



Our Approach

The approach we developed began with the identification of the systemic challenges surrounding the fairgrounds. From there we explored the dimensions and dynamics of the community through both research and immersion within the community. Lastly, we met with stakeholders in order to access their specific expertise, learning valuable information to shape our next steps.

What We Did

Through story mapping, we were able to understand the fairgrounds significance in a way that would not have been possible without face-to-face interaction. We were able to pinpoint areas on the fairgrounds that are prominent in multiple stories and began to see commonalities between groups. Small group interviews about community values and changes also highlighted overlap between organizations. Conversations about existing successful community projects displayed how community values manifest into design projects and led to impactful conversations about the future.

Results We Found

We found that among the different stakeholders, there was a commonality of values and concerns. Almost all the groups identified communication and transparency as elements that are lacking but are also crucial for the success of the fairgrounds. From these observations, we began to develop the idea of a commons. A place to discuss and debate ideas of stakeholder groups, community members and public users.

Next Steps

Our next steps in this process is to reach out and meet with more community youth members. As well, we would like to meet with the focus groups we discovered. We would also like to schedule a time for our engagement even in November and then determine what activities will take place to promote engagement across all stakeholder groups and the public.