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I am a compassionate and ardent designer, planner, and urbanist who is focused on using the the built environment and human-centered and participatory design to improve the quality of life of, and eliminate social, economic, and health disparities in communities around the world.

My background in interior design and psychology, professional work in architecture and public health, and masters programs in urban planning and urban design have collectively developed my passion and skills for using design and policy of all scales to shape the future of communities, neighborhoods, and cities.

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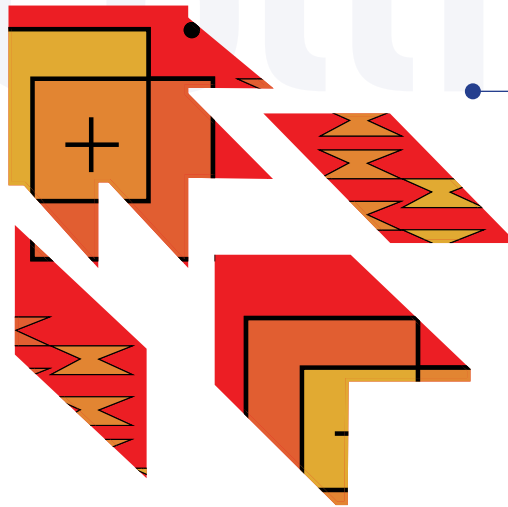
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productive

productive collisions

THE
BEDSTUY
FOOD
PROJECT



The Bedstuy Food Project

Pratt Institute, Senior Studio, INT 401, Fall 2016
Prof. Jack Travis, INT 401

How can design take the phenomenon of gentrification and help facilitate a positive outcome? This is Productive Collisions: The Bedstuy Food Project, a group project designed to create a productive collision between existing community and the changing demographics that come with the gentrification of a neighborhood.

In collaboration with Siena Yerby, Ryan Berman



This project takes a soon to be developed site in Bedstuy, a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood in Brooklyn, and catalyzes off the concomitant change to create a site focused around the needs of the diversifying community, while still ensuring the preservation of the community's environmental identity.

Between 2000 and 2013, the median home value in this neighborhood in Bedstuy rose from **\$144,400** to **\$425,000** (The US Census Bureau).

Throughout Bedstuy, the number of black residents decreased by **17%**, and the number of white residents increased by **1,235%** between 2000-2015 (CityLab).

Site Programming

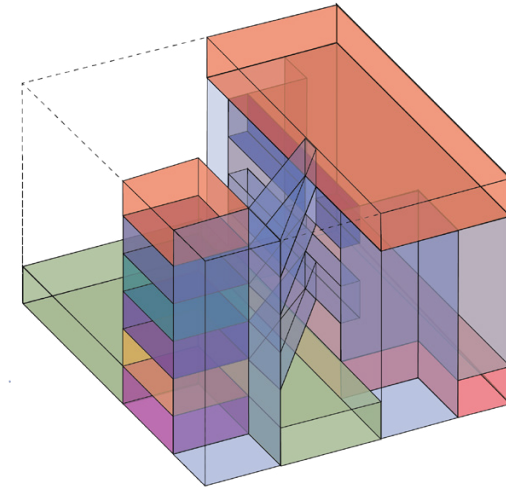
1060 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY

The Bedstuy Food Project's site programming consists of:

- + The Food Project Market
- + The Food Project Cafe
- + Public courtyard
- + Afterschool care for children
- + The Food Project Teaching kitchen
- + Teen area/after school care for teens
- + The Food Project admin
- + Mixed income Housing
- + Rooftop community garden



Stacking Diagram



Massing Diagram

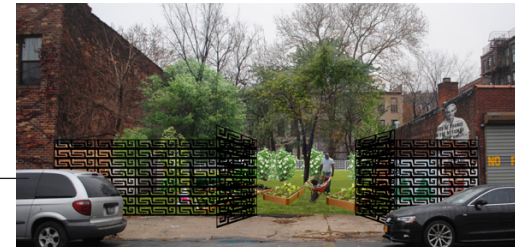
Community Programming

The Bedstuy Food Project acts as an epicenter to a community wide programming effort to take abandoned lots and turn them into gardens, branded with the Food Project's distinguishable patterning.

