FOOD DESERT VS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL WASTELAND VS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MISTRUST VS POSITIVE CONTACT
SHOUTING VS LISTENING
BREAKING THE CITY VS HEALING THE CITY
JUST SURVIVING VS BEING YOUR BEST SELF
BEING YOUR BEST SELF
New models for co-creating social service programs in partnership with the people who seek support are popping up all over to address the failure of traditional patient-based models. These programs are working to level the playing field, allowing all inhabitants of a city to be their best self. Access to training and education, healthcare, counseling, drug treatment programs, and affordable housing will slowly replace militarized police units.

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY

BREAKING THE CITY VS HEALING THE CITY

HYBRIDIZING JUSTICE
A wide range of projects and initiatives are slowly transforming the traditional criminal justice system to better serve all those who interact with these institutions. The current criminal justice system will not disappear, but it will merge with alternative structures to improve public safety and create healthy communities. Expect to see reforms in Day Reporting Centers and reentry campuses, prisons as healing and accountability centers, and courthouses as mediation centers.

URBAN WILDERNESS
The natural wilderness beckons to us as we sit in our modern concrete jungles. The positive effects of being near nature, both big and small, have been well documented to reduce stress, improve cognitive functioning, aid recovery from illness, and even make people more generous. New efforts to incorporate biophilic architectures and to make the wilderness accessible to minorities will drastically transform our landscapes and our criminal justice systems.

BEING YOUR BEST SELF
Evidence-based design has been transforming the way we design places for healthcare, education, and work. Similar practices are slowly being applied to criminal justice spaces, creating a direct link between intended justice outcomes and the spaces we create for justice. Spaces for restorative justice and peacemaking will be informed by a clear sense of experimentation with biophilic design, play, smell, art, and touch.

DECENTRALIZING JUSTICE
Restorative justice is building as a decentralized justice infrastructure that imbeds restorative practices directly into every neighborhood, at the forefront of need. To usher in a new model of ‘anytime, anywhere’ justice, elders will once again become focal points of intervention. Places for peacebuilding and justice will be embedded in schools, community centers, libraries, and homes.

DESIGNING FOR IMPACT
Evidence-based design has been transforming the way we design places for healthcare, education, and work. Similar practices are slowly being applied to criminal justice spaces, creating a direct link between intended justice outcomes and the spaces we create for justice. Spaces for restorative justice and peacemaking will be informed by a clear sense of experimentation with biophilic design, play, smell, art, and touch.

LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY
Aiming to provide equal access to local, healthy food, the Food Sovereignty and Restorative Justice Movements will work together to eliminate food deserts and make it possible for all families to access affordable and healthy foods.

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER
The emergence of organizations working at the intersection of food, justice, and peace are filling a new need to rebuild rituals around eating. Expect to see new spaces for filling empty stomachs and modeling healthy food habits that focus on the pro-social benefits of communal cooking. The Food Sovereignty and Restorative Justice Movements will work together to eliminate food deserts and make it possible for all families to access affordable and healthy foods.

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY

FACILITATING RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE
The arts and technology will come together to build a powerful new platform for facilitating restorative dialogues. The arts provide a way to think outside of the rigid formalities of facts and figures by exploring myths and telling stories. They allow us to get to the root of a conflict and discover the solutions. Technology will complement the use of art to facilitate deeper dialogues, even allowing us to go beyond face-to-face meetings to reach parties who may not yet be ready to sit side-by-side.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PEACE
After the New York Department of Corrections shutdown their own bus program, the Journey Bus Project was founded by and supported by the National Religious Leadership Coalition. The Journey Bus travels are also a safe house of health and local farm produce with EBT.

FOOD BRIDGES
Breaking Bread Tours is a Palestinian and Israeli tour group that uses daily “breaking bread experiences” to build bridges of understanding between two divergent communities.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ART
Philadelphias Moral Arts Guild program is a vital project providing meaningful and practical social change interventions in the community. They include civic spaces through public art programs, giving offenders a chance to build their communities and tell their stories.

URBAN WILDERNESS
The natural wilderness beckons to us as we sit in our modern concrete jungles. The positive effects of being near nature, both big and small, have been well documented to reduce stress, improve cognitive functioning, aid recovery from illness, and even make people more generous. New efforts to incorporate biophilic architectures and to make the wilderness accessible to minorities will drastically transform our landscapes and our criminal justice systems.
A robust corridor of widely accessible resources extending from west to east will house a network of support systems that include traditional services like day reporting centers and re-entry housing units alongside future restorative justice infrastructure. The new Restorative Justice Centers will function as large physical centers supporting the entire ecosystem of criminal justice needs including restorative practices, peacemaking circles, and restorative justice training and education. Each Center will also provide resources and support for citizens of Oakland to become their best selves, including basic needs like employment, food, shelter, and supportive community.

