

ANNUAL REPORT

MacArthur Park

Westlake



UCLA

Los Angeles

UCLA

2021

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



The many problems facing cities have fueled cityLAB's energy to do more, think more, and partner more over the past year to demonstrate that creative design paired with rigorous research can advance spatial justice. The highlights: we designed and installed the BruinHub for housing-insecure UCLA students; completed a design research effort into the co-location of affordable housing with public schools; projected the future of California's housing development; and curated an exhibition of cityLAB's work alongside that of colleagues in the Architecture & Urban Design Department.

Collaboration, coalition-building, and allyship characterize our work this year, reflecting a growing respect for communities outside architecture and planning and their centrality to achieving real impacts. You may remember that at the end of 2020, we made a commitment to LA's unhoused residents and in 2021 we began this important work. Our conception of a "continuum of accommodation" guides us, while our conviction that housing is a human right remains strong.

I want to thank our many partners, but in particular, Cindy Miscikowski whose sustaining support powers all cityLAB's endeavors.

Dana Cuff, PhD
Director, cityLAB

2021 STRATEGIC GOALS

- Affordable Housing** for students and on public lands
- Mentoring** through fellowships and research training
- Public Impact** via demonstration projects & policy
- Dissemination** in lectures, publications, exhibitions
- Building Presence** of design research methodologies

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PROJECT OVERVIEW



EDUCATION WORKFORCE HOUSING

PHASE I: Completed
PHASE II: Begins 2022
 Now that California leads the nation's housing crisis, dozens of school districts are

trying to support teachers and staff by creating affordable housing. cityLAB's design research suggests that every district has land appropriate for the development of housing. Design solutions enable and incentivize the benefits of School Lands for Housing for residents, schools, and neighboring communities.



CREATING COMMON GROUND

PHASE I: Completed
PHASE II: 2022
 Funded by a UCLA Transdisciplinary Research Acceleration Grant, this study

examines public space use and experiences of low-income older adults and youth in Westlake/MacArthur Park. The primary goal is to understand the public space needs and values of these two groups and explore the similarities and differences in their use of neighborhood public spaces, both before and after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BRUINHUB

Opened Fall 2021
 cityLAB and a unique team of administrators and advocates at UCLA opened a new hub at the John Wooden Center that provides spaces of rest and community for student commuters, who disproportionately experience housing insecurity. The BruinHub features giant jellybean-like "pods" conceived by cityLAB-partner and architect Marta Nowak with her graduate students in Architecture and Urban Design to provide lighting, power, privacy, and comfort.



DEMO DEMO

Installed Fall 2021
 Demolition and Demonstration: placed together, these terms resonate with architecture's recent history and its trajectory. Innovative architectural design can be broadly characterized as demolishing constraints while demonstrating ways to shape new worlds. Designed and curated in the Perloff Hall Gallery by cityLAB, DEMO DEMO includes a survey of recent cityLAB work and contributions from twenty A.U.D faculty.



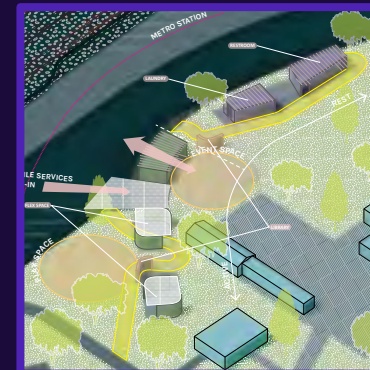
CALIFORNIA 100

To be Released 2022
 What is the future of housing in California? In partnership with the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and the Turner Center for Housing Innovation, cityLAB is continuing to expand our vision of innovative, sustainable, and equitable housing solutions statewide. Over 40 interviews informed three months of intensive study to set a bold agenda for production and equity over the next century.



REFLECTIONS IN LAFAYETTE PARK

In Progress
 Funded by the NEH, *Reflections* reimagines a historic garden and reflecting pool behind the Felipe de Neve Branch of the LA Public Library in Lafayette Park. Through temporary exhibitions, site-specific artworks, and programming that engages scholars, artists, youth, and families, the project seeks to complicate the narrative of urban violence often associated with Westlake, reactivating an under-acknowledged public space.



PLACE2BE

In Progress
 The Place2Be initiative proposes a "place to be" for community members whose needs are not met by their current urban environs. This new typology of a community based support site draws from models across the health, activist, and homeless care spaces to build the social as well as physical infrastructures needed to overcome everyday and climate-induced disasters. Design offers dignity, joy, and reclamation of public spaces for public good.

