BOX—CITY

Urban Ecosystem / Community

Spring 2020 | Hilliard Art Museum - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Grades 6 - 12

Your Name: _____

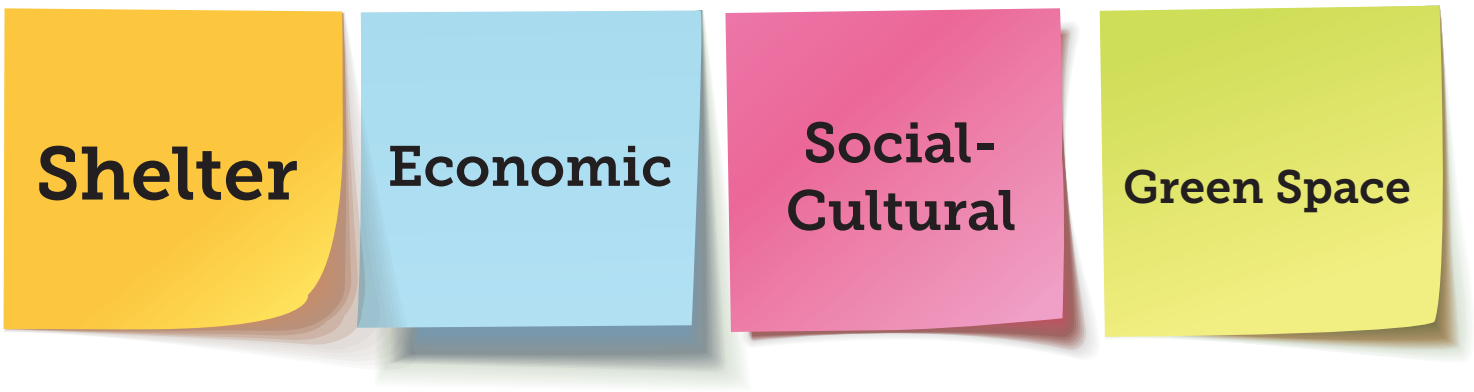
The Name of your Box-City: _____

Urban Ecosystem

Ecosystem: the flows and relationships between various actors in a defined environment

How is an urban ecosystem similar to other ecosystems? Why might the tools scientists use to study ecosystems be helpful to urban designers?

Community Wants and Needs



Models and Scale

1 ft = 1 ft

6 in = 1 ft

1/2 in = 1 ft

Scale Model: a representation of something in which all the parts have dimensions in the same mathematical proportion as the original

What different information can you learn from each type of model?

Describe what it would be like to live in the 8′ x 8′ living unit. How many people do you think can live in that space?

Building BOX-CITY

City Building Code:

- Each box must have an exterior doorway.
- Everyone in the city's population must have a living space.
- No more than two people can live in a unit.
- Before moving a box, make sure the path is clear.

BOX-CITY 1.0 Use the space below to plan or draw a map of your BOX-CITY:

Explain how your BOX-CITY meets the needs of the community:

BOX-CITY 2.0 Use the space below to plan or draw a map of your adapted BOX-CITY:

1. How well did your city adapt to the ecosystem disturbance?

2. How have the flows and patches in your city changed?

3. Which BOX-CITY design do you think is more resilient?
Explain why.

Patch Dynamics

Patch Dynamics: an approach ecologists use to study and map patterns in the landscape of an ecosystem

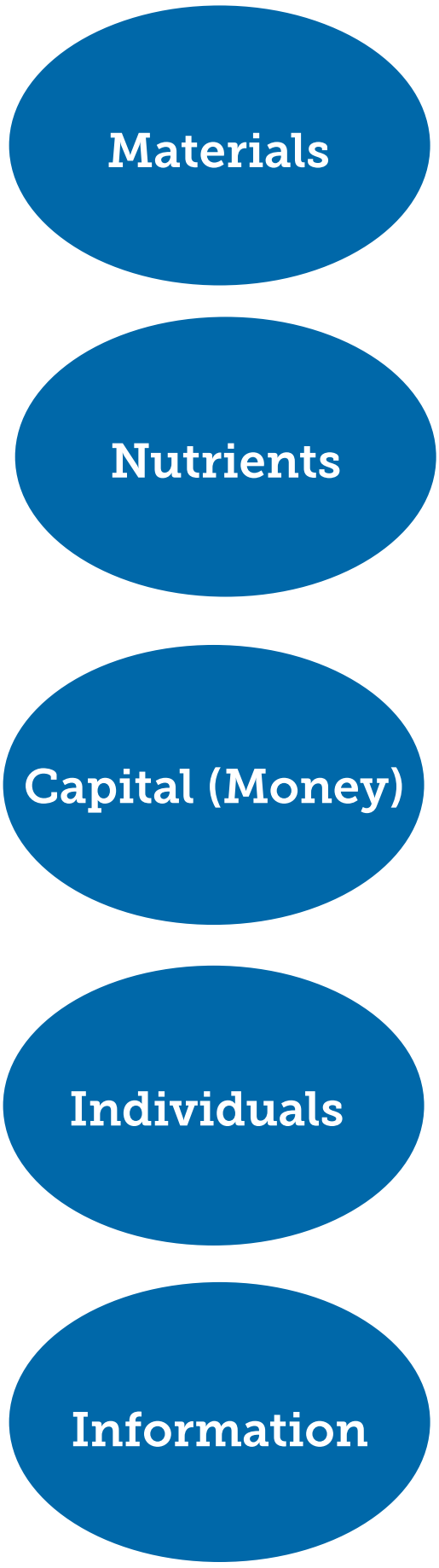
Patch: a spatial area that is different from its neighboring areas

