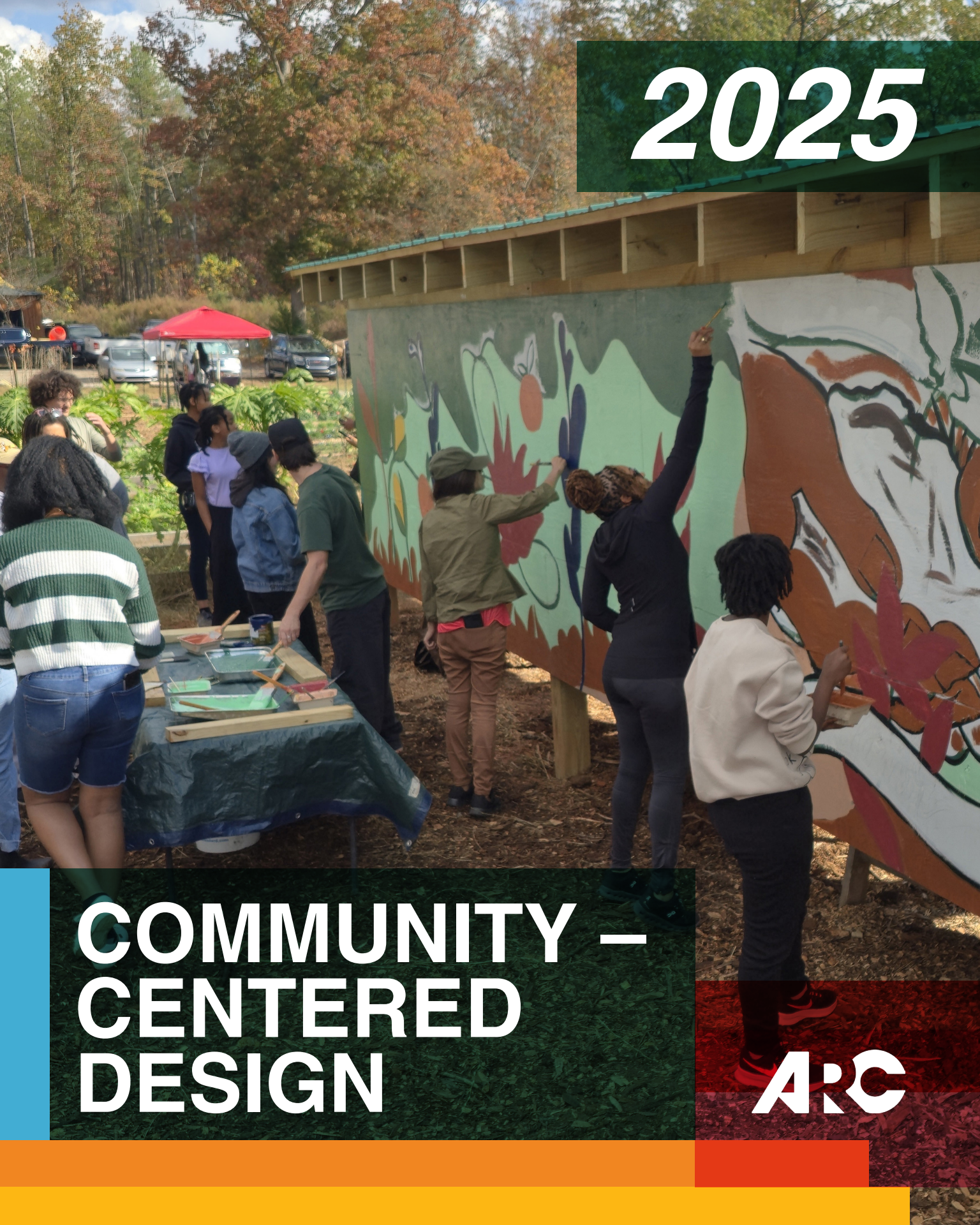


A group of diverse people are participating in a community mural painting event. They are standing around a long wooden table covered with a blue tarp, which holds various paint containers and brushes. The participants are actively painting a large mural on the side of a wooden building. The mural features abstract, colorful shapes in shades of green, brown, and white. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage, a red umbrella, and several parked cars. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a community gathering.

2025

COMMUNITY – CENTERED DESIGN

A&C



WELCOME!

ARC has been committed to ensuring all of our region's residents have a say in its future growth. Innovative and thoughtful community engagement is key to making this happen.

Community engagement in regional planning should actively involve residents, stakeholders, and local organizations in the decision-making process to ensure their needs, values, and perspectives are reflected in development plans. It fosters transparency, builds trust, and creates more sustainable outcomes by prioritizing collaborative dialogue and comprehensive participation.

Over the years, ARC has invested resources aimed at expanding participation, strengthening relationships, and deepening involvement in the agency's long-range planning initiatives. Community-Centered Design (CCD) is part of that investment.

