Chicago’s Southwest neighborhood has been highlighted by a series of légendario-
lic events since the 1960’s. As America began integrating, the predominantly 
Caucasian neighborhood of Austin was hit by a wave of blockbusting, forcing 
out long-time residents. As a result, the community fell into a state of neglect and 
has remained that way over the years while struggling to find a permanent solution.

To overcome this, the thesis proposes a strategy of intervention that could create 
long-term economic growth, promoting community engagement and re-energizing 
the neighborhood. By incorporating existing structures and creating a fluid space, 
the community can begin to address the many barriers of starting their own businesses 
and nurturing the community’s most basic needs.
"For our low income populations security in their residential environment, security from the natural elements, from criminals, and from authority is the first step to liberation" - Oscar Newman