2021 Vertical Workshop
Climate Justice in Skid Row

USC *Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program*

and the USC **Landscape Justice Initiative**

Table of Contents

Workshop Introduction

The USC Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism (MLA+U) program will engage in a week-long Vertical Workshop from October 18-25, grouping students across the graduate program to investigate sites in Los Angeles' Skid Row community with a focus on climate justice, urban cooling and multi-benefit infrastructures that engage local organizations providing services on the ground in Skid Row. While permanent supportive housing must remain the unwavering goal to address the humanitarian crisis of LA's 66,000+ unhoused individuals, the reality is that goal is taking time to achieve. Supportive interim strategies are critical and must continue to be developed. This workshop imagines 5 sites in Skid Row to build on the City's current 'Cooling Station' projects as nodes of an expanded network of public space that have the capacity to better support and provide relief to those who occupy it.

The establishment of daily routines around the reliable access to basic needs is made more difficult by extreme heat events and an unequal distribution of shade. According to LA County's Department of Public Health, "heat causes more deaths in the U.S. each year than floods, storms, and lightning combined..." and impacts vulnerable populations most, especially persons experiencing homelessness. One of the most effective ways to combat extreme heat is to increase the urban forest cover, but even this seemingly simple solution carries weight in a context like Los Angeles' Skid Row where the LA Municipal Code continues to criminalize unhoused individuals (and where trees might be considered hostile landscape architecture intended to push encampments away, while codes protect trees from "harmful attachments" that might target unhoused individuals). Enduring discrimination for their very existence, unhoused individuals must navigate misdemeanor arrests attributed to "quality of life" violations which [among other things] prohibit sitting, lying or sleeping on sidewalks (LAMC§41.18), or the storage of personal belongings (LAMC§56.11).
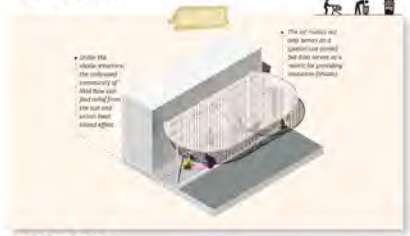
What if pilot urban cooling projects in Skid Row engaged the unhoused community to develop possible solutions, pairing impactful cooling interventions with solutions that enhance access to basic needs like hydration, hygiene, and electricity, or better engage individuals in the provision of social services and resources?

The foundational research for the workshop has been carefully crafted by students in Jared Edgar McKnight and Alison Hirsch's ARCH 590 Independent Study on Climate Justice in Skid Row: **Andrea Binz, Eva Malis, Lara Lebeiko, and Zehra Baneen Rizvi,** who will continue to develop workshop outcomes to present to our Project Partners, specifically **Pando Days** to whom we are very grateful. We are also grateful for the fund that is supporting this workshop, the **Grant & Shaya Kirkpatrick Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Leadership Fund**.

Thank you for engaging in this important and ongoing work and research, and we look forward to sharing what comes out of this experience with our collaborators and partners, and continuing to engage in the Skid Row community.

Jared Edgar McKnight
MLA+U Instructor; Assistant Director, USC Landscape Justice Initiative; Associate, WRT

Alison B. Hirsch
MLA+U Associate Professor; Director, USC Landscape Justice Initiative

Lauren Elachi
MLA+U Guest Critic; Contributor, USC Landscape Justice Initiative; Senior Design Coordinator, KDI

Workshop Objectives

Image:
Tour of Skid Row Cooling Stations - September 16, 2021.
Photo by Alison Hirsch
USC MLA+U

This weeklong workshop is a small but important part of longer-term MLA+U program engagement with the organizations and agencies working with the Skid Row community, starting in Fall 2020. It is intended to give the broader MLA+U student community an opportunity to utilize their skill sets and knowledge in climate, environment and equitable design to contribute to very real challenges in our local communities. While it is only a short workshop, the efforts will be part of a much longer process of collaborating partners on what we hope are valuable ideas and research to address climate justice in Skid Row.

The short term goals of this project are to provide relief from urban to Skid Row residents and work with the City of LA to implement effective urban cooling strategies. While this project aims to provide immediate physical relief, we cannot untangle it from the long term struggle for housing and climate justice in this community. Our long term goals include a resilient and healthy community, decriminalization of the unhoused, and permanent affordable housing for the unsheltered community of Los Angeles and beyond.

MLA+U students and faculty will be divided into 5 teams to develop urban cooling and multibenefit design concepts for 5 specifically selected sites in Skid Row. Each team will simultaneously address: urban cooling strategies in advancement of the city's homeless initiatives and LA County's sustainability plan: OurCounty, while also understanding, considering and designing for the unique needs of unhoused individuals in a way that does not criminalize them. Each group will engage a 1- to 2-block scale site, doing research into adjacent services, resources, or non-profits doing work in the community, as well as understanding the existing infrastructure of the streetscape.

This project encourages students to engage with the human-scaled urban and spatial conditions in Skid Row (sidewalks, intersections, parks, etc) as well as their intersections with the policies that govern those contexts, to design urban cooling strategies that focus on both environmental/climate and social resilience. Specifically, students will investigate and diagram the physical and social conditions, focusing their work on understanding the intersection of physical and social conditions of Skid Row through a series of investigative diagrams that build on site-specific research, participating in a site visit with local community organizations and partners, and further studying their sites to learn from the work they are doing on the ground in Skid Row, in order to identify the optimal sites within the defined study areas for urban cooling stations and strategies to engage Skid Row residents. All teams will work collaboratively with a faculty advisor, and regularly meet with both their faculty and guests throughout each of the working sessions. Student concepts will be evaluated by a jury of experts, public agency representatives, and the most successful proposals will be refined for presentation to Pando, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Initiatives, and officials from the City and County of Los Angeles.

Project Partners, Advisors + Support

PARTNERS

Pando, https://pandopopulus.com
Pando innovates at the intersection of education and public agencies to implement the goals of Los Angeles County's Sustainability Plan, aiming to make the world a community of more resilient communities. Pando is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County. The workshop outcomes will be developed to submit to Pando Days 2021.

City Homelessness Initiatives, Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
The Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives (MOCHI) oversees the Mayor's strategy to solve homelessness and housing instability in Los Angeles. The office directs the City's street strategy to address encampments, the development of interim housing citywide through the "A Bridge Home" program, and the production and preservation of affordable and supportive housing for Angelenos who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, including oversight of the Prop. HHH program. MOCHI guides the regional planning efforts alongside our County and State partners on effective homelessness interventions, including in Skid Row, the epicenter of our crisis.

ADVISORS

Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA), https://www.hhcla.org
HHCLA helps people wherever they are on their journey, both physically and spiritually, without judgment. They are the largest harm reduction organization in the US and provide needle exchange, naloxone for overdose reversal, housing, hygiene services and medical and behavioral health services. Their programs include the Center for Harm Reduction, Refresh Spot, and Skid Rover, and they provide street team outreach, training and education, behavioral health programs, and connections to permanent housing for people affected by homelessness throughout Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN), https://cangress.org
The mission of LA CAN is to help people dealing with poverty create & discover opportunities, while serving as a vehicle to ensure they have voice, power & opinion in the decisions that are directly affecting them. LA CAN organizes and empowers community residents in Skid Row and South Central LA to work collectively to create systemic change. LA CAN's constituency consists of extremely low-income and homeless people, primarily those living in Downtown LA and South Central LA.

Downtown Women's Center (DWC), https://downtownwomenscenter.org
The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. Founded in 1978, DWC was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the US. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy.

Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), https://www.lapovertydept.org
Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) was founded in 1985 by director-performer-activist John Malpede. LAPD was the first performance group in the nation made up principally of homeless people, and the first arts program of any kind for homeless people in Los Angeles. LAPD believes in the power of imagination to motivate people - and not only artistically by acknowledging the hopes, dreams, rational and spiritual power at the core of everyone's humanity.

