

THE POP UP RESOURCE VILLAGE

Framing the Challenge

At the cost of 67 billion dollars a year, the United States is incarcerating a higher percentage of its citizens than any country in the world. A disproportionate amount are low-income folks of color who are re-incarcerated at alarmingly high rates of 68%, which is destroying entire communities. One of our community partners, 5 Keys Charter School, was founded as a solution to studies showing that increased academic achievement is one of the most reliable predictors of reducing these numbers.

5 Keys has managed to reduce its student's recidivism rate to 28%, significantly lower than the state rate of over 68%. Their programs are helping thousands of students to get high school diplomas, GED's, jobs, and life skills training. In order to expand upon this success and better serve communities, the charter school is looking to offer more than what is possible via brick and mortar locations. The fixed location model necessitates hundreds of hours of student travel time to reach school locations. Time spent and the cost of travel present a marked burden for people who are living on a very low income. Additionally, many of the young adult students are single parents with limited options for childcare. Safety issues are another concern, as many students literally cannot cross certain streets to attend classes out of the real fear that they have entered into gang territory. Finally, students who begin courses at one location while incarcerated are often released to neighborhoods with no nearby classes.



It takes a Pop-up Resource village

To address these national, state and local challenges The Pop up Resource Village project proposes a new prototype developed through a collaboration with two key community partners, The 5 Keys Charter School and Asian Neighborhood Design(AND). The Pop-up Resource Village will be a new, micro local infrastructure that builds on the urban regeneration opportunities inherent in a mobile architecture. To do so the project will have three primary components running concurrently over two years.

The first will be the retrofit of three San Francisco MUNI buses that have already been donated by the city for this project. Two buses will be transformed into a mobile school site providing classroom and library spaces which will be outfitted with state of the art technology and include computerized learning labs, space for storage and construction experimentation. A third bus will be designed as a mobile safe house for women and vulnerable inmates who are released during the night.

The second component of the project will be to gather mobile wrap around resources to further augment the success of the 5 Keys program. In addition to schooling and employment training for people who have been incarcerated, The Resource Village will offer anyone in the community access to education, and services that support emotional and physical well-being such as: a place to eat a good meal, a shower, and space for social interaction.

Now is the time for innovation in the development of new infrastructures to support this change and the Pop up Resource Village is a real solution to meet the complex and unique challenges we face as we seek to end mass incarceration in the United States. If awarded the Rauschenberg Foundation Fellowship I will be able to bring the highest level of creativity and thought leadership to make sure this revolutionary approach to human and urban renewal through the arts becomes a reality.

The third component will be to develop the Resource Village as an engine for urban renewal that will eventually make itself obsolete. The plan is not to just show up once a week but to collaborate with city agencies including the Department of Public Works to create a curtilage for the center that will turn blight into well-designed and welcoming spaces that encourage development. The Pop-up Resource Village is intended to kick-start the development of a permanent infrastructure for urban renewal.

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL HELP

The School on Wheels is part of the Pop up Resource Village and brings together beauty, design, and radical inclusion in the service of social justice. The city of San Francisco has donated MUNI buses for the 5 Keys Charter School so they can be retrofitted as mobile classrooms for formerly incarcerated folks and their communities of care in San Francisco. We have a preliminary design that captures the needs of the students and teachers. Asian Neighborhood Design's Employment Training Cohort will work with these students to build out the buses. All we need now is an electrical and mechanical consultant to help us on the retrofit this component of this School on Wheels.

LED lighting and power for laptops will need to be incorporated as well as an HVAC system that reflects and is appropriately integrated into various aspects of the new design. If possible we would also love to have someone interested in working with the students so they can potentially be a part of the installation.

If you are interested in being a part of this amazing team and project please contact:

Deanna Van Buren, FOURM design studio
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A PLACE TO BUILD

The School on Wheels is part of the Pop up Resource Village and brings together beauty, design, and radical inclusion in the service of social justice. The city of San Francisco has donated MUNI buses for the 5 Keys Charter School so they can be retrofitted as mobile classrooms for formerly incarcerated folks and their communities of care in San Francisco. We have a preliminary design that captures the needs of the students and teachers.

Below are the requirements we have for space to build:

Access to electrical outlets

Access to water,

Secure day-storage of personal belongings

Secure onsite storage of tools and materials(need to clarify how large a space is needed)

Bathrooms.

The work site will need to be easily accessed by public transit. Near a BART is best as the folks who will be using the classrooms are included in the design process and will be a part of the construction/creation crew & they live in SF.

**Indoor space would be ideal but probably not necessary.

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Deanna Van Buren,
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The Design & Construction Team



FOURM design studios are firms dedicated to social impact through architecture and design, tackling tough projects for the public good across a multitude of market sectors.

Deanna Van Buren Bio

Deanna Van Buren is a thought leader researching, formulating and advocating for restorative justice centers, a radical transformation of justice architecture. She currently sits on the national board of Architects, Designers and Planning for Social Responsibility and is the founding partner of FOURM, design studio, a firm creating spaces for peacemaking and restorative justice. Deanna spent 13 years as a design lead on domestic, institutional and design education projects in the bay area, Europe, Asia and the Middle East prior to starting her practice in 2010. She has recently been awarded a Byrne Justice Innovation Grant with the Center for Court Innovation to develop a peacemaking center in Syracuse NY, the first of its kind in the United States. Funded by the Fetzer institute, her practice is also currently developing and implementing design studios with incarcerated men and women as well as writing the first design guidelines for creating restorative spaces in schools. Deanna received her BS in Architecture from the University of Virginia, an MARCH from Columbia University and has recently completed The Loeb Fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.



Asian Neighborhood Design

Asian Neighborhood Design is a non-profit architecture, community planning, employment training, and support services organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged individuals and communities become self-sufficient.

For over 35 years, our Employment Training Center (ETC) has successfully trained at-risk, low-income youth and young adults in the green construction field to gain vital life and employment skills and achieve self-sufficiency. Each year, up to 60 graduates gain comprehensive skills in construction and carpentry, and receive basic education on topics such as history and mathematics, as well as high school equivalency or GED preparation. Our program also works to diversify the field of construction by including women and serves 90% people of color. Through ETC, graduates obtain critical life skills (e.g., money management, communications and conflict resolution), build self-esteem and confidence, and develop real pathways out of poverty.

