



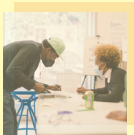
DEPART -MENT

2022

– 2023

Open Call

for artists, educators, & researchers to engage the public via a collaborative exhibition + public programs



engage,
exhibit,
discuss,
generate,
program,
practice,
workshop,
create,



2 0 2 2
o c t – d e c
2 0 2 3
f e b – a p r

THE ALBERT AND TINA

**SMALL
CENTER**

FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

DEPART-MENT

intro

WHAT IS DEPART-MENT?

In Spring 2020, the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design kickstarted a new programmatic initiative called DEPART-MENT to re-imagine the exhibition and event space at 1725 Baronne Street into a nexus for new ideas, coalitions, and civic action on issues related to the built environment locally and beyond.

Blurring the lines between academia, community, and art & design, DEPART-MENT opens new pathways for the Small Center to expand on its 15-year body of work and build on existing partnerships to reach audiences previously out of its orbit. This is another step towards a New Orleans where every resident feels empowered to shape the places we live, work and play.

With each open call, DEPART-MENT will select a total of 4 proposals (2 for fall, 2 for spring) to participate in a semester-long residency to exhibit works and ideas, inspire dialogue around a common theme, and generate excitement about possibilities. By intentionally incorporating multiple perspectives, DEPART-MENT will cultivate space for a more diverse and holistic approach to being in dialogue with the built environment that can inform our collective work moving forward.



DEPART-MENT

2022 - 2023 open call

The Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design is excited to open a call to **Greater New Orleans university faculty/staff and artists to exhibit works** (art, design, research, curatorial projects, etc.) and **host programs** at DEPART-MENT during a semester-long residency in our community exhibition and event space located at 1725 Baronne Street.

Through this call, we hope to **explore links across disciplines and practices, cultivate and amplify collective knowledge, and build intentional networks of thinkers and doers** working towards a vision of healthier and sustainable landscapes.

While we are the community design center for Tulane's School of Architecture, **proposals DO NOT need to relate to design, architecture, or the built environment** to be considered.

DEPART-MENT will host **4 proposals** – 2 during the fall semester, 2 during the spring. Each selected proposal will receive an **honorarium of up to \$1,500**, with an additional **\$500 to support programming expenses**.

Each selected proposal will commit to:

- **curating an exhibition***
- **hosting a “Lunch & Learn” style event**
- **organizing at least one additional public program**

Kick-off and closing receptions will be organized in collaboration with Small Center team.

*We know that “exhibition” can conjure up traditional images of polished white-walled galleries and museums – while proposals that take this route are welcomed, we’re also interested in proposals that **utilize DEPART-MENT to build up to an exhibition** throughout the length of the semester. Our goal is not to only present polished ideas, but rather to hold space for ideas and installations to evolve via collaboration and ongoing dialogue.

If you'd like to talk through any proposal ideas or simply want to connect with the Small Center team, **reach us at baronne@tulane.edu**.



DEPART-MENT

submission guidelines

Proposal can be submitted via an online form found at small.tulane.edu and via the code above. Below are a few things you should expect to address in your submission:

EXHIBITION AND PROGRAMMING STATEMENTS

What are the **themes/questions motivating your exhibition and programming ideas**? How do you imagine inhabiting and activating DEPART-MENT? Will you be collaborating with others – for exhibited elements or programs? How **does it relate to your current research, teaching, or creative practice**? Do you have any online components? Do you have additional funding to support this effort?

How do you imagine engaging the public throughout your time at DEPART-MENT? **What are the learning opportunities you'd like to explore or facilitate**? How does programming interact with and/or help build on the physical exhibition/display of materials?

SCHEDULE

Indicate preference for **fall or spring semester** – proposals for dates beyond the 22-23 school year are welcomed. Provide a draft of dates for programs/events (lunch & learns, discussions, workshops, socials, etc.). Our team will help coordinate and execute openings and closing events and are happy to collaborate and ideate other possibilities.

SELECT WORKS

Share 2-3 **examples of previous exhibited works and programs** in a single PDF of no more than 10 pages (max 10MB).

SELECTION

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of recent DEPART-MENT collaborators and supporters, Tulane School of Architecture students and staff, and the Small Center team.

