



FY
2020

the
Neighborhood
DesignCenter

Annual Report



Change came quickly to NDC in Spring FY20 as the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, followed quickly by a long-overdue period of national reckoning with systemic racism and its impact on all areas of American life. Throughout this, NDC has maintained operations and programs to serve our communities, has invested in organizational capacity building and focused on financial security for long term stability.

In March 2020, all staff moved to remote work. We remain available, flexible, and in collaboration with partners. Our ongoing programs remained stable with major programs funding in place through FY21. Core programming remained stable with ongoing support from our key funding partners including the Prince George's County DPWT and DHCD and Baltimore City DHCD, amongst others.

While NDC worked to stabilize our internal operations and remain available to our community partners, we also quickly adapted to new, urgent needs of communities relating to the built environment.

During this time, staff committed countless hours to adapting services responsively given our new remote-work norms, developing new tech-based, as well as analog, methods for continuing community engagement and outreach, in order to keep projects moving forward with our partners, despite stay at home orders.

Staff put particular focus on capacity building, community resiliency, equitable engagement practices (acknowledging the significant digital divide), in light of the highly exacerbated challenges in NDC's core partner communities, where COVID-19 and its ramifications exacted unequal and inequitable toll.



WITH NDC BETWEEN JULY 1, 2019 AND JUNE 30 2020

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Architect, Living Design Lab

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Attorney, Office of the Attorney General of Maryland

Erika McClammy, Esq.

Attorney, McClammy & Associates, LLC

Jerryn McCray

AIA, Architect/Principal Owner, Jerryn J. McCray Architect

Wendi Redfern-Curtis

Chief Operating Officer, Rebuild Metro, Inc.

Giam Shoemaker-Trinh

Environmental Signage Designer, Streetsense

Ben Stone

Director of Arts and Culture, Smart Growth America

Dustin Watson

Owner/Founding Principle, inPLACE Design

Staff

Nicole Aranda

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Nick Maletta

Rachel McNamara

Jessica Meilman

Sophie Morley

Taryn Myers

Allie O'Neill

Dana Puzey

Laura Robinson

Marita Roos

Khayla Trowell I

Service Corps

Maura Dwyer,

Americorps VISTA

Funding Partners

Baltimore Community Foundation

BGE

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Chesapeake Charities- Wills Group

The Robert W Deutsch Foundation

Goldseker Foundation

Lockhart Vaughan Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Prince George's County Council Member District 4 - Todd M. Turner

Prince George's County Council Member - Calvin Streeter

Prince George's County Council Member District 3- Danielle M Glaros

Prince George's County Council Member - Calvin Hawkins

Prince George's County Council Members District 5 - Jolene Ivy

Prince George's County Council Members District 6- Derrick Leon Davis

BOPA

France-Merrick Foundation

National Endowment for the Arts

The Jim & Patti Rouse Foundation

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Town of Brentwood

Town of North Brentwood

City of Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development

Prince George's County Executive

Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development

Anacostia Watershed Society

Baltimore County NeighborSpace

Baltimore Development Corporation

BUILD

Casa De Maryland

City of Hyattsville

CITYSCAPE Engineering

CKAR

DOE

Enterprise Community Partners

Global Health and Education Projects

Irvine Nature Center

University Of Maryland

North East Housing Initiative

Public Mechanics

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council

Sheladia Associates, Inc.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Southeast CDC

Town of Cheverly

University of Baltimore

Upton Planning Committee, Inc.

Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC

Baltimore Heritage

George A. and Carmel D. Aman Memorial Trust

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

Mt. Winan Community Association

River of Community Kindness

The Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation

THE MIX Church 1

Town of Brentwood

United Workers

Vehicles For Change, Inc.

