



NewComm is a learner-centered design studio that empowers motivated NYC students, industry professionals, and community stakeholders to collaboratively tackle local challenges through social ventures.

Agenda for this workshop

- What is NewComm?
- What is a “community-based, learner-centered ecosystem”
- What is literary science, and what role does it play in NewComm’s ecosystem?
- What are some examples of final outcomes of this process?
- How can we design our own ecosystem? (Individual, Pair/Share, and Whole Group)

What is NewComm?

- NewComm is a learner-centered design studio that engages learners, experienced professionals, and local stakeholders in year-long projects that address essential questions in their community.
- Each project starts with an immersive summer literacy-focused experiences followed by a series of Saturday design thinking workshops where learners leverage their summer and current school's education to execute a venture that addresses the essential question.
- The “software” of our projects is the “Literary Science” framework where stories, oral histories, and generational knowledge from marginalized voices are studied not just mere words for an assessment but as powerful research and design tools for social justice.
- This work will increase engagement in literacy skill development, provide robust professional experiences, but also empower learners to perceive their engaged education as a tool for “informed agitation” of unhealthy systems.

11th grade Project

- A paid community-engaged project where students leverage literary science to collaboratively design, refine, and execute a \$10,000 project that answers the following essential question:
 - *How can we disrupt the systematic economic disparities in our community by leveraging social capital?*

