

THE DREAM CENTER

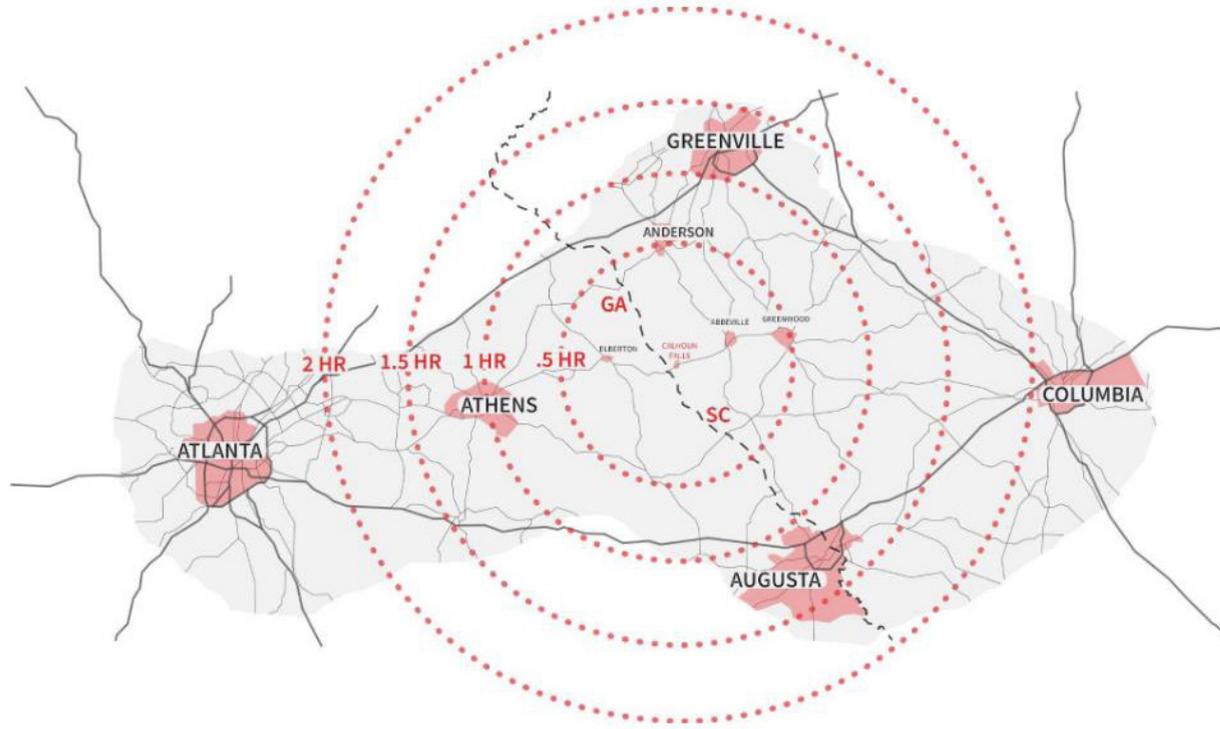
THE DREAM CENTER

CALHOUN FALLS, SC

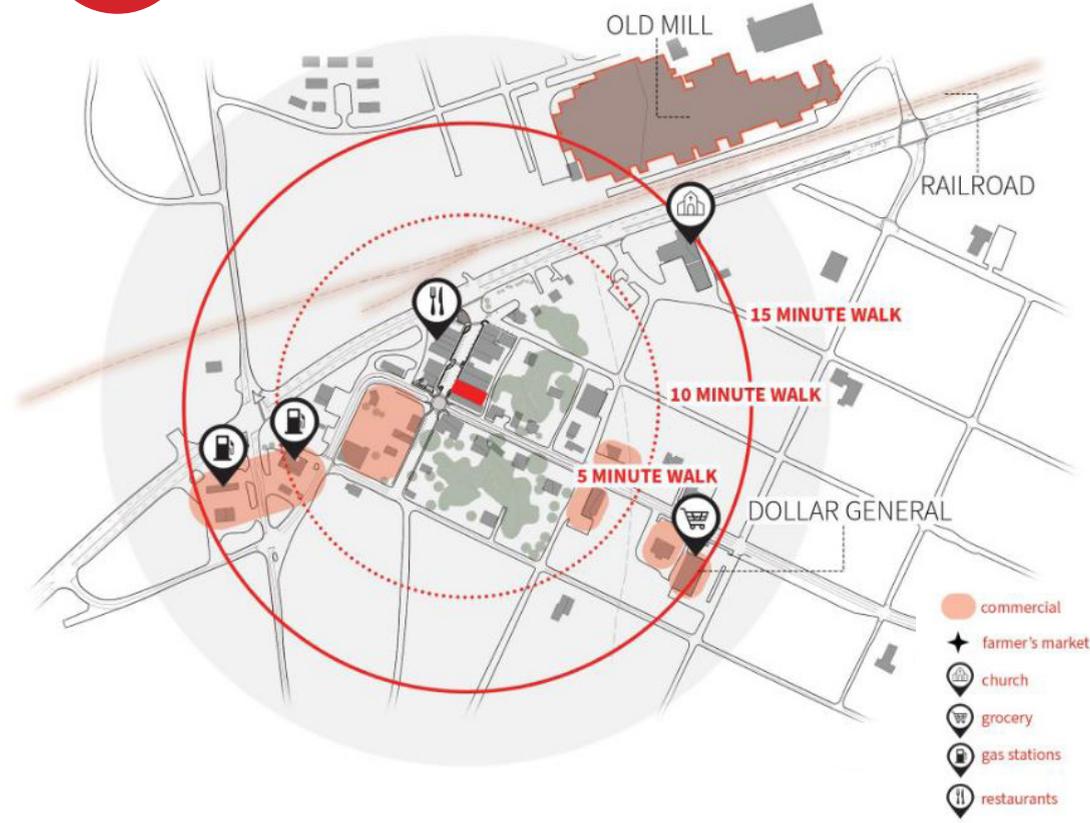


"HOW CAN WE AS ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS SHARE TOOLS WITH THE COMMUNITY SO THEY CAN VISUALIZE, COMMUNICATE, AND ENGAGE WITH THE DESIGN PROCESS? SOMETIMES, SMALL CHANGE IS ENOUGH TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER. - A DREAM STARTS HERE"

CONTEXT



LOCAL AREA



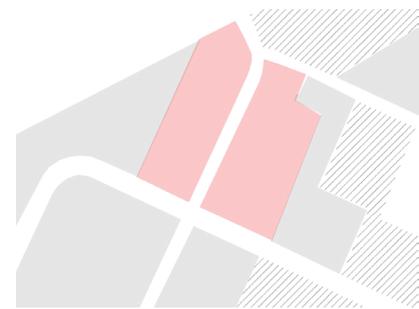
CALHOUN FALLS

Calhoun Falls is centrally located between 4 of the largest cities of South Carolina and Georgia. Though it is small in size, its resilient residents have a relatively self sustaining community with the exception of a twenty minute drive to grocery stores. Calhoun Falls State Park and undeveloped landscape offer the opportunity for residents of Atlanta, Augusta, Greenville, and Columbia an escape to the countryside.



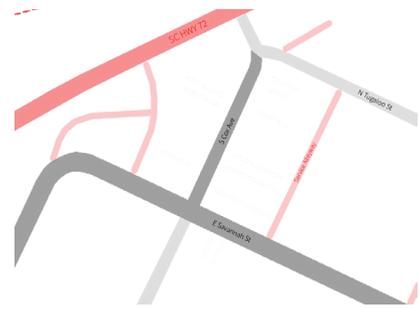
ABANDONMENT

30% of the downtown buildings are abandoned or for sale and have been for years.



RESIDENTIAL VS DOWNTOWN

The small downtown contains most of the town's assets with sparse residential settlements surrounding.



ROADS

SC 72 connecting Calhoun Falls to Abbeville runs to the north of downtown, in conjunction to secondary roads and alleyways.



PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS

Most of the pedestrian ways run along the main roads, with some cross walks in downtown, along with alley access for service.



TOPOGRAPHY

The site deals with an 8 foot straight drop-off as well as a constant slope in the surrounding area.

**“I WANT THIS CENTER
TO BE A CATALYST
FOR PEOPLE
TO DREAM AGAIN.”**

LaSean Tutt



THE DREAM CENTER

The Dream Center will be the home to a number of programs run by Dreams with Open Arms as well as some Calhoun Falls residents. Owned and operated by the non-profit which believes that building an equitable economy for Calhoun Falls and the Greater Abbeville region by creating opportunities that promote professional development, financial wellbeing, and entrepreneurial growth. We believe in participatory programming that gives voice to those we serve, breaking down silos between communities, and developing equitable pathways to economic success, we design and implement our own set of programs to achieve these aims.





