

# KNIGHTS LANDING COMMUNITY GARDEN ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT 2018  
ANA MARIA GUERRERO

# Knights Landing Community Engagement process

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Submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITETURE in the Department of Human Ecology University of California, Davis.

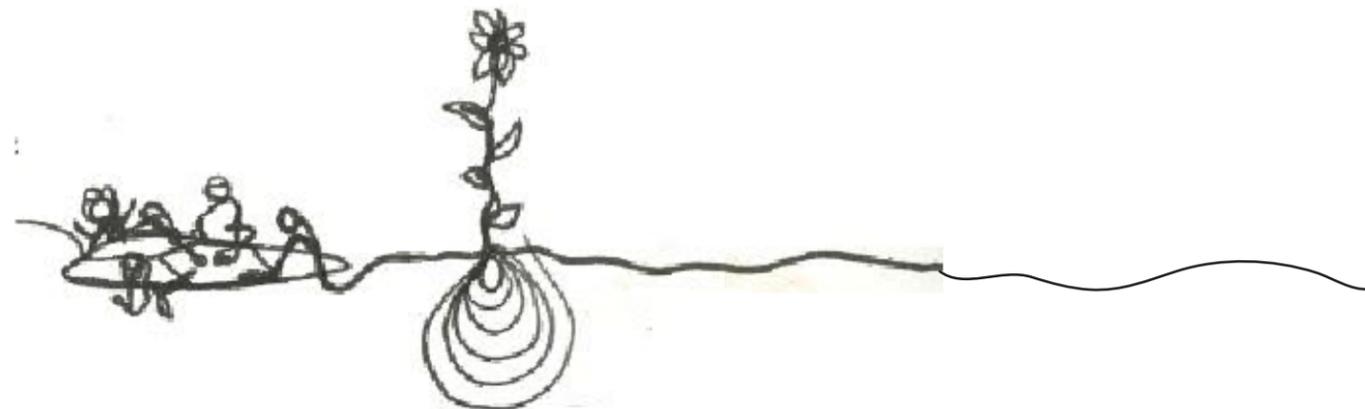
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2018.

## Abstract

This project illustrates the process and dialogues that launched a community driven initiative into a tangible community garden space. This process included securing a site and water acces in the rural town of Knights Landing, located in Yolo County CA (KL). Through surveying, dialogues and a series of workshops community members established goals, programatic elements and design elements. These ideas were then implemented through collective work parties and individual projects that people took on. As an academic and landscape architecture student, my contribution to this project has fluctuated as a facilitator of conversations and co-designer of the space with the community members that brought the idea forward. My tangible contribution will be in the form of a planting design booklet that depicts cultural usage of plants for the youth engagement program that is carried out by the Family Resource Center. My conclusion is that community and academic partnerships can be fruitful if the goals and values of the project and means to incorporate them are established by community members that have equal partnership or co-design. Moreover, I suggest the model of a central server and a community land trust as the method of preserving this space for community usage.



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the community members that I learned from and worked with, particularly Lina, Ruth, Jeff, Mellissa, Juan and Peggy.

Thank you to Diana Almendariz, Jorge Espinoza and Khawla Mohammed for taking part of the workshops and to be a guiding beacon of light, teachers and dear friends.

Thanks to Natalia Deeb Sossa, Sheryll Ann Simpson, Juanita Ontiveros, Grace Kim, Pastor Yung for the work you do, for your time, guidance and patience.

Thank you Skye, Jonathan, Citlali, Mariagdalena, Alfonso, Alberto and Jose for co-creating and facilitating workshops with me. It takes a lot to do community work and to attempt to apply your field in real life while you study, and my admiration for your dedication as peers fueled my efforts and kept me going.

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## SEEDS/INTRODUCTON

Around six years ago, in the rural Unincorporated Community of Knights Landing, a community driven effort to establish a community garden began. It surfaced with the intention of increasing the access to fresh fruits and vegetables. This effort was fueled by a group of female farmworkers, and a group of the youth living in the settlements or labor camps scattered in the radius of the central KL (Knights Landing) area.

This group of females began gathering regularly to discuss environmental health concerns which include lack of access to healthy foods and health services in their community (Fig 1). They became the "Grupo de Mujeres" or "group of women" that organized and established a partnership with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, through Juanita Ontiveros (Fig 2). She is a farmworkers rights activist that marched alongside Cesar Chavez. Moreover, they connected with Natalia Deeb Sossa, scholar activist from UC Davis Chicana studies.(Fig 3) Juanita alongside these community activists went to UC Davis School of Medicine to talk about the possibility of establishing a rural clinic there with their assistance. This was critical because there were budget cuts to already existing rural clinics during the 2008 recession and they were removed from these areas.

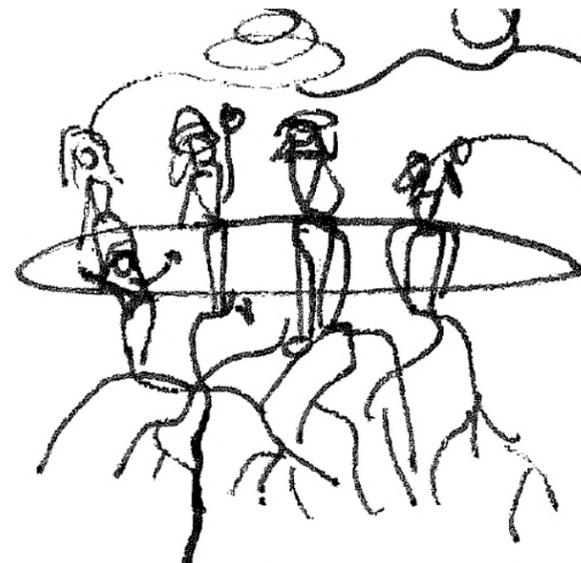


Fig 1. Grupo de Mujeres

Juanita recalls that there was hesitance and doubt from community activist to seek help from UC Davis because "They didn't think students would invest their time in them". Yet UC Davis agreed and now there is a student run clinic that operates through the family resource center and Empower Yolo. The Knights Landing One Health Center is a 501c3 non profit that opened in 2012 (Fig 4.) Every third Sunday of the month, volunteer undergraduate, graduate and medical students provide free medical service.

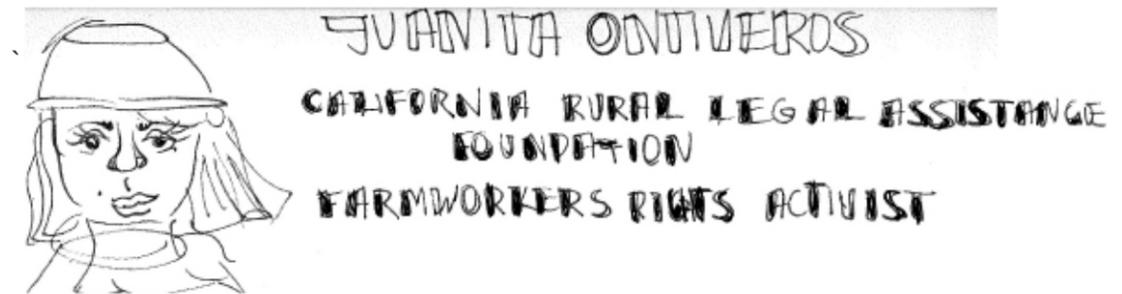


Figure 2

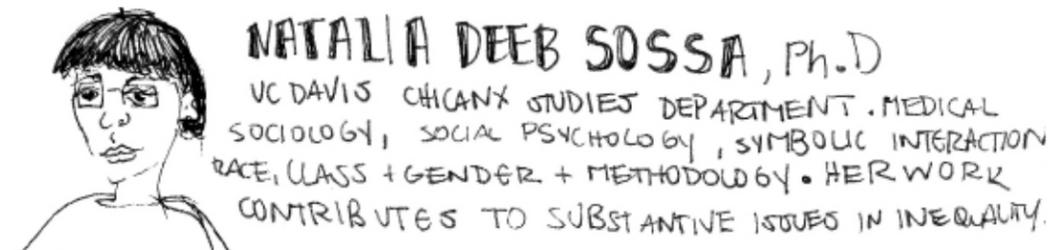


Figure 3



Figure 4  
Family Resource Center

Moreover, Pueblo Unido, a group of youth formed and began sparking health focused activities such as soccer, baile folklórico (folkloric dance) and traditional Aztec dance. This was put forward by a former member of the youth engagement program in the family resource center at Knights Landing, Adelita Torres who is a renowned Aztec dancer and teacher from Woodland. Pueblo Unido members wanted to open a community garden as part of their mission. Juanita recalls: "They wanted a space where their abuelitas (grandmothers) could grow manzanilla (chamomile), and yerba Buena (mint), and where they could grow their own healthy food because they are all farmers and know how" (Juanita Ontiveros, April 2018). However, this effort was halted because it was not possible to secure a space or to get access to water.

## MY INVOLVEMENT

Fig 5



I (Fig 5) was introduced in the community of Knights Landing by my friend and peer Katie Rivas (Fig 6) who works at the rural Knights Landing One Health Clinic.

My first time in KL she took me to the family resource center in June 2017. The family resource center is ran by Lina and Ruth (Fig 7 and 8) who are community members. They were part of the group of women who reached out to Juanita. They also have an afterschool coordinator that works with high school students, when I started working there it was Xabi (Fig 9)

This day I learned about the already existing method of organization and community activism that is in place. "Promotoras de Salud" or Health promoters, such as Lina and Ruth follow the model that Paulo Freire suggests. Promotoras de Salud are health advocates or Community Health Workers. They specifically target hard to reach populations such as farmworkers in rural communities. Many of them used to be or currently work in the fields. They are a bridge between community based organizations, health care, policy makers/lawyers, planners and designers. Promotoras de salud are research partners with Skye and Alfonso. They engage in dialogue with community and establish the most important needs and strengths of their community and they organize to catalyze change.

Figure 6

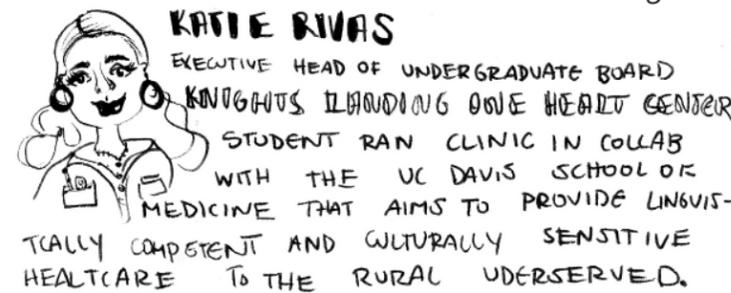


Figure 8



Ruth is a community leader and advocate for health in her community. She is Lina's right hand in the resource center.

Figure 7

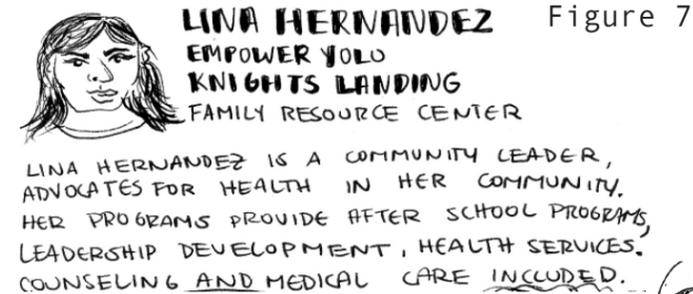
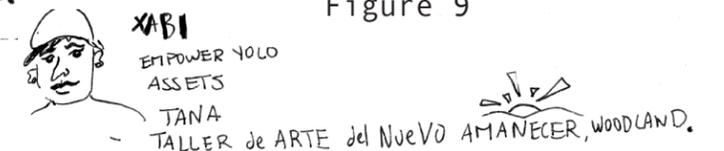


Figure 9



On the day I visited the family resource center, the workshop I attended was a presentation or a conversation, rather about Cancer prevalence in rural communities. The presenter was Alfonso Aranda, medical geography PhD Candidate. He works with Skye Kelty PhD candidate for Environmental Toxicology (Fig 10). Together they study environmental health through different lenses. They are writing the Knights Landing Environmental Exposures Case Study.

Promotoras alongside Skye, told me about the community garden idea and how they wanted to work towards its installation and completion.

They had identified the Methodist Church as a site for this project because they have two empty lots next to it that were unused.

It was six years later to the first attempt to create this garden that we

(Family Resource Center, community members and other UC Davis scholars involved in the community) secured a space through a process of presenting a proposal to the United Methodist Church. The space is 3/4ths of an acre and is empty except for grass. Upon meetings with the Water Board district the space was granted with free water with the exception that we buy a backflow preventer which is a piece of irrigation equipment.



Figure 10

Questions that drove this effort were as follows:

- What methods of engagement can be employed to facilitate dialogues and action for desired community spaces?
- Can this garden be more than idea, an implemented tool that serves the communities that are affected by food insecurity, fragmentation and isolation?
- How can the effects of fragmentation, isolation be lessened? How can local transportation be included in this project to meet the needs of community members?