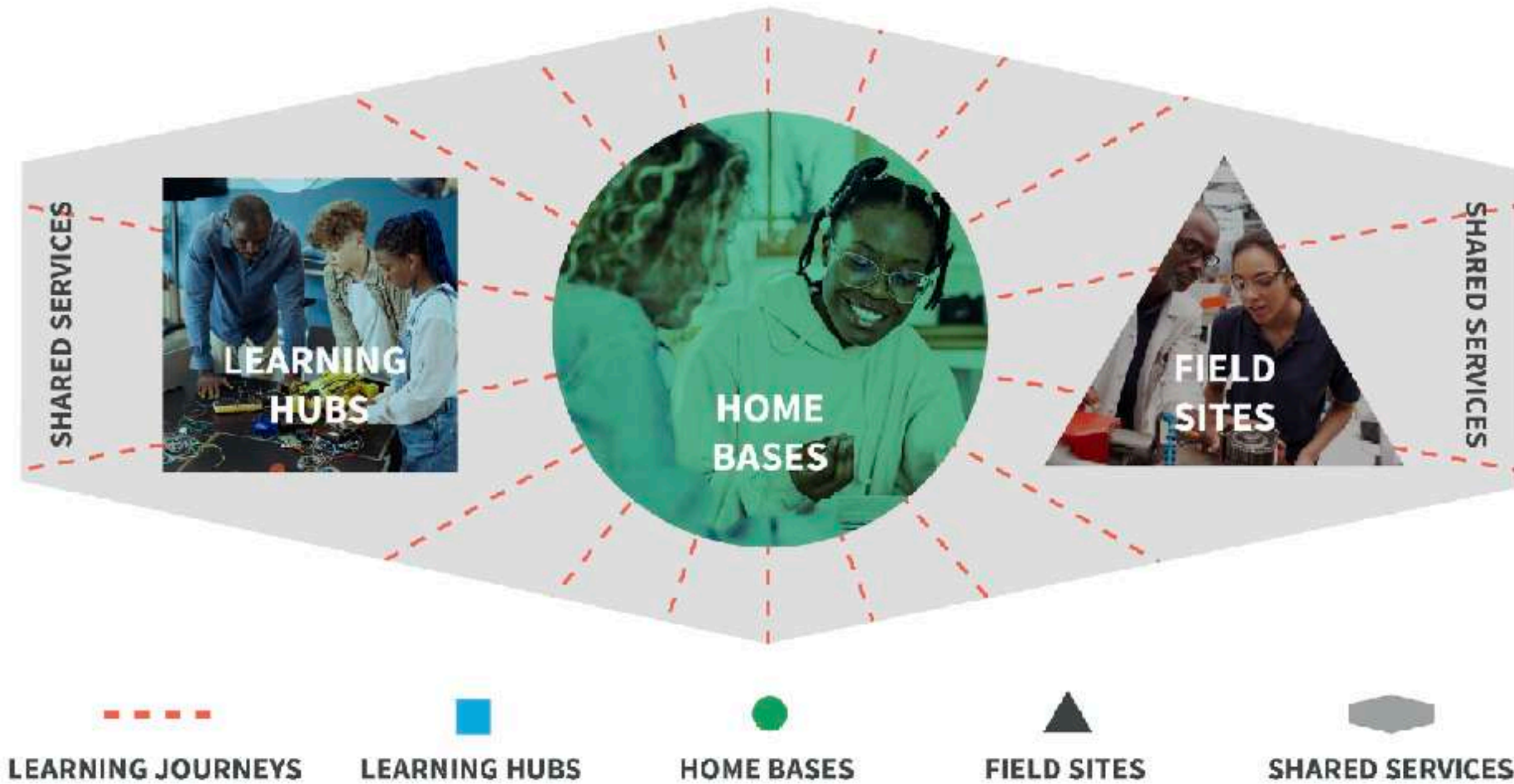


12th grade Project

- A travel-based project where students leverage literary science to explore the African Diaspora to design, refine, and execute individual passion projects.
 - *How can our experiences with non-western approaches to justice create a more inclusive and innovative communities back home?*



A Learning Ecosystem



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY-BASED, LEARNER-CENTERED ECOSYSTEMS?

Community-based, learner-centered ecosystems are reconceived public education system designs that are emerging across the nation. In this design, K–12 learning is shaped, distributed and networked throughout communities, versus set in singular school buildings. Young people craft and navigate their learning journeys through meaningful collaboration with adults who support them, as well as their peers. The experience of that learning leverages the assets, insights and expertise of a wide variety of organizations and people. It prioritizes learning that is tangible, rooted in context and intrinsically tied to each young person's interests, aspirations and personal relevance.

Literary Science: The Language We Use

1. **Asset Stocks and Pain Points**
2. **Jobs and Strategy Analysis**
3. **Community Research**
4. **Intervention Design**
5. **Feedback and Refinement**

