Dance, alongside with contemporary forms of art and philosophy, has undergone a transformation in its fundamental cosmological approach to its craft. No longer is it about representing the unity of a harmonic order of the perfect forms of the cosmos. Contemporary discourse has challenged the ability for individual subjects to be able to obtain true knowledge of this underlying unity if it exists at all. Individual perspectives are the focus of investigations and dance has become about the interpretations that each audience member has to the performance at the stage. There is no longer a proper way to underexperience the art of dance in contemporary functions because the dance becomes about the relationship of the choreography to the subject observing it.

How to embody this transformation architecturally became the driving question of this project. By putting the circulation in the middle, through a habitable structure, the person travelling through the space gets to understand the dancers in the building in different ways - none of which can be considered proper.
The Irish Channel is a neighborhood defined by its history of working class residents that moved to be in proximity to the industrial activities along the river. This merging of industry and residential programs is still a defining factor of the typologies found in the neighborhood, and one that is specifically felt in the site located in Rousseau St. The Building Arts Institute was designed to embody this threshold by mitigating the different scales one encounters in the neighborhood. The gallery, designed as a gesture to the typology of the shotgun home is located at the front of the site facing the residences and acting as a public place for people in the neighborhood to come inside. The scale of the Institute is larger, reacting to the warehouse typologies found towards the back of the site, and is tall enough to overlook the obstructions to reveal a glimpse of the Mississippi.

The gallery sits at the front and generates a courtyard which is also used by the workshops as an outdoor making space. Once inside the Institute, people can navigate through the space and towards the auditorium which faces the neighborhood. The upper floors, which have the greatest views are dedicated towards learning and culminate in the library at the third floor with large balconies on both sides that look towards both the city and the river.
Behavioral Health And Charter School Study
New Orleans Partner with Shirley Chen

As part of a fellowship with the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design I conducted a study to investigate the way in which the all charter school system in New Orleans is affecting access to behavioral health resources in the city. Using Geographic Information Systems, we started to catalog the location of both schools and clinics, hoping to find a correlation between the patterns of their physical location. As our investigation took us forward, looking at the movement of kids throughout the city, became a priority, as the information is not readily available. The next step of the project forced us to reconsider many of our initial assumptions and widen the scope of our research.

The second half of the project involved an i qualitative investigation to work through the steps in the process of referring a kid. We found the problem was not as reducible to a spatial framework, but used our design skills to navigate and find ways to visualize the problem to serve as a useful tool for administrators and legislators.
Through a phase of technical analysis, the student team gathered some necessary information about landmark features of the Historic Westside Community, including the peculiar condition of housing over 40 churches within a square mile. This produces an influx of thousands of people that create a dichotomy between the normally vacant land and the saturated scene during Sundays.

The historically black neighborhood founded in 1904 has had a history of segregation and systemic discrimination from the city of Las Vegas. As a diplomatic move in an effort to ease relations between the community and the city, UNLV had the opportunity to go into the neighborhood to meet with residents and draft a neighborhood revitalization plan. The approach was community driven, with a series of workshops that culminated in a plan and implementation strategy to encourage and guide future development.

Concentration of churches in the area surrounded by clusters of empty land.

- **60** Churches in the Urban Designation of West Las Vegas
- **25,759** Population living in the entire West Las Vegas Region
- **1,800 - 10,000** Estimated Influx of People Every Sunday for Mass

### A Center For Congregation

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Community Engagement Outcome

Work done through collaboration with community members, artists, and architects in multiple design charrettes, and then elaborated with a team of 8 students.