

MAKING PLACE as a work-in-progress

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Greater Riverdale

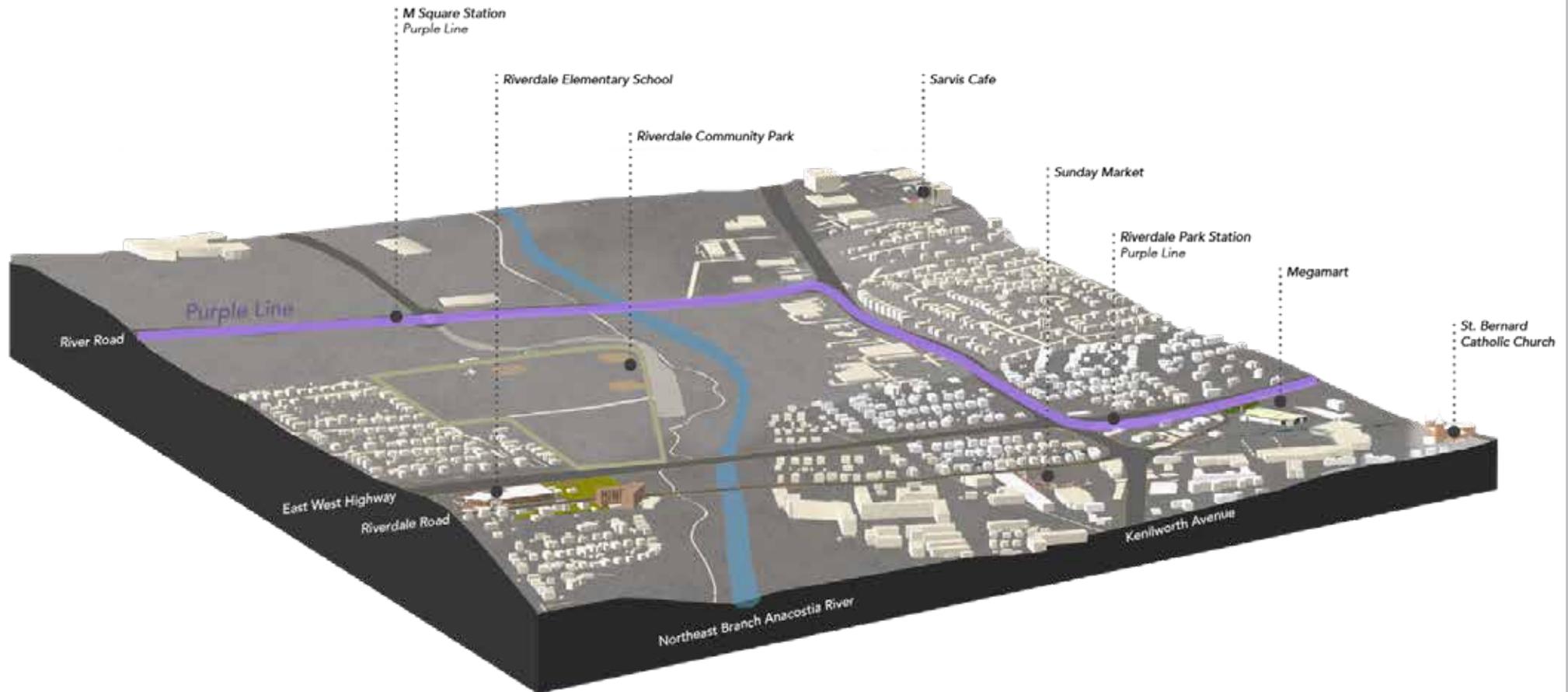
Imagining the Future through Ephemeral Design

- What aspects of the community could use improvement?
- How can we start to implement a future plan today?
- How can the community be united and engaged in this mission?

Downtown Riverdale Park

Purple Line Station Impact Area

The future Purple Line station will be located at the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and East West Highway. Areas of interest include the Riverdale Elementary School, Sarvis Cafe, Plaza del Alamo Shopping Center and the various businesses in Downtown Riverdale.