The intention of my involvement was to employ techniques of community engagement and interactive workshops in order to:

1. Listen, and magnify the ideas, concerns that community members feel are important to their community
2. Facilitate conversations, workshops in which goals and values of desired community spaces are articulated
3. Co-designing/building and giving form to community aspirations and spaces
4. Assist in the reclamation of land for community uses

This is in the hopes that the gap between form-making decisions in communities is filled and that there is action based approaches to community partnerships with universities.

## Introduction

Knights Landing is a rural unincorporated community, located in between Yolo and Sutter County (Fig 11) in California. The Sacramento river crosses its veins through there, and this has been a source of life since the first people's lived there. Salmon flowed down the river and acted as a major food source. Acorns were crushed until they became flour and used to make bread, and a series of plants such as Miner's lettuce, elderberry, were used as food sources. The tribes that inhabited the Knights Landing area prior to colonization were Southern Wintun and Patwin Tribes. There was once a mound next to the Sacramento River next to the Sycamore Slough. This mound marked a meeting point between these tribes (Gregory 1968).

William Knights landing from Baltimore allegedly found this mound and occupied it to build his home in 1843 (Knights Landing General plan 1999). The gold rush then moved greater populations moved to this area, establishing the town of Baltimore, that would later on become Knights Landing after William Knight died. This mound later on became a convenience store (Fig 12)

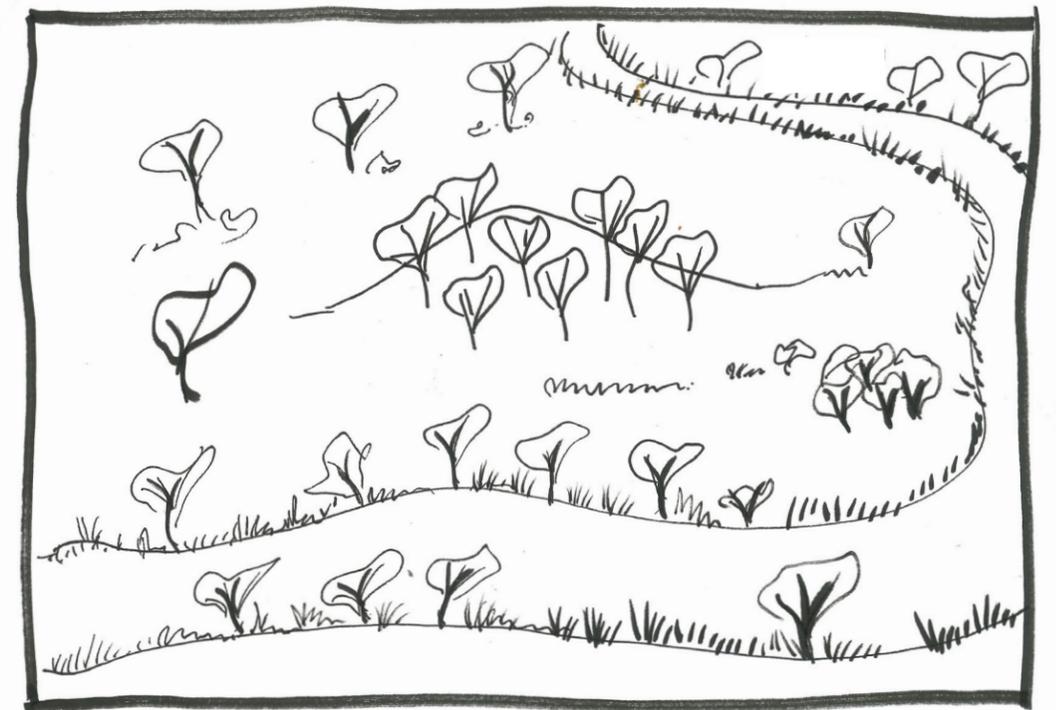


Figure 11

California, USA  
Yolo County  
Knights Landing

Fig 12

Mound,  
next to  
Sacramento  
River



## Land ownership

With colonization, Native Americans lost 1.2 billion acres of land to white settlers (Dunbar, Ortiz 2014). They were victims of genocide and they were stripped of their traditions, native foods and displaced to Rancherias and Reservations, areas allocated for them to live in.

In 1887, the Dawes Act stated the following: "Each new land owner who abandoned tribal practices and adopted the habits of civilized life would be granted American citizenship". This reflects the hostility of policy makers towards Native American culture which encompasses their traditions, native foods, language and Cosmo vision. Making them seem alien to the land that they had been a part of for thousands of years.

In the book land Justice, Clifford Welch discusses the struggle for Land Reform in California. He noted that in 1902 the Reclamation Act was established by Congress and signed into law by former President Theodor Roosevelt (Welch, 2017, pg. 229). This called for a 160-acre size limit for farms and enforced it by denying access to water to farms larger than that (Welch, 2017 pg. 230). According to the historian Norris Hundley (2011,116) this act was to break "the monopolistic land and water holdings and thousands of landless agricultural laborers" that was occurring in California (Welch, 2017 pg. 230).

By 1945, four percent of landowners in three counties of the central valley controlled more than half of all irrigable land (Taylor 1949, 243). These landlords tried to lobby against the reclamation act and had a lot of money to do so, allegedly 250,000 a month (Welch, 2017 pg.230). This was resolved in 1983 when the Reclamation act was reformed and it raised the 160-acre limit to 960 acres, benefiting wealthy farm-owners (Welch, 2017 pg. 239).

In 2012, there were 3.2 million people were farmers in the U.S. Only 8% are of Indigenous, Asian, Latino or African descent (USDA NASS 2013). In the book Land Justice, Eric Jolt Jimenez notes that the numbers of "Latino farmers" have been growing (Holt-Jimenez 2017, pg.9). The visible trend is that large scale farms are owned by a few, older white men (Holt-Jimenez 2017,9). Smaller farms that are emerging are owned by women, people of color and they tend to be younger farmers (Holt-Jimenez, 2017, 9).

## Agri-business vs agriculture

Groups such as the CAFF (Community Alliance Family Farms),

NFFC (National Family Farms coalition) and international groups such as La Via Campesina in Nicaragua and Central America, as well as the the Landless rural workers in Brazil exemplify

the effort of organizing and reclaiming land for smaller, community based farms that nurture communities.

Figure 13

These groups counter the agribusiness

model that is only interested in increasing production and profit without

consiering the environmental or social effects

(Fig 13).



## Food system paradox

The food system in the United States relies on the 1-3 million migrant farm workers that plant, cultivate, harvest and pack the fruits, vegetables that we all purchase and eat. (Yolo Agricultural labor). Paradoxically, farmworkers experience rates of food insecurity as high as 47-63% (Carney, 2011). The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.”

Food insecurity is one among many issues that rural communities face. Many activists, academics and writers such as Gayle Myers have called it “food apartheid”. The word apartheid comes from Afrikaans and it means “separateness” (Myers, 2018). Its roots were the segregation and discrimination from white Europeans against African people that existed in South Africa from 1948 until the early 1990’s. In one of her lectures during the Food Justice Summit at UC Davis, Gale Myers talked about the Senkofa bird, which is a symbol from the Akan Tribe in Ghana. It a mythical bird that has its feet firmly pointed forward with its head turned reaching back (Taylor, 2017). The Akhan tribe believe the past serves as a guide for planning the future (Taylor, 2017). The wisdom from the past “ensures a strong future” and the past must never be forgotten as we move forward. (Taylor, 2017).

## Food Justice

In the current food system, economic growth is the only factor considered and therefore, it has many implications on the environment and in people. To experience food insecurity means that access to a consistent source of fresh fruits and vegetables or healthy foods difficult or unavailable (Holt-Jimenez,2017, pg 7). The negative consequences of mainstream food production affects people of color, children, women, low income people and those working in the food sector the most (Holt-Jimenez, 2017, pg 10).

A survey carried out in 2015 by the California Institute for Rural Studies (CIRS), revealed that food insecurity among surveyed farmworkers in Yolo County is 47%. This is three fold the national average (Yolo Agricultural Labor). There are many layers that contribute to this issue in Yolo County. Cost of fresh fruits and vegetables is too high for the low wages these workers receive. This is even more severe for individuals are not able to seek out public assistance programs such as CAL-Fresh.

Food was declared a human right in the United National Universal Declaration of Human rights in 1948. This, alongside revolutions and grass-roots movements of those affected by the conventional food system model set the stage for a vocabulary unique to this movement. Food Justice is a term coined by the international peasant rights group La Via Campesina, during the World Food Summit in 1996, The term is defined as follows:

“The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.”The phrase “culturally appropriate” signifies that the food that is available and accessible for the population should fit with the cultural background of the people consuming it.”. (La Via Campesina)

In the same vein, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy defines food justice as “The right of communities everywhere to produce, process, distribute, access, and eat good food regardless of race, glass, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, ability, religion, or community”. (Wise, 2014)

### Knights Landing Food System

In Knights Landing there are two food donation sites, one at the Family Resource Center, another at the Methodist Church. These services are available every other Sunday/once a week. There is also one healthy foods restaurant that serves Mexican cuisine. Aside from that, there are three convenient stores that sell packaged snacks and are void of healthy fruits and vegetables (Fig 14). There are settlements outside of the central KL (Fig 15).

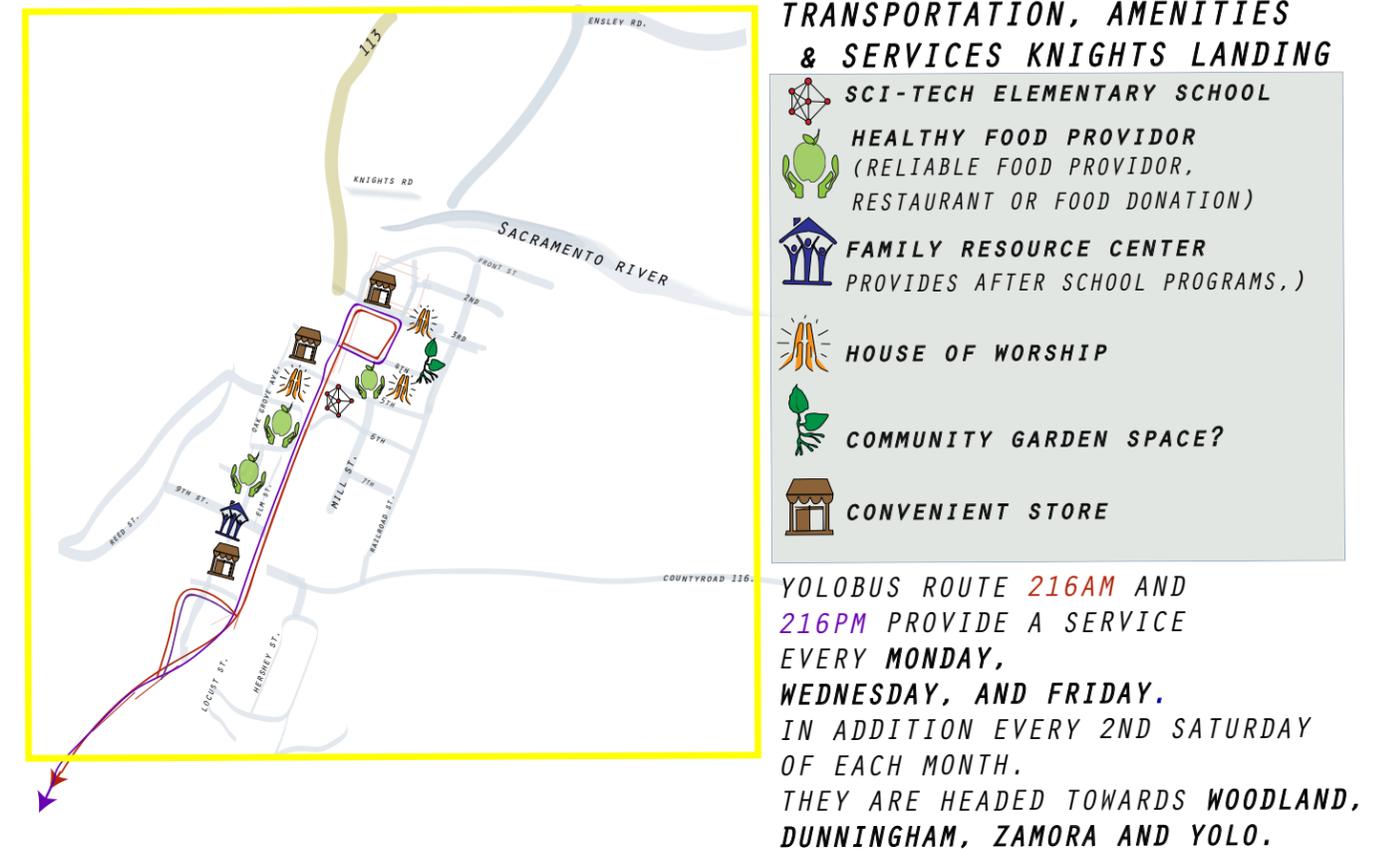


Fig 14 shows the existing convenient stores, schools, restaurant, food donation sites and general layout of the Central KL area.

