DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

Matthew Clarke,
Executive Director

June 5, 2021

The Design Trust for Public Space is the nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City.

DESIGN TRUST
FOR PUBLIC SPACE

29 PROJECTS, 26 PARTNERS
105 FELLOWS, 22 PUBLICATIONS

1995

THE DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE is established by Andrea Woodner in NYC with the mission of bringing design expertise and design thinking to the public realm.

1999

The Design Trust publishes

HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING GUIDELINES 8 years before PlaNYC to make city buildings more energy-efficient and environmentally-responsible.

THE SOUTH JAMAICA BRANCH LIBRARY opens—the first building designed and constructed using the High Performance Building Guidelines.

2001

The Design Trust in partnership with Trust for Public Land and CB 3 releases the publication, "ACHIEVING A BALANCE" that provides a strategy for establishing a blend of affordable housing and public space in this Bronx community. Since the report's launch, the Community Board 3 has seen a 1,258% increase in open and recreational space with a a 33% rise in multi-family residential lot.

2002

The Design Trust publishes its pivotal study, RECLAIMING THE HIGH LINE making a compelling case for preserving the derelict elevated railway running along the west side of Manhattan, transforming it into a public open space. Our feasibility study leads to the City's decision to preserve and transform the High Line into public open space.

The PHOTO URBANISM program is launched.

2004

The Design Trust produces a pedestrian-mobility plan for Times Square, outlining practical solutions to the chaotic conditions and traffic congestion plaguing Times Square, spurring a radical transformation of the "CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD."

2010

With its multi-media MADE IN MIDTOWN project, the Design Trust effectively shifts the debate about the Garment District, resulting in the City's decision to delay its rezoning plan for the Garment District, which would have forced garment production out of the district.

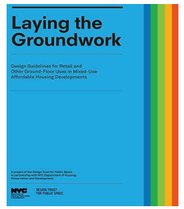
2012

The Design Trust publishes FIVE BOROUGH FARM: SEEDING THE FUTURE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN NEW YORK CITY ,establishing the nation's first set of metrics to measure the benefits of urban agriculture & recommendations to expand urban agriculture.

2016

The Design Trust launches the EQUITABLE PUBLIC SPACE FELLOWSHIP to promote diverse representation in the design and planning professions.

Design Trust, in partnership with NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, issues LAYING THE GROUNDWORK design guidelines for retail and other ground-floor uses in affordable housing developments.



2017

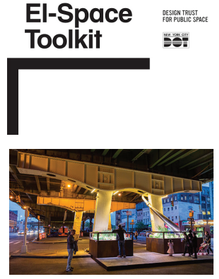
Design Trust and Staten Island Arts released the FUTURE CULTURE INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS for design and programming, and announced two public art pilots, Sonic Gates and Court Yard Fridays, to test those recommendations.

2018

The Design Trust receives the single largest New York City Council Funding of $680,000 for OPENING THE EDGE PHASE II , a project proposed by Artist Jane Greengold, for community designed open space at NYCHA Lillian Wald Houses, at the Lower East Side.

2020

The Design Trust launches EL-SPACE TOOLKIT ,the first-ever comprehensive toolkit to reclaim spaces under elevated transportation infrastructure, in partnership with NYC Department of Transportation.



