

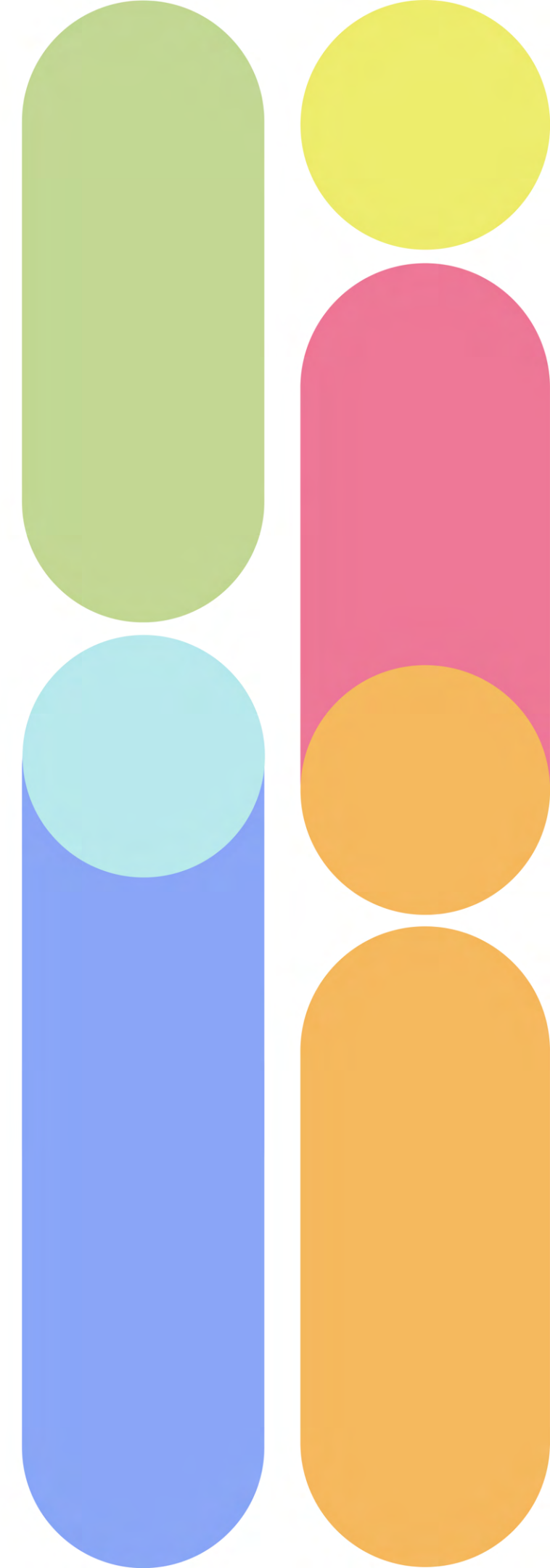
Circular Heritage Toolkit

Six elements of localized, inclusive, and
culturally-rooted building reuse ecosystems

Stephanie Phillips, AICP

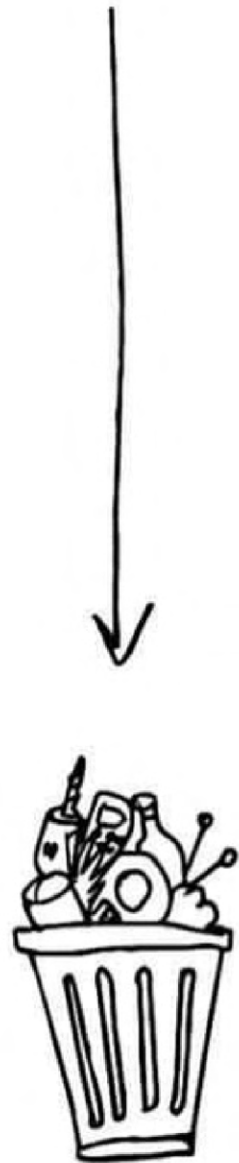
Harrison Goodall Preservation Fellowship

