A FARM IN HIGH RISES

Chicago, Illinois

Darius Kennedy + Michael Ortiz + Daniel Echeverria
A FARM IN HIGH RISES

Chicago, Illinois

Context Map of the Near North Side

Near North Side Population as of 2018

Near North Side Temperature (°F) per Month

Site Data

= 85,500 sq ft of farm land
= Urban Farm for the people of the Upper North Side especially minorites
= Build a stronger community between different groups of people

Map of Illinois

Near North Side

Case Study Project Name
Student Name + Student Name + Student Name

CITY, STATE

LA 2111L: Aquí Estamos: The South-Central Farm Revisited

CITY, STATE
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Chicago, Illinois

Site Plan

Chicago, Illinois

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CITY, STATE

A Farm in High Rises

Site Plan

Key Map

LEGEND

1. Chicago Lights Urban Community Farm
2. Trees
3. Main Road
4. Cabrini Homes
5. Green House
6. Hoop Houses
7. Ponds of Vegetation
8. Farm Market
9. Shed

0 250 500 750

W Chicago Ave
N Michigan Ave

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CITY, STATE
History of the City and the Farm

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1942

The community garden started.

The church bought the land but since the church secured the farm the community farm was able to stay.

It received bad press due to the community being next to the Gold Coast where it was predominantly white community.

The CHA didn’t invest a lot in housing because of what was happening such as violence within the homes.

The rowhouses were built which was a complex that housed people with low income named after St. Francis Cabrini.

2003

2016

Housing in the late 1970’s and 80’s. The church bought the land but since the church secured the farm the community farm was able to stay.

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2013

2000

The garden was a ministry of the church in which it became one of the five non-profit organizations for the Chicago lights.

It transitioned into Urban Farm so it would provide jobs for teens and also help grow food for the community.

2011

Cabrini Home extensions were taken down.

2010

Chicago Ave was wanting to be destroyed for high rises to come.

2002

2011
Row crops make up the bulk of the production, covering most of the farm. The idea behind this is to maximize the output with what little space is provided.

There is one greenhouse and two hoop houses on the property. The greenhouse is for starting plants in the winter and growing crops that can’t handle Chicago’s weather. The hoop houses are for growing tall crops and any crops that need protection from the elements.

The community has little access to fresh produce so the farm uses a farmstand to distribute produce to the community.

There are community garden plots that are available for purchase where anyone can grow whatever they want since it is hard to obtain land in the urban environment.

Community events happen all the time at the farm from barbecues or workshops for the community on how to grow certain crops.
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CASE STUDY

Site Analysis in Relation to the Near North Side

Key

- Chicago Lights
- Fast Food
- Green Spaces
- Religious Organizations
- Cabrini Homes
- Chicago Loyola University

= Ogden Elementary School
= Bus Stops
= Cabrini Homes
= Organizations and People that can benefit the most from the farm
= One grocery store to provide fresh produce
= Mostly restaurants for food options
= Eight religious organizations to potentially work with
= Two schools that they can provide food for students
= Fifty Nine bus stops that can connect people to the farm

N. Larrabee St. to N. Michigan Ave.

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Programs at the Farm

High school student will obtain an EDUCATION on how to maintain an urban farm, customer service skills, nutrition and cooking knowledge, responsibility, leadership, communication, and job skills, including resume writing and mock interviews.

The urban farm provides JOB OPPORTUNITIES to those who deal with or have dealt with low-income, homelessness, past court involvement, chronic unemployment, or no high school diploma.

The Cabrini-Green homes are a series of rowhouses which are made up of mixed income families. The farm serves most of the people that live in this complex.

There are a lot of COMMUNITY based activities that are located on the farm which include community garden plots, a farm stand, and local gathering, bringing people together.
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Thoughts/Reflections/ Summary

• The design concept was to maximize the output of the farm with what little space they had.
• The whole idea behind the farm was to bring the community together no matter someone’s race, economic background, and age.
• Education is one of the programs that they pride themselves on because it helps high school students learn valuable lessons that will help them further themselves in life.
• The farm provides job opportunities for those who struggle to obtain a job due to their past decisions.
• The overall idea and theme behind the farm is really to bring the community together and help those in need.
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Thoughts/Reflections/Summary

• The farm was mostly created in order to be able to provide a safe environment and jobs for the Cabrini Homes.

• In order to establish a community you need to gather people that are in the same situation or believe in a common idea.

• Just because the farm is located in a part of Chicago that has a high amount of crime does not mean new places can be created for the better.

• In a place where it was only low-income, mid and high-income people moved in and diversified the community in a good way.
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Thoughts/Reflections/Summary

- The Near North Side of Chicago has become a gentrified community with high rises taking over space that was once minority housing.
- The farm is mostly for the minority community in this part of Chicago, giving them an opportunity to advance in life that the systems of America do not provide them.
- The most IMPORTANT part of the farm is not the produce that it provides but it is to provide a space to build a strong and healthy community.
QUESTIONS ?