Asset Stocks

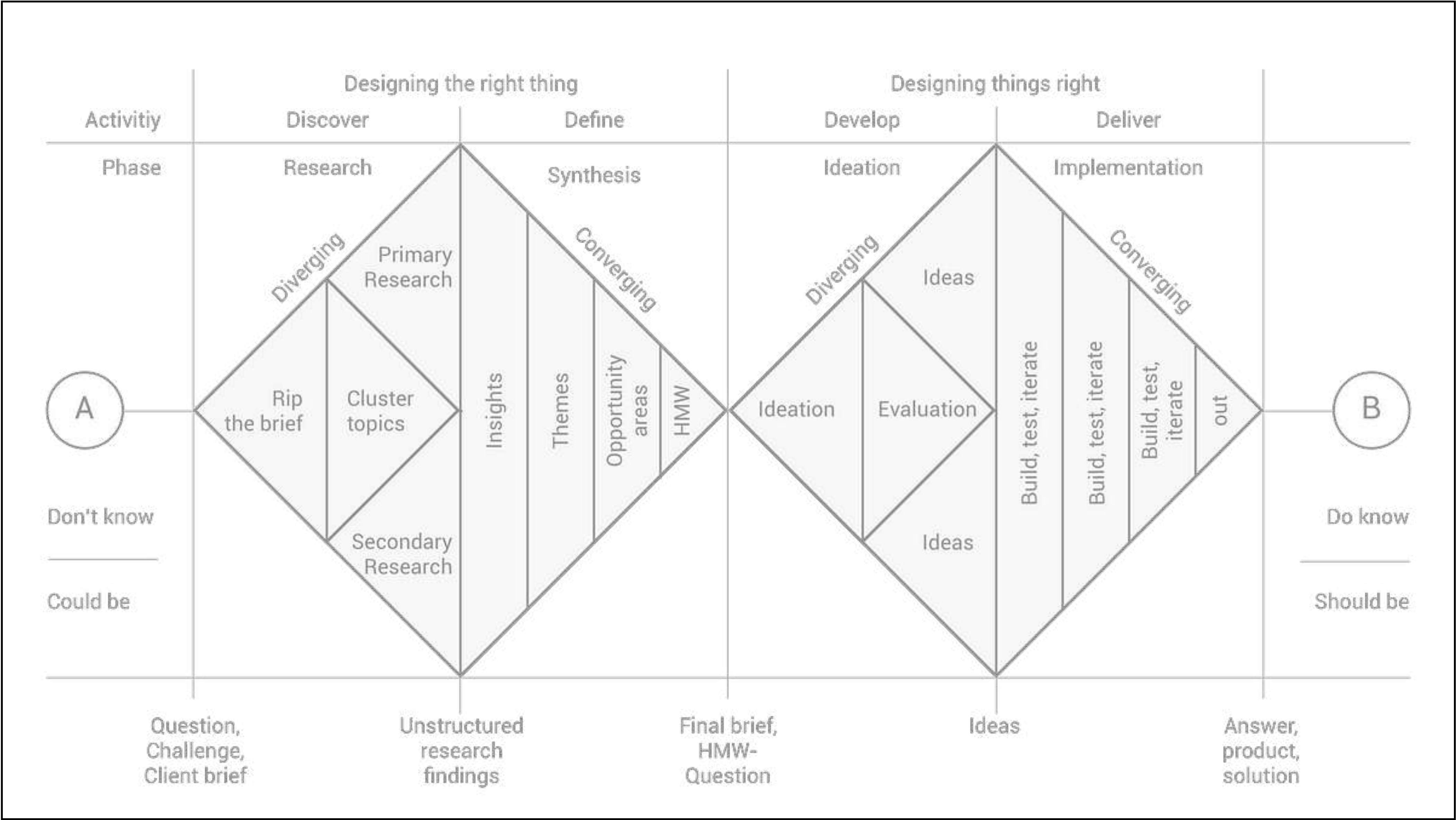
Natural:

1. Biodiversity
2. Air and Water
Quality
3. Flora
4. Climate

Man Made:

