



The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Texas based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. We enrich the lives of citizens by bringing design thinking to areas of our cities where resources are most scarce. To do so, [bc] recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work.

# **2015 OVERVIEW**

65 active projects & initiatives

758,329 square feet designed or built

37,125 voices heard

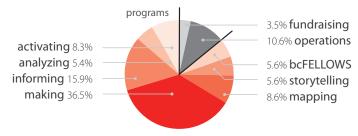
89 histories documented

178 community engagement meetings & events

### **REVENUE**

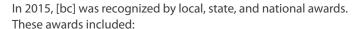


### **EXPENSES**









For RACE & PARKS -

American Society of Landscape Architects, Texas Chapter, Honor Award Environmental Design Research Association, Annual Great Places Award For RAPIDO -

SXSW Eco Place by Design Award, Social Impact AIA-Lower Rio Grande Valley, Design Award

Left: [bc]'s Michael and Isaac meet with a Congo Street resident to design her new home as a part of Phase 2 of the initiative.

Above: Jesse and Elaine pose with the SXSW Eco Place by Design Award. Right: Lizzie, Isaac, & Thomas with the American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award.



[bc] continues to share our work across the United States at a wide range of conferences, workshops and events, including at:

Association for Community Design Conference, *Richmond, VA* Design Futures Student Forum, *Lawrence, KS* 

Federal Rerserve Bank of Dallas: Las Colonias in the 21st Century, McAllen, TX Innovation in Colonias on the Texas-Mexico Border, Wilson Center - Washington DC LRGV Stormwater Conference 2015, South Padre Island, TX

Neighborhoods USA, Houston, TX

Structures for Inclusion 15, Detroit, MI

SXSW Eco, Austin, TX

Texas Architects Annual Convention & Design Expo, *Dallas, TX*Texas American Society of Landscape Architects Conference, *Galveston, TX*USGBC: Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, *Washington, DC*Vernacular Architecture Forum, *Chicago, IL* 



# **DIRECTORS**

Brent Brown Trena Lechleitner T Hanson Thor Erickson Omar Hakeem Jesse Miller Benje Feehan

# **STAFF**

Elizabeth Jones Lizzie MacWillie Hugo Colon Acevedo Thomas Simpson Isaac Cohen Owen Wilson-Chavez Bernardo Salazar Lisa Neergaard Elaine Morales Diaz Craig Weflen Jonathan Mann Shanda Lee Jamie Valhala

# **FELLOWS**

Michael Cochran Amruta Sakalker Corey Browder Emily McMillan Tom Hill David Tucker





# **2015 ALUMNI**

Ann Panopio Andrew Kramer Ryan Williams Jennifer Mayfield Rebekah Dye Radhika Raman Jasnik Moreno Greg Miller



















**ACTIVATING**. Bringing people together to share food, stories, art, experience, and histories enables neighbors to talk, to learn, and to organize; activation leads to cultural, physical, and political changes that can revitalize neighborhoods, improve infrastructure and bring economic benefits to residents.



**ANALYZING**. Having access to reliable, intelligible, and current data can build partnerships and support decision-making and results in positive change for all. We use data to create thoughtful response strategies to individual issues, in service to comprehensive strategies.



**INFORMING**. Sharing the tools and methods we use with others allows both professionals and community members to apply thoughtful design to the challenges that affect their lives. Through a variety of platforms workshops, conferences, seminars, events, and media, we can empower others to make a difference.



**MAKING**. The act of building is central to all of our work and keep us grounded in the physical world. Structures and landscapes are the product of the communities they inhabit. They are conscious of their environments and work to support local social fabrics.



**MAPPING**. Mapping reveals relationships to place, history and future possibilities. Mapping permeates our work on almost every level. We use maps to distill complex information, transfer that knowledge and advocate for change.



**STORYTELLING**. Stories provide a historical context to the work we do from the perspective of those who we intend to serve. They document the people, places and things that make a community, and amplify the voices that are less often heard.



[bc] utilizes six methods when approaching our work: Analyzing, Activating, Informing, Mapping, Making, and Storytelling. These methods illustrate the tools we use to build capacity within communities, neighborhoods, cities and regions. We believe it is imperative that those working in community engaged design have a variety of tools, beyond their discipline, to address the challenges they are working on with communities.





Left: A raft built to allow Brownsville residents and Belden Trail users to access and enjoy the resaca nearby. The trail and its amenities encourage active recreation and help connect residents to the natural landscape.

Right: The second annual Ark Festival on Noah Street was held in May, 2015; in partnership with Operation 10th Street.











bcANALYTICS examines the ecosystem of data availability and use, as well as serving nonprofits to build their capacity through data driven decision making. The Data Ecosystem Project is creating a model for increased access to and use of data by organizations across North Texas.