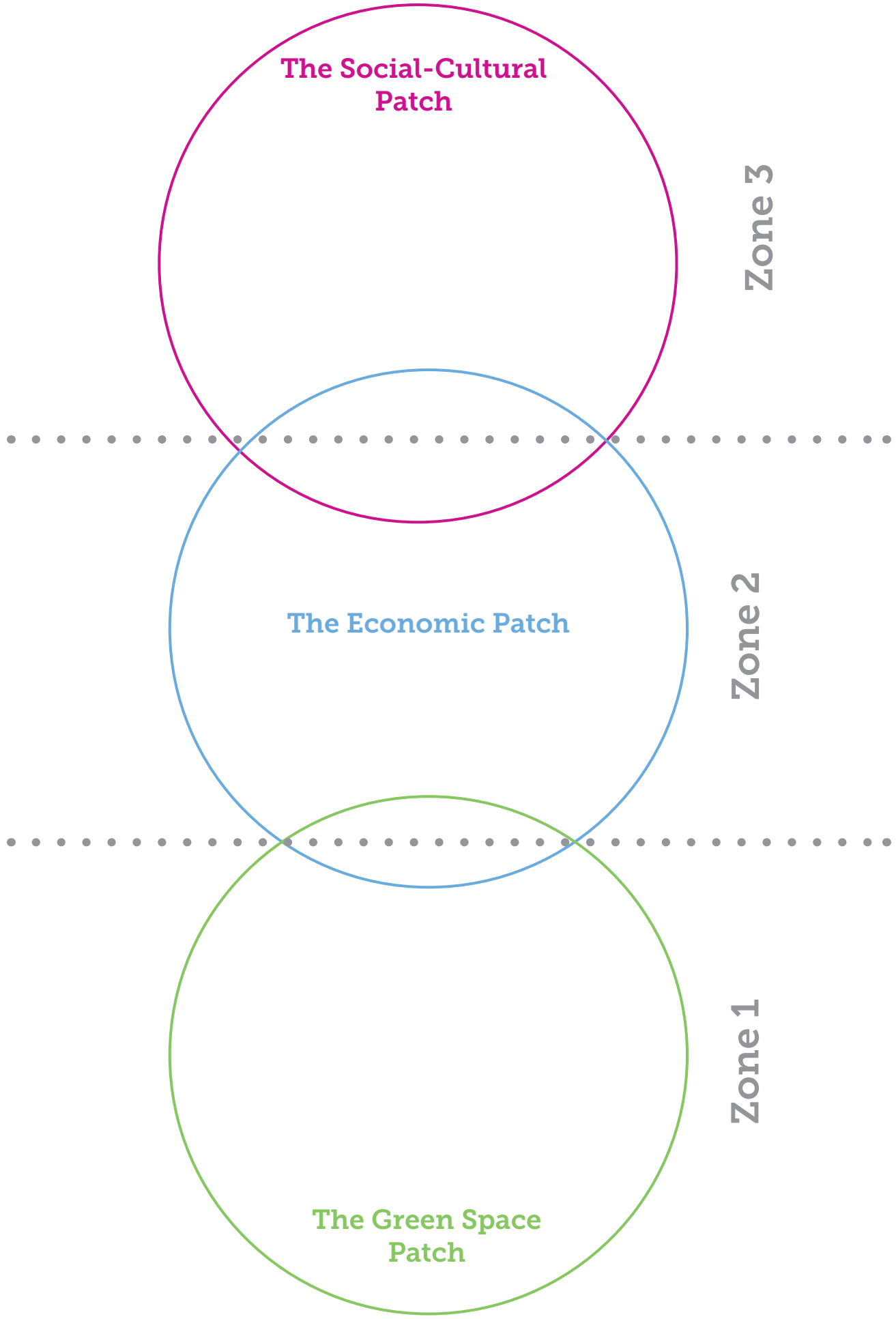
Flow: movement of people or items through a community

Zone: a section of a city that is created for a particular use. Examples: commercial zones or residential zones

Chose one flow example and diagram how it moves across different zones and patches.

