

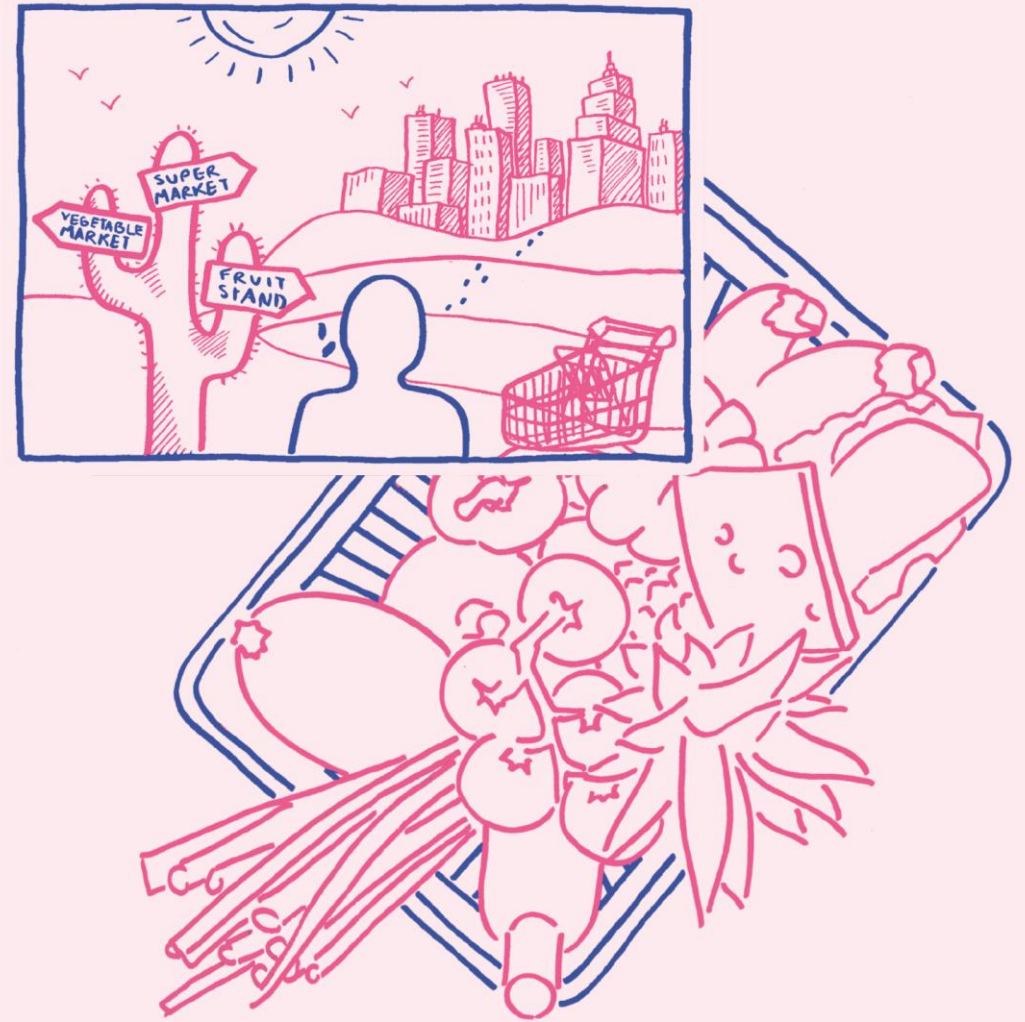
WHAT WILL WE EAT? // REPLENISHING FOOD DESERTS

P5 // Serah Bremer

First mentor // Gregory Bracken

Second mentor // Ulf Hackauf

June 18th, 10:45



0 // GENERAL INTRODUCTION

WHAT WILL YOU EAT?