SPONSORS

Note on Workshop

While we welcome and appreciate any and all innovative and visionary ideas and designs to help combat the urban heat island effect, students should be mindful that the goal of this assignment is not to "beautify" or "romanticize" the urban conditions and social struggles of persons experiencing homelessness, or create a utopian tent city. We also want to avoid "parachuting" into this community, extracting knowledge and leaving nothing in return, or taking on a savior complex. It is important to think of this week as a small contribution to more longstanding efforts and utilizing the skills of the landscape architect to make this contribution. The work from the Vertical Workshop will be refined throughout the remainder of the semester to develop a proposal for Pando, and into the future. We acknowledge that each of us approaches this complex, heavy, and often-times emotional subject matter with our own preconceptions, our own understandings (and misunderstandings), and our own levels of comfort in learning and talking about topics like homelessness. We sincerely hope that each group and individual will be a support system for each other in unpacking this topic, looking beyond stereotypes and learning from the community partners that have joined this effort. We encourage everyone to have a supportive mindset about the work, acknowledging that this is not an issue that can be solved in a one-week workshop. The intention of this work is to meaningfully and empathetically engage with a very specific site, its conditions, its community, and the resources, services and organizations that exist within this context that are doing work to provide for unhoused individuals in the context of Skid Row. This week presents an opportunity to test ideas and to ground those ideas in an empathic way, bringing the lens of landscape architecture, community, and built environment to climate justice work in Skid Row.

Workshop schedule

Day 1
October 18, 2021

1:00 pm   Kick-Off / Introduction of Prompt
                     Intro to Vertical Workshop: Alison Hirsch
                     Ongoing Work Overview: Jared Edgar McKnight
                     Why Skid Row: Lauren Elachi

1:25 pm   Project Introductions + Background Information:
                     Site Context + Conditions Analysis: Andrea Binz,
                     Lara Lebeiko, Eva Malis, Zehra Baneen Rizvi

1:45 pm   City and Community Partner Introductions

                     Background of Skid Row + Current Efforts:
                     Kirkpatrick Tyler and City Homeless Initiatives,
                     Office of LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: Megan Weiss,
                     Tyrone Carter

                     Community Organization - Homeless Health
                     Care Los Angeles (HHCLA): Laura Anne
                     Hamilton, Team Lead, The ReFresh Spot

                     Lived Experience - Donna Earles, Homeless
                     Healthcare Los Angeles (HHCLA)

2:45 pm   Introduction of Sites, Team Assignments and Deliverables
                     Jared Edgar McKnight

3:00 pm   Student Teams to meet with faculty advisors for follow-up
                     discussion and advisement: Faculty to advise teams
                     on project requirements and developing conceptual
                     approach, and investigating each team's site area

5:50 pm   Adjourn Day 1 - *See Prompt for Day 1-3 Assignments*

Day 1 *continued*
October 20, 2021

GOALS FOR THE DAY:

Review List of Deliverables + Begin Site Analysis in Assigned Teams

Ideas to get started:
What do you know about homelessness in LA?
What are your questions about homelessness, or Skid Row, or the topic?

Visualizing Advocacy Concepts + Asset Mapping Activity:
Meet with your faculty advisor and teams and start thinking about your assigned site. Start to analyze the site in section and plan by looking at both existing conditions, organizations and site assets within your study area, and beginning to understand user groups - for example: how do persons experiencing homelessness occupy this space, what are the vulnerabilities they face, favorite or safe areas, risk areas, etc.

To understand hidden systems, start by looking at Google Street view, what does a fence or sign mean in this study area; how is this context policed, what is the land use, think back to your reading of LAMC 41.18 and 56.11 - what about this site criminalizes an unhoused individual? Who are the owners and operators of the site, the organizations or businesses that exist in this context, what is the tree canopy, what other systems permeate this site? Start drawing them in plan and section to begin understanding the site.

Base requirements for considering sites for an urban cooling station within your team's study area:
> **Width of sidewalk,**
> **Heat maps and data,**
> **Existing tree canopy,**
> **Proximity to a fire hydrant,**
> **Avoiding the displacement of existing encampments,**
> **Visibility**

What other metrics should be considered?

Day 1 *continued*
October 20, 2021

HOMEWORK FOR WEDNESDAY:

Precedent Research:
Cooling stations and cooling strategies, what strategies might work in this context, and what are the implications of their implementation (for the unhoused community that lives in this context)?
Consider: how shade can open up other opportunities for people?

Conceptual Development:
What is the narrative or idea for this site, what are the zones you might begin to explore for a cooling station intervention in this site plan?

Base maps:
Begin creating base maps specific to your team's unique site, set up base files for plans and models - start adding detail to the base model provided for your site area (begin identifying who are the local organizations, businesses, potential partners, existing services and resources, etc)

Questions for your team's Community Partners:
What questions do you have for your assigned community partner who you will be meeting on site on Wednesday (what do you want to learn from them about the work they do, the unhoused community in the context of Skid Row where they provide services, etc?)

Day 3
October 20, 2021

12:30 pm	Meet your group to carpool to Skid Row
1:00 pm	**Each team to meet with their Community Partner in Skid Row to learn about their organization and work, and visit each team's project site**
2 - 2:30 pm	Finish site visit and begin to return to campus
3:00 pm	Reconvene with your Faculty Advisors in Watt Hall
	Teams begin to develop project design including: Site Analysis/Context Analysis, Guiding Principles for your team, Concept Diagrams, Site Plan, Section/Digital Model Drawings, and start to assign individuals to progress certain components of the project deliverables
5:50 pm	Adjourn Day 3 - *See Prompt for Day 3-5 Assignments*

GOALS FOR THE DAY:

Start reviewing analysis of the site and its immediate context, learn from your team's community partner organization familiar with that context, and begin to set the parameters for the location and intervention of the cooling station at this location. Each team will have the opportunity to meet and learn from a community organization, ask them questions, and visit the site area to begin looking at potential locations. Remember, the goal is to design human-scaled solutions to prevent criminalization within that context. Also be sure to follow the guidelines for selecting a location by sidewalk width, proximity to a fire hydrant, and opportunities to team with adjacent organizations.

Day 3 *continued*
October 20, 2021

REMEMBER: when you are on site, be respectful and do not take pictures of unhoused individuals or their tents and possessions. Each team should task one member at a time to photograph overall conditions as it feels appropriate.

HOMEWORK FOR FRIDAY:

Finalize analysis documentation, and develop conceptual framework communication graphics (begin to storyboard your deliverables)

Begin developing site design:
Sketches and Initial Drafts of Plans/Sections/Digital Models, advance the design and communication for review on Friday (including: how many people are needed to staff the location, what is the capacity of this "cooling station", and what is the concept or narrative for how this creates a welcoming place for the provision of services and resources for vulnerable populations in Skid Row in this immediate context)

Think about both extreme urban heat conditions, and the demographic of individuals utilizing local facilities, and how it extends into the urban design and fabric of the larger context of Skid Row

Think about what types of programs or partnerships could exist with local organizations, including but not limited to your team's community partner and the work they do in Skid Row. Not all contexts will inherently have dense encampments in their immediate context, consider that as part of your design process.

Day 5
October 22, 2021

1 - 5:50 pm **Mandatory Team check-ins to Review Deliverables with:**
  Jared Edgar McKnight
  Alison Hirsch
  Faye Nixon

  Sign-ups to be provided

1 - 5:50 pm When not meeting, teams should plan a time to meet with their faculty advisor (in person or virtually) to review design progress and advise on conceptual development going into the final weekend of production (this should include reviewing narrative, final storyboard of presentation, what materials will be printed, and assign drawings to each individual on the team to develop over the weekend).

5:50 pm Adjourn Day 5 - *See Prompt for Day 5-8 Assignments, and List of Final Deliverables for Presentation 10/25*

GOALS FOR THE DAY:

Finalize all ideas and conceptual design toward production of final deliverables for presentation on Monday October 25th. Each team should identify who on the team will be responsible for which graphics, what is the style of graphics the team is producing, and how the deliverables will come together in a presentation for Monday.