Opposite Page: Feedback from an activity at the first Dallas Data Ecosystem focus group.

Above: AIM Labs 1 & 2



The Affordable Infill Housing Model initiative examines choice in housing and neighborhoods. The initiative works to improve the productivity of Dallas's single-family affordable housing system and increase the choices available to low-to-moderate income homebuyers.

Three Labs were held in 2015, convening local, regional, and national housing experts. These identified challenges facing housing-related activities and began analyzing the relationships among these organizations.









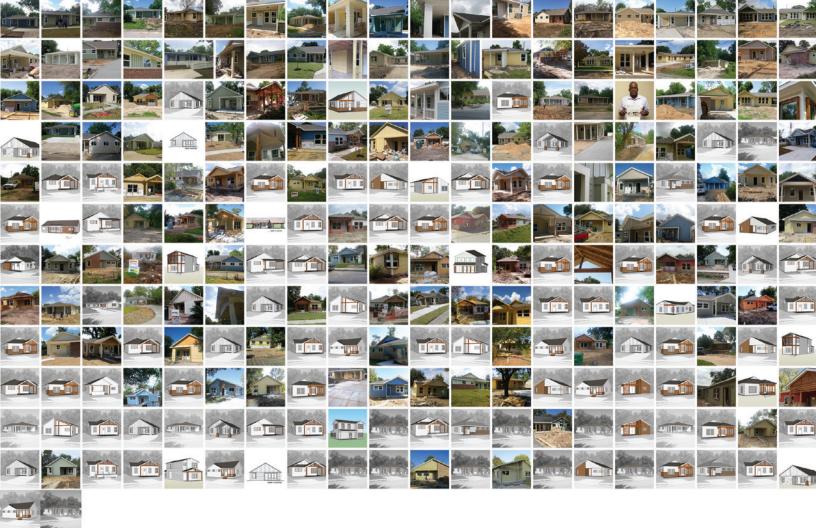
The Texas General Land Office (GLO) granted \$152 million to the City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) to administer Round 2 of the City's Disaster Recovery Program (DR2). The recovery funds provided needed relief for affected homeowners, while also creating areas of opportunity and future neighborhood revitalization.

Highlighting design and choice, the DR2 process creates a collaborative relationship between the City of Houston, residents, advocates, and local designers. Together we engaged over 300 families in a community engaged design process, connected local designers to historically underserved neighborhoods, and built new relationships that would not have existed otherwise. The result has been the creation of a catalog of neighborhood appropriate home designs, of which 260 families to date have been able to select and adjust to fit their needs.

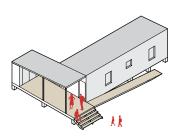


Left: A design meeting and finished home from the DR2 project in Houston, TX.

Right: The DR2 program in Houston has resulted in hundreds of homes designed and built through a thorough community engagement process that began in 2014.



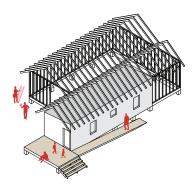
# 1 temporary unit



### **FAMILIES LIVES IN THE CORE**

Families receive a standardized "CORE" home that contains essential living facilities, families will reside in the CORE for four months until the eligibility process is completed and resources are allocated.

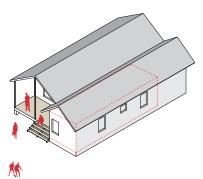
# 2 custom expansion



# **EXPANDED CORE TO FIT FAMILY'S NEEDS**

When time and resources are available the CORE is expanded into a permanent home. Families participate in a one-on-one design consultation to choose floorplans and home designs that can meet their needs and preferences. The CORE additions are built in 60 days.

# **3** permanent home



### **FAMILIES ENJOYS HOME**

The temp-to-perm approach, together with the engaged design process results in home designs that increase the feeling of pride and ownership. This process increases the variety and quality of home designs available after a disaster ensuring families will be better prepared for the next disaster event.

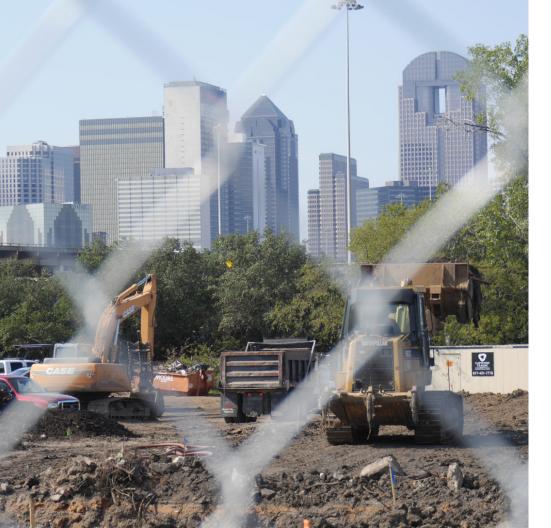


Left: The RAPIDO temp-to-perm housing strategy.