DESIGNTRUST.ORG

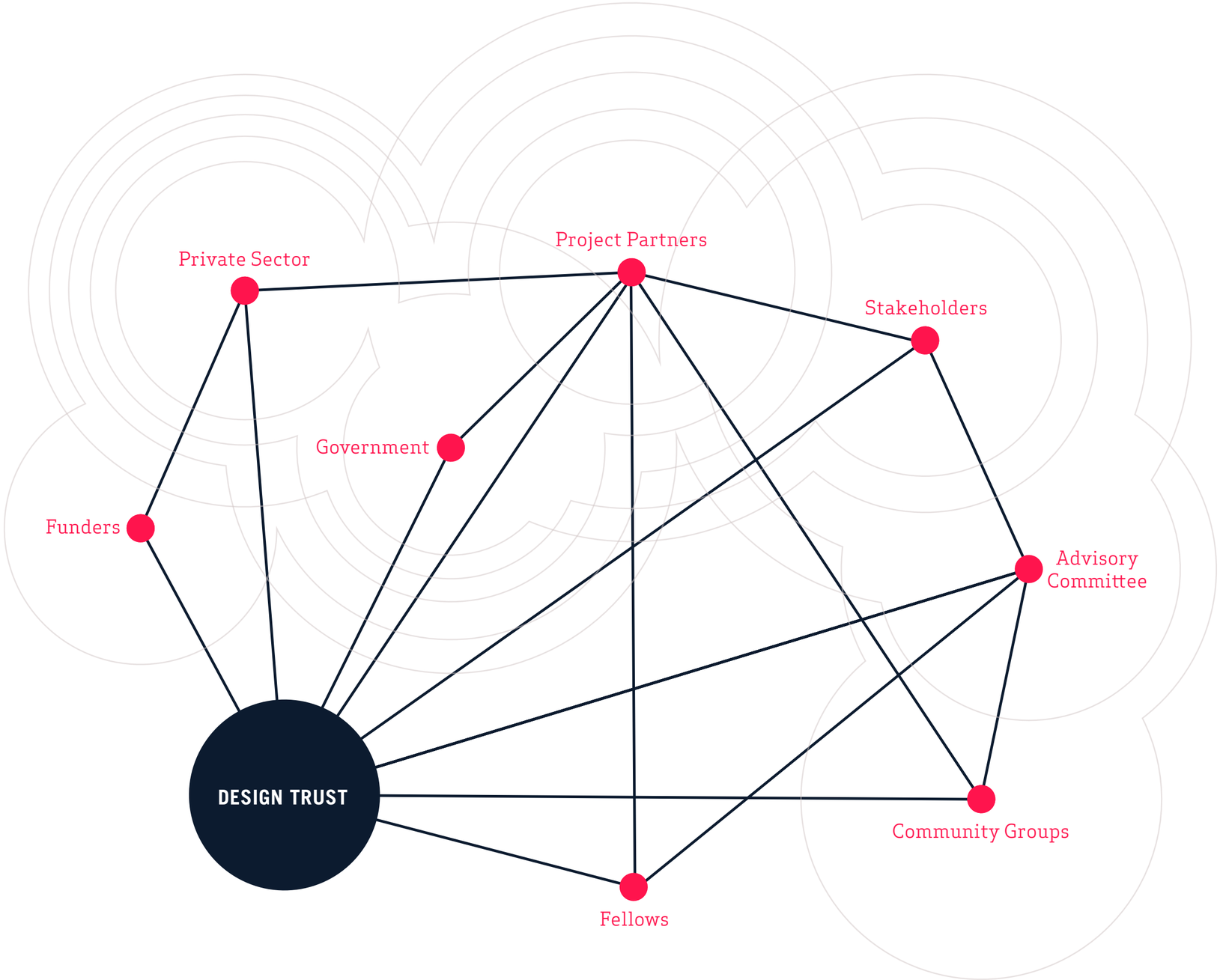
1. Call for Projects and Partners

2. Build Community and Fellows Team

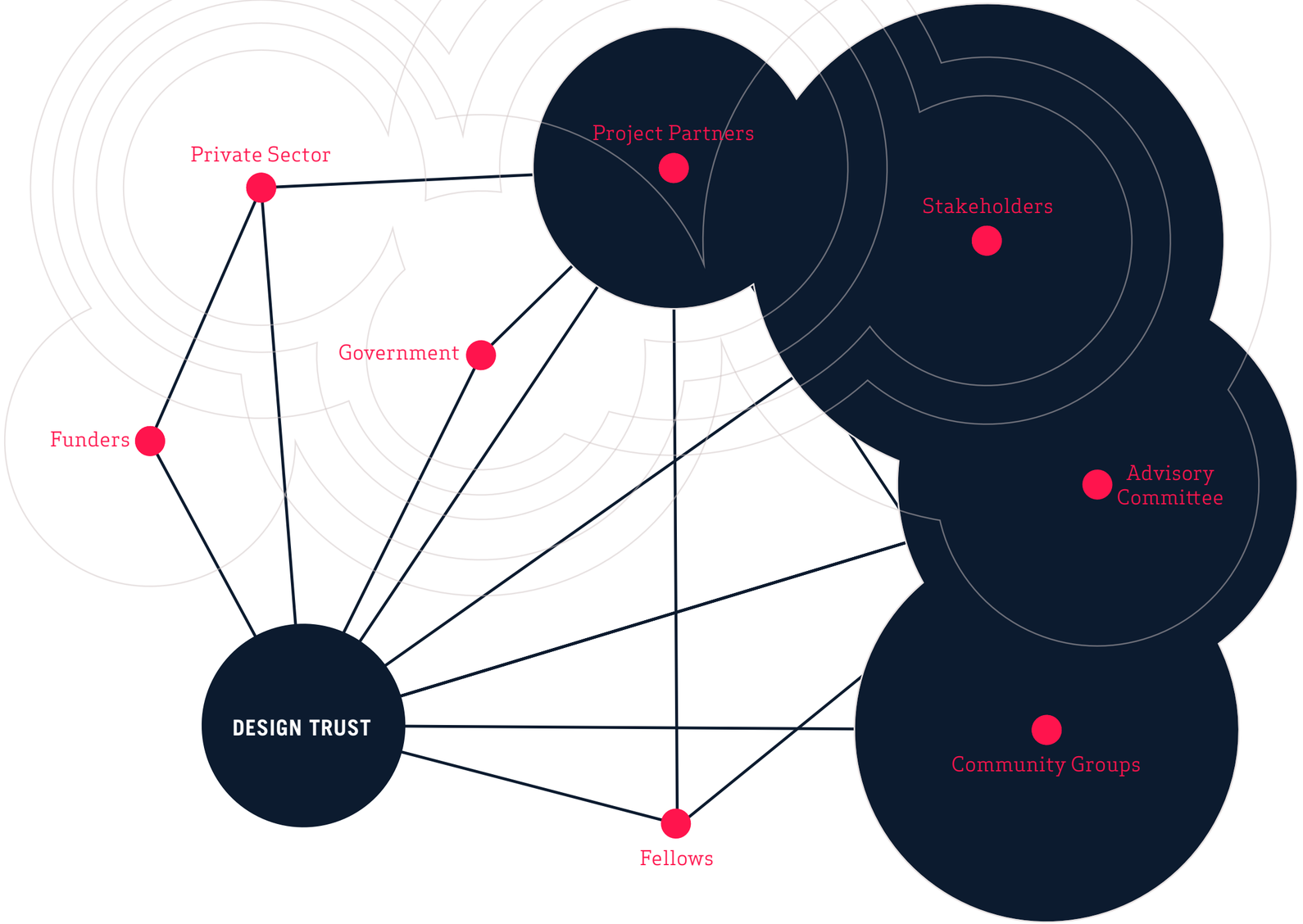
3. Collaborative Research

4. Pilot and Building

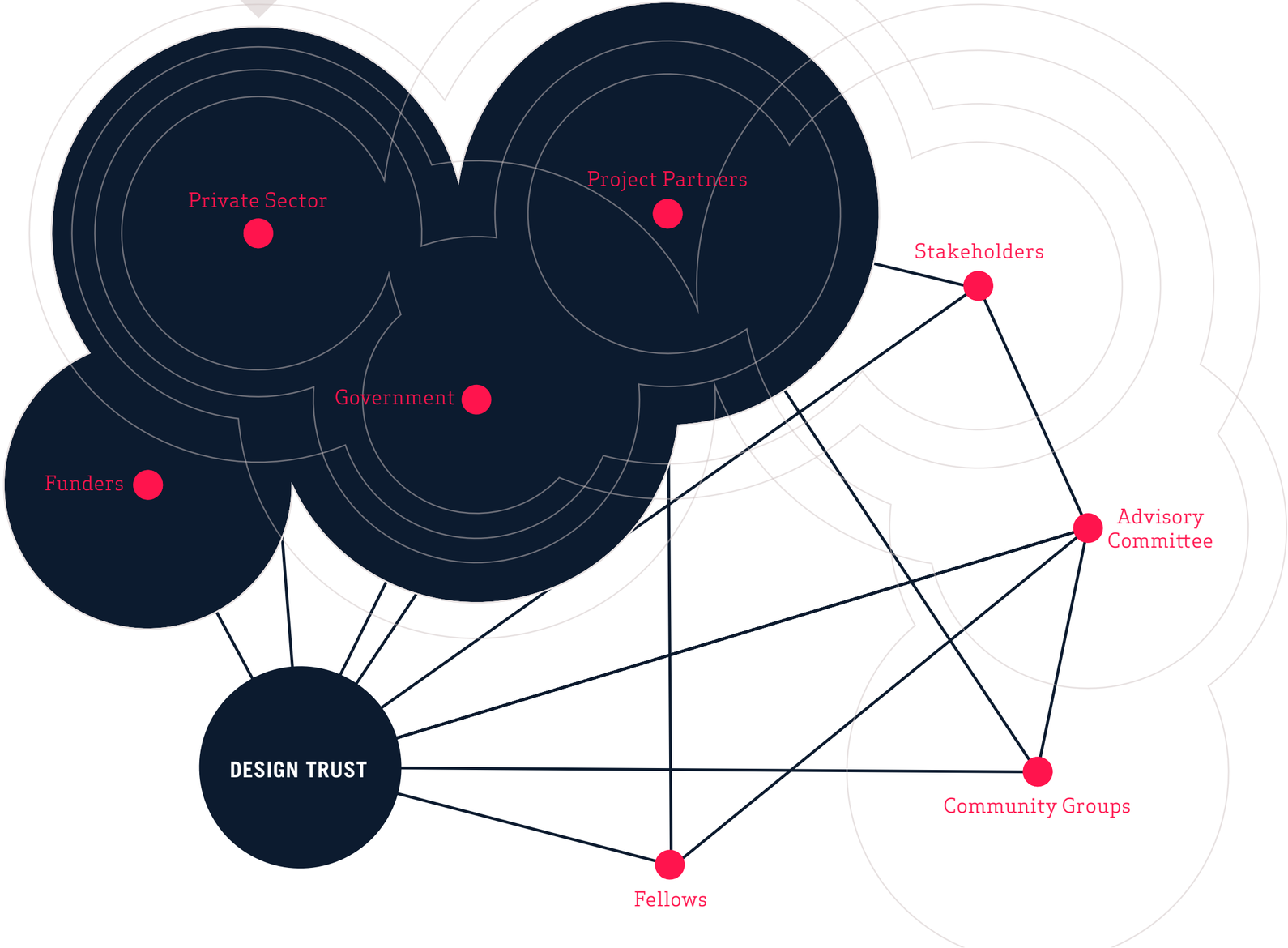
5.Policy and Advocacy


Project Partners
Private Sector
Stakeholders
Government
Funders
Advisory
Committee
DESIGN TRUST
Community Groups
Fellows