HOMEWORK FOR MONDAY:

Finalize deliverables and presentation *(see list of final deliverables below)*

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/RESOURCES: BUILT CANOPY + PAVILIONS

Image:
A study testing micro-intervention solutions.
Graphic by Jared Edgar McKnight
Criminalized for their very existence: The Spatial Politics of Homelessness

Due:

October 25, 2021

Final Deliverables

(All Teams - *See Prompt for additional info*)

(2) Site Context and Analysis Diagrams/Maps:
>1 at Skid Row scale, 1 at Team's assigned site scale

(1+) Site Study Code Graphic/Map:
>Document the existing conditions that might criminalize unhoused individuals (by the LA Municipal Code - especially 41.18 & 56.11)

(1+) Site Concept Visual Representation:
>Image/Diagram why you selected the site you did within your study area (adjacencies, Cooling Station location requirements, points of interest)

Conceptual Illustrative Site Plan Scale:
>Study Area scale (Show the site, adjacencies, organizations, etc.)

Detailed Illustrative Plan Scale of Cooling Station Area:
>Cooling Station and sidewalk/intersection scale

(2+) Conceptual Illustrative Sections:
>Show the programs, human-scale and functionality of the design

(2+) Conceptual Perspectives/Renderings:
>Note: see notes in the Prompt about documenting vulnerable communities

(1+) Community + Organization + Labor Diagram:
>How individuals are employed at the Cooling Station (job creation), potential partnerships that offer additional services with nearby organizations (your community partner and others), and the capacity of the cooling station and its programs in engaging the community

Additional diagrams or drawings of your Team's choosing:
>To illustrate the narrative or intent of the design

Estimated Budget / Cost Analysis:
>To be provided

250-500 Words: Narrative Text:
>Explain the overall design concept, urban cooling ideas, code analysis, as well as your team's value system and intent as you developed the proposal for your specific study area.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

DIGITAL: All graphics to be assembled in a 10min digital presentation
**PRINT: Each team must print 1 site plan and 1 graphic of the Team's
choice that best represents the team's narrative or approach**

Day 8
October 22, 2021

Final
Presentations
(1:00 - 4:00 pm)

Invited Jurors:

Donna Earles, HHCLA

James Gilliam, Homelessness Prevention Coordinator, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

Eugene Shirley, Founding President/CEO, Pando Populus

Judith Parker, Co-Executive Producer of Pando Days, Pando Populus

V. Kelly Turner, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Geography, UCLA

Kirkpatrick Tyler, Deputy Chief for Government + Community Affairs, Urban Alchemy

Jared Edgar McKnight, USC Landscape Justice Initiative, WRT

Lauren Elachi, KDI

Community Partners:
Pando
The Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives (MOCHI)
Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles (HHCLA)
Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN)
Downtown Women's Center (DWC)
Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD)

Faculty Advisors:

Alison Hirsch, Associate Professor/Director MLA+U

Jessica Henson, Lecturer MLA+U + Partner, Olin

Alexander Robinson, Associate Professor MLA+U

Esther Margulies, Associate Professor of Practice/Assistant Director MLA+U

Jen Toy, Lecturer MLA+U

Teams, Partners, Sites

Team/Site 1: San Pedro Street (from 5th to 4th)
Community Partner: Downtown Women's Center
Faculty Advisor: Alison Hirsch

Anna Avdalyan
Lucia Bayley
Jiawei Luo
Gabrielle Castriotta

Joyce Ji
Eliana Ramirez
Daniela Velazco

Team/Site 2: East 5th Street (from Maple to San Julian)
Community Partner: Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD)
Faculty Advisor: Jessica Henson
ARCH 590 Team Lead: Andrea Binz

Paul Kim
Yining Wang
Nehali Doshi
Jin Ma

Nina Weithorn
Leslie Dinkin
Yuxin Jiang

Team/Site 3: East 6th Street (from Stanford to Ceres)
Community Partner: Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)
Faculty Advisor: Jen Toy
ARCH 590 Team Lead: Eva Malis

Jeremy Joo
Luis Mota
Colin Amos

Tarana Chordia
Yixuan Li
Yiling Xu

Team/Site 4: Towne Ave (from 6th to mid-block)
Community Partner: ReFresh Spot, Homeless Healthcare LA, HHCLA
Faculty Advisor: Alex Robinson
ARCH 590 Team Lead: Zehra Baneen Rizvi

Adrian Porter
Lufan Hu
Ana Mangino

Ignacio Avila
Yifan Yin
Yue Chen

Team/Site 5: East 4th Street (from Omar to Towne)
Community Partner: Center for Harm Reduction (CHR), HHCLA
Faculty Advisor: Esther Margulies
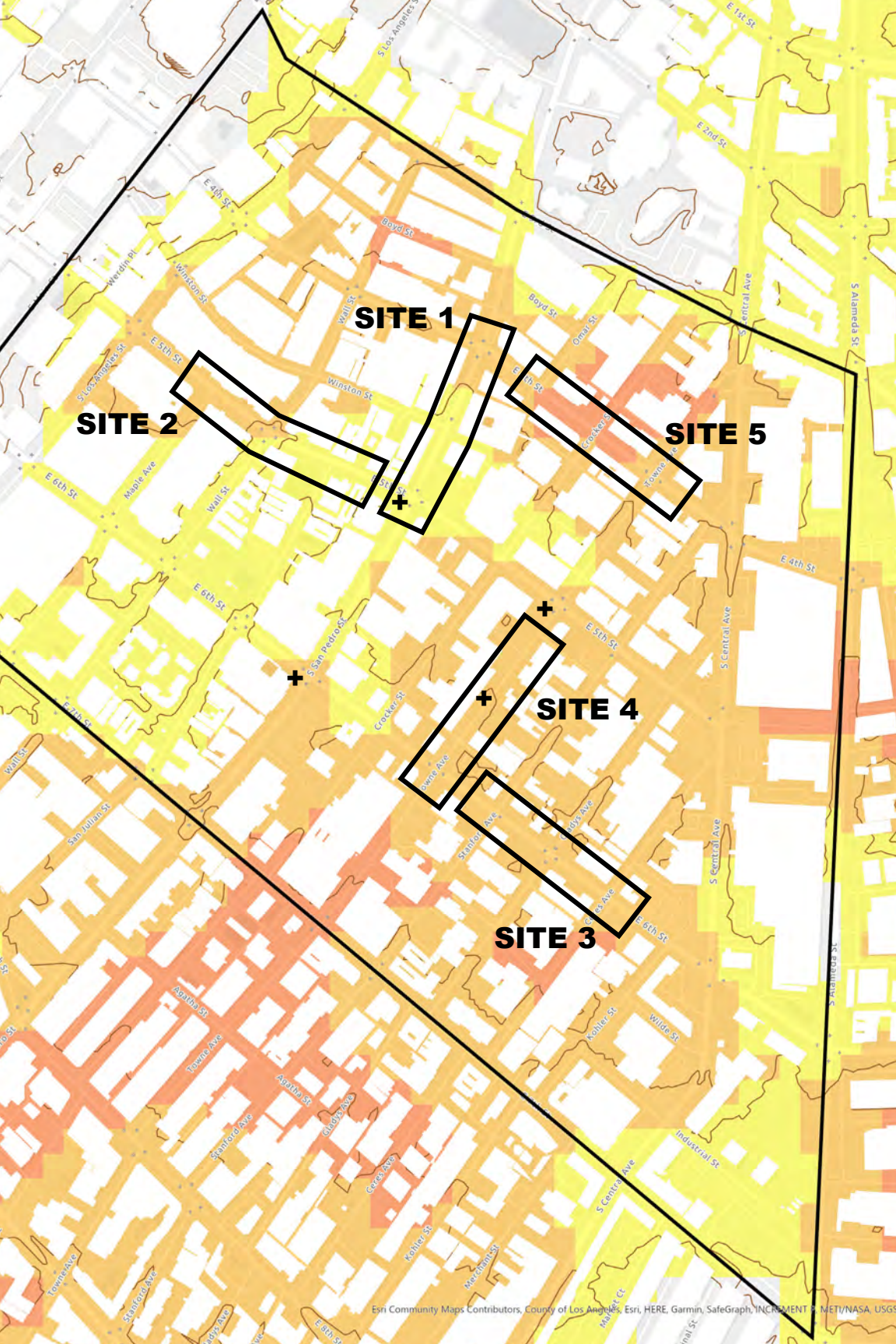ARCH 590 Team Lead: Lara Lebeiko