Alongside the Restorative Justice Centers, a network of smaller hubs throughout the city will provide micro-local services at the locus of need. These hubs will be found in schools, recreation centers, living rooms, or parks.
Equal access to public open spaces—from small city parks to larger swaths of relatively wild parks—will be provided through free shuttles. Inclusive programming and ease of access will give all citizens of Oakland a chance to reflect, slow down, and see themselves as part of the larger world around them. A Restorative Justice Retreat Center and other designated park areas for peacemaking will be distributed through the Oakland hills, with a focus on outdoor leadership programs, restorative justice retreats, and environmental inclusion. The Center will support peacemaking dialogues that require immersion in the natural world.
THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY
FROM PUNITIVE TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2014 was a landmark year for exposing the cracks in America’s criminal justice system. The deaths of unarmed men Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and Ezell Ford at the hands of police sparked the Black Lives Matter movement and put a global spotlight on the inequality pervasive in our policing and prison system.

But where do we go from here? The challenges are many. We fill our courthouses and prisons with people from our poorest urban neighborhoods, where the only civil structure left is a failing criminal justice system. Our prison population is the largest in the world, with clear bias towards arresting black and Latino Americans. The prison experience has been exposed as inhumane, creating broken humans who struggle to re-enter society upon their release. Militarized weapons and the spread of fear and mistrust throughout society have led to increased excessive force. And for-profit prisons are perverting the incentives for incarceration.

Ushering in a new era of effective criminal justice requires building a whole new urban landscape based on restorative rather than punitive justice. The Restorative Justice City aims to build that model from the ground up.

The Restorative Justice City recasts the role of justice to restore and repair people and relationships. Rather than focusing on punishment, the Restorative Justice City seeks to understand victims’ needs and hold offenders accountable. Just as the principles and values of our current punitive model manifest themselves in the policies, planning, and architectural typologies of our cities, the philosophies of a restorative model will form the basis of a new infrastructure in the service of peace. How will your city reinvent itself as a Restorative Justice City?

This map is based on outcomes from a workshop exploring the future of restorative justice with major leaders in Oakland, California. Oakland is a unique ecosystem representative of the urban challenges many American cities face when building public safety and economic stability for all citizens. This map offers up visions for Oakland as a possible Restorative Justice City. Inside this map you’ll find 6 shifts that building a Restorative Justice City will lead to, 7 action domains that will enable a holistic and systemic transformation, and 2 scenarios for Oakland’s future.

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY
Oakland, California

In response to the current crisis arising out of the prison-industrial complex, cities suffering from high rates of policing and incarceration are seeking a better future as Restorative Justice Cities. This transition requires a new dialogue to understand what our communities want and need, a new focus on developing policies, trainings, education, and physical infrastructure rooted in the philosophies and systems of restorative justice. To kickstart this important conversation in Oakland, California, on May 6, 2014, FOURM Design Studio, Bright Research Group, and Institute for the Future convened major restorative justice leaders to explore the future of Oakland as a Restorative Justice City.

CONVENING QUESTIONS
- Do we need a restorative justice center or infrastructure?
- What community needs could it respond to?
- What is the current restorative justice infrastructure like in Oakland?
- How does it facilitate or prevent your organization from achieving its goals?
- What resources, both physical and non-physical, do we need, and where in Oakland should they be?

CONVENING OUTCOMES
Participants agreed that in order to build a safe and equitable city we need a restorative justice infrastructure. To be effective, this infrastructure needs to be hyperlocal, allow for onsite restorative practices, and embed itself into the already existing fabric of Oakland’s communities. In addition, there was a strong call to leverage the new infrastructure beyond simply addressing crime, and instead use it to foster community and heal Oakland’s wounds from mass incarceration and economic marginalization. The Restorative Justice City will also have to address other immediate needs—such as employment, poverty, structural racism, and access to opportunities and resources—to be successful.

MAPPING THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY
During the convening, participants mapped physical needs and assets onto a map of Oakland. The results form the basis of two preliminary maps, seen on the next page: a Corridor of Resources and a Green Mesh. They represent what Oakland’s city-level infrastructure could look like and provide a template for other cities to transition to healthy and happy cities, safe and livable for all.

Thank you to all our leaders who participated in planting the seeds for a vision of Oakland as a Restorative Justice City.
The emergence of the Restorative Justice City is leading to a number of shifts that policy makers, law enforcement officers, prison administrations, and community organizers will want to pay attention to.

