

MAKINGSPACE

optimistic strategies for addressing urban homelessness

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WASLA Conference
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	arrival
	connection
	invitation
	prevention
	action

Three Questions:

1. **Connection:** How can public space build and encourage connections between people experiencing homelessness and broader society?
2. **Invitation:** How can public spaces help to mitigate the acute trauma(s) of homelessness?
3. **Prevention:** Are there opportunities to reorient the public's role in shaping the built environment to prevent homelessness?

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my story with homelessness begins here . . .



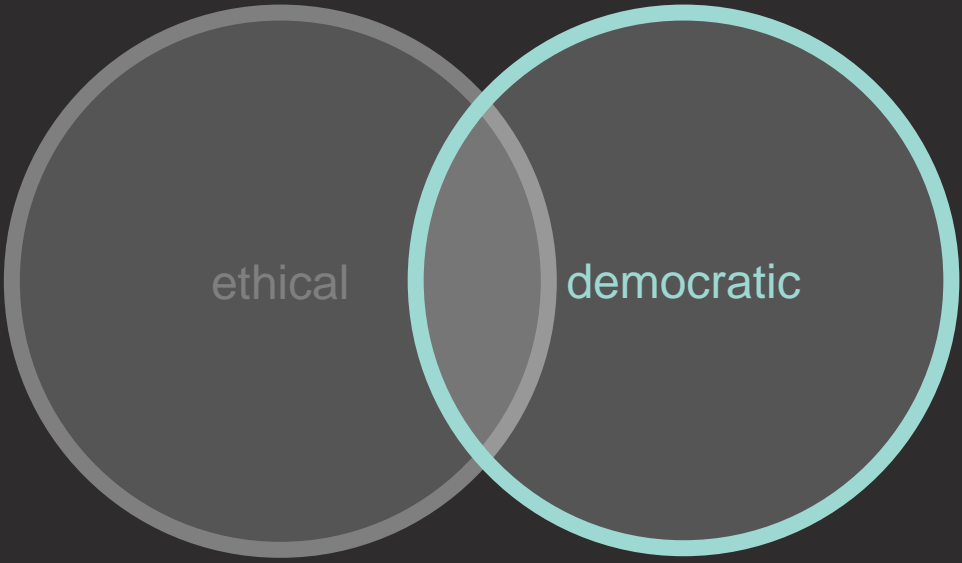
. . . in seattle's "jungle" on the evening of January 26, 2016

what is our ethical
responsibility to people
experiencing homelessness?



how should we act—both
individually and collectively—in
confronting this crisis?

what role does public space—
our collective commons—have
in combating homelessness?



if people experiencing
homelessness are excluded
from public space, what does
that say about our social
contract?



has our profession helped exacerbate or improve the situation for those experiencing homelessness?

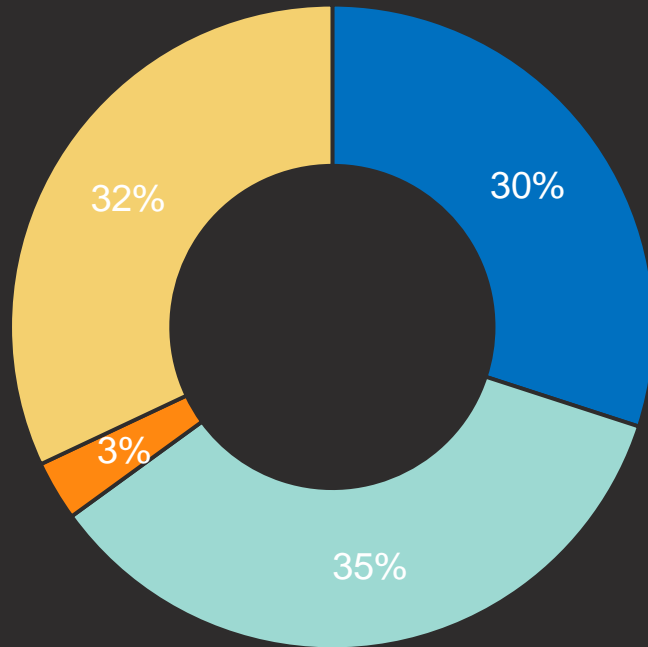
how can our training in ambiguity, indeterminacy, and the processes of open systems inform the spatial conversations around homelessness?

“The legislature finds that in order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote public welfare, it is necessary to regulate the practice of landscape architecture.”

- Finding, Washington State Legislature

“You learn more from the woman who takes a shortcut, who forces the product to do something the manual says it can’t, who imagines what it might do if only... **You learn from people who break the rules.**”
- Tom Kelley, IDEO, *The Art of Innovation*





- 553,742 people experiencing homelessness in the US
- First increase in seven years
- Caused by local conditions
- 184,661 families with children
- 40,799 people experiencing homelessness were unaccompanied youth
- veterans homelessness increased, but has dropped overall since 2009
- 12 percent more individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness

- People in Families, Sheltered
- Individuals, Sheltered
- People in Families, Unsheltered
- Individuals Unsheltered

6,158 Sheltered (53%)

5,485 Unsheltered (47%)



3,491

(30%)

**Emergency
Shelter**



2,667

(23%)

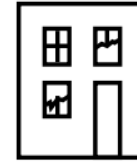
**Transitional
Housing or
Safe Haven**



1,486

(13%)

**On the
Street**



138

(1%)

**Abandoned
Buildings**



2,314

(20%)