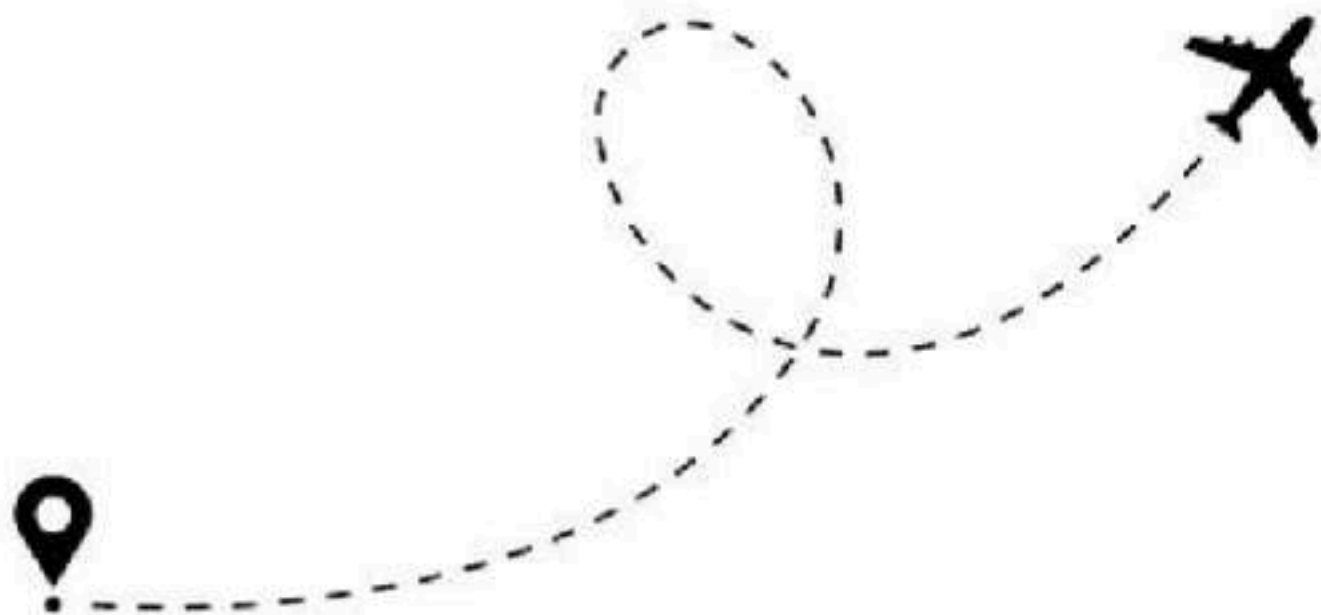
1. Human Capital
2. Social Capital
3. Financial Capital
4. Manufactured
Capital
5. Public Knowledge

