“We’re building more bridges throughout the design and built environment community throughout Detroit. Detroit is uniquely positioned to break with some of those paradigms in terms of how design professionals and businesses relate and collaborate with one another.”

Charlie Klecha, Managing Director
AIA Detroit
Design plays a critical role in welcoming, attractive, memorable, and unique spaces – inside and out. When businesses apply design principles to their projects, it can be a powerful tool for creating transformational cultural and social change in the city.

Commercial revitalization is dependent upon including community voice. Neighbors and community stakeholders should have the opportunity to provide their wants and hopes for what they can access close to home. However, as is often the case with small businesses trying to establish themselves, many aren’t sure where to begin when it comes to design or to the value of investing in design as a means of growing their businesses. Design Core saw this as a unique opportunity to bring together a variety of resources to 1) recognize pioneering businesses for incorporating professional design services into their vision as a way of incentivizing and elevating design in the city, 2) aid small businesses who are looking for guidance in creating welcoming, design-driven spaces that will help them deliver differentiating experiences, and 3) expand market opportunities for young designers.

To successfully revitalize commercial corridors, these areas must be properly planned for, not just in terms of aesthetics, but in walkability, accessibility, transit, and more. It often requires significant investment from small business owners. In Detroit, several organizations offer tax incentives, grants, loans, and counseling through programs such as Detroit Economic Growth Corporation’s Motor City Match and Motor City Re-Store (both of which are City of Design partner projects), which help businesses to revitalize their spaces with quality design.

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"When you’re surrounded by attractive businesses that offer great experiences, they create a sort of living environment that makes a difference in people’s daily lives. Enhancing the quality of the living environment is something that you start at a small scale and it becomes a movement."

Sylvie Champeau, MGP Councillor
Analysis & Management Control, Design Bureau, Economic Development Department, City of Montréal

Vibrant, active commercial corridors are a marker of healthy, desirable community life. In Detroit, many commercial corridors are struggling with an abundance of vacant spaces that make attracting and retaining anchor businesses difficult. Detroit neighborhoods deserve clean, safe, well-designed thoroughfares with places to eat, shop, and drink where residents and visitors will want to return again and again.

Rewarding businesses for design

Design Core recognized the need to acknowledge both those business owners who have invested in design and the designers who helped further their vision as a way of growing Detroit’s commercial corridors, promoting accessibility, and preserving local identity. As part of a shared dialogue in the UNESCO City of Design Network, Design Core learned about Montréal’s Commerce Design Awards. This program was designed to lift up Montréal merchants and restaurant owners who invested in professional design services, positioning them as successful role models. Since its inception in 1995, the award has been licensed to 14 cities worldwide.

Design Core began to research the award for Detroit, and traveled to Montréal with a delegation that included representatives from the City of Detroit planning department, AIA Detroit, and Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. The group swapped learnings with Montréal City of Design colleagues, met with business owners, and visited the spaces of several of Montréal’s Commerce Award winners. "In Montréal, we saw design that is contextual to its environment. The best design is sensitive to place and the trip really reinforced that. The design fit the neighborhood. It looked like it belonged there," said Kimberly Driggins, Director of Strategic Planning/Arts & Culture, Planning & Development Department, City of Montréal. "Many of the award winners we saw in Montréal were in neighborhoods that were outside of the city center. We thought, ‘Okay, we can do this. This program could be successful here.’"

In 2018, Design Core and its partners at AIA Detroit, with support from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, the Hudson-Webber Foundation, and New Economy Initiative, launched the Commerce Design: Detroit award. The award honors commercial projects where business owners have hired professional designers to help them in the design or renovation of their space. Business owners and designers must apply together and are awarded at an official ceremony. "It’s the strength of both the designer and the small business owner that produces good results," says Sylvie Champeau, City of Montréal and Juror of Commerce Design: Detroit. "The vision of the business owner can impact the design of the designer who analyzes things differently than the entrepreneur. The synergy between the two is critical."

