

SPORE's Rehabitat Hub: A DIT (do it together) an evolving toolkit for urban sustainability projects that anyone can do.

The Rehabitat Hub, an arm of SPORE Projects, is a community-driven resource serving as a demo and reuse workshop site where projects can incubate and seed. Possibilities for the hub are determined by those activating the space, creating modes for neighborhood engagement and future collaborations.

An evolving nucleus of individuals and groups, SPORE propels collective innovation through creative endeavors rooted in human to human exchange. Projects include: Chautauqua Art Lab (CQAL), Homestay Artist Residency, SPORE mobile gallery, lectures, workshops, and events.

The Team

Emily Hemeyer: SPORE Projects founder. Teaching artist. SLAP Conference co-organizer. Critical Mass board member. Arch-City Revival team coordinator for Good Ideas for Cities.

Leland Drexler-Russell: The Captain of Mrs. MacCormick's Yard, an art and environmental design lab in Benton Park. Former coordinator of the RAD Sustainability Program at Evergreen State College in Washington.

Chloe Bethany: art teacher at Most Holy Trinity, Washington University graduate, co-founder of Pig Slop, an extinct arts space on Cherokee Street.

Zachary Zimmermann: green builder, historian, and documentarian.

Konsantin Priship: transient St. Louis Northsider, designer, permaculturist, and mastermind behind the NYC Aquatarium Barge Project.

The overarching goal of the hub is to develop a radiating community-based project with a scope beyond the initial lot and two-year period. Participants will not only benefit from exploring techniques but will be given tools for envisioning and creating future projects of their own. Initial possibilities may include container gardens, living walls, greenhouses, rainwater catchment systems, permaculture, and aquaponics amongst others. An online blog, acting as a how-to-guide, will make this resource accessible to all. Instructional videos, plans, and documentation largely developed by participants will enhance this resource.

This site is an interdisciplinary approach toward creating ecological and social connections in our built environment. All electrical operation will be highly efficient and generated on-site through bike generators and solar electric PV. A mobile greenhouse serves as a provider of local food and demonstration base for urban permaculture techniques. Bioremediation seed bombs would include native plants and mycelium, along with multipurpose plants such as sorghum, flax, abaca, and okra to grow paper while detoxifying the soil. The bioremediation planting serves as a landscaping medium by providing natural borders and sight lines.

St. Louis, like other Rust-Belt cities, contains reusable, material resources and a culture of salvaging, picking, and building new futures from the remnants of the past. Our projects will continue in the St. Louis tradition reusing waste in innovative ways to enhance our city. Mobile hubs are the flagships of our Lot Lab design. The site will initially host three mobile hubs including a *Reclamation Station* which will provide a material bank used in onsite projects and will likely support off-site projects. Additional mobile hubs include a *Greenhouse* and a *Business Incubator* developed as a jobs programs for teens. Their mobility will allow for further exchange beyond the home site to farmers markets, schools, businesses, and festivals. As a blueprint the *Business Incubator* hub will provide a low overhead for neighborhood startups to grow until they are ready to move into the newly redeveloped buildings of Crown Square.

A repurposed trailer frame will support the mobile *Greenhouse* hub. The entire structure will be fabricated with bolted components to create an easily assembled and adjustable framework. Rows of plastic bottles sandwiched by plastic sheets will insulate an oriented strand board or a steel structure, to create a lightweight transparent roof. The south wall will be constructed out of reused windows while the north wall will be insulated with foam board and reflective backing to retain solar energy. The north wall of the trailer supports a vertical gardening framework. Deep container beds are to be used on the ground level of the greenhouse. This container design allows for conversion to aquaponic farming. Re-used 55 gallon barrels that are food-grade will be used for irrigation.

The Reclamation Station is intended to process, store, and exchange salvaged materials and information. The Station's bolted framing system allows for adaptive storage design. Lumber racks are manufactured to bolt onto the frame. A library and workshops provide information on construction, deconstruction, and energy efficiency; empowering the community with the knowledge and skills to improve their surroundings.

In addition to workshops, onsite community engagement will occur through special events that may consist of musical performances, movie nights, art installations and potentially a marketplace. Additional constructions include a temporary, hand-built gazebo to create a physical place for people to congregate.

As the Reclamation Hub develops beyond the 2-year parameter, the mobile aspect would allow for simple relocation if needed. Regardless of a long-term lease bioremediation practices and human relationships developed will produce a healthier space than before.