CAMINO SEGURO

In Progress
 El Camino Seguro at Burlington Street is the first phase of connecting the Camino Nuevo Charter Academy Burlington campus through community-led urban design and public art projects. With the support of coLAB, the near-term investments will include projects that improve the sidewalk dynamics surrounding the school to ensure a more safe, inclusive public space.



PRAXIS

2020 - 2021
 A student-led conversation series that started under Stay at Home orders, Praxis is a forum to share perspectives on the practical implementation of theory within routine methods of action and pedagogy. In our Zoomed-out realities, Praxis strives to zoom in; creating intimate conversations and meaningful interactions that nourish and inspire.



BRUINHUB

42%

of long-distance commuter Bruins have slept overnight on or near campus rather than returning home. One in seven have experienced homelessness.



A new hub at the John Wooden Center provides spaces of rest and community for student commuters, who disproportionately experience housing insecurity. The BruinHub features giant jellybean-like “pods” conceived by cityLAB-partner and architect Marta Nowak to provide lighting, power, privacy, and comfort.



Where other universities set up shelter beds for overnight emergency housing, UCLA has created a brilliantly colored lounge that is a magnet for its commuters. The eye-popping BruinHub is designed to delight and honor a group of students who for various reasons are unable to live on or near campus. Housed within polka-dotted walls of a former squash court, the facility also includes WiFi, lounge areas, cafe-style workstations, refrigerator and food prep area, personal storage, and nearby showers.

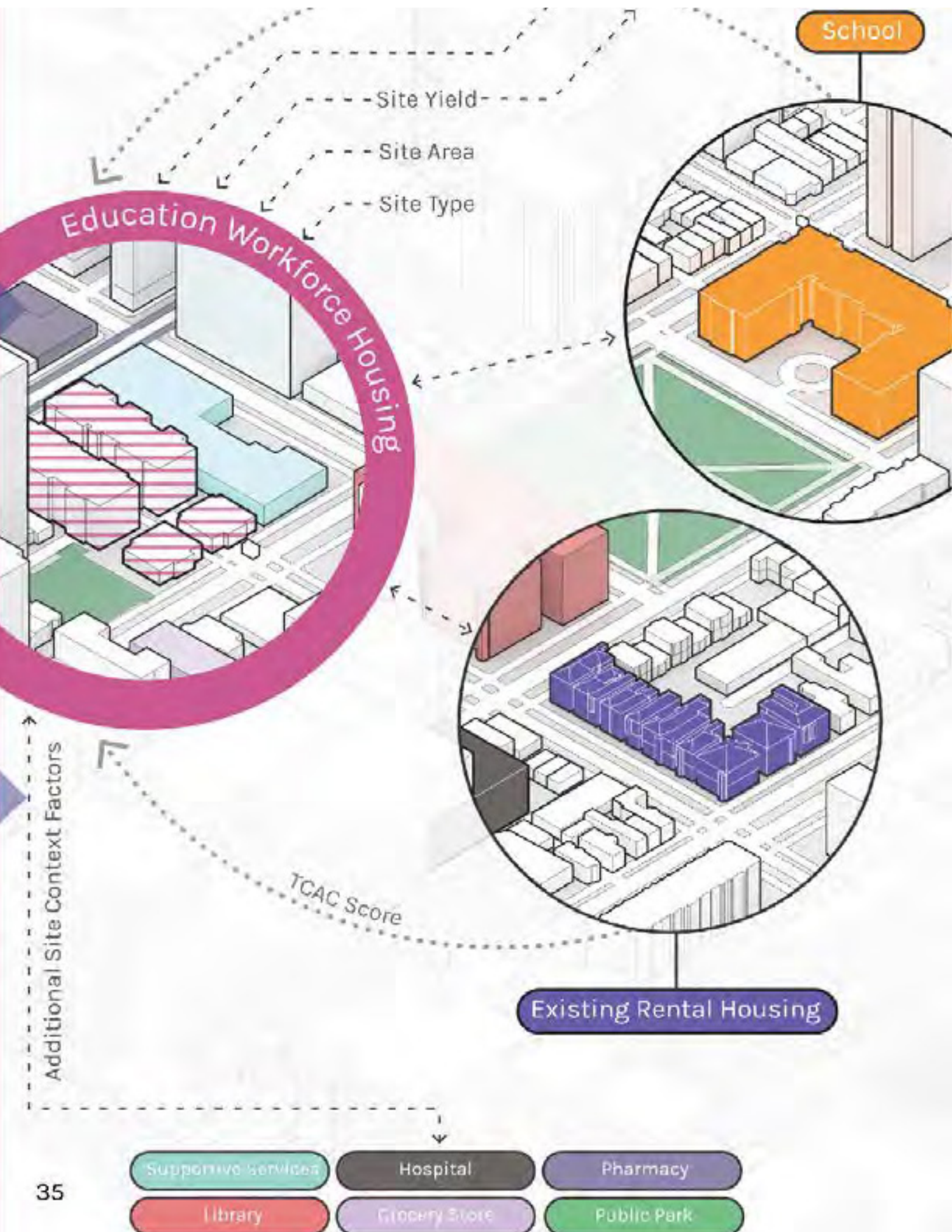
A 2019 study conducted by cityLAB found that 43% of UCLA students commute over 60 minutes to campus one-way, and that 42% of these long-distance commuters had slept overnight on or near campus instead of returning home. The same survey found that 14% of long distance commuters had experienced homelessness. As a result, student groups continue to advocate for safe overnight parking and the expansion of the BruinHub. Another group of pods will soon be delivered to campus. The university sees the BruinHub as part of a broader strategy to address these concerns through the use of on-campus facilities and resources, to reduce the number of students seeking rest in cars or temporary living arrangements.