KEY DATES

Aug 26, 2022 – Call closes

Aug 30, 2022 – Submissions reviewed

Aug 31, 2022 – Selection emails go out

Jan 09, 2023 – Spring install can begin

Feb 10, 2023 – Kick-off Reception

Apr 28, 2023 – Closing Reception (Proposed)

Sep 06, 2022 – Fall install can begin

Sep 30, 2022 – Kick-off Reception

Dec 16, 2022 – Closing Reception (Proposed)



DEPART-MENT

frequently asked questions

Who is eligible?

We're seeking proposals from faculty and staff at universities and colleges in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area and New Orleans based artists (painters, photographers, writers, performers, musicians, etc.).

How many proposals will be selected?

We believe DEPART-MENT can serve as a bridge between academia and the local arts community and aim to select one artist-led and one academic-led proposal each semester. **2 per semester, 4 per academic year.**

What resources does Small Center offer?

- Honorarium up to \$1,500 to support the exhibition and up to \$500 to support programming.
- Planning support and resources for kick-off and closing events.
- 1,200 square feet of storefront space.
- Fabrication and Installation support.
- Communications and Documentation support.

What do you mean by 'exhibition?'

DEPART-MENT is not a typical "white-wall gallery" environment – we encourage playful and scrappy explorations and emphasize process. If 'exhibition' feels like too large a scope – we recognize time, space, and resource constraints – think of it as a singular installation/piece! We also welcome proposals that intend to evolve and grow over time – using the exhibition as a means to refine ideas, not simply present them. See recent examples on pages 11-16.

What are operating hours?

Small Center is open 9-5 on weekdays, however events and programs often take place outside of these times. We will coordinate calendars to ensure required support is available.

What kind of proposals are you looking for?

All of them! Truthfully – we want to know what our peers are up to so that we can actively engage where appropriate, help connect dots where needed, and co-create new knowledge to catalyze and nurture landscapes that make tomorrow better. We're looking for proposals that have invite curiosity and seek collaboration.