Community-Centered Design is an immersive program where community organizations collaborate with artists, local officials, and planners to design community engagement projects using arts and culture. The program intentionally includes individuals and organizations representing communities that are not familiar with local and regional planning processes.

2025 marked the third year of the Community-Centered Design class. Because of the feedback we heard from previous cohorts, we decided to partner with one community-based organization, Atlanta Harvest, located in the metro-Atlanta region, to explore the topics of land stewardship, food sovereignty, and climate resilience.

APPROACH & PRINCIPLES OF CCD



***We start with art.
We start with artists.***

CCD is anchored in the definition of culture co-created by ARC's Community Development staff:

Culture is the cultivation, intersection, and manifestation of shared histories, expressions, and practices that identify and amplify the unique perspectives of a community. Culture makes a space into a place when community members' lived experiences are honored and there are abundant opportunities for them to practice their civic agency. Since culture is essential to ARC's Community Development work, it is utilized to cultivate a sense of belonging, develop, and practice community power, and examine and re-imagine communities and neighborhoods.

With that anchor, CCD uses these eight principles for practicing community engagement:

1. Artists are leaders
2. Creativity and investigation
3. Cross-sector collaboration
4. Research is expansive
5. Co-designing with historically excluded populations
6. Learn by doing
7. Real-world experimentation
8. Reflections and applications for the future

In this class, metro-Atlanta community-builders collaborate on investigating, envisioning and manifesting new ideas for the world they want to bring into being. We study real-world examples and learn from people doing the work. We explore the space between community building and urban planning and practice authentic community-co-design alongside our community partners. We make space for folks to think and do in new ways, collaborating with people from a range of professional and cultural backgrounds. Experimentation and learning from failure and success are key to individual and collective growth. With artists at the center, we look at how creative interventions expand and deepen the work of local community-based organizations and how we connect these groups with their immediate neighbors and within the global context of metro Atlanta. We conduct full-hearted, embodied, experiential research to learn as much as we can about these situations, and then build vehicles for joyful collaboration through meaningful, organic relationships. We learn in public, deploy our creations in real-world situations and take the lessons where we found them to support building one great region.



Community-engaged artists possess the unique ability to mobilize, inspire, and connect with community members. They become participating members of the community through their ability to create experiences with social and cultural functions.

WHO IS CCD?



ALLISON JOHNSON

Allison Johnson is a printmaker and educator exploring queer cultural and ecological landscapes through collaborative work. They teach printmaking at the University of North Georgia and spend free time riding their horse Phoenix or in the water.



ASHLEY RUFFIN

Ashley is an 8-year commercial visual artist and CEO of ArtzyBella, a wellness brand using art experiences inspired by clinical Art Therapy to help people reduce stress and reconnect with creativity.



BRANDON MOULTRIE

Brandon is an artist and designer who creates murals, artwork, and creative events that explore storytelling and identity through his perspective as a Black queer artist.



CYPRUS MERAZ

Cyprus Meraz is an emerging creative with a BFA in Digital Animation from Kennesaw State University passionate about using thoughtful design to support inclusive and accessible communities.



EMMY MARSHALL

Emmy Marshall is a self-taught abstract artist in Atlanta whose work explores connection, resilience, and community through bold colors and layered textures.



IMMANUEL LAIDLAW

Immanuel Laidlaw is a Jamaican-American artist and community leader, a Morehouse graduate addressing youth homelessness and founder of Symmetry, an art organization focused on storytelling and community impact.



JASMINE CARTER

Jasmine Carter is an executive producer and co-founder of Experience BeanPole Entertainment, creating culturally grounded films and branded content through purpose-driven partnerships.



JORDAN NEAL

Jordan Neal is a Clayton County-based community builder, musician, and arts advocate who curates events that empower artists and mission-driven organizations.



LISA PHAM

Lisa Pham is a marketing strategist and arts leader with 10+ years' experience in digital marketing, nonprofit arts, and music education.



MARA MILLS

Mara Mills is an Atlanta-based writer and community-focused creative who explores storytelling and connection through food.



MIA JONES-WALKER

Mia Anika is an Atlanta-based abstract artist, cartographer, and mental health advocate who transforms emotions and inner landscapes into visual art.



PATRICIA HERNANDEZ

Patricia is a Latin Indigenous contemporary artist and owner of PATL. SV, creating work inspired by her heritage, immigrant journey, motherhood, and mental health advocacy.



SIERRA "CRLZ" BARBARY

CRLZ is an Atlanta-based artist and curator whose ceramic sculptures explore the intersection of the earthly and ethereal, creating otherworldly, thought-provoking forms.



SYMONE GASKIN

Atlanta native Symone Gaskin views art as a unifying force, empowering people to explore their potential with each brushstroke.

THE ARTISTS

The arts give voice to communities that have been left out.



**AISHA
DEBERRY**

Aisha DeBerry, JD, is an attorney and equity strategist with 15+ years in DEI, using her expertise and experience to bring empathy and strategy to every space.