The BruinHub was launched on September 23rd, and fully opened to students on September 27th. It has been featured by the Los Angeles Times, Archinect, and the Daily Bruin.

Partners

UCLA Student Affairs, UCLA Recreation, UCLA First Year Experience, Marta Nowak, UCLA Basic Needs, UCLA Community Programs Office, UCLA Housing, UCLA Transportation, Bruin Commuters





EDUCATION WORKFORCE HOUSING

The latest phase of our ongoing "School Lands Housing" research concentrates on **Education Workforce Housing** for California's abundant K-12 campuses. Informed by a technical research report and a public-facing handbook for school districts seeking to develop their land, this research provides aspirational and pragmatic approaches to incentivizing housing.



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Manhattans worth of public campus land are scattered throughout California, and could yield up to 1,066,800 units of school lands housing.

California's school districts can help solve the state's affordable housing crisis, and address their own staffing challenges, by leveraging their land holdings to construct affordable housing. As housing affordability challenges intertwine with staffing challenges, some Districts in the state have looked to build housing for their employees as a way to address both of these challenges. One resource that these districts have in abundance is land. Statewide, LEAs own 151,500 acres of land that span every county in the state and include numerous different land types. cityLAB's preliminary research shows that every county has potentially developable land, opening opportunities for new accommodations.

The potential impact of education workforce housing is substantial. Looking to built solutions for guidance, engaging in extensive community engagement, investing in innovative design solutions, and learning from this report and the accompanying handbook should help districts explore Education Workforce Housing Development, and ultimately achieve a built project to house their employees. equitably and sustainably.

cityLAB and partners recieved new funding to extend this project in 2022 into hands-on Workforce Housing Workshops for California School Boards. With our state legislative office, cityLAB is also working on new legislation incentives to remove barriers to co-locating housing on school property.

Partners

- California School Board Association
- Center for Cities + Schools at UC Berkeley
- Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

DEMO DEMO

Curated and designed by cityLAB for the Perloff Hall Gallery, "DEMO DEMO" (Demolition, Demonstration) marks the first on-site gallery show since 2019. The show provides a survey of recent cityLAB and AUD faculty work, framed through our shared commitments to innovation and spatial justice. Wooden display panels are designed for reuse around the department and city.

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AUD faculty members were showcased alongside 5 of cityLAB's recent projects, spanning from research reports to demonstration projects.



Demolition and Demonstration: placed together, these terms resonate with architecture's recent history and its trajectory. Architecture's power lies in the ability to adapt and enact new, possible futures that demolish dated norms. Demonstration implies design can be both a generative act and form of resistance. As an illustration of potential, an assertion of viability, and political choice, we demonstrate to enact futurity. Innovative architectural design, then, can be broadly characterized as demolishing constraints while demonstrating ways to shape new worlds. As a discipline, our emphasis on material construction can blind us to the intrinsic destruction in our practices; until the models we advance lead to demonstrations of resistance.