Riverdale's Unique Character

Demographics & Culture



Shopping Center



Rooms for Rent



Religious Presence



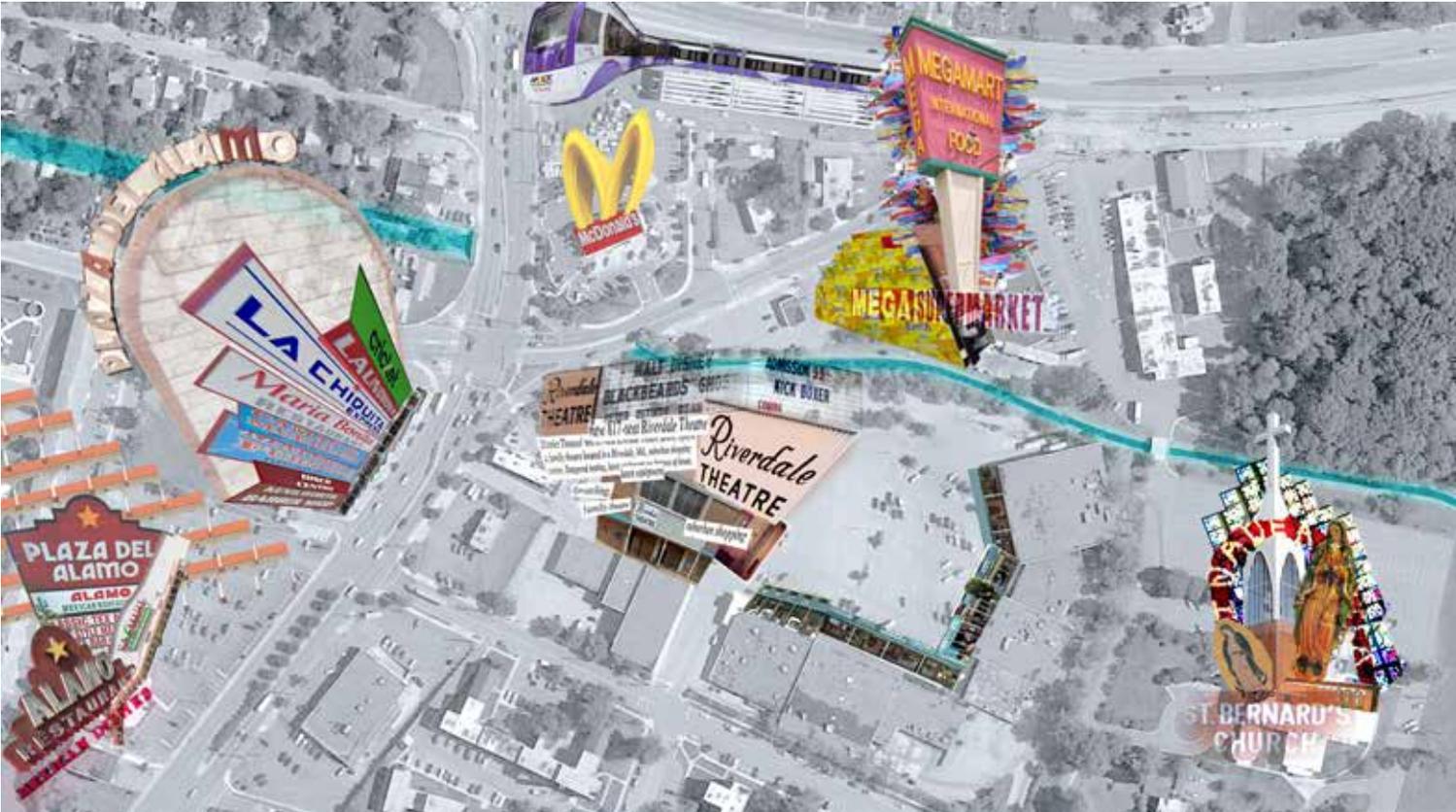
Grocery Staples



Pawn Shop



Colorful Flags



Demographics

Purple Line Placemaking

Greater Riverdale Initiative

Place-Based Goals

The Greater Riverdale Place Based Initiative has collaboratively identified five areas of improvement for the community; safety, streets, kinship, stable futures, and schools. According to the Visioning and Outreach Report by the NDC, these five goals arose from a series of workshops attended by community members.

Within the Greater Riverdale Place Based Initiative spearheaded by the Neighborhood Design Center, there are other stakeholders. This group includes the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC), Kaiser Permanente, a healthcare company, the incorporated Town of Riverdale Park, and the neighborhood communities.

GREATER RIVERDALE GOALS

-  *Kinship*
-  *Stable Futures*
-  *Schools*
-  *Safety*
-  *Streets*

Identified by the Neighborhood Design Center



Resource Hubs

Mobile Access to Necessary Services

Key Questions

- How can everyone in Greater Riverdale access basic services?
- What are the services that most people in Riverdale lack access to?
- How can these Hubs lead to a more permanent solution?