These gardens, scattered throughout the neighborhood, act as a way of building community engagement and pride, and facilitate moments of productive collisions between community members.

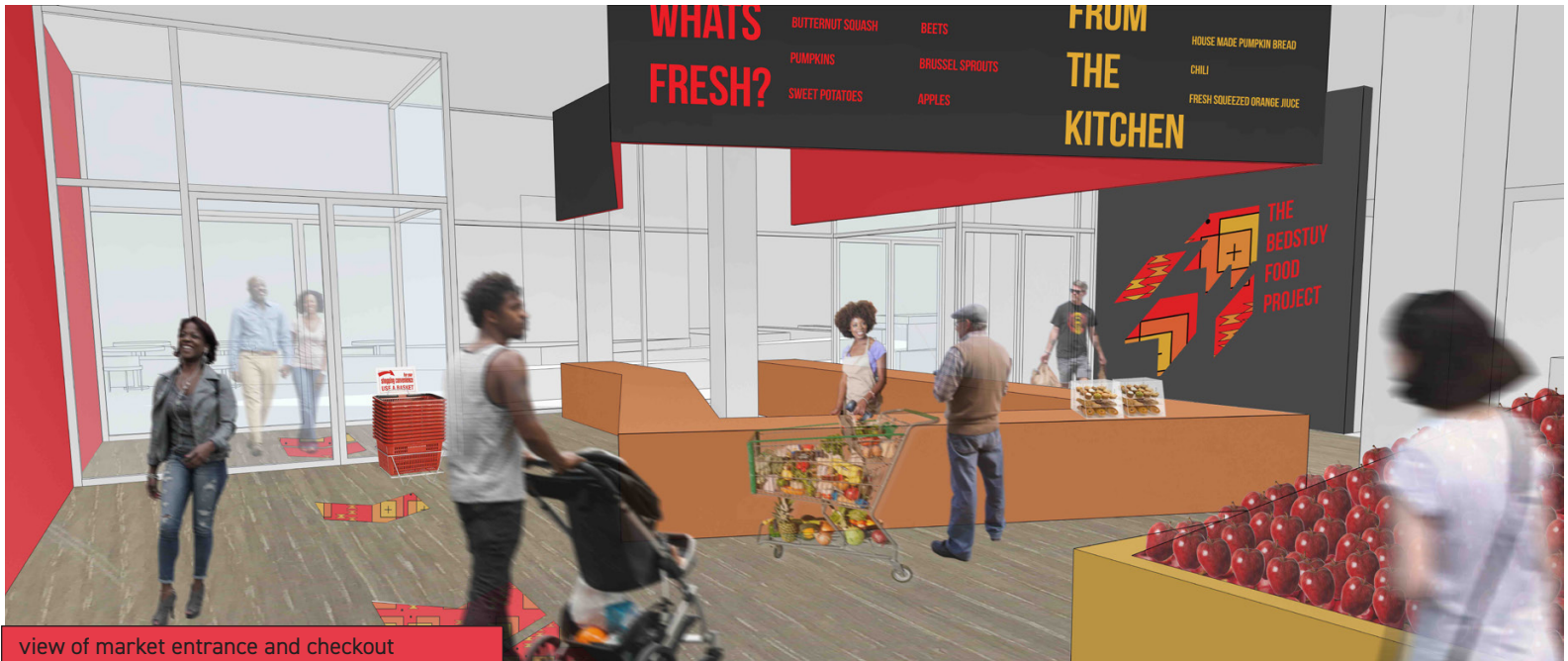


Community site map and gardens





view of plaza from Bedford Ave sidewalk



view of market entrance and checkout

productive collisions



view of roof garden roof from walkway



view of teen area



connection

A domestic violence shelter

Pratt Institute, Senior Thesis, Spring 2017

Prof. Wendy Cronk, INT 402

How do you create a sense of home, connection, and place identity for those in a state of transience? This is a shelter for women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence, focusing on utilizing a victim's temporary home to develop a new emotional ecosystem and aid in healing from trauma.

