Co-Design design is an approach to design attempting to actively involve all stakeholders in the design process to help ensure the result meets their needs and is usable. This can help users develop exactly what they want rather than industry/organizations acting as their agents. Democratic innovation entails an open innovation milieu where new constellations, issues and ideas evolve from bottom-up long-term collaborations amongst diverse stakeholders.
Englewood Immersion Program
Mind map with R.A.G.E. team
Productive Landscapes Goal: Encourage development of clusters of vacant land for urban agriculture in strategic locations.

ENGLEWOOD LINE

3. Develop clusters of city-owned vacant land for urban agriculture along the Englewood rail line.
Conversations with residents
Talking to the larger community
Prototyping the Interview
Core team interviewing
Earn a free $25 gift card!
Your voice is important! Earn a free gift card for 90 minutes of your time telling us about your daily life.

RAGE and IIT are working together on an exciting project to talk to Englewood residents about imagining a local public space that works for you and your family.

Call us today for more information:
708-613-0452
project.publicspace@gmail.com

About R.A.G.E.
Our mission is to organize people and resources to force a change in the Englewood community through Youth/Teens/Economic Development and Residential Power.

About IIT Institute of Design
IIT Institute of Design (ID) is a graduate school dedicated to use design methods to come up with solutions for social innovation.
interviews
“The hardest part of my day now its buying the kids what they want. If they want a bag of chips or quart of juice or a piece of bubble gum. I don’t have the currency to do that. But I know when they deserve something, I wanna appraise them with things that they can use, “
“Enough’s enough. Either we make a plan execute it and get it done, or people like Norfolk and everybody else, telling us what Englewood need to do and what they going to do with Englewood. And Englewood is being ate up like a little Pac-Man game and that’s what going on.”
“Everything did begin on Halsted and 63rd street. They just like a blood vessels. You could read out their point which was 63rd and Halsted. There was movie theaters, 2 large stores…”
“I need models, I need spokespeople. I would rather get people from here. When you talk about outreach, a lot of people from the outside don’t understand the community as best as maybe you would want them to.”
“I would also change like these stores that sell what I call bootleg meat. You go to get meat and the meat is not that fresh. Like the canned goods are expired, we have a lot of those stores in Englewood. The cans is dusty ‘n all. I would change that too.”
“When I said I don’t want my kids to be like me, I just I don’t want them to, you know, put their career aside for a man, and that’s exactly what I did. I don’t want them to hang with the wrong people… Just get your education first…. you’ll struggle paycheck to paycheck.”
“It looks like a dead town. It reminds me of an old western land, the outlaws move in and the sheriff is a punk and he so old, he’s can’t you know really protect the town. The town is being bullied by the outlaws.”
I’ve seen a few of my friends go nuts, just in the area from the things that happened to um. That was another reason for me to move. But I lived on the east side.”
“..., this is where you live, this is where you should wanna see some flowers, some grass and see the trash taken out. You shouldn’t have to be paid for things like this. You should automatically want to do this...”
Bianca & Bethany*

“I don’t really go anywhere. I don’t go outside like that. I stay in the house with children. Chores are basically it -- chores, watch tv, eat… I babysit a lot. I don’t mind ‘cause Bianca loves the kids. Apparently they like me and they want to come outside.”

“Because its, like, Englewood, it might be a little trashy around because people act like they don’t know where a garbage can at. ‘Cause Englewood is not a bad spot at all, I guess half the time, it’s outside of Englewood, not inside of Englewood.”
Co-Analysis
Secondary Research
**YOUNGPLACE**
by Artscape

Artspace Youngplace is a community cultural hub in Toronto’s West Queen West neighbourhood with 75,000 square feet of space devoted to artistic inspiration, learning, growth and expression. Artscape’s $7 million transformation of the building, a former school, was completed just before the centenary of its construction in 1914. Artscape Youngplace is named in recognition of a generous lead gift from The Michael Young Family Foundation.

The artists and organizations inside the building represent a vibrant mix of art forms and cultural mandates and provide many programs and events to enjoy.

**IHUB**
by Erik Hersman

Nairobi’s Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area. This space is a tech community facility with a focus on young entrepreneurs, web and mobile phone programmers, designers and researchers.

“We’re trying to create the place where seeds are planted and are easily found by the people with money to help them grow.”

The hub also has a number of initiatives designed to build an ecosystem around the Kenyan tech entrepreneur iHub Research, iHub Consulting, iHub Supercomputing Cluster, and the iHub User Experience (UX) Lab.
FACTORIA JOVEN
by Selgas Cano firm

This playground is not really a playground at all, instead it’s a vibrant, flexible space that acknowledges the wide variety of activities that kids actually want to participate in.

The Factoria Joven (‘youth factory’ in Spanish) is a sort of creative community center equipped for activities as wide-ranging as rock climbing and hip-hop dancing. There’s a skate park which essentially winds through the plazas connecting the buildings (almost all the ground is actually skateable), but also a concert stage for performing arts. There’s a place to learn graffiti and street art, as well as a section of the complex set up for circus training – including tightrope walking. There’s also plenty of indoor space for learning music and dance. And wireless Internet, of course.

The skate park’s structure actually hides meeting rooms where kids can get group counseling. So the activities get them in, but that also creates an unparalleled opportunity to reach them.

OPEN HOUSE THEATRE
by Coleman Center for the Arts and artist Matthew Mazzotta

York is a small town southwest of Birmingham, Alabama that has an abundance of abandoned buildings, but no accessible community space. Mazzotta decided to appropriate an abandoned house between a grocery store and post-office in the heart of downtown and repurpose the materials in order to create a gathering place for the community.

This nondescript shed is actually a transformer!

By creating a public space that’s so visually exciting, it’s hard to imagine that kids (or their parents) will want to hang out anywhere else.

The theater showcases the talents of the local community, both as a built form and through its numerous performances. The shows are all free. York now has a place for prayer services, gospel singers, community dancers and film.
School repurpose
Retreat
Thank you