DEPART-MENT

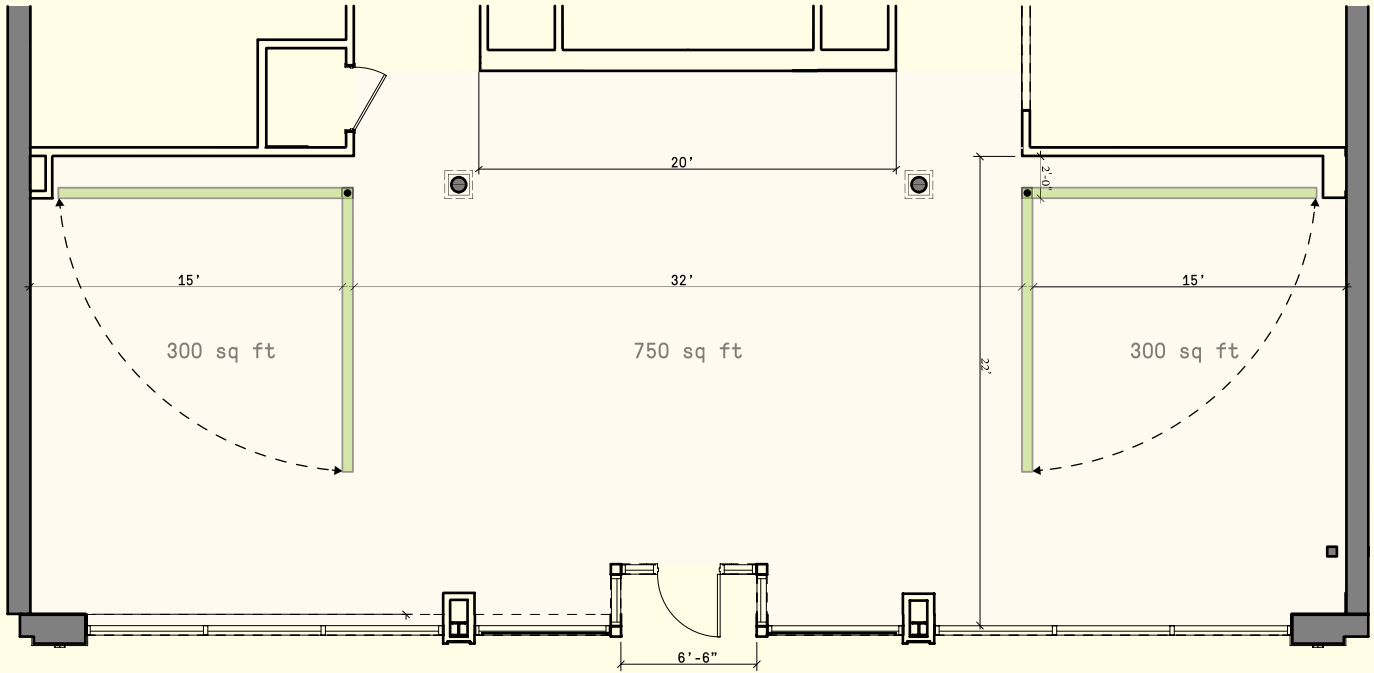
storefront images



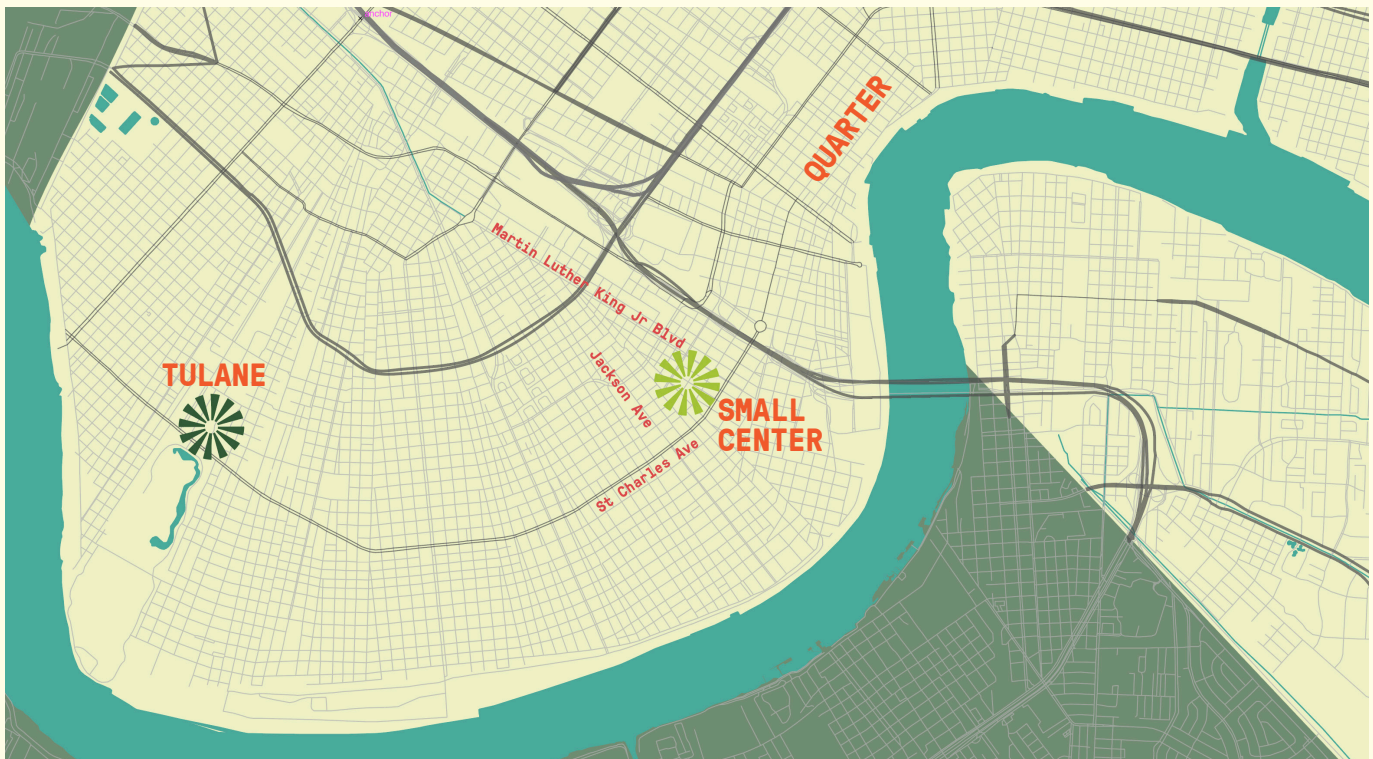
DEPART-MENT

floor plan & small center location

STOREFRONT



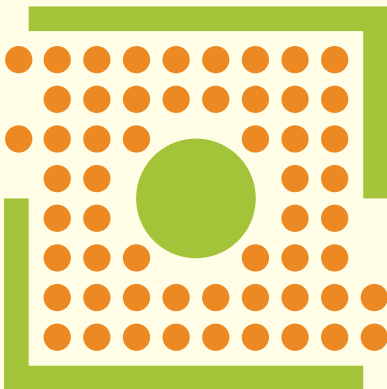
1725 BARONNE STREET, CENTRAL CITY/3RD WARD/UPTOWN



