



2018

THE
ELEVATED
STUDIO
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

The elevated studio promotes social equity by expanding access to socially-responsible design that helps communities achieve economic and physical resilience and sustainability.

OUR VISION

We believe that every member of a community should have access to and benefit from socially-responsible design.

We educate the property owner, and empower those directly affected by a disaster to make wise and appropriate decisions towards their environment.

We educate design and construction professionals, and empower those who are trained to lead a community towards excellence.

We cooperate, communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with like-minded agencies, sharing ideas to create a larger network of professionals to support the communities that we work in.

We engage government agencies, promoting the ideas generated by the residents and businesses of their jurisdiction that aim to implement the desires and needs of the community.

We believe that social, economic, and physical resilience and sustainability are intertwined and within reach to all.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018. Climate change. Extreme weather. Global warming. Whichever phrase you use to define the effects of weather and the hazard that may stem from the event; it is abundantly clear that no one person, nor their property is absolved from weather's dangerous and potentially deadly effect.

Just ask the residents of Paradise, California, or Mexico Beach, Florida, or New Bern, North Carolina, or Mexico City, Mexico, or Sulawesi, Indonesia.

For the millions of people who were directly affected by the natural hazards of 2018, maybe little was lost, maybe much was lost. Regardless, their recovery will take a toll on themselves, their family, their neighborhood. 2018 will be a marker in their life.

However,

RESOLVE. PATIENCE. PERSISTENCE. HOPE. LOVE shall prevail.

These move mountains, bring strangers together, save neighborhoods, support families, and rebuild lives. It is with these forces, coupled with our vision and technical abilities as designers, our empathy and sympathy as client advocates that we will continue to support the individuals and neighborhoods to empower them towards a more resilient and sustainable future.



Boivin

WHO WE ARE

We are an architecture and advocacy nonprofit, one of the few, that seeks to promote social equality by expanding access to values-driven design that helps individuals and communities achieve economic and physical resilience and sustainability.

Our commitment is to build a better place for all.

WHAT WE DO

Whether the crisis is due to a natural disaster or services lacking within a community and regardless of the project typology, we are available when a positive intervention is needed. We are able to provide community engagement, advocacy, design services or help to find the appropriate solution that benefits the user. Our service based approach can help clients achieve financial resilience along with their physical rebuilding.

Our goal is to renegotiate the relationship between residents and their neighborhood with the built and natural environment in a timeless way. We seek a solution that employs education and collaboration to elevate community after community to achieve equality.

OUR WORK

MANAGEMENT

ADVOCACY

DESIGN

EDUCATION





MANAGEMENT

Our client management services run the spectrum from social service through construction observation throughout the entire disaster recovery process. By assisting our clients from initial intake through certificate of occupancy, we provide them with a survivor-centric, holistic recovery process.



ADVOCACY

With the reality of climate change, it is imperative that we plan for the future. We advocate on behalf of homeowners and clients to access better and additional recovery services to build back a more resilient and sustainable home to be prepared for the future impacts of climate change.



DESIGN

We are one of the few nonprofit design organizations that can offer architectural services to property owners at no expense. Our solutions employ universal design principals and are rooted in resilient and sustainable design.



EDUCATION

Through community charrettes, REDC clinics, and educational lecture series for residents, case managers, and local jurisdictions, we aim to reach a larger population than our clients.



The Elevated Studio is structured into two studios: one that focuses on **disaster recovery**, and one that focuses on **civic works**.

DISASTER RECOVERY

We believe that architects and other allied design professionals have a moral and professional obligation to be collaborative leaders in disaster recovery. While we are generally last responders that enter the disaster landscape (typically 3-6 months after response starts); we become active during the response and relief efforts, helping communities assess the damaged environment and preparing for recovery. It is our duty to reconstruct the built environment responsibly, resiliently, sustainably; guiding the communities we work with to become better and more prepared for future events. Our experience highlights that the vulnerable populations are profoundly affected by disasters. Disasters provide opportunities to identify and propose corrective measures to benefit our built environment and its relationship with nature. With the reality of climate change, these events and the necessary precautions will become ever more important.