**RASHIDA
WILLIAMSON**

Rashida is Community Engagement Manager at the Atlanta Beltline, leading outreach on trail design, redevelopment, arts, youth, and sustainability to foster a vibrant, inclusive city.



**BRITTANY
BREWSTER**

Brittany, a Southwest Atlanta native and business owner, has 10+ years in city government advocating for Atlanta's creative community through programs, partnerships, and funding.



**SHAR'RON
RUSSELL**

Shar'ron W. Russell is Regional Economic Development Manager for Metro South, supporting communities through leadership, strategic planning, and business growth and attraction.



**CAROLYN
WYNN**

Carolyn Wynn is a multidisciplinary artist and civic advocate, blending storytelling and policy as Director of External Affairs at Atlanta Housing to drive inclusive, community-focused change.



**SOL
MASON**

Sol Mason is Public Art Project Supervisor at the City of Atlanta, integrating equity and inclusion into public art initiatives for the Moving Atlanta Forward Infrastructure Initiative.



**LANONA
JONES**

Lanona Jones is Founder and Executive Director of Inspire Positivity, Inc., creating programs and events that empower underprivileged and disabled residents to drive community revitalization.



**STEVEN
WILKINS**

Stephen is co-founder of SLW & Steady Productions, supporting Atlanta's arts scene through events, markets, and equipment rentals, and former Editor-in-Chief of Plasma Magazine.



**SONYA
HOOKS**

Sonya Hooks is an Atlanta-based creative project manager and storyteller, founder of Fireweed Media, creating community-driven content that highlights resilience, culture, and local stories.



**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
AND
ORGANIZERS**



**LOCAL
GOVERNMENT STAFF**



ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND —



**ARIN
YOST**

Arin is a program analyst at ARC, focusing on strategic planning, transparency, and data-driven decision-making in the Aging & Independence Services Unit.



**CHANCELLOR
FELTON**

Chancellor Felton, MCRP, is a City Planner for Fairburn, GA, managing permits, zoning, site plans, and development reviews.



**CARLOS
GARCIA**

Carlos García, from Guatemala, is an Urban Planner in Atlanta's Department of City Planning, focused on equitable, community-driven urban design.



**CHANELLE
CAMPBELL**

Chanelle Campbell is Assistant Zoning Administrator and City Planner for Kennesaw, shaping the city's development strategy and streamlining planning processes.



**JAMES
BUNTING**

James is a design engineer and creative who enjoys music and illustration. He is eager to support Atlanta's food systems and local farm infrastructure.



**JOY DILLARD
APPEL**

Joy Dillard Appel works at ARC on Lifelong Communities initiatives, researching housing, neighborhoods, and social inequality, with a postdoc in Race, Place, and Equity from UVA.



**MADDY
MCGEE**

Maddy, a planner at Gwinnett County, is passionate about community planning and pedestrian safety and has lived in Atlanta's historic Midtown for the past three years.



**MARIA
SOTNIKOVA**

Maria Sotnikova is a Data Scientist at ARC, creating visualizations to support data-driven decisions for older adults and people with disabilities in Atlanta.



**SHELBY
PICCOLO**

Shelby is an urban planner at ARC's transportation department, helping counties meet transit needs and promoting connected, well-planned communities.



**RODNEY
REESE**

Rodney is a Landscape Architect and Community Planner at Dekalb County with 20+ years' experience in equitable urban planning, public space design, and community development.

PLANNING PROFESSIONALS

ARC TEAM



**ROSHANI
THAKORE**

Roshani Thakore is a socially engaged artist and Director of Community Engagement and Culture at ARC. She leads initiatives that integrate community into long-range planning and design innovative civic engagement practices. Through her art, she has collaborated with social-justice organizations, universities, arts groups, planners, students, youth, and older adults. She is passionate about the intersection of art, organizing, and public spaces in metro Atlanta.



**ANTEMIL
JORKEY**

Antemil (she/her) is a Community Engagement and Culture Planner in the Community Development department at ARC, focusing on housing and its intersections with arts, culture, and people-centered planning. She supports integrating arts and culture to make planning processes more accessible and currently leads ARC's Community Forum, a program supporting artists interested in housing advocacy.



**ROSTEN
WOO**

Rosten Woo is a Los Angeles-based designer, writer, and educator who creates civic-scale artworks and consults with grassroots organizations, nonprofits, and local governments. His work has been exhibited internationally in galleries and public spaces. He is co-founder and former executive director of the Center for Urban Pedagogy, a New York nonprofit using art and design to foster civic participation.



**MAX
KOLLMAN**

Max (they/them) is a creative catalyst, community educator, digital storyteller, environmental hacker, and skateboarding designer who uses art and collaboration to transform spaces and materials. A Community-Centered Design alum, the class inspired them to join ARC as a Community Engagement and Culture Senior Planner. You might find them at a sewing circle, DIY skate-park, or print shop.