DEPART-MENT

small center guideposts

The following are guideposts that inform our practice and reflect major themes we've seen emerge across our project archive. We hope they serve as fruitful springboards in crafting proposals and utilizing DEPART-MENT for exhibits, events, workshops, co-creation, and more.

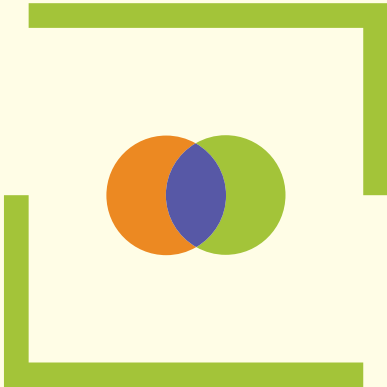


WELCOME COMMUNITY

The Small Center is a space for community to gather around a shared belief that **design should be leveraged as a tool in the fight for justice and equity.**

We believe that **every resident of New Orleans has the right** to be part of the conversations that shape our built environments.

What are the borders and openings that define our community?

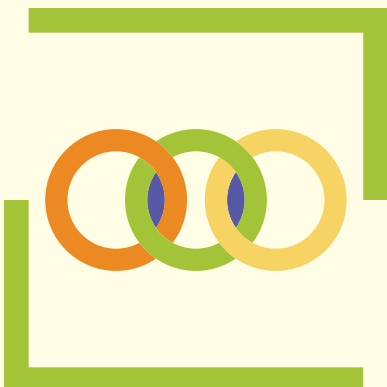


MAKE SPACE

Public Interest Design is about **making space together.**

Including multiple perspectives while creating a vision is not just a benefit, **it is a requirement for our work to move forward.**

What perspectives are and should be informing the design of this space?



EXPLORE LINKS

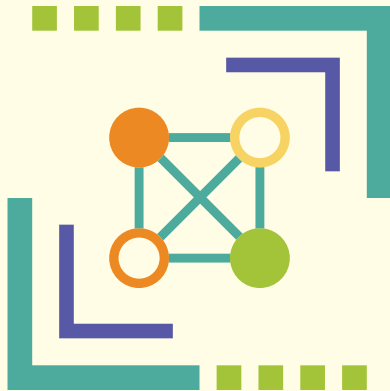
We believe it's important to honor and celebrate the work of **those that came before us and identify and support those who want to carry it forward.**

Past projects, experience, and research should serve as **anchors and bridges that provide perspective and inspire** new ways of knowing and doing.

Where do ideas and solutions that move us beyond what we see and know emerge?

DEPART-MENT

small center guideposts

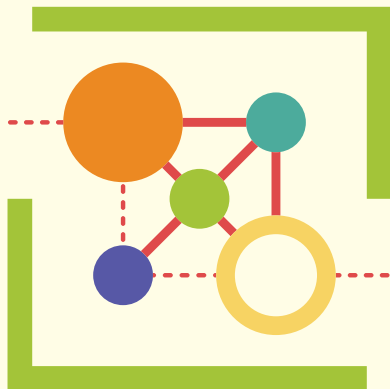


CULTIVATE KNOWLEDGE

Cultivating and sharing knowledge is at the core of our work. **We recognize knowledge can be expressed in many ways and exists beyond our scope of view.**

We aim to create space where **moments of exchange offer opportunities** to find common ground and produce new knowledge.

How can we amplify our collective knowledge within and beyond the spaces we occupy?

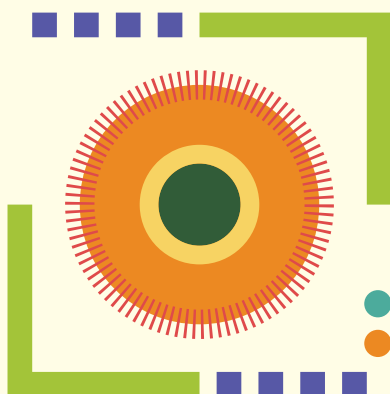


BUILD NETWORKS

Part of our role is to serve as a conduit between **partners, resources, and possibilities**. We do this by zooming out and leaning on the skill sets of our interdisciplinary team and partners.