CLIENT ADVOCACY & COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY

Social services are an integral part of the post-disaster landscape. With so many personal and individual situations at hand, clients are in need of more than just repairs or rebuild to their home, clients need to repair and rebuild their lives. Through the use of Client Advocates, we have been successful in guiding our clients to the appropriate resources which have proven to be vital to their recovery. These resources vary from mortgage or legal assistance and to mental health. We want our clients to have a single organization supporting their recovery.

We have built trusting relationships with the clients knowing that their information is safe, and will return home as quickly as possible. Client Advocates have an open ear to those we assist, and listen and provide support to a client's need. We provide them with the tools to help them and/or help themselves efficiently. Having someone for the client to go to that is directly connected to their design professional provides the client with a holistic approach to recovery.



RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION & DESIGN CLINICS (REDC)

REDC is the first phase of our recovery program for both individuals and communities. In this program, we provide Community Design Workshops, Rebuilding Assessments, Rebuilding Clinics, Educational Forums and Client Advocacy. The Elevated Studio's aim is to bridge the gap between the social service and the reconstruction process by forging strong collaborations between long-term recovery groups, disaster case management professionals, and design professionals; setting the stage to provide a holistic and inclusive community and survivor-centric recovery.

Design Innovation: The REDC program draws on the applied creativity, inspiration and energy of The Elevated Studio design team to put together great teams and create great designs. While our events are hosted by us, we invite many design and building professionals to volunteer their time to give design and technical advice. Having many minds working on the same problem leads to innovative solutions.

Enhancing Resilience: Resilience requires an understanding of a community and appropriate building methods and designs that will address future concerns in a comprehensive manner. REDC's home design options and community workshops demonstrate and engage residents in understanding how their home will be able to withstand future hazards, thereby enhancing long term livability.

Strengthening Community: Too many communities are vulnerable to the effects of disasters due to inadequate safety measures in the built environment and a lack of technical understanding. The Elevated Studio provides the training, technical expertise, and networks necessary for local architects to provide the leadership necessary to strengthen their communities.

REDC FLORIDA:

HURRICANE MICHAEL

In October 2018, the category 5 Hurricane Michael devastated Florida's Panhandle with sustained winds of 160mph. In Mexico Beach, a 16'; storm surge was recorded and 100% of structures sustained damage with 80% of homes a complete loss. The storm hit the panhandle quickly after it was named and hit a part of Florida that is fairly rural with a relatively low population. Given the impact that other extreme weather events had throughout the State and attention paid to other events around the country, the residents of the Panhandle generally feel that they have been passed over.

HURRICANE IRMA

August 30 - September 13, 2017, the Category 5 hurricane Irma caused widespread damage in the northern Caribbean as well as the Florida Keys before heading north. In Jacksonville, Florida, the wind and rain along with tidal flow met the already saturated inland waterways and caused the St. Johns River to jump its banks and flood the city in a devastating and unexpected way. The city of 900,000 had not seen such severe flooding since 1835 when the population was about 1000. Jacksonville continued to deal with flooding even after the storm was gone due to the water flowing down from the northern part of the river and the periodic tides rushing in.

Rebuilding efforts post-disaster have an opportunity to address and correct some of the systemic challenges vulnerable communities face. By coupling the expertise of architects with the support of social workers, The Elevated Studio's innovative programs leverage local organizations and professionals to ensure successful long-term recovery. We can lead the responsible rebuilding of communities in a resilient and sustainable manner. By doing so, we are preparing communities for mitigating future hazards, while respecting the necessity for the holistic nature of recovery.