EXISTING



REIMAGINED

**"BRINGING ABOUT
A CHANGE INVOLVES
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
WHAT IS ALREADY THERE."**



Dreams with Open Arms services are designed to address a number of challenges that young people experience including lack of employment opportunities, insufficient education, little or no parenting skills, inadequate financial resources, lack of mental, physical, spiritual, social coping skills. Overcoming these barriers is crucial to self-empowerment and self-sufficiency thereby improving the quality of life for them and their families. Our focus beyond teen pregnancy prevention include physical activity and nutrition, and healthy relationships



**"IF YOU BUILD IT,
THEY WILL COME."**



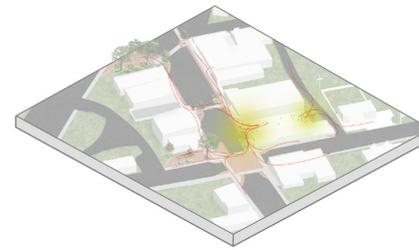


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Dream Center is a need for the town of Calhoun Falls, SC, not a want. In 1980 Calhoun Falls had a population of 2,491 and it has since dwindled to 1,692 according to the United States Census Bureau in 2019, a roughly 32% decrease in less than forty years. Like many other small textile towns across the south, Calhoun Falls has also seen a major decrease in economic opportunity as many of the once booming mills have now closed. By many measures the town is barely surviving. Local residents want nothing more than to see a rebound in the place they call home, and they believe the Dream Center could spark that change.

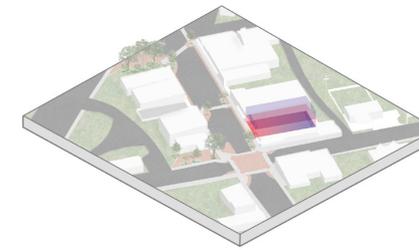
The goals of the community center are to promote social, educational, financial, spiritual, and physical skills that will help empower local families to succeed in life. To help citizens take action in improving their own neighborhoods through community service and activities on a sustained basis, and to create partnerships with local businesses that support the families in the community.

A series of community engagement events, design charrettes, and a Fluid Studio at Clemson University were conducted to explore design iterations and involve the community in the design process of The Dream Center.



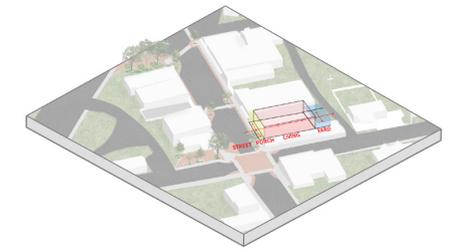
SITE ACTIVITY

Highlight main points of access from the street and path/yards, as well as movement through downtown



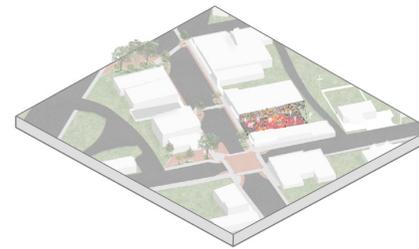
PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE

Street facing facade should be more accessible to the public. Program is more private as you move vertical



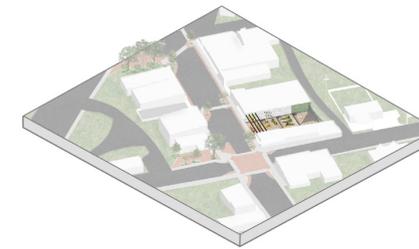
PORCH

Typical house typology with porch facing entry to welcome visitors and open yard space in back



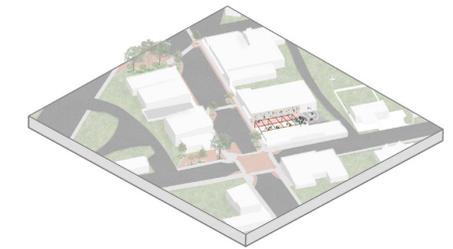
ART

Concept of highlighting the history and presence of art in the area in order to revitalize the space



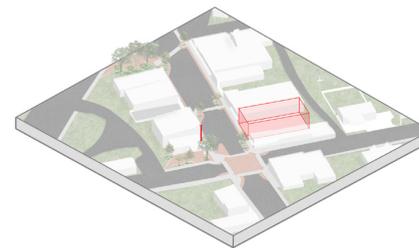
COMMUNITY GARDEN

Filling in the food ghole that exists in Calhoun Falls through grab-and-go type food systems