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

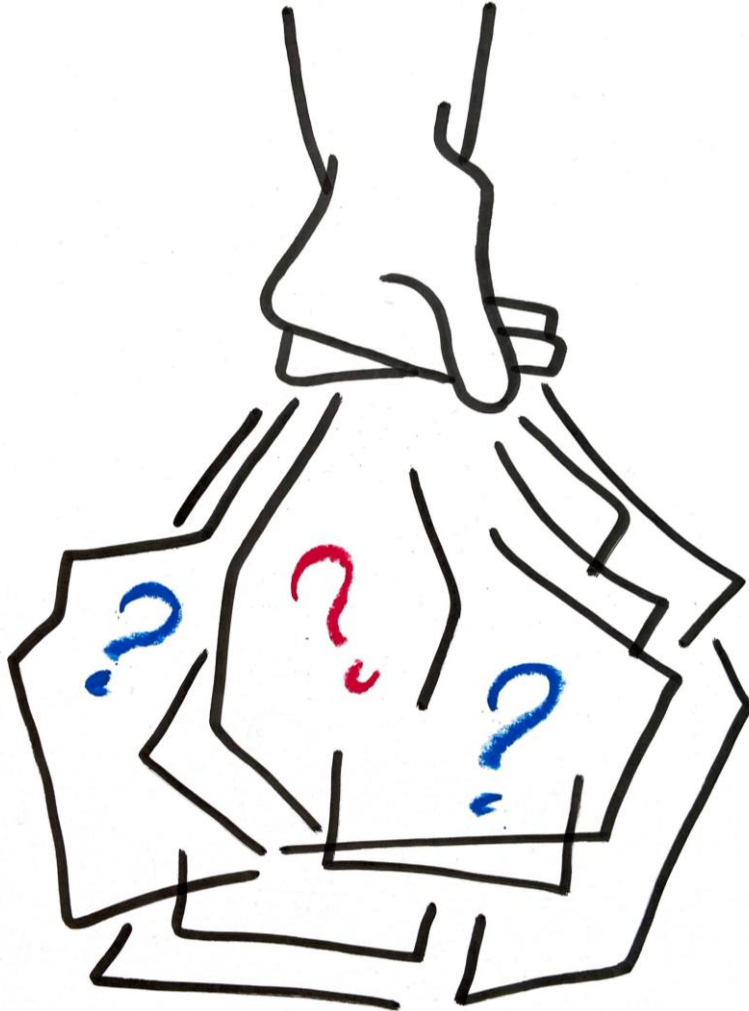


Figure 1 // What will you eat fo dinner? // Source: by Author

THREE NEIGHBORS IN AUSTIN

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



JAMAL

MRS. CARTER

LISA

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



MAP OF AUSTIN

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

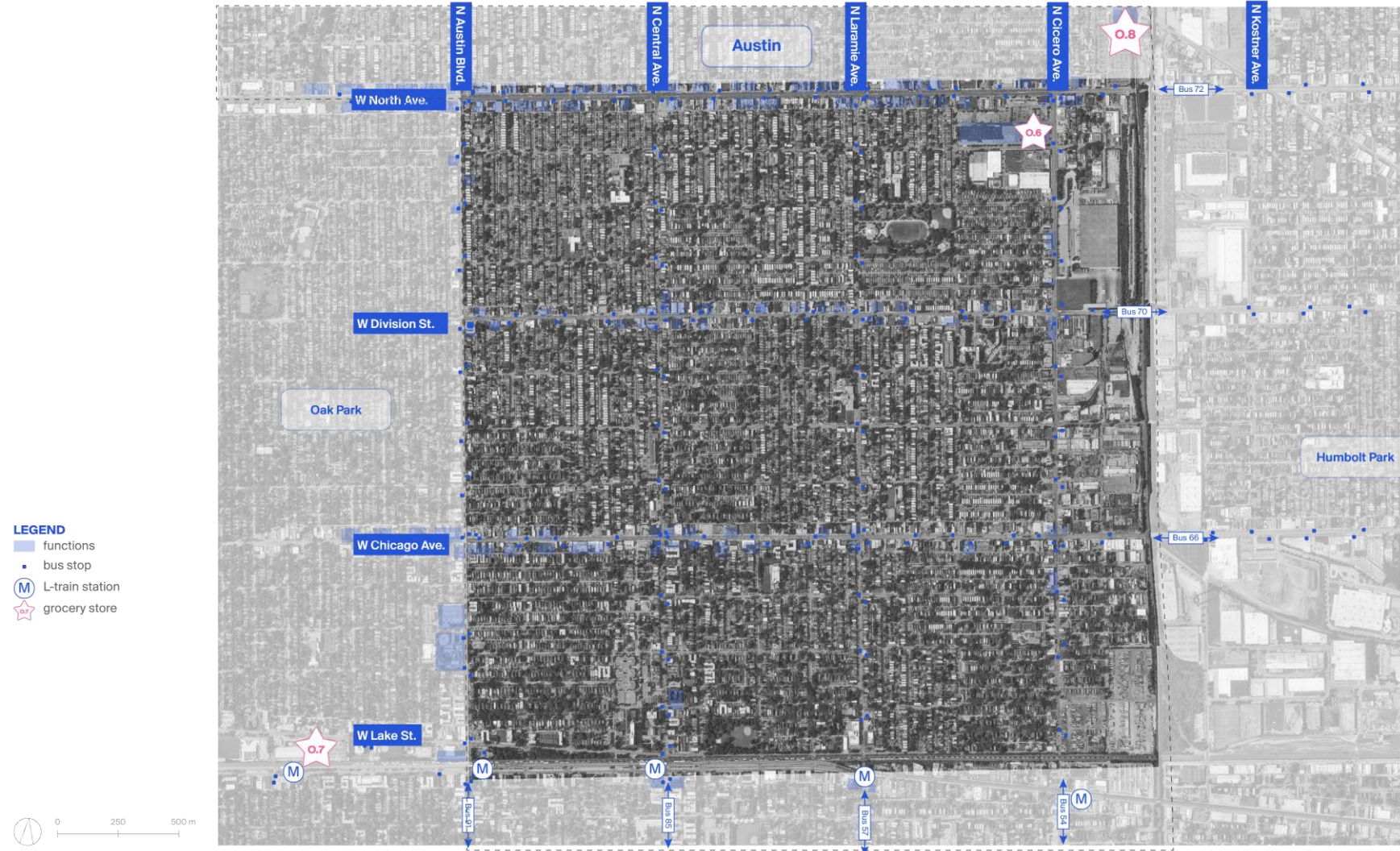


Figure 4 // Zoomed-in satellite image of selected case neighborhood Austin // Source: by Author.