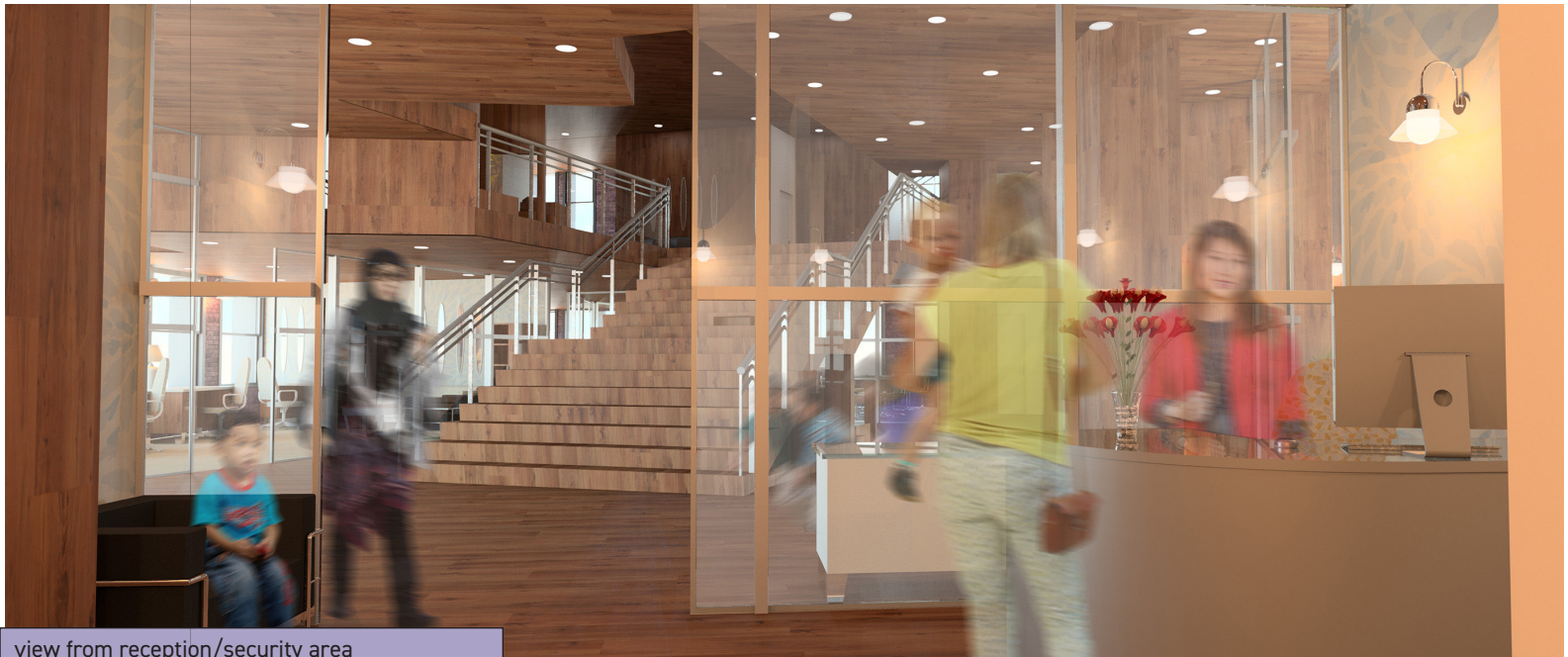


Domestic violence shelters provide survivors with vital resources and environments to assist in overcoming trauma. These environments are key in regaining victim's livelihood, emotional wellbeing, and nurturing self-exploration.

1 in 3 women in the US have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner (NCADV).

Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of **depression** and **suicidal behavior** (NCADV).

52% of women who are victims of intimate partner violence suffer from PTSD (CDC).



view from reception/security area



view of administration office



view of 3rd floor play space



view of communal kitchen and eating area

connection

mud to mud to mortar



A Bangladeshi flooring project

ARCHIVE Global, 2014 - 2020

Floors made of dirt are ideal carriers for bacteria and parasites that contribute to anemia, malnutrition, and diarrheal disease. In Bangladesh, almost 70% of the population lives on dirt floors. Replacing dirt floors with concrete floors in these households drastically improves the household's health, increasing family's abilities to climb out of cyclical poverty.