In the first year, 10 Detroit businesses were selected as the winners from a highly competitive group of 37 submissions and 18 finalists, representing a broad range of businesses, scales, neighborhoods, and business types. "The winners were amazingly spread out throughout different neighborhoods. It wasn’t only downtown. A couple of years ago, you might not have expected businesses in those areas to win," said Sylvie Champeau. "When you reward these businesses and success stories, it encourages other businesses to invest in design."
“People are influenced by their own environment. If you start taking care of your own environment it’s like taking care of yourself. A positive reinforcement cycle happens. When you think about a renaissance, this is how you plant those seeds and they start growing. We’re still doing this in Montréal.”

Zebulan Perron, Founder of Atelier Zebulan Perron
Commerce Design Montréal award winner

One of the Detroit winners, The Commons in Islandview, is a combination coffee shop, laundromat, and community space in a formerly vacant building in Detroit. The space was purchased nearly a decade ago for $500 by a non-profit, MACC Development. MACC Development’s long-term vision was to create a neighborhood staple for community gathering and youth literacy programming that would have a transformational effect on an unstable, often ignored neighborhood.

MACC Development hired Laavu, an architecture and urban design firm, which worked hand-in-hand with them through every step of the design process. “One of the most important things in designing this space was to mark its place in the city to create a presence in the neighborhood,” said Kaija Wuollet, Founding Principal, Laavu. “People were walking by wondering what we were doing. It was exciting to be there and they’re proving it by investing in the building.”

At various points in the development process, the team brought together different people from the neighborhood – from residents to local business owners and stakeholders – to gather feedback on plans for the building. “I think that was the really important architectural moment. There were many complex conversations and we saw the power of the design working to bridge the community groups. It was powerful that this small physical intervention had a big impact on the conversations of the neighborhood,” said Wuollet. “I remember in one of the meetings, there was a gentleman who was quiet during our presentation, and then after he said, I can’t believe this can be ours, our own community space.”

Ezekiel Harris, Executive Director of MACC Development who operates The Commons, says that he’s already seen an uptick in business due to the attention from the award. “It’s free marketing. Your business is being talked about and people are visiting your spot because they heard about the award. It’s the next best thing that you can ask for other than free money.”

The Commons is just one of many small business design wins burgeoning in the city of Detroit. The Commerce Design Detroit award serves to celebrate the impact of these spaces while increasing competitiveness, growing the market for local design professionals, and helping to preserve the unique local identity of Detroit neighborhoods. “The competition is building a community and that community is being connected in ways that they might not have been,” says Driggins. “The proof will be over time, how this can build a movement. How can this be something where small and local business owners are thinking about design not as a burden, but as a value add.”

“The award is very inclusive. It makes it possible for a very high-end hotel to be in the same contest with corner bakery that is well-designed, but with less luxurious materials.”

Stijn Debaille, Region Coordinator
Kortrijk Design in Kortrijk, Belgium, a UNESCO City of Design that has also licensed the award

Creating a neighborhood design guide

In its conversations with business owners across the city, Design Core realized that another way it could help was to create an education piece that could guide small business owners in the design process. The piece would touch on all the different disciplines of design from branding to digital design to merchandising and display.

“We were originally thinking about a guide for the built environment, the physical space, storefronts. But, you can’t get to that point until you understand your brand: the identity, the brand character, the digital assets. We realized that our guide should touch on all the different categories of design because they all relate. That’s how to buildup was born,” said Bonnie Fahoome, Design Core Detroit Director of Business Programs.

Design Core began developing the “Design Guide: Neighborhood Business” with local partners, TechTown Detroit, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, JSA, and incubator Ponyride. This effort was inspired by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and TechTown Detroit.

To create the Design Guide: Neighborhood Business, Design Core:

Gathered insight and expertise from several volunteer design companies on their step-by-step design process with small businesses.

Used local photography and case studies to illustrate points so that business owners could see themselves in the outcomes.

