Build our community by helping a nearby organization through a product design mindset
Connect Urban Juncture with the varied resources and populations in the surrounding community areas.
Project Timeline

Understand + Define

Research
Opportunity Areas

Synthesis + Ideation
Concepts

Prototype
Sketch Models
Interviews

Concept Development
Physical Prototypes

Design Development
Research
Check-in with UJ

Product Design Workshop 2019, IIT Institute of Design
Things to do

Food

Institution

- Museum of Science and Industry
- The University of Chicago
- Hyde Park Historical Society
- Sharks Fish & Chicken
- Urban Juncture
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Medici on 57th
- Harold Washington Cultural Center
- Hall Branch, Chicago Public Library
- Truth Italian Restaurant
- Nat "King" Cole Home
- Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Home
- THE FORUM
- Bronzeville Classical Elementary School
- Nat "King" Cole Home
- South Side Community Art Center
- Truth Italian Restaurant
- Marianos
- Medici on 57th
- Hyde Park Historical Society
- Museum of Science and Industry
- The University of Chicago
- Illinois Institute of Technology
Our research findings
Interviews with IIT Students

Questions around

- Experience of exploring the neighborhood around the campus
- Preferred transportation to get around the city
- Attractive elements in visiting a new neighborhood
- Familiarity with Bronzeville and Boxville
- Curiosity and willingness to explore Bronzeville and Boxville
Do students explore the neighborhoods around the campus?

I have explored the neighborhoods around the campus. 45% (9)

I have not explored the neighborhoods around the campus. 55% (11)

- Safety Concerns (6)
- A lack of time to explore around while at school (4)
- A lack of information of what to do/ motivation (1)

I'm usually rushing home after classes or busy with work to do- don't get enough time to explore around.

I don't know where to go, and I don't feel safe.

"What's in there?" "Where is it?" "Why do I have to visit?"
Why aren't students aware of Bronzeville activities?

1. Uncertainties around the neighborhood attractions and lack of information increase student’s anxiety.

2. Physical distance from Bronzeville for IIT students increases on weekends.

3. Safety is still a concern for students even with easy access via CTA.
Connect Urban Juncture with the varied resources and populations in the surrounding community areas.
Inform expectations, generate excitement, and ease safety concerns.

Connect Urban Juncture with the varied resources and populations in the surrounding community areas.
Activities that students are interested in:

- Food/Dining Experience: 15
- Musical Events: 8
- Art Events: 5
- Educational Experience: 4

Sharing experience with friends
Weekend adventures
Walking around
1. Stage set + Signal posts

2. Midterm plan

3. Long-term plan
**1. Stage Set + Signal Posts**

**What it is**
A multipurpose set of wooden box structures. They can be utilized as seats, tables, a stage, or signal post.

**How it works**

1. Allows for a more consistent and official presence for performing music artists. Provides seating and table space when shops are open. Signal posts at IIT and U of C extend the reach of Boxville offerings to the surrounding university communities.

2. For local residents, provide a park-like environment to hang out near their home with friends or family.

3. Encourage nearby communities to explore different elements of Urban Juncture.
Recommended Roadmap
1. Stage Set + Signal posts

2. Signal Post + Passport

3. Design Lab
2. Signal post + passport

**What it is**
A Bronzeville Culture Passport entices users to have joyful explorations in Bronzeville by giving them a sense of accomplishment. Signal post is a wayfinding piece located throughout Bronzeville. It also serves as an information hub for the attractions.

**How it would work**
Passports will be co-created and distributed by IIT and Urban Juncture. Inside the passports will be a list of attractions in Bronzeville along with brief descriptions and map locations. There will be a spot for a stamp for each attraction. The goal would be for each participant to fill up every stamp spot by visiting and experiencing each attraction. Stamps will be available at each attraction during business hours.
3. Design Lab

**What it is**
A dedicated space at Boxville for collaborative design projects between local universities and Urban Juncture.

**How it would work**
By creating a partnership between various local groups, we begin to inspire a reciprocal sense of pride in the communities represented. Participants from IIT, University of Chicago, UIC, and others all come together to generate ideas and develop solutions related to the betterment of the Bronzeville community.
Next Steps for the each phase

1. Stage set + Signal posts

2. Signal post + passport

3. Design Lab

- User testing at IIT, U of C, and Boxville
- Curate the contents of upcoming Boxville events for signal posts.
- Complete sunshade
- Define locking system
- Add a possible protective finish
- Coordinate with Urban Juncture for delivery
- Summer photography for Architectural Biennial

Start conversations with local organizations, including schools, to gauge interest in participation.
Start planning logistics of how the Design Lab would function.
Connect to potential partners of Bronzeville attractions to include them as part of the passport program.
Next Steps for the each phase

1. Stage set + Signal posts

2. Signal post + passport

3. Design Lab

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Appendix
Box v.1 Dimensions
Box v.2 Dimensions
Shade Dimensions
Visiting Boxville

SHOP

Real people. From real communities. Making a real difference. Boxville’s 190-foot tall street-food market and container stalls serve Boxville residents and visitors with unique products & services, inspired by the global container retail movement and our own experience with the world. Boxville is part of a movement to build vibrant, open-access, community-centric, affordable spaces for exploring and engaging in culture and local community.

EAT

Eating fresh for Boxville, which will also host a lunch by shop, is sourced by the three-month-old Bibi Roe, a food-art shop that builds using small and shipping containers. There is a culture of eating French fries in-house, and it doesn’t involve eating over a frozen bag. Long before the frying, there is the multi-task, continuous cutting.

BOXVILLE will be back on JUNE 5th!

Join us EVERY Wednesday - 4pm-7pm and EVERY Sunday - 12pm-4pm through OCTOBER!

Follow @boxville51 on Instagram and Facebook for regular updates!
Thank you!

Team effort by Goeun Lee, Matthew Impola, Yuting Mao, Brian Siegfried and Yuqing Zhou
Supervised by Martin Thaler and Janine Zhong
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