**ELIYAHU
BEN ASA**

EliYahu Ben Asa is the Chief Operating Officer and Lead Farmer at Atlanta Harvest. Originally from New York City, EliYahu and his family took a leap into farming in 2010, founding Local Lands Organically Grown Gardens. In 2017, they expanded by acquiring Atlanta Harvest, where EliYahu now oversees the farm's operations and on-site market. With a background in environmental engineering and filmmaking, he brings both creativity and sustainability to the farm. EliYahu is passionate about providing nutrient-dense, chemical-free food and educating his community to grow their own. He continues to serve as a trusted resource, collaborating with other farms and building a resilient, self-sustaining food system.

ATLANTA HARVEST



CREATIVE MODELS

To begin CCD, it was important for the class to connect with each other and collectively think about what community development is and what it could be. We invited artists, planners, and other practitioners in the field to explore what is possible and what are some creative ways to engage with the public. We explored local connections we have in the metro-Atlanta region and what resources could enhance our work.

Hannah S. Palmer is a writer and artist from the southside of Atlanta. Through essays, memoir, and public art projects, she explores the hidden histories and wildness that shape our lives in the urban landscape. Her collaborative work with ARC informed her art practice to use as a way to advance the idea of accessible urban springs into being. Her convincing persona as a park ranger from the future has furthered the conversations about impacts of the built environment in local governments across the region.



HANNAH S. PALMER
Writer and artist from Atlanta's southside



KATHERINE ATTEBERRY
Stormwater Planning Manager at the Atlanta Regional Commission



MIKE ALEXANDER
Chief Operating Officer of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)



Dee Powell of DRBTS, Do Right By The Streets, is a BLACK WOMAN OWNED urban planning + place creation group that puts communities of color first. Our practice is unconventional in that it focuses on PEOPLE FIRST within the traditional practice of urban planning and challenges the way things have been done to communities. Particularly communities of color. We gain expertise and experience from the streets, the community and the people who inhabit them.

Community members are experts of their community. Listen to them. They don't want to be saved, they just want to be heard.

— Dee Powell

Amy Francescini. (she/her) is a contemporary American artist and designer. Her practice spans a broad range of media including drawing, sculpture, design, net art, public art and gardening.

Governments can't imagine something unless it already exists.

— Amy Francescini



Food Well Alliance is a collaborative network of local leaders working together to build equitable and thriving community gardens, urban farms, and orchards across metro Atlanta. Our mission is to provide resources and support to local growers to connect and build healthier communities. Sarah Brown and Emma Huguenot shared their experience with the supporting local growers across the metro-Atlanta region

Is it possible for the local food work in metro-Atlanta to be more interconnected?

— Food Well Alliance

SITE VISITS — URBAN FOOD FOREST AT BROWNS MILL

On a residential road in SE Atlanta, the Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill Project is a 7.1-acre park, the largest public, community food forest in the nation. Shannon Lee from the Conservation Fund, Vicki Mendez from Trees Atlanta, and Rosemary Griffin and Shandria Hardiman from the Browns Mills Community Garden shared information about the origin of the Food Forest and its relationship to the community. Rosemary gave the class a tour of the forest pointing out the 39 garden beds, a pollinator garden, muscadines, fruit trees, plum trees, fig trees, blueberry bushes and more. The class noticed there wasn't any signage for the Food Forest and painted signs they installed that day.



...Browns Mill Project is a 7.1-acre park, the largest public, community food forest in the nation.

Regardless of what you build, resources, people power and education are needed for community stewardship





RUCKER FARM

Old Rucker Farm in Alpharetta is the home base of the city's community agriculture program, which was developed in 2018 with collaboration and guidance from numerous residents and community organizations. It includes organically-grown vegetable, fruit, flower, and herb gardens, a native pollinator garden, community garden plots, apiary, chicken coop, orchard, greenhouse, and an outdoor classroom. With Food Well Alliance's local food system planning work as the connecting tissue between them, the City of Austell, the City of Alpharetta and city of Clarkston presented the kinds of partnerships and strategy needed to strengthen local food production and access across the metro-Atlanta region.



Food Well Alliance's food system planning has been key in supporting work already happening in communities allowing them to be sustainable.





CO-DESIGN ATLANTA HARVEST

In selecting the community partner, the ARC team discussed what topics we should explore this year and from previous feedback, decided to focus on food sovereignty, climate resiliency, and land stewardship. We researched a number of potential community partners - from a local land and food sovereignty project to mutual aid and political education collective focusing on food insecurity - and after a number of site visits and conversations, we found that Atlanta Harvest was a good fit because of their history of working with partners, their desires to connect more locally, and because of the openness by the owner, EliYahu Ben Asa.