Paige Buckner
Hannah Flynn
Asher Guzik

Brooke Redmond
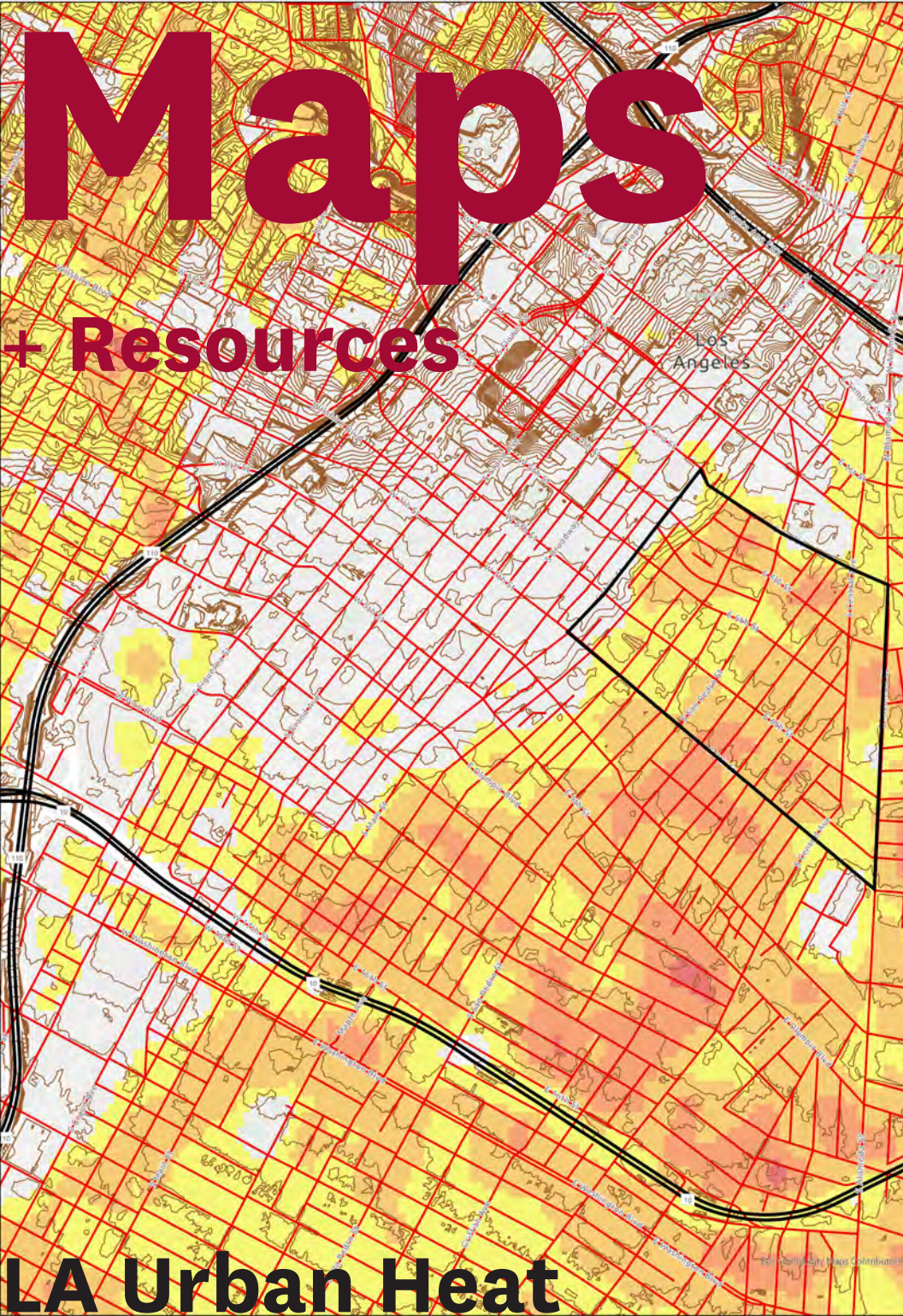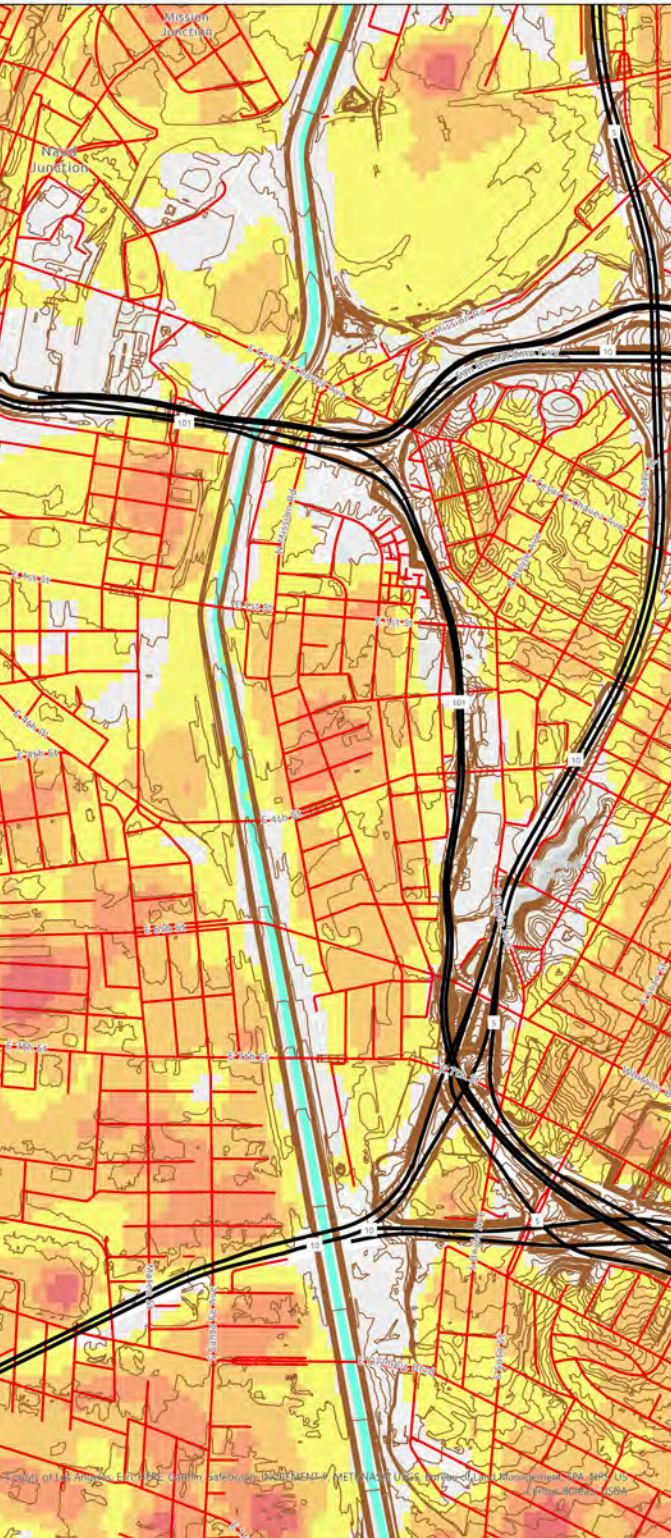Gloria Gao
Kunyang Guo