**FROM INDIVIDUAL TO COMMUNITY**
America is an individualistic society. This focus on the individual over the community has led to mounting inequality and declining wages. Digital screens and online spaces have also lured people away from in-person community spaces, often creating individual isolation and fragmented communities. At the same time, movements like Occupy and alternative business models like B Corps, the sharing economy, and cooperatives that emphasize community offer alternatives to individualistic business models.

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY RESPONSE**
Restorative justice is rooted in community building, with members invested in each other. The Restorative Justice City will focus on “collective ownership for change as opposed to traditional revitalization efforts,” as Darris Young of the Ella Baker Center argues.

**FROM FOOD DESERT TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**
America’s poor urban centers are often food deserts, places where healthy, affordable food is hard to find. The junk food alternative has been directly linked to violence and antisocial behavior, and the loss of the family dinner is linked to increasing problems for adolescents, including depression, drug use, and falling grades.

**FROM SHOUTING TO LISTENING**
Anger and shouting tend to exacerbate conflict. While the impacts of urban density on psychosocial well-being has long been debated, one thing is certain: lacking an expansive space that allows for quiet self-reflection creates an arms race of noise and aggression.

**FROM MISTRUST TO POSITIVE CONTACT**
The militarized police response to the protests of Michael Brown’s murder in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a national debate about how effective these techniques are in building public safety and de-escalating conflict. The relationship between police and civil society has become so tense and polarized that many Americans, particularly Latino and Black Americans, fear and mistrust the police.

**FROM BREAKING THE CITY TO HEALING THE CITY**
Mass incarceration plagues poor communities disproportionally, creating neighborhoods of concentrated incarceration. As more and more people are removed to prison, important social bonds and local economies are destroyed. The net impact of incarceration is a downward cycle of poverty and crime that breaks communities.

**FROM JUST SURVIVING TO BEING YOUR BEST SELF**
Punitive criminal justice systems erode opportunities to be our best selves. The inability to take advantage of affordable housing and food stamps, combined with unemployment rates as high as 80% in the first year of freedom creates a real crisis for offender communities. Along with our working poor and long-term unemployed, they often struggle simply to survive after incarceration.

Seven action domains point towards the necessary components of a Restorative Justice City. Each action domain includes signals of change from today’s world that show how and where the Restorative Justice City is emerging. Take the time to consider the action domains. Identify the domains that are most important to you or your organization, as well as additional opportunities and needs that are specific to your context.

**ENGAGE THE ACTION DOMAINS**
Each action domain highlights two to three signals of change. Use these to explore larger cultural and societal shifts the Restorative Justice City will support. Think of them as an early formula for building the cities we want.

**SCAN THE SIGNALS**
Each action domain highlights two to three signals—small innovations or disruptions that point to larger trends in the future. What signals would you add? Use them as a jumping off point to identify all the resources that already exist in your city, highlighting the early emergence of a possible Restorative Justice City.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
Authors: Tessa Finley, Deanna VanBuren
Design & Production: Tessa Finley, Deanna VanBuren, Francis Goyes, Karin Lubeck
Contributors: Bright Research Group

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Contact: Deanna Van Buren at dvanburen@designingjustice.org
Tessa Finley at tfinley@iftf.org

How to use this map
Explore the present, envision the future

This map is a tool for exploring the big questions and transitions we face when seeking an alternative criminal justice system. It points toward a possible future—a Restorative Justice City based on holistic and comprehensive changes that will tackle our biggest roadblocks to building an equitable and just society. However, the map and the Restorative Justice Movement are not complete without your input. Use the information presented here as a jumping-off point for your own events or strategies focused on reimagining our criminal justice system.

**HOW WILL YOUR CITY BRING THIS VISION TO LIFE?**
Seven From-To Shifts suggest the critical directions of change. Use these to explore larger cultural and societal shifts the Restorative Justice City will support. Think of them as an early formula for building the cities we want.

**ENGAGE THE ACTION DOMAINS**
Each action domain includes signals of change from today’s world that show how and where the Restorative Justice City is emerging. Take the time to consider the action domains. Identify the domains that are most important to you or your organization, as well as additional opportunities and needs that are specific to your context.

**SCAN THE SIGNALS**
Each action domain highlights two to three signals—small innovations or disruptions that point to larger trends in the future. What signals would you add? Use them as a jumping off point to identify all the resources that already exist in your city, highlighting the early emergence of a possible Restorative Justice City.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
Authors: Tessa Finley, Deanna VanBuren
Design & Production: Tessa Finley, Deanna VanBuren, Francis Goyes, Karin Lubeck
Contributors: Bright Research Group

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Contact: Deanna Van Buren at dvanburen@designingjustice.org
Tessa Finley at tfinley@iftf.org