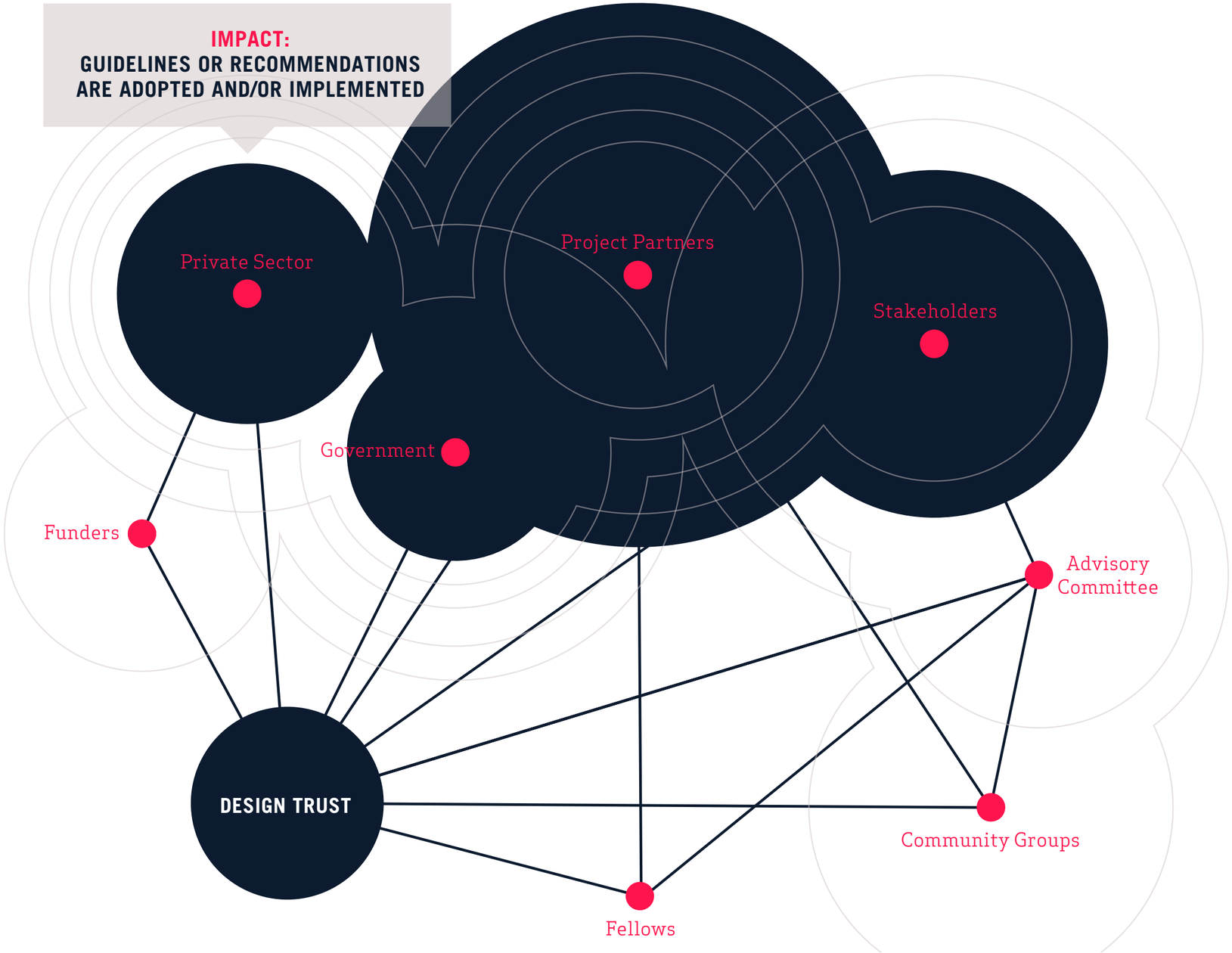
IMPACT:
CONSTITUENCIES ARE FORMED



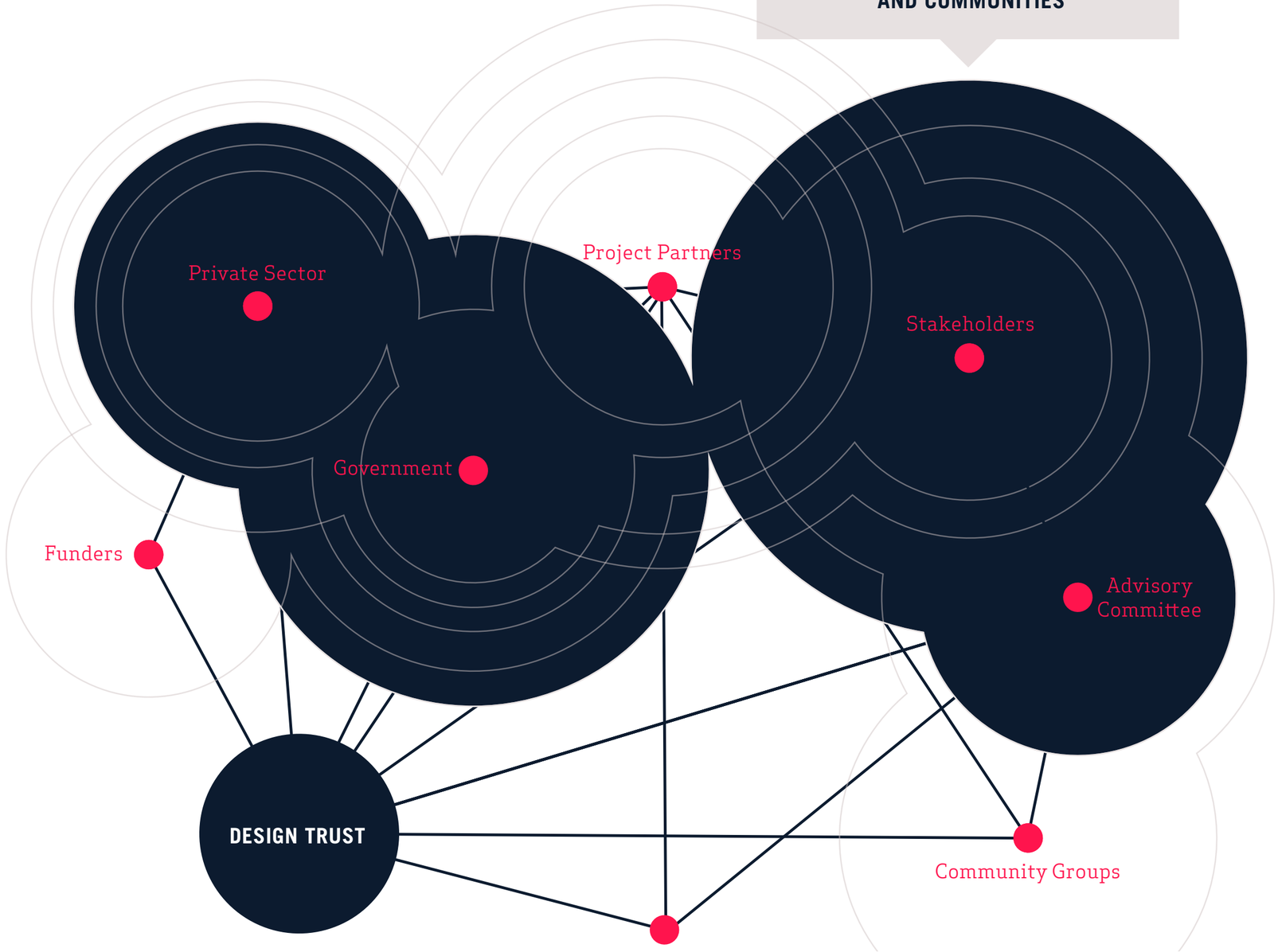
IMPACT:
SOMETHING IS BUILT OR PRODUCED



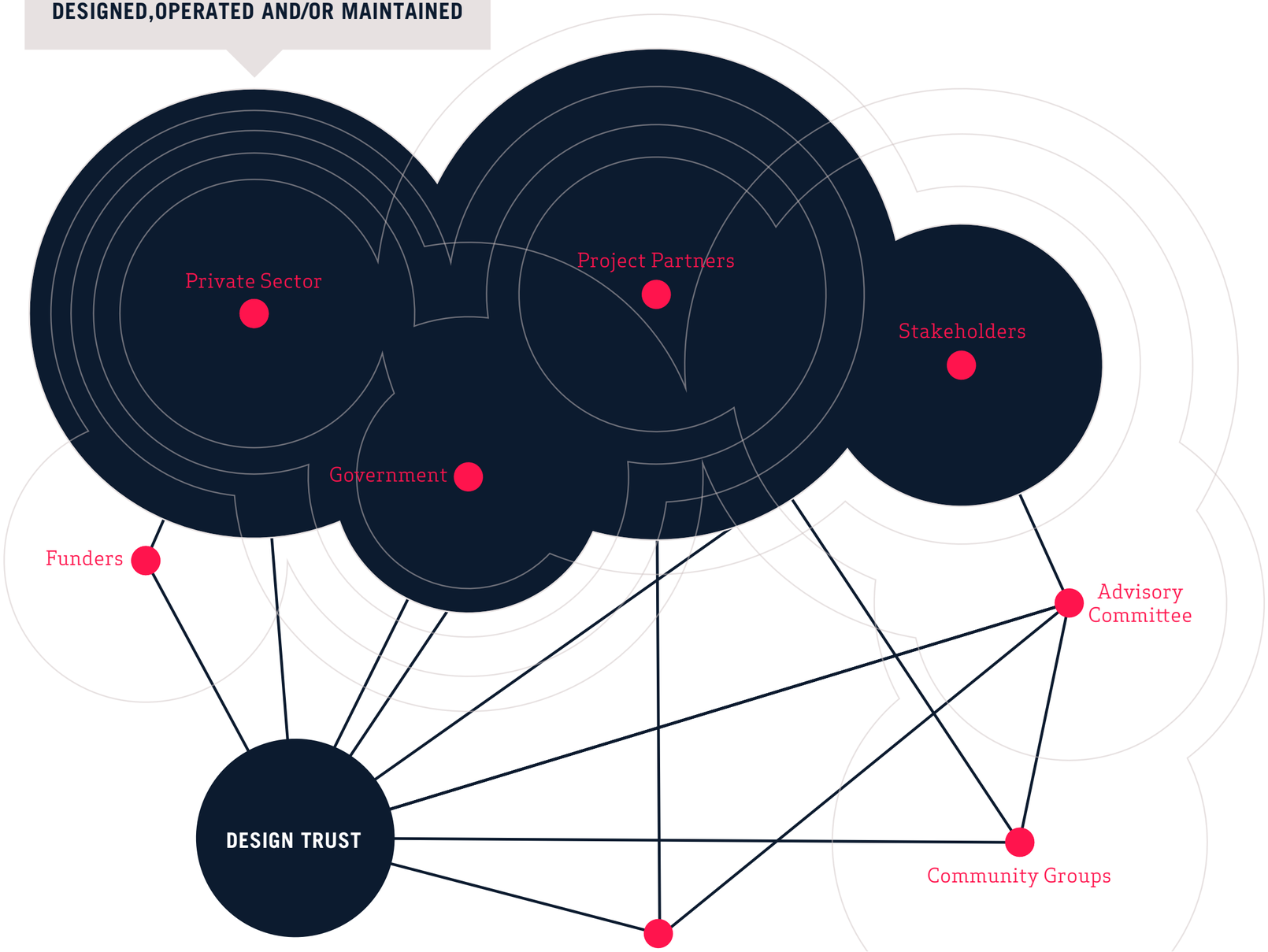
IMPACT:
GUIDELINES OR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ADOPTED AND/OR IMPLEMENTED



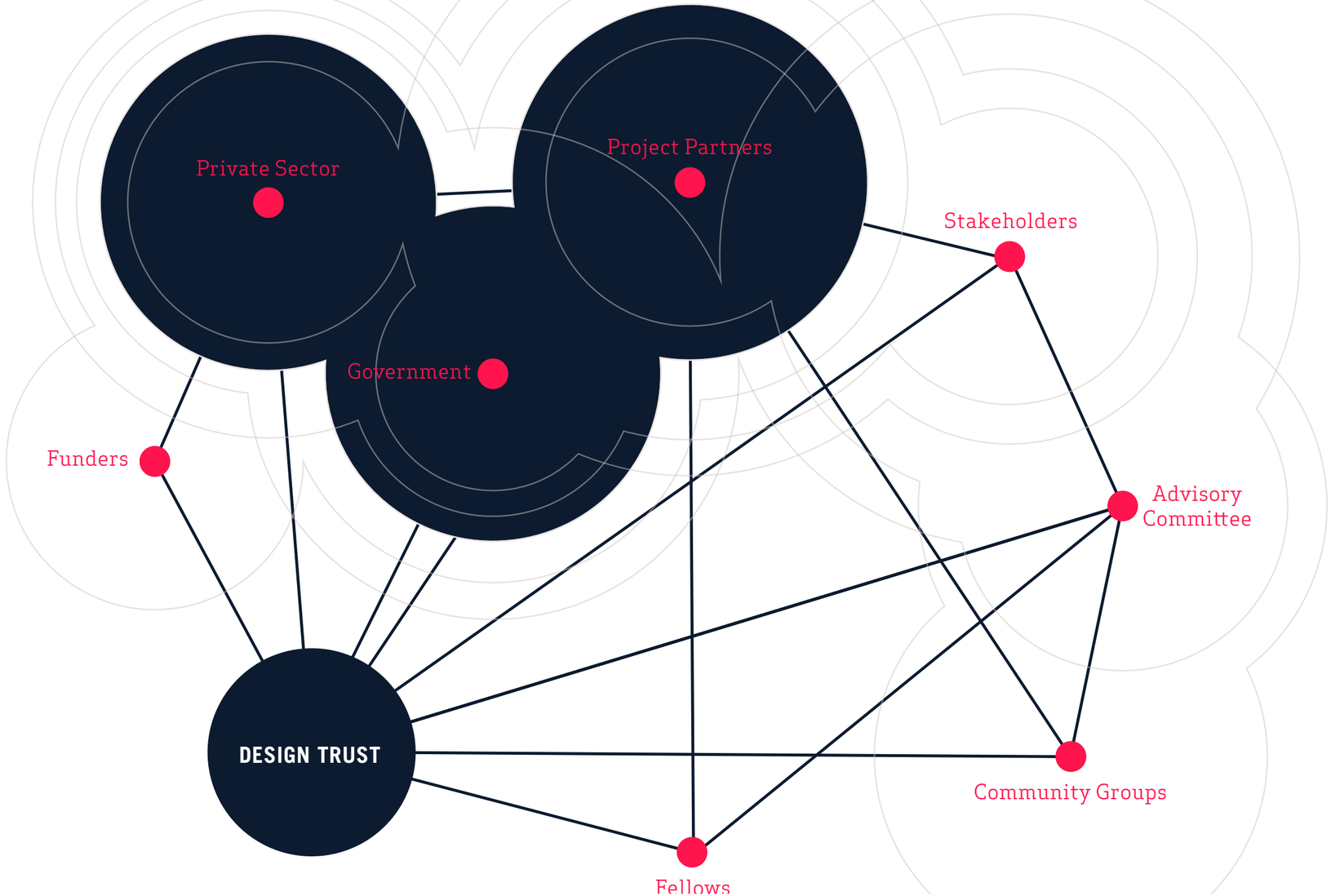
IMPACT:
“RIPPLE EFFECT” ON OTHER CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