GROCERY STORE NEAR AUSTIN

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

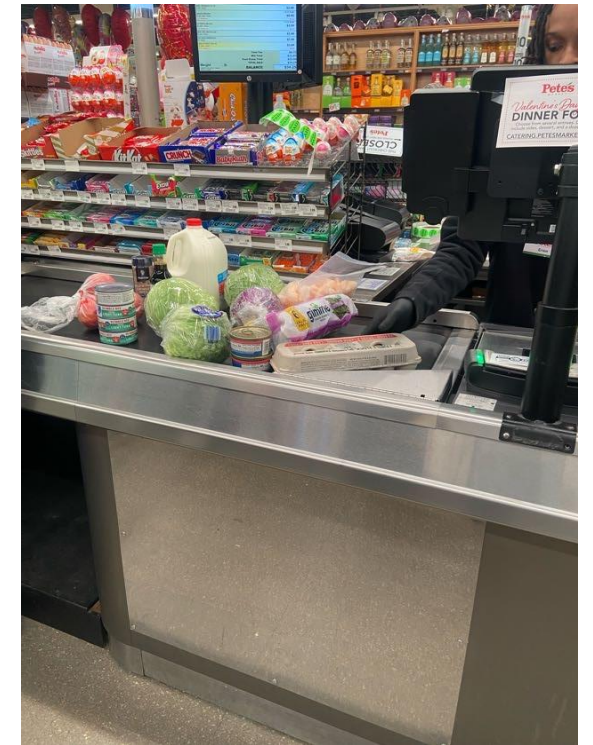


Figure 5 // Photographs of a grocery store // Source: by Author.

CORNER STORES IN AUSTIN

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



Figure 6 // Photographs of a corner store // Source: by Author.

WALK TO THE GROCERY STORE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

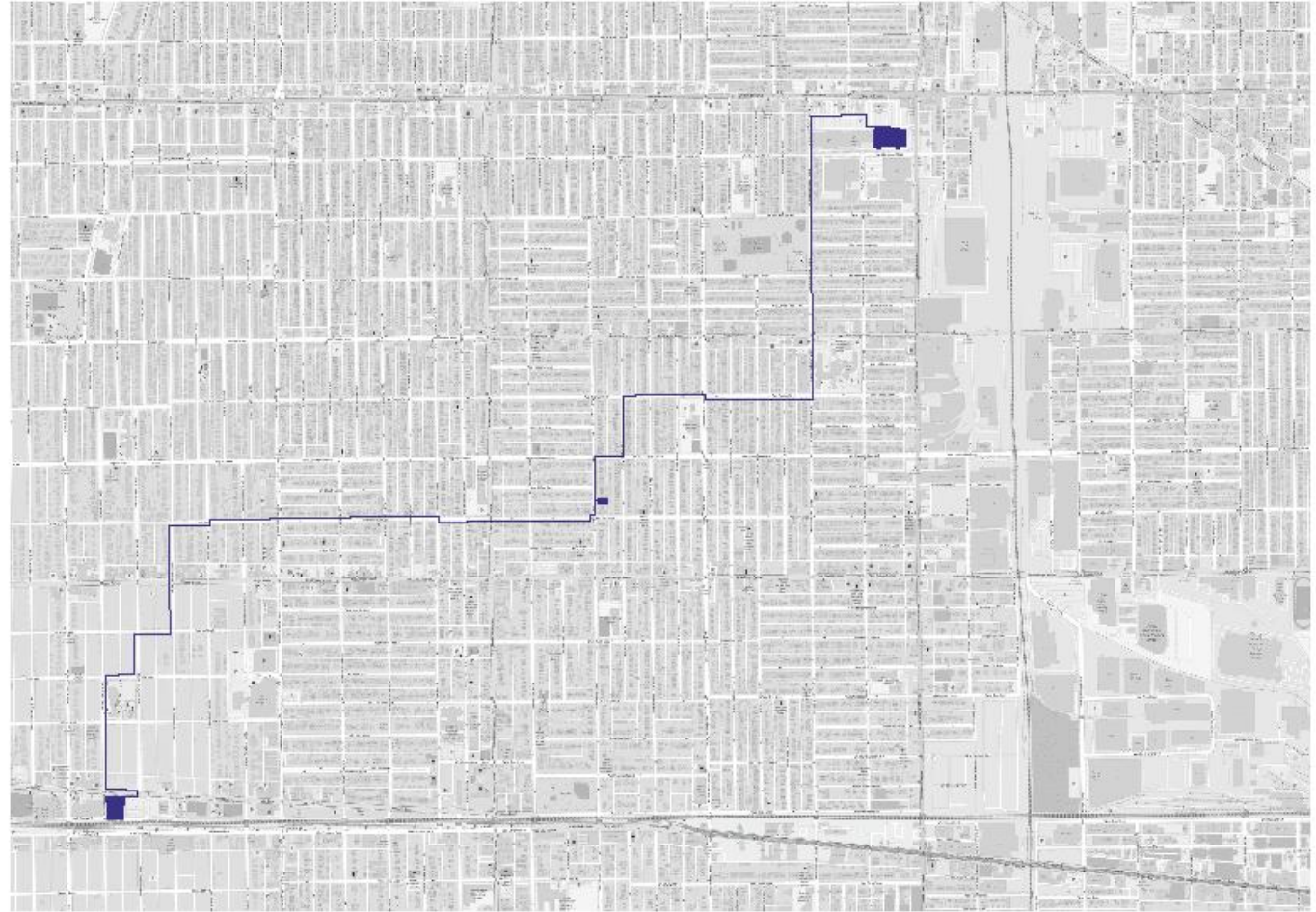


Figure 5 // Mapped route showing the path residents must take to reach the nearest grocery store // Source: by Author.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



Figure 7 // Visual representation of the journey food desert residents take to the grocery store, including estimated travel time // Source: by Author.