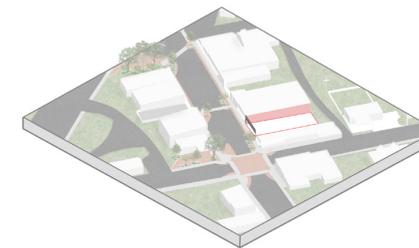
RECREATION

Connecting back to the state park a mile way and attracting visitors to the downtown area



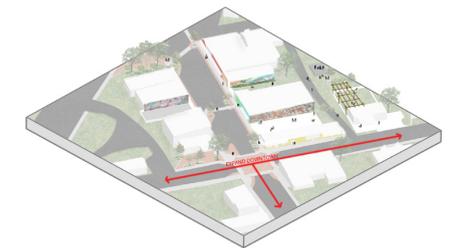
SCALE

Recognizing proper scale on the site, matching the restaurant height across the street



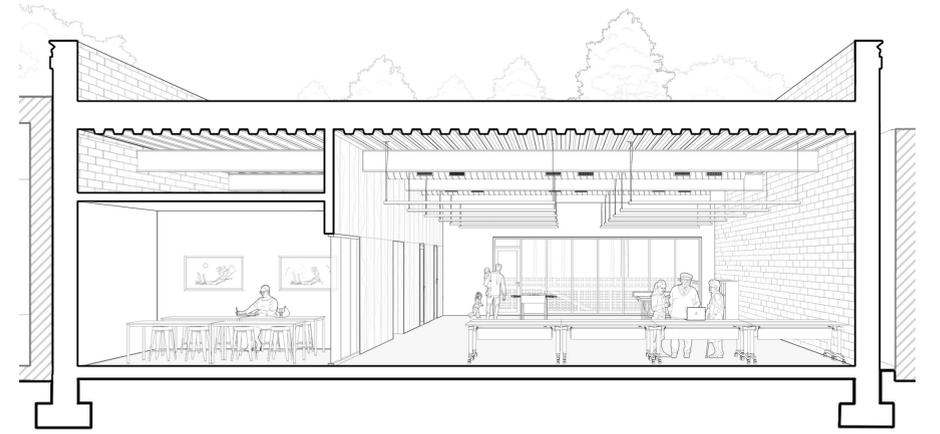
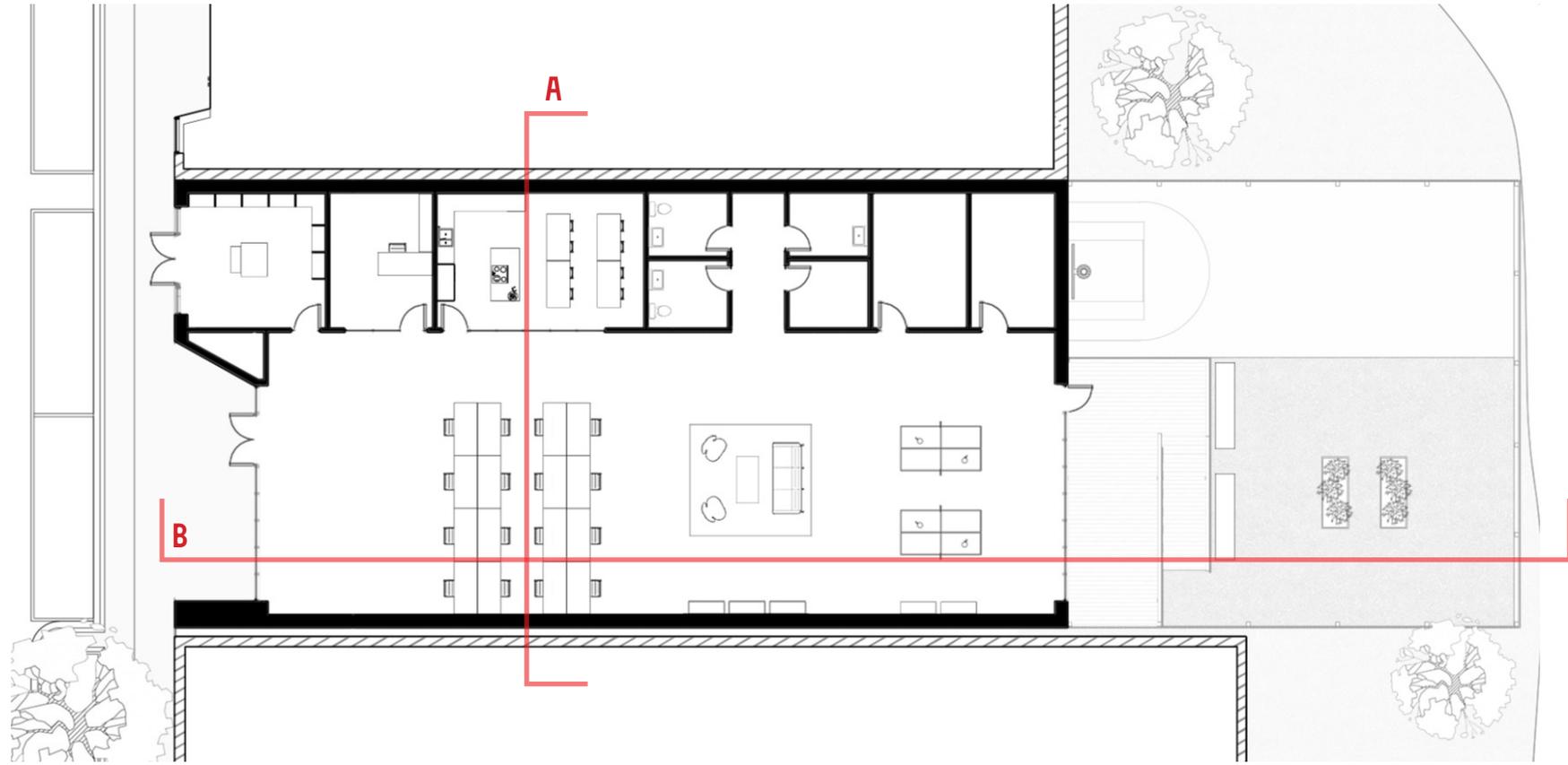
RESTORATION