Instead of a passive reading of literature, we immerse it in a scientific design process that involves research, testing, and project implementation.



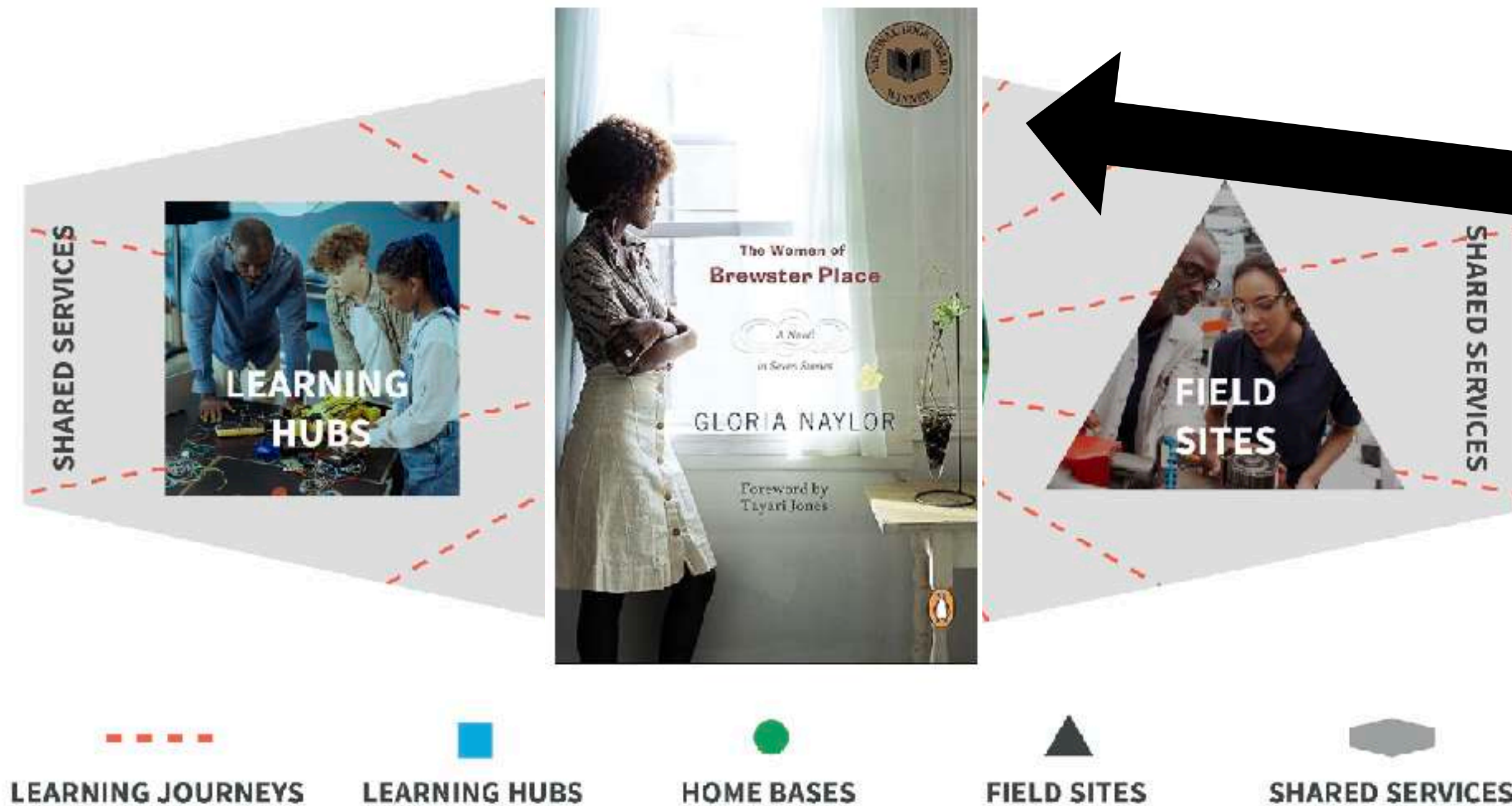
Asset Stocks and Pain Points