Partners — Community Design Works (CDW)

Pro Bono Clients

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Dream Works, Inc. | Templeton ES | Association | Arch Social Club |
| Joe's Movement Emporium | Gateway CDC, PGAHC | Forest Park Alliance | Chesapeake Bay Trust, Blue Water Baltimore, Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake |
| Paint Branch Garden Club & Riversdale Historical Society | Hanson Oaks Civic Association | Baltimore Main Streets | Baltimore Green Space |
| Town of North Brentwood | Hyattsville MS PTO | BUILD/ Turnaround Tuesday | BARCO, Charles North Community Association |
| West Lanham Hills Civic Association | Riverdale Park Farmers' Market | Charles Johnson Park Development Co. | Forest Park Alliance |
| Central Kenilworth Ave Revitalization CDC | District 3 Council Member's Office, Community COVID Response | THE MIX | 3 Square Feet LLC |
| River of Community Kindess, Inc | Baltimore Green Space | VOLAR | WZ, LLC |
| Dupont Village Neighborhood Watch | Greater Greenmount Community Association | McKim Community Association | Lat Naylor |
| ECOCity Farm | Madison Park Improvement Association (MPIA) | St. Johns in the Village | Black Cherry, Inc |
| Aman Trust | Corner Team Boxing | Cham City Care Connection | 2558DHA |
| Takoma Branch Civic Association | Harwood Community Association | United Workers | Current Space |
| Peppermill Village Civic Association | Hamilton Lauraville Main Street | United Workers | Art Park II LLC, |
| Prince George's Africa American Museum and Cultural Center | Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation | Fight Blight Baltimore | Bell Foundry |
| Town of North Brentwood | Great Kids Farm | Mt Winans Community Association | 100 E North |
| Cesar Chavez PTO | Westport CEDC | Bolton Hill Community Association | Resort |
| Eleanor Roosevelt HS PTSO | Westport CEDC | Baltimore Heritage | (Central Baltimore Partnership) |
| Buck Lodge MS | Girl Scouts of Central Maryland | Charles Village Community Benefits Districts | Baltimore Print Studios |
| CASA de Maryland | Breathe4Sure Foundation | Mission Fit | Seventh Metro Baptist Church |
| College Park City- University Partnership | St. Johns in the Village | Pimlico Community Association | Waller Gallery |
| Riverdale ES | Vehicles for Change | Juice Works/KEYS Empowers | Arch Social Club |
| | McKim Community | Abbottston Elementary School | Stillpoint Theatre |
| | | Joe Squared | Harlem Park Theatre |
| | | | Blue Light Junction |

In FY20

Volunteer design professionals donated

2,225 hours

to Neighborhood Design Center projects.

That's an estimated market value of

\$203,965

And we launched our

3,780th project!

Funding for NDC programs and services comes from a combination of public and foundation grants, contracts, and corporate and individual donations.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| \$655,165 | Grants |
| \$872,369 | Program Service Revenue |
| \$31,304 | Other Revenue |
| \$1,558,839 | Total Revenue |
| \$1,309,312 | Salaries, Compensation, Benefits, Consultants |
| \$90,512 | General Administrative |
| \$112,489 | Other Expenses (Mileage, Facilities, Marketing) |
| \$1,512,313 | Total Expenses |
| (\$46,525) | Revenue Less Expenses |

NDC's services continue to expand.



Community Engagement

NDC supports key partner organizations in reaching and collaborating with a broad and representative group of community members on key community design and development decisions. Equitable Community Engagement involves resident experts in all aspects of community design, from honing goals and values, to planning and visioning, to design, project phasing, implementation and maintenance planning.



Conceptual Design

Conceptual design assistance to community-initiated projects related to the built environment through our core “Community Design Works” program, including Architectural, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Public Space projects.



Place Matters

A place-based, capacity building program that develops networks, skills, and funding (i.e. “capacity”) around a place, seeding deep roots from which the neighborhood can thrive and grow. Place Matters projects take the form of long-term partnerships between NDC and various place-based organizations.



Community Forestry

NDC provides community engagement, design and technical services for street tree design and local forestry management. Partners include local governmental agencies, community leaders, non-profit civic and public health organizations, and neighborhood organizations.