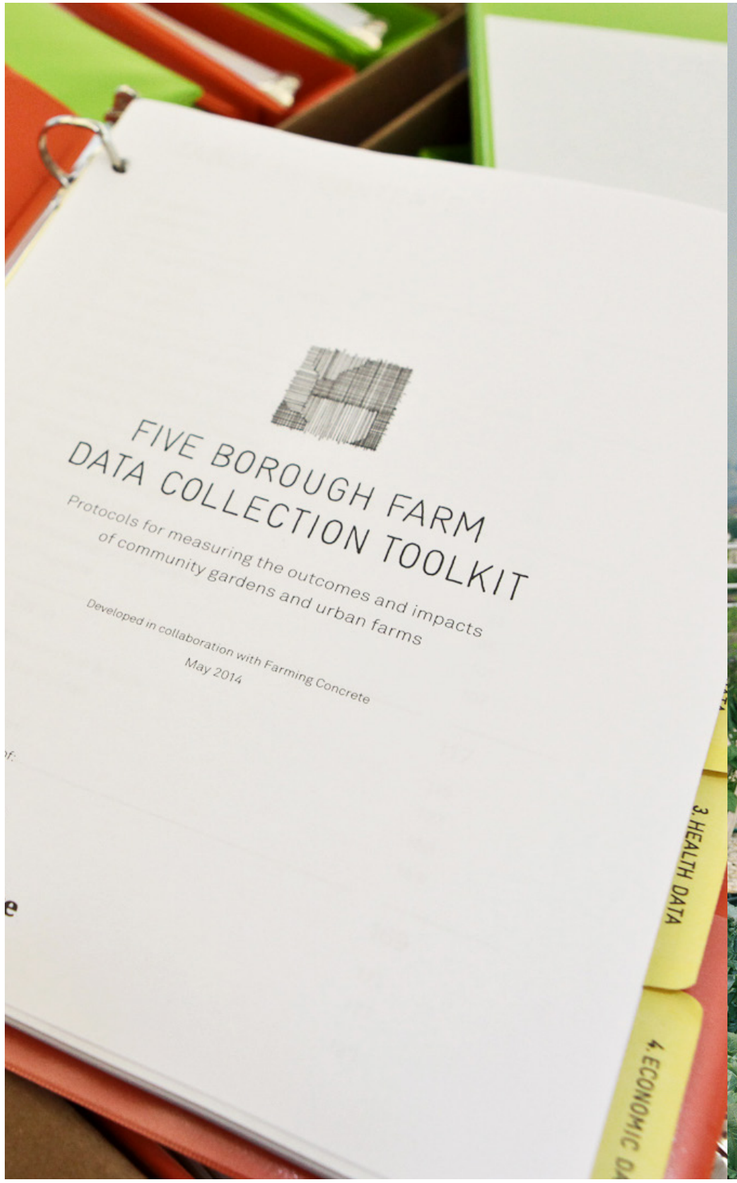
IMPACT:
CHANGE TO HOW PUBLIC SPACE IS DESIGNED,OPERATED AND/OR MAINTAINED



IMPACT:
A LAW (OR ZONING RESOLUTION) IS CREATED OR CHANGED



Reclaiming the High Line (1999-2002)

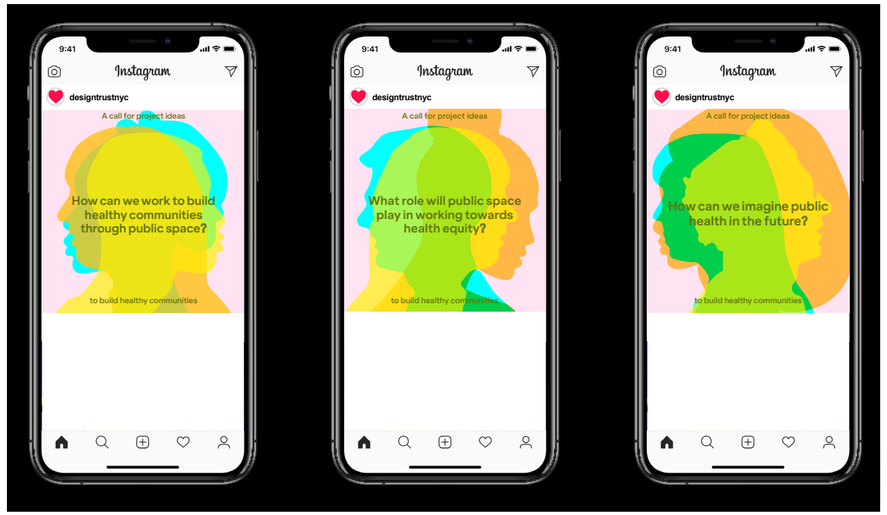


Five Borough Farm (2009-2015)

Taxi of Tomorrow (2005-2010)

Under the Elevated (2015-2020)

DESIGN TRUST
FOR PUBLIC SPACE



2021 Call for Projects

DESIGNTRUST.ORG

A Toolkit for Health, Arts, Parks, and Equity

Introduction

The Toolkit for HAP-E

Goal: To Build Health Equity

Health Equity

“Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”

To achieve health equity requires acknowledging, preventing, and reversing racism, white supremacy, and unjust decisions, policies, investments, rules, and laws that have caused social, economic, and health inequities.

“

Your zipcode is a better predictor of your health than your genetic code.

Melody Goodman

Washington University in St. Louis

Building health equity requires us to think about place

“

Racism is a public health issue.

Michelle A. Williams & Jeffrey Sanchez

Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health

Building health equity requires us to confront the structural drivers that shape our places.

Sources of Health Equity

This model shows how community determinants affects our behaviors, which in turn affects the presence of medical conditions. At the simplest level: those places with access to parks, good schools, transportation, etc, are more likely to experience more desirable health outcomes.

Sources of Health Equity

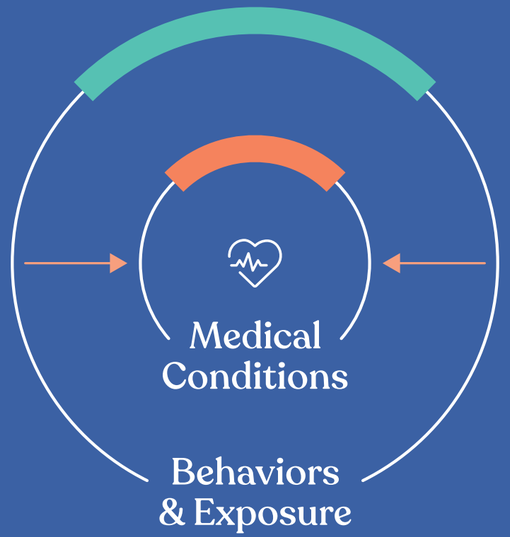
This model shows how community determinants affects our behaviors, which in turn affects the presence of medical conditions. At the simplest level: those places with access to parks, good schools, transportation, etc, are more likely to experience more desirable health outcomes.

Medical Conditions

Heart Disease
Diabetes Mellitus
Suicide
HIV
....etc

Sources of Health Equity

This model shows how community determinants affects our behaviors, which in turn affects the presence of medical conditions. At the simplest level: those places with access to parks, good schools, transportation, etc, are more likely to experience more desirable health outcomes.