Cologne



New
York

The NewComm Ecosystem



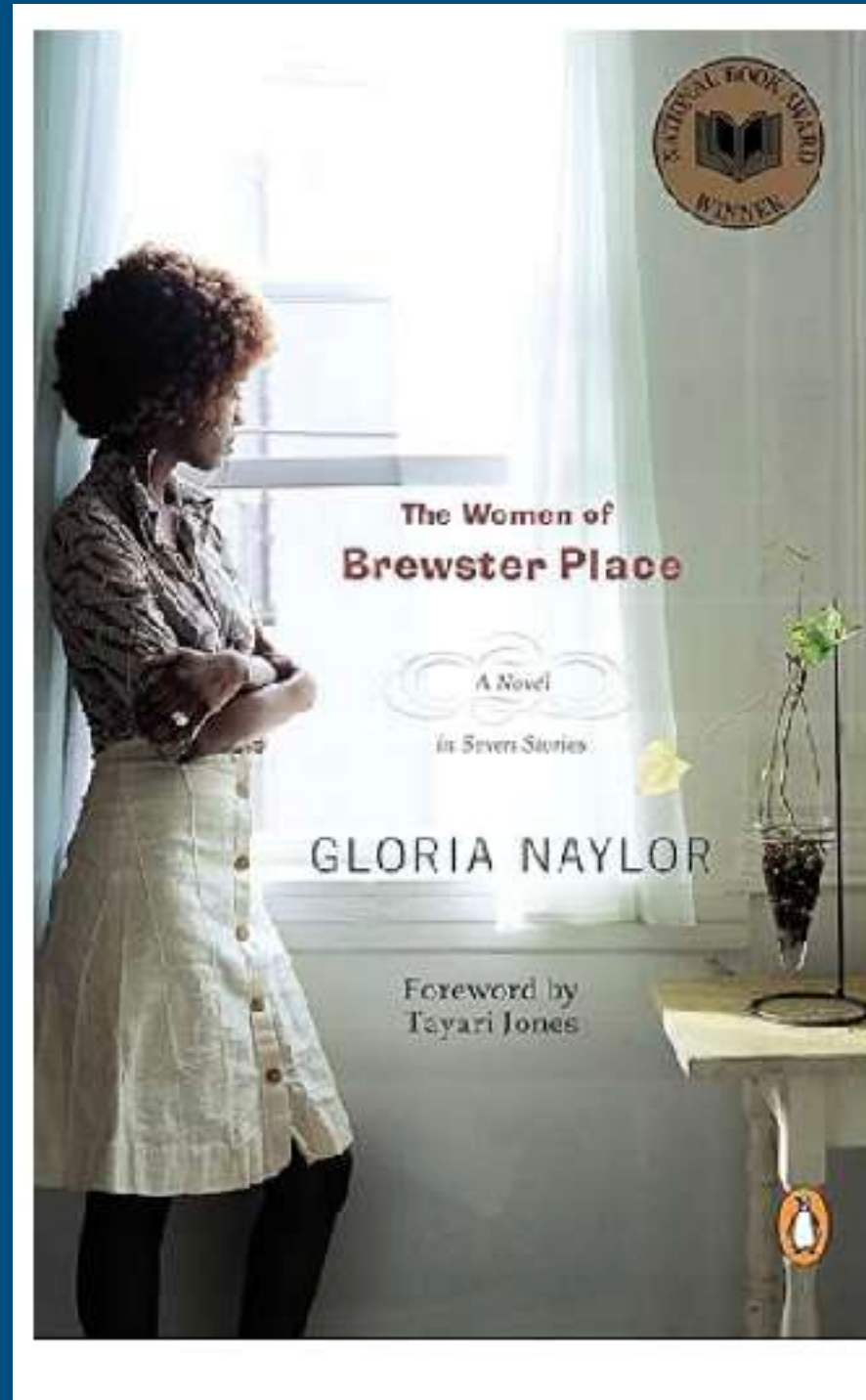
The themes and questions of the foundational novel ground both our literary study and our quantitative and qualitative research