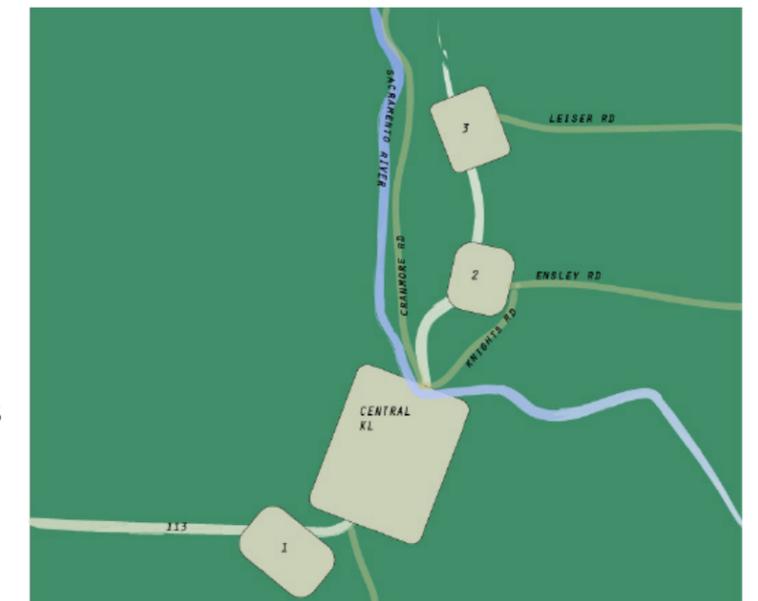


Figure 15 shows the smaller settlements in the KL outer radius where it is harder for people to get access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to access safe green spaces to play and relax in.

## Community Gardens: Tools or Sinking Ships ?

Community gardens were a suggestion from the Youth at Pueblo Unido in KL as a tool against food insecurity. Case studies, have shown that a community garden can be a useful tool to foster health, to build community and to reconnect to culturally relevant foods (Carney, 2011).

Moreover, they can be a hub for education and organizing. Nonetheless, community gardens are hard to manage and maintain, and require community investment and engagement to succeed and have a lasting positive impact. Often times, limitations in order to establish and maintain these spaces are due to the lack of time people have aside from their job to provide to this kind of effort.

My research honed into case studies of successful community gardens. I researched the models, webs of support for community gardens and community based food systems to ensure that these spaces remain by and for the community. Moreover, I delved into known methods of community engagement processes in the hopes that the community could take an active role in establishing the goals, physical & programmatic elements of the space.

## Case Studies

Impact of a Community Gardening Project on Vegetable Intake, Food Security and Family Relationships: A Community Based Participatory Research Study

Many authors: Main author is Patricia A. Carney, PhD. Professor at the OHSU Cancer Institute. Her areas of work are in public health and community medicine and educational psychology.

This project was held in a rural farmworker community called Columbia River George Latino Community, which also does not have set boundaries, like Knights Landing (Carney et al 2011). This research occurred in 2009 (Carney et al 2013). It studies the effects of the establishment of a community garden on vegetable intake, mental health, economic and family health benefits (Carney et al, 2011). Methods for this research were to take pre as well as and post gardening surveys (Carney et al, 2011). Sample size was 38 families that were surveyed and 42 families that became involved after the garden's inception (Carney et al, 2011). The total number of participants was 163 household members (Carney et al, 2014). Age range from 21-78 years (Carney et al, 2011).

### Results:

Frequency of adult vegetable intake of "several times of a day" increased from 18.2 to 84.8% (Carney et al, 2013). Frequency of adult vegetable intake of "several times a day" increased from 24 to 64% (Carney et al, 2013).

Before the gardening season, the sum of frequencies of “sometimes” and “frequently” worrying in the past month that food would run out before money was available to buy more was 31.2% and the sum of these frequencies dropped to 3.1 during the post garden period (Carney et al, 2013). Mental health benefits and economic and family health benefits from the gardening study primarily because the families often worked in their gardens together. (Carney et al, 2013).

“The conclusion was that a community garden program can reduce food insecurity, improve dietary intake of vegetables and strengthen family relationships” (Carney et al, 2013).

#### Relevance:

Knights Landing and Columbia River Gorge Latino Community share many similarities. Both are rural farmworker communities, where the Latino population is a significant contributor to maintaining and harvesting these orchards. Both communities mostly comprising of migrant farmworkers from Mexican origin or White, which are often the farm owners. Both have partnered with universities, which have resulted in health promotion programs called Knights Landing One Health Clinic and Nuestra Comunidad Sana (Carney et al 2013). The values that the Oregon community garden has were mostly related to health, nutrition, and food security and therefore the programmatic elements of the space and the research done there was focused on these topics. I hope this garden has as positive effects as the one described in this case study.

#### POLITICAL ECOLOGY, FOOD REGIMES AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, CIRSIS RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

By Tizey, Mark

“ the creation/development of a “politically” and “ecological” sustainable and resilient society for all implies the advancement and empowerment of the peasant family economy as a whole”.

‘Diversity underpins stability, and stability underpins resilience and sustainability’ pg 335

“embrace of radical, participatory democracy, and its advocacy of collective ownership of land, drawing on, while “reinventing’ communal traditions inspired by the preo-columbian, Andean “Allyu”

#### ANDEAN SOCIETY DESIGN CASE STUDY

- Mink’a or minka (Quechua or Kichwa, Hispanicized minca, minga) is a type of traditional communal work in the Andes in favor of the whole community (ayllu). Participants are traditionally paid in kind. Mink’a is still practiced in indigenous communities in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile, especially among the Quechua and the Aymara.

#### Relevance:

Tilzey focuses on the social/ economic design and suggests a re-design by learning about indigenous communities and their social design and how this in turn affects their relationships between themselves and the land.

“discourse of idealized Andean society socialist community or utopia- premised on narratives of how ancestors lived socially, economically and ecologically which has created an imagined cartography for re-spatializing agricultural production”

- “Workers take care of one another, with the understanding that one favor will be returned by another at some future time.”
- The minka “minga” or economic exchange among persons of differing social economic or ritual statuses at the time of the Incan empire

Relevance:

Tilzey depicts how reciprocity, or Ayllu in Kichwa is the value that underpins the culture and this is what drives everything forward.

Proposing :

- “As a revolution, not as reformism”: radical redistribution policies in general, and agrarian reform constitutes the most direct and effective route to poverty elimination. (defined as basic needs satisfaction and ecological sustainability) .pg 367

Relevance:

Tilzey suggests reclaiming land for community purposes, which was the intent of Pueblo Unido in some shape or form.

SACRED ECOLOGY

FIKRET BERKES

“ Involvement of the local people in the planning process improves the chances of success development” (Warenn et al 1995). Pg 49

“taking into account local world views” as important indicators of what is happening

Relevance:

Similar to Kaufman, Berkes suggests that it is important to involve local people in planning process because they not only are going to be using the space, but they know the most about the space and their “local view” is critical in the process.

“it has been more of interest to those involved in social development and community development and well being, rather than purely economic development”

Relevance:

This quote reflects how there is a school of thought that is focusing on drifting from assessing economic development as the characteristic that defines a community as thriving, evolved or as competent. This new definition defies the concept of productivity in terms of money and rather focuses on community building and health which is at the root of this project.

TOGETHER WE DESIGN: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS OFFER THEIR BEST TECHNIQUES FOR  
TRANSACTIVE FORM-MAKING 2015

KITCHEN TABLE WORK SESSION: Diane Allen Jones

The Kitchen Table Work Session is a participatory research and design strategy developed by the firm Design Jones, LL. The Kitchen Table Work Session provides a face-to face dialogue among friends and neighbors with a trained community facilitator/landscape architect in the most local of settings. The setting is kitchen table, a stoop, beauty salon or even a bar or restaurant (Jones et al, 2015).

Results:

The designer or residents may draw ideas on paper or a map in a kitchen table that is familiar to them.

Relevance:

This method of participation reminds me of the Grupo de Mujeres meetings that are often in the family resource center and involve food and a kitchen like table. I think that this type of meeting will be common throughout the course of my involvement in this project because it follows a format that people are already using.

PLACE, COMMUNITY VALUES & PLANNING

Kaufman 2002

This author touches on why it is important to conserve and really try to understand values that are established by and for the community for spaces designed by designers that come from the outside.

Relevance and quotes:

“..values of place are interwoven with feelings of reverence, belonging, and sense of place whereas academics often see place and place value onto it depending on the amenities, history and social aspects/structure” (Kaufman,2002).

Relevance:

When approaching a site although I can learn things about it I also have a preconceived notion or a biased lens of an academic. This blurs my vision. Opening up dialogue of site analysis to community members for them to identify what they see as opportunities and constraints of the site.

“Locals have knowledge from direct experience in a particular locality. Local residents often have an intimate knowledge of their community and its functions. Residents can pose valuable information about their environment.” (Kaufman, 2002)

Relevance:

I want to consider local knowledge as the most valuable asset rather than an afterthought to my polished design.

“Understanding spiritual and social dimensions of the place should be required before doing any work in any given community.” (Kaufman, 2002).

Relevance:

For this reason, I want to connect through the churches and through the family resource center. I believe I can't fully understand spiritual and social dimensions of a place. In the same vein learning from indigenous peoples that inhabit this area as well as the history of those whose spirit are interwoven in the land.

Community Based Participatory Research vs Dialogical Action - Dialogical Action: Moving From Community-Based to Community-Driven Participatory Research by Michael J Montoya and Erin, E Kent.

Community driven- versus community based. Community engagement one step further. Collaborating with residents and leaders of change to address the most significant pressing health needs. However, to fully create the conditions in which expertise is mutually constructed and no one is subject to the research is necessary. Letting community members self-define and articulate the goals that they want for their community and or specific project. Moreover, recognizing that communities are already organizing and have activists and agents of change and working with them towards their goals.

Format of dialogues:

“To initiate DA, the CKP team held informal yet structured dialogues, beginning with community outsiders and extending through local connections to community insiders, to provide members with that space. Each successive group consisted of invitees from the former, stemming from the premise that repeated iterations help to permeate the community as the participant pool grows.”

Relevance:

Bringing in people and their expertise for somewhat structured dialogue, then opening up the space so that community members can propose their own dialogue sessions/workshops regarding the garden space. “Each one teach one” is the motto.

“More than trust or collaboration (Kieffer et al., 2005), dialogical action deconstructs the campus-community dyad by insisting that neither researchers nor community members become the pure objects of research (DeGenova, 2005).”

### Central Server Model

Presented by the book: Political Ecology Critical Introduction by Paul Robbins

This model is an approach developed within the community land trust movement. It is a non-profit corporation that develops and stewards affordable housing, community gardens, civic buildings, commercial spaces and other community assets on behalf of a community. They ensure that affordability, economic diversity and access to essential services are maintained. (Robbins, pg 39)

“In recent years, CLT (Community land trusts) have taken a role of preserving and enabling the presence of community gardens and urban farms” (41, Good Food Healthy Communities)

Central servers indeed ‘serve’ satellite entities that can be: resource centers, churches, community gardens. And these satellites have governance or dictate how central servers should serve them best. (pg 41 good food healthy communities)

### Case Study: Southside CLT

Presented by the book: Good Food Strong Communities by Steve Ventura and Martin Bailkey

Southside Community Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1981 in Providence, Rhode Island. (Ventura)

### Case Study: NeighborSpace

Presented by the book: Good Food Strong Communities by Steve Ventura and Martin Bailkey

It is the only nonprofit urban land-trust in Chicago that “preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups.” (Ventura, 150) Through property ownership, insurance, water, stewardship, education, tool lending, project planning, fundraising support, troubleshooting and more- community groups can focus on generating food, beauty, playing and and building a safe, healthy vision for their community.

#### Community gardens Goals/Values:

Community gardens often have goals and purposes that go beyond production of food/ alternative sources of food (Ventura, 141)

“Food production may be a goal, but it is indeed seconded or secondary to some other goal such as neighborhood engagement, youth engagement, job training or space creation”- (Ventura, 141)

Goals are often social and include: Job training, after school programs. These types of programmatic spaces can involve the youth and can help build skills that can get them a job. For instance, customer service, product development (canning, soap making salves), farming, gardening, marketing, event planning, etc (Ventura, 142).

#### Case Studies: Community Groundworks

In Madison, Wisconsin

Organic farming internship that allowed interns to learn how to build raised beds, water catchment systems (Ventura ,143).

### Case Study: Miur Ranch, Pasadena

Interns learned marketing, accounting and flower arrangement while selling produce and flowers with Miur Ranch.

Relevance:

It is important to establish what the primary goals are and how this community/youth engagement can occur and to link to already existing projects and programs, such as the YEP (Youth Engagement Program) in the Family Resource Center. The aforementioned case studies serve as great examples of how these programs can contribute to skill building, community strengthening and youth engagement in general.

### Design

Surveying Process:

Alongside promotoras, Skye, we identified questions regarding possibilities for the space we had acquired for community use. We did not discard the possibility of them not wanting a garden, and had open ended suggestions.