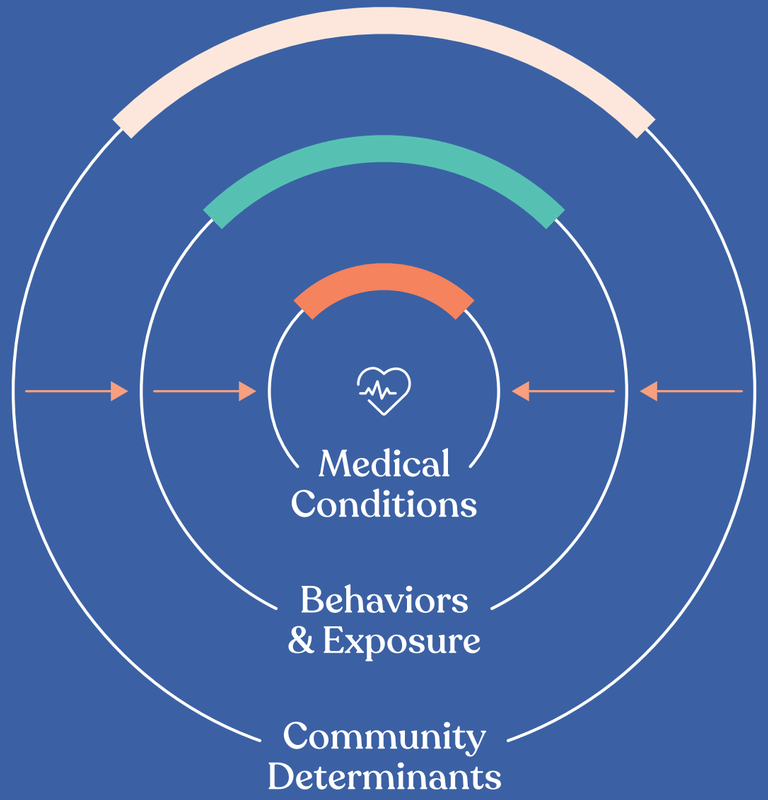


Behaviors and Exposure

Tobacco
Physical activity
Chemical exposures
Automobiles
...etc

Sources of Health Equity

This model shows how community determinants affects our behaviors, which in turn affects the presence of medical conditions. At the simplest level: those places with access to parks, good schools, transportation, etc, are more likely to experience more desirable health outcomes.



Community Determinants

Social-cultural environment(people cluster)
Social networks & trust
Participation & willingness to act for the common good
Norms & culture

Physical/built environment (place cluster)
What's sold & how it's promoted
Look, feel & safety
Parks & open space
Getting around
Housing
Air, water & soil
Arts & cultural expression

Economic environment (equitable opportunity cluster)
Education
Living wages & local wealth

Quality healthcare

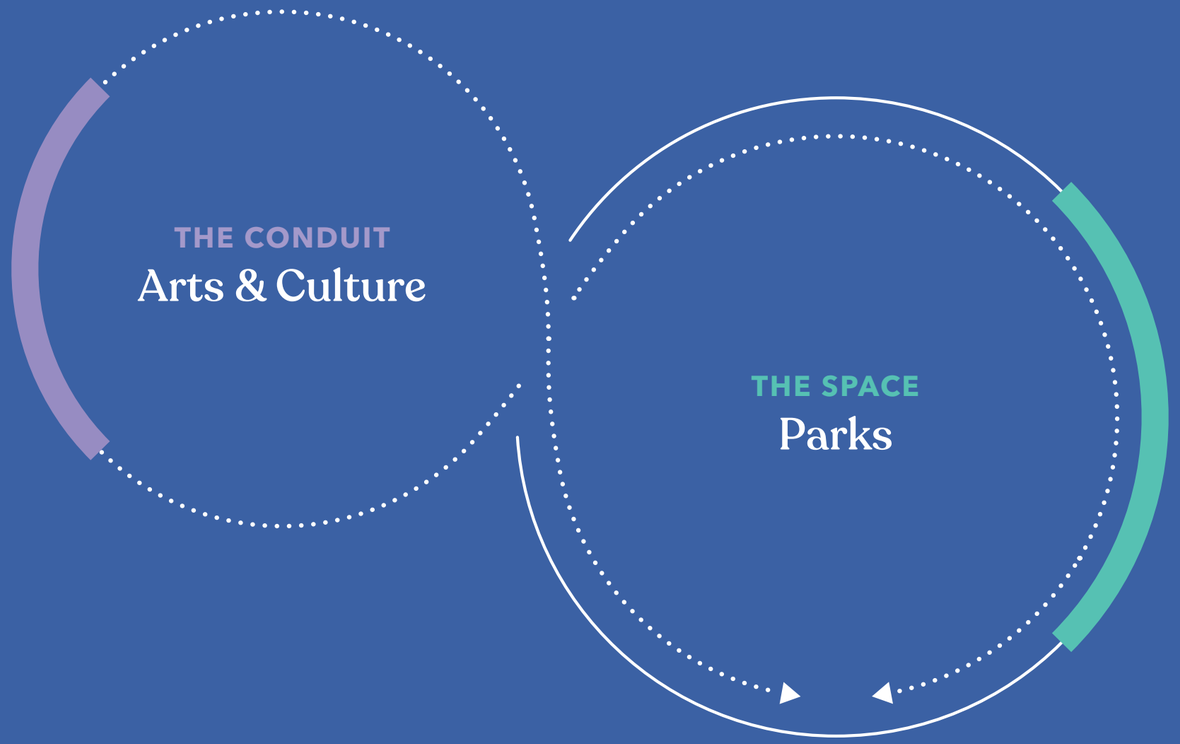
Sources of Health Equity

This model shows how community determinants affects our behaviors, which in turn affects the presence of medical conditions. At the simplest level: those places with access to parks, good schools, transportation, etc, are more likely to experience more desirable health outcomes.

Structural Drivers:

1. Empowerment of People & Communities
2. Equitable Distribution of Resources & Opportunity

HAP-E
Logic Model



Community Determinants

Social-cultural environment
Social networks & trust
Participation & willingness to act for the common good
Norms & culture

Physical/built environment
What's sold & how it's promoted
Look, feel & safety
Parks & open space
Getting around
Housing
Air, water & soil
Arts & cultural expression

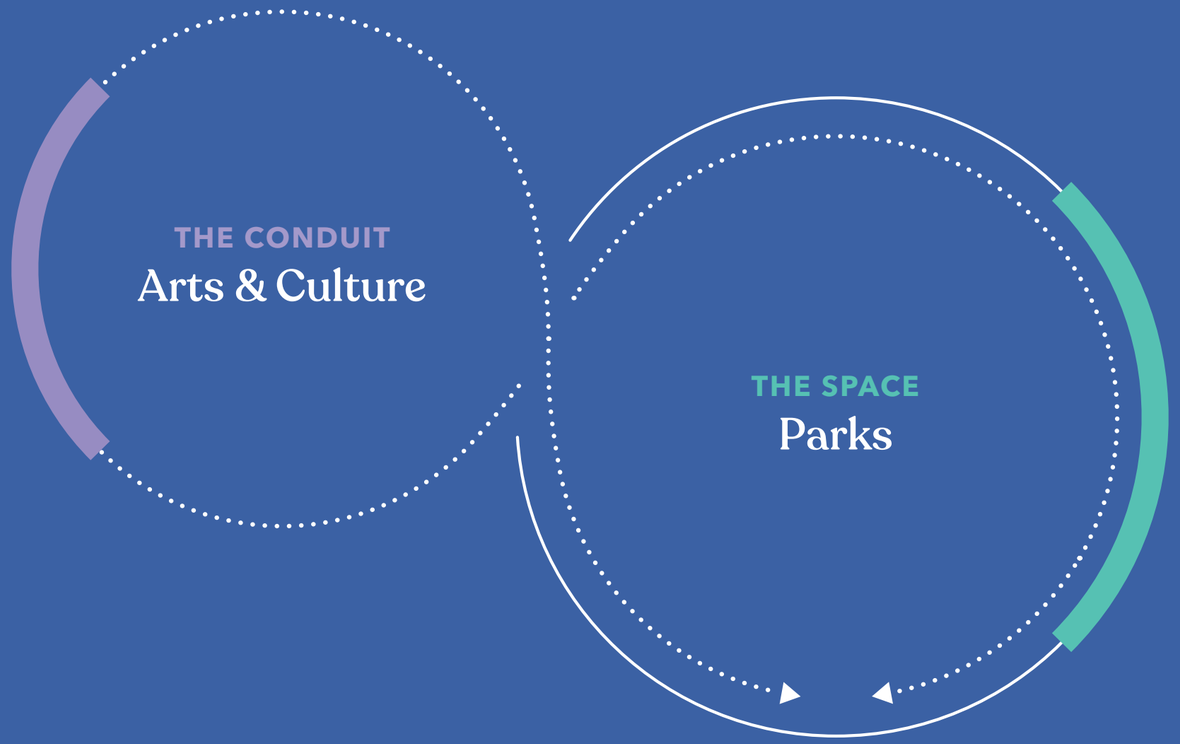
Economic environment
Education
Living wages & local wealth