LIVING IN A FOOD DESERT

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



Figure 8 // Collage illustrating struggles of living in a food desert // Source: by Author, sources for images: Hawaii Foodbank (2023), Cactus Food & Liquors (2018), Batiz (z.d.), New Life Ministries COGIC (z.d.), One Hope Nation (z.d.-a), One Hope Nation (z.d.-b), and Chatman (2023)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



Figure 9 // Collage illustrating the current food desert situation in Austin // Source: by Author, sources for images: Rinaldi (2018), Stoervoer Festival (2025), Hagen (2017a), Hagen (2017b), One Omaha (2023), Walmart (2019), Saba (2022), Olive Branch Cookery School (z.d.), Public Building Commission of Chicago (z.d.), Getty Images (2025), Bulthuis (2014), and David (2021).

FUTURE SITUATION // FOOD OASIS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION



Figure 10 // Collage illustrating the future food oasis situation in Austin // Source: by Author, sources for images: homes.com (z.d.-c), homes.com (z.d.-d), RUSH Health Equity (2021), Burrell (2022), Bayne (2020), Food Bank of Wyoming (2020), Zepto (z.d.), and Beaumont (z.d.)

1 // INTRODUCTION

FOOD INSECURITY IN THE U.S.

INTRODUCTION

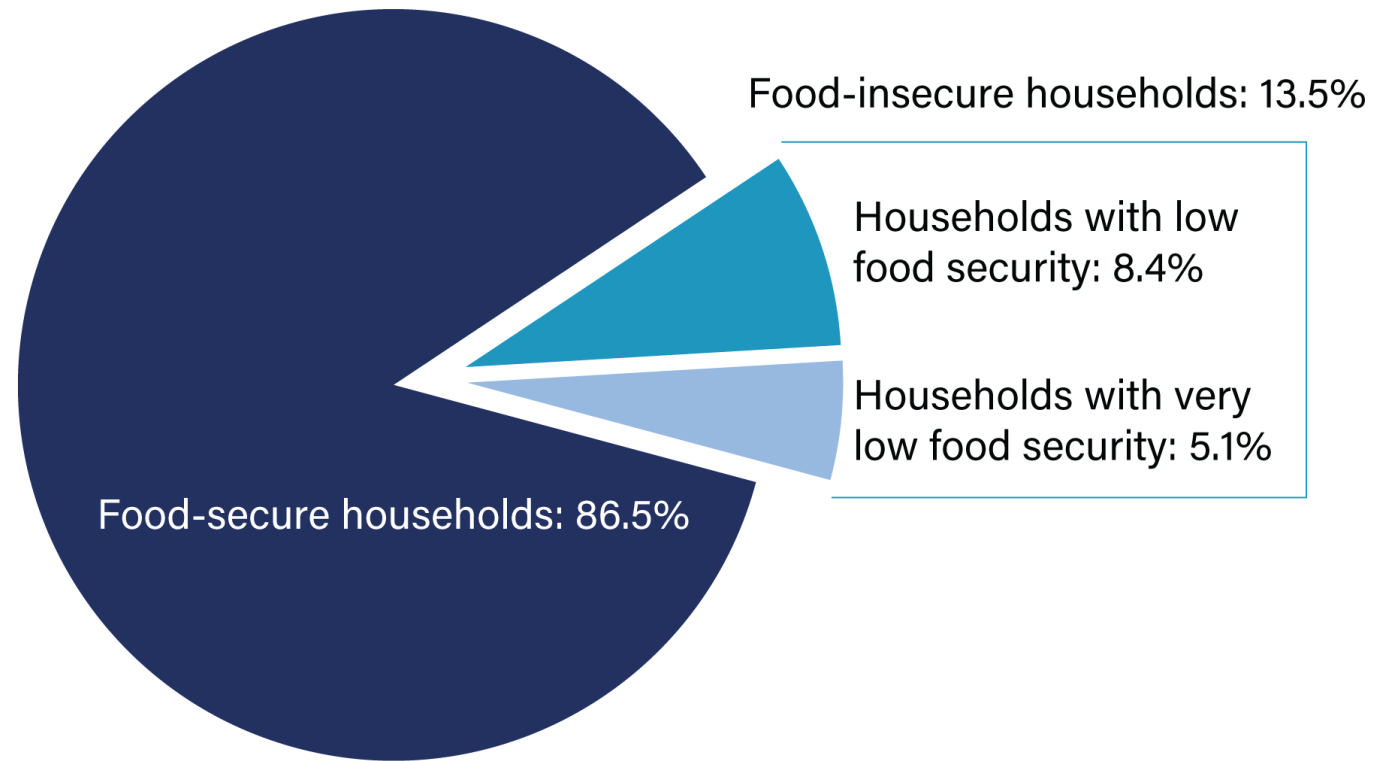
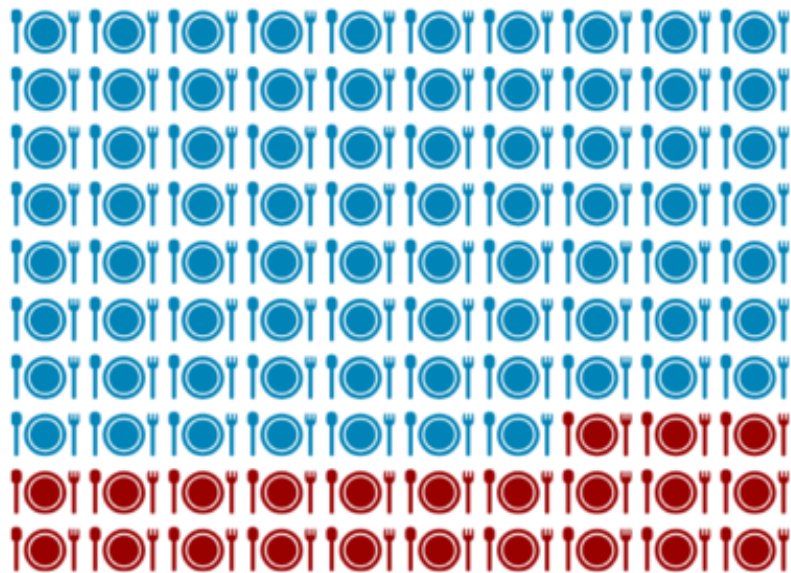