I talked to people outside the church on Sundays, which is predominantly where most of the Latinx families attend. Moreover, I also did the same next to the street food vendor on Sundays (Fig 16). Many community members were very enthusiastic, told me about their concerns and hopes for their community and were willing to give me contact information in order to follow up about events that would occur. Others seemed to be busy and liked the idea but did not have time to discuss about it.

By going to the community spaces that were popular at a certain day and time of the week I was able to spark conversations with locals about their community. It reminded me of the “El Carrito” method, except without a model.

Conversations that spurred for instance allowed me to understand some of the issues with the current food system in KL. A woman holding her baby newborn granddaughter began discussing with me her discontent with the convenient stores. She mentioned how expensive baby formula is at the convenient stores- over 20\$ a can, and that the baby needs many of those a week. This reflects the raised prices of the convenient stores due to high demand.

I also collected more formal data through a survey. A random sample of 46 community members of various ages were surveyed during the summer of 2017. Places where people were surveyed were outside the Methodist church, Catholic Church, next to food vendors and at the family resource center during clinic days. Surveys were distributed mostly in Spanish, due to the fact that 65% of the population is Hispanic of Mexican descent.

Fig 16 depicts the places in which surveyes were distributed



Results

66% of people surveyed want to grow food in the space

70% of people surveyed want some sort of physical activity available

70% of people surveyed want some areas for gathering, with picnic tables.

64% want nutrition/cooking related events

57% of people surveyed would like for educational workshops to be part of the space

When asked: How beneficial a community garden can be to promote mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing from 1-5? 1 being not beneficial at all 5 being meaningful and significant. The mean was 4.7.

Other ideas that were suggested were: labyrinth, music, art, Zumba classes, short fence, grape arbor, art, music, gazebo, stage for bands and a walking path.

Grant Writing

Writing grants was a process during the fall, and we raised around 6,000 dollars. 1,000 of that went to the church for a contingency fund. The church members wanted to ensure that if we did a terrible job they could wipe it out with some money on hold. The contributors to grant writing were Skye and Jonathan (Fig 17).



Figure 17

# GARDEN ENVISIONING WORKSHOPS AND GARDEN WEEK ACTIVITIES

The series of workshops that will follow explain the process of community engagement for this project. They follow the Dialogical Action Format of engagement and consist of structured dialogues that begin with community outsiders and evolve to become local and established by community themselves.

## Workshop # 1 Garden Walkthrough

For this workshop, my co-facilitator and designer for the workshop was my peer Khawla Mohammed. Alberto was also present to document the event (Fig 17,18). Khawla and Alberto were both enrolled in a class in the Chicana studies department called CBPR (Community based participatory research, taught by Natalia Deeb Sossa. This class allowed us to form an inter-disciplinary team of people to work on this project. Alberto studies Communications, Khawla studies Environmental Design and I study Landscape Architecture.

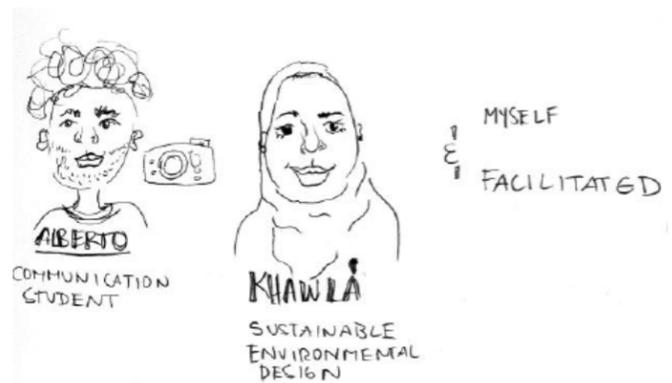


Figure 18

For this event I made a flyer and invited the promotoras and their families. I wanted to test out this kind of workshop with them so they could give me feedback, and then to invite more people to the next events based on their insight. The flyer promoted three separate events that would occur in the same Month that had the purpose of envisioning the community garden alongside who ever wanted to attend.

For this event a series of activities were designed in which we could explore the given space for the community garden and have a collective Site Analysis. We set the posters up outside, in a blank wall in front of ManaHouse (Fig 19). Mana House food donations are funded by a thrift store that Grace Kim (partner of Pastor Kim) and other community members operate. Fig 20) Mana house is located at an adjacent house next to the church. They have food donations, feminine hygiene products.



Fig 19 Workshop Attendes. Promotoras and their families.



Fig 20 Grace, and Kim Yung (Respectively)

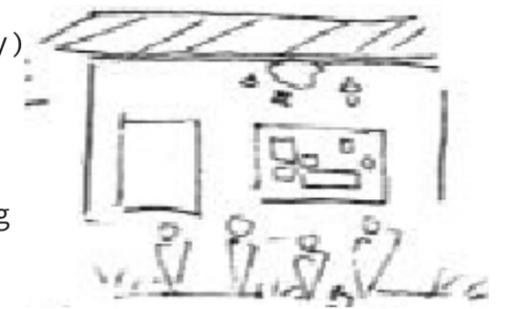


Fig 21 Setting up posters under wasps nest

We set up plan view of the space on a poster, pasted on a wall outside of Mana house. This was in order to provide an understanding of what the boundaries of the space were. Moreover, we set up a blank sheet of parchment paper in order to capture people's ideas. We created an inspiration board with community gardens pictures and a list of their values and goals/ mission statements to inspire this project and the unique values and goals specific to this community.

To begin the meeting I began by debriefing the survey results from the summer time. We then handed out post it-notes and walked around with attendees of the workshop and noted opportunities and challenges that were visible from the space. We noted that social or "invisible" qualities can also be noted. Several physical and social opportunities and constraints were noted and design elements arose as well (Fig 23, 24).

### Results

#### Concerns/ Challenges:

White space (Methodist church is comprised mostly of white landowners that attend this church, they mostly are the most affluent and therefore this creates an elitist feel to the Methodist church). Chickens roaming around (could eat the vegetables) and they belong to the neighbors. Brokn fence that causes the chickens to be able to cross the fence and roam around. Concerns about shared ownership

#### Opportunities

Lots get a lot of sun and they are good to grow vegetables in. The space is empty and it is a blank canvas for community usage. There is an already existing food donation at Mana House.

#### Opportunities:

Gazeb could be placed as a shade structure in one of the middle lots. Chicken coop, mobile chicken coop could perhaps be put in place for the roaming chickens. We then handed out the inspiration boards.

Fig 22

Khawla (Writing on parchment paper), promotoras and myself facilitating

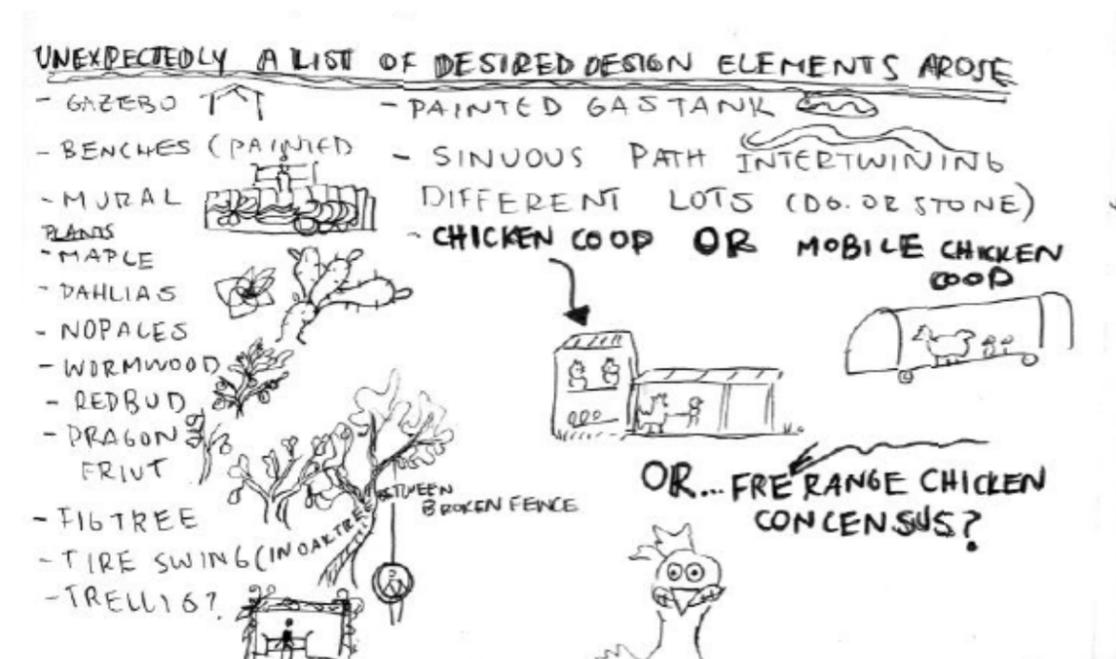
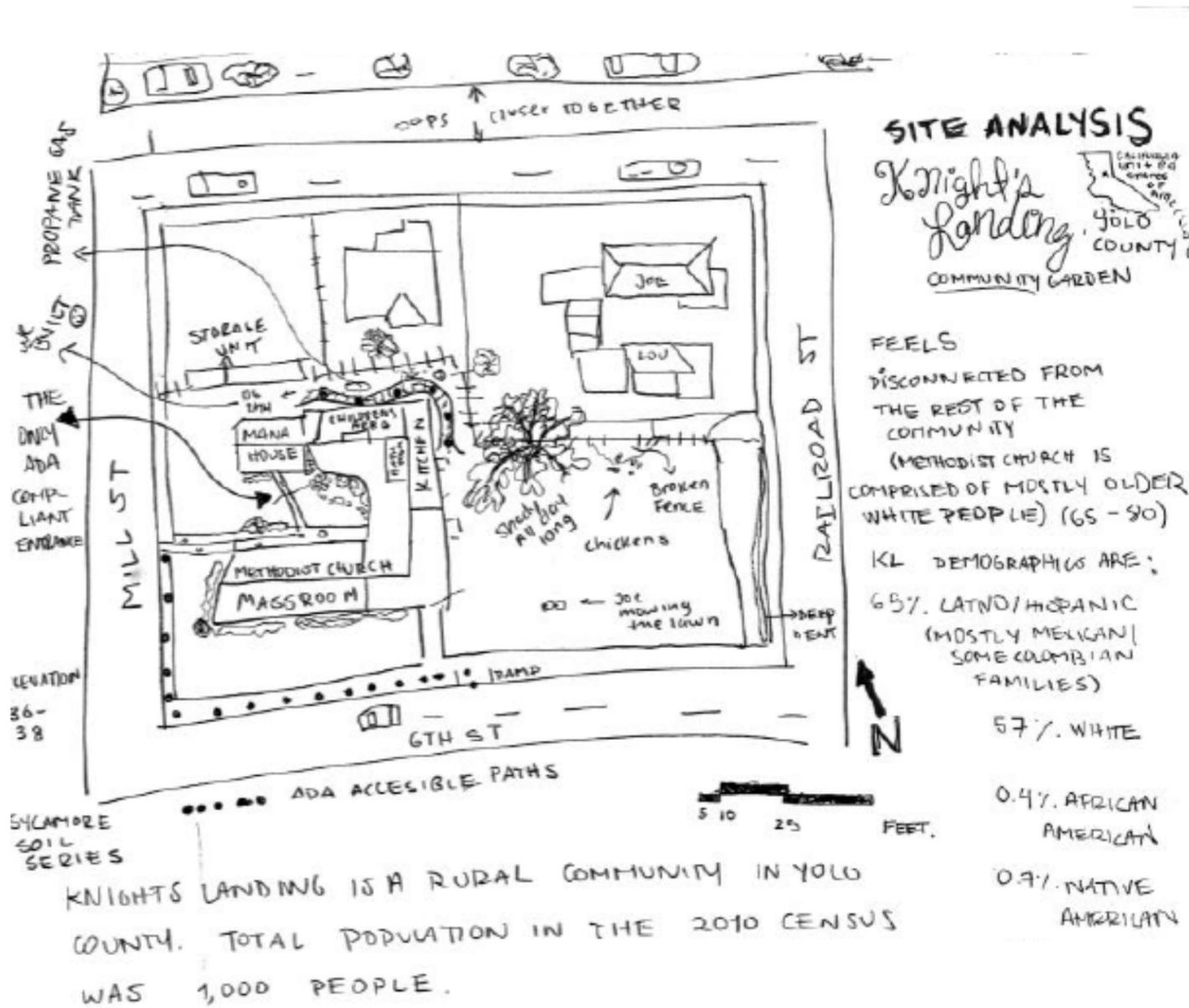


Figure 23

Moreover, one of the promotoras son took a marker and drew out an idea of a sinuous path and a gazebo in one of the posters. This informed how the next workshop should elaborate more on a drawing/ design activity.