Greater Riverdale Goals

-  *Kinship*
-  *Stable Futures*
-  *Safety*
-  *Streets*

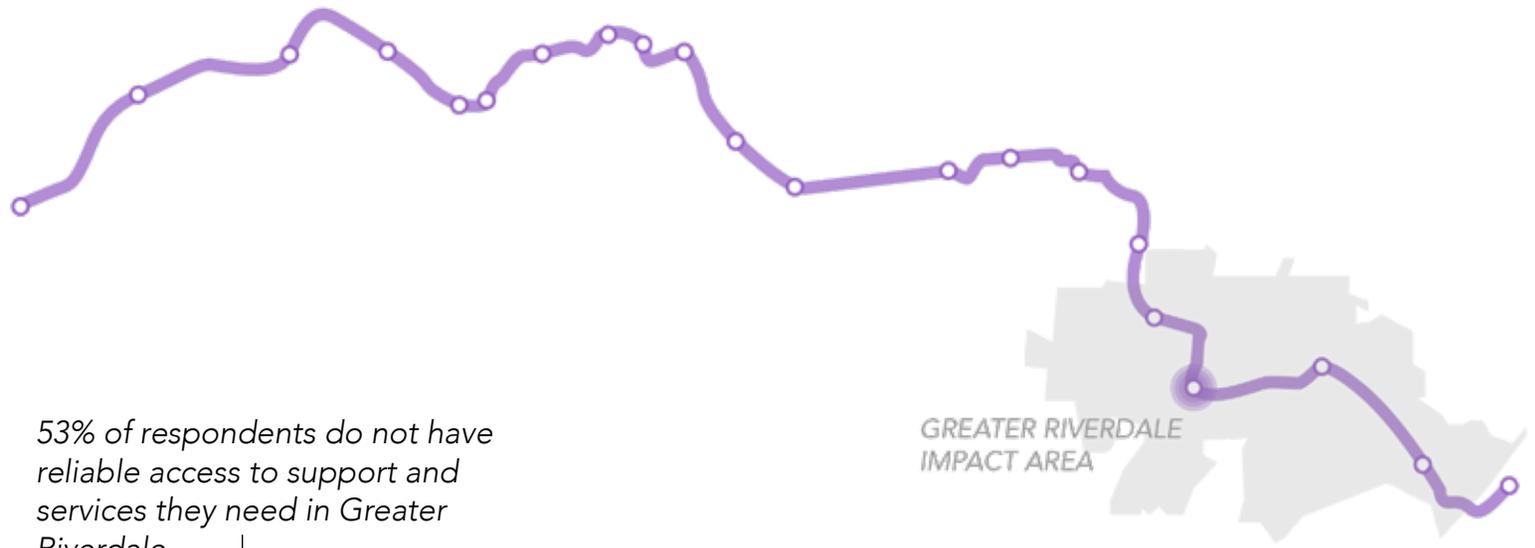


Greater Riverdale

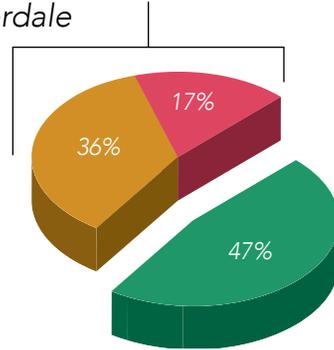
Community Strengths

Riverdale takes pride in its diversity. There is a great sense of community, and an even greater desire among the residents of Greater Riverdale to strengthen those bonds. The community has many valuable assets. Its schools provide valuable resources and education to area youths, and its housing stock is robust and affordable. Riverdale is also extremely well connected. Its transit infrastructure links neighboring communities together as well as access to D.C. and Baltimore.

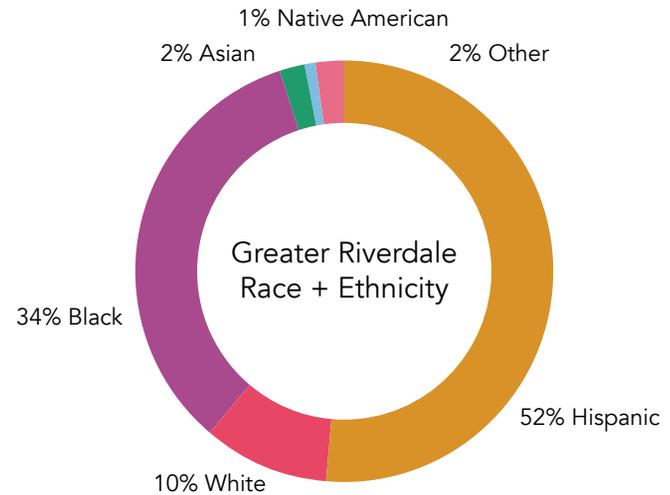
These unique strengths are ones that the Resource Hubs intend to amplify. According to a recent survey conducted by the NDC, 71% of participants feel like they belong in the community of Riverdale. This sense of belonging is something the Hubs will amplify by creating even more opportunities for community events. By providing infrastructure, the Hubs can elevate the events already existing in Riverdale.



53% of respondents do not have reliable access to support and services they need in Greater Riverdale



71%
of respondents
feel that they belong
in the Riverdale community



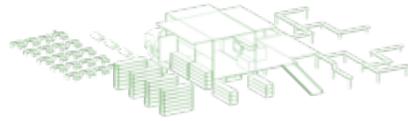
Mobile Resource Hubs

What is a Resource Hub?