Quality healthcare

HAP-E
Logic Model

Evidence-based Direct Impacts

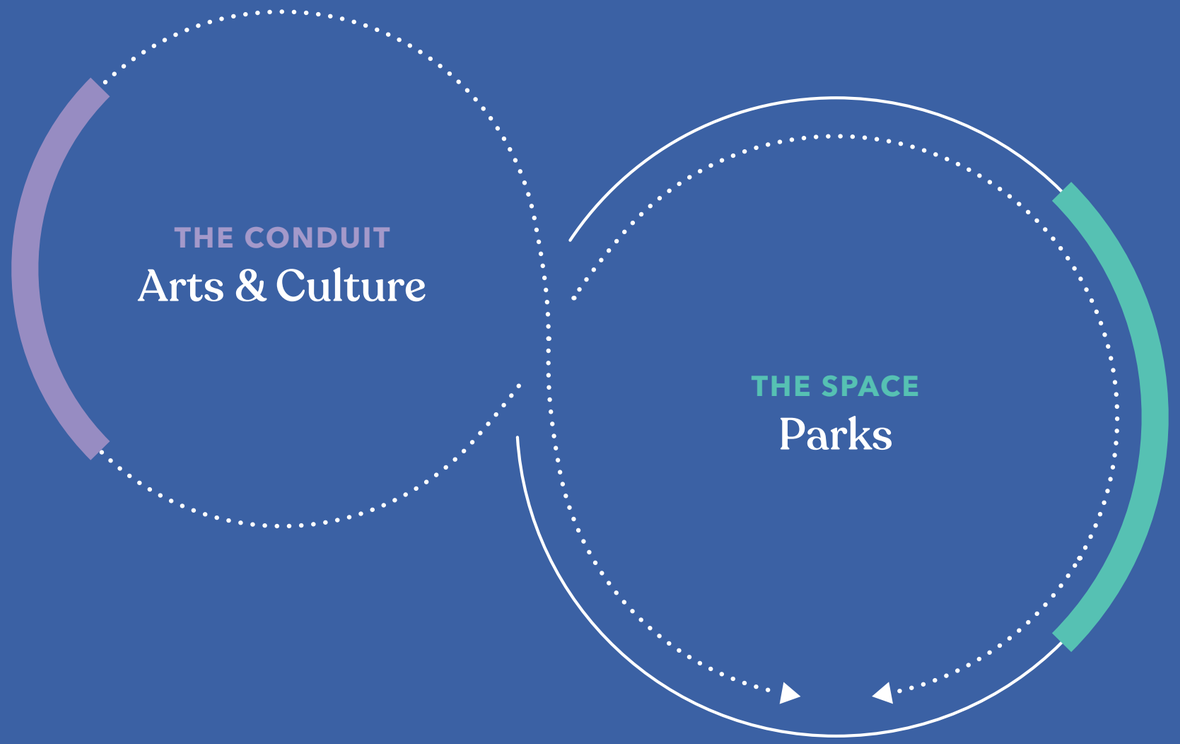
- Address collective trauma
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease



Evidence-based Direct Impacts

- Provide active recreation
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease

HAP-E Logic Model



Evidence-based Direct Impacts

- Address collective trauma
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease

Capacities & Benefits

- Shift views & generate meaning
- Improve health communication
- Advance community-generated health practices
- Gain organizing experience

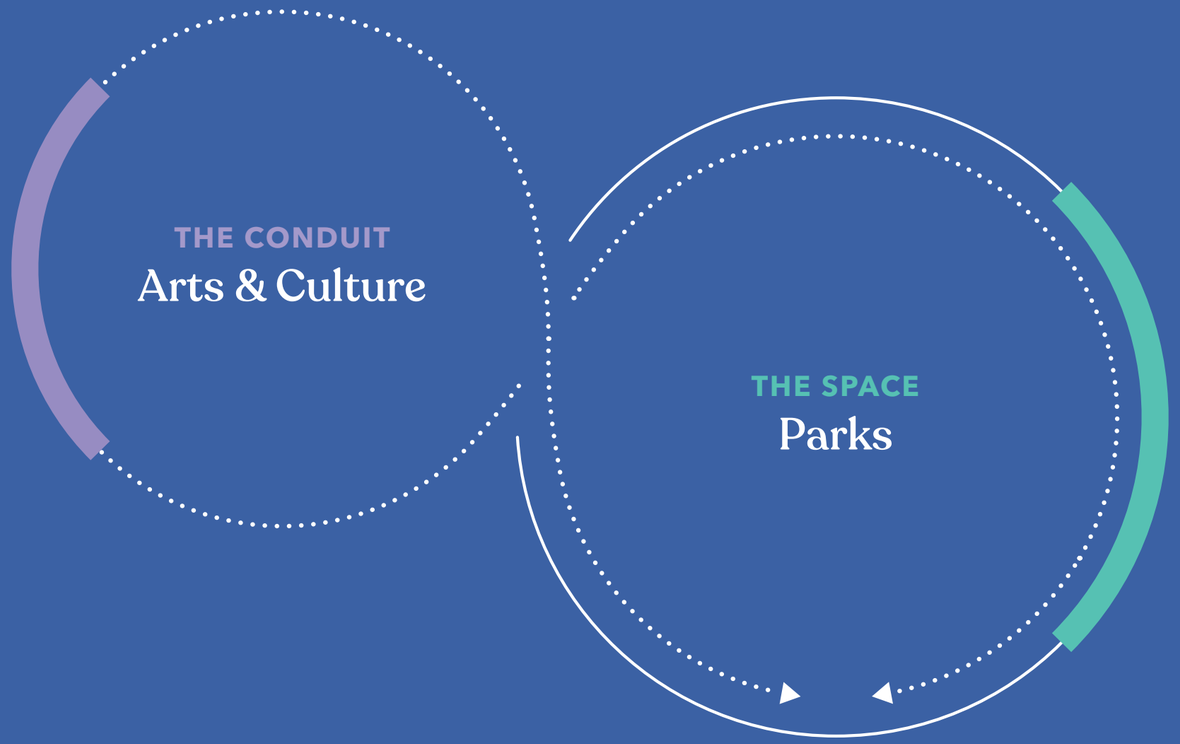
Evidence-based Direct Impacts

- Provide active recreation
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease

Capacities & Benefits

- Promote healthy activities
- Build community advocacy & decision-making
- Create public space for shared experiences

HAP-E Logic Model



Evidence-based Direct Impacts

- Address collective trauma
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease

Capacities & Benefits

- Shift views & generate meaning
- Improve health communication
- Advance community-generated health practices
- Gain organizing experience

Evidence-based Direct Impacts

- Provide active recreation
- Improve mental health
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce chronic disease

Capacities & Benefits

- Promote healthy activities
- Build community advocacy & decision-making
- Create public space for shared experiences

Community Health Equity

Build empowerment and equitable distribution of resources to enable structural change.

