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This project is a response to the failing food policies in New York City. Our main goal was to provide South Bronx residents with convenience, choice, and access to fresh cooked food options. This project is focused on the South Bronx; however, this same system can be implemented in other food insecure neighborhoods. Our design proposal is a healthy food truck system and the creation of a series of food stops that not only provide the neighborhood with fresh and prepared food, but also creates community gathering spaces for eating, selling, and entertainment.

The group worked collaboratively creating drawings and collecting data. I also played a large role in building a strong and coherent narrative for our project.
WHAT'S FOR DINNER TODAY?

HEALTHY FOOD STREET - GIS DATA & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Process and Implementation
In Collaboration with Sanya Verma, Iza Khan, and Qiannan Guo
TRANSFORMING STREET PARKING & NYCHA PUBLIC SPACES

Healthy Food Street South Bronx Design

In Collaboration with Sanya Verma, Iza Khan, and Qiannan Guo
HEALTHY FOOD STREET - A FOOD STOP

Healthy Food Street South Bronx Design - NYCHA Campuses are Transformed
In Collaboration with Sanya Verma, Iza Khan, and Qiannan Guo
Phase 1: Coalition Formation
During this phase we brought different community representatives together to formulate the coalition. This included community activists, government representatives, and non-profit organizations to address food insecurity in NYC.

Phase 2: Engaging Community
During this phase we spoke at the Community Board Meeting in South Bronx and presented our design proposal to gather feedback from community leaders. This helped us understand the concerns of the stakeholders involved so that we knew what issues to design for in the later phases.

Phase 3: Design Development
Developing a new system for food distribution. Developing digital tools to incentivize healthier eating. We aim to increase choice, convenience, and access to healthy cooked options.

Phase 4: Design Implementation
These commissary kitchens provide refrigeration, food truck docking, and kitchen equipment/storage for food truck owners. The food lines, which replace underused curb-side parking, will allow a convenient space for food truck owners to set up their vehicle and serve to residents.

Phase 5: Awareness & Expansion
Connecting with the existing organizations and departments necessary for implementing our future design proposal. Building connections with community leaders to further understand the issues within the neighborhood and design in response to their feedback.

Connecting exsisting retail to community farms.

Providing Food Truck workers with the resources to store and make cooked healthy foods.

Constructing Commissary Kitchens and Healthy Food Pockets.

Design Implementation
Commissary Kitchens and Healthy Food Pockets.

Design Implementation
Commisary Kitchens and Healthy Food Pockets.

Taking the other unhealthy areas that were identified and transforming them into public spaces/food stops.

A combination of people (our team) with mutual concerns related to food insecurity in NYC.

Listening to what community members want and do not want. Designing with their voices in mind.

Creating a new healthy food network and digital tool that increases access, choice, and convenience.

Refrigeration and Storage Commissary Kitchens will each have refrigeration and storage for fresh food products.

Design Implementation
Larger parking lots and NYCHA open space will be transformed into public spaces/food stops.

Connecting with community leaders to further understand the issues within the neighborhood and design in response to their feedback.

Healthy Food Street: Combating Food Insecurity in the South Bronx

FOR A HEALTHIER NYC
PROGRESS IN BRONX

HEALTHY FOOD STREET - PROJECT TIMELINE
Process and Implementation
In Collaboration with Sanya Verma, Iza Khan, and Qiannan Guo
POST AVE. ENGAGEMENT
Community Engagement Seminar - Fall 2022
In Collaboration with the Seminar Team and NYDOT
Seminar Critic: Kaja Kuhl

This exercise answers the call for participation at the local level as a means to overcome exclusionary histories of the design and planning profession. We worked collaboratively with the New York Department of Transportation: Public Spaces Division to engage with the primary stakeholders involved in the Post Avenue Open-Streets project. The objective was to develop an engagement strategy and conduct a series of engagement activities to collect input and feedback. The goal was not to design, but simply to engage, learn and share our data with the DOT, the Vendor’s Association, and the residents involved.