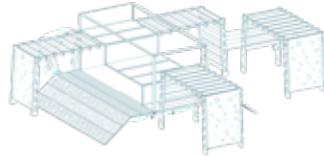
A Mobile Resource Hub is a regular box-van that is retrofitted to serve a specific purpose. There are five vans that will serve as mobile playgrounds, food pantries, technology centers, and libraries. Together, they have the ability to bring necessary services to the community of Riverdale.

Why does the community need Resource Hubs?

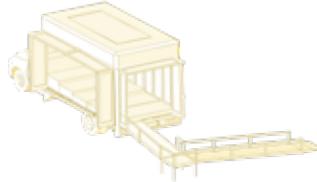
Currently, there is no community center in Riverdale and the nearest library is over two miles away. Only 47% of Riverdale residents feel they have adequate access to necessary services. This lack of investment in the community means there are limited public service programs and places to relax within walking distance of the residential area. Further, downtown Riverdale is not a pedestrian oriented place which makes getting to any limited services even harder. The goal of these Hubs will be to bring the lacking services to residents.



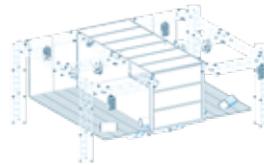
Food Pantry Hub



Climb Hub



Library Hub



Stage Hub



Tech Hub



What will the Resource Hubs accomplish?

Resource Hubs will provide infrastructure for existing events as well as increase access to necessary services. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted pressing needs like accessibility to affordable food. By combining multiple Resource Hub typologies, the area transforms into a temporary community center.

Location

Where can the Hubs go?

Resource Hubs will migrate throughout the Greater Riverdale Area activating under-utilized neighborhood spaces and providing necessary services. As determined from the worksheet developed by the Gehl Institute, Riverdale needs adequate seating and lighting, a feeling of safety, space for conversation and pedestrian mobility. These modular, moveable spaces will provide the same outcome as a permanent space at a fraction of the investment and commitment.

These hubs could be parked in one of the multiple parking lots in the downtown area where there is an abundance of parking space. There is a severe need for a space for entertainment, play and other community events.

This map shows underutilized paved areas in the downtown Riverdale Park area. These are potential locations for the Mobile Resource Hubs to visit. The Hubs will roam to and from these spaces.

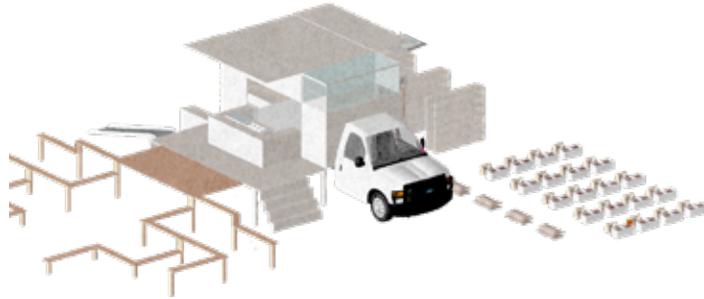


Mobile Market

Access to Healthy Food

This Hub's mission is to increase community access to quality food. The Hub will function as a food pantry, a pop-up restaurant and gathering space. Volunteers from religious organizations and schools have the opportunity to serve their community through this Hub.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the community has had reduced access to affordable food either due to loss of income, sickness, or risk factors that prevent a person from going to the grocery store. The Mobile Market will immediately address these concerns by protecting at-risk and elderly citizens who need a reliable and affordable food delivery system. Families who are suddenly without reliable income and overburdened with childcare will benefit from the Hub's meal services elements. Educational programming will also include nutrition and exercise.

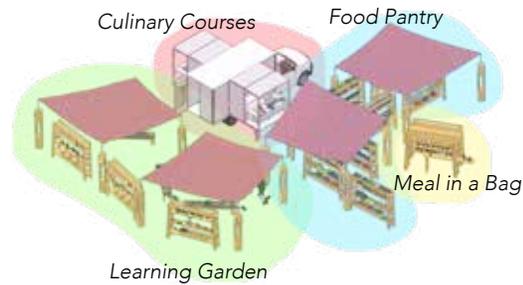


Mobile Market

Supporting The Sarvis Empowerment Cafe

The Mobile Market will support the Sarvis Cafe, bringing knowledge and good food to communities around Riverdale.

