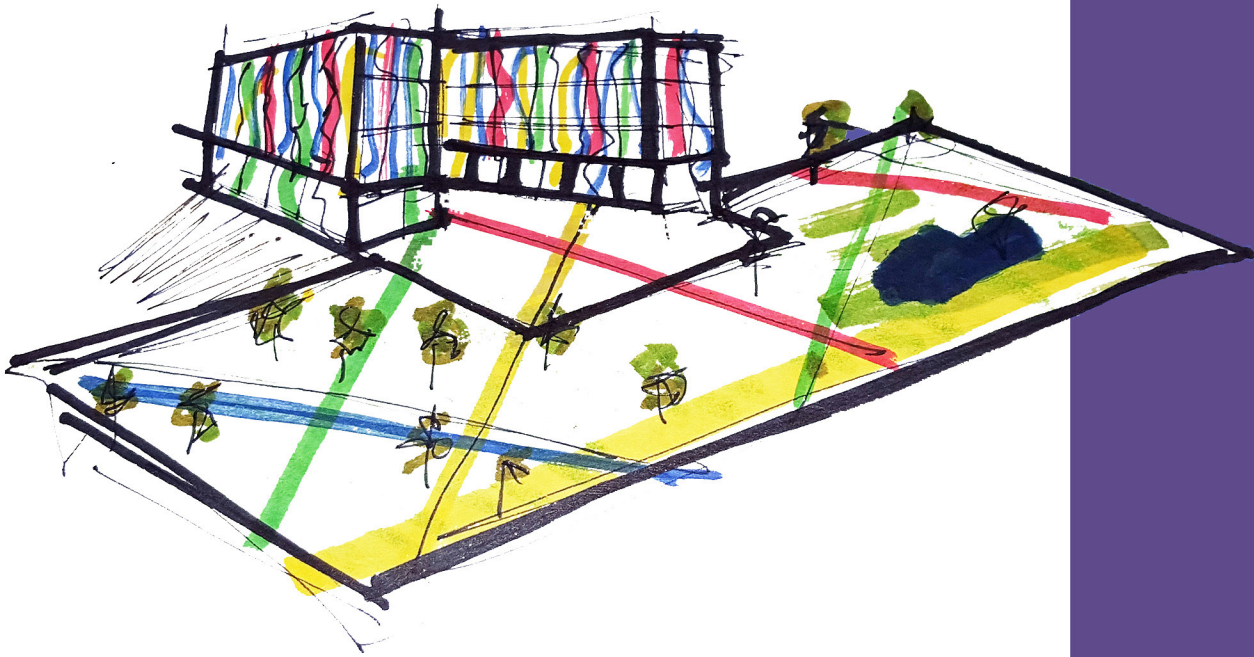


2017

OUTDO
Urban Design Studio



*Sketch for East Tulsa's
International Place*

Annual Report

The University of Oklahoma Urban Design Studio was founded in 1988 with the three-part mission to **train urban design professionals** through master's degree programs in urban design and urban studies, to **advance understanding of the city** through research and creative activity, and to **engage in community design** projects benefiting Tulsa and Northeast Oklahoma.

People

Faculty

Shawn Schaefer AIA, AICP
Kevin Anderson
Michael Birkes AIA
Jay Chandler JD
Arjan Jager
Greg Warren ASLA

Graduate Students

Paulina Baeza
Kyle Clifton
Sali Alharfouch
Joel Hensley
Saudamini Inamdar
Daniel Jeffries
Robi Jones
Maryam Moradian
Ray Powell
Jessi Stringer
Katie Wing
Robbie Wing

Professional Advisory Board

Michael Birkes AIA
Principal, Michael Birkes Architecture

Clarence Boyd
VP Commercial Banker, Stillwater National Bank

Steve Carr
Senior Planner, City of Tulsa

Tom Costner MD
Director of Palliative Care, St. Francis Health System

Farhad Daroga AICP
Director of Special Projects, City of Broken Arrow

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Urban Designer, Selser Schaefer Architects

Steve Olsen AIA
Principal, Steve Olsen Architects

Tom Wallace PE
President, Wallace Engineering

Dawn Warrick AICP
Director of Planning, City of Tulsa

Rachel Zebrowski AIA
President, Miles Associates

DOWNTOWN MUSKOGEE

A Landscape of Hope



Studio Projects

The people of Muskogee are hopeful for the revitalization of their downtown and they have the waypower and the willpower to achieve their goals. Created with extensive community input and support, the *Downtown Muskogee Plan* was **adopted unanimously by the City Council** in July. The council also voted to accept funds from the Muskogee Community Foundation to support a major recommendation of the plan to expand grants for downtown business and property owners. In addition, Economic Development Consultant and author of *Flip This Town*, Ron Drake, was hired to promote downtown real estate development and attract new investment. **These actions accelerate the implementation of the plan** and its recommendations to Increase Activity, Improve Street Connections, Save Historic Properties, Introduce Green Spaces and Revitalize the Arrowhead Shopping Mall.