The Elevated Studio is committed to the recovery of northern Florida. We have established a partnership with the Northeast Florida LTRO (Long Term Recovery Organization) a collaborative network of governmental, business, faith-based and nonprofit organizations in Duval and Nassau counties; along with Florida VOAD, Bay County LTR Task Force, Bay County Chamber of Commerce, Bay County School District, Panama City Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to expanding our relationships with these organizations over the course of the recovery.



RECONSTRUCTION

The Elevated Studio was selected as a pre-qualified design service provider for the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery - Individual Housing program. Through the Recon 100 Initiative, a homeowner who meets the criteria set forth by the Program, receives our services at no cost; and has a new home built in place of their older damaged home. The new home is designed to meet the current number of bedrooms, bathrooms, square footage, and meet or exceed the current building, energy and Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Green homes code.



ELEVATION

Similar to the Recon 100 program, The Elevated Studio was selected by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) to provide design services for homes that met the criteria for optional or mandatory elevation. This initiative affords the homeowner to maintain the existing fabric of the residence, and establish a greater sense of resilience by elevating the home to above the base flood elevation.



The background image shows a community garden with several wooden raised beds filled with dark soil. In the background, there is a chain-link fence and a white brick building. To the right, a colorful mural depicts a diverse group of people, including a woman in a red hat, a man in a suit, and a woman in a pink shirt, standing in a field with trees and flowers.

CIVIC WORKS

Design is a tool to be used as a form of positive service to a community in need; what we fondly refer to as humanitarian architecture. We believe that the intertwining of social connectedness, positive economic growth, and a supportive built environment creates the trifecta that our communities need to thrive.

A measurement of this achievement can be found in the civic spaces of the built environment. It is found in the government and non-government offices; in the community centers, the schools, the public facilities, and the health centers. All are necessary to increase the vitality of the community. The design professional should be intentional in providing those spaces to ensure they are inherently positive to the people using them. If these spaces have been damaged, they need to be recovered. If these spaces do not exist, they need to be built. If these spaces are underutilized, they need to be enhanced. Our role in the development of civic spaces is a local and global task, one that we will follow where it is needed.



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE
WALL OF CONCORD

The Neighborhood Place is a collaborative effort of the City of Concord, the Concord Chamber of Commerce, and the Concord Community Foundation. It is a place where people can come together to share their stories, experiences, and wisdom. It is a place where we can learn from each other and grow together. It is a place where we can build a stronger, more resilient community.

CONCORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10000 W. 10th Street
Concord, CA 94520
707.461.1234
www.concordchamber.com

CONCORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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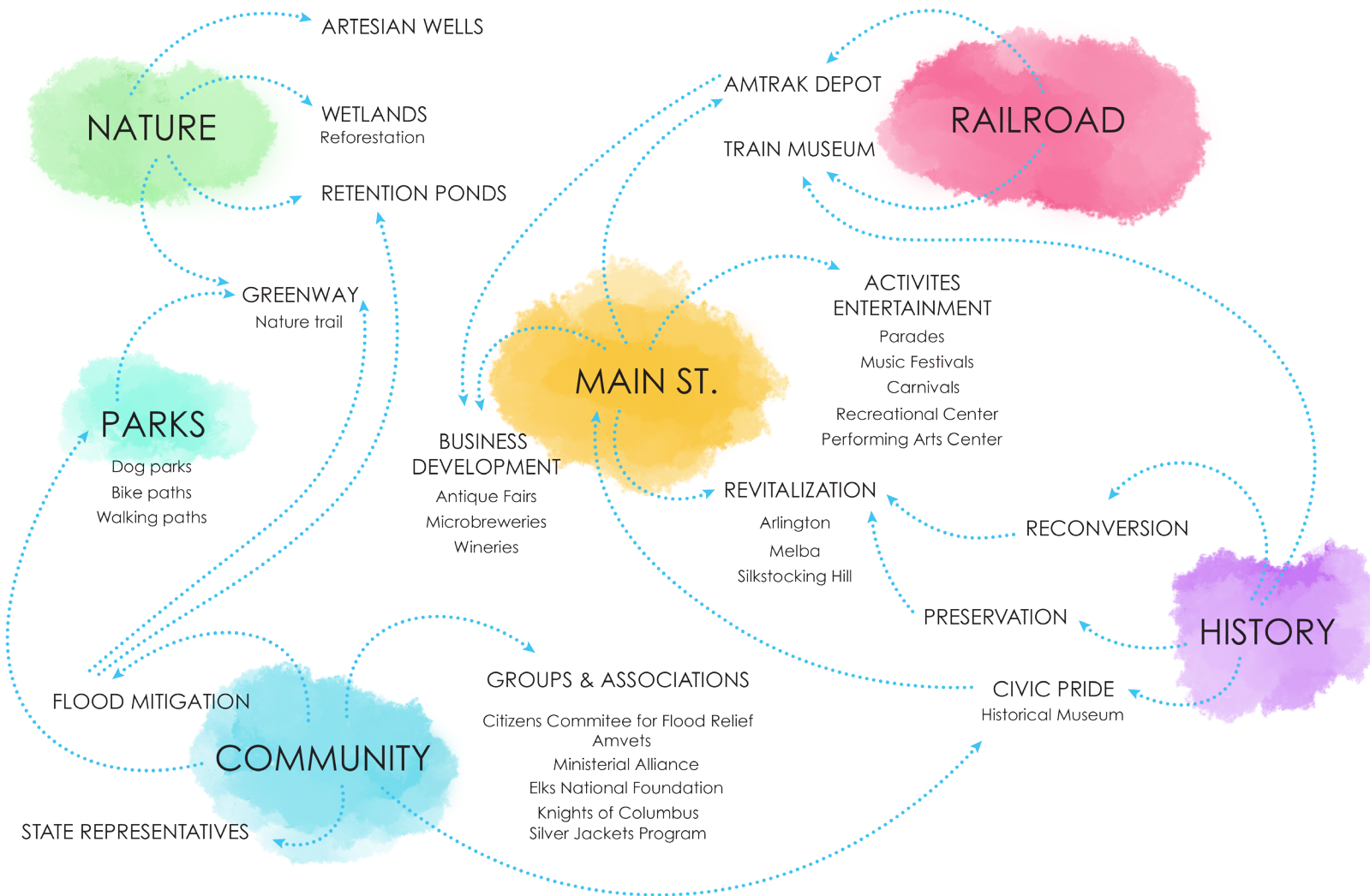


HIGHER GROUND USA

DE SOTO, MO

The City of De Soto, Missouri, has experienced 4 major floods in the past 5 years. As residents have witnessed Joachim Creek flood with more frequency in 2012 (after the city built a bridge over the creek and raised the road next to the bridge), they have increasingly become hopeless as they don't have the means or interest to relocate. The Elevated Studio is currently working with Flood Forum USA, the Thriving Earth Exchange, and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a master plan and solutions to help mitigate flooding in the future.





FROM OUR CLIENTS



October 23, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Being hit with a catastrophe such as Sandy and being displaced for over several years has led to a very chaotic, confusing and emotional rebuilding process.

At one of the initial Sandy meetings when everyone was homeless and in a state of shock, there was a speaker, Brian Baer of The Elevated Studio. As I attended more and more of these meetings Brian was the only consistent person who was knowledgeable and credible on all phases of the process. His key phrases were "Hope" and "Patience." And he would consistently answer extremely complicated questions or look into the issues with the proper government authorities or experts.

I would have hired Brian sooner, but I was thoroughly perplexed as to how any of this rebuild would work and other so-called professionals were giving incorrect and misinformed advice. Brian consistently was there to answer mine and other audience issues on Sandy recovery. His perseverance and take no for an unacceptable answer was critical in navigating NY Rising, The Town of Hempstead Department of Buildings, and NY State Building Codes.

I would highly recommend Brian and The Elevated Studio as their expertise, compassion and guidance is critical to a full and successful recovery.