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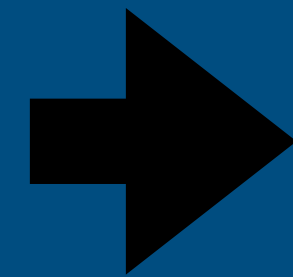
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In the novel THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE, we focus on questions on women empowerment within male-dominated systems.

The NewComm Ecosystem

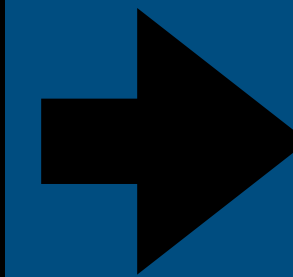


How the women focus on building social capital to agitate failing systems



Community Research

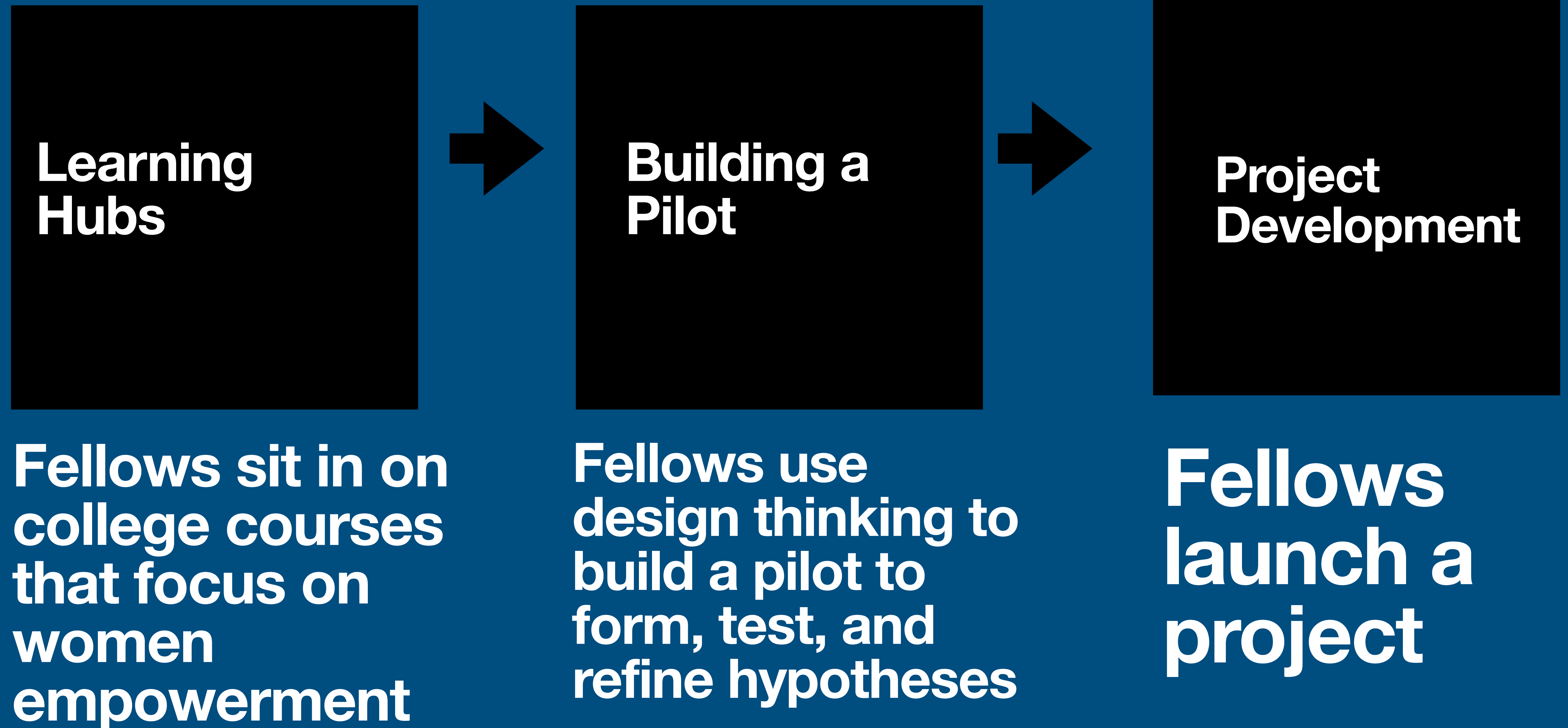
Research focuses in on how women leverage social capital to agitate failing systems. Research also sharpens the lens in which we read the novel.