Ideabox created by OUUDS student Robi Jones used to collect community feedback at Hunt's Green in Downtown Muskogee.



Citizens engaging in community visioning activities facilitated by studio and IQC students.



Community Engagement

The Downtown Muskogee effort is rooted in the idea of collective hope and by its nature was **highly collaborative, inclusive, and reflective of the goals and vision of the community**. The project was jointly led by OUUDS Director Shawn Schaefer, and the Executive Director of the Institute for Quality Communities (IQC) Shane Hampton. A stakeholder committee of government officials, business leaders, property owners, and community organizers guided the process at monthly progress meetings. Over **150 citizens** participated in project events and more than **400 citizens** responded to an online survey. Urban Design students Robi Jones and Kyle Clifton served as project leaders. They organized a multidisciplinary team of students from the College of Architecture, including students from Catherine Barrett's architecture studio, Sarah Little's landscape architecture studio, Greg Warren's landscape architecture class and students working under the direction of IQC faculty, Ron Frantz, Hope Mander, and Scott Williams. Social Work Professor Chan Hellman also consulted as a hope expert.



The studio wishes to recognize the members of the stakeholder committee:

Wren Stratton, Chair
 Ann Barker Ong
 Darla Bennett
 Mayor Bob Coburn
 Hon. Marlon Coleman
 Frank Cooper
 Reggie Cotton
 Joel Cousins
 Ron Drake
 Brandon Garner
 Gary Garvin
 Hon. Wayne Johnson
 Eric Miller
 Mike Miller
 Oscar Ray
 DJ Thompson
 Sue Vanderford
 Doug Walton
 Johni Wardwell
 Mike Wilkerson



Below: Members of the winning team pose with the jury and stakeholders



Arrowhead Mall Design Competition

Like many cities, Muskogee's Arrowhead Mall is struggling in a retail environment with a dwindling middle class and new competition from online merchants. Located adjacent to downtown, the mall is integral to downtown's success. To explore possible strategies for redevelopment, four teams of architecture and landscape architecture students were invited to participate in **a design competition** sponsored by the mall's owner, McKinley, Inc. and other local interests. Their work was presented to citizens and a professional jury on March 1st at the mall. The jury was led by Georgia Tech **Professor Ellen Dunham-Jones, author of *Retrofitting Suburbia*** and recognized expert on retail redevelopment. She was joined by: Ron Drake, author of *Flip this Town*; Matt King, Principal, King Architectural Solutions; Tim Presley, Landscape Architect, Planning Design Group; Cristin Robertson, Arrowhead Mall Marketing Director, and Johni Wardwell, Community Volunteer, Muskogee Community Foundation. **The winning team shared a \$4,000 prize** and the lessons learned from their ideas were used in the final plan.



The studio wishes to thank the competition sponsors for their generous support:

Tom and Patty Costner
Firstar Bank
Max and Lindsey Holloway
Holloway, Updike, and Bellen
McKinley, Inc.
Planning Design Group
Johni Wardwell



HOW HOPEFUL IS TULSA?

Building on the success of the Community Hope Survey developed for the Downtown Muskogee Plan, Director Schaefer and Professor Chan Hellman from the Zarrow School of Social Work decided to team teach a class to measure hope in Tulsa. **High levels of hope are associated with well being, good mental health, and a variety of positive life outcomes.** Professor Hellman has measured individual hope routinely, but measuring the hope of a city required the definition of a different concept, known as collective hope. The class attracted urban design students, as well as students with backgrounds in public administration and public health. They completed an extensive review of the literature of hope and used structured interviews of community leaders to develop a survey instrument to measure individual hope, collective hope, and happiness. The questionnaire also contained questions about participant demographics, their physical environment, and the perceptions of their housing, transportation, safety, food access, and walkability. **Over 1,200 people took the survey** during November and it proved to be valid and reliable. The results show Tulsans have high levels of individual hope and moderately high levels of collective hope. As expected, individual hope was the best predictor of happiness. However, **collective hope was more significant for predicting whether people thought Tulsa was a hopeful city.** Like Muskogee, trust in Tulsa leaders was also important. A report of the findings will be available next year.



