

Design Studio for Community Solutions

Studio Notes

Welcome to our newsletter with updates on the Design Studio for Community Solutions (DSCS) in Arizona State University's Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Driven by the vision of Watts College Dean Jonathan Koppell, we match local stakeholders with ASU to co-design and activate solutions to complex, community-driven issues. We have the great honor to work in the West Phoenix Maryvale neighborhood on the Maryvale One Square Mile Initiative.

We believe that by "connecting the dots" and focusing on opportunities and areas of community concern, we can facilitate and encourage a framework for overall community advancement. We are putting ASU academic units and students to task on addressing community-identified areas of concern, such as early childhood supports, access to affordable health and wellness, greater access to afterschool activities and safer ways to walk to school.

"What if we said, 'Let's address all of these dimensions. Let's look at education, let's look at health, let's look at the business environment, let's look at transportation'?"

What if we took a concentrated geography — one square mile — and worked in concert?"

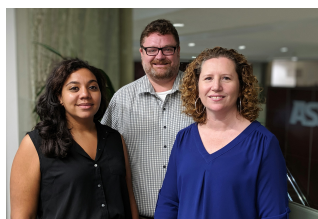
"¿Qué pasaría si dijéramos 'abordemos todas estas dimensiones. Miramos a la educación, miramos a la salud, miramos a el entorno empresarial, miramos a al transporte'?"

¿Y si tomamos una geografía concentrada, una milla cuadrada, y trabajamos en concierto?"

— Jonathan Koppell, dean of the ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Who we are

We work to bring together neighbors, leaders, academic experts, program leaders and government officials. In order to do this, we are assembling a core team with complementary skills.



Meet the team:

Dr. Allison Mullady has joined DSCS as our Program Manager, bringing knowledge and experience in early childhood education as a former teacher, ASU faculty member and Early Head Start Director. With 20 years in education, curriculum development and program design, she will be leading our efforts to structure projects for impact.

Ava Stone, our Community Outreach VISTA member, started in May and is making meaningful connections and helping us catalog community networks in Maryvale. Ava is an AmeriCorps VISTA member from the Watts College Center for Gender-Based Violence SurvivorLink program.

Erik Cole, the Director of the Studio, has spent the past 10 months immersed in Maryvale — listening, learning and connecting the dots. Erik brings a background in politics, policy and programs at the local level — particularly in cross-cutting economic empowerment strategies. Erik is leading the development of DSCS with Dean Jonathan Koppell, as well as the Maryvale One Square Mile Initiative.

What we are up to





Maryvale One Square Mile Initiative

We know communities thrive when solutions to their challenges are generated from the ground up, so we have invested time in listening, building relationships and connecting with residents and groups in Maryvale. The Maryvale One Square Mile Initiative (OSMI) isn't just an academic exercise, it's about taking action and testing solutions.

But we must also know the people, place and culture. Our conversations over the past year have proven that by listening to community members, working together and encouraging and augmenting local efforts and resources, we can produce lasting change.

In a community as geographically large as Maryvale, we have to start somewhere, so we have prioritized TWO areas for our initial work — one in the Isaac School District and one in the Cartwright School District. We are actively focusing our outreach and partnership building in these areas.



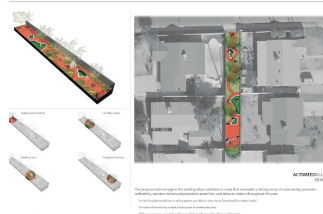
Community Conversation in March

Over 75 Maryvale residents and leaders joined the OSMI for a "Maryvale Community Conversation" at Maryvale's Community Center. Many themes from the evening emerged, such as:

- Maryvale is more than what the outside world thinks it is
 - It has great strengths — youth, civic pride and residents working hard for each other — but they aren't connected
 - Low expectations for young people to succeed and need for more afterschool and out-of-school activities
 - Health, wellness, chronic stress and trauma need to be addressed, but services must be affordable and accessible
 - Too many pedestrian deaths and not enough transportation options
- We will be scheduling Community Conversations in the Cartwright and Isaac areas in the coming months. Stay tuned and please join us.

Matchmaking to ASU programs/classes/resources

In the spring of 2019, ASU Instructor Lora Martens collaborated with DSCS to create an embedded capstone studio for landscape architecture students at ASU. Combining the voices of Maryvale stakeholders with a team of students and practitioners, a range of community-driven solutions were proposed with the understanding of landscape as a complex series of systems which impact access and equity in communities.



Example: Activated Alley

The landscape architecture capstone studio's final product, "Learning from Maryvale," shares research and designs for tactical urban projects focused on pedestrian safety, universally designed play spaces for youth, rapid transit and cultural events to show the pride of Maryvale. The project is an example of how ASU instructors and students can partner with DSCS to develop high interest, meaningful interdisciplinary projects which value and support local communities.



Patrolling with the Estrella Super Moms

The Estrella Super Moms, a neighborhood Block Watch Group, invited DSCS to get a first-hand look at civic patrolling in their community.



Connecting with the Maryvale Estrella Mountain Community Alliance

The Maryvale Estrella Community Alliance invited DSCS to introduce itself to the collective of community groups within the Maryvale and Estrella police district. They invited DSCS to come back as a recurring presenter in their sessions.

Pedestrian Safety in Phoenix and Maryvale

DSCS is leading a broad ASU partnership with the city of Phoenix to create a multi-pronged, interdisciplinary and solutions-oriented



engagement on the issue of curtailing pedestrian fatalities and injuries in the city of Phoenix.



Phoenix has one of the highest rates of pedestrian fatalities in the nation. The car culture, speeding, wide roads, visibility, lighting and socio-economic factors all play into this tragic issue. While we know there is no one single solution to this complex problem, we can understand the drivers and craft a plan for better safety. The overall goal of ASU's engagement with the city is to collectively develop multiple strategies aimed at curbing the number of pedestrian fatalities.

The Design Studio has recruited partners from ASU and beyond to assist the city in understanding, evaluating and testing solutions to this serious issue. The collaboration has resulted in two distinct projects ASU will assist with:

- **Research and analysis**
- **Community engagement and outreach**

What's next?

Join us for a community conversation in Maryvale on "Strong Families, Thriving Children"

We are proud to join Mountain Park Health Center and Arizona Town Hall for dialogue on how we can collectively support families and children.

When families are strong and children thrive, the community prospers. Join us for a community discussion with resources for participants on how we can collectively support families and children so they are better able to overcome risk factors such as adverse childhood experiences and economic downturns.

Registration is free. Spanish interpretation, transportation and childcare will be provided.

Thursday, October 10, 2019
6:30–8 p.m.
Free dinner 6–6:30 p.m.

Mountain Park Health Center
- Maryvale Clinic
6601 W. Thomas Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Register at:
<http://aztownhall.org/event-3365358>

Connect with us

We are always looking to match Watts College faculty, staff and students to opportunities in Maryvale. To find out more, email DSCS@asu.edu.

publicservice.asu.edu

Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
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ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
411 N. Central Ave Suite 750, Phoenix, AZ, 85004, United States

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