

WOLCOTT STREET FARM

BLACKSPACE

COMMUNITY VISIONING | CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
RED HOOK, BROOKLYN

THIS WORKING YOUTH AND COMMUNITY URBAN FARM BRINGS TOGETHER THE DIVERSE LOCAL BLACK, LATINX, AND CHINESE CULTURES.

HOWEVER, NEW AND LONGTIME RESIDENTS STRUGGLED TO ALL FEEL WELCOMED EQUALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC. THROUGH COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY DESIGN, WE REIMAGINED ITS SPACE AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S "PUBLIC BACKYARD."



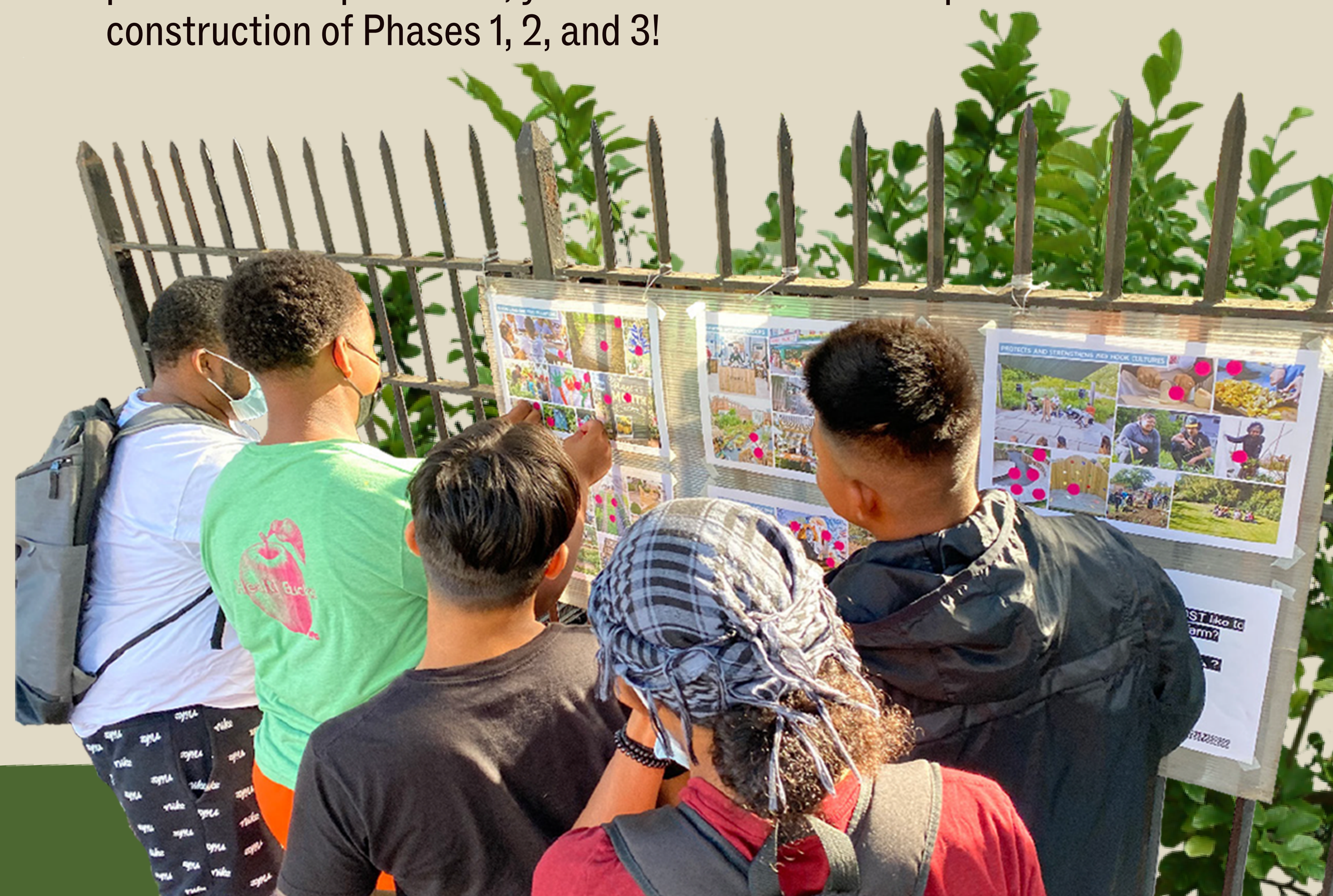
IN THE GREEN ZONES the semi-circle planting beds improve physical accessibility for multiple ages and abilities, flow, and suggest the warm feeling of a hug! BlackSpace pulled inspiration from traditional African-American gardening practices.

- NATIVE PERENNIAL GARDENS
- COMPOST AND REFUSE AREA
- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ZONES

GATHERING ZONES make space for welcoming in diverse local residents and cultural groups for community cookouts, performances, celebrations, and learning activities.

- LEARNING ZONES
- THE PENTAGON TRAINING AREA
- OUTDOOR GATHERING AREAS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? The co-design team created a 4-phase roadmap. In 2023, youth and volunteers completed the construction of Phases 1, 2, and 3!



COMMUNITY VALUES: First, the 29 community participants chose five BlackSpace Manifesto Principles to guide the project. Inspired by the principles, research, and storytelling, BlackSpace facilitators surveyed neighbors to develop priority social values for the physical space: a green oasis, culture, safety and welcome, and unity.

REDESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS: BlackSpace created a schematic site plan and social design recommendations tailored to RHI's chosen Manifesto principles and community values. The redesign included spaces for art, multilingual signage for navigation, and street-facing community events.

- STRUCTURES**
- MARKET DISTRIBUTION AREA
 - FARM STORAGE
 - THE PENTAGON COMMAND CENTER

THIS IS A BLACK SPACE.

PARTNERS

Red Hook Initiative • Isidor Studio • JIMA Studio • 1772 Foundation • The Kresge Foundation • The Laundromat Project • Mailchimp • Robert Sterling Clark Foundation • Soul Spot Catering • Soul of the South Cooking • YFW Productions • and many co-designers, neighbors, and friends!

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