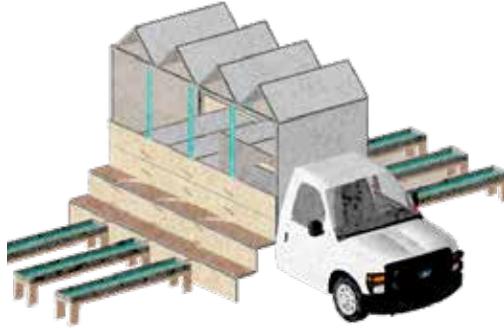
- Clockwise from top left:
 - Pop-up program: Culinary courses, food pantry, Meal in a bag pickup and learning garden.
 - Food Demo
 - Mobile Market Pickup



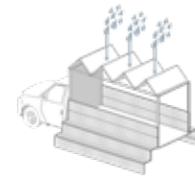
Education Hub

Learning about the River

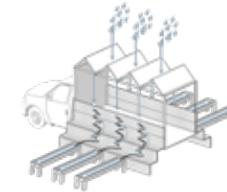
This Hub's mission is to create a safe space for children to learn and play within the city. Its modularity will accommodate various activities that cater towards multiple age groups and audiences.



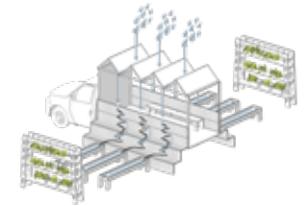
Water Cycle Inspired Rainwater Collection Process



Precipitation



Runoff



Evaporation + Transpiration

This Hub is designed to encourage education about the water cycle. It is an equally playful activity as it is an opportunity to teach children about the nearby watershed. Rain becomes a weather event that the community looks forward to. People of all ages come to celebrate this unique event and kinship is fostered in the process. Children will design their own tracks that direct rainfall into discovery troughs that ultimately feed plants.

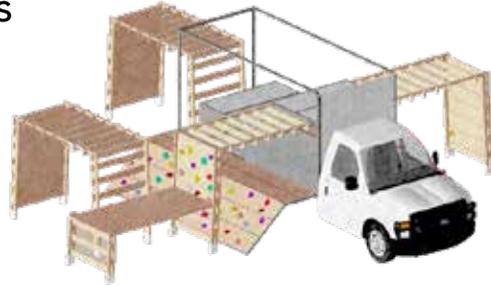
The Education Hub is assembled using the kit of parts that is stored within the van. The segmented walls and roof structure allows the Hub to expand and contract. Flat-pack furniture can be set up as shelves to supplement the educational center.



Climb Hub

Placeholder Playgrounds

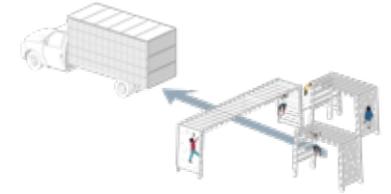
The Climb Hub brings playground equipment anywhere in the Riverdale community. Impromptu mini parks area created in an area where the nearest recreation space might be miles away. Children of all ages can be entertained by the different climbing obstacles.



Set-Up



Play



Repeat

The flat pack furniture is adapted to become a framework for monkey bars and climbing walls. The modularity of the Hub and furniture will allow for each set up to be different. Community input, site adaptations and creativity will be considered when designing each playground. These structures are a placeholder for long term park planning.

Each climbing structure can be a test site for a greater investment in a community park. Once the playground is created and left at a site, the Hub can roam to another neighborhood where the process can start over again.



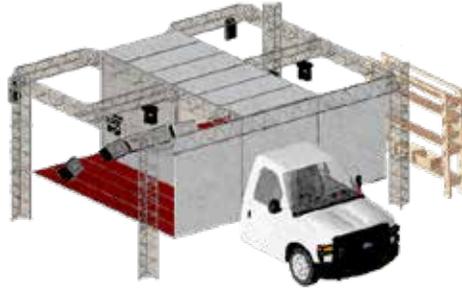
Stage Hub

Mobile Theatre

The Stage Hub provides mobile infrastructure for performance events in Riverdale. A stage can mean many things, and the function of this Hub will be entirely up to the community. Performances can include impromptu community gatherings, planned artists, and religious events. The addition of equipment to communal events will spark energy within the community. A physical Stage Hub creates a defined place to gather and share moments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the modular outdoor space can be adapted to fit social distancing procedures. The picnic tables are covered with a breathable fabric that separate family units. The outdoor stage can accommodate a large crowd safely and function as a space to gather.

Flat-pack furniture also stored in the van can be set up as risers for a show, shelves to supplement a performance or covered picnic tables.



Technology Hub

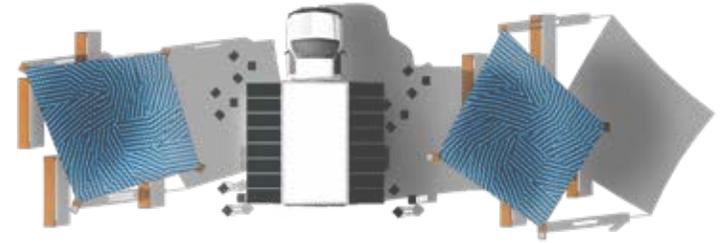
Pop-Up Third Place

This Hub's mission is to bring technology closer to community residents who have a desire or need to access it. The Hub will provide stationary access to information, inspire learning and become a workspace. Resources available from this Hub include an area for studying, wifi connection, outlets and outdoor seating. Users will include students, working individuals and residents with an inclination to learn.