In partnership with Grimshaw, ADESH, BRAC University

Role: Project Officer



before



after

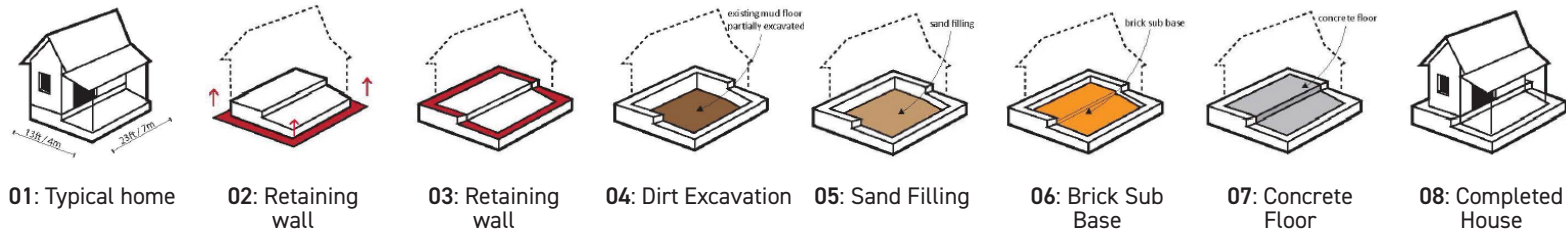
Through a cost effective, low-tech, concrete flooring intervention paired with community wide education campaigns, Mud to Mortar aims to reduce the burden of diarrheal disease and improve overall health outcomes and quality of life in beneficiary families in Savar, Bangladesh.

Over **32,000** children in Bangladesh are at risk of diarrhea, lower respiratory infections, and other common infectious diseases (GBD Compare, 2016).

In 2014, **67.8%** of households in Bangladesh had earthen or sand floors (WHO).

Targeted UN Sustainable Development Goals





Example Phase 1 construction process

ARCHIVE is consistently working to design a construction method that is as cost effective and environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable as possible.



before



after

Phase 3 Construction Method

Ferrocement methodology

1,259 beneficiaries received new floors

295 homes were refloored

11,621 community members reached through community trainings

1,941,103 reached through nationwide PSA

Impact

- + **77%** reduction in diarrheal disease
- + **83%** reduction in breathing problems
- + **53%** decrease in coughing
- + **92%** decrease in short and rapid breathing
- + **22-46%** increase in home value
- + Increase in **social status**
- + Increase in **pride in home**
- + Increase in **mental health**
- + Increase in **days spent in school**
- + Increased **economically beneficial opportunities**
- + Decrease in **vermin infestations**
- + Decrease in **theft**

Outcomes

- + Increased long term **cognitive development** in children under the age of 5
- + Greater **education opportunities** for children
- + Increased **job opportunities**
- + Increased **economic opportunities** for women
- + Greater access to **credit and finances**



Atlanta

The Atlanta Beltline



A GIS Study of Equity & Spatial Justice

University of Michigan, URP 520, Fall 2020

Prof. Robert Goodspeed

Since 2005, Atlanta has been planning and implementing the greenbelt called the Atlanta BeltLine with the goal of creating equitable economic development across the city. This GIS project explores the impact of the development to date by mapping change in median household income, Black population, and owner-occupied housing.