Chapman Green at Night

Chapman Green

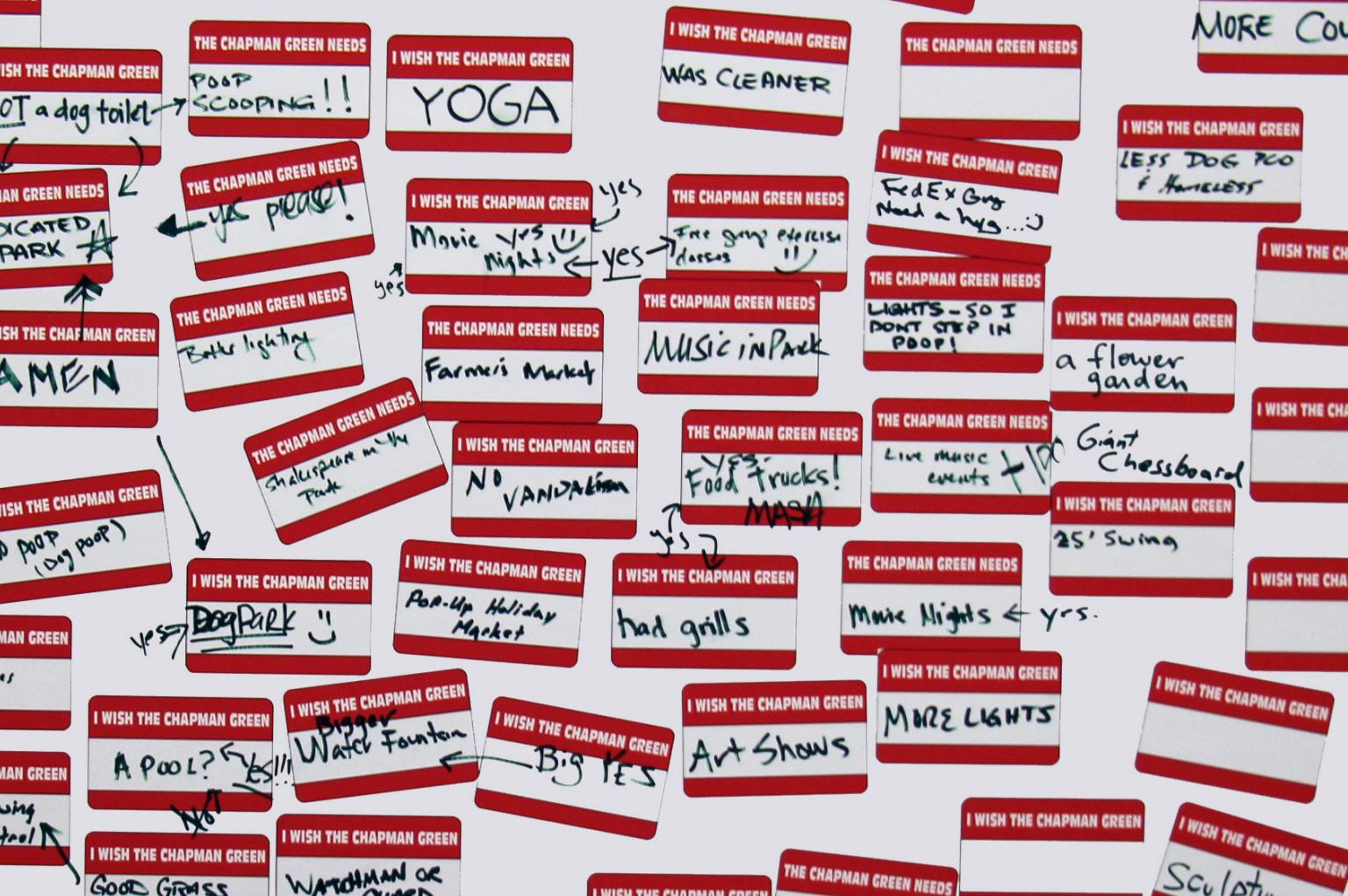
In fall, Urban Design Studio students began a placemaking project for the Chapman Green in Downtown Tulsa. The project was initiated by a request from the Urban Core Art Project (UCAP) to assist with a temporary art installation for the park. UCAP has obtained a grant from the National Endowment from the Arts to **bring world-renowned visual artist Patrick Dougherty to Tulsa** to create one of his imaginative Stickwork sculptures in the green. The construction and opening of this installation will be a catalyst for activity in this underutilized public space. The students are using this opportunity to **initiate additional placemaking activities** with UCAP and other community partners, including the City of Tulsa, the Deco District, Land Legacy, the University of Tulsa School of Art, and business and property owners engaged in redevelopment of the historic building stock for housing, shopping, and entertainment.



*Example of Stickwork
Sculpture by artist Patrick
Dougherty*

The Chapman Green Needs.....

Fill out a sticker telling us what you want to see on the Green.



Studying Public Space

The students have used a variety of creative placemaking techniques to study the Chapman Green. During October, they made direct visual observations of the park to **learn how people use the space**. They intend to use audio and video recording equipment next spring before, during, and after the art installation to see if usage patterns change. Inspired by urban researcher and visual artist Candy Chang, urban design students Robbie and Katie Wing created stickers and posters, like the one at the left, that were displayed in nearby restaurants and apartment buildings to ask **what the public wants to see in the park**. The class also built a scale model to use as a small-scale prototyping tool to test modifications and interventions in the park. The model was an immediate source of attention and exploration for the project partners. They selected several prototype ideas, including a GoZone for pet owners walking their dogs, an interactive 918 sign for selfies, and a screen for movie nights to be tested next spring during the large-scale prototyping phase.



Chris Ramsdell from Blue Box Creative works on the small-scale prototyping model.