Site Analysis  
(Fig 24)



**SITE ANALYSIS**  
 Knight's Landing  
 YOLO COUNTY  
 COMMUNITY GARDEN

FEELS  
 DISCONNECTED FROM  
 THE REST OF THE  
 COMMUNITY  
 (METHODIST CHURCH IS  
 COMPRISED OF MOSTLY OLDER  
 WHITE PEOPLE) (65-80)  
 KL DEMOGRAPHICS ARE:  
 65% LATINO/HISPANIC  
 (MOSTLY MEXICAN/  
 SOME COLOMBIAN  
 FAMILIES)  
 57% WHITE  
 0.4% AFRICAN  
 AMERICAN  
 0.9% NATIVE  
 AMERICAN

WORKSHOP # 2: Co-design

Facilitators: Jorge (Fig 25), Myself and Jonathan

Attendees: neighbors, promotoras Fig (26)

Figure 25, Jorge



Figure 26 promotoras

The goal for this workshop was to talk about participatory design process. In part it was because I felt like I was introduced as “the designer” but I wanted everyone to know that they are designers and can have as big of a role as they would like.

Jorge Espinosa is an eco-social designer. He facilitated a conversation about the participatory ecological design process that he and his classmates carried out in Zamorano University. He discussed the process and pictures of the end product of what this community spaces looks like. This communicated intent to community members as to our role and how active their role could be in this design process.

The style that this workshop follows mirrors the method suggested by Diane-Allen Jones as the “kitchen table method”. The kitchen tables of the church area served as the stage for creativity. We handed out plan views of the space some people drew paths of travel and elements of design (Fig 27). In order for them to feel inspired and to remember design elements we had mentioned, I added a section in which I reminded people of the suggested elements in a corner of the map.

Figure 24 is a Site Analysis, based off of the initial observations made by the community and by others made by myself. The demographics noted in the drawing are from the 2010 Census. Soil type is Sycamore series, elevation 36-38 so minor changes in topography.

Another station was set up with a poster written with a summary of the aforementioned values/goals of the space that were mentioned as well as the programmatic, physical ideas for elements gathered in the past workshop. We asked for people to vocalize if they disagreed with any of the noted values or elements that were written, and we elaborated and discussed more on the details. For instance, people had noted walking paths, and then had specific sinuous walking paths. Then, we discussed between concrete and DG and community members decided that DG was impermanent and easier to install and therefore, a better choice.

Results

Goals and values :

- Substance/alcohol free
- Diversity
- Youth involvement
- Educational workshops for youth and all ages
- Culture, art
- Donating produce to Mana house or having plot owners take produce home
- Physical activity (Zumba, walking path)
- Health
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Organic (no herbicides)



Figure 27  
Pastor and Grace Kim drawing out desired path lines

Concerns:

Gofers, small rodent that burrow in the ground and create holes that are considered safety hazards. They are pretty common in the area and have taken over the soccer field next to Sci-Tech elementary- the only recreation field in Knights Landing. Another consideration is the compact soil. Some church members expressed their concern of how hard it was for them to dig in order to plant some of the trees present. Similarly, they felt concerned about the sturdiness of the invasive grass tthat they called "crab grass" that grows in the site (Fig 28).

Moreover, the fence and the importance of replacing it due to the roaming chickens was discussed. Community members engaged in dialogue about management, lot spacing, costs for lots. (Fig 29)

Figure 28

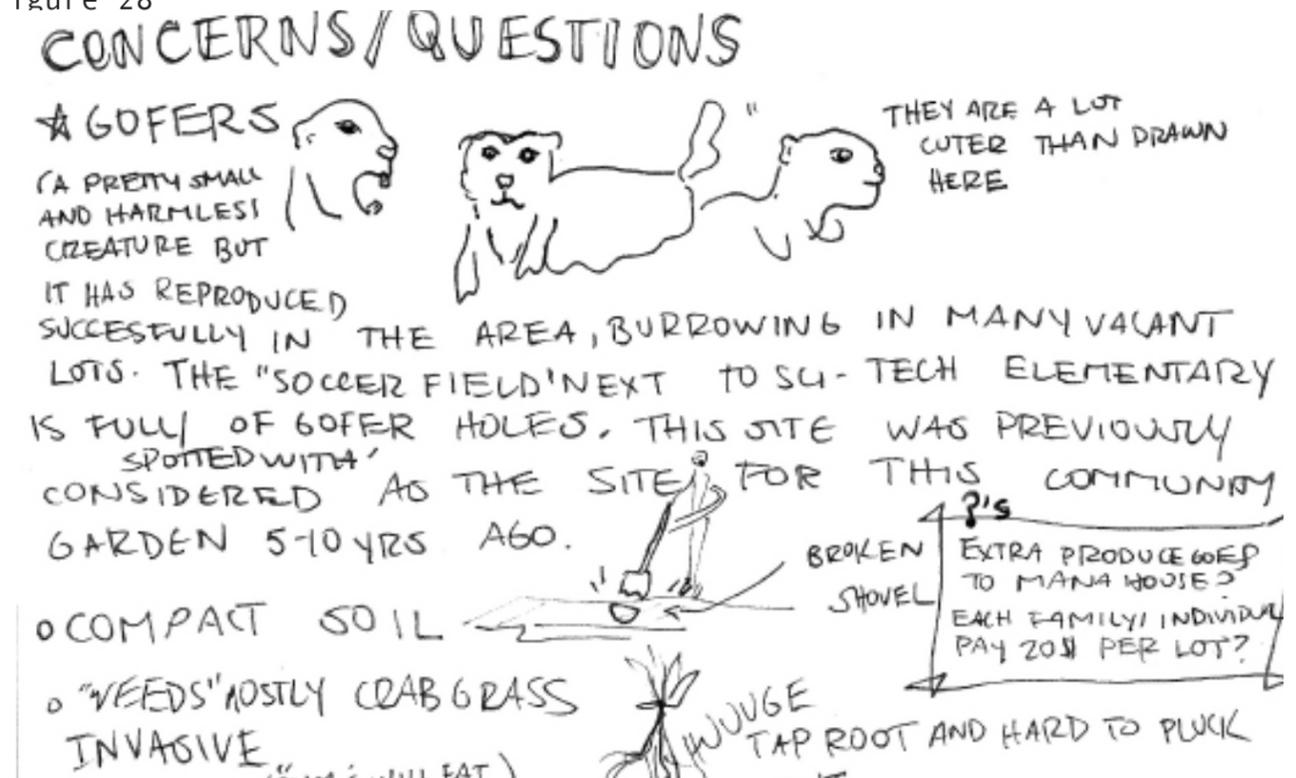


Figure 29 depicts notes that describe the management suggestion of this garden board that was discussed during this workshop

SUGGESTIONS 

THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT GAVE SUGGESTIONS TO CONCERNS THAT COULD BE DESIGN SOLUTIONS.

MOREOVER, THEY BROUGHT UP IDEAS ON THE SOCIAL DESIGN/MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THESE SPACES.

THE SUGGESTED STRUCTURE WAS TO HAVE A "GARDEN BOARD/COMITEE WHERE PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS AND SHAPE THEIR VISION OF THIS GARDEN."

1 MEMBER OR MORE FROM FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER/CLINIC	1 MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD	1 MEMBER OR MORE THAT REPRESENTS USERS OF LOTS (COMMUNITY MEMBERS)	1 MEMBER OR MORE FROM CHURCH BOARD.
---	--------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

20-10\$ SLIDING SCALE FOR LOT. SIZE TBD. ←

COMMUNITY MEMBERS VOICED THEIR INTEREST IN THE SPACE BEING SUBSTANCE FREE? SINCE DRINKING + SUBSTANCE ABUSE IS PREVALENT IN THIS COMMUNITY (METH)

ORGANIC. NO PESTICIDES. CONSENSUS.  NO ROUNDUP PERIOD.

### Workshop # 3

Recognizing, learning about the indigenous plants and people of the area/ site.



For this workshop we invited Diana Almendariz (30). She is a cultural practitioner, artist, language teacher, and landscape restoration expert of Maidu, Hupa, Yurok, Wintun descent. Knights landing is part of her homeland, she has relatives that said that this was where they used to inhabit. She brought baskets she had made, shells, native plants. She talked about how the choice of plants can contribute to the larger web of life in the area by catering to the needs of pollinators and native birds. Moreover, she talked about colonization and how it had affected her ancestors and continues to be prevalent today.

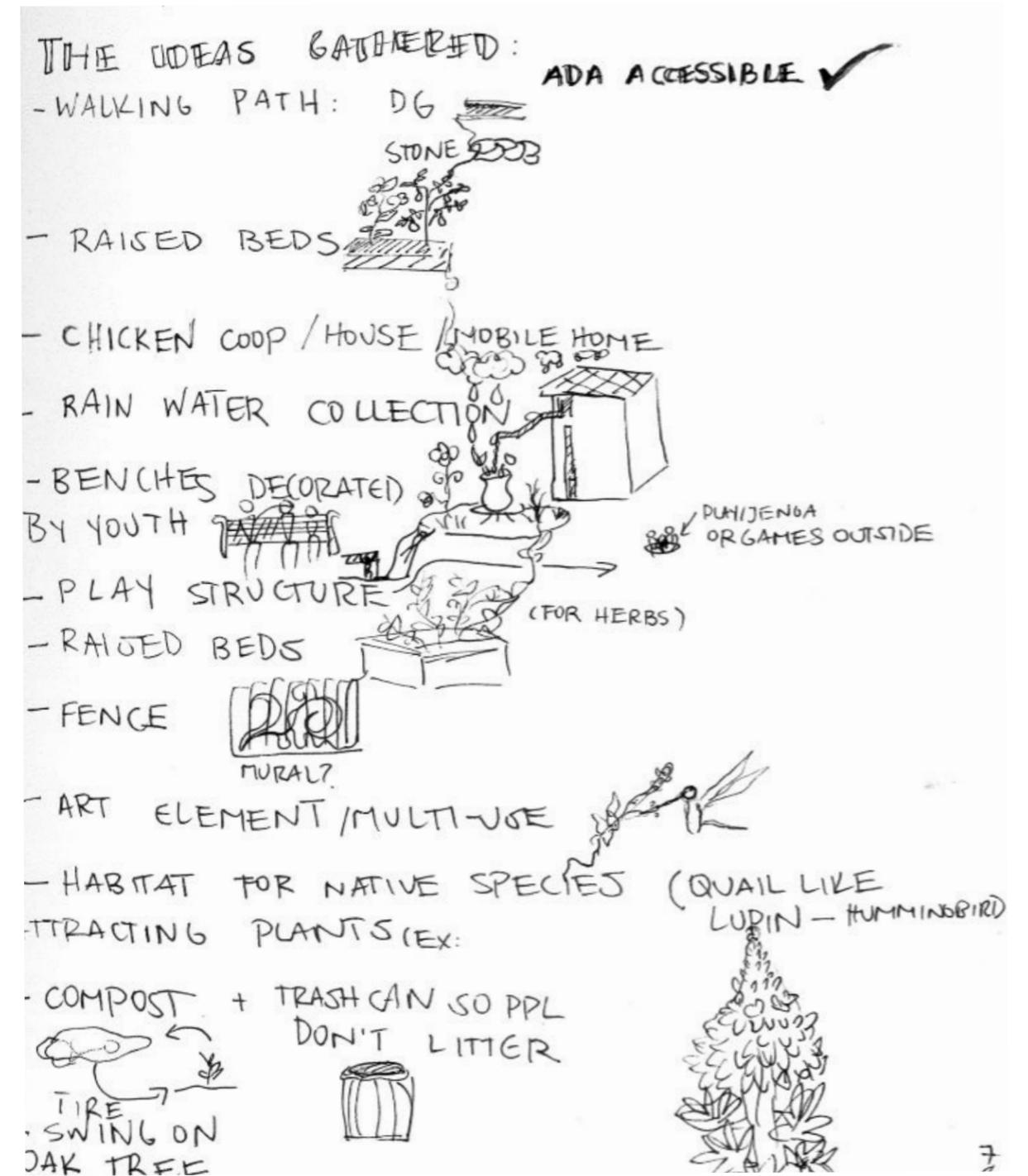
During this meeting we began discussing ways in which the planting palette can contribute to goals for the physical elements of the space. We established certain plants to add to our plant palette that would serve the purpose of preventing gofer infestations, as well as catering to quails, hummingbirds and pollinators. For instance, we identified Mugwort, rush and prickly pear to be a good combination that could serve as a vegetative fence. This is because community members felt like an actual fence would make it seem like a less welcoming space.

During this meeting we began discussing ways in which the planting palette can contribute to goals for the physical elements of the space. For instance, we identified Mugwort, rush and prickly pear to be a good combination that could serve as a vegetative fence. This is because community members felt like an actual fence would make it seem like a less welcoming space. The conversation also led to establishing more specific design elements such as raised beds, rain water collection, benches decorated by the youth, a mural in the fence, compost, and a trash can (Fig 31).