Building networks that center intentional collaboration means **all entities contribute and benefit**.

How might we leverage these networks to connect more to our selves, communities, and work?



VISION FUTURES

We work collaboratively to **ensure broad participation in the development of a collective vision**.

Working together to envision a project **allows for big ideas to be tested against real needs and obstacles**.

Let's imagine a world where our vision has been actualized; **what's our next step?**

The selection panel will use these guideposts as a basis for discussion and for scoring – allocating up to 5 points to a proposal for how it engages each guidepost.

DEPART-MENT

submission scoring rubric

Each proposal will be allocated a possible **50 points** across the following categories:

Overall Proposal Idea: 10 points

// How clear is the proposal? How does it welcome community? How does it utilize DEPART-MENT? Does it have the potential to inspire meaningful collaboration? Can it work well in conversation with other proposals?

Topic Relevancy: 5 points

// How does the proposal engage important themes in our communities?

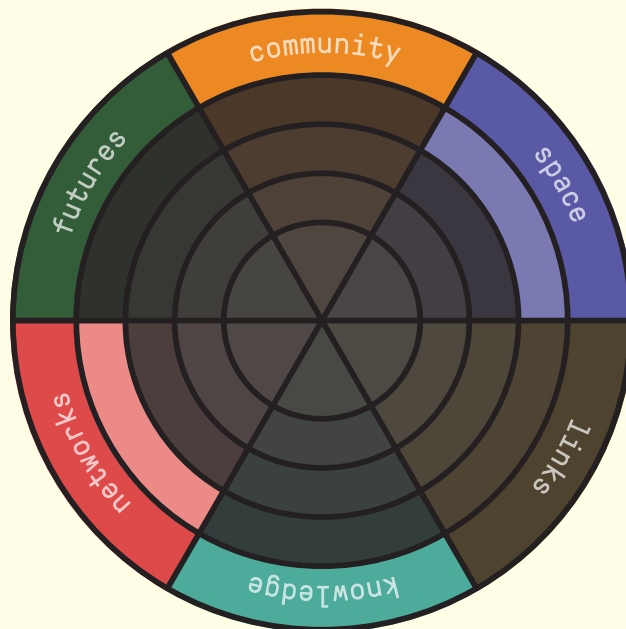
Work Samples: 5 points

// Do previous work samples demonstrate capacity to execute proposal?

Meets Guidepost: 30 points (5 points each)

// How does the proposal welcome community, make space, explore links, cultivate knowledge, build networks, vision futures?

Sample rubric of a submission scoring a 23/30 (4, 3, 5, 4, 3, 4)



Got questions, comments, concerns? Email baronne@tulane.edu.

DEPART-MENT

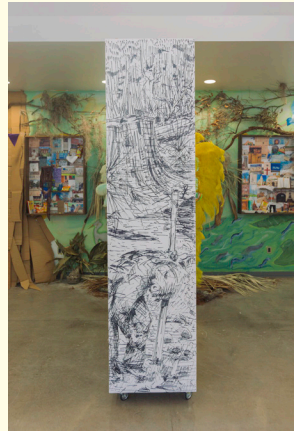
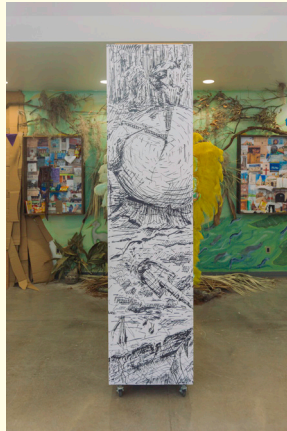
recent exhibits + programs

LEGACY OF CENTRAL CITY

How can Central City history and culture - extending back to the cypress swamps of Bulbancha - inspire today's youth? Civic Studio explored this question through an interactive art exhibition and cultural event series. Through artwork, artifacts, photography, and the guidance of elders and creators, people came together to explore how the Central City we know today came to be.



from top left (clockwise): swampscape installation with Mardi Gras Indian suit connects indigenous history with present-day culture; visitor reads about housing projects in Central City; Beading w/ Big Chief Beautiful workshop series; Mother's Day Celebration event & dinner.



