

JOIN US! WEDNESDAY 5.13.2026 GOULD 100 MLA CAPSTONE STUDIO PRESENTATIONS

PROVOKING POIESIS: RELATIONS + EXPERIMENTATIONS + VISIONS FOR RESILIENCE

10:00-11:00 SHANN THOMAS | CELEBRATING CONSTRAINTS: A PARTICIPATORY DESIGN PROCESS AT MERCER COURT

This design capstone project addresses participatory design, and involving maintenance workers in the participatory design process. Methods used in this capstone are: community engagement, interviews and and creative practices such as collage. This capstone asks the questions: How can community engagement create more relevant and activated spaces? What becomes possible when we reframe maintenance workers as primary users of a site? What is possible when we embrace site constraints and use them as drivers of design? This project is the research aspect of what will hopefully become a design/build studio.

1:00-1:15 OVERVIEW : NORTH SEATTLE'S URBAN CENTERS

1:15-2:10 JACK SANTUCCI | NEW FUTURES FOR MUNICIPAL GOLF: RETROFITTING SEATTLE'S JACKSON PARK GOLF COURSE FOR SOCIAL + ECOLOGICAL COMMONS

This capstone explores a "both/and" future for Seattle's Jackson Park Golf Course —one that maintains a full 18-hole municipal course while strategically retrofitting the 160-acre site to expand its ecological performance and public value. Situated between two new light rail stations and within an emerging urban center, Jackson Park is uniquely positioned to serve as a transit-connected green community commons for Pinehurst, Bitter Lake, and Lake City Urban Centers. By reducing non-essential turf, restoring habitat, and introducing non-golf community spaces, this project reimagines municipal golf as multifunctional green infrastructure in a rapidly densifying city.

2:15-3:10 JAXON ROLLER | DEPAVING DENSMORE: HEALING THE HEADWATERS

This project provokes poiesis by inviting people into a positive rewilding future that reconnects Bitter Lake and Haller Lake via ponds and wetlands (lentic systems) with a new wetland system and open space at Aurora and 130th. Lentic systems are powerful allies in alleviating the climate and biodiversity crises, by sequestering carbon at higher rates per acre and supporting richer biodiversity than almost any other ecosystem. By reconnecting these waterbodies, species can traverse between them and reside where they had been displaced. This reconnection also provides refuge, leisure, and desirable active transport that support the health and well-being of local human inhabitants.

3:10-3:20 BREAK

3:20-4:15 SASHA CRAWFORD | FEEDING THE FUTURE: A CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS TRUST FOR NORTH SEATTLE

The future demands a reconnection to local food systems and a return to circularity. Leveraging the existing spatial and social assets of the Bitter Lake and Haller Lake neighborhoods, this project envisions a future where food is grown, eaten, and recycled in an interconnected network of diverse places. Centering learning, livelihoods, and community, public and vacant space will transform to support a radical vision of food sovereignty on a neighborhood scale. Under the structural framework of a land trust for circular food systems, the seeds for a more just, resilient and sustainable future will be planted.

4:20-5:15 MAISIE DEBRUYN | DROPS TO RIPPLES: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY THROUGH JOY AND RESILIENCE

This project envisions a thriving neighborhood center by redesigning public lands along the southern edge of Bitter Lake, including the Bitter Lake Community Center, Broadview-Thompson K-8 School, and a Seattle Housing Authority parcel. This design uses both joy and climate resilience as tools to build a strong community with the capacity to combat social fragmentation and our changing climate through all seasons. The emotion of joy is uniquely situated to inspire bonding across groups, creating a community hub people feel drawn to as a climate oasis and watering hole. Using water as the major design inspiration for both joy and climate resilience, the interventions focus on three aspects of joy that currently exist on site - joy through movement, learning, and connection - to envision intergenerational and placed-based opportunities for community life.

5:15-5:30 CLOSING THOUGHTS + GRATITUDE

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUESTS + REVIEWERS!

- MLA CAPSTONE STUDIO + ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JULIE JOHNSON

**The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land,
the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.**