Figure 30: Attendees of the Workshop



Fig 31 Depicts more specific design elements that were discussed



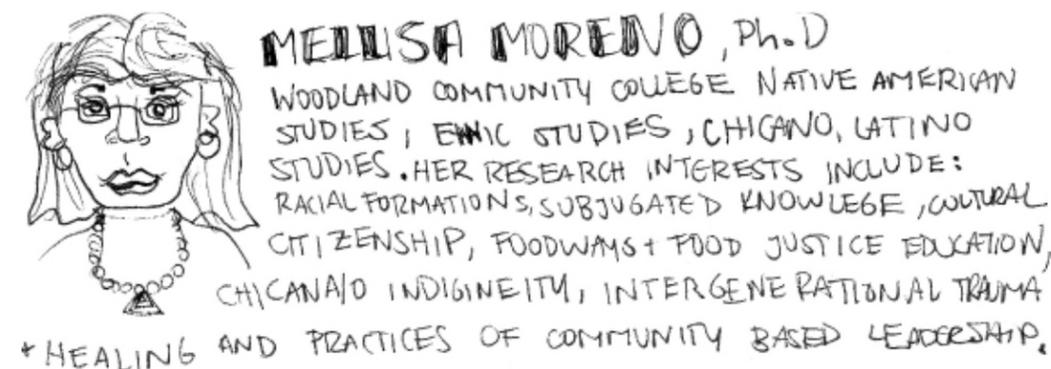
## Garden Week Activities

During the first week of April, there was a collective effort to build a path and plant ornamental and vegetable plants in the small lot next to Mana house, with its respective irrigation. The plants were donated and the seeds as well, by Mellisa Moreno, ethnic studies professor of Woodland Community College (Fig 32). Moreover, there was a scheduled series of activities hosted by myself, promotoras, and community members Jeff and Juan (Fig 34). The intent for these activities to cater to the youth of KL since they were in their spring break vacation.

This week was made possible by all of the helpers who were there to help us build and carry out the series of workshops (Fig 34). Juan and Jeff designed the path and I gave my input and physical labor. We installed a DG path based on people's suggestions and made it sinuous (Fig 35). During the construction of this path we found what resembles an arrowhead (Fig 36). I was reminded of the indigenous communal approach of labor that resembles the Quechua concept of:

La Minga

Figure 32



In Quechua or Kichwa tradition it is to work communally in favor of the whole community. Participants are traditionally payed in kind. This follows the core concept of reciprocity or Ayni, in Quechua that recognizes that everything in this world is connected (Tizey, 2018). Therefore, you do unto others what you want done unto you. Mink'a is still practiced in indigenous communities in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and in Chile.

During this week there were many positive exchanges. A memorable instance, is that a community member that is still regaining strength from a stroke mentioned to me that being outside and working in the space has helped him regain some of his motor skills. He also said that this kind of thing is helping them "stay out of trouble". Moreover, neighbors came over to help out and to collaborate on this project (Fig 33).

Fig 33

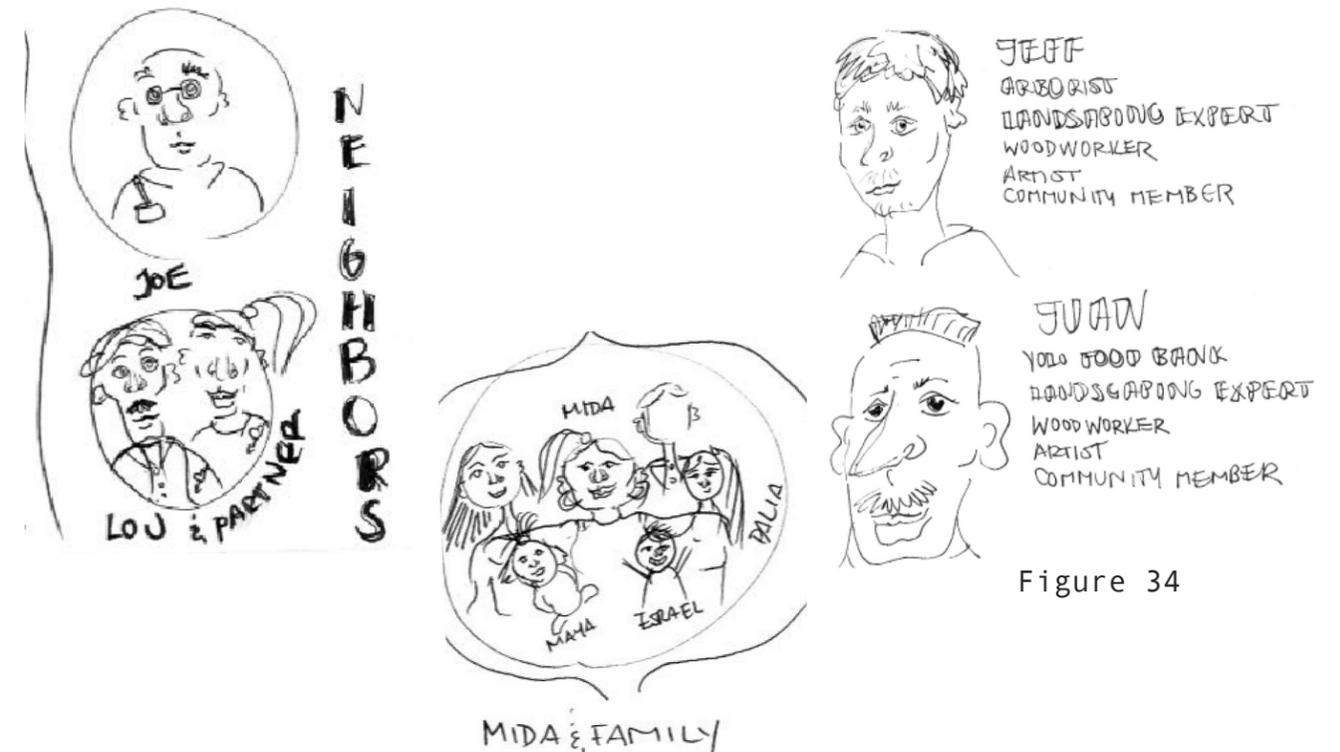


Figure 34

Figure 34

### Art Workshop



### Path Building

Figure 35



Clinic members, UC Davis Students



Figure 36 Found burried in the soil

### Planting: Workshops

Blue corn, Tomatoes, fennel, Ginkgo Tree



April 7th 2018



June 1st 2018

### PLANTING PALETTE

The following list of plants has been selected for this space (Fig 37). Not included are some that are already in the ground, such as the Japanese Maple, (*Acer Palmatum*). Possible sourcing sites for plants: TGG (Tending and Gathering Garden at Cache Creek Nature Conservancy), Domes Cooperative, N st Cooperative, RG (Resident Garden at UC Davis, Student Farm. I will provide contact information in order to exchange seeds as well as contacts for people that can help with propagation. This list of plants is meant to fulfill the goal of health promotion. Paired with signage and activities with the Youth Engagement Program it can fulfill the goal of education through lesson plans and activities with these plants. People can add their own knowledge of their experiences with these plants.

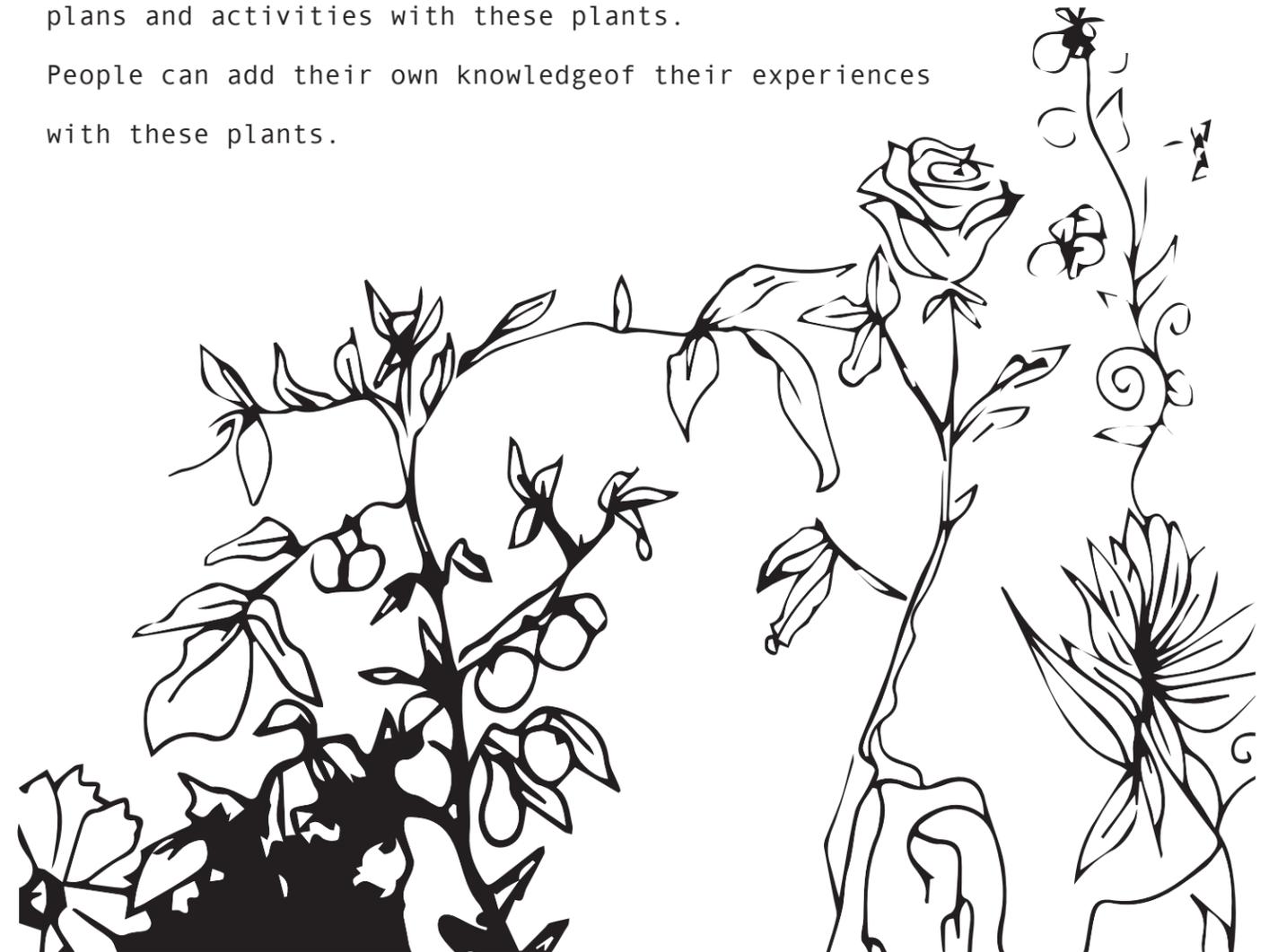


Figure 37

**FRUIT TREE**



**FICUS CARICA**

**FIG**

Sourcing: Domes



From the Moraceae family. The white sap is used to treat wounds and bruises from Asia, Madagascar to South America. The fruit can be ingested to prevent and treat bronchitis, asthma and indigestion.

**CITRUS LIMON**

**LEMON**



From the Rutaceae family. Native to Asia. You can tell they are from this family because if you bring a leaf towards the sun it has lighter freckles. They have a lot of Vitamin C which can prevent colds.

**CITRUS AURANTIFOLIA**

**LIME**



Limes are a common ingredient in Mexican, Vietnamese and Thai cuisine. Limes help lower blood pressure by helping relieve inflammation of the blood vessels.

**ERITROBAYA JAPONICA**

**LOQUAT**

Sourcing: Jose Pimentel



Its flavor is like a peach mango hybrid. Native to China/Japan. It is a great source of potassium which is necessary for the heart, kidneys and other organs to work normally.

**PRUNUS DOMESTICA**

**PLUMS**

DONATED SEEDS



Plums contain dietary fiber, sorbitol, and isatin which help regulate the digestive system functioning. They can also help relieve constipation.

**SAMBUCUS NIGRA**

**ELDERBERRY**

Sourcing: TGG



Native to California. Its antioxidants lowers cholesterol, improves vision, boosts immune system, improves heart health for coughs, colds, flu, bacterial and viral infections and tonsillitis.

**MORUS MACROCARPA**

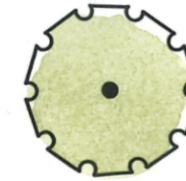
**LONG MULLBERRY**

Sourcing: Domes



Mulberries are packed with iron, vitamin C, vitamin K, potassium, phosphorus and calcium. This variety is from Asia such as the Himalayas.

**CACTUS/AGAVE**



**OPUNTIA FICUS INDICA**

**PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS**

Sourcing: Domes



Also called nopales. They are a staple of Mexican Cuisine. The fruit, also called tuna is edible as well. The leaves and fruits are rich in Vitamin A. Nopales juice is known to have anti-inflammatory properties.

**ECHINOPSIS PACHANOI**

**SAN PEDRO**

Sourcing: Tri-coops



Sun & drought tolerant

Native to the Andes. Used during ceremonies as medicine. Catholicism baptized it as "San Pedro Cactus"- Saint Peter was believed to hold the key to heaven. This cactus is used widely as an ornamental plant.

**ALOE VERA**

**ALOE**

Sourcing: N st



Sun & drought tolerant

Native to Southern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula but naturalized world wide. It is known to treat burns and itching, it is an anti-bacterial plant. Can be used to smoothen skin, wash hair, treat skin ailments, wounds. It can also be ingested to heal the stomach in small quantities.