SITE 1

SITE 2

SITE 5

SITE 4

SITE 3

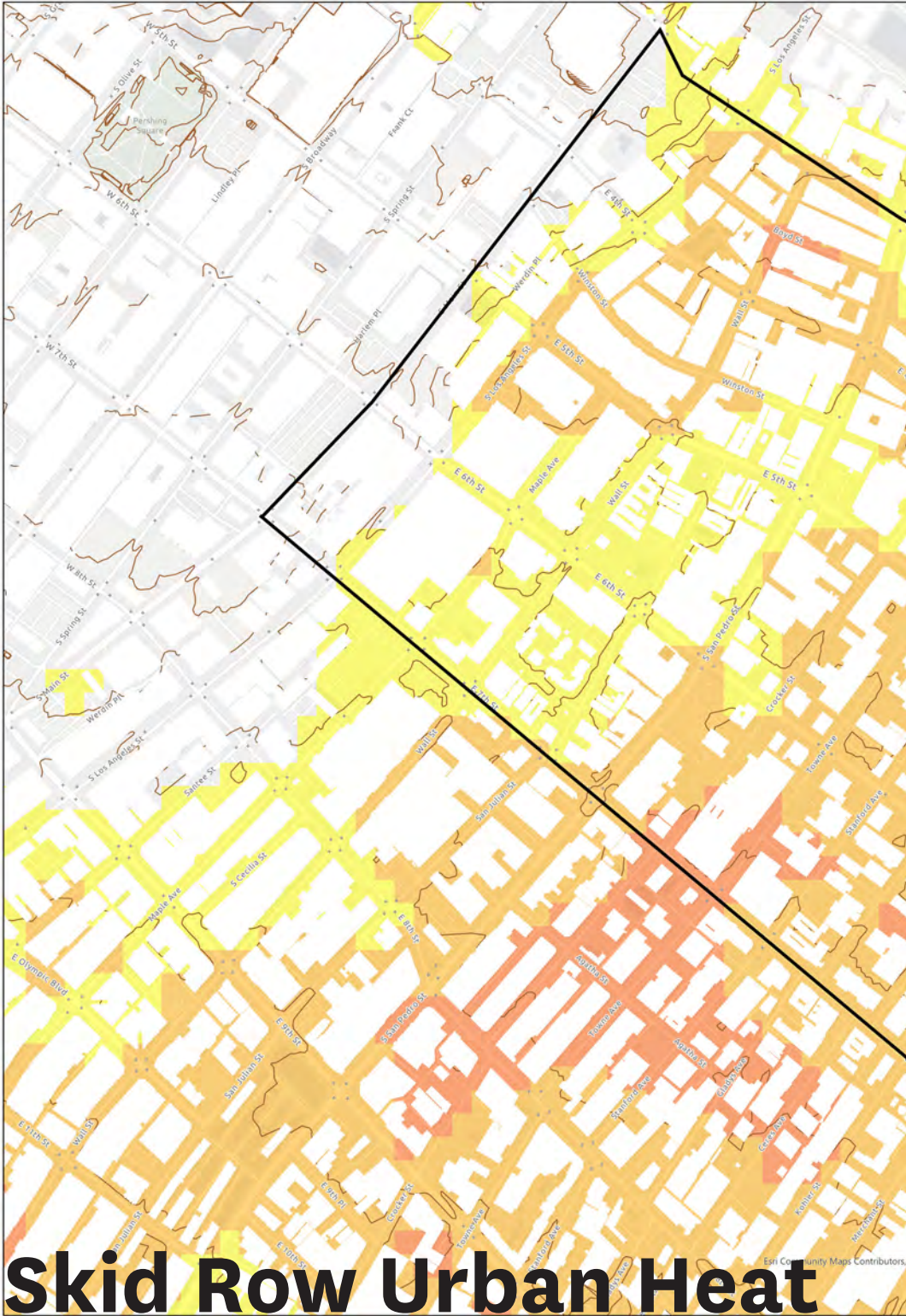# Maps

+ Resources

LA Urban Heat

Lines

— Line
— Skid Row Boundary
— Streets_(Centerline)
— California_Primary_and_Secondary_Roads

Los Angeles Urban Heat (Living Atlas)

Value
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

— Contour_Lines_(2006)
— Los Angeles River

N   0   0.13   0.25   0.5 Miles

23

Skid Row Urban Heat

Lines
— Line
▬ Skid Row Boundary
· Crosswalk

Building_Footprints
Building
Courtyard

Los Angeles Urban Heat (Living Atlas)
Value
■ 1
■ 2
■ 3
■ 4
■ 5
— Contour_Lines_(2006)

Skid Row Tree Canopy

Lines
— Line
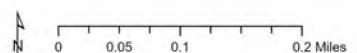— Skid Row Boundary

Building_Footprints
    Building
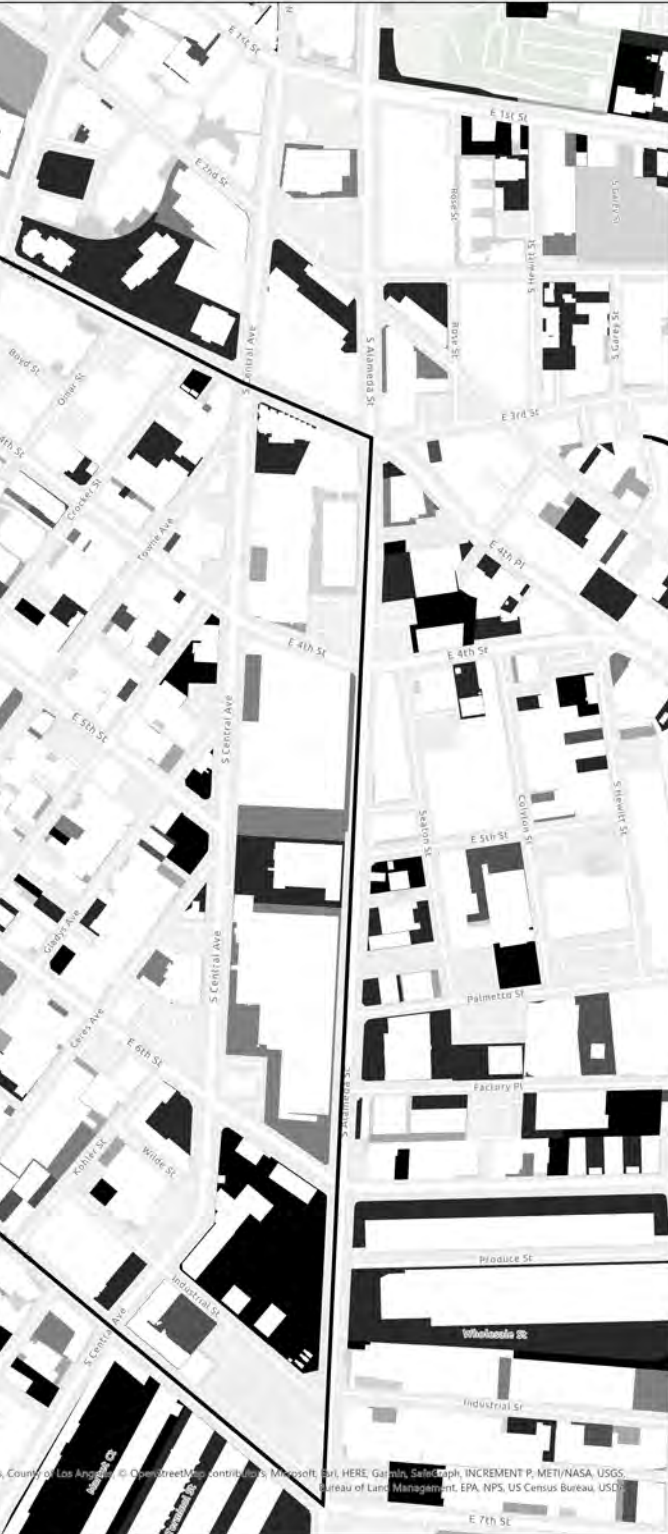   Courtyard

