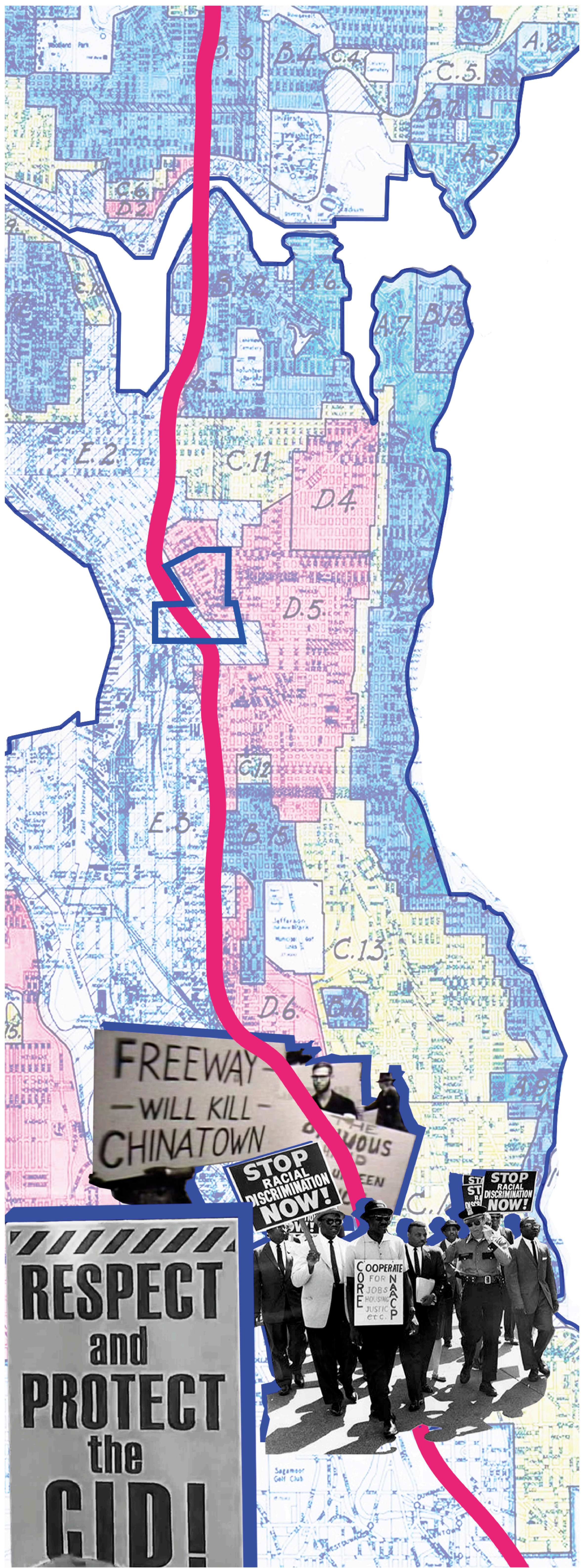


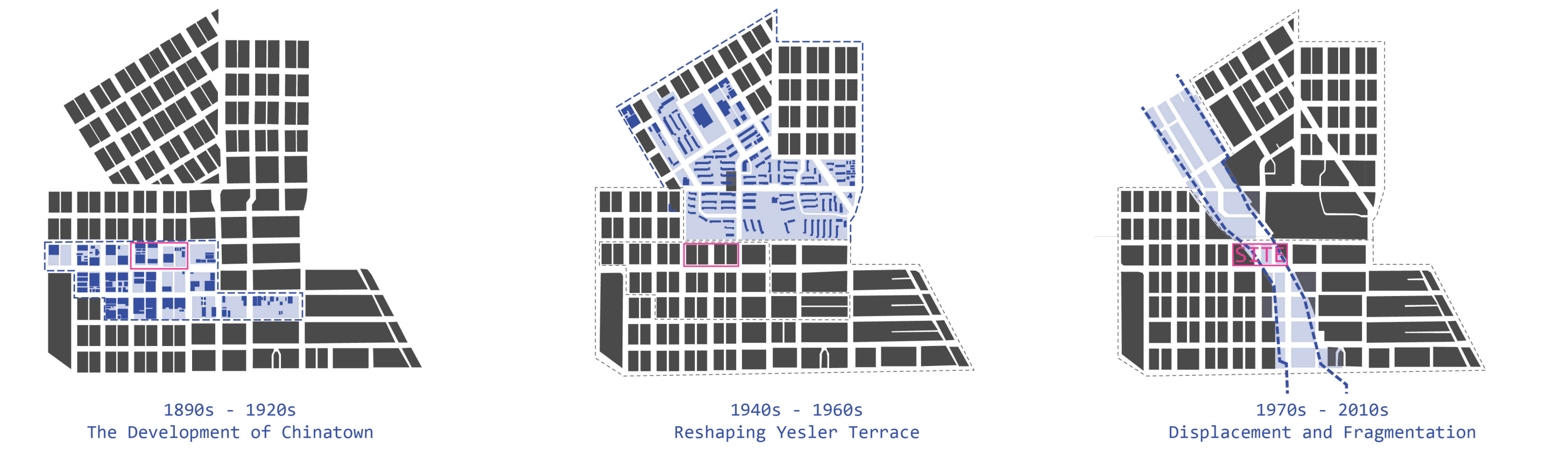
# WOVEN TOGETHER

## Reconnecting Communities in Disrupted Urban Spaces



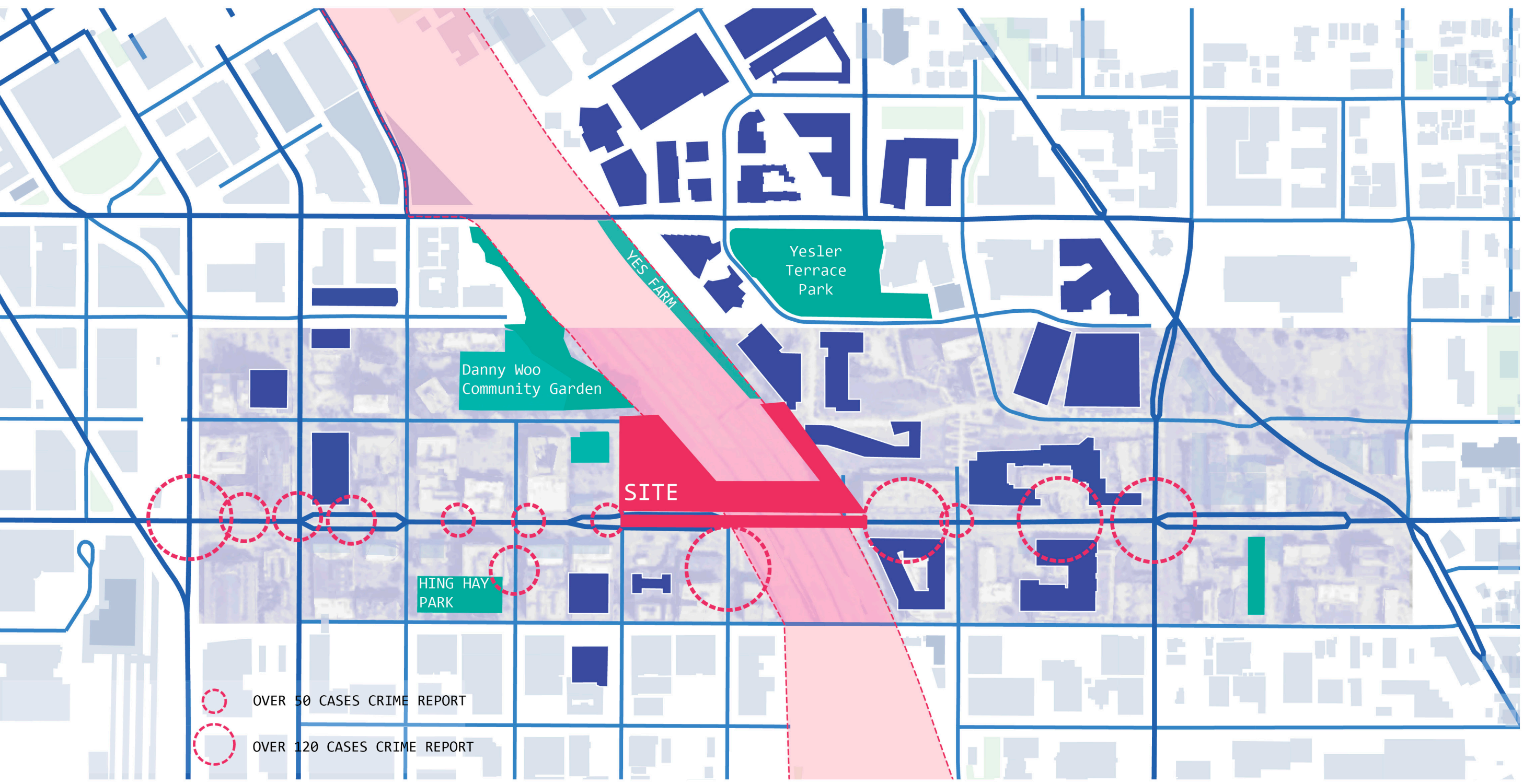
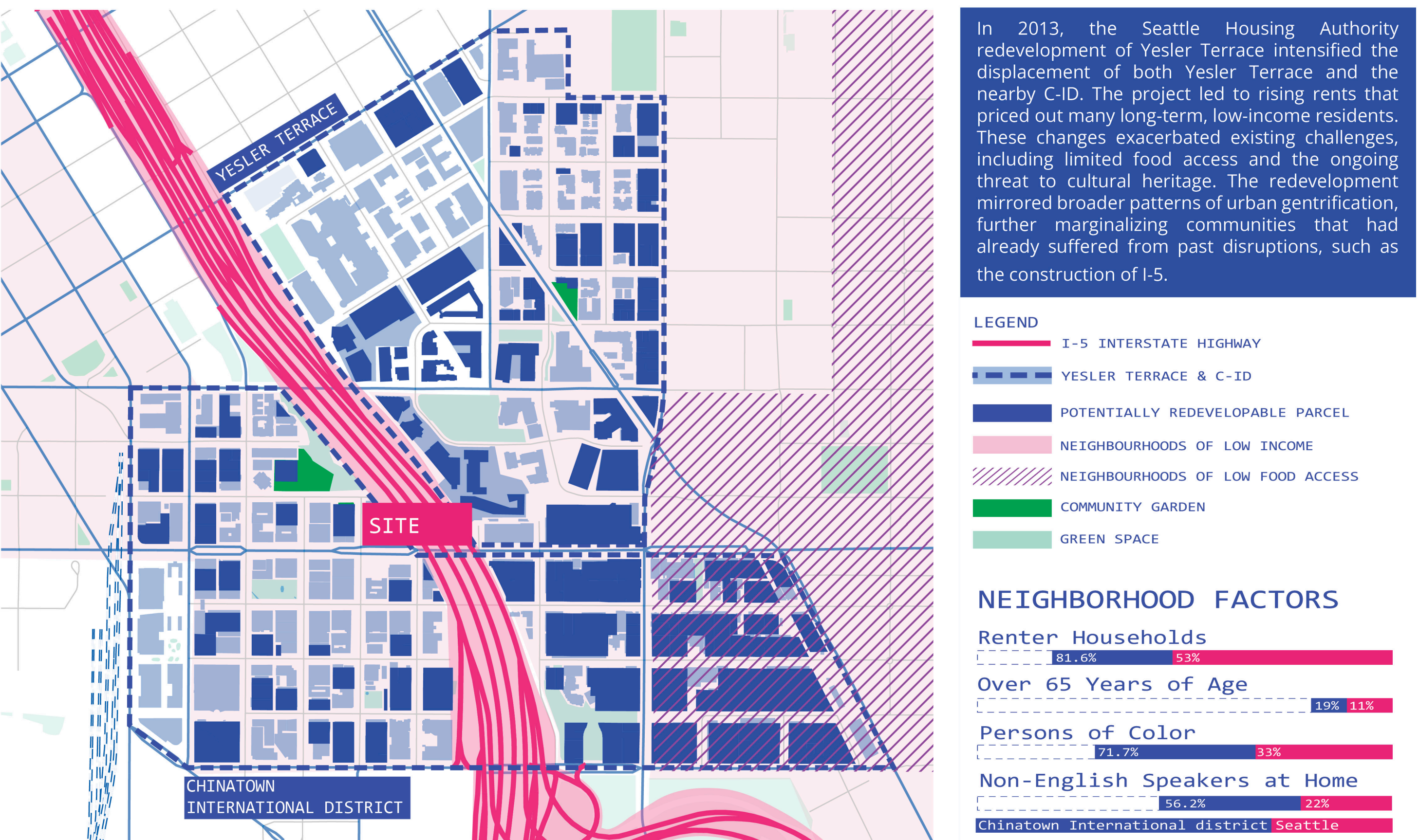
The U.S. interstate highway system epitomizes systemic racial inequities. It is no coincidence that highways were deliberately routed through Asian, Black, and Brown communities in many major American cities, tore apart neighborhoods and left a deep psychological scar on communities that lost homes, churches, schools, and a sense of belonging. Seattle's Chinatown-International District (C-ID) and the Yesler Terrace neighborhood are examples of this injustice. When the I-5 freeway was constructed through downtown Seattle in the 1960s, it displaced blocks of residents. Since then, the community has fought against further displacements. Yet, as the city continues to grow, these vulnerable neighborhoods now face the looming threat of gentrification, another form of displacement. In this context, we focus on the byproducts of the I-5 highway—the spaces under and around the bridge, abandoned and ignored for far too long. These “ghost blocks,” “crime corridors,” and “food deserts” have been left disconnected from the community they should serve. We re-imagine these spaces into a dynamic, community hub—one that empowers the residents, especially the low-income, elderly, and non-English-speaking members, by giving them a place to gather, communicate, and feel supported; one that helps the community reclaim its place and continue to grow in strength and unity.