**Vans/ Cars/
RVs**



1,547

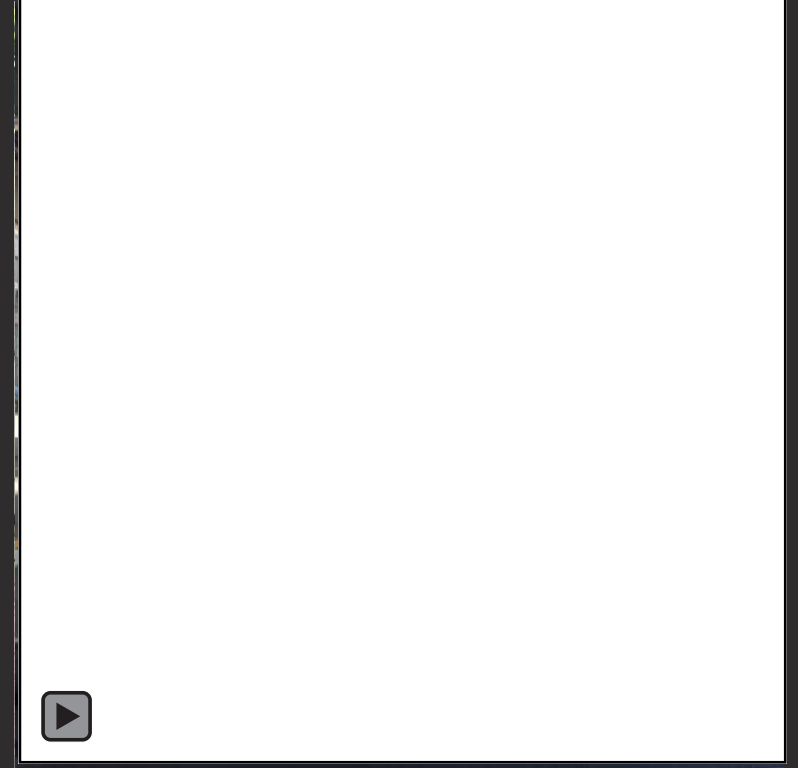
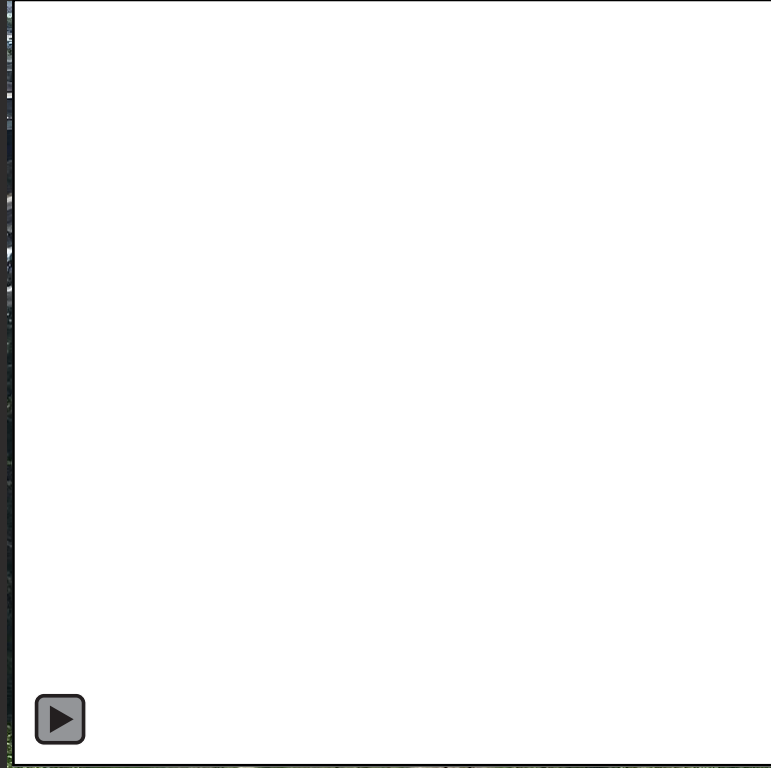
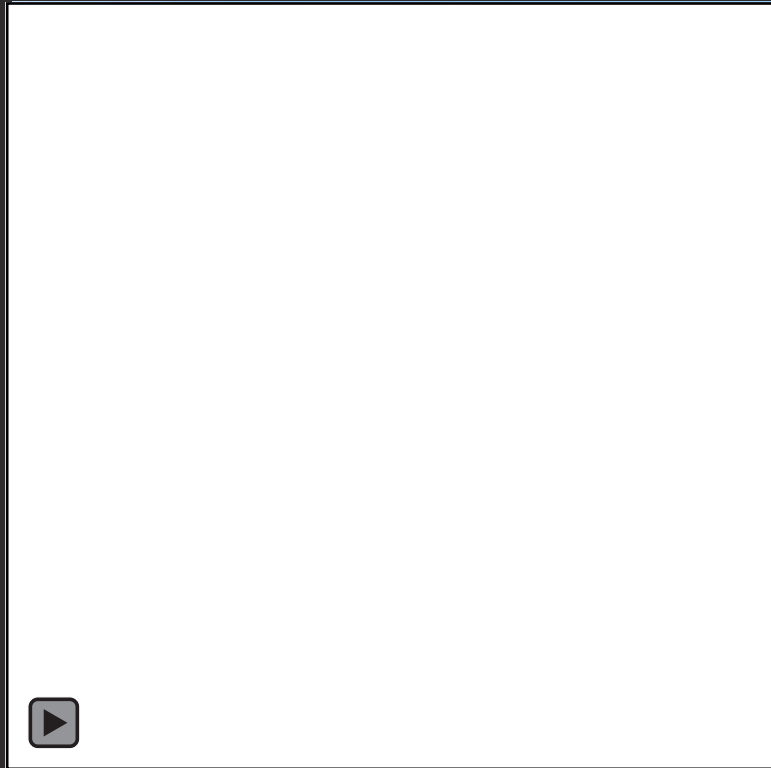
(13%)

Tents

Seattle/King County Point-in-time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- 11,643 people experiencing homelessness in King County
- 3,857 unsheltered people in Seattle
- 77% of respondents lived in King County when they lost their housing
- disproportionately impacts people of color (55% of homeless population compared to 22% of county population)
- 28% of youth experiencing homelessness identified as LGBTQ
- 2,833 in families with children
- 1,329 people were veterans
- 2,773 people were experiencing chronic homelessness
- 1,498 were unaccompanied youth or young adults

READING. LISTENING. OBSERVING. REFLECTING. GROWING. UNDERSTANDING.





Alcohol Use



"Why is Homelessness Increasing?"
Washington State Department of Commerce

Illicit Drug Use



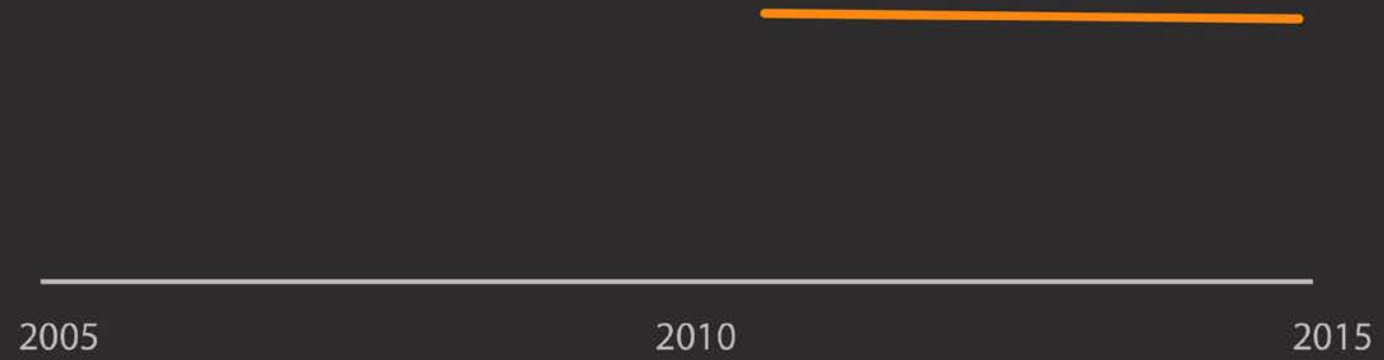
“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Teen Mother Birth Rates