LandCover_TreeCanopy_Parcel_BlockGroup
Tree Canopy Percentage
  ≤7.54
  ≤12.84
  ≤17.60
  ≤23.77
  ≤32.48
  ≤45.55
  ≤68.03
  ▪ Canopy cover 2018

County of Los Angeles, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Esri HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, agement, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, EarthDefine, USDA Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

Skid Row Paved Sites

Lines

—— Line

—— Skid Row Boundary

Building_Footprints
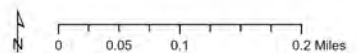
Building

Courtyard

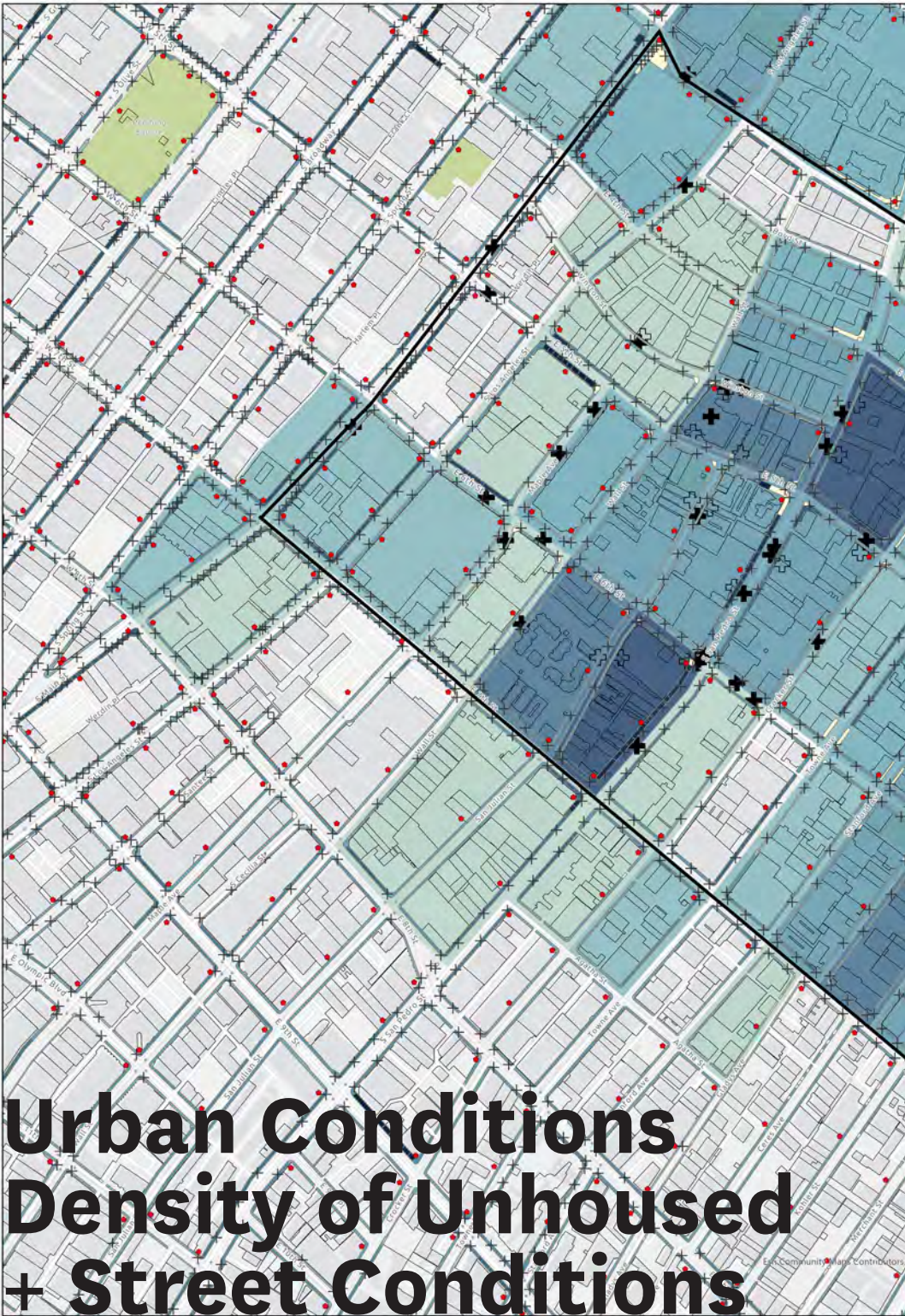LandCover_OtherPavedSurface_Parcel_BlockGroup

Other Paved Surface Percentage

≤7.69

≤15.49

≤22.00

≤27.82

≤34.47

≤52.24

≤73.10

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

Urban Conditions
Density of Unhoused
+ Street Conditions

Lines
— Line
▬ Skid Row Boundary

Skid_Row_Homeless_Survey_Census_Blocks
Count of Points
  0 – 1
  > 1 – 4
  > 4 – 7
  > 7 – 12
  > 12 – 20
  > 20 – 31
  > 31 – 62
✚ Los_Angeles_Skid_Row_Services
⊞ Homeless Shelters and Services
+ Street_Lights
● Fire_Hydrants_(DWP)
· Crosswalk

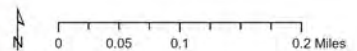Sidewalks_(Mapped_Areas)
CALC_WIDTH
  0.0
  21

Building_Footprints
  □ Building
  Courtyard
  Countywide Parks and Open Space

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

Urban Conditions
Sidewalk Widths
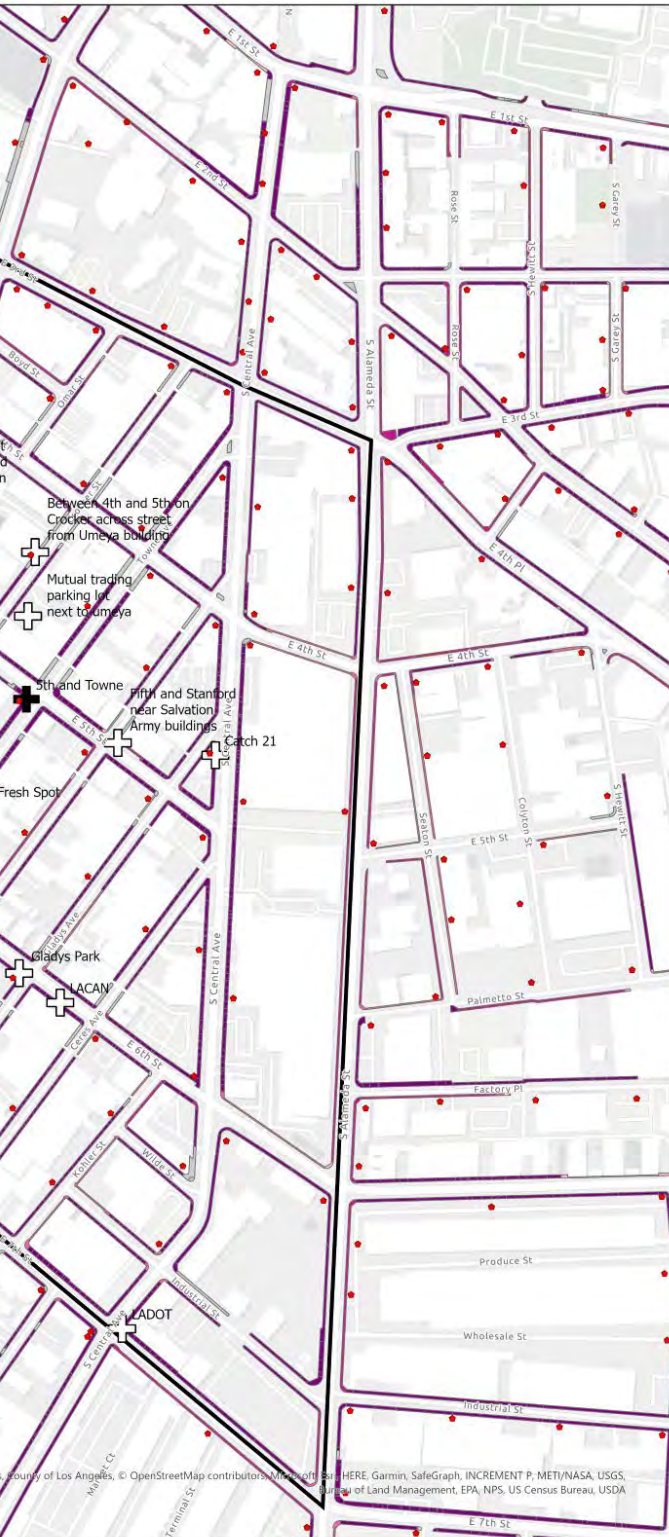
Lines

— Line

━ Skid Row Boundary

• Fire_Hydrants_(DWP)

