Harrington Hall Shelter Garden

Architecture, House of Hope Community Dev. Corp.

Academic Disciplines Engaged: Architecture



The House of Hope Community Development Corporation (CDC) has provided homeless men, women, and children in the West Bay region with nourishing meals and a stable place to live since the organization's founding in 1989. Eighteen properties exist to fulfill the House of Hope CDC's mission of supporting its clients to "reach their maximum potential". Harrington Hall in Cranston, the state's largest shelter for men, is situated next to a large parcel of unused land. The organization wondered if it would be conceivable to create a community food garden in this space to stock their kitchens, but to also provide goods to those working in the neighboring Howard Center office complex.

RWU Architecture students met to discuss the feasibility of this garden. Crop layout, irrigation systems, and the construction of affordable structures to grow food were acknowledged in multiple garden designs. All ideas and sketches were delivered to Harrington Hall for their consideration and possible implementation.





RWU students collaborating with community partners on the project. In these images, students and partners work together to review and develop plans for the garden project.