### THE PAST



The construction of I-5 in the 1960s through C-ID and Yesler Terrace exemplified racial discrimination in urban planning. The highway's route was deliberately sited through low-income and minority neighborhoods, prioritizing efficiency and cost savings over the well-being of these communities. Residents protested the project, warning of the devastating impacts on their homes, businesses, and cultural hubs. The construction displaced hundreds of families and further isolated these neighborhoods from the rest of the city.

### THE PRESENT



PROJECT LOCATION: Interstate 5 Underpass at 8th & Jackson, Seattle, WA. | TEAM MEMBER: Yuqing Zhang, Zian Zheng

OUT IN FRONT

SMALL-SCALE INTERVENTIONS





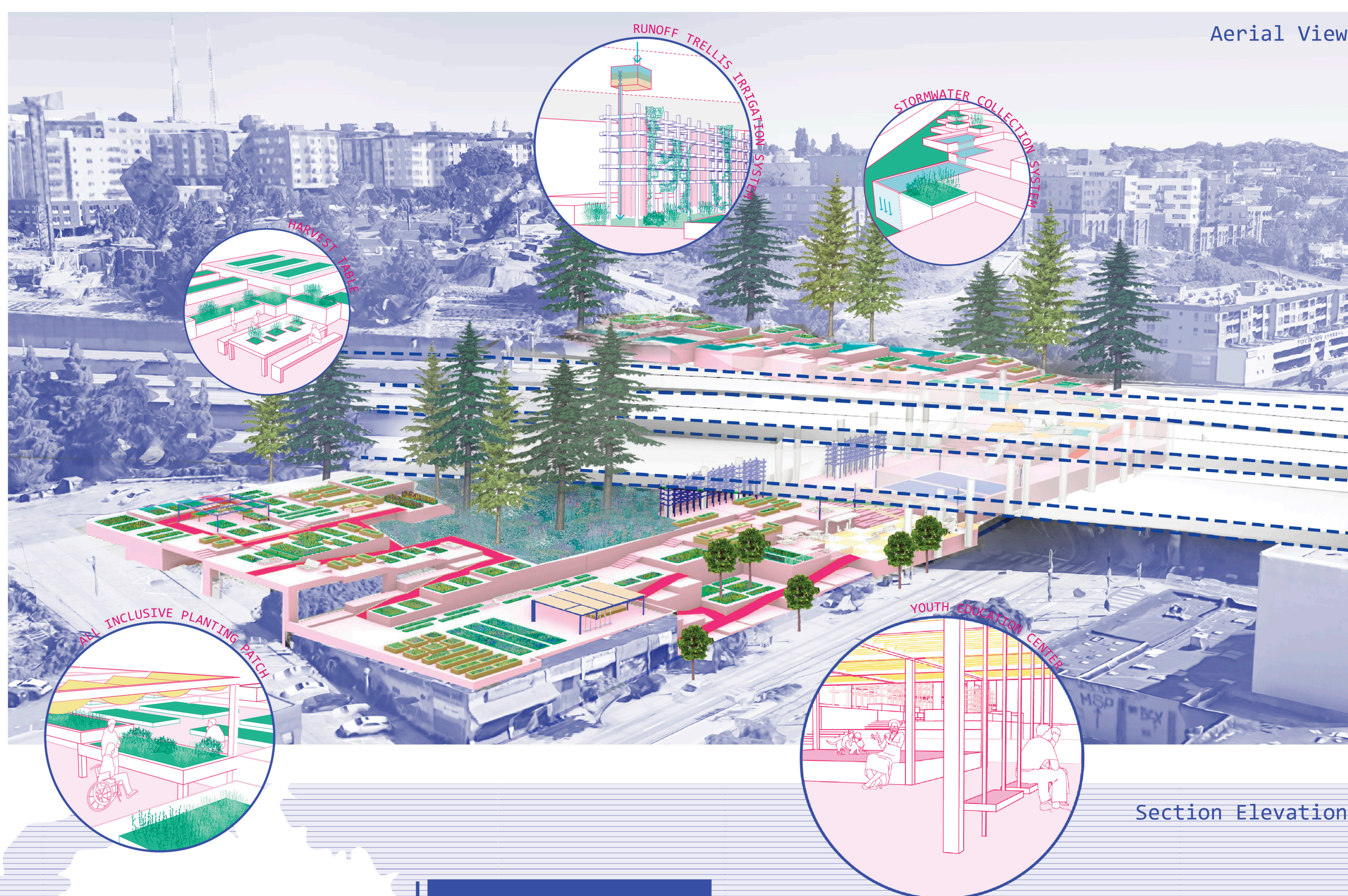
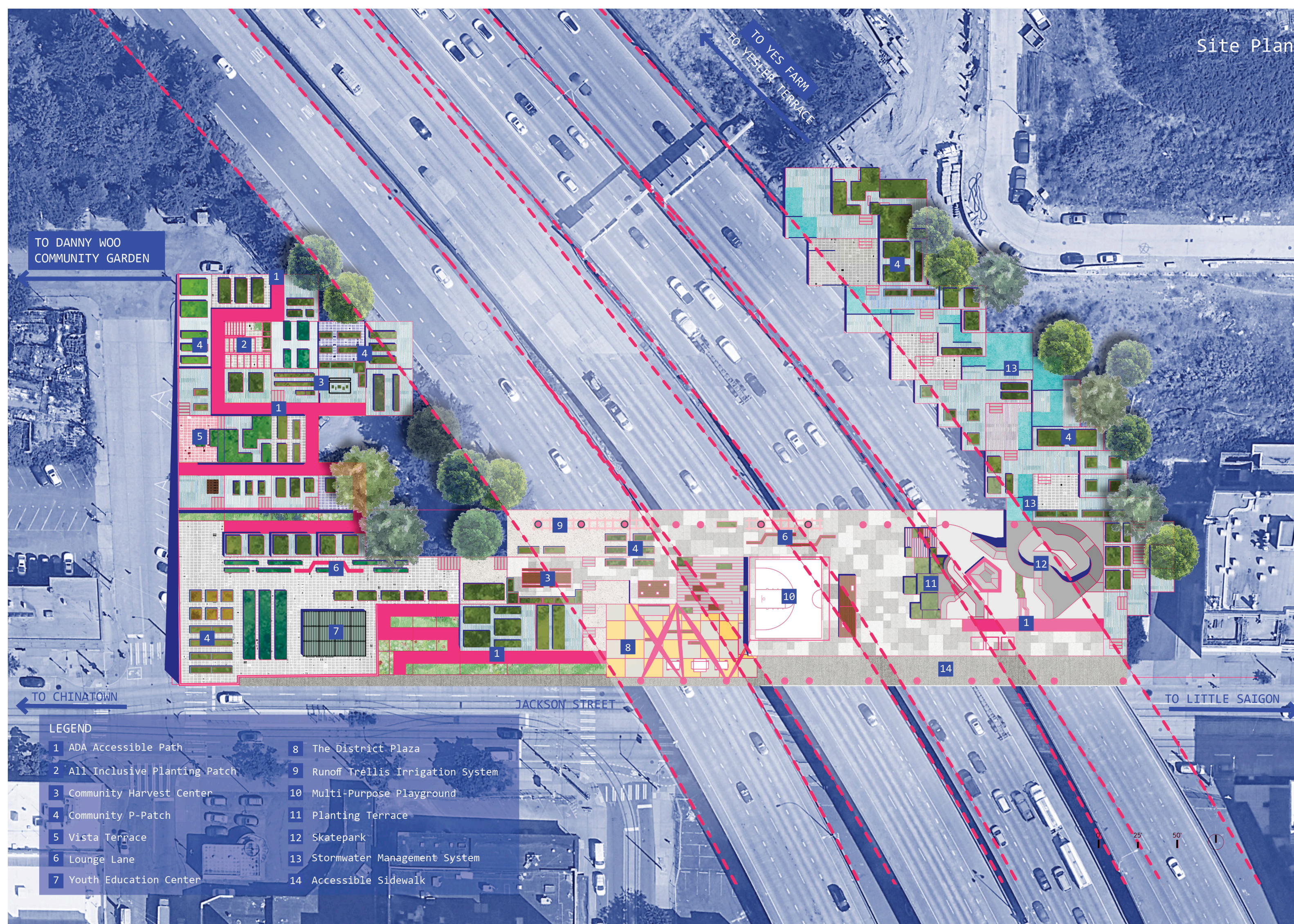
ioslated ----> integrated  
restricted ----> accessible  
empty ----> dynamic