Held focus groups with small businesses to ensure the evolving guide’s language was accessible, relatable, and relevant to their challenges.
In the past year alone, Design Core distributed almost 500 copies to both small businesses and designers alike. Business support organizations around the city, like TechTown’s Retail Boot Camp, are using the guide to inform their design curriculums. Design Core continues to host regular interactive hands-on workshops where professional designers walk small businesses through moodboard exercises using the booklet as a guide.

Designers are also using the resource as a business tool. “We’ve had designers ask for these guides because they’re helping to educate potential and future clients,” says Fahuome. “It helps the designers to have more successful projects by working with clients who understand the process and can keep the flow moving throughout the execution.”

The impact of the guide has gone beyond the City of Design network. Stijn Kortrijk was inspired by Detroit and is considering creating a design guide of its own. “While with the AIA Detroit during the development of this case study, Charlie Klecha is now Interim Executive Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students, closely affiliated with AIA Detroit.

“Business owners are discovering through the award process how impactful design work is for their business. It’s the same message they get through the design guide. They have the same aha moment where they discover, ‘If I think about this intentionally, this isn’t just about bricks and mortar, it’s about the space that I want to create.’”

Charlie Klecha, Managing Director
AIA Detroit

CASE STUDIES

A Road to Readiness Program
Design Core’s Road to Readiness Program was one of the three programs focused on increasing access to financing and other support for small businesses and entrepreneurs. The program educated small makers and manufacturers on positioning themselves for future capital acquisition. The project served 20 participants. This project helped entrepreneurs expand their growth and understand the potential barriers to capital that exist.

B The Platform Fourth Floor
The Platform’s Fourth Floor program focuses on cultivating creative professionals by offering accessible space for emerging creatives. The program’s success is reflected in the renewal and expansion rates of tenants (currently at a 100% occupancy rate) as well as tenant-reported increases in portfolio sizes, revenue, exposure, and client attraction. The Platform also works to match the creative talent on the Fourth Floor to relevant opportunities across their other developments.

C EDITION Gallery Store
Simone DeSousa’s EDITION space significantly increased foot traffic and sales. Part of the project involved a new model combining a regular store and monthly mini features. EDITION’s audience has expanded this year, and has experienced a 50% increase in sales, becoming known as a space you can come to find unique quality work produced locally.

D Vacant Not Blighted Walking Tour
The Vacant Not Blighted walking tour and accompanying Finance Fair took place on August 18, 2018, in Detroit’s Riverbend/Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood. The one-day walking tour took place within a two-to-three block radius of the intersection of Ashland Street and Kercheval Avenue, which featured three vacant homes and sites of neighborhood history. The featured homes were determined by the Land Bank, through a selection process of finding available “Demo-It-Now” homes with clear title, in rehab-able condition, and walking distance from one another. The was work conducted to help people understand vacancy and blight. This tour helped further the local goals to help revitalize neighborhoods and promote local understanding of design. The project was grant-funded through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the State Historic Preservation Office.

60 percent of attendees surveyed were from Detroit.

70 percent of attendees surveyed agreed that the tour inspired them to think differently about blighted properties.

There were three reported media mentions.
Inclusive Design at Work

INCLUSIVE MOBILITY

“The average Detroiter faces a laundry list of barriers: from cost of living to safety. Without a means of transportation, people cannot participate. They cannot engage in recreational activities, they cannot go to the library, they cannot even vote. Mobility enables participation for people.”

Maria Luisa Rossii, Chair and Professor
MFA Integrated Design, College for Creative Studies

Moving Detroit Forward through Inclusive Mobility

How can all members of the community, regardless of location, socioeconomic status, age or ability, move freely and safely around the city? And how can designers work with government, education, industry, and community resources to ensure equal access for all, but also to ensure that the variety of voices have a stake in mobility conversations?

Everybody in the city needs to get from A to B: from work to school to leisure activities and beyond. Mobility is a basic human right. But it’s part of daily life that can prove challenging to many Detroiters. With a faltering public transportation system in a city dependent upon cars, mobility is often not easily accessible or equitable in Detroit. This has been a source of concern for decades.