Atlanta Harvest was established in 2013 and is an urban farm and wellness center serving the greater Atlanta area. Atlanta Harvest is committed to producing naturally-grown food in the city. Through community partnerships, they are passionate about mobilizing people for collective impact in distressed areas of our city. The mission of Atlanta Harvest is to cultivate passion and drive innovation in the city, for the city. Atlanta Harvest loves the city of Atlanta and wants to see it thrive through dignifying work opportunities and increased access to locally grown, farm fresh food. After studying photography at School of Visual Arts in New York, EliYahu returned to Georgia to support the family farming operation started by his father. The land in Ellenwood began as a research farm part of a Georgia Tech project. As the project ended, EliYahu thought their operation could use a more accessible and visible space to provide food to their network across the Atlanta Metro region. The space was in Clayton County, which measured 14.8% of people in the county experiencing food insecurity, around

44,500 people according to Map the Meal Gap. Notably, the population of African Americans that experience this insecurity jumps to 24%, and even higher numbers are reported south of this line according to USDA.gov. This effect is compounded by the lack of green space, air and noise pollution from industry and the constant planes overhead, leaving the area with one of the highest environmental (in) justice scores in the surrounding region. As a Black family farm, Atlanta Harvest wanted to serve a primarily Black, metro-Atlanta community by focusing on healthy food, growing methods, and community resilience. The former GA Tech Project was bought by the family and then transformed into a public display of food cultivation where patrons from around the region could come and pick their own produce or see what is in season. This relationship with food inspired community members who sought a deeper connection to their food because of the relationships built with the farming family. Something that everyone who visited Atlanta Harvest shared was a respect for the earth and a deep curiosity to do things better.

CO — DESIGN

To co-design with Atlanta Harvest on the project, *Rosten and Roshani created a creative process that included research, ideation, prototyping, revisions, and execution.*

“We believe that co-design is a non-hierarchical process of authentic collaboration centering perspectives that are harmed by the traditional design process.”

Both Roshani and Rosten have research-based art practices, starting their projects with questions instead of fully formed concepts. In order to get an understanding of the situation and context, they adapt methodologies from contemporary art practices that are creative and flexible. Core methods include:

Observation —

a practice to slow down and notice the small details via long walks, sketching, field recordings, material tests, etc.

Reading and Contextual Research —

building a richer contextual landscape for ideas by reading other disciplines (e.g. philosophy, sociology, anthropology, design theory, urban planning, etc.)

Atlanta Harvest hosts a public festival in the fall so the class would use that event to execute the community-engaged projects.

Interviews and Fieldwork —

emphasizing lived experiences by speaking directly to community members and specialists.

Studio Experimentation —

testing materials, prototyping, and “failing forward” as a way to learn.

Critical Reflection —

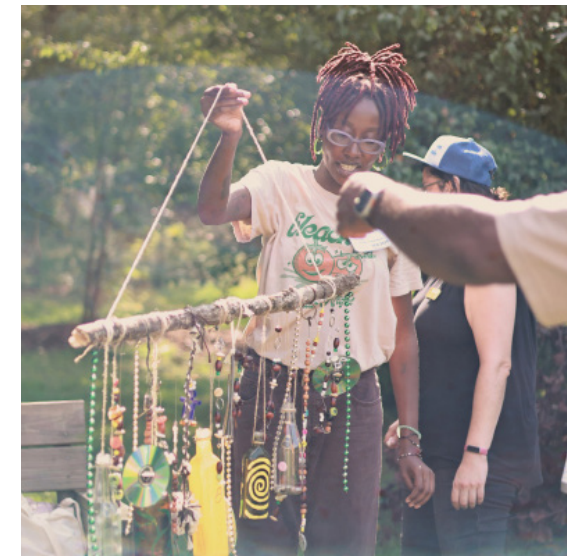
creating space in the process of discovery for feedback by colleagues, collaborators, and community members.

Documentation and Archiving —

taking photographs, notes, sound recordings, sketches, references, etc., documentation can help flesh out the idea of the project.

Generally, this type of research practice is more dynamic and engaging than traditional types of research. There are also some correlations to the existing conditions phase in planning scopes which is a good foundation for planners to start from.

We began research with observation, interviews, and fieldwork by holding class at Atlanta Harvest with EliYahu. Taking a practice learned from Amy Franceschini’s lecture, the class collaborated on a “relational object” to honor the community partner with a small gift of a wind-chime made with recycled bottles and jars. This practice supports the partnership by recognizing the site’s existing culture and acts as a tool for dialogue.



EliYahu gave the class a tour of the 22 acres learning about the family, the farm's history, the programs, and current concerns. The class asked questions, spoke to workers on the farm, and then reflected in the following class about what they were curious about, what they found interesting, what they wanted to learn, what skills they had to offer, and what kind of project can be developed to explore those things with the Atlanta Harvest community. These reflections turned into project scopes considering these two guiding questions:

What is our intention, given our constraints?

How will we evaluate the success of the project?



IDEATION

The class's scopes shared some similarities and it was from there that seven small groups were formed ensuring that artists were working with planners, community members, and government staff to practice cross-sector collaboration. The areas of interest explored included —

COMMUNITY EMBEDMENT

How can Atlanta Harvest be more embedded with the local community?

