and driftwood  
Variable



**Give And, 2017**  
Cast glass, aluminum, and  
fabricated steel  
12" x 10" x 4" each







**Hypatia's Wake, 2016**  
Concrete  
8' x 8' x 8"



**Mary's Light, 2015**  
Blown glass, hand-smithed steel, bone, and twine  
16" X 14" X 18"





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