COVID-19 has exposed internet access inequality in the Riverdale community. The reality of the pandemic is that many students are no longer able to access reliable wifi, adequate hardware or software programs needed to complete the school year. Elementary, Middle and High schools in the area have become meeting grounds to access wifi. The Hubs will allow students and working members of their families to continue to learn and work. This Resource Van could be

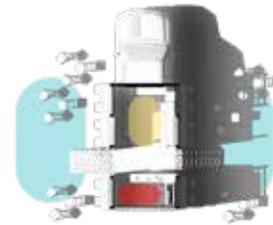
parked outside a school where people are already gathering and make that experience more comfortable for them.

The Hub functions as a cafe and is powered in part by solar panels attached to the panels of the van. Flat-pack furniture will be set up adjacent to the Hub to create quieter spaces for people to work.



- Cafe
- Work
- Gather

Program



WiFi Zone



Library Hub

Storytelling in Riverdale

This Hub's mission is to create gateways to knowledge and culture. The resources Hub offers will create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas that stimulate an innovative society. There are currently two libraries within a two mile radius of the incoming Riverdale metro stop and downtown zone. This is inaccessible to many students and families who do not live within walking distance of the service.

The Library Hub would be stationed on quiet residential streets or within a walking radius of a school to support education. These Hubs would be deployed on weekends or after school hours to provide an alternative location for students to continue their lessons. Education and schools is a main focus identified by the community and this Hub would serve as one way to establish a stronger claim to the need for library resources.

The design for this Hub will focus on creating a seating environment that is accessible to anybody regardless of physical ability. It will also become a storytelling pavilion and allow community members to pass on traditions.



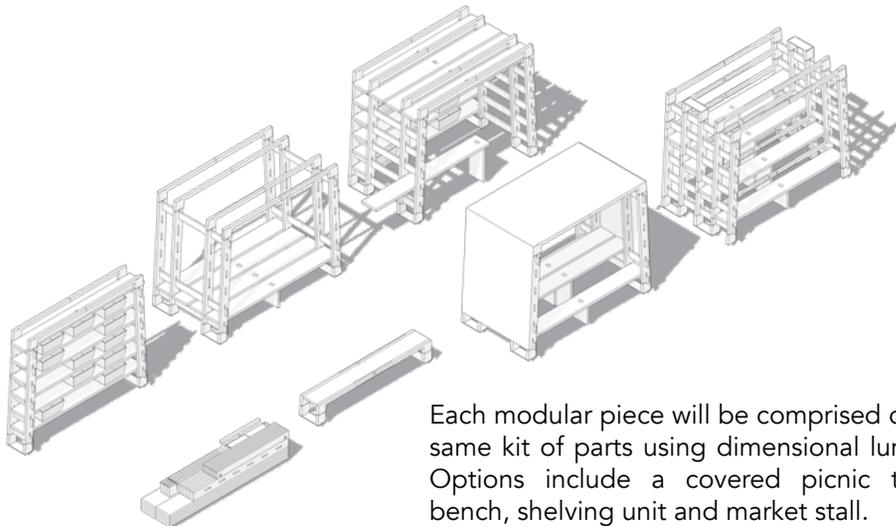
Flat-Pack Furniture

Hub Support for Hubs

The flat pack furniture will serve as an addendum to each of the vans. It is configurable in multiple ways to support different events. The Hub becomes a more permanent space instead of a temporary mobile unit when the furniture is deployed. The idea of a person's third space is supported by the introduction of the flat pack furniture to any of the hubs. A third space is a tertiary space someone spends time in that is not their own home or their work/school.

The Resource Hubs on their own are all examples of

necessary public services. However, with the addition of furniture, these Hubs become a space where people want to linger instead of fulfilling their needs and then leaving. For example, the Library Hub will contain books and certain technological elements, but it will not have the seating capacity to match the informational services. Setting up an outdoor living room or study space in the vicinity of the service will draw people to the area and create the connection to that space needed to spark larger community change.