Sidewalks_(Mapped_Areas)

CALC_WIDTH

☐ Not calculated

☐ <2 ft

☐ 2-4 ft

☐ 4-6 ft

☐ 6-8 ft

☐ >8

Building_Footprints

Building

Courtyard

Existing

○ <Null>

✚ 0

✚ 1

• <all other values>

N

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

33

Urban Conditions
Building Heights

Lines
— Line
— Skid Row Boundary

HEIGHT
- 0.000000 - 15.400000
- 15.400001 - 29.890000
- 29.890001 - 47.790000
- 47.790001 - 77.400000
- 77.400001 - 170.260000
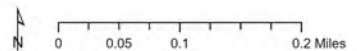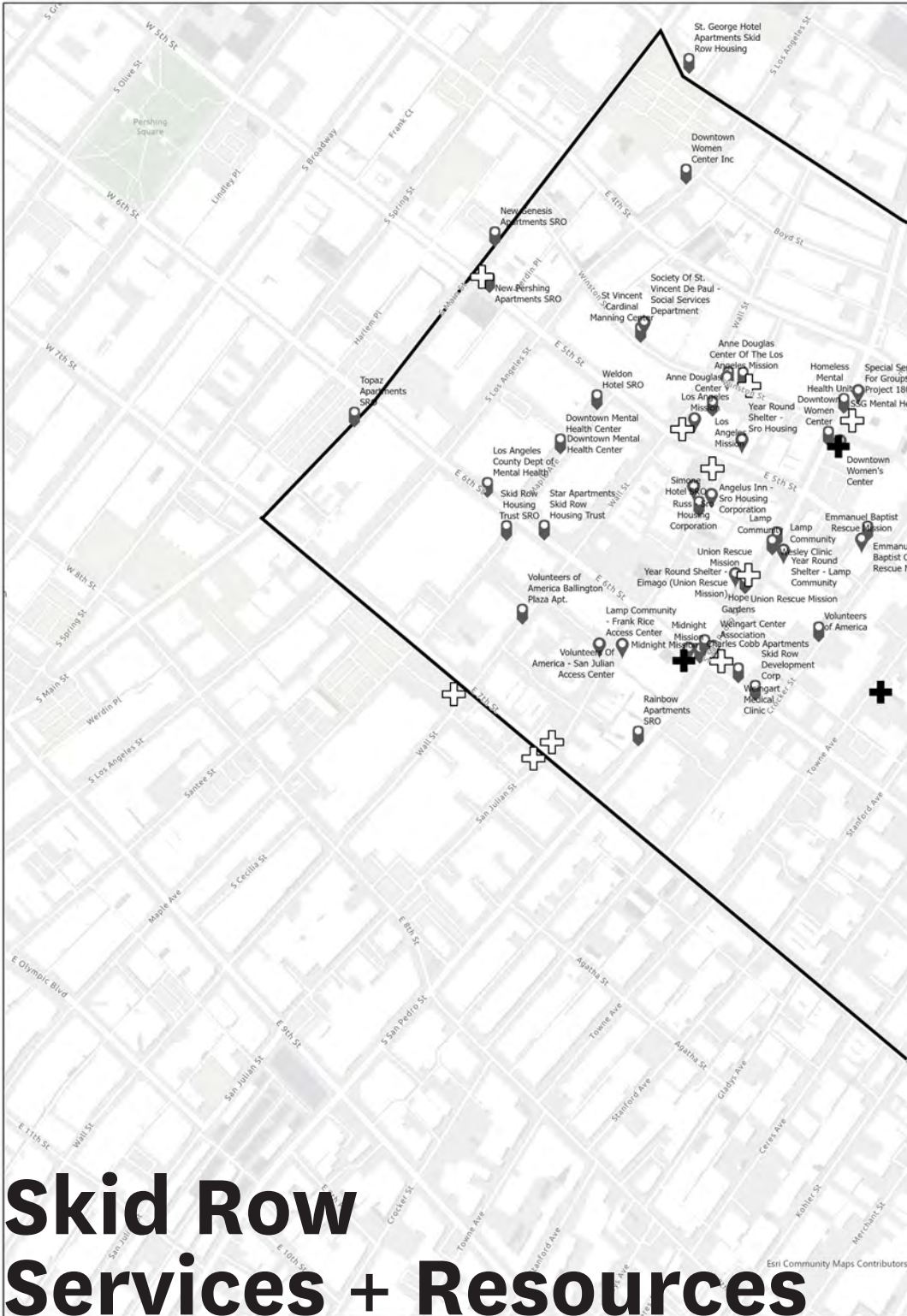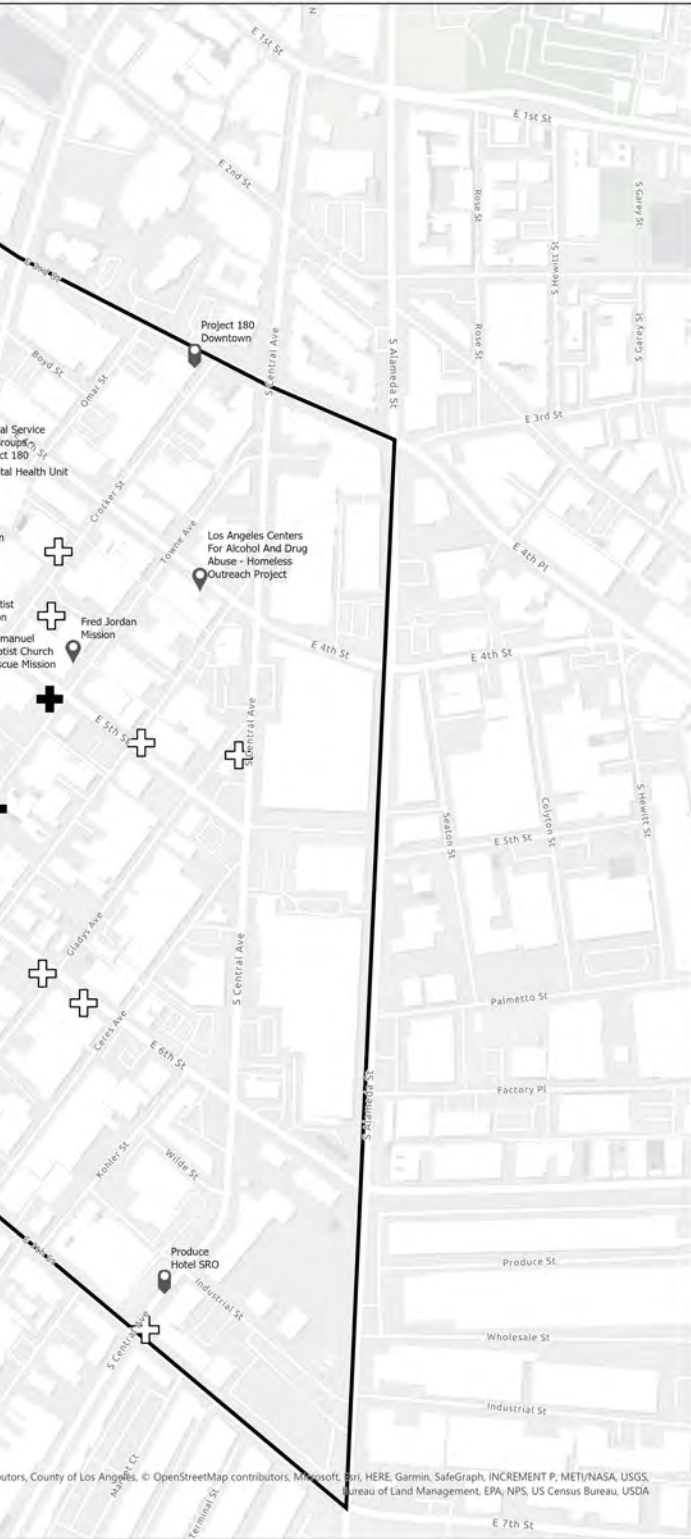
County of Los Angeles, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

