College of Design | Summer 2023 Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Mentor Name:

Student Name:

Project Title: A House for Aging and Home for Community

Purpose:

      Amid the current housing crisis, our society is struggling with the rapid increase in displacement and homelessness. Lexington currently has outlined in its comprehensive plan to address the issues of rising housing prices and necessary increases to its housing stock. While setting forth a plan to increase affordable housing and density within the city, consideration must be given to the housing needs of various communities. This project addresses the need for housing in Lexington, with attention to the aging population, by proposing a design of communal dwellings and surrounding landscape that allow independence alongside network of support.

Background:

      I am an Architecture student minoring in environmental science and sustainability and pursuing a certificate in historic preservation. I have also done coursework in urban planning and interior design. My education has led me to an interest in using design methodologies that aim to repair our social fabric and address the current environmental crisis through a holistic, multiscale, and multidisciplinary approach. As a preliminary step in a previous project, I researched the zoning and cultural histories of the Davis Bottom area, a formerly integrated, working-class neighborhood southwest of downtown Lexington. The richness of community networks and support that once existed seems unrecognizable to how we live our lives today. Currently, community interest has made Davis Bottom a focus of efforts to create affordable housing.

      Currently, the population of adults 65 and older is increasing dramatically. As the baby boomer generation transition into older adulthood, a blind spot has emerged as we struggle to care for and house the aging population. Much of our infrastructure does not pay kindly to those who struggle with any disability or those who cannot drive or access a motor vehicle. As many age, they become confined to their homes, and access to basic necessities becomes strained. The built environment degrades the

well-being of our elderly population. Depression affects a growing number of elders, many report to feel isolation even in population dense areas. Better care is needed for those at risk in our elderly population and the question must be asked how the built environment can support the ever-growing need for housing and community for elderly individuals.

There is a need for housing that accommodates aging generations while simultaneously fostering community, combatting the climate crisis, and healing humans' ecological connections to nature. At present, discussions of how to better support aging in place and housing needs, but many ideas have yet to be implemented at scale. Hence, this project aspires to merge senior housing and sustainability to build community, foster social ties, and envision a resilient, interconnected society without many of the hardships that have now reached epidemic proportions.

Methodology and Research Plan:

Preliminary stages of this project will require informative research, including gathering community input and use of the UK Library Services and database. Directed readings will focus on housing, sustainable building, and social conditions—these readings with direct precedent studies and a site visit if possible. The conceptual design phase will be informed by consultations with community members, particularly through the Davis Bottom Community Land Trust. Plans and iterations will be reviewed, refined, and then produced into printed drawings, diagrams, perspective collages, and a model that communicates the proposal for a senior housing development that exemplifies sustainable design and is integrated into a multigenerational, interconnected community at Davis Bottom.

Anticipated Outcome and Impact:

This project strives to understand the needs of aging individuals and how a community can be constructed and supported through the built environment and holistic design. Final deliverables will include a model of the proposed site design demonstrating the communal system through multiple lenses of scale, accompanying drawings, diagrams, and perspective images to support understanding, and a written proposal. This project's deliverables will be geared toward creating communal engagement of the average civilian, with the intention to be able to present to the local