Given the contemporary intersecting crises of climate and affordable housing, innovative architecture is a political formation, inspiring this exhibition. Now, when architecture can demonstrate how to address the crises through innovative prototypes, our work more than ever relies upon collective action. DEMO DEMO combines works by cityLAB and architecture faculty to show AUD's disciplinary spectrum. At cityLAB, the ethics of spatial justice, community engagement, and design research produce architectural demonstrations ranging from full scale prototypes to state policy. Projects by faculty leverage design to transform materials, sites, and cities, demolishing conventions to advance aesthetic and ethical goals.

Project Credits

Curation: Dana Cuff, Rayne Laborde
Project Team: Melissa Rovner, Evan Bruetsch, Miranda Hirujo-Rincon, Julian Cuff-Daly, Kevin Daly, Carlos Grande, Pedro Grande, Felix Lam





CALIFORNIA 100

What is the future of housing in California? cityLAB continues to expand our vision of innovative, sustainable, and equitable housing solutions statewide in this sneak preview of a project which will release in January 2022. In the drawing to the left, four quadrants operate on "production" (Y) and "equity" (X) axes to illustrate possible scenario plans over a century.

California for All

The deepening housing crisis sparks a public and private social mobilization for housing, by drawing connections to the intersecting threats of climate change. Governments and markets are able to coordinate and create transformative investments in people and the built environment, wielding a variety of resources, incentives, and policies to spur housing production and support residents. These long term investments in housing, transportation, and jobs help the state build the resilience to weather future challenges and economic booms and busts.

Historical Precedents

- United States Housing Act, 1937
- Fair Housing Act, 1968
- Covid-19 Pandemic National Eviction Moratorium and Emergency Rental Assistance, 2020

Future Drivers

- Climate Change: California embraces the role of land use in greenhouse gas reduction
- Racial Equity: Protective and assistive policies benefit communities of color and account for past harms
- Wealth & Income Inequality: Tax-and-spend approach helps alleviate inequality

A comprehensive approach

Recognizing there is no silver bullet to addressing the housing crisis, the state engages in a wide-ranging program of policies to boost the supply of market and especially below-market housing, strengthen

Market meets non-market

Housing is housing, and all it takes to turn market units into non-market units is funding and public will. In addition to direct public funding of new construction, the government supports continuous acquisition

Homeowner backlash

As the state takes a more interventionist role in housing policy, renters and housing affordability gain more priority in decision-making, leading some homeowners and wealthier residents rally to defend their



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interviews with experts in all elements of housing - design, development, community ownership, lifestyle, new models of - inform the final report.

Housing and Community Development is one of 13 research categories funded by the new California 100 Initiative, which seeks to produce a transformative guiding vision for our state's next century. In their words, California 100 is "co-creating the next century, startingn today."