Graduate Research Assistants Saudamini Inamdar and Katie Wing are organizing an exciting project for next spring with the Osage Forest of Peace, a non-demonational retreat and meditation center located West of Sand Springs. Inspired by the College of Architecture American School philosophy, the project will engage students from architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and construction science in a multi-phase project to create a vision for the expansion of the center. Phase One will consist of a design competition to develop a prototype micro-dwelling to be used as cabins to accommodate overnight guests at the forest. Phase Two will produce a site master plan to locate new structures, preserve natural systems, and provide necessary infrastructure. Phase Three will develop designs for new buildings including a meditation hall, dining facility, group lodgings, columbarium, and support facilities.



Arrowhead Mall Design Teams arrive in Downtown Muskogee.

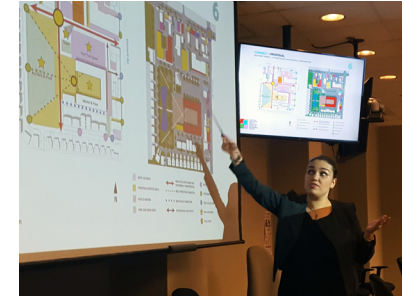
Paulina Baeza's rendering of the food court at International Place



Professional Projects

➔ Paulina Baeza successfully defended her Professional Project: **International Place: East Tulsa Multicultural District Master Plan** in May. It was awarded third prize in the Social and Behavioral Research category at the OU-Tulsa Research Forum and received a certificate of recognition from the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association. Since graduating, Paulina has **received two grants to pursue implementation of her project**. The first, a \$5,000 grant from the TYPros Foundation, will fund a public market and food truck court starting next spring. The second will provide \$1,000 from the Tulsa Health Department's Pathways to Health Program to paint new crosswalks in the area.

➔ In June, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum proclaimed **Tulsa a Dementia-Friendly City**. Shortly after the announcement, Robi Jones joined the Mayor's Dementia-Friendly Steering Committee and devoted her Professional Project to *Designing Inclusive Urban Spaces*.



The studio wishes to recognize the faculty serving on our Professional Project Committees:

Shawn Schaefer, Chair

Dave Boeck
Associate Professor of Architecture

Ron Frantz
Associate Professor of Architecture,
Coordinator of the Environmental
Design Program

Rodger Randle JD
Professor of Human Relations,
Director of the Center for
Democracy and Culture

Charlie Warnken PhD
Director of the Regional and
City Planning Division



An aerial view of Red Fork shows the tangle of highways, railroads and obstructions that separates the Main Street from surrounding residential neighborhoods.

➔ Maryam Moradian is partnering with community leaders in West Tulsa on a **Small Area Plan for Red Fork**. The neighborhood has always played and an important role in Tulsa's history. It is the location of the first oil well in the region. It became an early settlement and was incorporated as a town along the main railway line. Later Route 66 followed its Main Street and went past the Crystal City Amusement Park. It has lost much of its identity since being annexed into Tulsa and being bypassed by Interstate 244.

➔ Following the tragic loss of a local fireman during an urban flooding event, Kyle Clifton was inspired to examine stormwater practices in his rapidly growing hometown of Claremore. His Professional Project will create **Low-Impact Development Guidelines** for future residential, commercial, and right-of-way development.

