



As architects, we solve problems, but we recognize not all organizations can budget for our services. The Weight of Architecture Design Service Grant was intended to provide design assistance to local 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that could benefit from the services of skilled architects and designers and that would not otherwise have the resources to retain such services. Over the past year, teams met with the selected nonprofits to assess and analyze a challenge identified by their organization.

The outcome of the service grant was an implementable design solution to the selected nonprofits, but the program was also crafted to install leadership talent in a young group of architects, giving them the opportunity to make new connections and gain valuable experience in finding projects and delivering solutions as design professionals. The project was intended to establish a dialogue with and build connections between the nonprofit community and the local architectural profession in Columbus. The Weight of Architecture Project provided a valuable opportunity to connect the altruistic purposes of nonprofits with the potential of architects to affect real change in the built environment—all to the benefit of our communities. Below is a brief introduction to the nonprofits and the teams who worked on the projects this past year.

# About the Project

### About The Organization:

The mission of The Dick & Jane Project is to empower students through songwriting. This is done primarily through songwriting workshops where middle school students are partnered with professional musicians and producers. The students write lyrics, the producers write and record the music, and together they produce a professionally recorded song.

The songwriting workshops are financially supported partially through all-ages live music shows where The Dick & Jane Project brings teenagers, parents, families, and community members together to discover and enjoy music produced by local bands and musicians.

### A Word from the Team:

Our involvement with The Weight of Architecture Project stems from a desire to give back by using our skill sets, training, and education to make a positive impact on the local community. Our draw to The Dick & Jane Project lies within its unique and moving mission to empower teens through the art of songwriting that are then produced into high quality tracks recorded by local professional musicians and played on the radio. In terms of a design solution we were drawn to the open nature of the D&J's issues: how do you give a home to a non-profit who is always on the move from school to school?



Photo credits: Jesse Wilmoth, Megan Leigh Barnett, Rebecca McCarthy, Stephanie Hayward

## The Dick & Jane Project

### About The Organization:

Homeport is a private, non-profit organization whose mission it is to create and preserve healthy, stable and affordable communities, one neighborhood, one person at a time.

- We do this by:
- Developing quality and energy efficient homes
  - Providing consistent and transformative education and services to address each resident's unique barriers to, and opportunities for, success
  - Involving and empowering residents
  - Focusing on community revitalization
  - Creating strong fruitful collaborations

In the course of its 27-year history, Homeport has participated in the development, sale or preservation of more than 4,000 units of affordable housing.

### A Word from the Team:

We chose Homeport's Community Center expansion because we appreciate the impact the project will have on the people of Emerald Glen. After visiting the site and seeing the children who will be impacted, we knew we had to be involved. The much needed additional space would allow Homeport to provide a safe environment for the children and a better outreach to the community.



Photo credits: Jesse Wilmoth, Brian Simpson, Hannah Lambert

## Homeport

### About The Organization:

SID Public Services Association (SPSA) manages two special improvement districts in downtown Columbus made up of 700 property owners across 5.14 acres. The mission is to support the development of downtown Columbus as a clean, safe, and fun place to work, live, and play; it provides a number of services in one or both of the districts:

- Safety and outreach
- Cleaning (litter pickup, sidewalk power washing, graffiti removal)
- Cultivation of entrepreneurs (Pearl Market, Retail Recruitment Program)
- Beautification (High Street flower baskets, Gay Street median landscaping, Capitol Square planters)
- Promotions (Pearl Market, Downtown Live Concerts, Downtown Kickball)

### A Word from the Team:

SID's goal is to assist local businesses in having a physical presence in downtown Columbus through a multitude of programs. We see our partnership with SID as an excellent opportunity to re-imagine the existing fabric of Lynn and Pearl Avenues and provide the community with a more vibrant urban environment. The Weight of Architecture Project will offer us great opportunities to directly connect with the Columbus community and show how collaborative engagement can solve problems through design and enhance the built environment.



Photo credits: Jesse Wilmoth, Lauren Miller, Gwen Borkowski

## SID Public Services

### About The Organization:

Wild Goose Creative facilitates the creation of art across multiple mediums by providing resources and experiences for the Columbus creative community while connecting artists and audiences in a versatile space.

### A Word from the Team:

Wild Goose Creative exists "to support, encourage, and promote all forms of art and artists in Columbus, Ohio." The organization hosts a variety of artistic events in a narrow, 1,320 square foot space which provides an intimate setting for artists and guests. We chose this project because of the varied design challenges from small maintenance issues to reorganizing the space to promoting both flexibility and efficiency.



Photo credits: Jesse Wilmoth, Stephanie Hayward, Jorge Nieves Rodriguez

## Wild Goose Creative



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