Figure 11 // Pie chart depicting U.S. households by food security status, 2023 // Source: Economic Research Service & United States Department of Agriculture (2025)

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

INTRODUCTION

77% would like to eat a healthier diet



What are the biggest barriers to you eating a healthier diet?

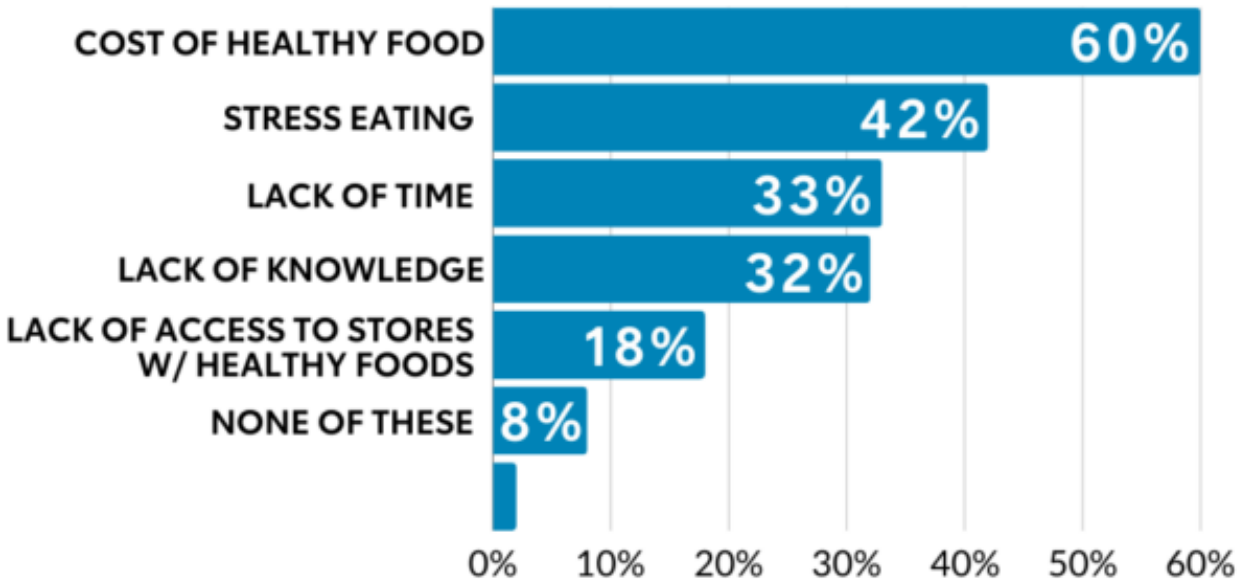


Figure 12 // Illustration depicting nearly 8 in 10 Americans would like to eat a healthier diet, but barriers exist // Research!America (2024).