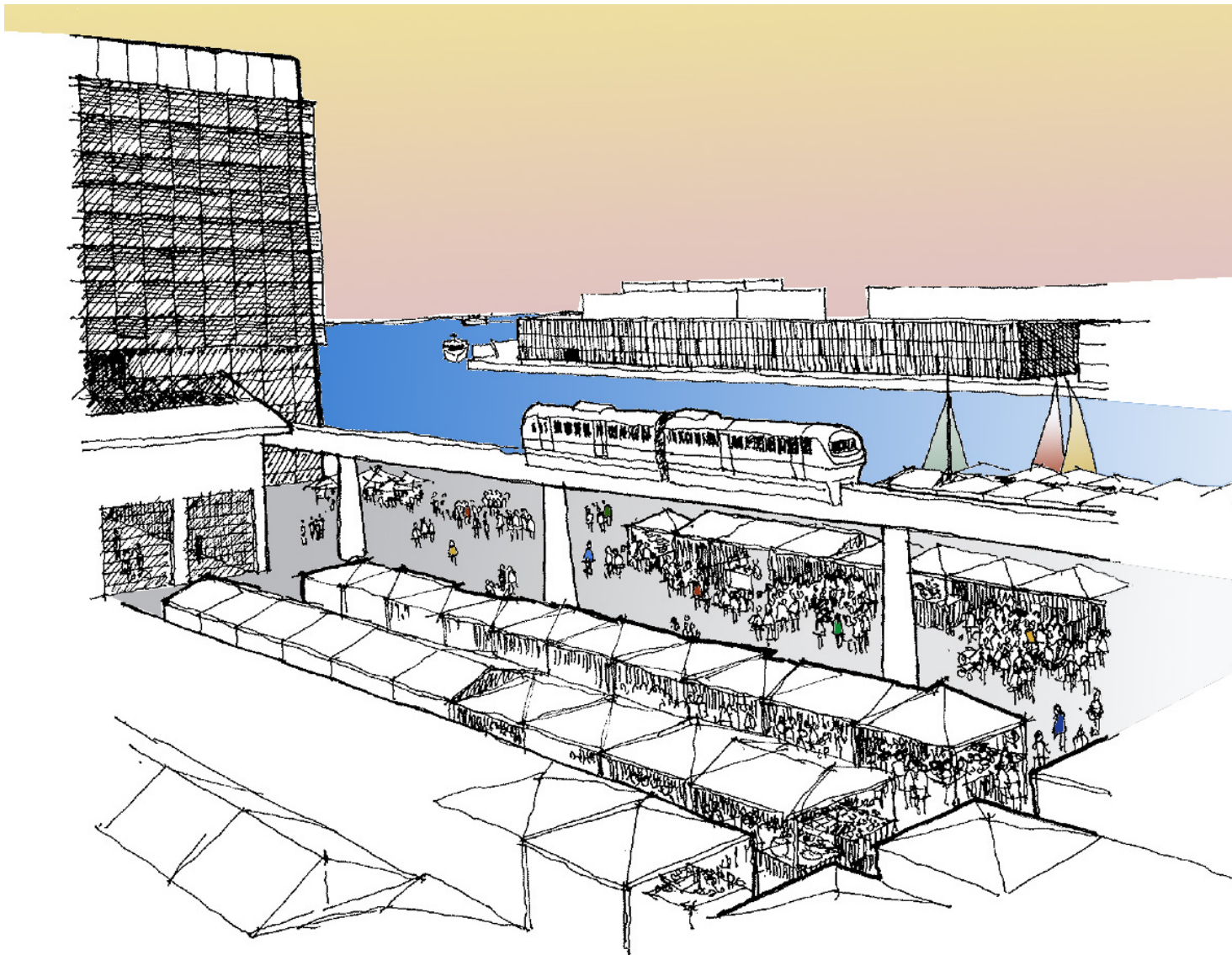
Examples of Low-Impact Development practices at the Oklahoma City Zoo:



Rain Garden



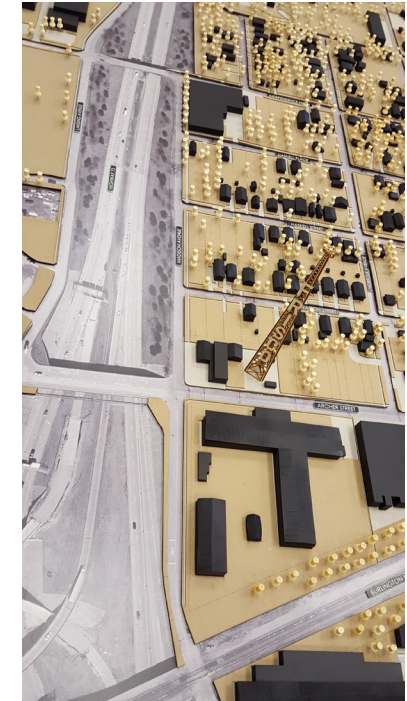
Pervious Pavement



Strategic Plan

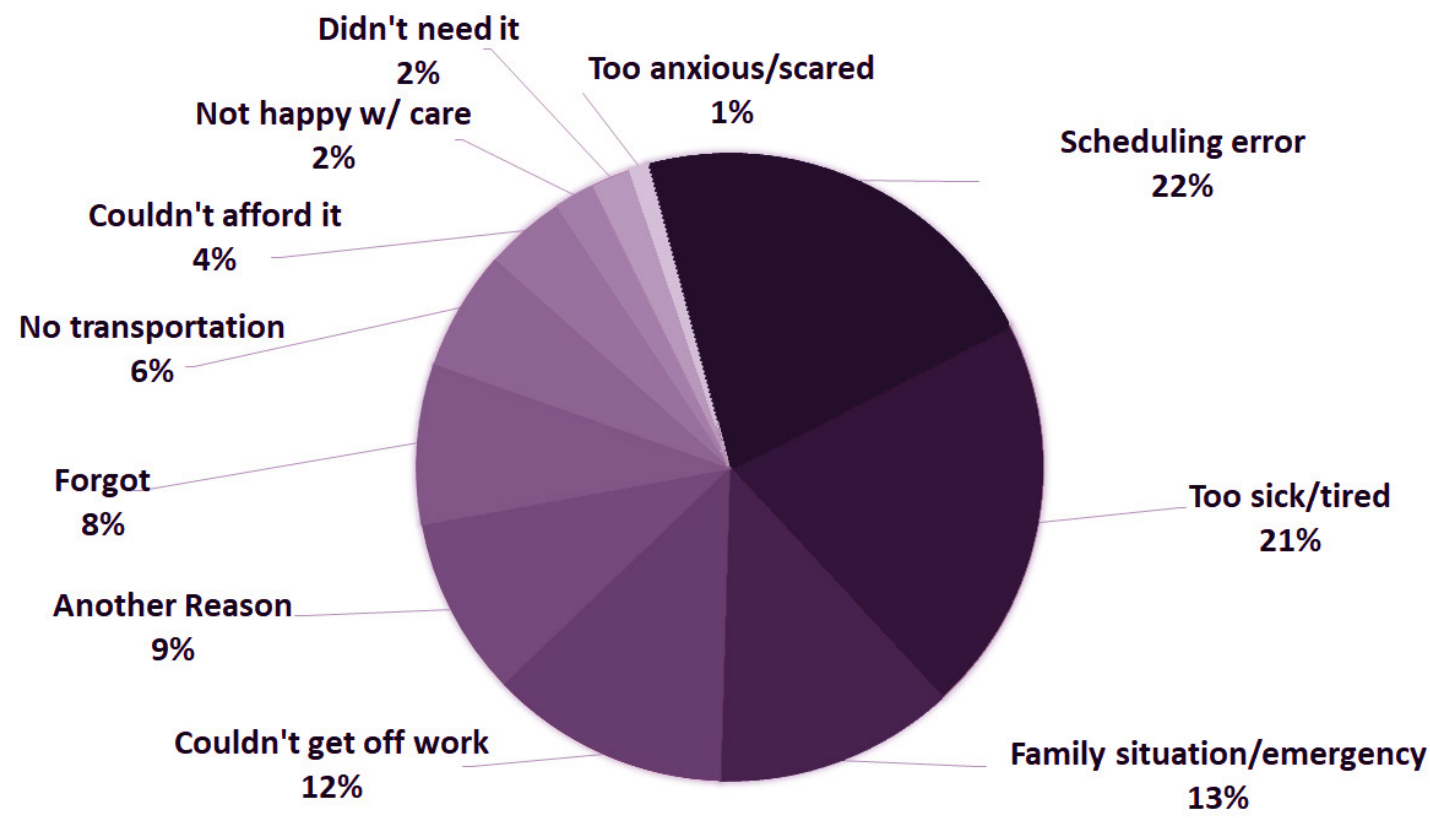
Progress has been made on implementing the recently updated studio strategic plan.

- ➔ In October, the OU Board of Regents approved changing the name of the Master of Science in Architectural Urban Studies degree to the **Master of Urban Design**. As part of the change, studio curriculum and assessment has been modified to align with Certified Urban Designer requirements. We expect to begin accepting students for the new degree designation for Fall 2018.
- ➔ We are also excited to be able to offer a new **Design Entrepreneurship and Real Estate Graduate Certificate** that is offered in both Norman and Tulsa. Master of Urban Design students can pursue the certificate simultaneously. We are admitting students to the certificate program now.
- ➔ The studio will be developing a new website and social media presence to promote the new programs in the spring.



The studio is upgrading its technology with new computer workstations and a replacement for our aging laser cutter, so we can keep making models like this one. New 3D rapid prototyping equipment will arrive soon.

Reasons patients missed appointments



CHED

Community Health and Environmental Design Studio

In its sixth year of operation, the CHED is a community resource promoting health and wellness through better environmental design of buildings, neighborhoods and cities. Our motto is **Better Health by Design**. The CHED has pursued an active research agenda in the last year.

➔ Led by Professor Ken Randall, the CHED completed its Non-attendance Study for the OU-Tulsa Physical Therapy Clinic. Graduate research assistants Maryam Moradian, Paulina Baeza, Amanda Bentley, Jedidiah Bragg and Shakendra White conducted phone **interviews of 100 patients** that canceled or missed appointments at the clinic. Scheduling errors and illness were the primary reasons for non-attendance. A manuscript of the findings has been prepared and is out for review.

CHED is grateful to faculty from many disciplines contributing to its efforts:

Michael Birkes AIA
Architecture

Dave Boeck AIA
Architecture

Mia Kile ASID
Interior Design

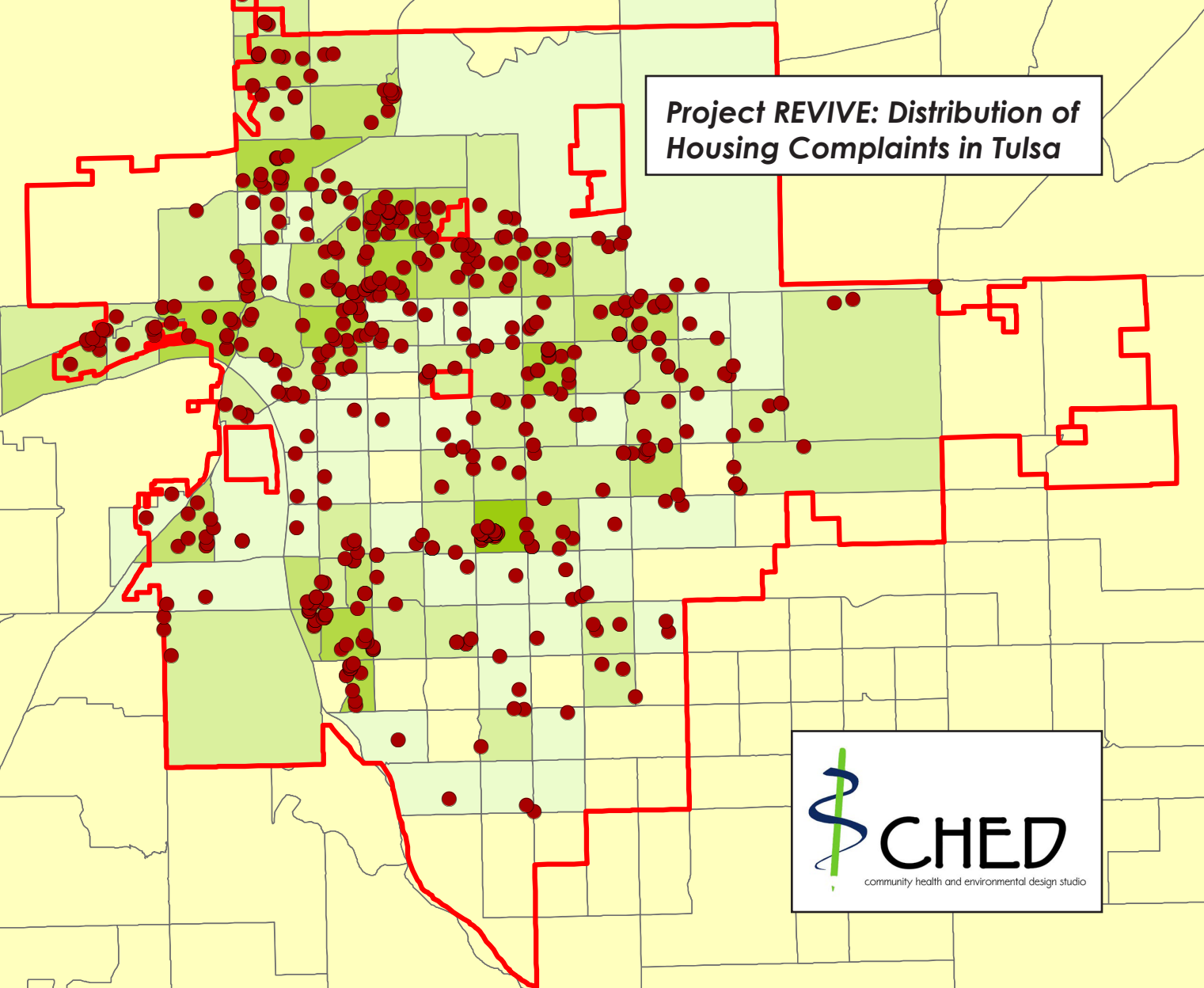
April Merrill JD
Community Medicine

Julie Miller-Cribbs PhD
Social Work

Ric Munoz MSW JD
Social Work

Ken Randall PhD
Physical Therapy

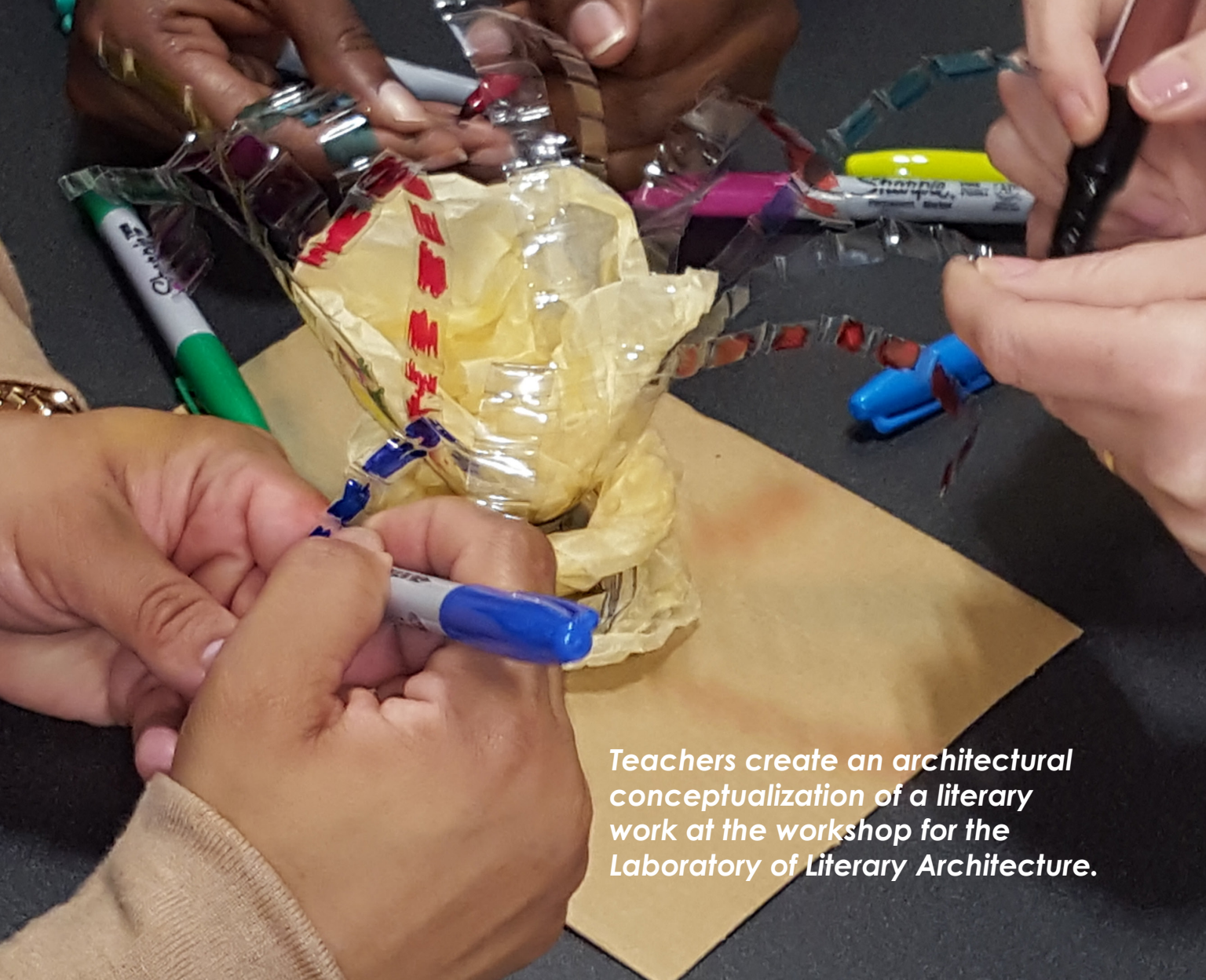
Mary Williams PhD
Public Health



- ➔ As a partner with the School of Community Medicine's **Project REVIVE**, CHED has completed extensive geospatial analysis of housing complaints, crime data, fire calls, and patient diagnoses of asthma, bronchiolitis and failure to thrive. Professor Ric Munoz' statistical modeling finds a significant relationship between housing problems and patient health complaints. Medical students Alizay Paracha and Taylor Saley MD and researcher Eden Hemmings presented maps and findings from the study at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association last November in Atlanta. Dr. Saley used Project REVIVE data for her practicum in public health entitled: **The Influence of Neighborhood Conditions on Pediatric Health**. She received her Masters of Public Health last fall.
- ➔ Professor Schaefer delivered his anchoring lecture on environmental determinants of health to the **School of Community Medicine Summer Institute** for the ninth year.



Summer Institute participants tour the OU Wayman Tisdale Specialty Health Clinic.



Teachers create an architectural conceptualization of a literary work at the workshop for the Laboratory of Literary Architecture.

Service

- ➔ Professor Michael Birkes served as **AIA Oklahoma Chapter President** for 2017. Michael also serves on the Community Health Improvement Plan advisory committee.
- ➔ The Environmental Design Research Association National Conference, **EDRA 49**, will be held in Oklahoma City next June. Professor Dave Boeck is Chair of the Organizing Committee. Director Schaefer is also pitching in.
- ➔ Director Schaefer and Paulina Baeza facilitated a workshop for Muskogee Public School Teachers as part of the **Laboratory of Literary Architecture** program. Thanks to Melony Carey for inviting us!