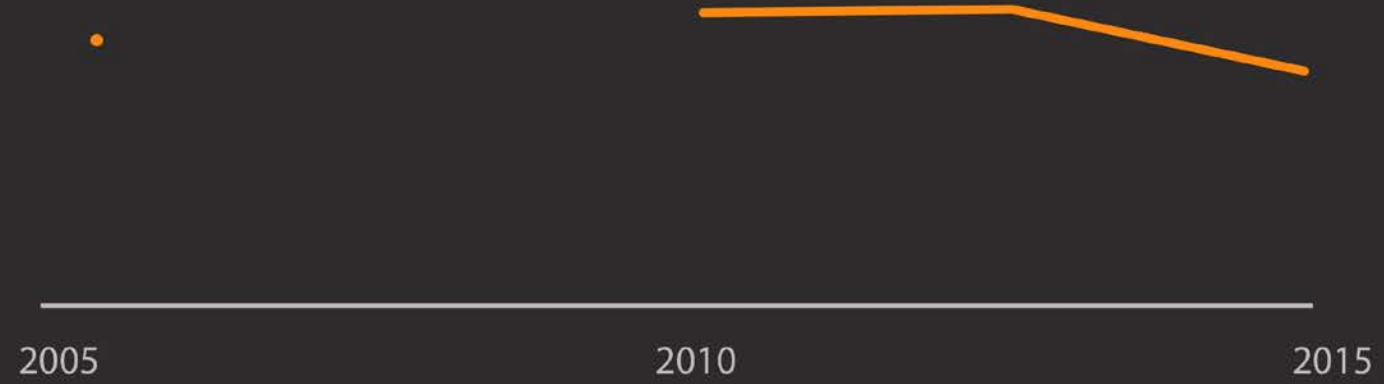
“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Divorce Rate



“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Domestic Violence



“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Percent of Children in Married Couple Households



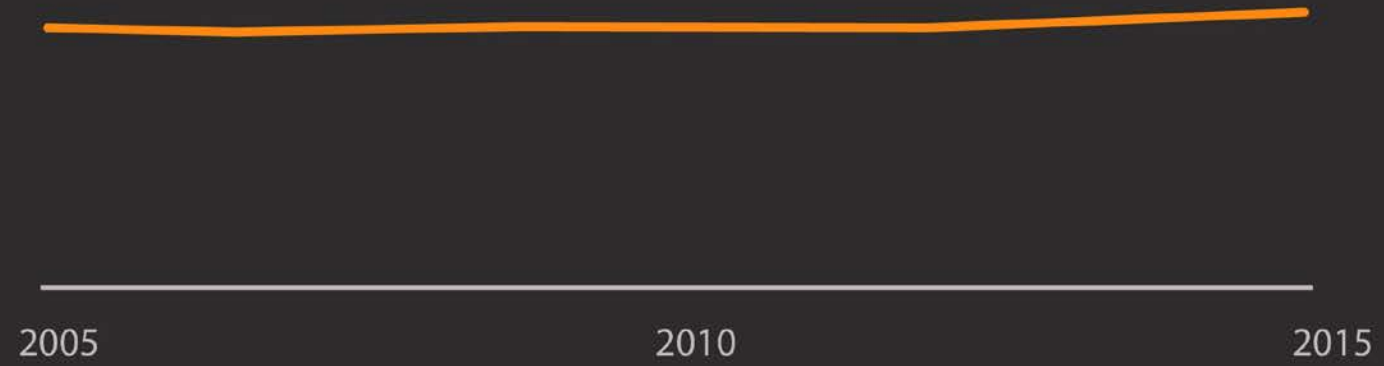
“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

High School Educational Attainment



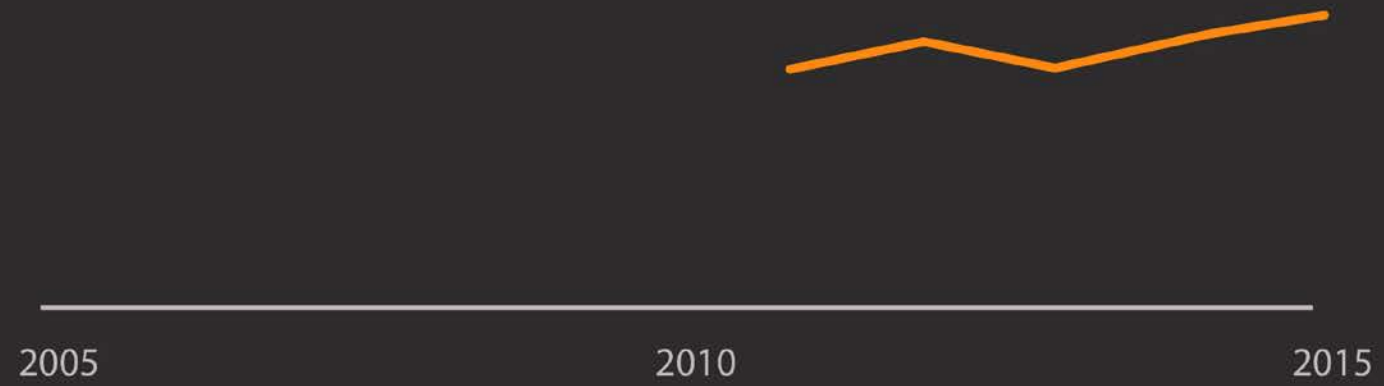
“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Bachelors Degrees



