

Design Studio for Community Solutions

Studio Notes

Welcome to Studio Notes — the newsletter of the **Design Studio for Community Solutions (DSCS)** at ASU's Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

What we are up to

How do you summarize the past few months? This year has challenged us all in so many ways. We've had to become physically distant while figuring out ways to stay emotionally and mentally connected. These months have highlighted — in tragic and jarring ways — so MANY ingrained and systemic issues we face. They have shown us that the wellness of a community should be defined by, yes, physical health and access to health care, but also by empowerment and efficacy to shape their own environments. This time has reaffirmed that by listening, understanding and then planning TOGETHER, we can be better prepared. It has reminded us that trauma, pain and violence continue to be too much a part of the daily lives of many Americans. And these months have reminded us that in order to find solutions, we must find connections and a common cause between us.

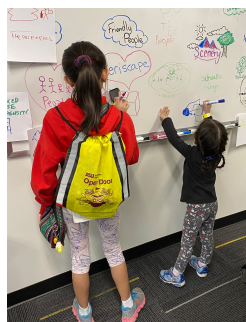
As our whole staff (and university) shifted to teleworking, we adjusted our approach rapidly in March and April. We tried to respond to the needs of our community partners like the Isaac and Cartwright Elementary School Districts, health providers and others doing so much to provide for Maryvale's families. Thanks to our fantastic team, we began compiling community updates and resources and continue to send these updates weekly — **in English and Spanish**. As students and faculty adjusted, several of our student projects finished the semester remotely and provided valuable assets to the community.



As we write this, the COVID-19 case numbers are still rising in Arizona, especially in Maryvale. Our updates will continue to include testing locations, updates on best-practices (like wearing a cloth covering when you are in public) and important service announcements.

Community Design Grants

DSCS and the Watts College awarded three grants to Watts College faculty for community based programs in Maryvale. Read more about each:



We Want This to be Student Led: Dr. Lauren Reed, Dr. Megan Lindsay Brown and Maryvale High School students

This grant will support the social justice-focused after school club at Maryvale High School and expand the program to include mentorship from recent Maryvale High graduates who now attend ASU. The project is utilizing photo, voice and Youth Participatory Action Research to help students raise their voices and tell the stories of their community.

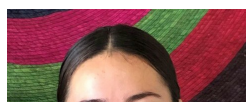
Youth Engagement through Sport: Dr. Eric Legg, Dr. Adam Fine and the Boys and Girls Club-Jerry Colangelo Branch

This grant enhances the existing Boys and Girls Club focus on positive youth development and life skills development through expanding and sustaining the Police Athletic League (PAL) basketball program.

Your Family, Your Neighborhood: Dr. Stephanie Lechuga-Peña, Dr. Felicia Mitchell and the Cartwright Elementary School District

The grant provides support for a pilot of Your Family, Your Neighborhood in Maryvale, collaborating with the Cartwright Elementary School District. This dual-generation, evidence-based family program is focused on parent-child bonds, parent-child communication, positive youth development and health/well-being. A goal of this pilot will be to explore sustainability of the program by community facilitators.

Voices from Maryvale



Karolina Arredondo

As a preschool teacher, I remember being so excited for spring break and a much-needed vacation. Around that time, we were



In addition to her work with the Isaac School District Pre-K program, Karolina is a Community Champion working in the Isaac One Square Mile with the Design Studio.

first hearing about COVID-19. I remember the day that they told us the kids weren't coming back to school until further notice, and we had to call the parents to let them know, ask them basic questions like are their families OK? Do they need food? Do they need any assistance?

The Heart of Isaac Community Center continued sending information that we could send to the families about Food Banks, free COVID testing centers and many more resources for families. Feeling the need to help, I also worked for about a month at the school's cafeteria making free lunches for children all the way to the age 18; all parents had to do was come to the school and ask for the food bags for each child. Also, as a lead preschool teacher, I had to start making packets with activities that children could do at home. I started doing circle time and art activities over Zoom calls. It was sad to not see all my children join my Zoom call, but I would always... **continue reading.**

Rosario Espinoza

Never did I imagine that Spring Break would be the last time I stepped in my office, conversed with my co-workers face-to-face, and broke a sweat with Zumba or shared a meal during Chef in the Garden classes with my wonderful community. Like everyone else fear, stress and uncertainty started to take over, and all I could think about is how can I help? What are some things that I could do to help anyone feeling the same way I do?

As we all know COVID-19 quarantine and social distancing rules left us all with limited options, and the virtual world was the easiest, safest and fastest way to stay connected. So, during these times I decided I would do my best in sharing health and wellness tips online by sharing resources, recipes and even making videos! For example, each week I strived to share a family activity, healthy recipe and at home workout. See below and **click here** for examples you can try at home with your family and friends!



In addition to her work with the Cartwright School District, Rosie is a Community Champion working in the Cartwright One Square Mile with the Design Studio.

Lemon basil pasta for dinner! I used the lemon basil I harvested from #cartwrightcommunitygarden this morning. Pasta, Parmesan cheese, fresh basil tossed with a lemon, olive oil and white wine vinegar

RosieEspinoza@CSD3@Wellness 6/4/20 Added shade cloth to garden beds and harvested some lemon basil 🍋 for dinner tonight! Wish you all could smell my picture because this lemon basil smells amazing!...

What's next?

When school goes all online, how do we ensure equitable digital access?

Digital access is the ability to participate in digital society completely. This requires access to tools and technologies, such as the internet and computers, that allow for full participation and receipt of social benefits.

Why is it important?

Across the U.S., academic institutions shifted course offerings and student services entirely online. In Maryvale, both the Isaac and Cartwright School districts responded by transferring the in-school curriculum online. Students must have the technology needed to participate and complete their work, in addition to having access to necessary internet bandwidth.

What do we know about digital access in Maryvale?

The Design Studio utilized access to online databases to research the needs of students in these school districts. Our findings indicate there is a significant need to provide students with technologies and access to the internet to ensure student success. In the Isaac School District, 46% of households do not have access to any type of internet. In the Cartwright School District, 36% of households do not have access to any type of internet. Examples of the internet include high-speed, broadband, dial-up and metered connections.



What are we doing?

These findings guide us in our efforts to support both school districts in their response to the COVID-19 epidemic. We are seeking partners who might provide the necessary support for these districts to design and apply solutions to meet these needs. Across Arizona, local governments, state government and school districts are partnering with technology companies and telecommunications providers to innovate creative solutions that ease the

burden on families with children enrolled in K-12 programs. We invite organizations to contact us with ideas and concepts in development that can address the digital access needs in these districts.

Thanks for reading! We've also been highlighting some of our favorite programs and people with an online video series. [You can find the videos here](#) and we'd love for you to check them out and see for yourself some of the incredible work happening in Maryvale.

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.

To learn more about the Design Studio and the Maryvale One Square Mile Initiative, [visit our website](#).

To interact with us and get more current updates [join our e-mail list](#).

About DSCS

Driven by the vision of ASU 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?"

publicservice.asu.edu/DSCS



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