IMPACT 2015
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.

In 2015 buildingcommunityWORKSHOP established an office in Washington DC. As [bc] continues to evolve, we are increasing our impact to include national as well as Texas based 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

- contributed
  - corporations 0.1%
  - foundations 46.0%
  - individuals 1.5%
  - government 1.6%

- earned
  - 50.8% fee for service

EXPENSES

- programs
  - activating 8.3%
  - analyzing 5.4%
  - informing 15.9%
  - making 36.5%

- 3.5% fundraising
- 10.6% operations
- 5.6% bcFELLOWS
- 5.6% storytelling
- 8.6% mapping
In 2015, [bc] was recognized by local, state, and national awards. These awards included:

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 Reserve 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
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Elizabeth Jones
Lizzie MacWillie
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Lisa Neergaard
Elaine Morales Díaz
Craig Weflen
Jonathan Mann
Shanda Lee
Jamie Valhala

FELLOWS
Michael Cochran
Amruta Sakalkar
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
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.

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.
All parts beyond visualization due to gaps in collective impact infrastructure.
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.

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.
bcWORKSHOP hosted two Public Interest Design Institutes in partnership with Design Corps. The institutes, held in Brownsville in January and Dallas in September brought over 30 speakers and 150 designers together.
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.
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.

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.

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.
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 Know/draw 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 peopleorganizingplace.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 strategies for the community.

5. An asset map created to assist community advocates engage UT RGV, the newly merged UT Brownsville and UT Pan American.
1) SALUD COMUNITARIA REGIONAL

Abordar los problemas sanitarios y ambientales de la región. Establecer estrategias de intervención para mejorar la calidad de vida de la población a través de la promoción de la salud.

Objetivos:
- Establecer protocolos de intervención comunitaria.
- Implementar acciones para mejorar la salud de la población.
- Fomentar la cooperación entre diferentes entidades.

2) ACCESO A LA ASISTENCIA MÉDICA

Crear un modelo de acceso a la asistencia médica que garantice la equidad y la accesibilidad para todos los residentes de la región.

Objetivos:
- Crear un sistema de previsión de salud.
- Implementar programas de educación sanitaria.
- Fomentar la participación activa de la comunidad.

3) RECURSOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD

Establecer alianzas con la Universidad para aprovechar sus capacidades y recursos en la promoción de la salud.

Objetivos:
- Implementar programas de investigación en colaboración con la Universidad.
- Fomentar la formación de profesionales en salud.
- Establecer acuerdos de cooperación entre la Universidad y otras entidades.

GUARDIANES DE LA REGIÓN

Centro de audición y lenguaje.
Proporciona servicios de diagnóstico, rehabilitación y educación.

ORIENTADORES DE COLOMBIA DE RÉGIONES

Brinda orientación y apoyo a comunidades vulnerables.

INGREDIENTES PARA UNA COMUNIDAD SALUDABLE

Promotora.
Responsable de la consecución de objetivos comunitarios.

GRUPO MULTI-ORGANIZACIONAL

Coordinación de esfuerzos entre diferentes entidades.

GUARDIANES DE COMUNIDAD

Brinda orientación y apoyo a comunidades vulnerables.

INGREDIENTES PARA UNA COMUNIDAD SALUDABLE

Promotora.
Responsable de la consecución de objetivos comunitarios.
[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.
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 Elrod
Christopher Blay
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
Erika 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
Gray 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
Kelly Heyer
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
Megamorphism
Melody Bell
Mendoza Engineering
MEP Systems Design & Engineering Inc.
METALAB
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance
Metrocare Services
MKT Corporate Promotions
Michael Karronski
Moorland Family YMCA
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
Proyecto Azteca
Proyecto Juan Diego
Public Architecture
Public Utility Board of Brownsville
RabbleWorkshop
Rick Fontenot, Art Conspiracy
Roger Mainor, Est. 11
RTKL
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
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.
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.