FOOD DESERT DEFINITION

INTRODUCTION

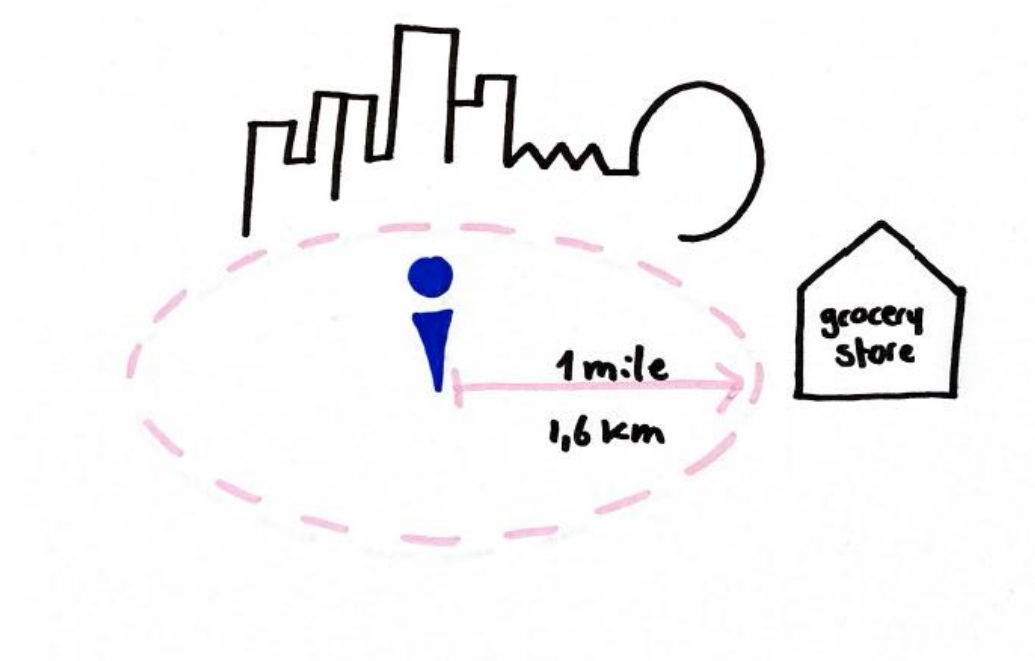


Figure 13 // Illustration depicting the definition of a food desert // Source: by Author .

DESERT // NOUN OR VERB?

INTRODUCTION

desert 1 of 4 noun (1)

des-ert 'de-zərt

[Synonyms of desert >](#)

- 1 : **arid** land with usually **sparse** vegetation
especially : such land having a very warm climate and receiving less than 25 centimeters (10 inches) of **sporadic** rainfall annually
- 2 : an area of water apparently **devoid** of life
- 3 : a **desolate** or forbidding area
lost in a *desert* of doubt
- 4 **archaic** : a wild uninhabited and uncultivated tract

• **desertic** de-'zər-tik adjective

• **desertlike** 'de-zərt-, lɪk adjective

desert 3 of 4 verb

de-sert di-'zərt

deserted; deserting; deserts

transitive verb

- 1 : to **withdraw** from or leave usually without intent to return
desert a town
- 2 **a** : to leave in the **lurch**
desert a friend in trouble
- b** : to abandon (military service) without leave

LANDSCAPE OF FOOD DESERTS

INTRODUCTION

Legend

Low income and low access tract measured
at 1 mile for urban areas and
10 miles for rural areas