Transit is complex issue. But intricate issues benefit from the involvement of many voices. As we look to develop lasting mobility solutions, we must consider the people who most need it, offering up possibilities and options to support users of all abilities.

Design Core has been collaborating with the College for Creative Studies (CCS) to gain a deeper understanding of these issues. We have been bringing together local leaders, academics, and community members to gather ideas, mine research, and reframe the issue to imagine solutions that can benefit all Detroiters. Here are just a few ways we are changing the conversation about equitable mobility in Detroit.

CONNECT TEN BUS SERVICE

The Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) has been working on service improvements, including its new ConnectTen service which adds WiFi, peak hour frequency of 15 minutes, and 24/7 service to its 10 most popular routes. As part of this ConnectTen rollout DDOT began implementing its department rebrand. A City of Design project, DDOT’s visual design improvements will help DDOT communicate effectively with riders and improve the experience and the accessibility of the system.
Two solutions created by CCS graduate students were chosen to be featured at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum exhibition, The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility through March 2019.

Ahead: Reimagining Mobility

Museum exhibition, The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility through March 2019.

Students used co-creation sessions to identify community needs by working with end users at Detroit nonprofit Focus: HOPE. In the second phase, students utilized a human-centered approach involving stakeholders and design process experts, students in the first phase focused on education, creating conditions to reduce the risk of youth migration, on supporting Detroit families’ health, nutrition, and employment, and aimed at creating an efficient match between “offers” and “demands” within neighborhoods to develop three long-term mobility scenarios.

Establishing global leadership in inclusive design research

Detroit has a unique opportunity right now to be a leader in inclusive design research – especially when it comes to mobility.

The commitment to equity is both a journey and a process.”

Ruth Johnson
Transit Advocate

In the Fall of 2019, College for Creative Studies (CCS) and Design Core are planning to launch the City of Design Research Lab, which will pilot scenarios for mobility solutions of the future that will address the needs of all Detroiters. CCS faculty are strongly interested in developing and conducting interdisciplinary design research projects, and Design Core Detroit is equally interested in advancing the goals of its UNESCO City of Design Action Plan, which focuses on applying inclusive design practices to the challenges facing Detroit.

“The lab will result in the development of products, systems, and services intended to improve life for people in cities all over the world. No other independent design school in the US is doing it. Detroit will be the first.” — Ellie Schneider, Design Core Detroit, Director of Advocacy and Operations.

Even though Detroit is the Motor City, everybody knows how difficult it is to get around. I think it is absolutely imperative to look at Detroit as a canvas to envision new ways to think about mobility. The only way to study this research is looking for solutions that are equitable.”

Maria Luisa Rossi, Chair and Professor
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Design research can be an effective tool to develop products, services, and systems that respond to human needs and improve communication among stakeholders. What’s more, Detroit has a legacy of expertise in automotive, transportation design industries and education, and recognition of a shift toward mobility.

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Maria Luisa Rossi, Chair and Professor
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The Research Lab will leverage Detroit’s design expertise to:

**UNDERSTAND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY**
Ongoing interdisciplinary research that involves academia, industry, government, and community which will yield new ideas, knowledge and data that can help grow understanding in the field of inclusive mobility.

**CREATE PROTOTYPES**
Research grants and challenges for faculty, students, recent graduates, and entrepreneurs to create physical prototypes to test in partnership with Detroit community organizations and publish research.

**INCREASE GLOBAL AWARENESS**
Exhibitions and convenings during Detroit Month of Design that invites the global design community to Detroit to discuss and explore best practices and share new ideas about inclusive mobility solutions.

In early 2019, Design Core and CCS engaged Mark de la Vergne, Chief Mobility and Innovation Officer from the City of Detroit, to conduct a workshop to gain insight about the challenges and opportunities around inclusive mobility in Detroit. The collaboration brought together community members, CCS students, transit advocates, and mobility experts in the industry to explore questions such as:

A. How do you design a solution with Detroiters instead of for them?
B. Can you define specific geographic areas where an intervention is urgent?
C. Can you define Detroit-specific user groups that are impacted by a lack of mobility solutions?
D. How can a design process be developed to include those that are typically left out of the conversation?
E. How would you effectively communicate or market a new service to all Detroiters?