Right: The Cordero family in front of their new home - one of 20 prototype RAPIDO homes that were completed in 2015 as a part of the Rapid Disaster Recovery Housing Pilot Program in the Rio Grande Valley.

Eight years after Hurricane Dolly struck the RGV in 2008, families are still recovering from the damage it caused. RAPIDO takes a systemic approach to rethinking the current model of disaster recovery housing; and proposes a comprehensive system of pre-covery and localized response to natural disasters.







# MAKING

The Cottages at Hickory Crossing project has been underway since 2009. Its design and construction has been the work of many [bc] staff and FELLOWS in Dallas over the lifetime of the project. The 50 unit development of permanent supportive housing, located on Malcolm X Boulevard, will be home to the 50 most chronic cases of homelessness, and provide on-site services for residents.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for The Cottages at Hickory Crossing occurred on April 17, 2014, and construction has continued through 2015.



[bc]'s Benje and Jennifer visit the construction site. The permanent supportive housing project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2016.



- 1. The KnowlDraw Your Neighborhood set of tools was refined and released in 2015 and engaged Downtown Dallas neighborhoods to update the Downtown 360 plan.
- 2. Using the Know/Draw Your Neighborhood tool at peopleorganizing place.com to confirm neighborhood boundaries of Dallas, TX.
- 3. Information about the use of public transit in the valley is mapped at city-events in the Rio Grande Valley.
- 4. A meeting with Indian Hills colonia residents to map Low-Impact Development and drainage straetgies for the community.
- 5. An asset map created to assist community advocates engage UT RGV, the newly mergered UT Brownsville and UT Pan American.











de salud que incluya aspectos físicos,

Colonias y Residentes de Bajos Ingresos

Muchos residentes de colonias y de baios

Grupo Multi-organizacional

Reforzar Redes de Promotoras y formar relaciones dentro de colonias y

modelo de Promotora en la formación de

2) Acceso a la Asistencia Médica Crear el acceso equitativo a recursos para la salud e implementar estrategias

médica a poblaciones que carecen de

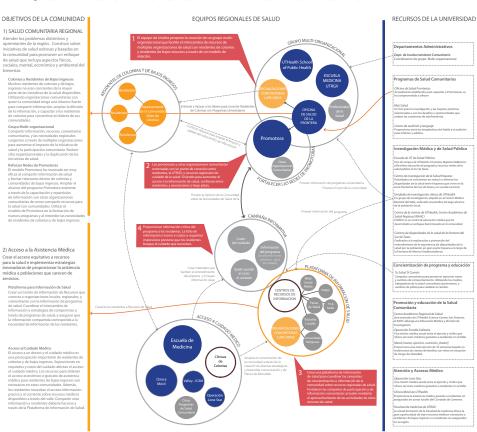
Plataforma para Información de Salud

de salud. Coordinar el intercambio de

Acceso al Cuidado Médico

bienestar.

#### EOUIPOS DE SALUD CONECTARAN LOS RECURSOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD CON LOS OBJETIVOS DE LA COMUNIDAD











[bc] Media, a digital productions and film unit focused on issues of equity within the built environment. This unit works to empower residents, neighborhood organizations, and other stakeholders through the use of film + digital media products.

In 2015, [bc] Media produced two films broadcast on KERA's Frame of Mind series in December - Bonton + Ideal and Neighborhood Stories - as well as 5 profiles of work done by [bc] as well as the important work of our peers and neighbors. Over the course of the year, 89 interviews were collected from Dallas, Rio Grande Valley, and Houston residents. These stories are important in establishing neighborhood-based identities, address and overturn preconceived ideas of place, and celebrate the community leaders and trailblazers that make our communities better.



Top: Bonton + Ideal Neighborhood Stories film Bottom: Dallas Public Library Homeless Engagement Initiative

Right: [bc] Senior Media Associate, Craig, and residents of the Bonton and Ideal neighborhoods do a Q&A after a community screening of the Bonton+Ideal film. The film was broadcast on KERA's Frame of Mind series on December 24th. 2015.