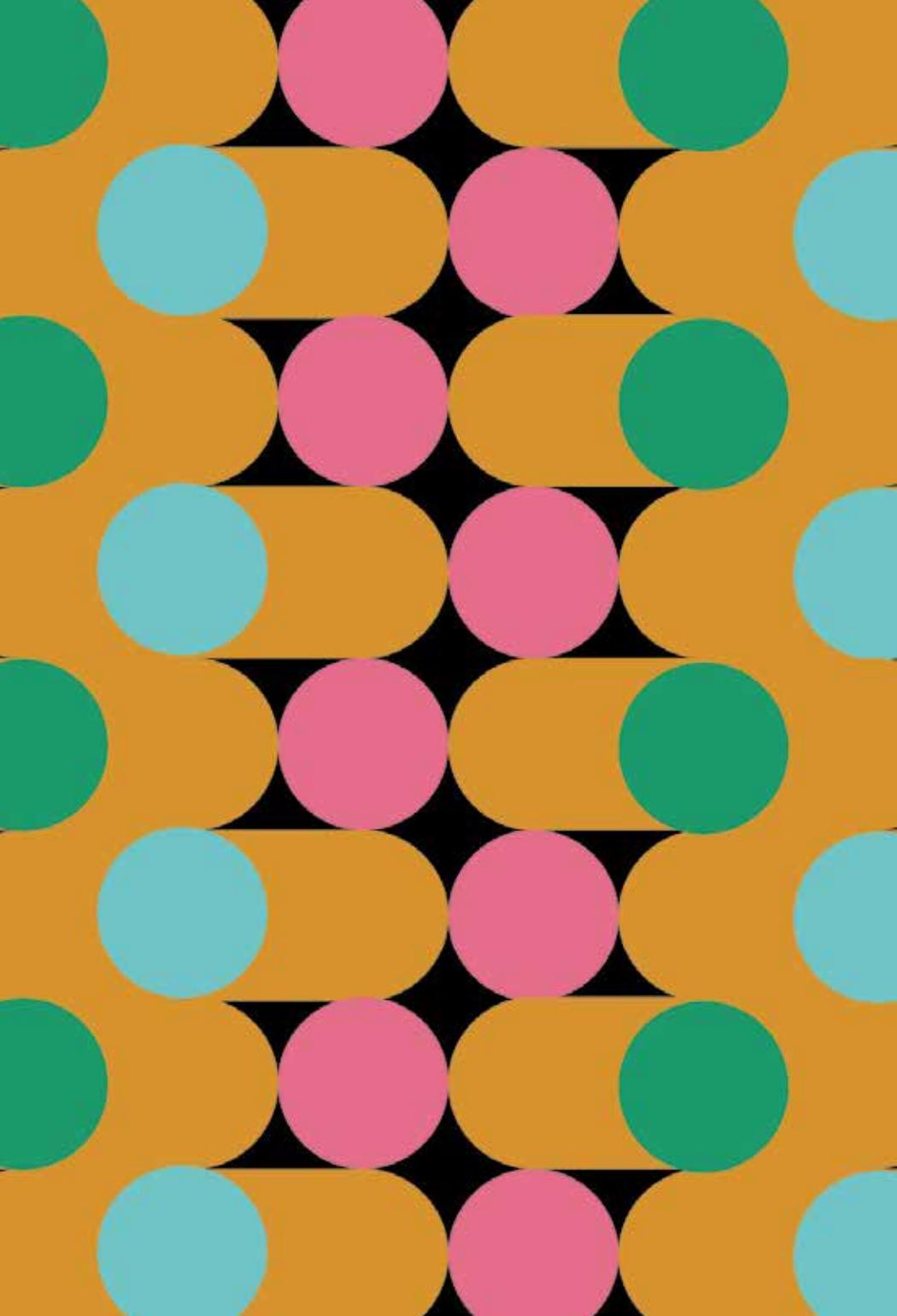
Each modular piece will be comprised of the same kit of parts using dimensional lumber. Options include a covered picnic table, bench, shelving unit and market stall.



Library Hub + Flat-Pack Furniture



Flat-Pack Canopy Area



Sarvis Cafe

Subtitle

Key Questions

- What does it mean for everyone to have a seat at the table?
- How can we showcase the unique heritage each resident brings to the community?
- Can the Sarvis Cafe become a Hub for healthy food accessibility?