Reusing the existing walls and street facing facade references the past while minimizing cost

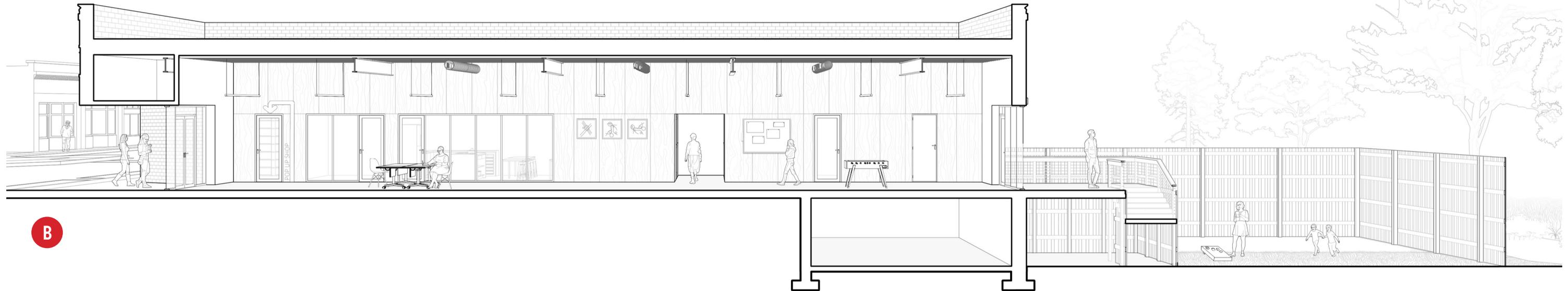


REVITALIZATION

Drawing from success of abbeville, simply painting street facades and generating positive yard/green space