0   0.05   0.1   0.2 Miles

St. George Hotel Apartments Skid Row Housing

Downtown Women Center Inc

New Genesis Apartments SRO

New Pershing Apartments SRO

St Vincent Cardinal Manning Center

Society Of St. Vincent De Paul - Social Services Department

Topaz Apartments SRO

Weldon Hotel SRO

Anne Douglas Center Of The Los Angeles Mission

Anne Douglas Center Los Angeles Mission

Homeless Mental Health Unit

Special Services For Groups Project 180 SSG Mental Health

Year Round Shelter - Sro Housing

Downtown Women Center

Downtown Mental Health Center

Downtown Mental Health Center

Los Angeles Mission

Los Angeles County Dept of Mental Health

Downtown Women's Center

Skid Row Housing Trust SRO

Star Apartments Skid Row Housing Trust

Simone Hotel SRO Russ Hotel Housing Corporation

Angelus Inn - Sro Housing Corporation

Lamp Community

Lamp Community

Emmanuel Baptist Rescue Mission

Emmanuel Baptist Rescue M

Union Rescue Mission

Wesley Clinic

Year Round Shelter - Lamp Community

Volunteers of America Ballington Plaza Apt.

Year Round Shelter - Eimago (Union Rescue Mission)

Hope Union Rescue Mission Gardens

Volunteers of America

Lamp Community - Frank Rice Access Center

Midnight Mission

Weingart Center Association

Charles Cobb Apartments Skid Row Development Corp

Volunteers Of America - San Julian Access Center

Midnight Mission

Weingart Medical Clinic

Rainbow Apartments SRO

Esri Community Maps Contributors

Skid Row
Services + Resources

Required Reading + Further Resources

REQUIRED (before Oct 18)

Bloch, Sam. "Shade." Places Journal. April 2019. https://placesjournal.org/article/shade-an-urban-design-mandate/

Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). "Dick + Rick." http://welcometocup.org/Store?product_id=115

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC 41.18), revised July 2021. https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-1376-S1_ord_draft_7-02-21.pdf

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC 56.11), revised May 2015. https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-1656_misc_05-21-2015.pdf

99% Invisible, The Containment Plan. November 2017. https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/the-containment-plan/

FURTHER SELECT RESOURCES

Schneider, Benjamin. "CityLab University: Understanding Homelessness in America." Bloomberg. July 2020. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-07-06/why-is-homelessness-such-a-problem-in-u-s-cities.

Hess, Nathan et al. "Unsheltered in Los Angeles: Insights from Street Outreach Service Data." California Policy Lab. February 2021. https://www.capolicylab.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Unsheltered-in-Los-Angeles.-Insights-from-Street-Outreach-Service-Data.pdf

Our Skid Row. https://www.losangelescpc.org/uploads/1/6/1/8/16183680/ourskidrow-twopagepdf.pdf

Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. "Approved Strategies to Combat Homelessness." Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative. February 2016. https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/HI-Report-Approved2.pdf

Atwali, Lukoye et al. "Call for Emergency Action to Limit Global Temperature Increases, Restore Biodiversity, and Protect Health." New England Journal of Medicine. September 2021. https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2113200?query=featured_home

Osmond, Paul & Sharifi, Ehsan. "Guide to Urban Cooling Strategies." Urban Microclimate Project. August 2017. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318982885_Guide_to_Urban_Cooling_Strategies

TreePeople. "RX For Hot Cities: Climate Resilience Through Urban Greening and Cooling In Los Angeles." Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative. 2020. https://www.treepeople.org/rx-for-hot-cities-climate-resilience-through-urban-greening-and-cooling-in-los-angeles/

Schindler, Sarah. "Architectural Exclusion: Discrimination and Segregation Through Physical Design of the Built Environment." The Yale Law Journal. April 2015. https://www.yalelawjournal.org/article/architectural-exclusion

Jackson, Maria Rosario and John Malpede. "Making the Case for Skid Row Culture," Americans for the Arts, Animating Democracy. 2009. https://www.lapovertydept.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/LAPD_Making-the-Case.pdf

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Skid Row Cooling Resources, The Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives (MOCHI), City of Los Angeles, 2021

OurCounty, Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan, 2019

L.A.'s Green New Deal, Sustainable City pLAn Environment, 2019

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM

Landscapes are the dynamic synthesis of natural systems, sociocultural forces and the physical material of the constructed world. The USC Master's Program in Landscape Architecture + Urbanism uses the complex regional geography of Southern California as a laboratory to generate and test responses to the planet's most pressing environmental challenges, including resounding impacts of climate change, rapid urbanization, social and environmental injustice, and the interface of nature and technology.

The MLA+U program is focused on the public realm and spans scales of impact from site design (parks, schoolyards, etc) to urban design (new and densifying metropolitan districts) to territorial responses to climate stress that impact our immediate region and around the globe.

With immediate access to one of the most culturally and environmentally diverse geographies in the world - within an hour's drive from the Pacific Ocean, the San Gabriel Mountains and the western edge of the Sonoran Desert – Southern California offers a wide range of landscape challenges from which to learn. Expanding from the region to landscapes throughout the globe, students conduct rigorous design-research to develop multi-scalar innovations in performative regional infrastructures, equitable urban frameworks and public spaces, and healthful biophysical systems.

Our diverse curriculum is focused on a balanced core of design studios, media and fabrication, history and theory, performance technologies, plant materials and ecology, construction and practice, urbanism and community-based design. The curriculum is focused on opportunities for applied research that has real impact on the ground or in shaping policy, with the ultimate aim being the development of critical thinkers and design leaders unafraid to tackle some of the most contested landscapes and environmental questions of our day.

LANDSCAPE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Landscape Justice Initiative (LJI) is a platform for the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture + Urbanism to position and implement its work in areas of Environmental, Spatial and Climate Justice.

This platform provides a vehicle and support structure both for community partnerships to contribute to immediate local impact on neighborhoods and their ecosystems, and for multidisciplinary collaborations to tackle large-scale policy and environmental change.

Part of the emphasis of LJI is to begin to fill the gap between academic inquiry and meaningful change on the ground. It provides a chance for students to participate in service-learning and long-term projects that depend on sustained engagement with local and regional communities. It offers opportunities to learn from local knowledge and expertise derived from lived experience and imagine how design can be enacted as a form of cocreation. And it allows for the initiation of projects outside the structures of the market, offering students opportunities to discover their agency and to develop into future leaders in design and environmental decision-making.

The primary geographic emphasis is Southern and Central California due to the range of socio-environmental challenges this region faces. Responses to this wide range of challenges have applications across the globe.

Much of the continued efforts of the Landscape Justice Initiative have been supported by **The Grant & Shaya Kirkpatrick Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Leadership Fund**, for which we are very grateful.

Visit: https://sites.usc.edu/landscape-justice-initiative/

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Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program