"Why is Homelessness Increasing?"
Washington State Department of Commerce

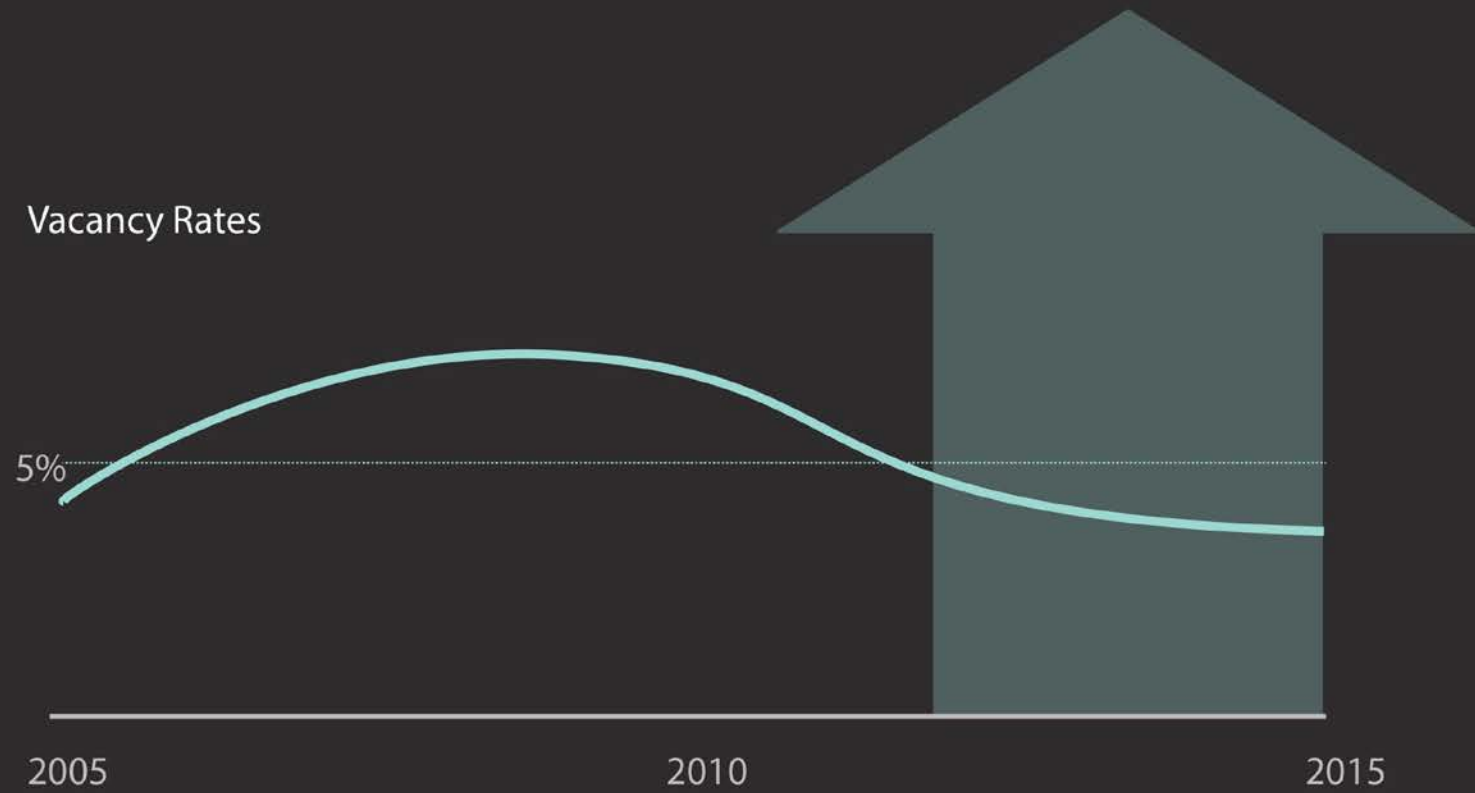
Employment



"Why is Homelessness Increasing?"
Washington State Department of Commerce

so what is the proximate cause of homelessness?