This project was one of my favorites during my Urban Design Master’s degree. I enjoy working at the local level and interacting with stakeholders/clients. During this process I created engagement activities for residents and passers-by, and then interviewed them about possible interventions for the Post Avenue Plaza. I feel that engagement relies on our ability to facilitate conversation, to listen, engage, and create an environment where everyone feels welcome to participate and share.
The regime of property upholds possession, exclusion and control as markers of value. It reinforces these notions through the cyclic creation of borders and institutionalized barriers to the most fundamental human rights - home, education, food and opportunity. The MARTA and later the beltline envisioned a unified city, with everyone having access to home, and every resource that this city has to offer.

Hulsey Yard lies at the junction of these two elements. Bordered by some of the most exclusive and fastest gentrifying neighborhoods in the city, the Yard is a vast void owned and operated by railroad giant CSX. The city works to keep low-income, unhoused and historically marginalized people out of sight, with society’s amnesiac nature enabling authorities to perpetrate cycles of violence.

We base our vision on a social value system that puts human need above all, and encourages people to take what they need without hesitation and share what they can freely and joyfully. We thus revalue human systems by devaluing the forces of capital.
DE/NETWORK - RECLAIMING THE BELTLINE
Hulsey Yard Intervention and Take Over
In Collaboration with Anagha Arunkumar, Chelsie Cheng, Haoyu Hu
DE/NETWORK - STRUCTURES FOR THE UNHOUSED

Exposing Forces of Capital While Providing Spaces of Care

In Collaboration with Anagha Arunkumar, Chelsie Cheng, Haoyu Hu
MUISCA LOWLANDS
UD Studio III Double Displacement at the Waters Edge
Spring 2023
In Collaboration with Jackie Liu, Heer Shah, Iza Khan

Muisca Lowlands seeks to heal people’s relationships with water by reimagining ways of living with gradients of wetness. The core of our proposal is a densification strategy that goes beyond conventional land-use planning to incorporate time, seasonality, changing water levels, and calibrated agriculture and aquaculture practices. Following the traditional Muisca camellones way of sculpting highground and lowground, we weave a new tapestry of living, with infrastructure elevated high and living activities below, a symphony of agriculture, aquaculture, and community that works by the rhythms of water. We see Muisca Lowlands as an agent of change that can spread along Rio Bogota, Rio Tunjuelo, Mosquera, and Soacha, instigating a paradigm shift toward a sustainable landscape where humans and nature coexist in harmony and wetness is embraced as a key element within the urban built environment.
MUISCA LOWLANDS
Revitalizing Lower Tunjuelo
In Collaboration with Jackie Liu, Heer Shah, Iza Khan
LIVING WITH WETNESS
Revitalizing Lower Tunjuelo
In Collaboration with Jackie Liu, Heer Shah, Iza Khan
Contestation, the action of disputing, disagreeing, or protesting, has historically been used as a method of confrontation against injustice. The 1967 riots in Newark, New Jersey came about at a time when racial tensions were on the verge of boiling over. This unrest within the community came to a breaking point when John Smith, an African American cab driver, was unjustly arrested, beaten by two White police officers, and then dragged to the 4th Police Precinct. Contestation, in this case, can be seen as an act of rebellion against forces of racial oppression. In Newark, this was a moment of empowerment for the city’s Black community as they stormed the front of the precinct and protested against racial and social injustice. Yes, it was violent and destructive, but it was also an uprising that empowered people to confront discriminatory practices and treatment.

From this violence came Black leadership in Newark. In 1970, the first Black mayor was elected. The police force, which was once predominantly White, now has Black and Brown officers in leadership positions. The riots empowered the city’s African American community and encouraged long-needed changes both socially and politically. Contestation, here, is a public expression of objection on the streets of Newark. I chose this example because, although it occurred over 50 years ago, it remains relevant as we continue to struggle with racial inequality and injustice.