■ 1

Low access tract at 1 mile for urban areas
and 10 miles for rural areas

■ 1

0 500 1,000 km

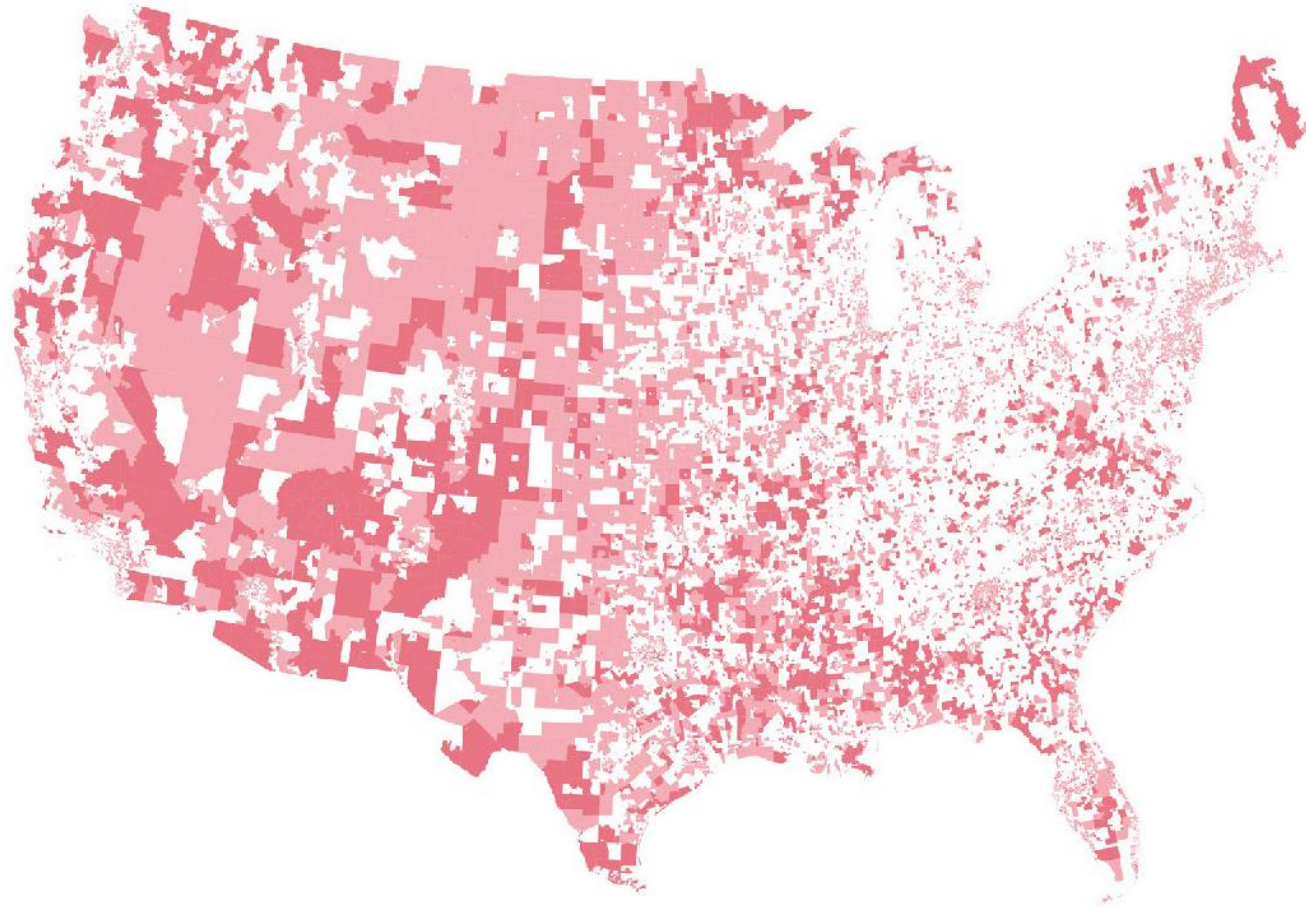


Figure 15 // Low-access tracts of the US mainland, 1 mile urban and 10 miles rural // Source: The Census Bureau (2019a), The Census Bureau (2019b), U.S.D.A. (2021) and GHS-POP (2023).

FOOD DESERTS IN CHICAGO

INTRODUCTION

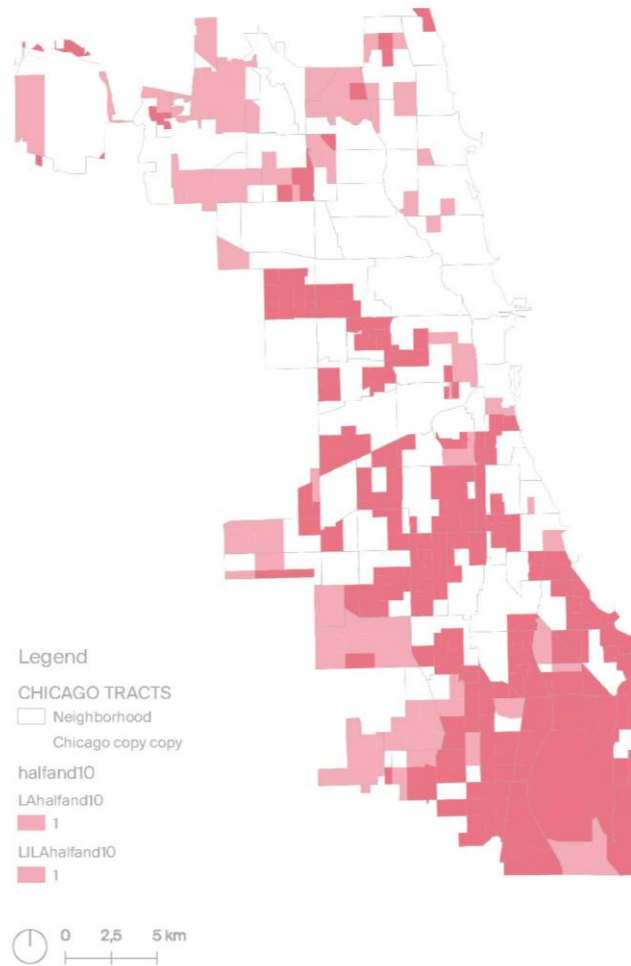


Figure 16 // Map of FARA LILA showing selected neighborhoods // Source: map reproduced from data of: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2021), adapted by Author.