Vacancy Rates

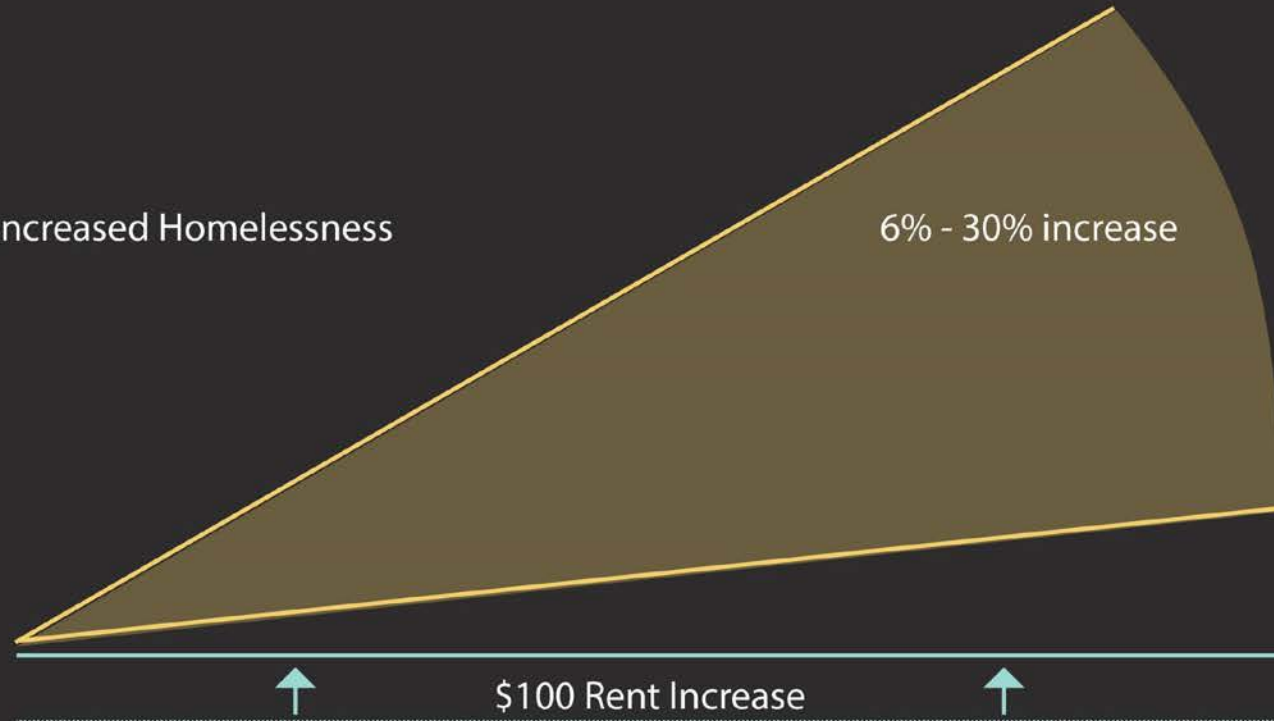


“Why is Homelessness Increasing?”
Washington State Department of Commerce

Increased Homelessness

6% - 30% increase

\$100 Rent Increase

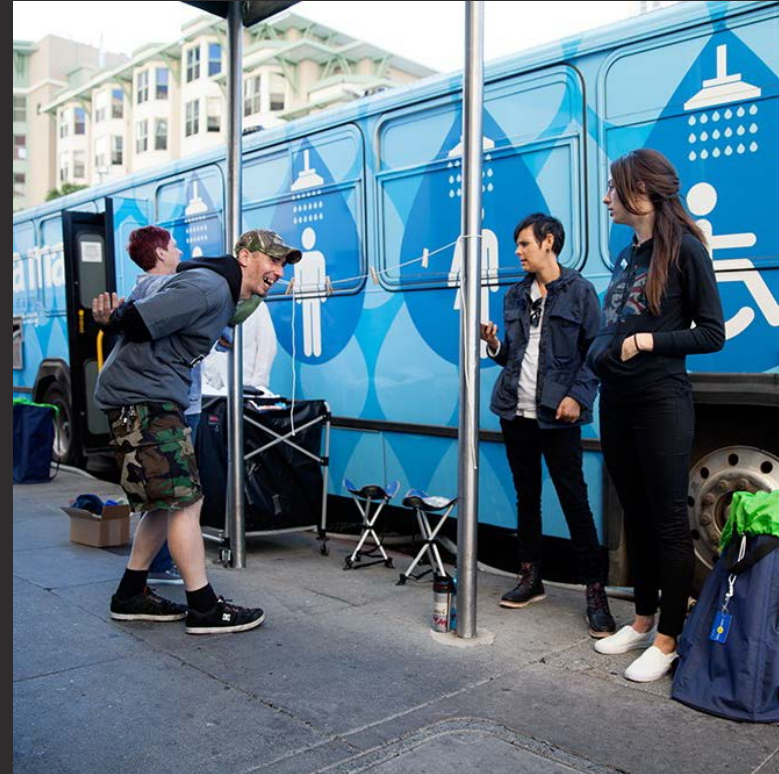




INVITATION: RADICAL HOSPITALITY



Leah Filler

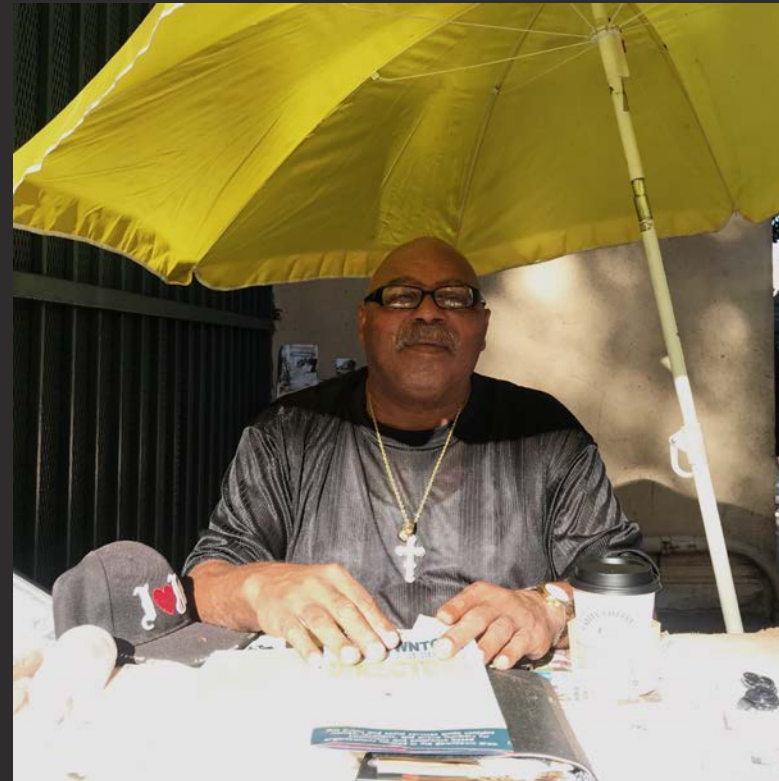


LavaMae

CONNECTION: GUIDANCE