In collaboration with Paul Troutman

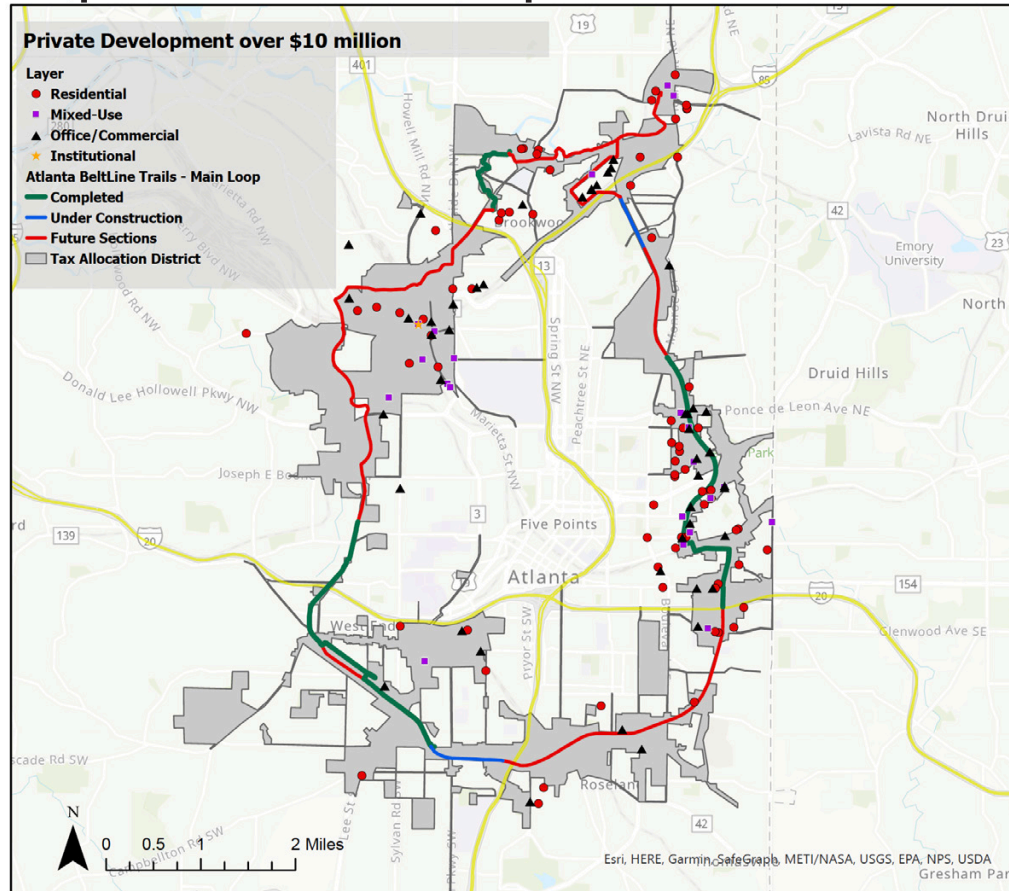


The goal of the Beltline development is to catalyze “equitable and sustainable mixed-income/mixed-use redevelopment” and act as a “great equalizer by connecting” historically segregated demographics through the creation of public space and create equitable distribution of resources by inclusion and connectivity of all income levels and communities across Atlanta¹.

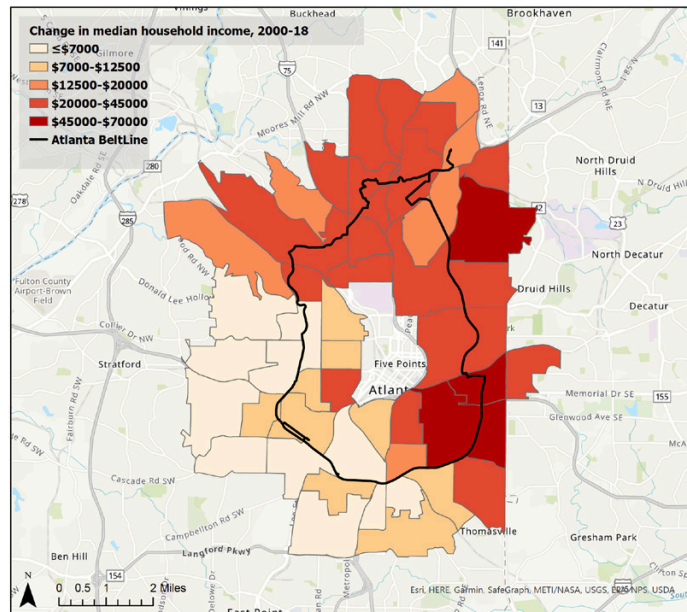
15% of the BeltLine Tax Allocation District is allocated to be put into the development of a goal of **5,600** affordable housing units along the BeltLine, but by 2017, only approximately **800** units of affordable housing had been developed¹.

The BeltLine was initially designed to be an equitable method of mobility and connection, adding mixed-income, mixed use, and catalyzing economic development for many historically underserved and underfunded communities. However, many now argue that the original proposal has been overly privatized, and the equitable goal of economic development has instead catalyzed gentrification, concomitant displacement, and further increased disparities in social infrastructure and spatial justice in communities surrounding the BeltLine and across Atlanta. Funding for the BeltLine comes from the BeltLine Tax Allocation District (TAD), as seen in Map 1¹. 15% of TAD is allocated to be put into the development of a goal of 5,600 affordable housing units along the BeltLine, but by 2017, only approximately 800 units of affordable housing had been developed¹.