July 13, 2022





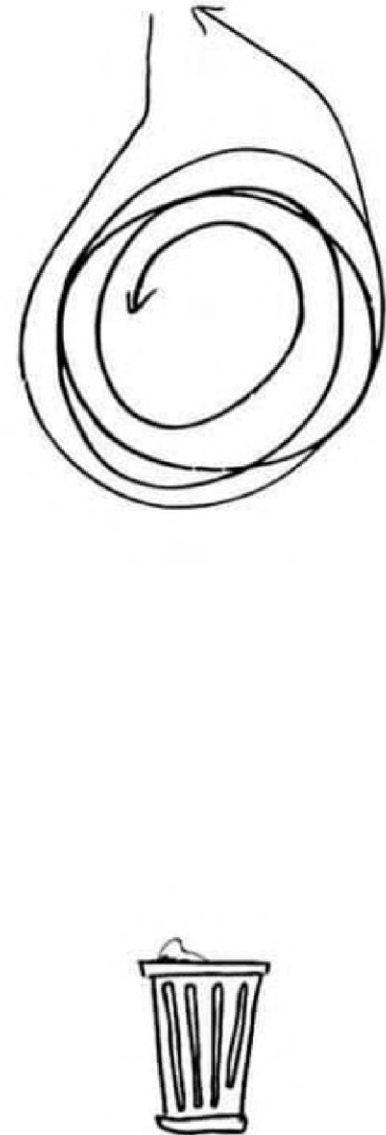
LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Policy toolkits for:

Architects

Sustainability professionals

Product designers

Businesses

Policymakers (broadly defined)

What about the heritage conservation field?

***CIRCULAR
ECONOMY***

- * Regenerate nature
- * Redistribute materials
 - * Design out waste
- * Build social capital
- * Localize economic prosperity

***CIRCULAR
HERITAGE***

***HERITAGE
CONSERVATION***

- * Protect places of value
- * Repair existing buildings
 - * Design for the region
 - * Tell the full story
- * Maintain community traditions

Why reuse ecosystems?

- **Six elements of localized, inclusive, and culturally-rooted building reuse ecosystems**
- Building on the 'why' to define the 'how'
- Heritage conservation within a systems thinking framework
- Anchors our field within the broader effort to make it easier to reuse and harder to waste
- "Without providing a clear path to the reuse of materials as an alternative to new items in both policy and practice, widespread dependency on new products will endure. We need structural change to support our collective ambitions of reuse at all scales."

Goals

- **Inform:** Define and reframe heritage conservation in the context of the circular economy
- **Inspire:** Showcase best practices and case studies at this intersection
- **Activate:** Provide resources, strategies, and recommendations for heritage conservation practitioners and advocates that helps them actively and meaningfully contribute to or lead in this space