Our project seeks to restore the fragmented urban fabric disrupted by urban renewal, including the construction of I-5 and ongoing gentrification, while rebuilding the sense of place lost through historical displacement.

Though each culture uses quilting as a different storytelling, they all share a common thread—optimism, resilience, and collective strength of community. This is the inspiration for our design: stitching together the fabric of a broken community into something whole, vibrant, and interconnected. Just as a quilt is made from individual patches that come together to form a cohesive whole, our design will weave together the diverse cultures, histories, and voices of the community.

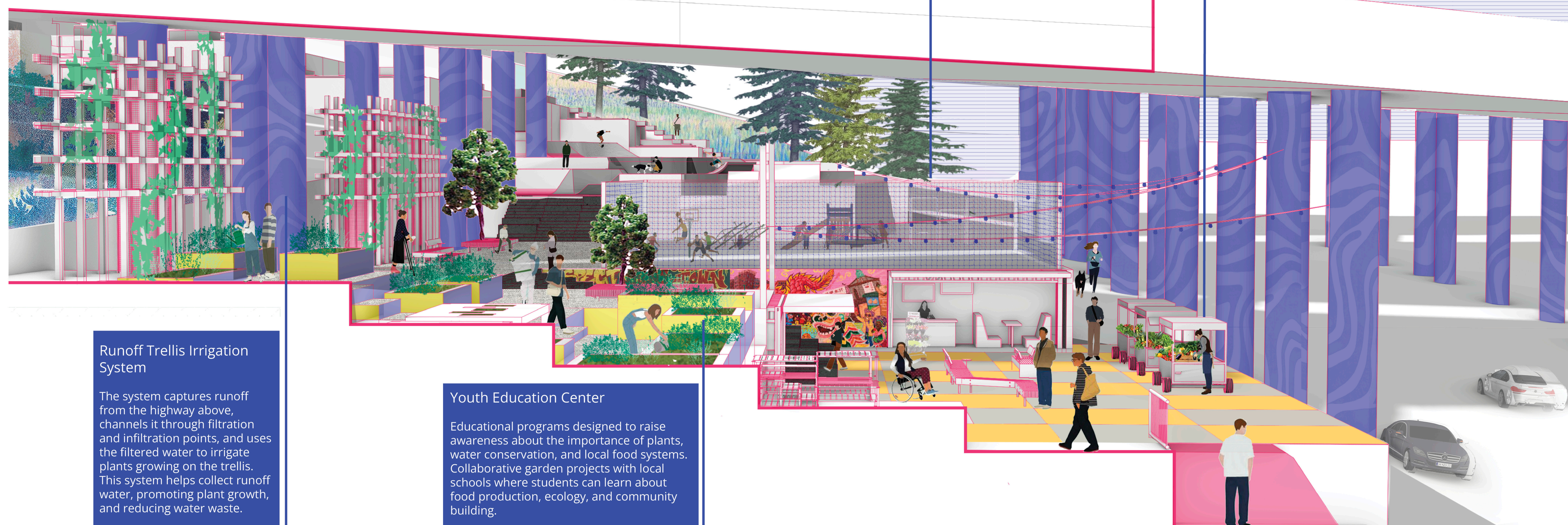
Category	Question	Yes (%)	No (%)
HEALTH	ACCESS TO HEALTH FOOD	30	70
	FOOD AFFORDABILITY	45	55
	PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES	30	70
SOCIAL	SOCIALLY INTEGRATED	35	65
	AGING AND MINORITY	35	65
	COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT	65	35
	SAFE SPACES	55	45
	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION	35	65
ECOLOGICAL	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	65	35
	AWARENESS OF FOOD SYSTEM ECOLOGY	50	50

To better connect the site to the Danny Woo Community Garden and Kobe Terrace Park, a terrace-formed garden was built above the existing parking lot, featuring ADA-accessible paths to alleviate the steep slope and improve accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities. The design includes functional spaces such as an all-inclusive planting patch, with infrastructure tailored to accommodate a variety of needs, and a community harvest table, offering residents opportunities to engage in gardening and communal activities. These features enhance inclusivity and strengthen the sense of community, allowing people from



Nestled beneath the bridge, the program offers a unique blend of recreation and relaxation. The skate park, with its array of ramps and obstacles, invites skaters of all levels to showcase their skills. Adjacent to the skate park, a dedicated play area provides a safe and stimulating environment for young children to climb, slide, and explore.

The District Plaza is designed as an ADA-accessible and all-age-inclusive space that transforms the underutilized area beneath the highway into a vibrant community hub. It features pop-up markets, farmers' markets, artisan fairs, seasonal events like night markets, plant swaps, and



The system captures runoff from the highway above, channels it through filtration and infiltration points, and uses the filtered water to irrigate plants growing on the trellis. This system helps collect runoff water, promoting plant growth, and reducing water waste.

Educational programs designed to raise awareness about the importance of plants, water conservation, and local food systems. Collaborative garden projects with local schools where students can learn about food production, ecology, and community building.

PROJECT LOCATION: Interstate 5 Underpass at 8th & Jackson, Seattle, WA. | TEAM MEMBER: Yuqing Zhang, Zian Zheng

## SMALL-SCALE INTERVENTIONS