- ➔ Professor Schaefer served on the selection committee for the competition to select a design for **a new pedestrian bridge crossing the Arkansas River**. He has also been invited to serve on a committee advising the city on autonomous vehicle policy.



Society of Urban Design Students Officers for 2017:

*Daniel Jeffries
President*

*Robbie Wing
Vice-President*

*Kyle Clifton
Secretary / Treasurer*

*Joel Hensley
OUTSGA Representative*

*Katie Wing
OUTSGA Representative*

View from the bell tower of the Arezzo Town Hall.
Grazie to Lucio Bianchi for the special tour!



Noteworthy

- ➔ **Sad news**, Professor Jay Chandler's wife Patty died on December 10th. Professor Chandler has been teaching Legal Framework for Urban Design since the founding of the studio for almost 30 years. We extend our deepest condolences to Jay and his family. He has asked for donations be sent to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.
- ➔ Congratulations to **Paulina Baeza** for being named to the Tau Delta Sigma Honor Society for Architecture and Applied Arts. Paulina also received the Monique Pegues Graduate Leadership Scholarship awarded by Women in Transportation. She is now employed by INCOG as a transportation planner.
- ➔ Director Schaefer visited the **OU Center in Arezzo, Italy** over the summer. He met with the Mayor of Arezzo, the Director of Planning, and the Head of the Architecture Association to explore possible future collaborations.



Alumni Spotlight

Larry Curtis graduated from the Urban Design Studio in 2012. After four year as the Director of the Rogers County Planning Commission, Larry was appointed Plan Development Manager for the City of Broken Arrow last March. We wish him success in his new position for the fourth largest city in the state!



Contact Us

The Urban Design Studio is always looking for promising students and interested community partners for its programs and projects. Please contact us for more information:

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or visit the CHED and OUUDS on facebook

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