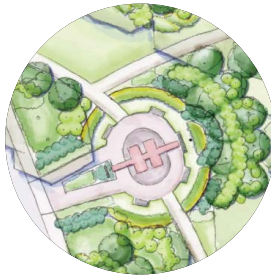
Schoolyard Greening

NDC works directly with schools through public agency and nonprofit partnerships to provide native tree plantings, teach students about the value of trees, and install outdoor learning spaces.



Participatory Stormwater Management

NDC creates action-oriented design stormwater plans that are water and people friendly, improving water quality while also improving a community's engagement with their landscape.



Green Infrastructure and Landscape Design

NDC partners with public agencies to offer communities planting and site design, creating community assets from these sometimes problem sites such as stormwater ponds, medians and public right-of-way landscape projects.

Community Development Block Grants

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BALTIMORE CITY

61 projects

\$200,000+

in volunteer-donated design services

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

29 projects

\$50,000k+

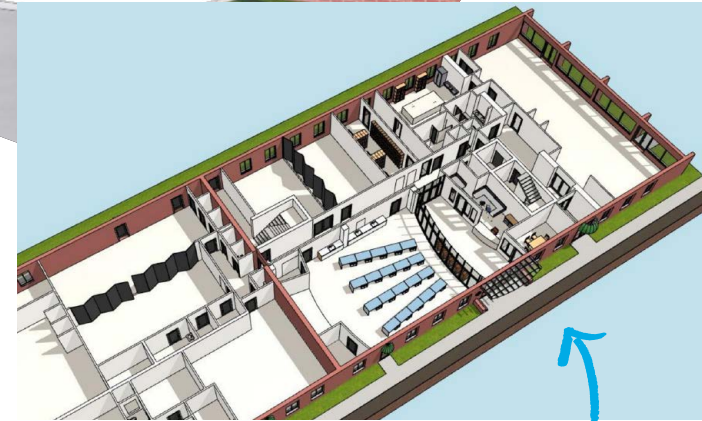
in volunteer-donated design services

Baltimore City

#3406

Matthew Henson Community Master Plan

Community Managed Plan development for the Matthew Henson Community in West Baltimore. The plan was adopted by Baltimore City Planning Commission in Fall 2020.