The Toolkit

Principles

Nine principles, based on research and case studies, that provide flexible recommendations to health practitioners. These principles suggest discrete strategies for public health leaders for incorporating arts and culture and park into their interventions and programs.

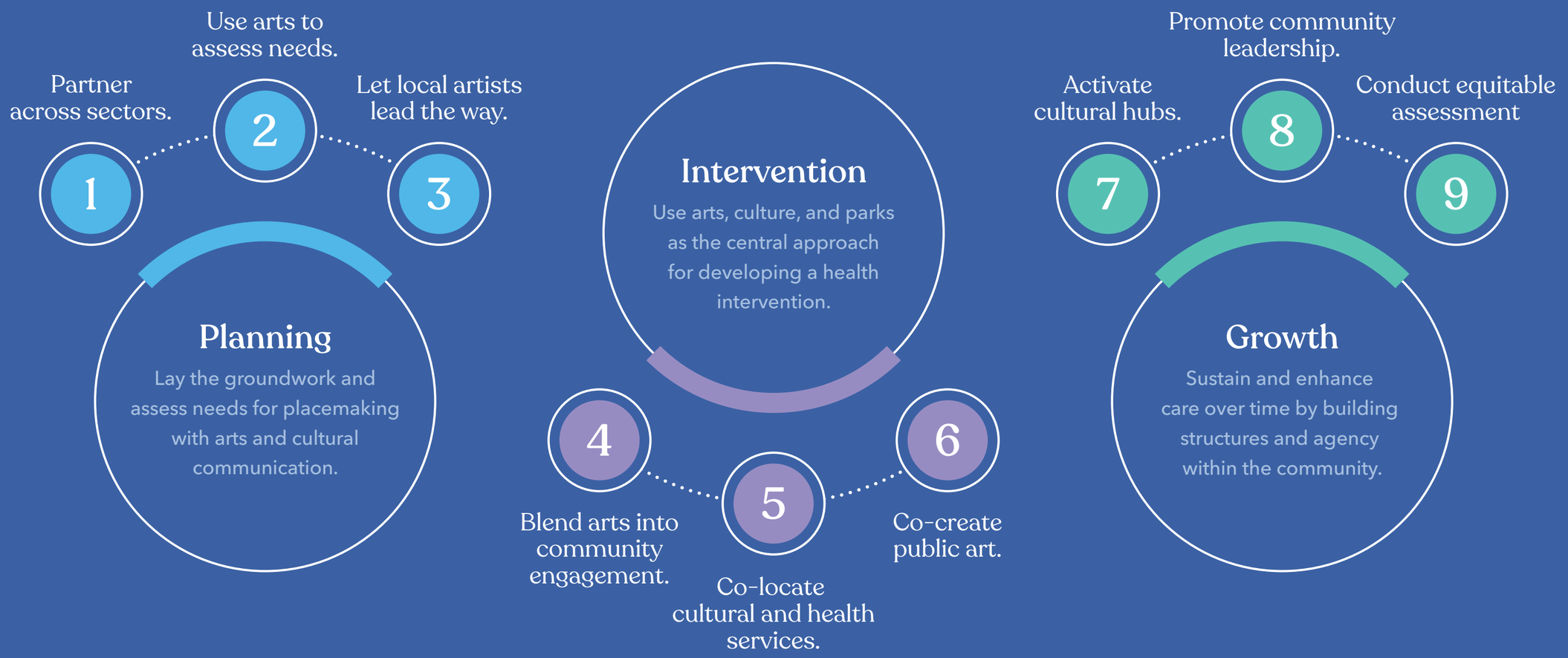
Case Studies

Seven case studies from around the country that demonstrate the use of arts and parks to build health equity. These case studies reflect a range of intervention types, partners, and users. They all clearly center health equity and have strong methods of self-assessment.

Policy Recommendations

Five recommendations, at the systems levels, about how to incorporate arts and culture and park into a healthy equity framework. These recommendations are focused on city-wide or agency-level changes. They are targeted for city leaders and coalitions.

HAP-E Guiding Principles



Case Study: **Parks After Dark**
Los Angeles, CA

Case Study: **Porchlight**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Case Study: 100 Stone Project

Anchorage, Alaska

1. Health and Planning Together

Cities and counties should establish joint task forces—with an influence over funding and policy—between city planning, parks, and transportation agencies and local health departments.

Use these task forces to empower powerful tools of collaborations, such as Health in All Policies (HiAP) and Public Health 3.0's Chief Health Strategists, and to ensure health impact assessments (HIAs) have teeth within a decision-making system.

HiAP

HiAP emphasizes the need to collaborate across sectors to achieve common health goals, and is an innovative approach to the processes through which policies are created and implemented.

2. Community Mental Wellbeing

Address mental health challenges at the population level through community-practices that are grounded in culture and heritage.

The research and growing body of practice shows promising effectiveness at addressing the mental health epidemic facing this country by using population-based strategies that have cultural connection to a particular place. As departments seek interventions, a focus on community health will help overcome the limited scale and personal relatability of an individual approach.

Arts and Mental Health

Researchers have shown the powerful impact of approaching mental health through the arts, thanks its potential as a vehicle of the self and as a conduit for the group. The WHO has foregrounded this opportunitiy as a key priority for public health.

3. Funding and Sustaining

Ensure funding sustainability for community-based, upstream health determinants.

The funding for public infrastructure has dropped rapidly over the past few decades. As cities face pressure to bolster those coffers after the COVID-19 pandemic, they can do so by leveraging cross-sectoral partnerships and being part of other departmental initiatives. For example, a cultural affairs office could develop cultural outreach strategies that support its constituents and improve community health assessments.

Local Health Challenges

Since 2008, local health departments have lost 55,590+ staff due to layoffs or attrition. In addition, about 25 percent of LHDs reported a lower FY 2016 budget than the previous year. As local budgets face uncertainty, how can we build a unified fiscal approach towards health?

4. Community Investment Above All

Invest in a community-based infrastructure of public safety that creates a culture of care.

Like public health, public safety is a collective effort that we as a society take to care for one another. As American city councils and mayors consider how to invest in prevention rather than punishment, two important areas to consider are high-quality public space and arts and culture for their ability to reduce violence, crime, and fear (Branas et al. 2018); save lives with minimal investment (Mueller et al., 2019); and "build community all the time, not just in times of trouble," (MPD150).

A New Public Safety Vision

ArtPlace American, in partnership with the Urban Institute, developed a report that explored the ways arts and culture intersect with public safety. It showed how arts and culture presents an opportunity to invest in safety, by supporting people and expression.

5. Park Access

Give health departments the tools to advocate for the 100% Promise, which ensures that all residents have close-to-home park access by the year 2050.

Giving everyone park access is a challenging, long-term goal, essential for the health of everyone. By embracing a consistent policy platform, endorsed by hundreds of mayors, departments will have support in ensuring that all planning documents, including health-focused plans, can easily include public space targets.0). For a truly resilient future, it is imperative to apply a health equity lens to these investments.

Access and Quality

Roughly one-third of all people living in America do not have close-to-home access to a park, even more don't have access to park of high quality. Mayor's rate parks as one of their highest priorities and see them as tools to build healthier, more just communities.