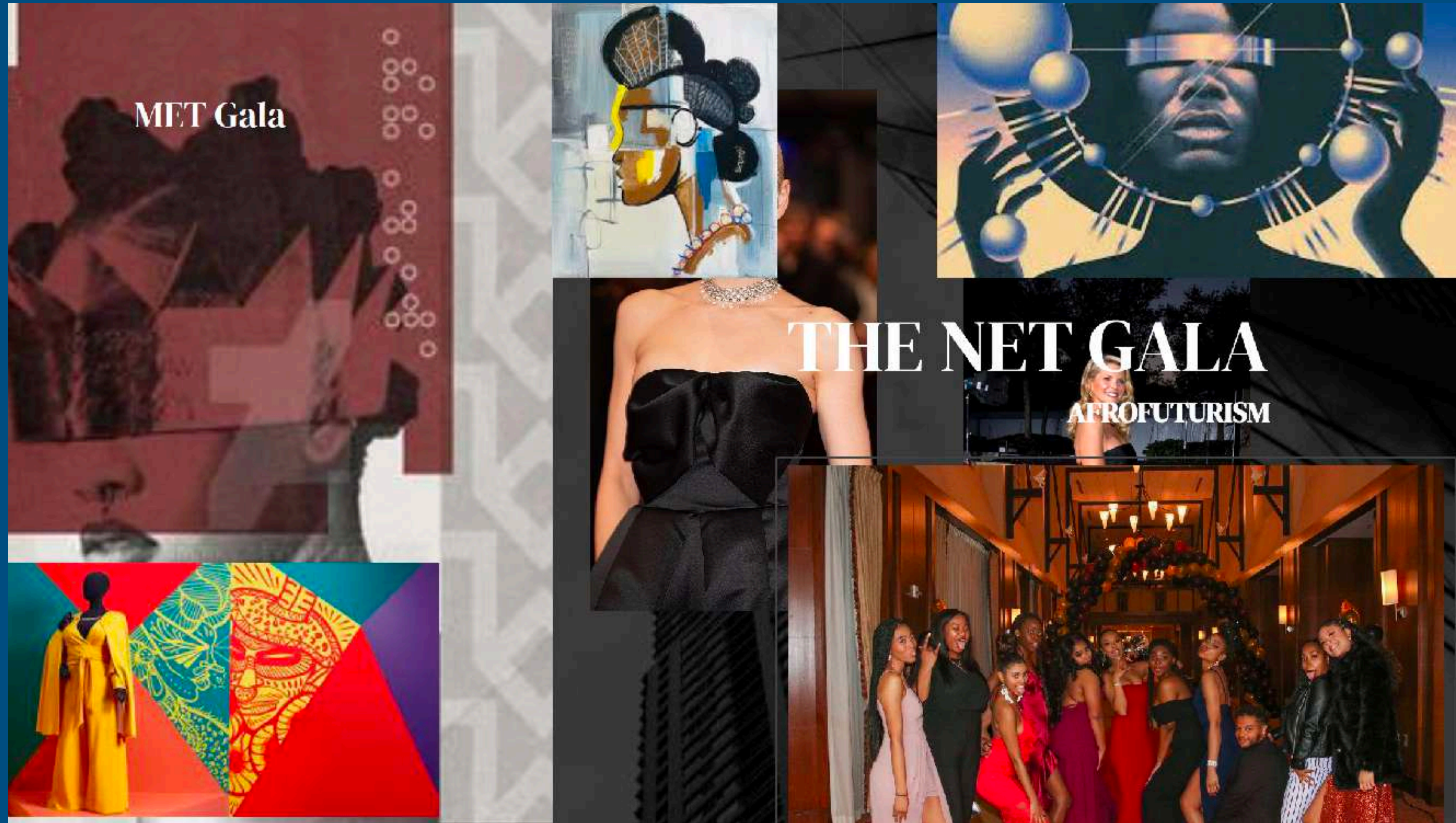
Field Work

Fellows visit local companies and government offices that focus on women empowerment to deepen their knowledge and engage with industry leaders

The NewComm Ecosystem



Our 2023 Fellows Final Project



Our 2023 Fellows Final Project

Program Scope

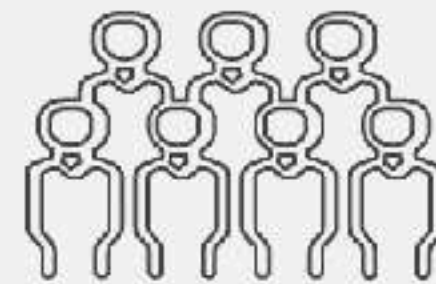
Preparation

- Three preparatory sessions (Saturdays)
- Participants will learn networking skills
- Visit different medical facilities



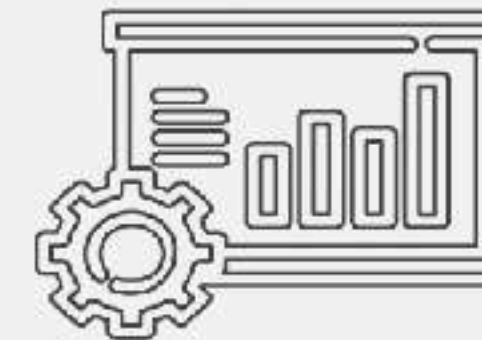
NET Gala

- Attend a formal gala
- Network with different medical professionals
- NewComm FELLOWS will facilitate



Debrief

- Follow up with participants via survey
- Roundtable debrief about program
- Provide support in preparation for internships









Design Your Own Ecosystem

- What challenge in your local community could your ecosystem solve? How would you frame the essential question?
- What texts (fiction, non-fiction) could you use to anchor this work? What man-made and natural asset stocks do these texts investigate?
- Home Base are “safe spaces which serve as anchors for learners, peers and advisors to build deep, stable relationships over time, set goals and navigate learning journeys” Where could your home base be located? What ways could you make it a “safe space”?
- Learning Hubs are “dedicated spaces that live across the community — such as libraries, schools, colleges, museums, arts centers and labs — for young people to unpack academic foundations and concepts, research ideas, and learn specific skills” Where are your potential learning hubs? What skills can be learned there to deepen the students’ understanding of the work?
- Field work are “commercial, public or non-profit organizations — such as businesses, farms, maker spaces, cultural centers — for learners to pursue dedicated projects, apply their learning in the real contexts and the world of work, engage with mentors, and hone their skills and aspirations, all as they contribute to specific needs of that organization.” What are your potential field work opportunities? What could they do there?



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