"We’re building a city for everyone. So, when we’re piloting new types of projects, we want to ask community members all the questions we ask ourselves in the design of the project, and learn how they prioritize the issues."

Mark de la Vergne
Chief Mobility and Innovation Officer, City of Detroit

Gathering insight through community conversations

A critical component of Design Core’s commitment to researching and piloting equitable mobility solutions involves listening to and incorporating the voices and concerns of the local community.

While innovations in mobility are being developed that provide new ideas for how people get around, these solutions often have a bias by those developing them. New services, whether they launch in Detroit or elsewhere, typically struggle early on because the lack of knowledge that the service exists, how it can be used, or who it is for.

Participant Dell Stubbelfield, a community engagement and outreach employee at Focus: HOPE, attended the Mark de la Vergne workshop with two other members of her senior housing community in Detroit. Many residents in Dell’s community rely on public transport to traverse the city. She says that often conversations on mobility in Detroit center on aspects like bike lanes, and not as much on her community’s concerns: efficient buses and improved shelters that provide protection from the elements, better lighting, heating, and safety. “I’m hopeful for better ways of moving around the city, for better bus service. I’m hopeful for cleaner streets and better pavement,” says Stubbelfield. The workshop, she said, empowered her community by giving them a voice and broadening their own perspectives on the possibilities of design.

“It’s important to get community members to participate because they need to be empowered. They have to speak up. It’s critical to have a variety of people represented.”

Dell Stubbelfield
Community Engagement and Outreach Employee
Focus: HOPE
A

Adaptive MoGo Bike Program

Kyra, a 13-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, attended one of MoGo’s Demo Days on the Detroit Riverwalk. A staff member from Programs to Educate All Cyclists, a partner of Adaptive MoGo, found the right adaptive cycle (a recumbent tricycle) to fit Kyra’s needs, and she was riding within minutes of getting set up. This was her first time riding a bicycle – prior to Adaptive MoGo, she did not have access to the type of cycle that met her needs. The elation experienced not only by Kyra and her mother, but also by program staff and partners was palpable, with tears of joy in the eyes of many. Since then, Kyra and her mother have participated in other Adaptive MoGo Demo Days and rides and MoGo added 13 adaptive cycles to its fleet in May 2018. 53 reservation rides have been taken on the cycles, and an additional 93 rides were taken through four Demo Days on the Detroit Riverwalk. The story garnered national media coverage. The program not only helped increase access to Detroit’s outdoor activities, but also, by having the Demo Days and volunteers willing to inform people about the adaptive program, it increased awareness of the necessity of inclusive design for physically-disabled individuals.

Detroit is one of the first cities in the country with adaptive alternatives in its bike share fleet. The project was supported by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Design and Access Fund and the DALMAC Fund.

B

West Riverfront Park Project

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy West Riverfront Park project invested both time and money as it set out to answer the questions, 1) Who is the community we seek to serve? and 2) What is engagement? This public-private partnership involved 100 community meetings, including benchmarking tours, tours of city parks in other states, and a group of 21 Community Advisors (three cohorts of seven each) who were future park users. Engagement produced several insights including the guiding finding that the community wanted to be able to touch the water. The community had the opportunity to speak to the designers. Design previews and presentations were held in public. The design decision involved a national jury that included review of 410 comment cards, representing 83 zip codes.

Slated to open in 2022, the new Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park is the largest public space project in Detroit to date developed through inclusive design processes.

“Localized projects that are well designed and that include the local community can shift the social dynamics in those communities. It can do it in a way that’s beneficial for the residents who are there, in addition the investors or tourists who might be coming in to see it.”

Paul Draus, Sociology Professor
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Creating Community Impact Through Collective Action

All throughout Detroit, community and design advocates are engaged in grassroots efforts to enhance their neighborhoods. These on-the-ground initiatives are sparking neighborhood revitalization and beautification that is as visionary as it is inspiring.

