

SAG - Final Report

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About CultureHouse

CultureHouse is a future pop-up community and cultural space in the Boston area. With regular programming, local food pop-ups, and an attention to good design, the space will be a vibrant, exciting, and welcoming place that will attract people to come and stay.

The idea is to create an indoor public park or communal living room that will be inviting to all as a place to work, learn, play, create, and relax. This will be accomplished through the design of the space, but also through programming that CultureHouse will organize such as open mic nights, a flea market, or an art installation. And, of course, all of this will be driven by what the community wants.

Developed with Olin College and Better Block Foundation and Funded by the Forest Foundation, CultureHouse will open for 1 month in summer 2018. During this time, we will continuously evaluate and change the space to meet the needs of the community. After the pop-up has concluded, we will determine the best next steps based on lessons learned.

I will be using books from the great thinkers of Urban Livability to inform the work I do on CultureHouse. These lessons will allow me to follow best practices, and hopefully not fall into the pit-falls that lead to Urban Design not having the intended impact.

Work to Date

This year has been primarily focused on applying for funding, developing the idea for the space, finding a location, and engaging with the community. We have secured funding for the summer pop-up and are in the process of finalizing a location for it. We have been able to do two pop-ups, one in December and one in April. In December, we created an “outdoor living room” in Central Square where we were able to talk to a lot of community members about what kind of spaces they were looking for. In April, we did a one day pop-up in Allston where we prototyped some of our ideas and gathered community feedback.

A link to a full write-up on our December pop-up can be found here: <https://medium.com/@culturehouse/culturehouse-central-square-pop-up-ccb8ef6d02fe>