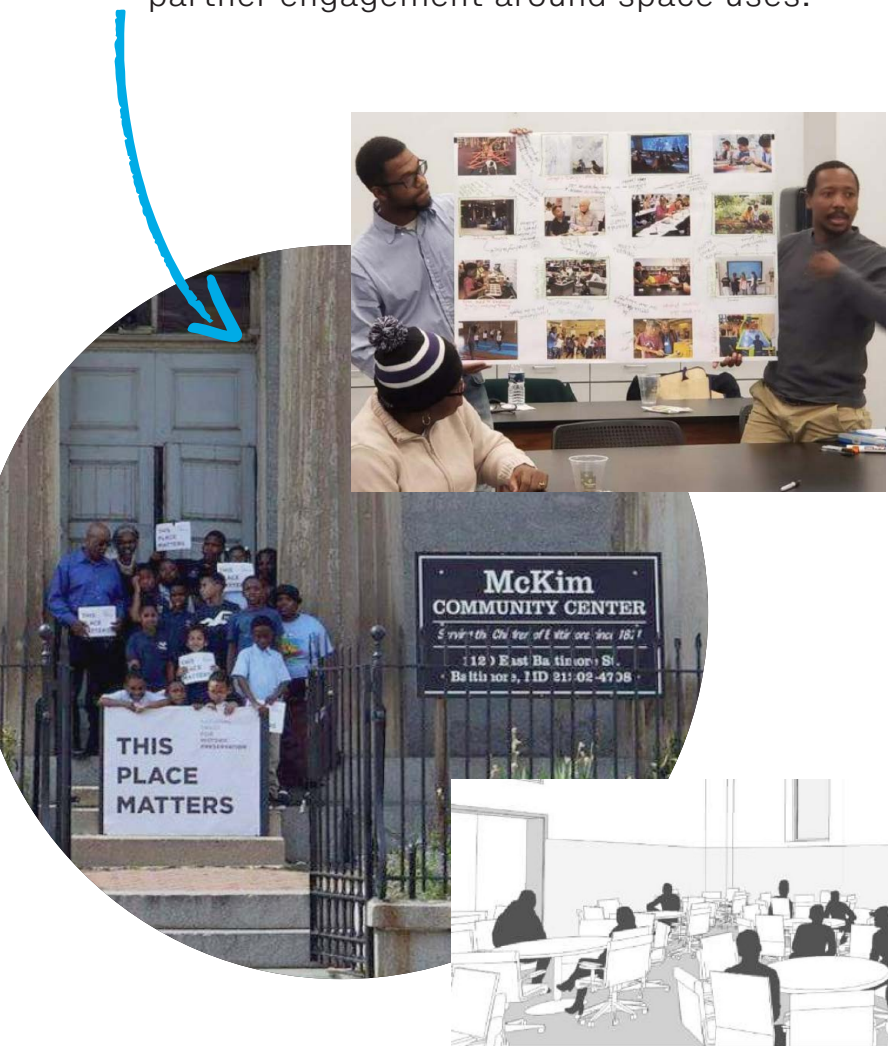
#3445

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

NDC volunteers produced a space-use analysis to provide a fresh perspective on space use alternatives in better meeting the demand GSCM faces not only for the summer camp and the entrepreneurship program but also for the out-of-school-time programs and adult trainings offered at the facility.

#3459
McKim Community Association
Building Conditions

McKim Community Association is revitalizing their two historic buildings—the 1821 Free School Building on Baltimore Street and the 1781 Quaker Meetinghouse on Aisquith and Fayette Streets—in the service of Baltimore’s citizens. NDC volunteers supported with partner engagement around space uses.



#3352
Madison Park Playgrounds

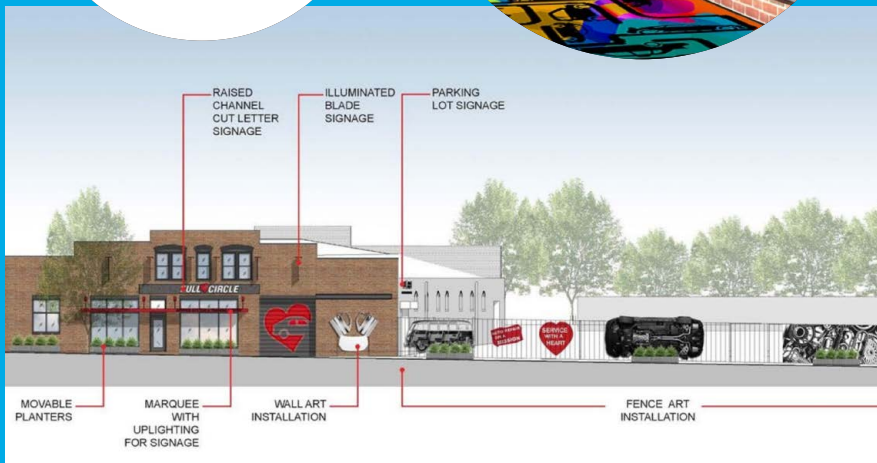
Landscape design for the Madison Park Neighborhood in West Baltimore. Preservation and design of historic playgrounds.



#3449

Vehicles for Change

Developed schematic drawings for the rehabilitation of the façade and interior upgrades for an office and training space for a workforce development program. The group is currently in the process of securing permits to start construction.



#3539

Contee Parago Park Redesign

Landscape design for park updates. We partnered with DCMDVA chapter of Association of Professional Landscape Designers to design and later implement the changes.