1998 HANO adopts a revitalization plan with federal backed HOPE VI funding and begins demolishing public housing in New Orleans. From 1995 to 2005, more than half of the public housing units are demolished.

1996 HUD's HOPE VI revitalization grants are used by developers and organizations to demolish and replace public housing with mixed-income housing to redevelop entire neighborhoods.

1995 Congress suspends the "one-for-one replacement" statute, which required that housing units accommodate the same number of tenants that it meant to replace, resulting in a net loss of housing for low-income families.

1980s - 90s Public housing in New Orleans becomes associated with high violent crime rates, the crack-cocaine epidemic, and poverty. Police sub-station are established in several developments to address crime and drug activity. New Orleans is sensationalized in the news as the "murder capital of the U.S."

1968 Congress passes the Fair Housing Act of 1968, expanding on 1964 Civil Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and later amended for disability and family status).

1965 The Public Housing Administration, the U.S. Housing Authority, and the House and Home Financing Agency are merged to form the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1964 Guste Homes Apartments, in the former Melpomene neighborhood, are built. The Melpomene neighborhood site was once made up of single and multi-family houses and small businesses. By the late 1950s the city declared them slums, paving the way for the development of public housing in the project.

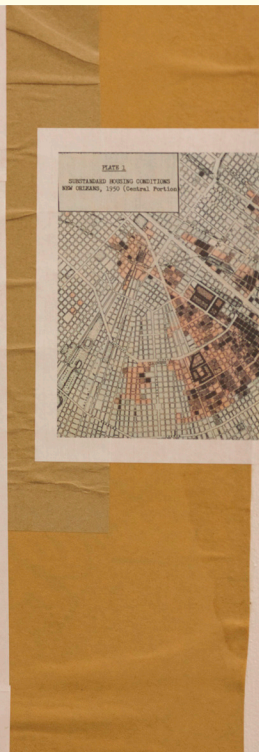
1958 The Magnolia Development expands north past Clara Street, incorporating six additional city blocks. At this time HANO's waiting list for public housing is at nearly 30,000.

1954 The Housing Act of 1954 requires all new public housing units to be constructed in areas marked for slum clearance to prevent the spread of "urban blight," thus ensuring racial residential segregation in many urban communities across the country.

1952-1978 The Magnolia Public Housing is managed by Cleveland Joseph Peete, and is later named for him, C.J. Peete, in 1978.

1954 The new Thomy Lafon school opens at 2601 Seventh St. The former center of the Magnolia Housing Project and site of Locust Grove Cemetery 1 & 2.

1949 The Housing Act of 1949, enacted during the Truman administration, initiates "Urban Renewal" programs (then called Urban Redevelopment). The Act provides federal funding to local municipalities to cover the cost of wide-scale "slum and blight clearance" and urban development.



"People think we from the middle of nowhere, so they can take advantage of us. But we smart guys — we been studying this rap game. And we've worked harder than anyone just to earn the respect we got now."

Birdman
Rapper

Guste Public Housing Development / Melpomene

- There were four three-story buildings and two four-story buildings for families and a high-rise for the elderly.
- At a peak height of 12 stories, the Guste high-rise was the tallest public housing complex in the city.
- From 2005 - 2014 the Young Melph Mafia gang controlled the drug trade in the Melpomene.

MELPH

top: details of archival event flyers and swampscape section
 middle: 4-sided display providing insight into what draining swampland entails
 bottom: details of a display highlighting the housing projects of Central City

DEPART-MENT

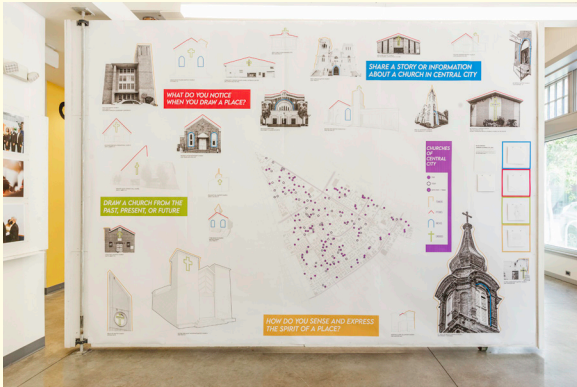
recent exhibits + programs

The Atmosp(here) of Space

A mixed media exploration of the built environment in Central City where visitors were able to engage with portraits and stories of residents and traditions, poetry and visuals from neighborhood artists, panel discussions, and writing workshops. All of which served as departure points for conversations about how our environments impact our perceptions and perspectives of self and others, how policies and professions shape possibilities, and how representation of architectural and planning ideas impact the ways in which we can collectively participate in the imagining work that goes into shaping the built environment.



from top left (clockwise): installation of altars and video by poet Sharita A. Sims; a snapshot of spiritual traditions and institutions in the neighborhood; interactive panorama of MLK Blvd; Scribe Tribe writing workshop; detail of altar.