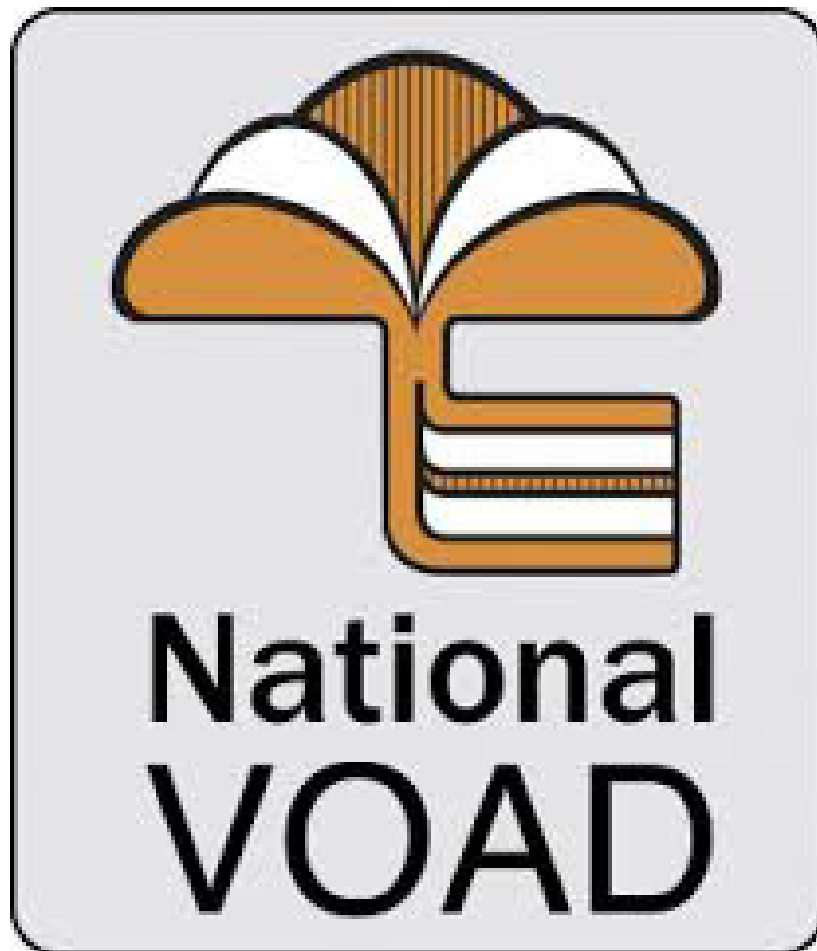
Sincerely,

Michael Towers

NATIONAL VOAD

The Elevated Studio is now a National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Partner. National VOAD, an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

The National VOAD coalition includes well more than 100 Member organizations, which represent National members, State VOADs, Local/Regional VOADs and hundreds of other member organizations throughout the country. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE COOPERATION, COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE VOAD FAMILY.





OUR FUTURE

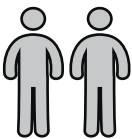
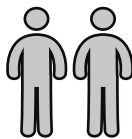
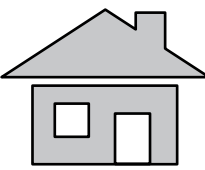
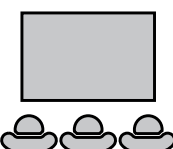



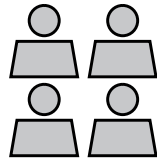
Moving forward, we aspire to make a significant impact on communities struggling to recover from the wake of a hazard, prepare for climate events, or provide a more appropriate place to grow their community. Our goals include:

- Develop and assist with Long-term Recovery programming supporting:
 - Communities in the United States Virgin Islands, Florida and Georgia from hurricane Irma
 - Communities in the United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Florida from hurricane Maria
 - Communities in northern California from the Napa Camp Fires
 - Communities in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina from hurricane Matthew
 - Communities in Florida and Georgia from hurricane Michael
 - Communities in North Carolina from hurricane Florence
- Continue to Promote the CEDAR Initiative throughout New York State as well as other jurisdictions that require rapid assessments post-disaster
- Increase the number of Civic Works projects to serve diverse communities in need
- Increase the number of educational seminars to support knowledge of residents, design professionals and construction professionals.