Wendell Blassingame



In St. James Park, Skid Row

CONNECTION: PROGRAMMING



Leslie Smith



Activation



CONNECTION: **GIVING**



Graham Pruss



WeCount's Box of Socks

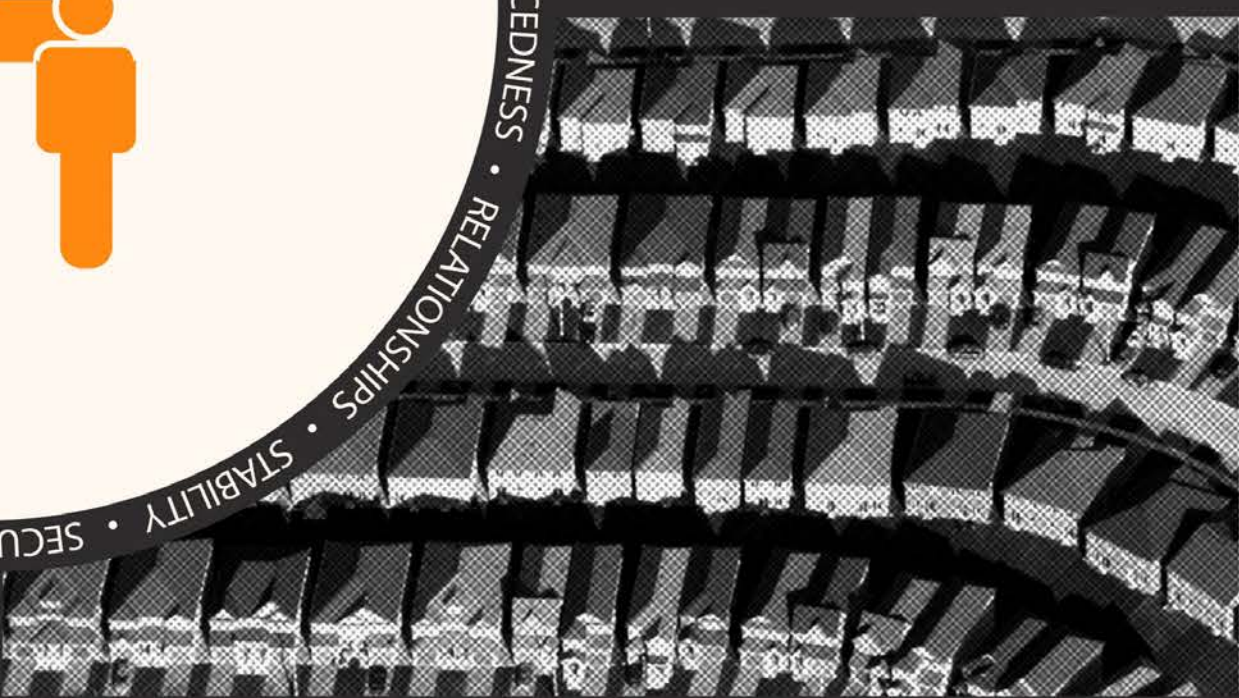
INVITATION: TRANSPORTATION



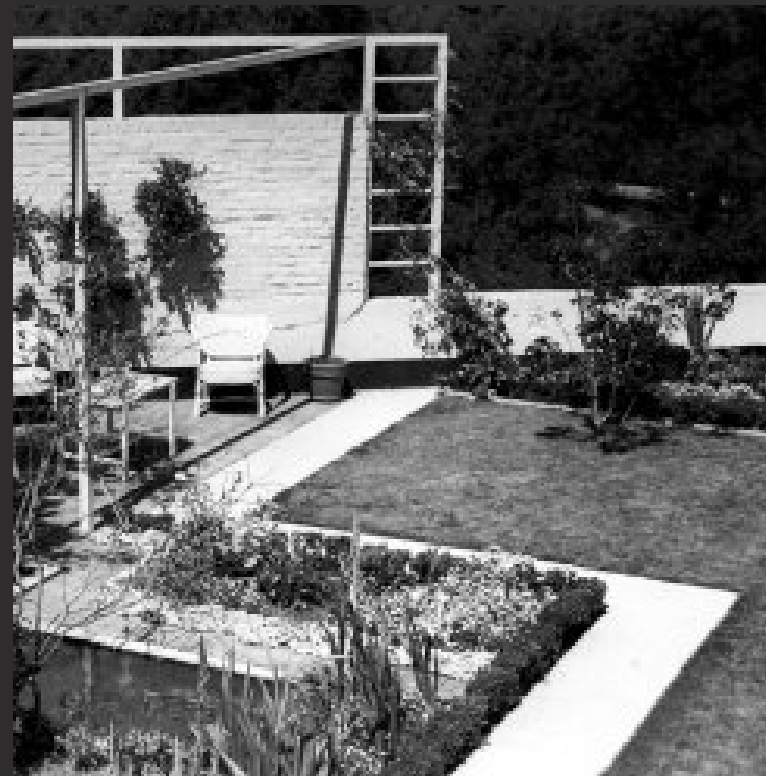
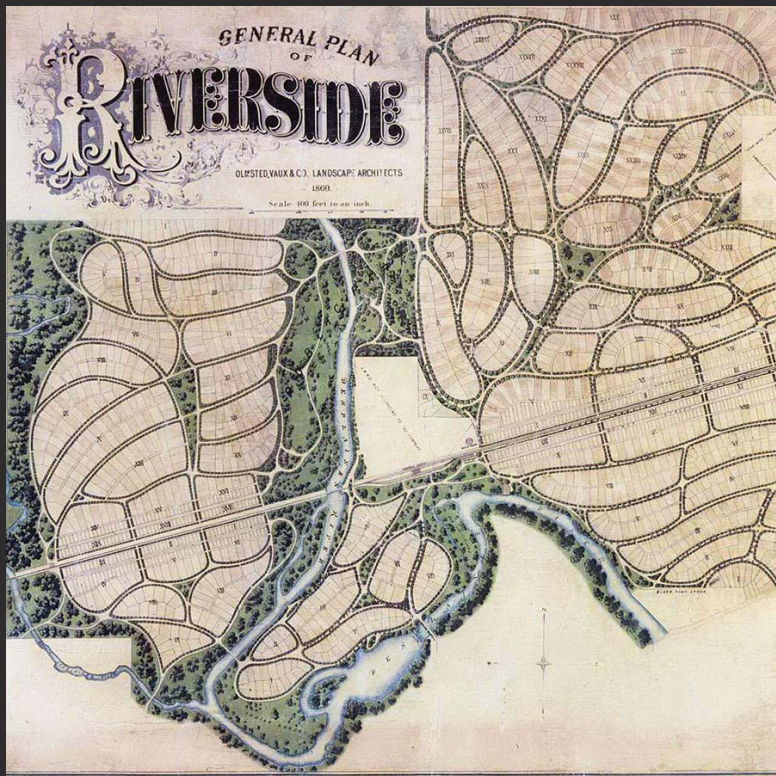
Tamika Butler