VISIBILITY

What are ways for Atlanta Harvest to increase its visibility when it comes to food sovereignty?

THIRD SPACE

What would it take for Atlanta Harvest to become a third space for Ellenwood and Clayton County?

LABOR

When it comes to food sovereignty and land stewardship, what is the labor involved? Who is doing the labor?

YOUTH + EDUCATION

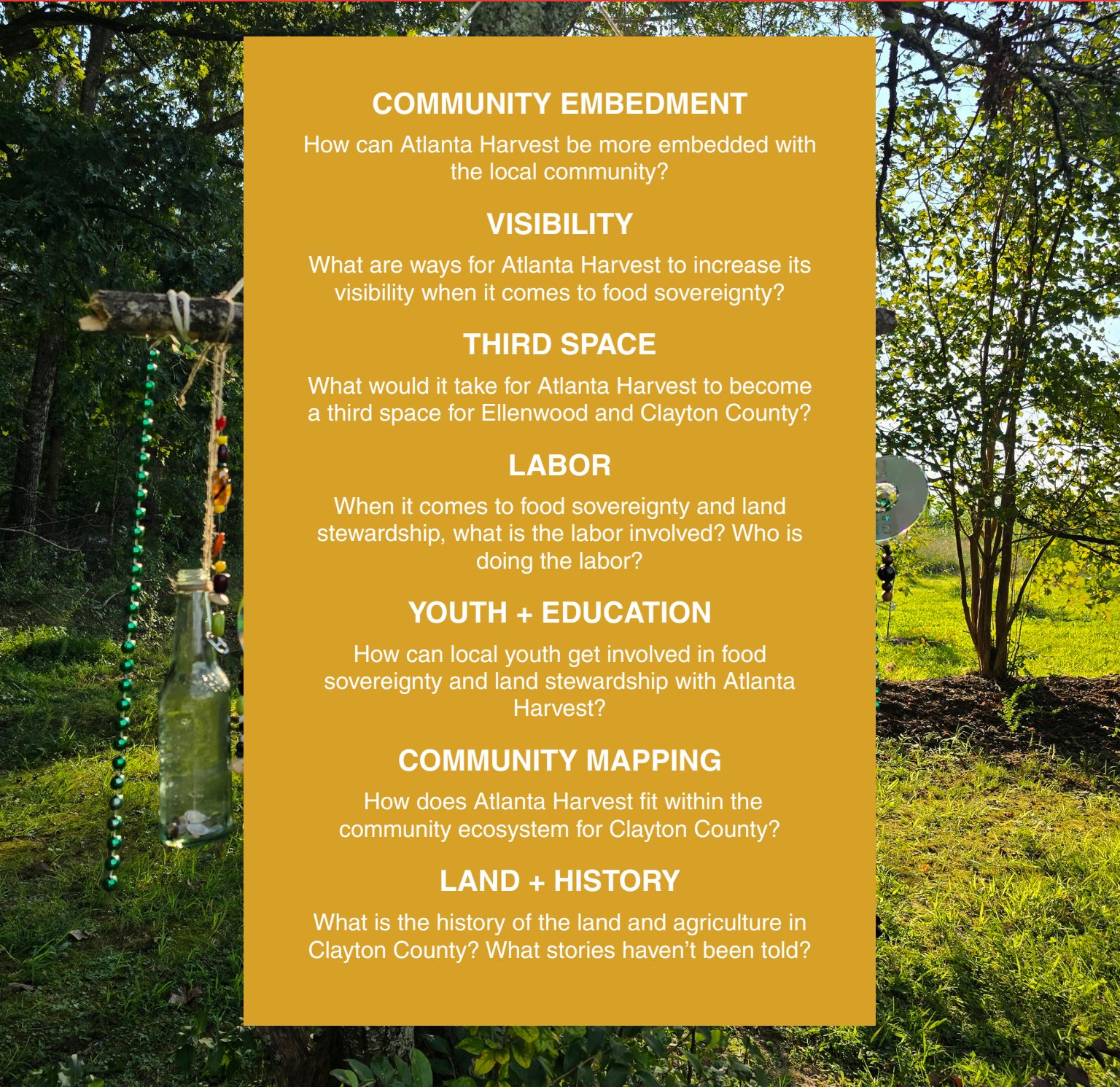
How can local youth get involved in food sovereignty and land stewardship with Atlanta Harvest?

COMMUNITY MAPPING

How does Atlanta Harvest fit within the community ecosystem for Clayton County?