Through Detroit City of Design initiatives, these opportunities are only gaining momentum.

Ideas are criss-crossing, new partnerships are forming and design principles are being shared across the network. Design Core is proud of our city’s array of diverse perspectives converging, creating a City of Design that is inclusive of all experiences and backgrounds.

“Being a part of this group enables us to interface with different people all throughout the city. Sometimes we might learn about an idea and think, ‘Oh, we can help somebody do this over here!’ We value the collaborative vision of the Detroit City of Design.”

– Pat Bosch, Community Organizer, Restore NED

Revitalizing a Community by Reinforcing the Social Fabric

Nowhere is the impact of grassroots collaborative action more apparent in Detroit than in District 3 in Detroit, an often-overlooked area in the Northeast corner of the city. This area is home to nearly 100,000 residents with a per capita income of $12,561. For years, the area has struggled economically, facing neglect, disinvestment, and lack of resources. At the same time, its social cohesion has remained strong, with a network of block clubs, churches, and neighborhood organizations working together to fuel revitalization in imaginative ways.

One group that has been particularly transformative in Northeast Detroit is City of Design partner Nortown CDC, a place-based, grassroots collaborative of residents, businesses, institutions, and affiliated nonprofits. Nortown CDC serves as Fiduciary Agent for Restore NED (Northeast Detroit), an initiative that fosters creative and beautification projects in Northeast Detroit through community organizing and land use visionary planning.

Restore NED’s projects have touched diverse populations, uplifting residents and the profile of the neighborhood itself. One of the ways it has done this is by uncovering local talent and connecting them to opportunities that may not have been otherwise available. Restore NED community organizer and Northeast Detroit resident, Karen Washington, offers an example:

“One of the first people we met through Restore NED was Walter Bailey, a renowned artist. We had no idea he lived within a block of one of our main parks. We approached him to paint murals that have become a permanent art display in the local park, and he’s now being commissioned around the city. We captured the interest of filmmaker Kathy Drasky who brought us into her documentary about the neighborhood. As we were talking, she mentioned that she needed a score for her film, so we connected her to a local musician, whose performing name is John Greasy. Kathy screened the film at our local theatre as a community fundraiser and we invited our entire neighborhood to participate. Everything we do is a collaboration that connects people in the neighborhood. Art and beautification are ways to engage the average resident.”

Annette Stocks, Manager of the Wilder Library Branch, was in attendance and was so impressed with the score, she hired the local musician to teach a ten-week music course to kids in the library.
Northeast Detroit’s Wilder Library Branch also hosted a second viewing of the documentary, inviting children and their parents to design their own artistic visions for Northeast Detroit. Restore NED hopes to utilize these drawings as they design new community murals in the neighborhood.

Restore NED is also learning about new revitalization ideas through its City of Design partnership. “We see the caliber of professionalism and creativity in the network. That encourages us to look deeper into our district,” says Pat Bosch, Restore NED community organizer. “Partnership in the Detroit City of Design makes us more attuned to new possibilities.”

A case in point is Restore NED’s connection to another City of Design partner, Carlos Nielbock. Carlos is a master architectural ornamental metal and design artist, engineer, inventor, and craftsman. Specializing in ornamental metal fabrication and restoration in Detroit, Carlos’ massive self-sustaining windmills and stunning ornamental metalworks can be seen in Detroit’s Eastern Market district.

Restore NED thought of Carlos when approached by a Nortown CDC supporter, Jerry Chojnacki, who had an interesting art proposition. While organizing his home, Jerry stumbled upon his father’s old World War II Luger. Rather than selling this gun with a dark history, he wanted to refashion it into a symbol of peace. He met Carlos through Restore NED and then commissioned Carlos to create a work of art that represents light and hope. While the project is still under construction at the time of this writing, when completed, Jerry hopes to share it with his fellow members of the Detroit-based St. Ignatius Catholic Community. Initially, it was Jerry’s story as featured in a St. Ignatius newsletter that helped Restore NED connect Jerry’s search for a metal design craftsman to Carlos Nielbock.