BY THE NUMBERS

Over the three years The Elevated Studio has had a positive impact towards the betterment of those that we have served. A look at our impact over the last 36 months can be seen as:

 35,500+ Community members served 		
 1400+ Individual property owners consulted	 90+ Recovery forums, with an average attendance of 50 individuals	 215,000 Miles driven by our staff (6.6 times around the Earth's equator)
 200+ Design professionals and 600+ disaster case managers trained in resilience and sustainability	 950+ Design reviews	 125+ Partnership recovery meetings attended

Our finances:

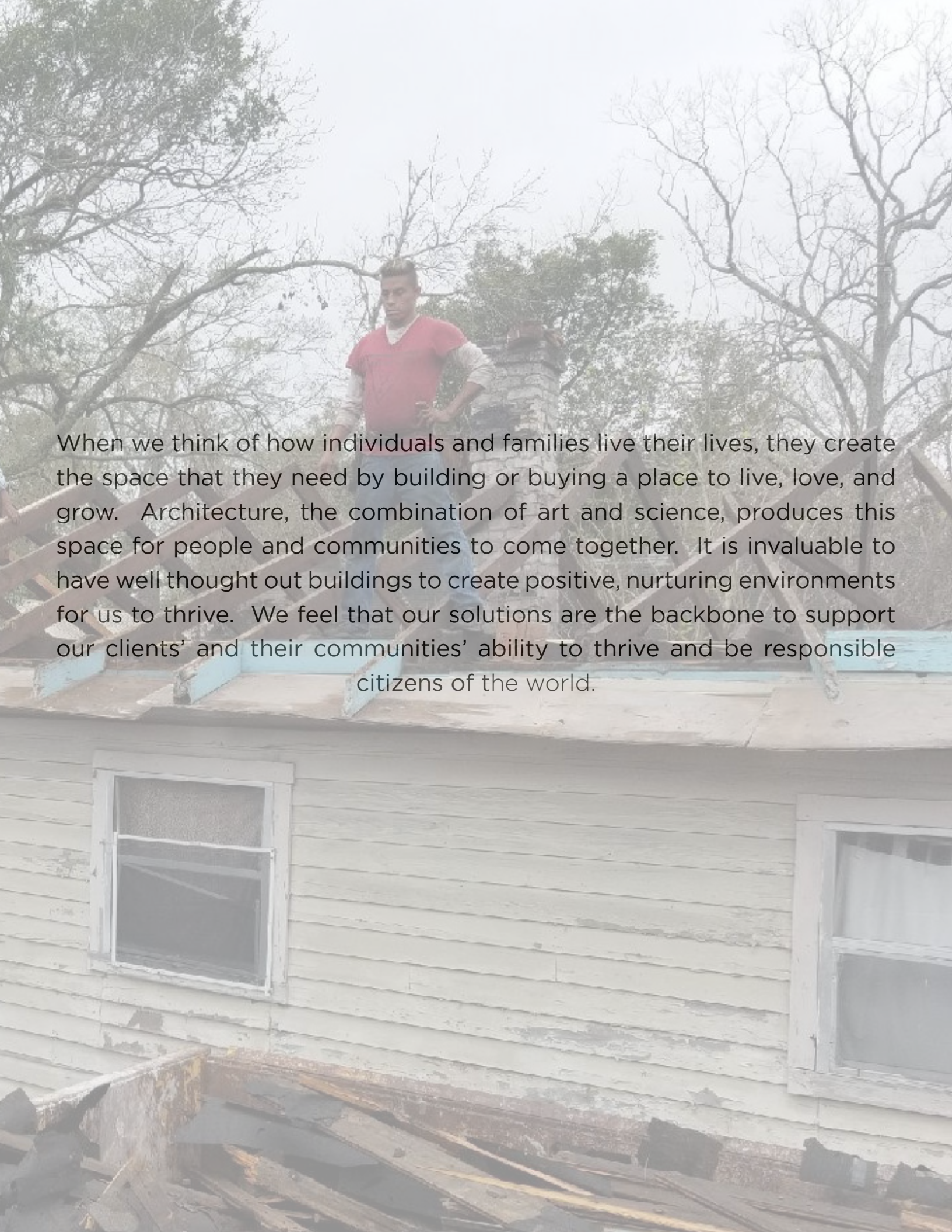
Although our finances have decreased from 2017 to 2018, the value of program related expenses remains at 85% of our overall expenditures. This ratio of program vs. non-program related expenses, retains our overall strategy to maximize program effectiveness and minimize our overhead costs. Our budgeted income for 2018 was lower due to several government contracts that were not realized as their programs did not materialize. Overall, a slight loss of expense/income showing for 2018, and 2019 looks much, much better. We have maintained our efficiencies in our work so that our resources can be maintained without stressing our functionality. It enables us to assist more families and neighborhoods in their need for crisis resolution.

