

## Collaborative Studio Sp2023

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Design Matters in Brazil



Photo credit: Susan Melsop

Engagement Stations in Denver

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## What the \*#@&!\* is Social Design?

### *Putting theory into play, we will design for and with the other 90%.*

This Collaborative Studio provides students an opportunity to understand the work of non-profits and examine design's role and potential as a medium for social change. Specifically, we will focus on amplifying the work of non-profit organizations in Franklinton, Ohio.

Across the globe, we face wicked problems and grand challenges –from racial injustices to environmental degradation– these issues affect us all. This studio brings awareness to these interrelated issues and demonstrates how designers have joined transdisciplinary teams to foster social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Using a systems thinking approach, students will glean an understanding of the Franklinton non-profits' work in relation to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put forward by the United Nations. Interrogating the scales between macro and micro, students will navigate between the SDGs conceptual framework to the local (micro) placed-based socio-ecological programs affecting change in Franklinton. A neighborhood undergoing massive transformation and gentrification.

Together, we will explore the praxis of social design including Design as Activism, and leverage design practices of visioning, storytelling, making, and building to **expand the non-profits' socio-ecological programming into the public urban sphere**. Students will work in interdisciplinary teams toward innovative design proposals that may take the form of service design, activist campaigns, urban furniture, little free-library stations, and/or mobile markets. Together, we will develop new strategies to collect data and novel ways to measure how our collective designs *perform* to affect change, understanding how they work, and who they serve.

For the beginning of the semester, the learning modality will be online with opportunities for class field trips to the site and to meet non-profit leaders and observe their social service programming in action. Following the first 4-week module, class will resume in-person in a dynamic studio environment of creativity and collaboration.



Engagement Stations, Auraria campus, Denver