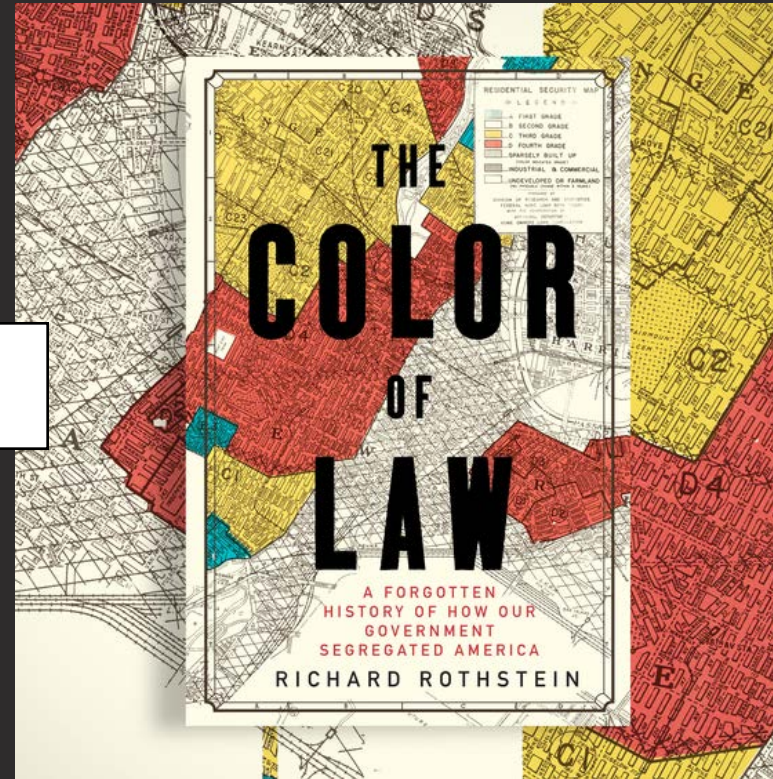
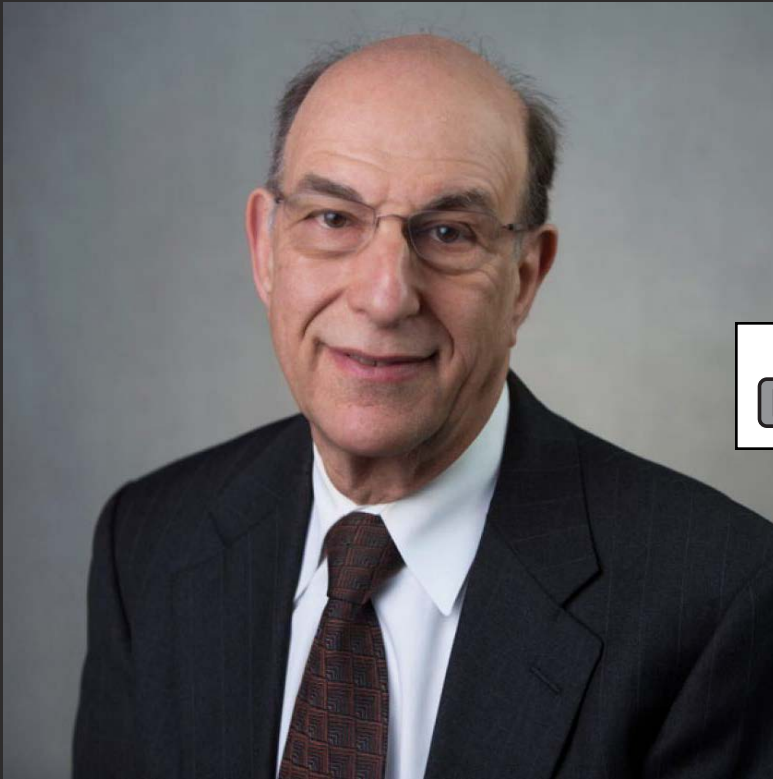




LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: DEFINING THE IDEA OF HOME



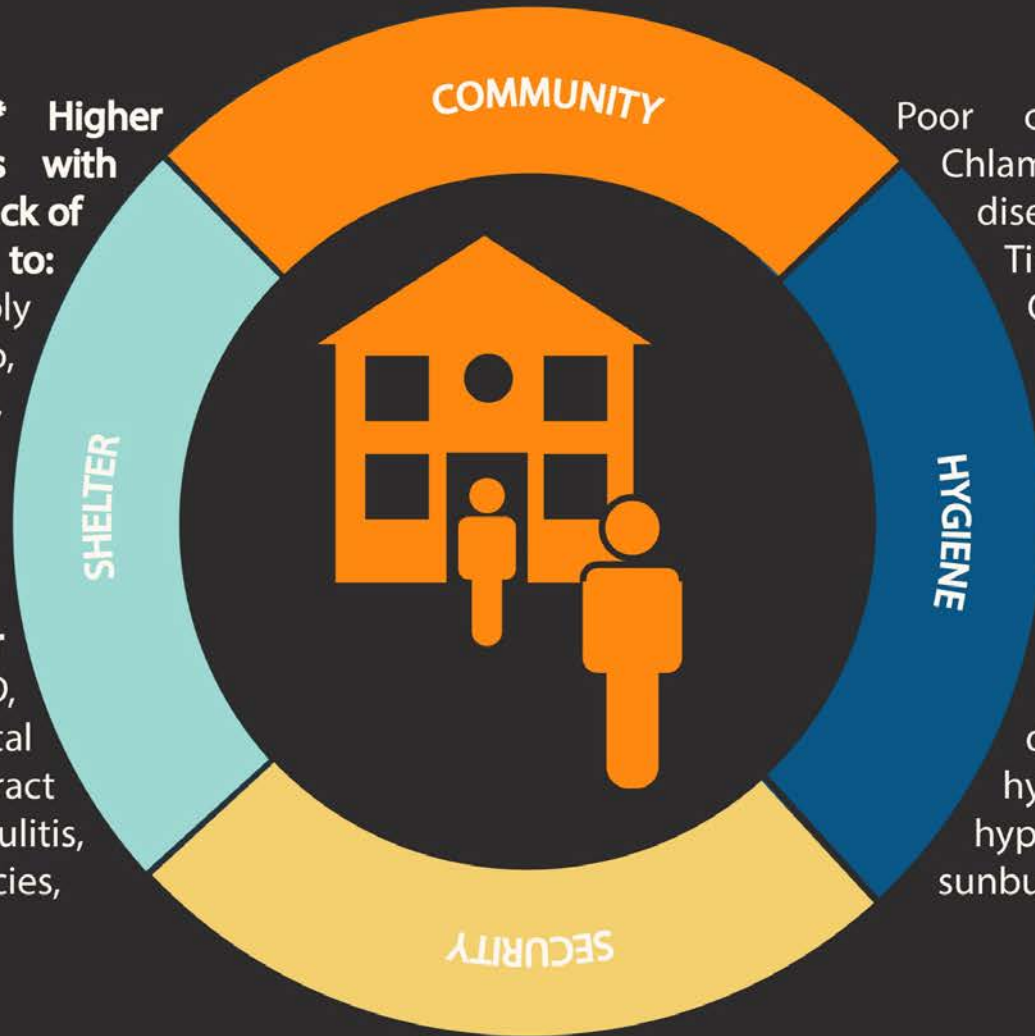
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: SEGREGATING HOME







Increased risk of death * Higher likelihood of interactions with criminal justice system * Lack of an address makes it hard to: access public services, apply for and maintain a job, exercise due process rights, court may not release on own recognizance during pendency of prosecution, may not be able to plea and receive probation * **Greater Risk:** Seizures, COPD, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal disorders, Respiratory tract infections, Gonorrhea, Cellulitis, TB, HIV, Unwanted Pregnancies,