LAND + HISTORY

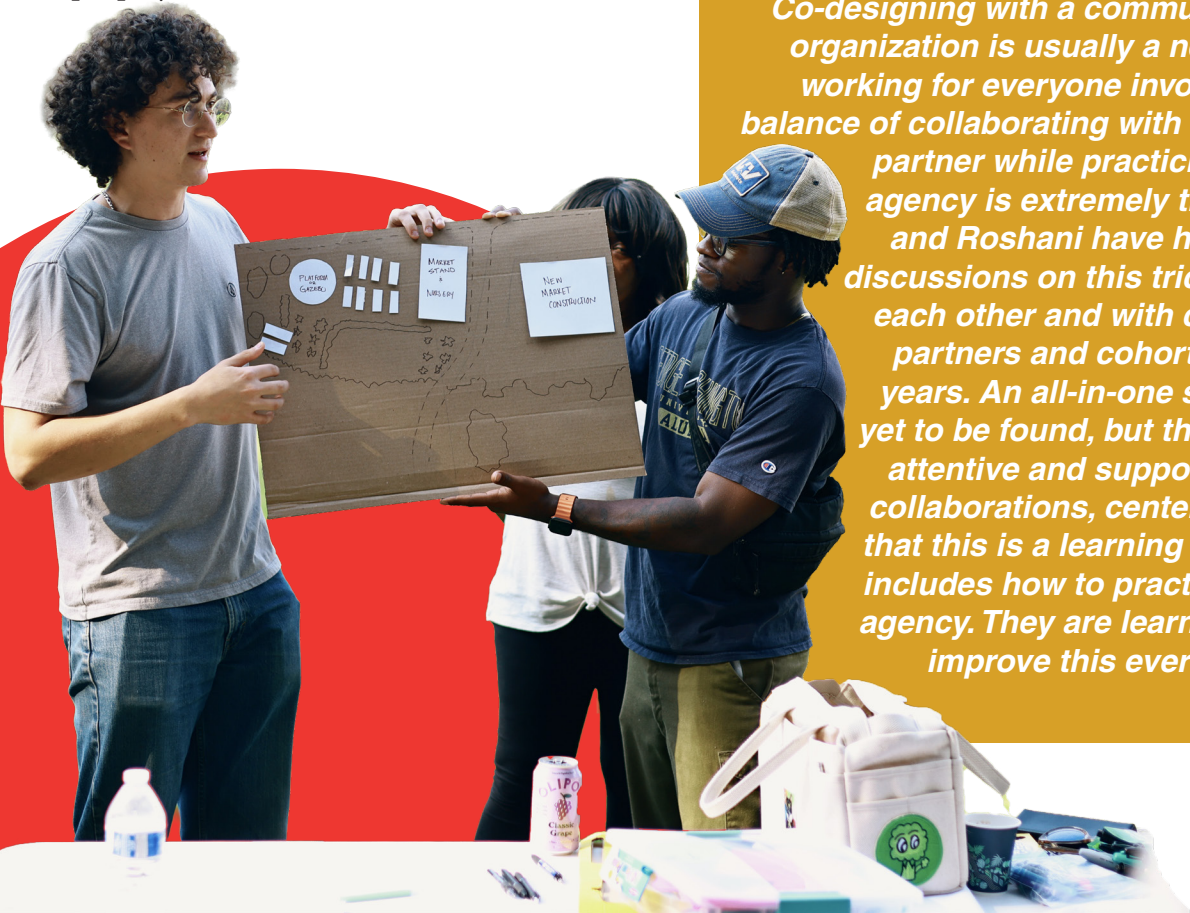
What is the history of the land and agriculture in Clayton County? What stories haven't been told?



PROTOTYPES

In planning processes there isn't time and space to test out ideas with the community. We use prototyping as a low-stakes way for a group to collaborate and practice transforming ideas into tangible, testable models. Prototyping helps accelerate feedback loops, improve communication in group work, reduce risk by testing assumptions early, foster user empathy, generate new ideas, and communicate ideas more effectively. We encouraged the class to make sketches, collages, sculptures, fliers, etc., quickly to begin a conversation about the ideas they are proposing. Here are first and second rounds of prototypes developed by the groups.

From the process of group prototyping and feedback sessions with Atlanta Harvest, the class saw a lot of overlap in ideas and were excited to work on multiple projects.



Co-designing with a community-based organization is usually a new way of working for everyone involved. The balance of collaborating with a community partner while practicing creative agency is extremely tricky. Rosten and Roshani have had multiple discussions on this trickiness with each other and with community partners and cohorts over the years. An all-in-one solution has yet to be found, but they have been attentive and supportive of the collaborations, centering the idea that this is a learning space which includes how to practice creative agency. They are learning how to improve this every year.