Carlos also works in partnership with Detroit City of Design partner, sociology professor Paul Draus. Paul himself is connected to Restore NED through research he has done on a Detroit park project in Northeast Detroit, as well as through City of Design convenings. Paul and Carlos are collaborating on the Detroit Windmill project, a City of Design initiative that includes a fully self-sustaining, upcycled, wind turbine and micro-grid. It is considered the future of self-sustainable energy, as well as colorful public art for all Detroiters to see and enjoy.

“Inclusive design means different things to different people. When we look at our community, we think, here’s a person with talent. How do we help them take it where it needs to go?”

Karen Washington, Community Organizer
Restore NED

“The role of the designer in the future will be to be a facilitator. We are not the stars that are doing the work...We need to be the people that facilitate the dialogue.”

Maria Luisa Rossi, Chair and Professor
MFA Integrated Design
College for Creative Studies
INVEST IN TALENT AND SEE AN IMPACT

CASE STUDIES

A Brightmoor Maker Space “Water Cycles”

60 local students designed a functional and imaginative solar-powered water purification system; some traveling to Kenya in March 2019 to help implement the project near Nairobi. A third iteration of the Water Cycle is currently in development.

University of Michigan ArcPrep DPS Program

ArcPrep’s program facilitated awards for Detroit Public School Community District students:
- Three Cornell Summer Architecture Program full scholarship awards,
- Three University of Michigan ArchStart awards,
- Two internships at Rossetti Architects, one internship at Hamilton Anderson, and one internship at Smithgroup in an effort to strengthen the pipeline for young Detroiters to pursue careers in architecture and design.

Connecting the Community Dots

Pat Bosch
Community Organizer of Restore NED

Commissioned Walter Bailey to paint park murals through collaboration with Allied Media Projects and Artsplace America funding

Appeared in Kathy Drasky’s documentary about Northeast Detroit

Shared ideas with Carlos Nielbock and Paul Draus at City of Design meetings

Connected Jerry Chojnacki to Carlos Nielbock to create artwork

Karen Washington
Community Organizer of Restore NED

Invited John Greasy to teach music course to local children

Engaged Harmonica Shah, a local Northeast Detroit resident, and his fellow musicians to play Blues music at the Wilder Library Branch

Carlos Nielbock
Metal & Design Artist

Met Pat Bosch and Karen Washington at a Detroit City of Design meeting

Worked with Jerry Chojnacki to create statue from his father’s WWII Luger

Collaborates with Paul Draus on Detroit Windmill project

Annette Stocks
Manager at Wilder Branch Detroit Public Library

Created murals for community parks

Teaches adult art classes at the Wilder Library Branch

John Greasy
Local Musician

Created score for Kathy Drasky’s film on Northeast Detroit

Teaching a ten-week music course at the Wilder Library Branch

Walter Bailey
Local Artist

Created murals for community parks

Teaches adult art classes at the Wilder Library Branch

Harmonica Shah
Northeast Resident Musician

Plays Blues music at the Wilder Library Branch

Kathy Drasky
Filmmaker

Engaged Pat Bosch and Karen Washington in making of her documentary

Hired John Greasy to score her film

Screened film at local theatre

Paul Draus
Sociology Professor

Connected with Pat Bosch and Karen Washington at a Detroit City of Design meeting

Researchers Northeast Detroit for Joe Louis Greenway project

Works with Carlos Nielbock on Detroit Windmill project

Jerry Chojnacki
Member of St. Ignatius Catholic Community Detroit

Commissioned Carlos Nielbock to create art from his father’s WWII Luger

INCLUSIVE DESIGN AT WORK

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Annette Stocks
Manager at Wilder Branch Detroit Public Library