community and organizations. While this project brings light and urgency to issues currently faced in our society, it strives to communicate solutions in an engaging and digestible manner. Furthermore, it will showcase how systematic issues must be acknowledged and addressed in the built environment.
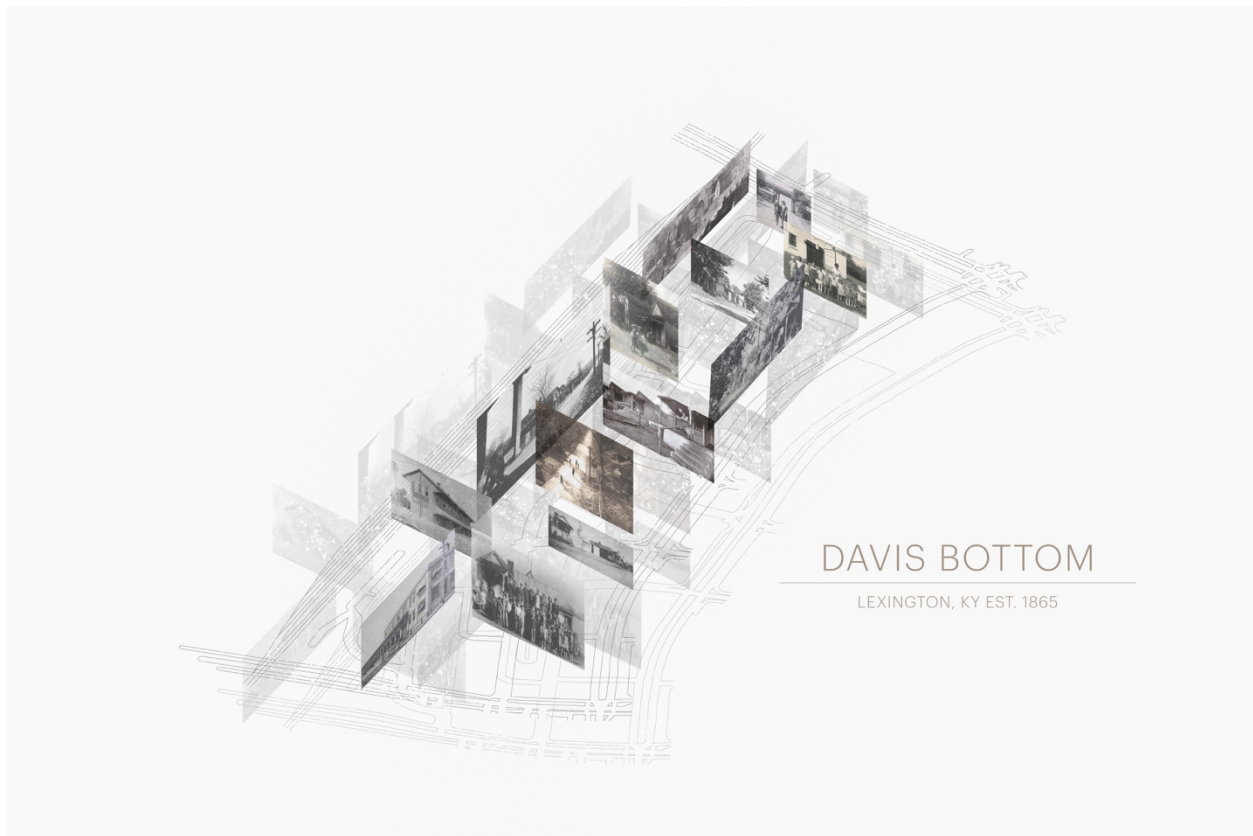
Budget:

      Materials: $300.00

      Printing Services: $100.00

      Precedent Research Travel: $500.00

      Hourly Pay: $15.00/hour (10-15 hours a week, for 12 weeks)

      Total Budget Proposal: $3,000.00

Davis Bottom, history and community collage study (Fall 2022).

COLLEGE OF DESIGN
Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Proposal
Budget Worksheet

Student Name:	
Proposal Name:	A House for Aging and Home for Community

	Description	Price	Qty	Total
Materials/Expenses:	Model Materials (TBD)	$300.00	1	$300.00
	Printing Services	$100.00	1	$100.00
	Precedent Travel Research	$500.00	1	$500.00
				$0.00
				$0.00
				$0.00
				$0.00
				$0.00
				$0.00
	(material expenses not to exceed $300)		Total	$900.00

	Hours per Week	Weeks	Hourly*	Total
Hours:	10-15 hrs/ week	12	$15	$2,100.00

* https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/21067

Total Proposal Budget $3,000.00

Project Budget not to exceed $3,000 total