Prince George's County



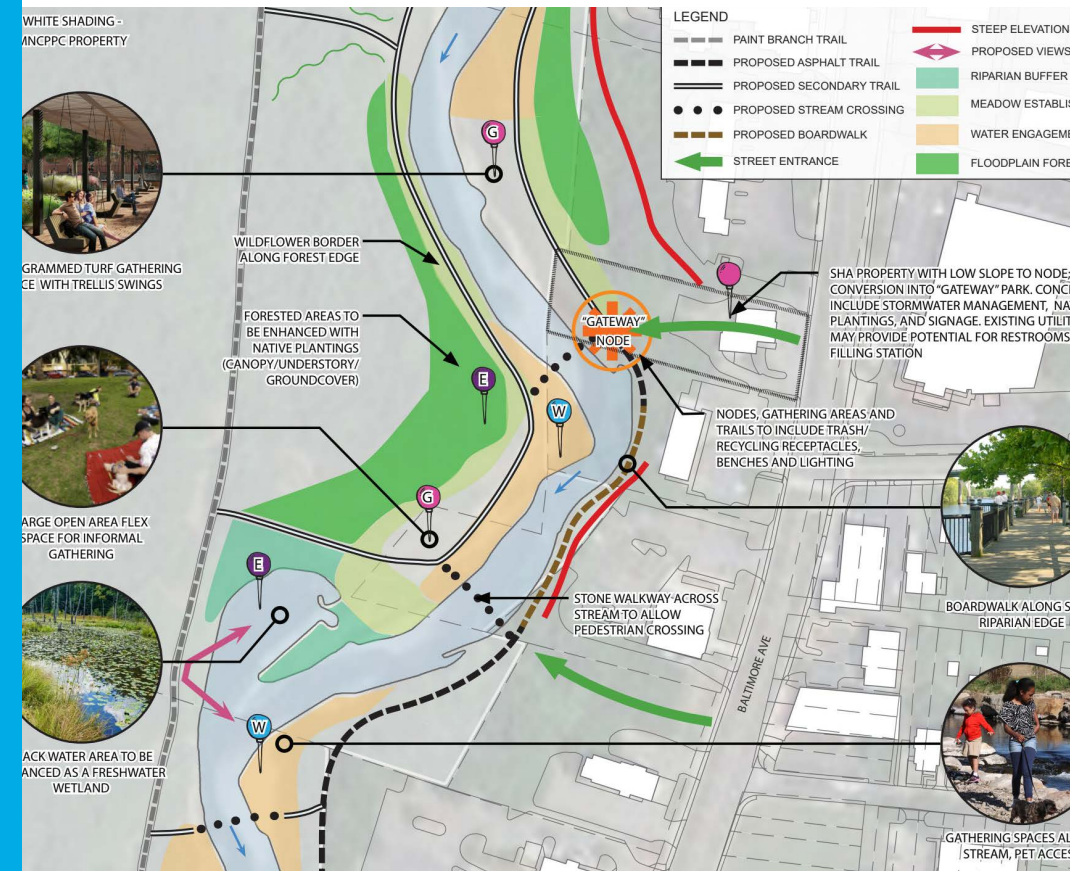
#3615 D3 Food Distribution Graphics

To support the Greater Riverdale Cares initiative, NDC provided graphic design support including a logo for the initiative, banners and handouts listing resources and procedures, and to advertise food distribution sites. ***Our partners have printed and distributed 15,000 of the resource 2-pagers!!!***

#3580

Paint Branch Riverwalk Vision Plan

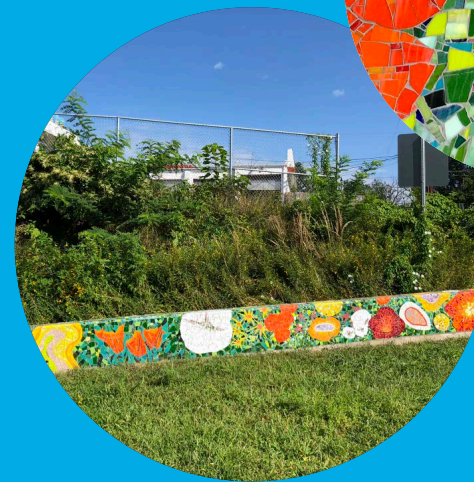
Commissioned by the College Park University-City Partnership and with the help of the Lakeland, UMD, and College Park communities, NDC volunteers designed a vision for an expansion of the Paint Branch trail that included public art, gathering spaces, and ecosystem renewal.