### **2015 SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS**

3 General Construction

A Resource in Serving Equality (ARISE)
Affordable Homes of South Texas

AGC Construction

AJ Benjamin

Akin Babatunde & Liz Mickel

Alphonso Smith

Ambiotec Engineering Anne & Brent Brown

Amstar Inc Andrew Kramer

Anne Ellis Anne S Reece

Autodesk Foundation

Bank of America Foundation

Benny Walker

Big Mama's Chicken and Waffles

Big Thought Bmetro

Brett Zamore Design

Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC)

Brownsville Historical Association Brownsville Museum of Fine Art

Caruth Foundation Catherine Cuellar Cedric Douglas

Central Dallas Community Development Corporation

Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County Christine & Scott Robbins Flrod

Christopher Blav

Chung Nguyen Citi Foundation City of Brownsville City of Dallas

CityDesign Studio

Eloise Lundy Recreation Center

Housing Department

CitySquare

Communities Foundation of Texas Community Development Corporation

Brownsville

Community Development Corporation Harlingen Community Development Corporation of Dallas

Communties Foundation of Texas

Dallas County Criminal Justice System

Dallas Foundation Dallas Public Library

History & Archives Division

Dan Finnell, Est. 11 Deedie & Rusty Rose

Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Association

Belay House

Dorothea Leonhardt Foundation

Downtown Dallas, Inc Dtram Construction

East Dallas Community Organization

Equal Voice Network Frika Huddleston

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Feed by Grace Ford Foundation

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

Fraizer Revitalization, Inc.

George Ellis GNT Paving Golden Gate CDC Grav Garmon

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio

Gwendolyn McGinn Helen L. Hunt Foundation Heroes Basketball Center Hoblitzelle Foundation Hocker Design Group Housing Crisis Center

Ida Tenorio Isaac Cohen Iv Amenti James Lawrence Janie R Bush Jeffery Bennett Jes Spires John Spriggins Joseph Guzman

Jubilee Park and Community Center

Kadleck & Associates Kate Stockton

Kathryn & Graham Greene Keith Vincent, YMCA Kellv Hever

Kyle Talkington La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

Lantz Full Circle Lauren Cadieux Linda Jones Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) LOJO: Jason Logan & Matthew Johnson

Lou Nell Sims

m+a architecture studio

Maggie Winter

Marcello Pope (Rosie Lee)

Mark Glen-Walker

MC2 Architects & MC2 Construction

McCarty & Mathaai Garden

McIntyre + Robinowitz Architects

Megamorphosis Melody Bell

Mendoza Engineering

MEP Systems Design & Engineering Inc.

METALAB

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

Metrocare Services

MKT Corporate Promotions

Michael Karnowski Moorland FamilyYMCA

Morgan Chivers

National Endowment For The Arts

Nicholas DiCarlo Nitikki Garrett

North Texas Giving Day Oak Cliff Family YMCA

Old East Dallas Association of Neighborhoods

Patricia Cox

Patricia Williams/American Care Academy

Pedro Gonzalez Construction

Phillip Collins Provecto Azteca Proyecto Juan Diego Public Architecture

Public Ulitity Board of Brownsville

RabbleWorkshop

Rick Fontenot, Art Conspiracy

Roger Mainor, Est. 11 RTKI

KIKL

SafeHaven of Tarrant County

San Felipe de Jesus

Sara Mendez & Isaac Cortez

Shaun Montgomery

South Texas Adult Resource and Training

SouthFair CDC

St. Philip's School and Community Center

Stephanie & Hunter Hunt

StudioOutside Surdna Foundation SWA Group

Taft Architects
Tammy Gomez

Texas A&M Center for Housing and Urban

Development (CHUD)

Texas A&M Kingsville Extension Storm Water

Task Force
Texas Association of Community Development

Corporation
Toyas Low Income Housing Information Service

Texas Low Income Housing Information Services Texas Organizing Project

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Texas Southmost College Architecture Program

The Gardner Preparatory School

The George and Fay Young Foundation

The Real Estate Council The Trinity Trust

The Wilkinson Center

Tierney Kaufman Tisha Crear

TMBP | click

TREC Young Guns

Trena & Logan Lechleitner unAbridged Architecture

United Way of Southern Cameron County

University of Houston, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture Community Design Resource Center

University of North Texas

University of Texas, Arlington Film Class

UT Rio Grande Valley

UT Southwestern Medical Center Village Oaks Hall of Champions

Walker Barbecue

Working in Neighborhoods Strategically

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Stephanie Hunt, Board Chair Brent Brown, AIA LEED AP, Founding Director John Greenan, J.D., Board Secretary Betsy del Monte, FAIA LEED BD+C Michael Sorrell. J.D. Gail Thomas. Ph.D.



# **buildingcommunity** WORKSHOP

bcWORKSHOP.org inform@bcWORKSHOP.org

416 S. Ervay Dallas, TX 75201 214.252.2900

609 11th Street Brownsville, TX 78520 956.443.2211

601 Sawyer, 5th Floor Houston, TX 77006 713.304.6277

718 7th St NW Washington, DC 20001

The Gardner Preparatory School celebrates the completion of a Little Free Library / Libros Libres.

Front cover: Jennifer and Ideal Neighborhood residents reviewing plans for Macon Starks multi-family development.