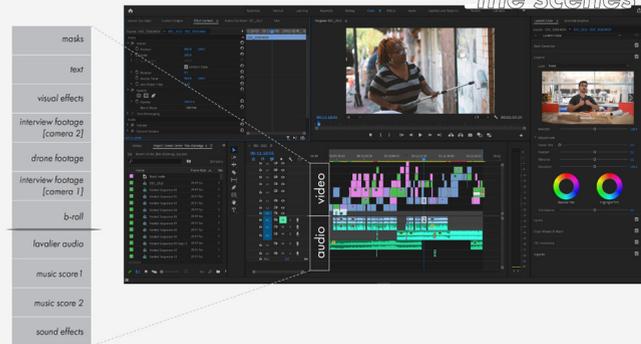


A



B

behind the scenes

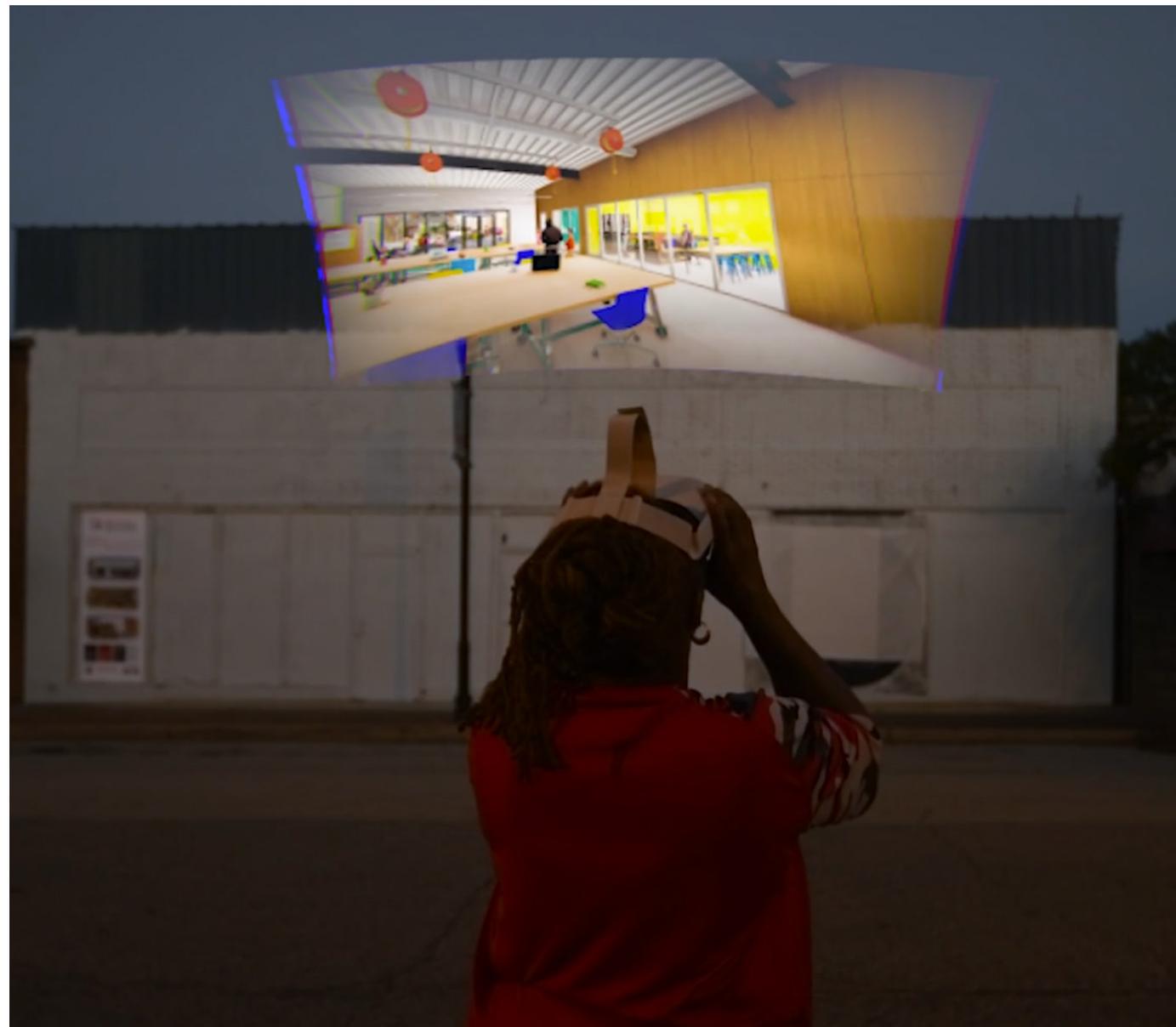


"ROCK THE BLOCK"

The design process for The Dream Center was centered around community engagement. A series of community events, design charettes, and a Clemson University Fluid Studio were conducted as a means to creatively iterate design ideas that involved the people that the project would ultimately impact. The design team sought to innovate the design and engagement process through a variety of mediums and emerging technologies. From physical models and 'Dot Exercises' to the use of VR, AR, and projection the design team found that approaching design using a variety of tools brought more people with more perspectives to the table. As architects and designers, if we want our work to positively impact the communities that we work in than we must involve those communities in the process.



the gear





FLEX / MULTIPURPOSE

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THE YARD