Greater Riverdale Goals

- *Kinship*
- *Stable Futures*

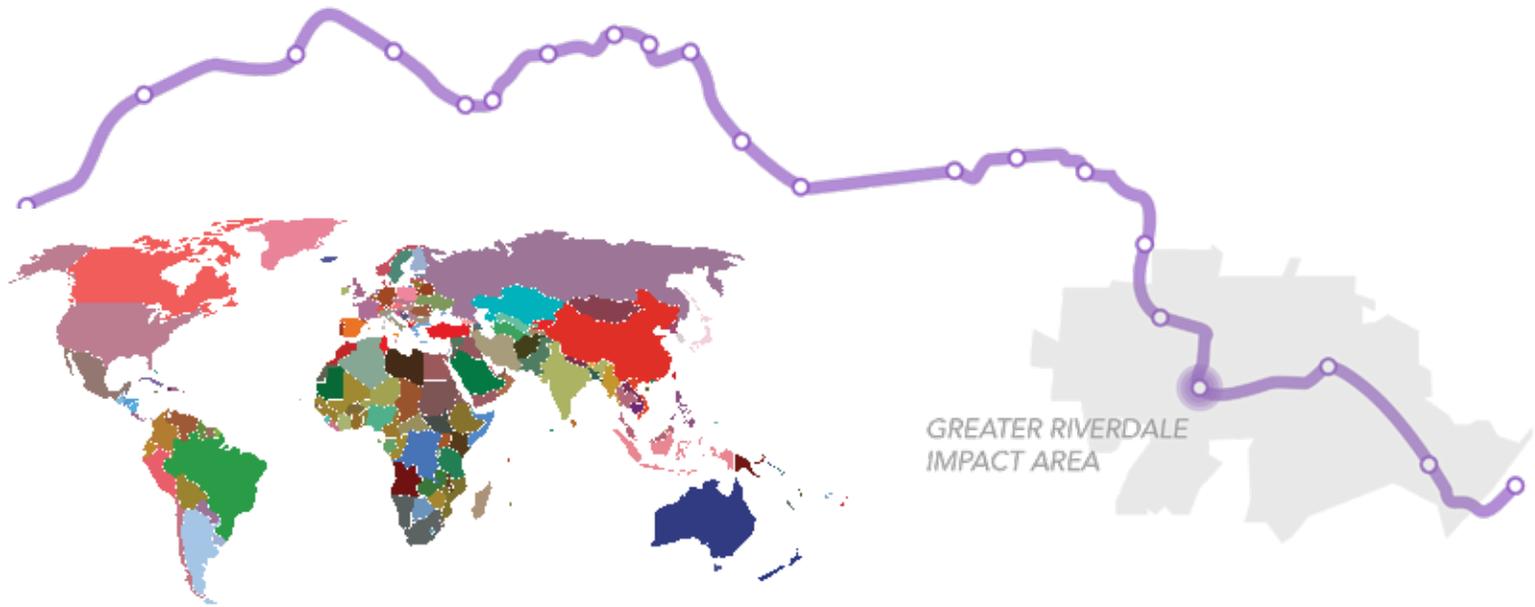
The Sarvis Cafe

Fabrics of the Future

The Sarvis Café is a place where everyone is welcome and each individual has something of value to bring to the table. Metaphorically speaking, the Sarvis Café represents a banquet table, showcasing the diverse fabric of Riverdale, where everyone has a seat. This is represented through the strategies we employ, allowing in effect, the community members themselves to design their own space.

The colors palette represents the vibrancy and diversity of Riverdale. The new fabrics reflect the community's heritage as well as their collective.

The custom textiles add to the idea of the community fabric, that everyone adds to and is a part of the community. It is also representational of the different types of cultures in the area. Textiles are unique and vibrant in color which is symbolic to the people of Riverdale as unique parts of the community.



Average Country Color

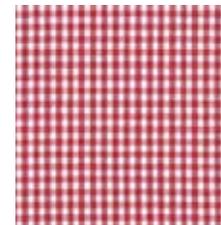


Riverdale Color Palette

This color palette was inspired by the diversity of Riverdale's residents. The palette is meant to celebrate the multicultural society and tie in references to the fabrics of people's heritage.



African



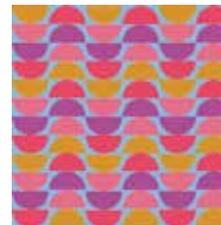
American



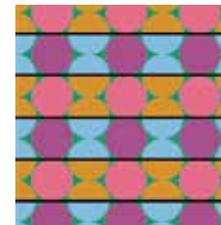
Middle Eastern



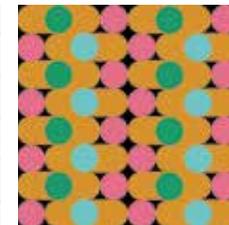
Central American



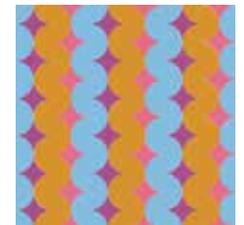
Riverdale # 1



Riverdale # 2



Riverdale # 3



Riverdale # 4



Future Visions

Visualizing Large Scale Change in Greater Riverdale

Key Questions

- How can wayfinding guide people from the purple line station to new landmarks?
- What does an ideal future in Riverdale look like?
- How can the community actively engage in defining the future?

Greater Riverdale Goals

-  *Kinship*
-  *Stable Futures*
-  *Safety*
-  *Streets*



Kenilworth Pedestrian Experience

Walkability and Safety

The streets surrounding the Purple Line stop are unsettling to a pedestrian traveler. Our aim was to provide comfort and safety to the pedestrian experience. By reorganizing the road, broadening sidewalks, adding street lights, and adding bike lanes, we can create a safe corridor. In this image, the sloping surface is both a traffic barrier and an opportunity for recreation. This new environment is a safe space where children can play games while commuters bike to work.

Adding play to the pedestrian path



Surfaces for Local Art

Smart Lights for safety and information



Smart Light Experience

Community Engagement