Created murals for community parks

Teaches adult art classes at the Wilder Library Branch

John Greasy
Local Musician

Created score for Kathy Drasky’s film on Northeast Detroit

Teaching a ten-week music course at the Wilder Library Branch

Walter Bailey
Local Artist

Created murals for community parks

Teaches adult art classes at the Wilder Library Branch

Harmonica Shah
Northeast Resident Musician

Plays Blues music at the Wilder Library Branch

Kathy Drasky
Filmmaker

Engaged Pat Bosch and Karen Washington in making of her documentary

Hired John Greasy to score her film

Screened film at local theatre

Paul Draus
Sociology Professor

Connected with Pat Bosch and Karen Washington at a Detroit City of Design meeting

Researchers Northeast Detroit for Joe Louis Greenway project

Works with Carlos Nielbock on Detroit Windmill project

Jerry Chojnacki
Member of St. Ignatius Catholic Community Detroit

Commissioned Carlos Nielbock to create art from his father’s WWII Luger

INCLUSIVE DESIGN AT WORK

CASE STUDIES

A Brightmoor Maker Space “Water Cycles”

60 local students designed a functional and imaginative solar-powered water purification system; some traveling to Kenya in March 2019 to help implement the project near Nairobi. A third iteration of the Water Cycle is currently in development.

University of Michigan ArcPrep DPS Program

ArcPrep’s program facilitated awards for Detroit Public School Community District students:
- Three Cornell Summer Architecture Program full scholarship awards,
- Three University of Michigan ArchStart awards,
- Two internships at Rossetti Architects, one internship at Hamilton Anderson, and one internship at Smithgroup in an effort to strengthen the pipeline for young Detroiters to pursue careers in architecture and design.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Detroit City of Design Partners

DETROIT DESIGNERS ARE PART OF A LARGER DESIGN ECOSYSTEM IN OUR CITY, which includes policymakers, business owners, and educational and cultural institutions. As the first and only UNESCO City of Design in the US, Detroit has over 50 City of Design partners activating the Detroit City of Design Action Plan through projects that advance the practice of inclusive design. Partners advance their work through local and global connections, and earn recognition for their contributions towards the Detroit City of Design initiative.

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PARTNER  PROJECT NAME

Hamilton Anderson Associates | RogueHAA |
Henny Ford Learning Institute | JumpStart, Design Thinking Workshops for Educators, Workplace Learning Programs |
IFF | Early Childhood Education (ECE) Great Spaces and Places |
Invest Detroit | Road to Readiness, Capital Access Work Group, Strategic Neighborhood Fund |
ISAIC — Industrial Sewing and Innovation Center | Industrial Sewing and Innovation Center |
It Starts at Home | The Seatbelt Pilot |
Laava | MIX TAPE |
Lawrence Tech University | Detroit Center for Design and Technology |
Living Arts | In-School Residency Programs, Out-of-school Classes |
Michigan Historic Preservation Network | Living Trades Academy |
Michigan Interaction Design (MixD) | MixD Conference |
Michigan Science Center | Stormwater Project |
MoGo | Regional MoGo Hub, Adaptive Bike Share Pilot, and Community Programs |
N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art | West End Gallery District |
Nair Design Parti | Nair Design Parti |
Nartown Community Development Corporation | Create NED and Restore NED |
N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art | West End Gallery District |
Nair Design Parti | Nair Design Parti |
OptimizeWayne | OptimizeWayne |
Organization of Black Designers | 2020DesignNation Conference |
The Platform | The Fourth Floor |
ROSSETTI | Talent Mentorship Program |
Simone DeSousa Gallery | Edition |
SmithGroupJJR | MIX TAPE |
Southwest Detroit Business Association | Facade Improvement Program |
studio(G) LLC | The Seatbelt Pilot |
TechTown Detroit | Retail Services and SWOT City, MedHealth Cluster |
The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History | Stormwater Project |
The University of Michigan-Dearborn/Fort-Rouge Gateway Partnership | Fort-Rogue Gateway |
The University of Michigan Taubman School of Architecture | Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Community outreach, Inclusive Design Workshop for Community Leaders |
University of Michigan Taubman School of Architecture and Planning | ArcPrep Michigan Architecture Prep Program |
Wayne State University | Adaptive Design Collaboration |