FEEDBACK & SLOWING DOWN

Although there was a lot of energy from the class and from the community partner to execute many of the projects, we were slowly realizing that the artistic autonomy in the collaborations was being diminished. Instead, the collaborations were turning into transactional client work where the students were losing agency around the ideas of their projects. To address the challenges, Rosten and Roshani spoke with EliYahu, reiterated expectations in these collaborations, and created more space to focus on the collaborations with what the students would like to pursue and give more context on food sovereignty, land stewardship, and climate resilience. They shifted the syllabus after hearing from the class that more time and support from us would be helpful by eliminating the third phase of the class and by adding an additional site visit and guest speakers. This slowing down allowed the groups to connect more in their collaborations, have more time for additional research and conversations, and refine their projects for execution at the Atlanta Harvest Festival.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

For the harvest festival, the class executed multiple projects from the collaborations with various ways for the community to engage with Atlanta Harvest and food and land. The anchoring project was the third-space structure built as a gathering space. On the street-facing side, the class painted the mural Farmers of the Future with community members engaging them on the importance of food security in communities. Under the roof, students painted a land acknowledgement on the posts to ground the structure honoring the past and present stewardship of the land. Additionally community maps and zines about local farms, agricultural labor, and

food resources were made by the groups and used as tools to talk with community members at the festival. EliYahu hosted multiple tours during the festival stopping at the third-space structure to help activate the space.

Although there was some hesitancy in speaking with community members, engaging conversations happened because of activations of the projects. The groups spent weeks researching the topics of their projects and were able to provide an opportunity for community members to expand and deepen the work of Atlanta Harvest.

Land Acknowledgement: People have farmed this land for centuries: the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and their ancestors, enslaved Africans and their descendants, U.S.-born people of many races working as sharecroppers. We are grateful for their stewardship and honor today's farmers, including those from Central and South America, those native to this place, and the Atlanta Harvest family. We look with hope to the farmers of the future.





WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU LEARNED PERSONALLY FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?



“Some things I will be taking away from this: A. Nail down a scope of work so the project is coherent and the pivots don’t feel intrusive. B. Identify a steering committee, and probably incorporate a project management tool so we can layout who works where and who’s responsible for what, and C. Listening and healing sessions. The work has to have some deeper unifying principle that the group can default to when fatigue sets in.”

“Trust the process, let go of the results.”



Moving forward, how do I engage with community partners to ensure that our goals align and prevent one voice from being too loud. Creating balance in encouraging creativity but understanding the realities of interacting with the community. How to set expectations...

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TAKE FORWARD IN YOUR LIFE?



...I am identifying groups, properties and smaller communities that might enjoy or benefit from gardens, small community centers, or makerspaces to see if I can get involved with construction, design, or community-engagement processes.

“Questions I want to bring into the future: What does critical alignment look like in organizing with communities? What are strategies for checking that alignment before getting into collaboration. How do we build trust as a group with the community we are visiting, not living in?”

“I want to bring my artistic and creative side out more. I want to communicate more. I want to get involved more and help people that might not be connected to me. I want to use all of my gifts and expertise to help someone in a way that I can see or feel.”

Going with the flow, redesigning/ reworking projects as new information comes about or even changing direction. Asking the community what they need... rather than making an assumption. Think spatially and long-term...

WHAT ARE PEOPLE DOING SINCE CLASS ENDED?



“Something I took away from the CCD class was, of course, collaborating with other disciplines to take a project to the next level. For example, Planning and Zoning is trying to launch a Storm Drain Art Project in conjunction with Parks & Recreation, which has already generated more achievable ideas for the project than when it was just Planning and Zoning trying to launch the project.”

– Chancellor Felton, City Planner, City of Fairburn, GA



“After finishing the 2025 CCD, I have been trying to incorporate art components in all our community-engagement events. We set up a vintage typewriter and asked folks to write messages, love letters, or poems to Atlanta. Kids, in particular, absolutely loved using and playing with the typewriter, as they had never seen one before, and we gave folks the opportunity to recite the poems and messages on a platform.”

– Carlos Garcia, Urban Planner, City of Atlanta’s Department of City Planning, Office of Design Planning Studio



“The 2025 CCD class inspired me to become more involved in my community. I am an active member of the Midtown Infrastructure Committee, have continued to assist ARC through Community Forum as a supporter of artist leads, joined the board of local non-profit Ground Up Collective, and have since been admitted to Georgia Tech’s Masters of City and Regional Planning program.”

– Maddy McGee, Former Long-Range Planner, Gwinnett County

Aisha DeBerry
Allison Johnson
Amanda Musilli
Amanda Reif
Amy Franceschini
Andrea Searles
Antemil Jorkey
Arin Yost
Ashley Ruffin
Bryce Lawson
Brittany Brewster
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Dee Powell
Devika Rao
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Emmy Marshall
Hannah Palmer
Immanuel Laidlaw
James Bunting
Jasmine Carter
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Joy Dillard Appel
Kalia
Katherine Atteberry
Kweku

Lanona Jones
Lisa Pham
Maddy McGee
Maple Rae Johnson
Mara Mills
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Max Kollman
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Mike Alexander
Patricia Hernandez
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Rashida Williamson
Rodney Reese
Rosemary Griffin
Rosten Woo
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Shandria Hardiman
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Shar'ron Russell
Shelby. Piccolo
Grandma Sherba
Shima Khodagholi
CRLZ (Sierra Barbary)
Sol Mason
Sonya Hooks
Stephen Wilkins
Symone Gaskin
Vicki Mendez
Yonathan

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ARC

Atlanta Regional Commission