**ALOE YUCCA**

**YUCCA**



Sun & drought tolerant

Native to Mexico, the United States and the New Mexico region. The root of the non-flowering plant is used as medicine. Yucca is used for migranes, inflammation of the intestines, stomach disorders, liver disorders.

**AGAVE AMERICANA**

**AGAVE**

Sourcing: Domes



Sun & drought tolerant

Indigenous populations of Mexico used/ use the agave to make pens, nails, and needles, as well as string to sew and make weavings.

**PERENNIAL SHRUBS**



**ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS**



Shade/sun

Native to the Mediterranean. Smell boosts memory.

**ROSEMARY**

**OREGANO OFFICINALIS**



Shade/sun

Native to Western Europe. Tea helps with cramp pain

**OREGANO**  
Sourcing: TGG

**APOCYNUM CANNABINUM:**



Full sun

Native to California. Fiber from stem used to make nets, clothing, anything.

**INDIAN HEMP**

**LAVANDULA ANGUSTIFOLIA**



Shade/Sun

Native to Western Europe. Oils/tea used to alleviate anxiety.

**LAVENDER**

**ALOYSIA CITRADORA**



Full sun

Native to Chile. Tea settles the stomach and nerves.

**LEMON VERBENA**

Sourcing: RG

**GERANIUM PELARGONIUM**



Shade/sun

Native to South Africa. Some species in America. Its oils and tea is used to balance hormones and for aromatherapy.

**GERANIUM**  
Sourcing: N st

**ARTEMISIA VULGARIS**



Full Sun

Native to California. Deters pests and bad spirits. Pungent smell.

**MUGWORTS**

Sourcing: TGG

**HIBISCUS SYRIACUS**



Full Sun

Native to Korea/China/Angola. Used in tea, tasty sour. Calms hot flashes.

**HIBISCUS**

Planted

**SALVIA APIANA**



Full Sun

Native to the Pacific Coast. Seeds used for baking, roots for tea, leaves for purification,

**WHITE SAGE**

Sourcing: TGG

**ROSA CALIFORNICA**



Full Sun

Rose hip is eaten or consumed in tea due to high vitamin content.

**CALIFORNIA ROSE**

**RUTA GAVEOLANS**



Shade/sun

Native to the Balkan peninsula. Has been used to treat neuro-muscular issues and promotes menstruation.

**RUDA**

Sourcing: N st

**GROUNDCOVER/HERB/FLOWERING PLANT**



**CHLOROGALUM POMERIDIANUM**



Sun/Shade

Native to Nor-California. Used by Patwin/Maidu as soap and stuns fish in rivers.

**SOAPROOT**

Sourcing: TGG

**MATRACARIA CHAMOMILLA**



Full sun

Herb Native to Europe. Used as a calming agent for skin and eye ailments.

**CHAMOMILE**

DONATED

**ECHINACEA PURPUREA**



Full sun

Native to Eastern Europe. Used to boost immune system.

**ECHINACEA**

Sourcing: RG

**CALENDULA OFFICINALIS**



Sun to Partial Shade

This plant is native to Asia. Used to heal wounds and soothe skin. Edible petals.

**CALENDULA**

Sourcing: Student Farm

**ARNICA MONTANA**



Sun to Partial Shade

Native to Europe. It is used as a pain reliever.

**ARNICA**

Sourcing: Donated

**NICOTIANA TABACUM**



Sun to Partial Shade

North American tribes carried tobacco. Smoke carried prayers to the creator. Used ceremonially and socially

**TABBACO**

DONATED

**DAHLIAS**



Full Sun

Native to Mexico. Its tubers/root were used as food.

PLANTED

**NARCISSUS**



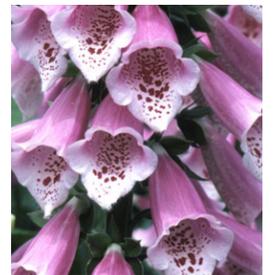
Partial Shade

Native to Southern Europe, Africa. Delicious smell.

**DAFFODIL**

DONATED

**DIGITALIS PURPUREA**



Partial Shade

Native to Africa, Asia and Europe. It was used to bring people from cardiac arrest

**FOXGLOVE**

Sourcing: Student Farm

**MENTHA SPICATA**



Shade or Sun

Native to Africa, Europe, Asia. Smells fresh. Used for cosmetics or to deter pests.

**MINT**

Sourcing: RG

**VINE/CLIMBER**



**ACTINIDIA ARGUTA**

**KIWI-FRUIT**

Sourcing:  
Student Farm



**VITIS VINIFERA**

**GRAPES**

Sourcing:  
Student Farm



Native to the Mediterranean, central Europe. Humans have been cultivating grapes and farming them since the beginning of written history (Mesopotamia). Raisins can be used to unclog constipation.

Native to China. Raw kiwi-fruit contains actinidain which is useful as a meat tenderizer and can aid in digestion.

**NATIVE TREES**



**CERCIS OCCIDENTALIS**

**WESTERN REDBUD**

Sourcing:  
TGG



**SAMBUCUS NIGRA**

**ELDER-BERRY**

Sourcing:  
Student Farm



Native to California. Its anti-oxidants lowers cholesterol, improves vision, boosts immune system, improves heart health for coughs, colds, flu and bacterial infections.

Native to North America. It has very beautiful flowers and leaves. It's buds can be used to extract colour and use it for dye.

**POLLINATOR FRIENDLY/EDIBLE ORNAMENTAL**



**LUPINUS**

**LUPIN**

Sourcing:  
TGG



Sun to Partial Shade

Produces bitter beans that Quails like to eat.

**BORAGO OFFICINALIS**

**BORAGE**

Sourcing:  
RG



Sun/ Partial shade

Attracts bees. Edible flowers. The leaves are known to treat wounds and help cramps in tea.

**SYMPHYTUM OFFICINALIS**

**COMFREY**

Sourcing:  
Student Farm



Shade/sun

Uses are in the name: Greek symphis, promoting growth of bones. Comfrey Tea is a great fertilizer for garden beds, promotes new life.

**FOENICULUM VULGARE**

**FENNEL**



Full sun/ partial shade

Fennel attracts bees, Swallow-tail butterflies.

**NEMOPHILA MEZINESI**

**HUMMINGBIRD SAGE**

Sourcing:  
Hedgerow Farms

**ISOMERIS ARBOREA**

**BLADDERPOD**

Sourcing:  
Hedgerow Farms



Sun to Partial Shade

Native to California. Attracts humming-birds, drought tolerant.

**SALVIA LEUCANTHA MEXICANA SAGE:**

Sourcing:  
RG



Full sun/Partial Shade

Attracts Costa Humming-birds.

**ESCHOLZIA CALIFORNIA**

**CALIFORNIA POPPY**  
Sourcing:  
RG



Full sun

Attract common pollinators. Sap can treat wounds.

**ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM**

**YARROW**

Sourcing:  
RG



Full sun

Cal native. Yarrow is a useful companion plant. It attracts lady-birds and hoverflies. Helps headaches with tea.

**CYNARA CARDUNCULUS**

**ARTICHOKE**

Sourcing:  
RG



Full sun

The total antioxidant capacity of artichoke flower heads is one of the highest reported for vegetables.

### About the plant list:

The list of plants is under a broad/generalized category. The plan that is suggested has specific the plants in these categories. Any of the plants can be used interchangeably taking into account their needs for sun exposure which have also been explained in the list. There are however some plants that have a specific function and they have been described below:

### Vegetative Fence

During the workshop with Diana Almendariz, we established that Rush, prickly pear and Mugwort could be a good vegetative fence. Rush has strong roots that gophers can't burrow through. Moreover, Mugwort has a pungent presence that deters burrowing species. According to Diana, Mugwort and Rush are native plants to Yolo County. Prickly pears are used very often in Mexican and Mesoamerican cuisine and their prickly nature make them a great fence to keep creatures away. In the same way, I have identified Yucca as an adequate fence plant since it is also prickly, and it blooms in the winter and therefore adds a splash of pink and orange in those gloomy days.

### Shade Plants for under trees:

Underneath any tree, comfrey is a great companion. Moreover, Callendula, Geranium, Soap Root work very well also.

### Plan:

The following plan comprises the ideas in the engagement portion of this project (Fig 38). The design that follows illustrates a plant selection for the community spaces. The lots suggested for the design are 12x12 feet although this particular aspect of the design needs to still be discussed by users of the space.

Community areas in front of the lots showcase a gazebo which was suggested by one of the promotora's son during one of the workshops. This is in order to provide shade.

In the area in front of the lots, where the native trees have been specified is where I suggest a play area to be, with play elements that could include musical instruments. The following drawings and plan illustrate these ideas further. (Fig 39)

Figure 38



Existing



Fruit Tree



Cactus/Agave



Perennial shrub



Groundcover/Herb/Flowering Plant



Climber



Pollinator friendly/  
edible ornamental



Native tree

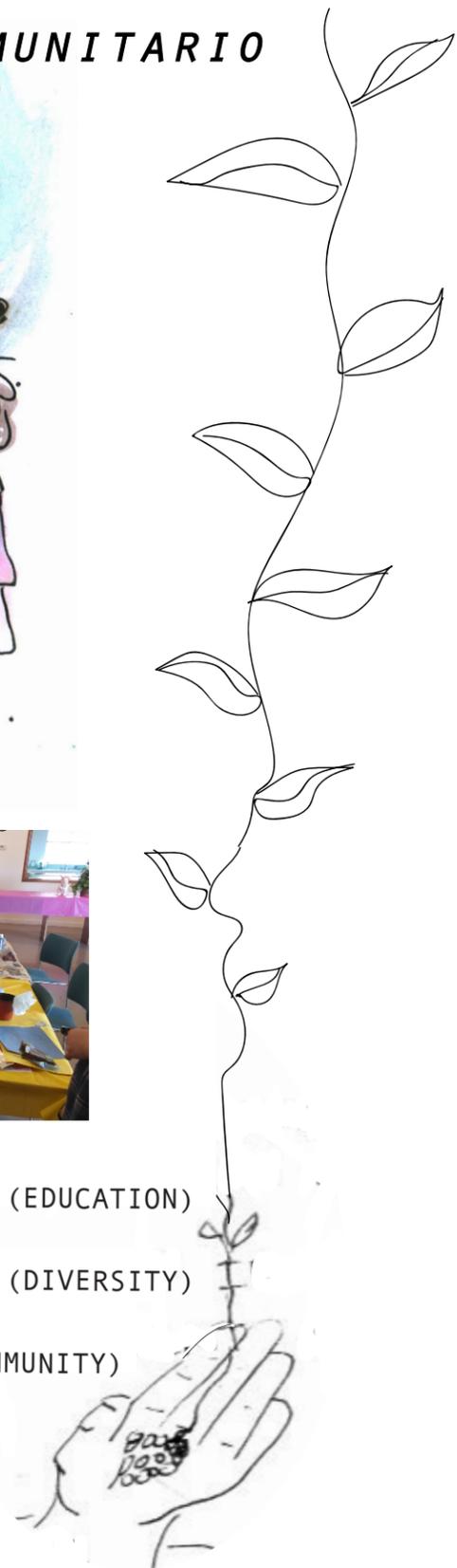


**KNIGHTS LANDING JARDIN COMUNITARIO**  
(Community Garden)



**VALORES**

- EDUCACION (EDUCATION)
- DIVERSIDAD (DIVERSITY)
- COMUNIDAD (COMMUNITY)
- SALUD (HEALTH)



**MUSICA, ARTE, EXPRESION**  
(MUSIC, ART, EXPRESSION)

Juan expressed interest in holding a workshop in which he can teach people how to make drums

These drums can be incorporated in the space and be removed during the rains.

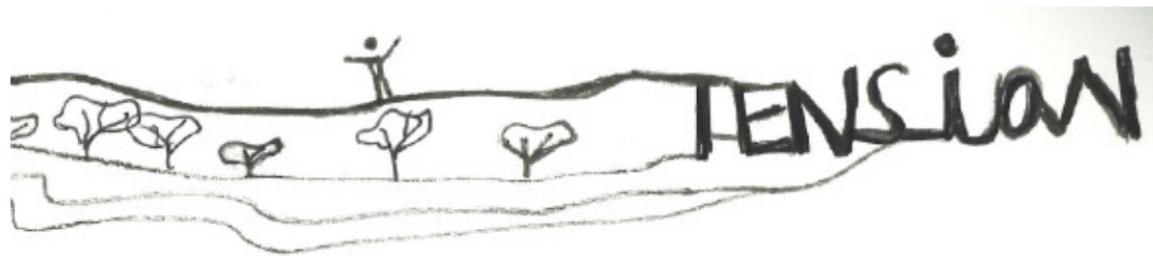
The intention would be to have Aztec dances in the space and to have drum circles so people can find their rhythm.



There could also be xylophones made out of scrap metal and wood. It could be fixed onto a wall, a fence in order to have a play music element that can be used by adults and children alike.

## Tension

One of the biggest lessons learned from this project was that tension is inevitable in scenarios where you have groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic background. At first I was hesitant to putting people in the same room because I didn't want to make anyone uncomfortable. However, it was important for all of the stakeholders to meet and for them to have conversations about the space that involves all of them.