Circular Heritage Toolkit

Introduction

**Data-Driven
Documentation**

**Equitable Material
Reuse Pathways**

**Robust
Reuse Workforce**

**Community-Centered
Engagement**







**Interdisciplinary
Networks & Partnerships**

**Place-Based
Policies**



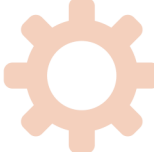

**Conclusion:
Summary & Action Steps**

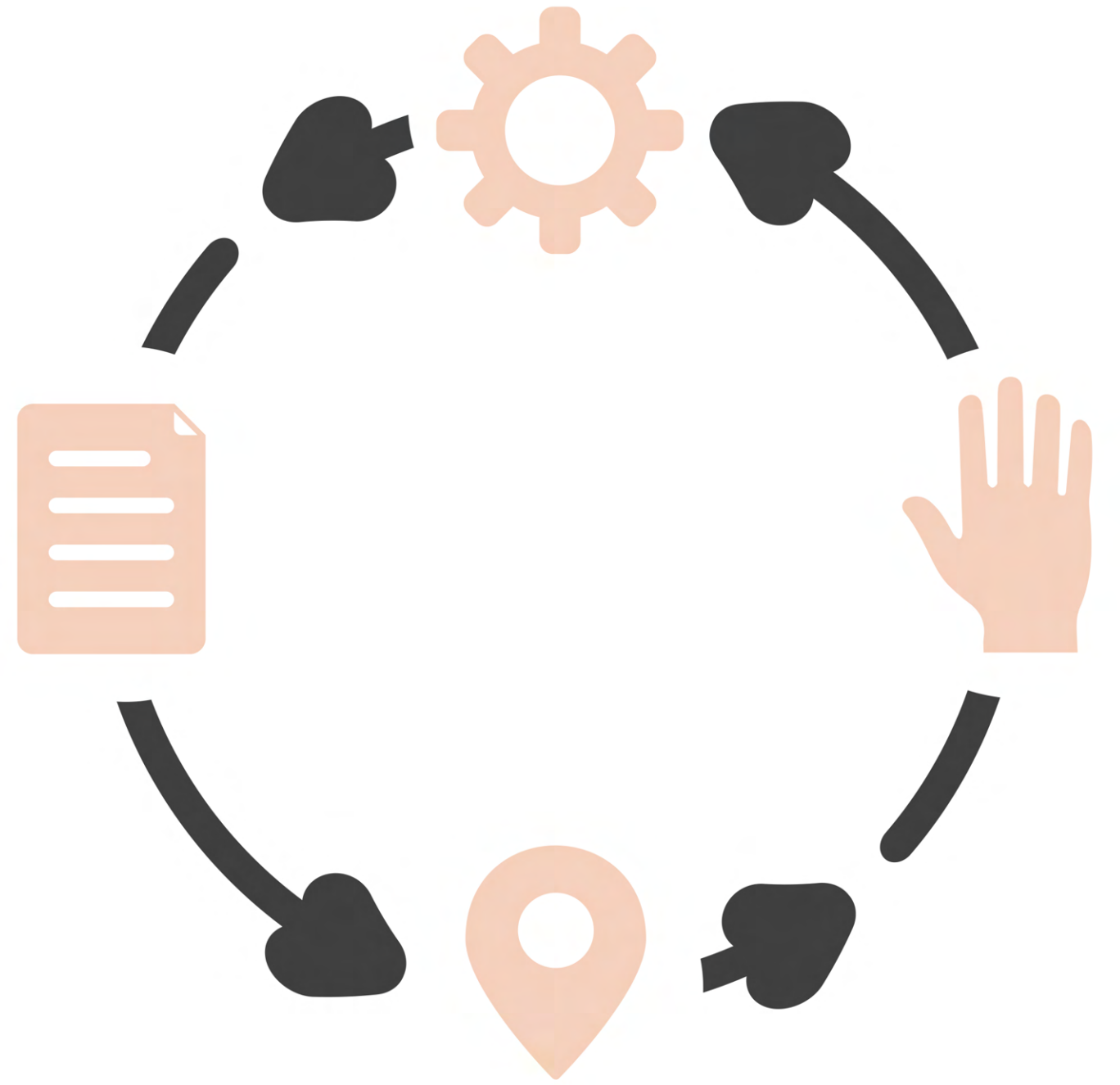
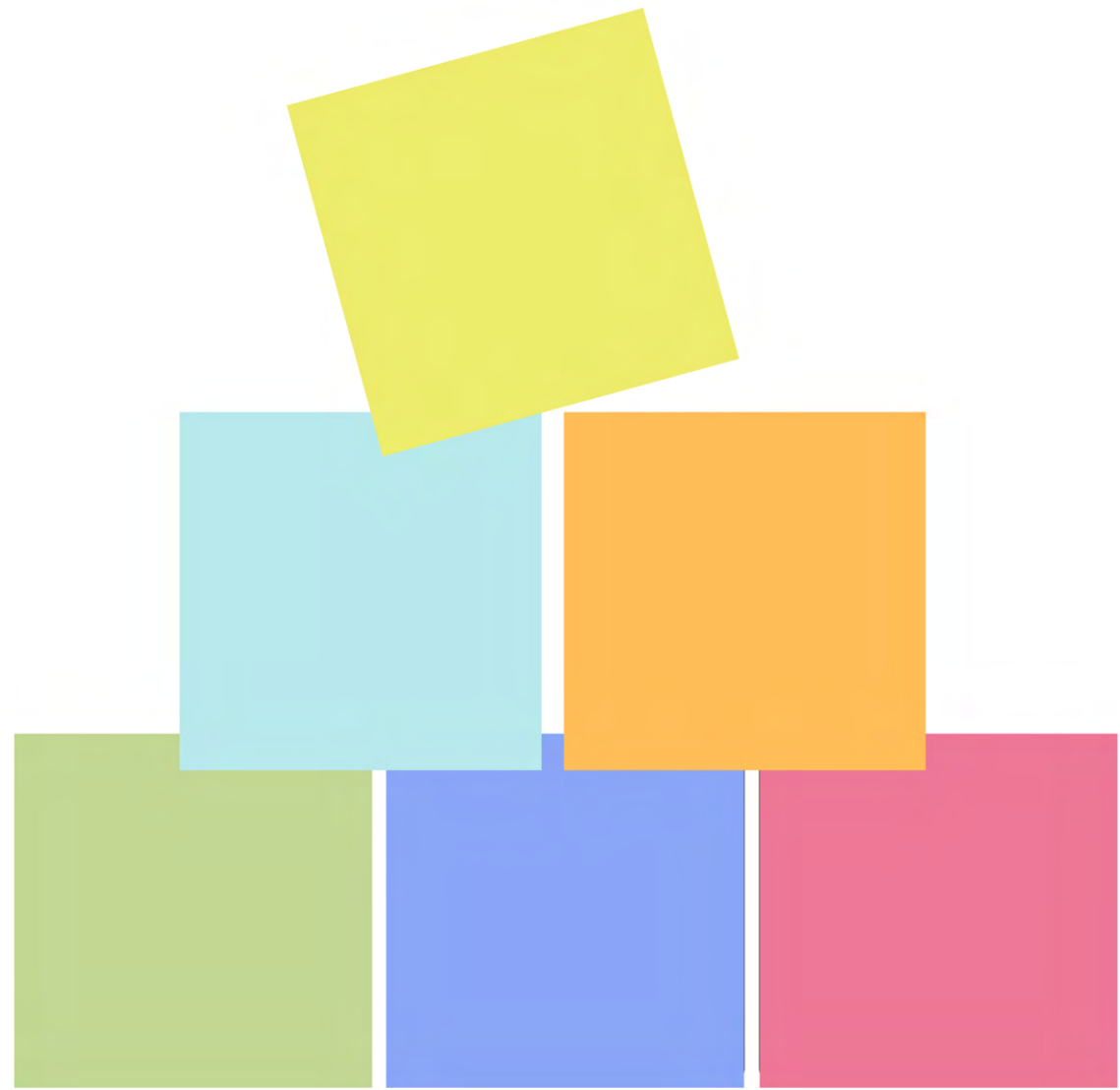
Appendix