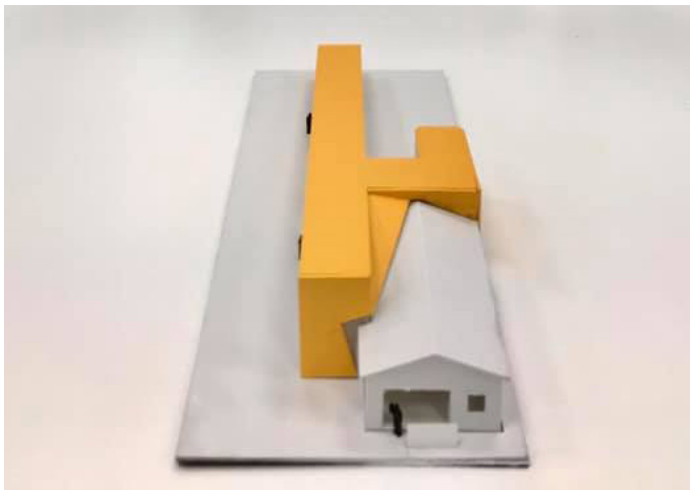
Flows




The Social-Cultural Patch
Zone 3
The Economic Patch
Zone 2
Zone 1
The Green Space Patch

Case Study:
West End District, New Iberia, LA

1/ 16 in = 1 ft



1/ 16 in = 1 ft

Building Challenge: Create a design for a city lot that will improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and attract new residents.

For what needs or uses is your lot zoned? How does your design help the neighborhood become more resilient?

Resilient: able to withstand or recover from difficult conditions

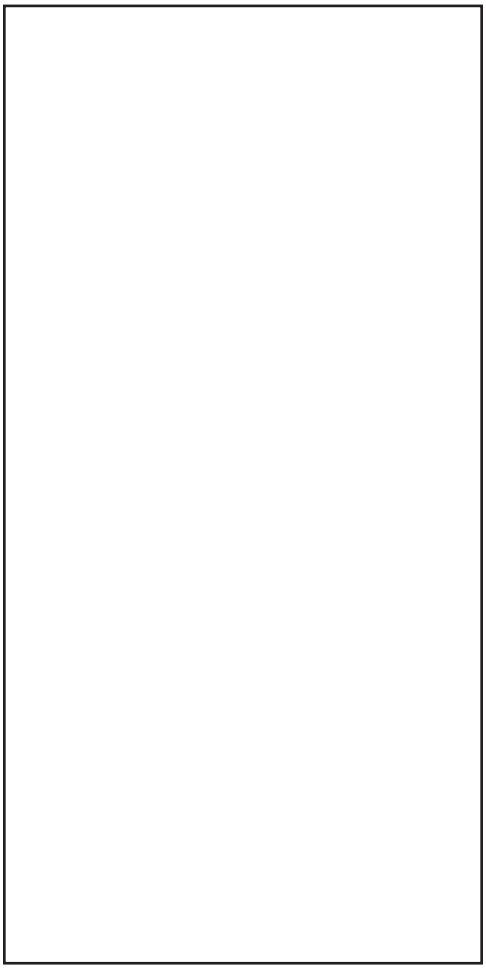


Diagram Your Lot:

How will the flow of items and people in the neighborhood change with the addition of the new designs?

Feedback Loops: Having a Conversation

Which model or idea do you think would improve the community the most? Leave your feedback next to the model. Tell us your best idea.

Post-Visit Activity:
Designing Solutions For Your Community

Think of your school as a human ecosystem. How do people and things flow through the school? What systems operate in the school? Draw an ecosystem flowchart or use patch dynamics to map out different use areas in the school.

Draw your flowchart or dynamic patch map below:

Final Thoughts

Think of one problem at school (not enough time to eat lunch, a slow moving car line, crowded hallways, etc.). Design a solution to the problem using your flow chart or patch map.

Problem: _____

Describe your solution and how you used your flowchart or patch map to arrive at the solution. What design choices did you make creating your colution? Explain how your solution meets community needs and improves the school.

Check out the conversation on daberry.org or search Envision da Berry on Facebook

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