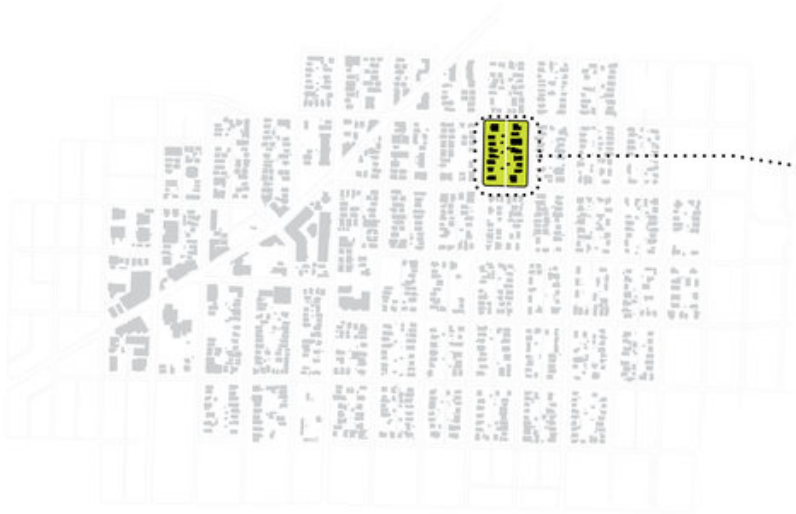


Poor oral and dental health, Chlamydia, Impetigo, Venous stasis diseases, Scabies, Body lice, Tinea pedis, Onychomycosis, Corns, Callouses, Immersion foot * **Mental illness * Denial of constitutional rights * Inadequately controlled medical conditions:** hypertension, diabetes and anemia * **Violence and Injury:** assault, rape, murder, being struck by vehicles, drug and alcohol overdoses, hypothermia, frostbite, falls, hypothermia, freezing, severe sunburn, heatstroke

PREVENTION: THE BLOCK PROJECT



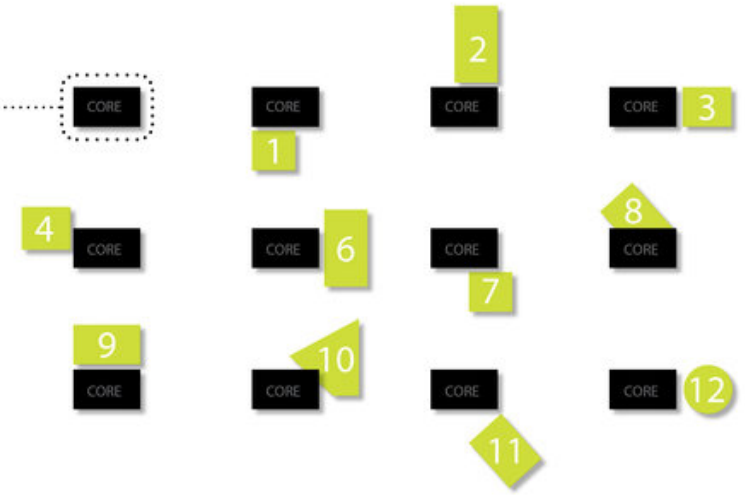
PREVENTION: THE BLOCK PROJECT



TYPICAL NEIGHBORHOOD



TYPICAL BLOCK

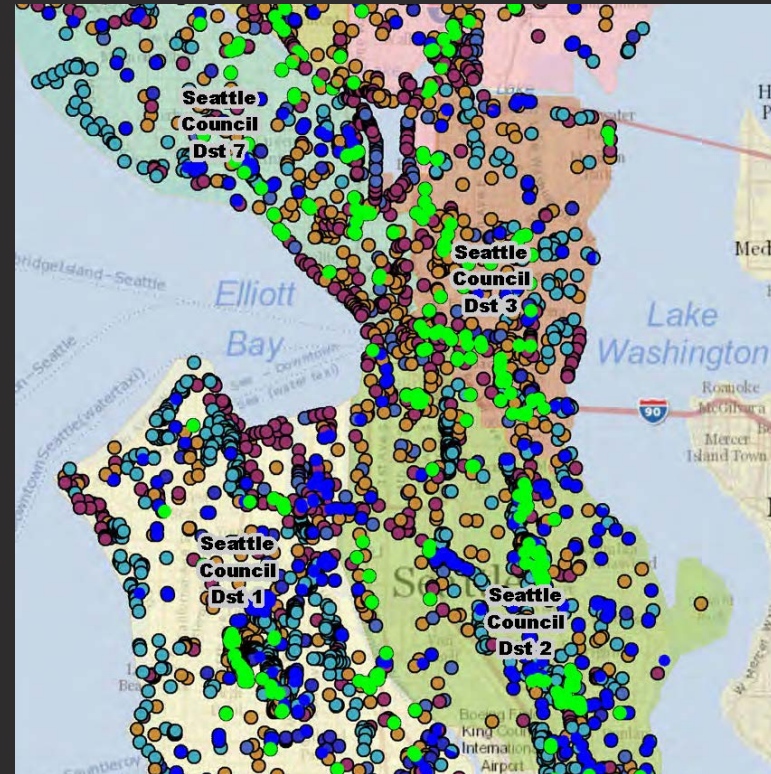


CUSTOM LAYOUTS, ENDLESS OPTIONS



Can we use our public lands as a bridge to backfill supply until demand weakens or enough new units come online?

PREVENTION: HOUSING ON PUBLIC LANDS



PREVENTION: HOUSING ON PUBLIC LANDS



PREVENTION: HOUSING ON PUBLIC LANDS



PREVENTION: HOUSING ON PUBLIC LANDS



	arrival
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1. THIS IS A BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM

2. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POLICY OBJECTIVE.

3. WE'VE DESIGNED A SYSTEM THAT CREATES MAXIMUM IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SPACES

1. THIS IS A BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM

2. NO ONE LIKES WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW

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1. THIS IS A BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM
2. NO ONE LIKES WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW
3. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POLICY OBJECTIVE

3. WE'VE DESIGNED A SYSTEM THAT CREATES MAXIMUM IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

- strengthening community
- increasing safety
- keeping families together
- protecting the commons
- respecting dignity
- encouraging hygiene
- promoting productivity
- treating mental health
- providing stability
- being cost effective
- ending homelessness

1. THIS IS A BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM
2. NO ONE LIKES WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW
3. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POLICY OBJECTIVE
4. WE'VE DESIGNED POLICIES, SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS THAT MAXIMIZE IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SPACES

WE CAN **DESIGN** BETTER POLICIES, SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS







“WE NEED TO FIND SPACE.” –WENDELL BLASSINGAME

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Brainstorm

Discuss

Report Out

Three Strategies to:

- 1. Connect.**
- 2. Invite.**
- 3. Prevent.**

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