	FY 2017	FY 2018
INCOME		
Design Income	\$572,807.00	\$332,190.00
Individual Donations	\$12,900.00	\$3,800.00
Grants	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$585,707.00	\$355,990.00

EXPENSE		
Consulting Engineers	\$306,046.00	\$54,400.00
Direct Program Expense		\$23,270.00
Insurance	\$19,907.00	\$14,000.00
Fundraising	\$5,276.00	\$17,000.00
Marketing	\$2,133.00	\$1,780.00
Office	\$18,146.00	\$5,340.00
Payroll	\$208,343.00	\$214,000.00
Rent	\$13,600.00	\$13,600.00
Travel	\$17,353.00	\$14,170.00
TOTAL	\$590,804.00	\$357,560.00



ARCHITECTURE
HAS GLOBAL
APPLICATIONS...

A man in a red shirt is standing on a roof under construction. The roof has wooden rafters and some blue-painted wooden beams. The background shows trees and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

When we think of how individuals and families live their lives, they create the space that they need by building or buying a place to live, love, and grow. Architecture, the combination of art and science, produces this space for people and communities to come together. It is invaluable to have well thought out buildings to create positive, nurturing environments for us to thrive. We feel that our solutions are the backbone to support our clients' and their communities' ability to thrive and be responsible citizens of the world.



**THANK
YOU**

We are grateful for so many people, organizations and opportunities.

Our clients: We are humbled by the work that we do with all of our clients and the neighborhoods we work in. Without you, our mission could not be fulfilled, our work theoretical, and the solutions not realized. Thank you.

Our funders: We are deeply grateful for your generous support over the past years. Without your support we could not fill our gaps in operations, or provide the services to our at-risk clients in need of our services. For your belief in us, we thank you.

Our partner organizations: We are constantly encouraged and inspired by the partnerships we have made throughout the region, and look forward to our and their continued successes. Thank you
The jurisdiction partners: At the local, state and federal level...You folks get the claw end of the hammer at times, but we appreciate your guidance, partnership and championing our efforts in your world. Thank you.

Our board: Our dedicated, all-volunteer board of directors are un-sung heros at The Elevated Studio. They have guided us through transitions from our freshman to our sophomore year; challenged us to serve broader; care deeper and more passionately; and support our mission without question. Thank you.

Our staff: Without our staff, we could not exceed our goals set at the beginning of the year; provide the services that we do to our constituency; or achieve the vision that we set forth two years ago and continue to support our mission. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. We are grateful and appreciative of all you do. Much love, respect and gratitude.

Thank you.

WE SEE A
BEAUTIFUL PLACE...