#3518
North Brentwood Commercial Identity

NDC provided design support for the Town of North Brentwood's Facade Improvement Program. Two businesses participated and we are thrilled with the resulting designs.



#3408
Sawa's Hope Circle

Artist Shahin Talikshan was selected to design and install a glass mosaic mural on the long retaining wall on site as well as to design semi-transparent fence banners at the site perimeter.

#3517
PGAAMCC Facility Expansion

NDC engaged key stakeholders including the North Brentwood community to identify elements desired for a new Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. Feedback was used to create a feasibility study.



#3611
Riverdale Park Farmer's Market Design Support

The Riverdale Park Farmer's Market provides much-needed produce to the community, even during a global pandemic. In order to keep customers and vendors safe, leaflets, signs, and layout assessments were needed.

“After incurring the overwhelming circumstances of COVID19 at the farmers market, we didn't know where to turn to get a culturally savvy, positive message and accurately translated communication about how to interact with our community regarding COVID19 protocols.

Luckily, we had an offer of assistance from Neighborhood Design Center to assist us in our work. It helped us greatly to get a handle on our response through posters, signage, and handouts so folks would be prepared both before coming to market and waiting in line at the market.”

RIVERDALE PARK FARMERS MARKET

COVID 19 Operating Policies & Procedures

At the Market

Follow CDC and State Guidance, and follow market Covid-19 rules below:

1. Be Patient and Kind

2. Practice Social Distance keep 6 foot at all times

3. Wear a face mask or covering at all times

4. Please follow the designated route

5. One person at a time

6. Don't touch unless you plan to buy

7. Bag your own purchases

8. Once you have finished shopping please leave, we look forward to seeing you next week!

9. At home wash your hands and your purchases

Thank you, Stay safe and healthy!

<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

riverdale park

farmers' market

SEED Centro de Distribucion de Comida

Gracias por ayudarnos a mantener nuestras familias y comunidad seguras. Por favor siga los lineamientos de CDC y el estado de Maryland:

Use mascara facial o cubrase todo el tiempo

Practique distancia social. Separados 6 pies

Lave sus manos frecuentemente o use gel antibacterial si esta disponible

Si usted tiene pluma propia, por favor usela para firmar

World Central Kitchen

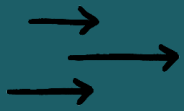
SEED

Greater Riverdale Cares



#3582
MLK Day School Design
Templeton ES

NDC supported CKAR CDC in the design and implementation of a facelift for the hallways and main office of Templeton ES, plus the addition of a new parent resource area. Volunteers spent the day painting, arranging furniture, and creating welcoming bulletin boards.



PROJECT NO. 3694

The Design For Distancing Guidebook

Developed in response to COVID-19 and the challenges faced by local businesses, the first part of this initiative called on design and public health communities to develop innovative approaches to safe, physically distant gathering.

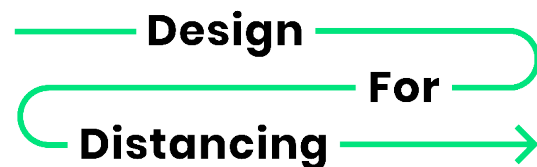


The Challenge: Rethink public space to support economic recovery.

In the spring of 2020, the Baltimore Mayor's Office and Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) created the COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Initiative, which established a \$5.5 million fund to help businesses reopen without compromising public health.

\$1.5 million was allocated for the Design for Distancing initiative to create social distancing interventions in Baltimore's Main Streets, Arts Districts, and Retail Business License Districts.

NDC convened experts from the Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Department of Transportation, and local business, advocacy, and community development groups to develop a design brief informed by deep knowledge and lived experience.