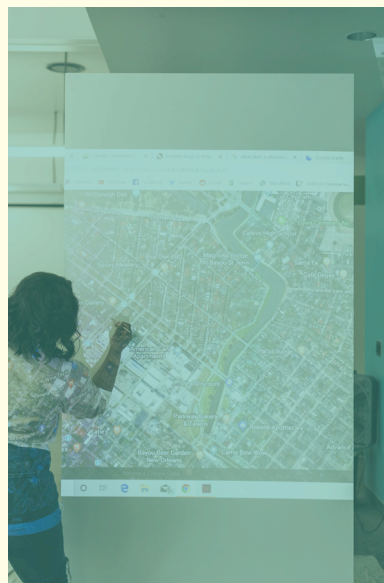
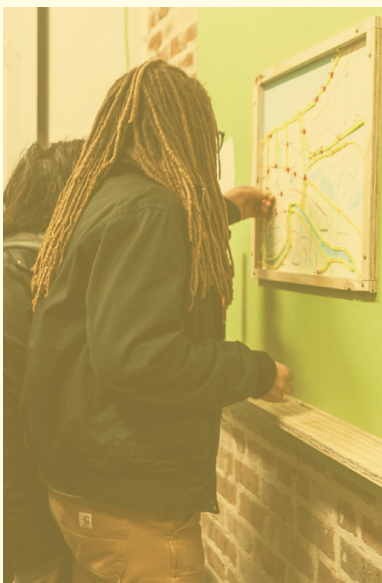
top: Write on MLK, a panoramic photo of a 2-mile stretch of MLK Blvd highlighting redlining
middle: map of Central City churches with prompts that invite visitor contributions
bottom: details of altars by Sharita A. Sims

DEPART-MENT

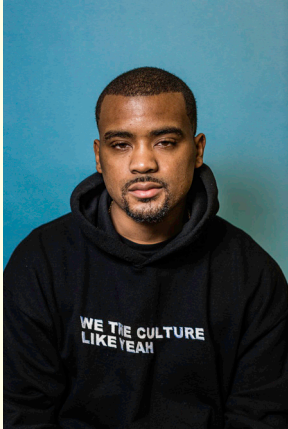
recent exhibits + programs

WATER ISN'T A GAME

Led by The Water Collaborative and Plan Dat., “Water Isn’t A Game” was a technology and art laboratory that explored how people learn and engage with stormwater management using games, technology, design thinking, and art. Specific elements included a VR game set in Central City that taught users about native plants while digitally “planting” them to reduce storm flooding, informative maps that shed light on how the city’s existing water infrastructure functions and current projects underway, and opportunities for visitors to interact via on-site portrait sessions, sensory installations, and collective brainstorms.



from top left (clockwise): Plant Dat VR game installation; portraits around memory with water, tactile installation of Bayou St. John textures; in progress map of food in the Bayou St. John neighborhood; interactive water infrastructure map



top: opening reception of Water Isn't A Game
middle: visitors reflecting on experiences with water and envisioning a better future (gold)
bottom: exhibit and program graphics



DEPART-MENT

small.tulane.edu // @smallcenter.tulane

WHAT CONVERSATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE A PART OF?

WHAT IS NEEDED TO ENSURE MORE PEOPLE ARE INCLUDED AT THE TABLES WHERE DESIGN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT US ALL ARE BEING MADE?

WHAT TOPICS OR QUESTIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US EXPLORE THROUGH OUR WORK?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HOW CAN WE BEST SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU?

IF YOU BELIEVE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER, DROP US A LINE OR COME BY OUR OFFICE FOR COFFEE OR TEA!

DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR A BETTER NEW ORLEANS? A BETTER WORLD? HOW CAN WE BE HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING IT FURTHER?

1725 baronne street, new orleans, la 70113