The toolkit is divided into six elements that comprise an emerging framework for advancing circular heritage:

-  **Data-Driven Documentation**
-  **Equitable Material Reuse Pathways**
-  **Robust Reuse Workforce**
-  **Community-Centered Engagement**
-  **Interdisciplinary Networks & Partnerships**
-  **Place-Based Policies**

Additionally, each section concludes with specific strategies that can be explored in local communities, organized by type:

-  **Physical Action**
Hands-on event, workforce training, or demonstration project
-  **Policy Action**
Regulatory or non-regulatory policy intervention
-  **Planning Action**
Committee, program, or partnership creation; exploration of new approaches
-  **Community Action**
Community engagement event or community-led project



What is Circular Heritage?

Circular heritage is a systems solution framework approach to heritage conservation that views the continuous reuse of buildings and their materials as a basis for local economic prosperity, social equity, and urban and natural stewardship in the face of climate change.

In response to this moment, circular heritage recognizes that:

- Deconstruction and building material reuse is a form of heritage conservation;
- The reuse of reclaimed building materials is an environmental, social, economic, and cultural good;
- A thriving, equitable building materials reuse ecosystem is essential to preserving more existing buildings; and
- Material reuse is a bridge between fields in the building sector and can foster more impactful, intersectional climate action.

**Data-Driven
Documentation**

**Equitable
Material Reuse
Pathways**

**Robust Reuse
Workforce**

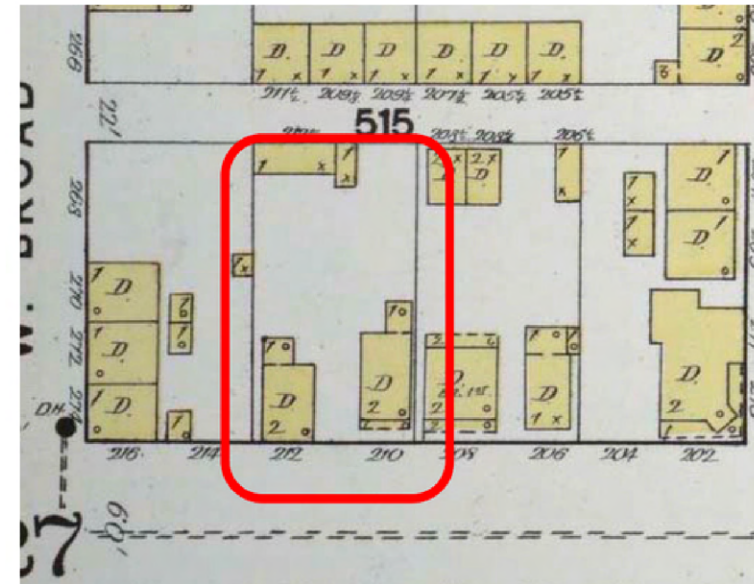
**Community-
Centered
Engagement**

**Interdisciplinary
Networks &
Partnerships**

**Place-Based
Policies**

Data Case Study: Re:Purpose Neighborhood

The value of a structure goes beyond the object itself; there is value in the stories of the lives that passed through its walls, and in the materials from which it was built. Re:Purpose Savannah captures and shares that value through research and qualitative documentation of the building, shared in their open-source online archive, Re:Purpose Neighborhood.



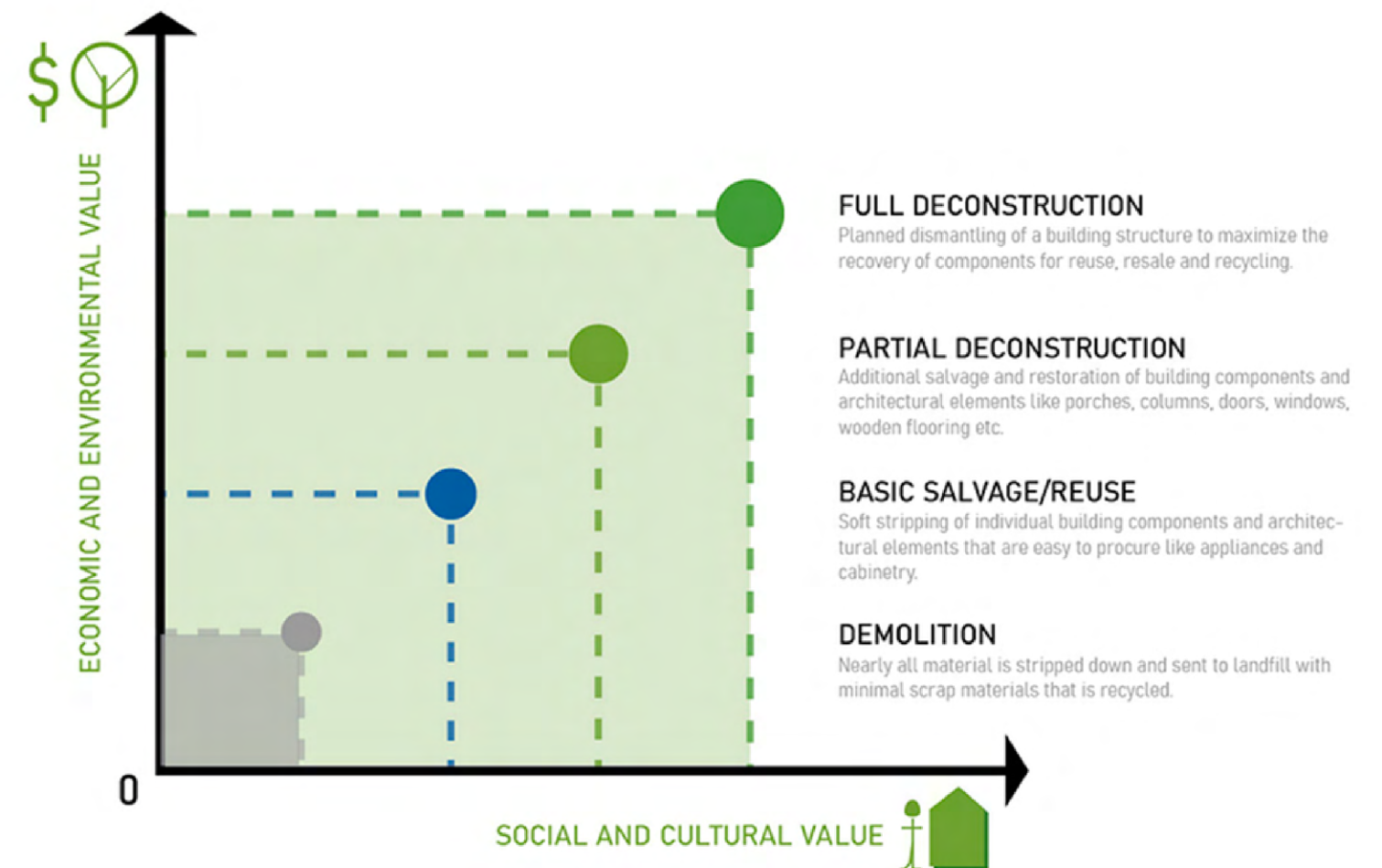
Equitable Reuse Pathways Case Study: Material Innovation Center