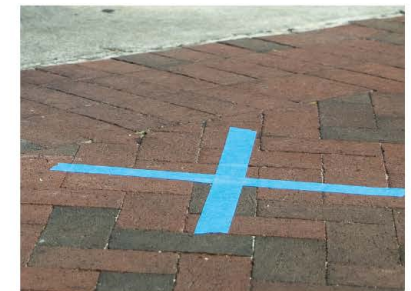
REOPENING BALTIMORE TOGETHER

BEFORE



DREARY
WAITING
AREAS
←

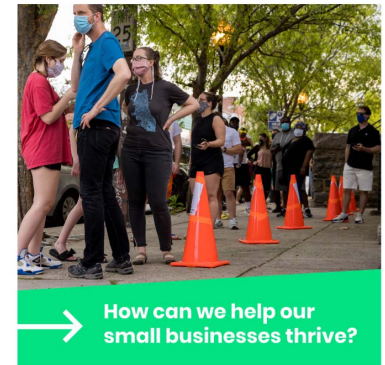
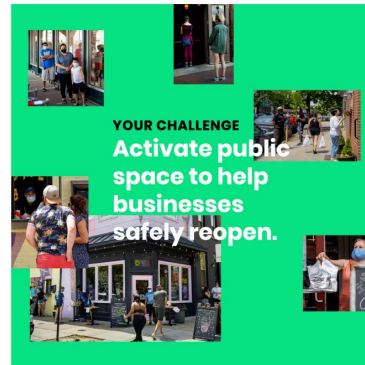
UNUTILIZED
PUBLIC SPACE
↘



↖ CHEAP,
IMPROVED
SOLUTIONS

The Plan: Invite designers to submit concepts

The result was a fast-paced social media campaign and Ideas Competition, circulated around the world to architects, artists, and anyone with a good idea. From hand drawn sketches by children to professional renderings, we received 162 submissions!



The Vision: Publish the best ideas online, free for anyone

A review panel of experts and community leaders voted on concepts, ultimately selecting ten. These ten design teams were each awarded a \$5,000 stipend, and partnered with the Neighborhood Design Center to quickly finalize their exceptional interventions.

These public space plans were shared on the **Design for Distancing website**.

Free to view and download, the Ideas Guidebook encourages others to reference, adapt, and install these ideas in their own city.

Our Neighborhood Design Center staff wrote it to have everything a potential build team might need to get started – building resources, health guidelines, reading recommendations, and more. Perhaps most importantly, the guide talks about ways to make the process inclusive by employing principles of co-design.

“ This Guidebook talks about how we can have principles that prioritize communities of color and communities that have been disinvested. It is a tremendous opportunity to center equity and public health in how we rethink public spaces.”

— KESHIA POLLOCK PORTER, PROFESSOR AT THE JHU BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Framing + Vision

PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO CONCEPTS THAT

- Are inclusive, healthy and equitable
- Focus on the concept of “physical distancing” vs. “social distancing”—we still want people to gather, but to gather safely
- Support a return to thriving business
- Create spaces that people actually use
- Employ clear, helpful messaging (in appropriate languages for the host community)
- Embrace the best practices, energy and warmth of pedestrian-oriented cities
- Reflect and amplify the existing character of the surrounding neighborhood
- Are executable in a very short time frame
- Are unique, warm, engaging, and safe
- Surprise, delight and reimagine

Some of the key issues Design Teams were asked to consider.