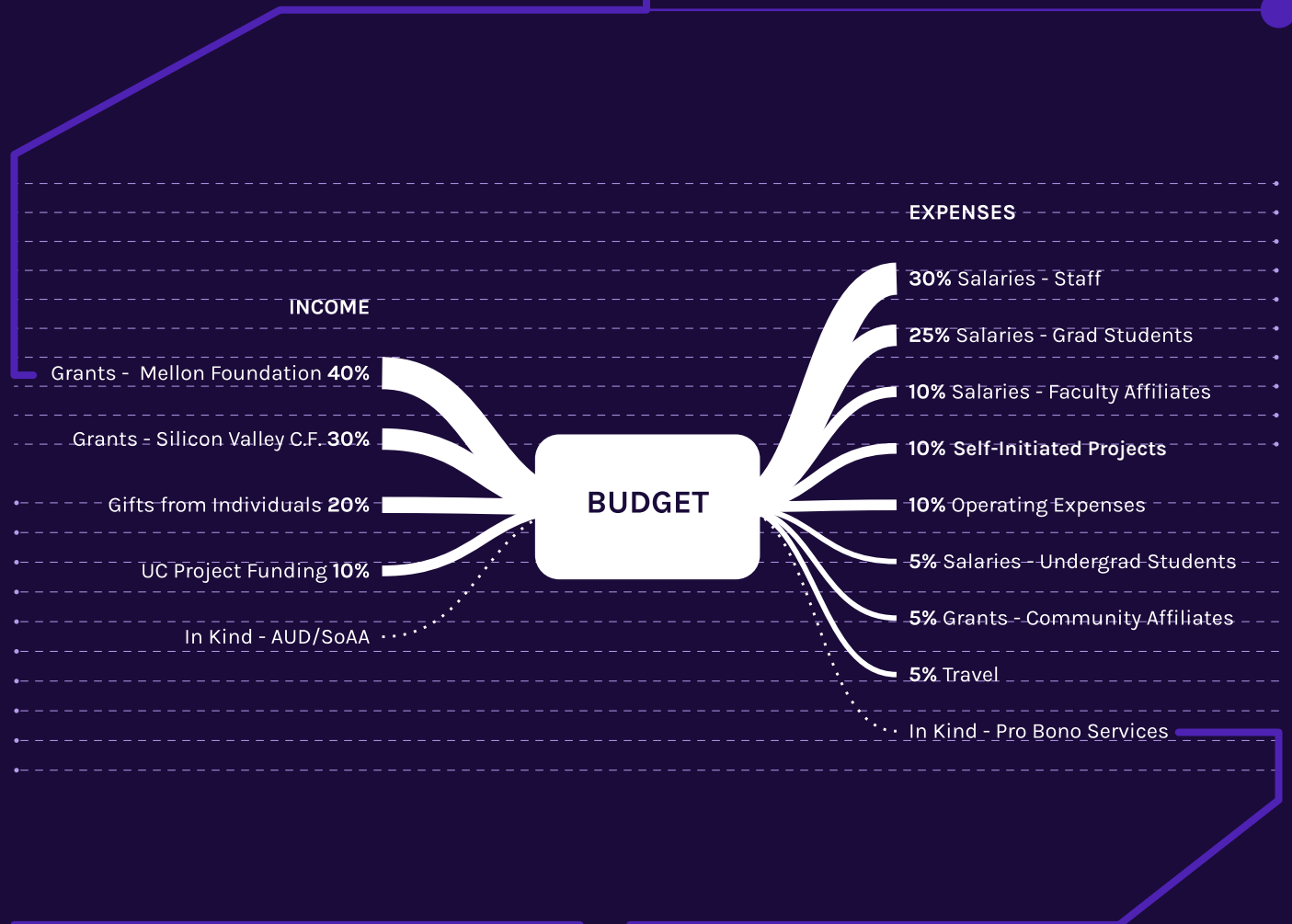
THROUGH POLICY INNOVATION
California 100 will fund demonstration projects across the state. These projects will focus on trying out and rigorously testing big ideas that have the potential to advance California, but that have not yet been attempted or accomplished at scale. In addition to demonstration projects, California 100 also aims to bring new voices into the process of policy innovation. California 100 will engage in participatory research across the state that generates new, "bottom-up" ways of understanding and measuring progress and success.

THROUGH RESEARCH
California 100 will sponsor grants for data-driven and future-oriented research focused on understanding today and planning for tomorrow. Research will consider how California has gotten to where it is, and will provide scenarios and policy alternatives for what California can become. The work will be led by research institutions across the state with deep subject-matter expertise in government, strong stakeholder relationships, applied knowledge, and imaginative solutions.

Partners

- Terner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkely
- Lewis Center for Regional Policy StudiesCalifornia 100 Initiative
- The People Lab

BUDGET



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Major grants supported our 2021 work, including from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, UCLA Transdisciplinary Acceleration Grant Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, inaugural California 100 Initiative, and partner-supported work in Westlake.



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Strategic Core Team hires - Associate Director Rayne Laborde and Assistant Director of Community Design Research Louie Leiva - are bringing new expertise and increased capacity to cityLAB. Three full time and three part time staff form the Core Team.

STUDENT SUPPORT

STUDENT STAFF

Despite economic slowdowns under COVID, cityLAB hired and retained eighteen student workers. All appointments are above living wage, and range from 25-100% time.

GRANTS

Through the Urban Humanities Initiative, we continue to support independent research, travel, and design exploration for students in architecture, planning, and the humanities. Students study community relationships, partner with local and foreign impact groups, build and test mock ups, and stage urban interventions and installations with this unique funding opportunity.

ALUMNI

Our alumni, and in particular our Fellows, continue to excel while modeling cityLAB and Urban Humanities practices far beyond campus. This year, Katie Chuh (2015-16) of WORKPOINT attained both her architecture licensure and engineering accreditation, & Kenny Wong (2017-18) joined the faculty of the University of Arizona as a Lecturer in Sustainable Built Environments

FELLOWSHIPS

2021 marks the most robust cohort of cityLAB and UHI Fellows: two undergraduate students, two Masters of Architecture Students, and one PhD student are receiving mentorship and financial support from cityLAB.