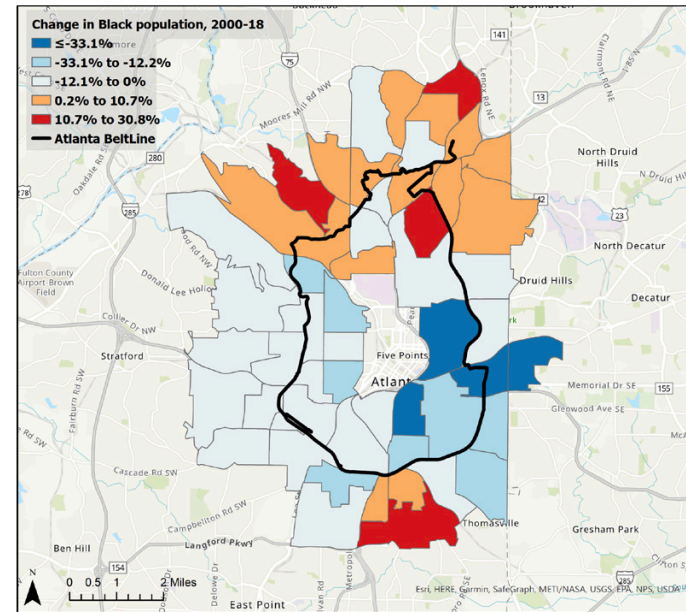
Map 1: BeltLine Development



Map 2: Change in Median Income



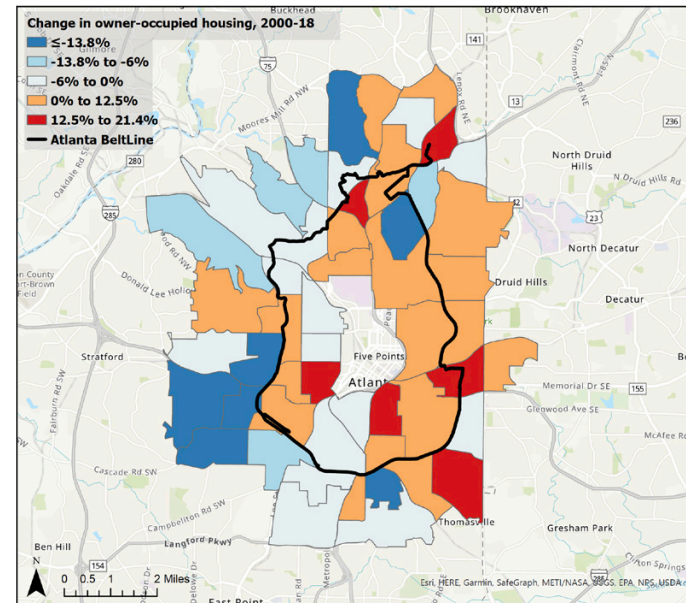
Map 3: Change in Black Population



Using % change in owner-occupied housing, change in median household income, and % change in the black population, this analysis focuses on how the neighborhoods surrounding the BeltLine have changed since the project was proposed to emphasize the continued need for more equitable development and spatial justice along the BeltLine.

As the most segregated city in the South, and ranked high in American cities according to income inequality, Atlanta requires an effective and equitable approach to economic development². However, the effects of the BeltLine development include increased disparities between North/North East Atlanta and South/South West Atlanta. The goal of equity and spatial justice through the distribution of resources has yet to come to fruition as shown in Map 1.

Map 4: Change in Home Ownership



1. Oakley, D., & Greenidge, G. (2017). The Contradictory Logics of Public-Private Place-making and Spatial Justice: The Case of Atlanta's Beltline. *City & Community*, 16(4), 355-358. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cico.12264>
 2. Burns, R., 2015. "Once Again, Atlanta Is Ranked No. 1 For Income Inequality" [online]. Atlanta Magazine. Retrieved 2 December 2020, from <https://www.atlantamagazine.com/news-culture-articles/once-again-atlanta-is-ranked-no-1-for-income-inequality/> Immergluck, Daniel and Balan

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