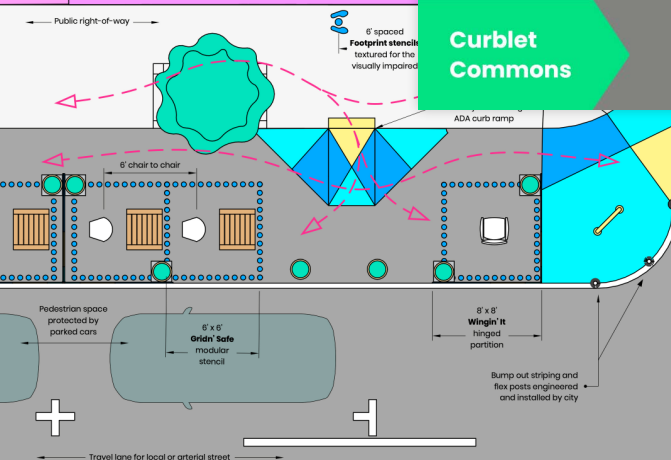
Key Considerations

ALL SUBMITTED DESIGNS WERE REQUIRED TO

- Be temporary (while considering the possibility of permanent installation)
- Be low-cost (installation budget of \$30K to \$100K)
- Address the needs of food service, retail, and other service industries
- Be situated outdoors in public space (i.e. the sidewalk, closed streets, parking spaces, vacant lots, parking lots)
- Be people-focused (those using the streets, parks, public spaces and especially those patronizing local businesses)
- Both incorporate public health guidelines and communicate how to use spaces in order to maintain those guidelines
- Support the safety of users, and communicate that safety is being considered
- Consider a range of users and groups and support their safe interaction (from young children to seniors; from single person to large family, differently)
- Prioritize materials pieces to elsewhere
- Prioritize the great



Curblet Commons



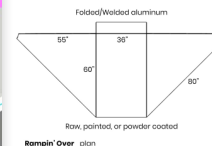
Curblet Commons

GRAHAM PROJECTS
GRAHAM COREIL-ALLEN

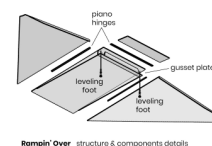
“Curblet Commons” converts a parking lane into a public space for community, shopping, services, and culinary encounters.

The “Rampin’ Over” ADA curb ramps provide adjustable height mobility access midblock. The “Wingin’ It” hinged partitions may be set at different angles to appropriately frame spatial distance. Precast planters anchor the separators, provide beautification, and serve as protective barriers for curb-lyfe enthusiasts.

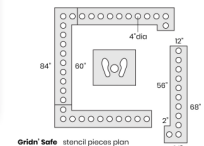
From the “Gridin’ Safe” modular stencils participants take maintaining their publicly healthy visible footprints and 6’ by 6’ ing spray paint and epoxy paint to be foot-felt by those visually out define the space with line racks. Artful, high-contrast fying the Curblet Commons while f publicly subsidized car storage for pedestrian conviviality and



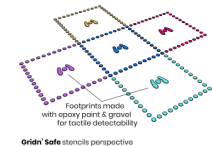
Rampin' Over plan



Rampin' Over structure & components details

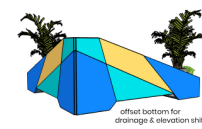


Gridin' Safe stencil piece plan

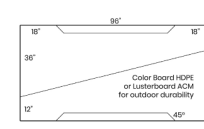


Gridin' Safe stencils perspective

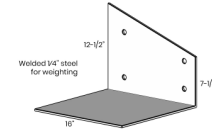
Wingin' It hinged partition inner perspective



Wingin' It outer perspective



Wingin' It single sheet cuts plan



Wingin' It foot detail

for Restaurants in Response to COVID-19

Inclusive Public Space

Gehl Institute, “Inclusive Healthy Places”

COST
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

MAINTENANCE
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

FABRICATION
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

MATERIALS
→ Unfinished, painted or powder coated aluminum sheet
→ Color Board HDPE or Lusterboard ACM
→ Piano Hinges
→ Leveling feet
→ Steel foot
→ Gusset plate
→ Epoxy paint and gravel
→ Planters
→ Stencils

Public Health Resources

CDC Communications Resources

CDC Guidance for Businesses and Workplaces

CDC Restaurants and Bars Decision Tool

CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces

FDA “Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up/Delivery Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic”

James Beard Foundation & the Food and Society Program at the Aspen Institute, “Safety First: Serving Food and Protecting People During COVID-19”

U.S. Department of Labor, “Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19”

National Restaurant Association, “COVID-19 Reopening Guidance”

the Neighborhood DesignCenter

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