DIVERSITY

cityLAB continues to attract and mentor students with "non-traditional" backgrounds, academic interests, and career goals, who in turn seek us out to augment their study programs. Our student staff are 22% undergraduate students, 45% master's students, and 33% doctoral students, studying across (and sometimes between) 8 degree programs. Over 60% of our student staff are women, and 50% are people of color.

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IMPACT

Our work on ADUs continues to encourage housing density while providing essential work for young graduates and faculty.

BACKYARD BONANZA

22% of all LA Permits are for building ADUs

42% of AUD Faculty are designing an ADU, including Standard Plans

SB 9 Leaps Forward from where AB2299 took off, futher doubling density

PUBLICITY

BRUINHUB featured in LA Times, Archinect, & more

28+ Public Lectures Panels, coversation series, etc

Media Expert Interviews for Dezeen, Business Weekly, CoStar, KCET, KCRW & more

MAJOR GIFTS

Cindy Miscikowski, long time friend of cityLAB and former City Council member, has extended her support of our primary operations for a five year term. Thank you!

AWARDS

Dana Cuff Recognized with UCLA Public Impact Award

Our localized research captures public audiences far beyond Los Angeles

NEXT

BRUINHUB Phase II

Five additional pods will find a campus home in 2022.

Supported by UCOP Basic Needs Funding



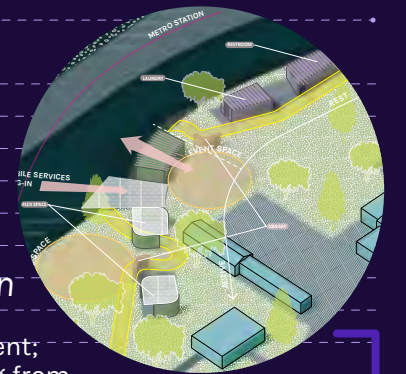
EDUCATION WORKFORCE ACADEMY & POLICY

Supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative



PLACE2BE Demonstration

Self-funded at present; Seeking major funding from health-related foundations.



SUPPORT DESIGN BUILD

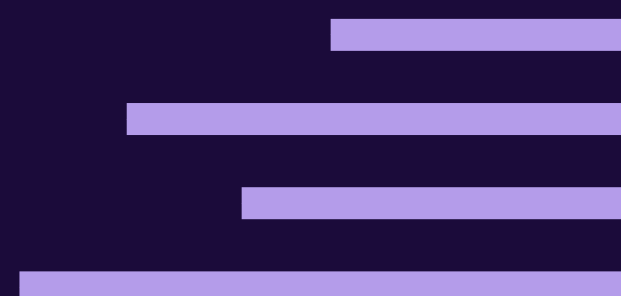
In cityLAB's Winter 2022 Technology Seminar, led by Dana Cuff and Rayne Laborde, students will work with activists and organizers to test models for communal, spatial resources for unhoused Angelenos. If funded, full-scale prototypes will propose portable access to shade, water, power, and gathering spaces.

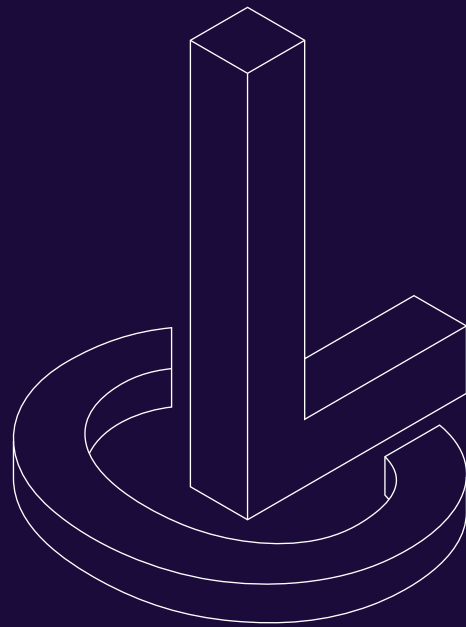


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SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

As long-term impacts of COVID-19 continue to disrupt economies and education; our students have never been both so resilient yet so economically fragile. Research support for students allows us to hire, train, and mentor student researchers at living wages; and offer named fellowships covering tuition and fees.





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