The City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation partnered with Port San Antonio, a former air force base and current technology and innovation campus, to locate its Living Heritage Trades Academy (LHTA) and new Material Innovation Center (MIC) in a collection of 1920s structures that originally housed military officers.

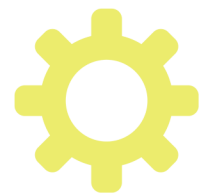


Interdisciplinary Network Case Study: Circularity, Reuse, and Zero Waste Development (CROWD)

Circularity, Reuse, and Zero Waste Development (CROWD) is a collaborative workgroup that brings projects and research from Cornell faculty-led labs together with experts across the campus, the City of Ithaca, and New York state to address sustainable development practices.



Strategies for Advancing Each of the Six Elements



Merge multiple sets of open source data to tell a bigger story



Organize a workshop, lecture series, or exhibition focused on various dimensions of reuse



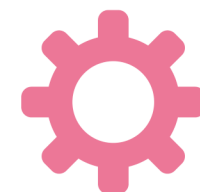
Engage directly with your community to determine material asymmetries and opportunities



Communicate heritage conservation advances climate action, waste diversion, and related goals in preservation recommendations

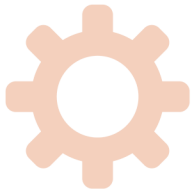




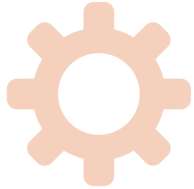


Identify potential local hiring partners and ask for a letter of support



Convene a deconstruction advisory committee

Conclusion: Strategies for Advancing Circular Heritage

-  **Expand toolkit for global relevancy**
-  **Revise existing grant criteria and/or create a diverse array of new grant programs for circular heritage projects**
-  **Implement federal-level guidance for circular heritage**
-  **Revise heritage conservation curriculums to include circular and climate heritage as core competencies**
-  **Develop a network of intersectional, collaborative training programs focused on circular heritage**
-  **Create or define circular economy positions in heritage conservation organizations**

Sharing the Toolkit

- National Alliance for Preservation Commissions Forum (Friday!)
- Preservation League of New York Event on Deconstruction (August 18)
- Build Reuse Deconstruction & Reuse Conference (October 18-20)
- PastForward Conference (November 1)
- Association for Preservation Technology Conference (November 8)
- Translation of toolkit to interactive website (ongoing)

Thank you!

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