During the meeting with Diana Almendariz, one of the farm operators and land owners was present and shared the same room as Juanita Ontiveros, farm-workers rights activist as well as Diana Almendariz. This meeting had conversations about colonialism and racism. Some sort of tension was bound to happen. It was however a triumphant encounter since the man, who was a white landowner and is used to leading meetings in every space he is in, had to sit down and listen .



He stood up in the middle of her presentation and took someone aside to ask them what the meeting was about and questioned the relevance of Diana's presence and words. However, when he came back into the room he noticed other younger members of the Anglo-affluent community were listening and asked questions and seemed to be quite engaged. This I believe was why the tension did not escalate, because he found himself to be the only person fighting the current structure and the basis of the meeting. Hopefully the more flux of ideas, cultures and people can reverse the stagnation that is present in spaces that are dominated by the affluent-anglo community.

## Lessons Learned

I learned that reciprocity is the basis onto which everything relies on. It is important to not just establish a relationship with clients, but a relationship of trust. Facilitating spaces and conversations in which people feel comfortable sharing their ideas is difficult. For this reason, different types of activities are important. Moreover, going outside to the site to do collaborative Site Analysis is important because being in the space allows people to envision what they want more so than merely looking at a picture. I also learned that it is crucial to take things by ear and to listen to what the dialogue is in the community, while also paying attention to the tone/ vibes. This also informs design and a general analysis of the situations in place although they are not physical or tangible evidence.

It is important to include community members in every stage of the process in order for the space to not only take shape, but succeed in its prevalence.

It was difficult to work in a community that is not my own and to navigate it. It took me a while to understand where my effort fit in the larger spectrum and timeline of this project (Fig 40)

In the same way, having a model such as the promotoras allowed for us to understand the perspective of community members in a deeper way as the project evolved. However, as researchers and academics it is crucial to understand that every system and place is unique at different scales and therefore, a cookie cutter model or method cannot be employed. It needs to be employed according to the needs and observations of community members themselves. I employed the Dialogical Action approach because I realized it resembles what was already happening in the project, not because I came in with the intention of doing it in that way.

Rural communities have unique strengths and challenges. Often times, they are excluded in form-making and systemic decision making that affects their livelihood. Academics and learning institutions can have positive relationships with communities. This can be done by listening, assisting with material, mental, physical labor as well as engaging in conversations about their vision for the physical and social structure it is possible to organize and collaborate so that their aspirations can begin to dictate the form of their communities.

## Timeline:

The following timeline describes the process for this project. Hopefully with time this project evolves to fit the needs and goals established in the future (Fig 40).

AMG LDA184 2018

**KNIGHTS LANDING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT**

**KNIGHTS LANDING COMMUNITY GARDEN**



YOLO COUNTY, CA, U.S.A



YOLO COUNTY, CA JANUARY 2017

**FRAGMENTATION, ISOLATION**



FOOD INSECURITY+ LACK OF TRANSPORTATION

**CENTRAL KL**



**2012:** KNIGHTS LANDING ONE HEALTH CENTER OPENS

**2014:** ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH BEGINS

- TRANSPORTATION, AMENITIES & SERVICES KNIGHTS LANDING
- SCI-TECH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- HEALTHY FOOD PROVIDOR (RELIABLE FOOD PROVIDOR, RESTAURANT OR FOOD DONATION)
- FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (PROVIDES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.)
- HOUSE OF WORSHIP
- COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACE?
- CONVENIENT STORE

YOLOBUS ROUTE 216AM AND 216PM PROVIDE A SERVICE EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY. IN ADDITION EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, THEY ARE HEADED TOWARDS WOODLAND, DUNNINGHAM, ZAMORA AND YOLO.

THIS PROJECT COMPRISES OF A COMMUNITY DRIVEN EFFORT THAT BEGAN WITH A GROUP OF FEMALE FARMWORKERS GATHERING TO DISCUSS ABOUT ISSUES IN THE RURAL UNINCORPORATED KNIGHTS LANDING, CA, U.S.A. SPECIFICALLY, THEIR CONCERNS WERE REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, AS WELL AS LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES IN THEIR COMMUNITY. MOREOVER, COMMUNITY MEMBERS WANTED A SPACE FOR THEMSELVES TO GROW FOOD AND HERBS.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT DESCRIBES THE PROCESS OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH UC DAVIS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO SECURE AND CO-DESIGN THIS COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACE. THE METHOD USED IS DIALOGICAL ACTION APPROACH, IN WHICH THEMES THAT ARISE IN CONVERSATION AND MEETINGS GUIDE THE WORK THAT IS CARRIED OUT. THROUGH A PROCESS OF SURVEYING, FOCUS GROUPS, AND COLLABORATIVE DESIGN WORKSHOPS COMMUNITY MEMBERS ESTABLISHED: GOALS/VALUES THAT WOULD BE THE BACKBONE OF THE SPACE, PLANTS LIST, PROGRAMMATIC ELEMENTS AND DESIGN ELEMENTS. MOREOVER, THE SPACE BEGAN TO BUILD ITSELF INSPIRED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TOOK ON SPECIFIC TASKS AND PROJECTS THAT CATERED TOWARDS THEIR EXPERTISE.

FURTHER ACTION LED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHERE THEIR VISION FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY IS WEAVED TOGETHER ALONGSIDE SERVICE PROVIDERS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS UC DAVIS WHERE STUDENTS, PREFERABLY AN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS TIE THOSE VISIONS OF A BETTER COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND WRITE GRANTS AND COLLABORATE AND APPLY WHAT THEY LEARN IN SCHOOL WITH THEM AS CLIENTS.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

KNIGHTS LANDING IS A RURAL UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY WITH A POPULATION OF 1000 PEOPLE. IT HAS A LARGE POPULATION OF SEASONAL MIGRANT WORKERS.

IT IS SURROUNDED BY AN AGRICULTURAL MATRIX, WHERE MILES FLAT GROW THE SAME CROP. THE SUMMER TIME IS WHEN THE THICK CONCOCTION OF CHEMICALS CAN BE FELT AND SEEN IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER.

A GROUP OF FEMALE FARMWORKERS BEGAN TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF HEALTH IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZED FOR CHANGE.

**JUANITA OQUIVEDO**  
CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION  
FARMWORKERS RIGHT'S ACTIVIST

**NATALIA DEEB SOSSA, Ph.D**  
UC DAVIS CHICANO STUDIES DEPARTMENT.  
COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH. SCHOLAR ACTIVIST. PHOTOGRAPHER.

**MELISSA MORENO, Ph.D**  
WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT.  
SCHOLAR ACTIVIST. COMMUNITY BASED LEADERSHIP & HEALING TEACHER.

**LINA HERNANDEZ**  
EMPOWER YOLO KNIGHTS LANDING FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

LINA HERNANDEZ IS A COMMUNITY LEADER. FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER PROVIDES AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH SERVICES AND COUNSELING SERVICES.

**KATIE RIVAS**  
EXECUTIVE HEAD OF UNDERGRADUATE BOARD  
KNIGHTS LANDING ONE HEALTH CENTER

STUDENT RAN CLINIC IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. PROVIDES HEALTH CARE THAT IS LINGUISTICALLY AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT TO THE RURAL UNDERSERVED IN KL. SISTER CLINIC TO TEPATI IN SACRAMENTO.

**GRUPO DE MUJERES**

**SKYE & ALFONSO**

INDIVIDUATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

PHD IN MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY

**PROMOTORAS DE SALUD**

COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE AND HEALTH IN THEIR COMMUNITY

**MELISSA**

**RUTH**

**FIRST SEEDS OF GARDEN EMERGED**

**2017: SUMMER SURVEYING**

I SURVEYED IN THE FOLLOWING SPACES:

- FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE UNDERGRAD
- OUTSIDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- NEXT TO FOOD VENDORS:

**GARDEN PROPOSAL APPROVAL+ LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

- SCI-TECH ELEMENTARY
- ROBBINS SCHOOL
- CHICANO STUDIES DEPARTMENT UC DAVIS
- ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT WOODLAND C. COLLEGE
- YOLOBUS
- EMPOWER YOLO
- MIG, INC SACRAMENTO

**2017: FALL GRANT WRITING+ WATER BOARD DISTRICT DONATION OF FREE WATER**

**CHURCH MEMBERS**

METHODIST CHURCH MEMBERS

RIM YUNG & SPACE YUNG (PASTOR)

**2018: WORKSHOP #2 GARDEN WALKTHROUGH COLLECTIVE SITE ANALYSIS**

ALBERTO COMMUNICATION STUDENT

MYSELF FACILITATED

KHAWLA SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

**GARDEN ENVISIONING WORKSHOPS AND GARDEN WEEK ACTIVITIES**

GOALS/VALUES

- DIVERSITY (PLANTS, PEOPLE)
- EDUCATION/WORKSHOPS
- HEALTH PROMOTION (PHYSICAL ACTIVITY)
- ART, CULTURE
- RECYCLING/REDUCING WASTE
- NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

- WUDGE TAP ROOT AND HARD TO PULL OUT
- THEY ARE A LOT OF LOTS THAT AREN'T BEING USED

**JOSE COTIARI** CLINIC (UC DAVIS STUDENTS)

**JONATHAN (WAI LON HO)**

TALKED ABOUT PROCESS. POSTERS WERE SET UP THAT SUMMARIZED THE OBSERVATIONS FOR OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS AS WELL AS DESIRED PLANTS LIST, ELEMENTS & GOALS/VALUES OF THE SPACE AS A WHOLE.

UNEXPECTEDLY A LIST OF DESIRED DESIGN ELEMENTS AROSE

- GAZEBO
- BENCHES
- MURAL
- PLANTS: MAPLE, DAHLIAS, NOPALES, WORMWOOD, REDBUD, DRAGON FRUIT?, FIG TREE, TRIF SWING, TRELLIS
- PAINTED GAS TANK?
- SINUOUS PATH
- INDIVIDUAL PLOTS
- CHICKEN COOP OR MOBILE CHICKEN COOP
- OR... FRE RANGE CHICKEN CONCENSUS?
- OR... FRE RANGE CHICKEN CONCENSUS?

**WORKSHOP #2 ON PARTICIPATORY DESIGN**

PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN + ZAMORANO AGRICULTURE

JORGE

**WORKSHOP #3** DATE: TIME:

LEARNING ABOUT INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND PEOPLE OF THE AREA WE ARE IN.

DIANA ALMEIDA RIZ

CULTURAL PRACTITIONER, WINTUN DESCENT AMONG OTHER TRIBES IN CAL. PLANT EXPERT AND ARTIST. LANGUAGE TEACHER.

**2018: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND BREAKING GROUND DESIGN FORM-MAKING**

JEFF ARBORIST LANDSCAPING EXPERT WOODWORKER ARTIST

JUAN YOLO FOOD BANK WOODWORKER ARTIST

**SUGGESTIONS**

THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT GAVE SUGGESTIONS TO NEXT PHASE: CONCERNS THAT COULD BE DESIGN SOLUTIONS. MOREOVER, THEY BROUGHT UP IDEAS ON THE SOCIAL DESIGN/MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THESE SPACES.

THE SUGGESTED STRUCTURE HAS TO HAVE A "GARDEN BOARD/COMTEE WHERE PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS AND SHAPE THEIR VISION OF THIS GARDEN"

1 MEMBER OR MORE FROM FAMILY (RESIDENT OR CENTRAL/CLIMATE BOARD)

1 MEMBER OR MORE DE SCHOOL THAT REPRESENTS RESERVE OF LOTS (GARDEN BOARD)

1 MEMBER OR MORE FROM (GARDEN BOARD)

**NEXT PHASE:**

1. MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
2. WORKSHOPS
3. OUTREACH TO DEFINE LOT SIZES AND NUMBER OF LOTS
4. SUMMER PLANTING

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Ficus carica.

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# KNIGHTS LANDING JARDIN COMUNITARIO



UNA INCICIATIVA DE Y PARA LA COMUNIDAD.

TENEMOS 3/4 DE UN ACRE LISTO PARA FAMILIAS O INDIVIDUOS INTERESADOS EN **TENER SU PROPIO LOTE** Y CULTIVAR A SU GUSTO.



ESTE ES EL PRIMER LOTE LISTO PARA EL JARDIN, LOCALIZADO EN **9493 MILL ST**, ALADO DE LA IGLESIA METODISTA EN KNIGHTS LANDING.

TENEMOS **SEMILLAS** PARA COMPARTIR, DESDE ELOTES DE COLORES HASTA HIERBAS MEDICINALES.

## POSSIBILIDAD:

UN ESPACIO DONDE SE PUEDA CULTIVAR COMUNIDAD Y SALUD.



**TALLER "DE SEMILLA A COSECHA" SABADO 26 DE MAYO 11 AM**

CONTACTAR A

ANA MARIA  
(JUANITA)  
6197219100  
PARA MAS  
INFORMACION. SI  
NECESITA  
TRANSPORTEO  
OTRAS  
ACOMODACIONES  
DEJENOS SABER.