FOOD DESERTS IN CHICAGO

INTRODUCTION

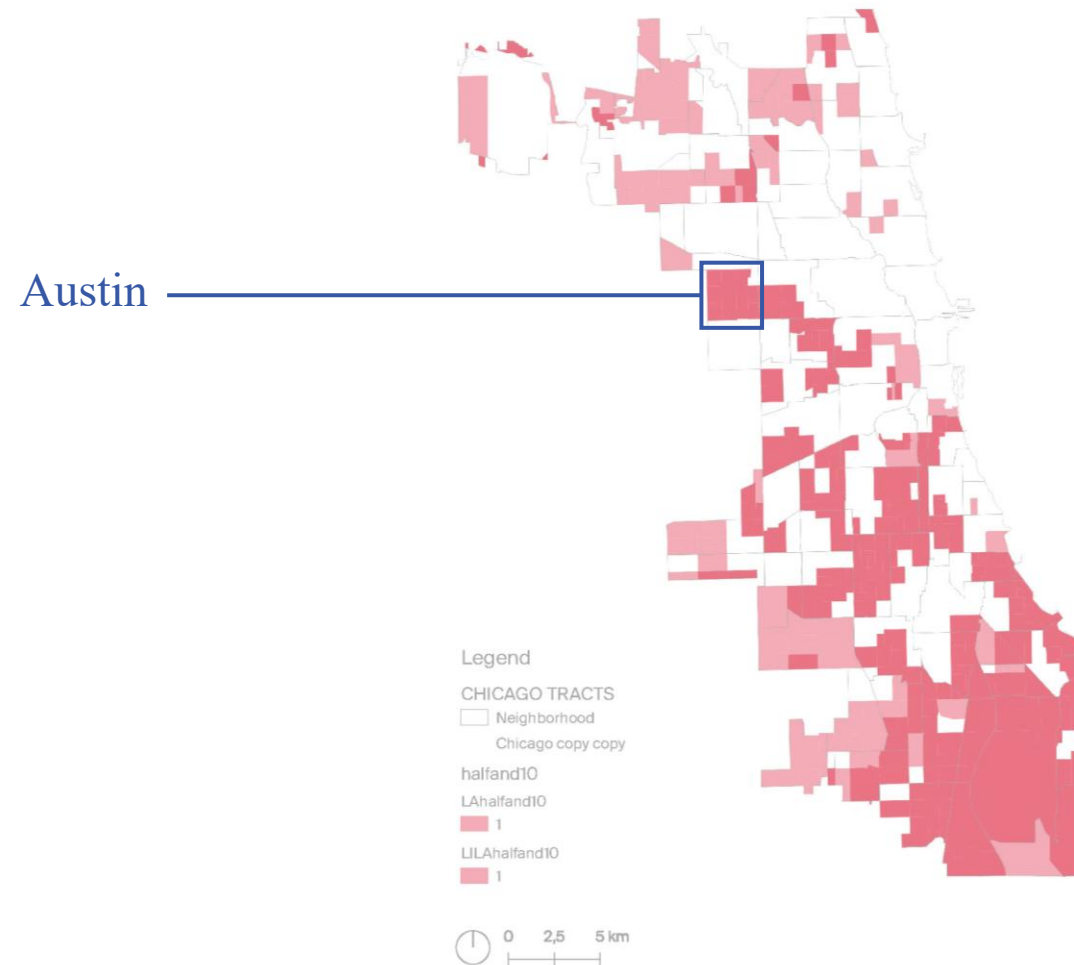


Figure 17 // Map of FARA LILA showing selected neighborhoods // Source: map reproduced from data of: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2021), adapted by Author.

2 // RESEARCH FOCUS

PROBLEM STATEMENT

RESEARCH FOCUS

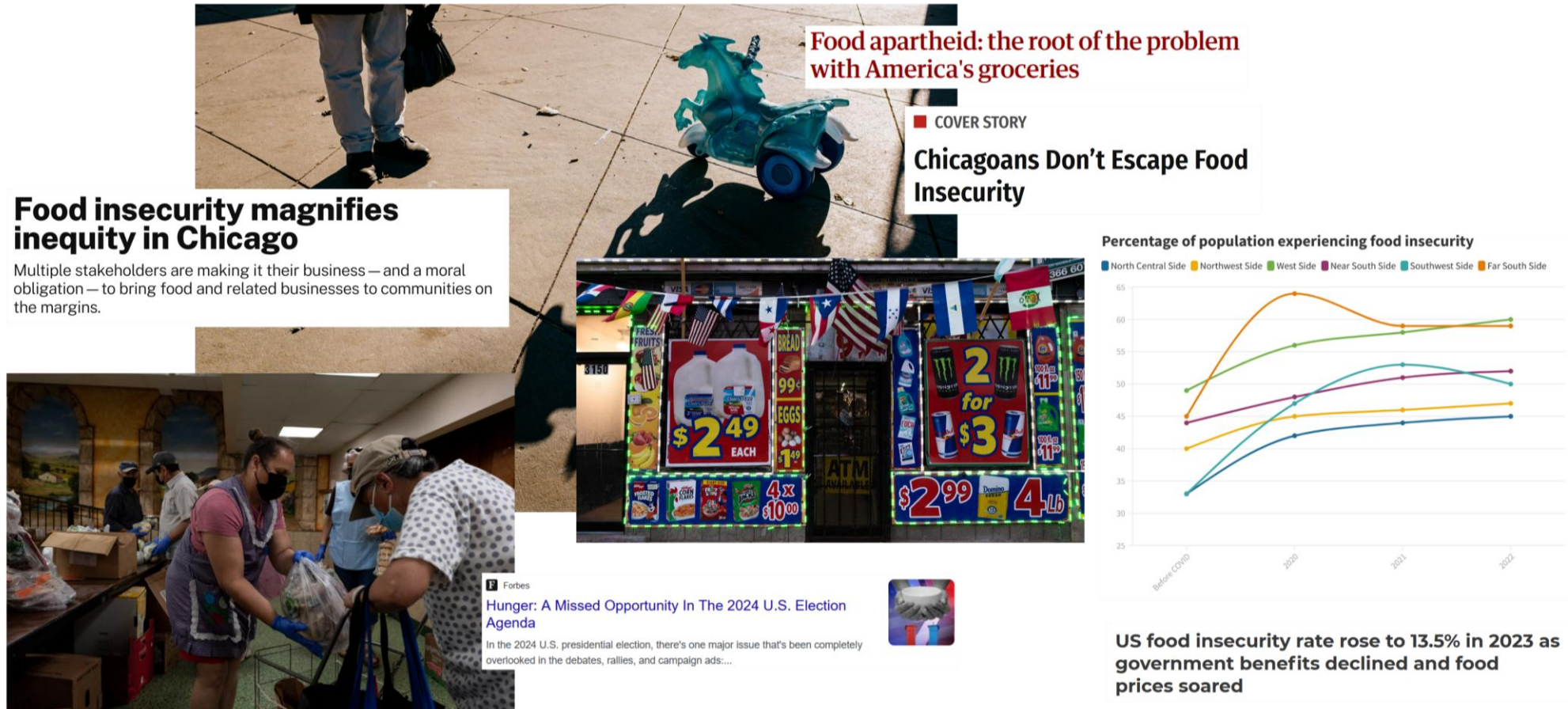


Figure 18 // Collage illustrating the abstract // Sources for newspaper articles: Brones (2020), Burnell (2022), Boehm (2022), Gonçalves & Long (2024) & Ewing-Chow (2024) // Sources for images: Brown & Politico (2021), Ortiz (2021a), Ortiz (2021b) & Shelton (2022).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

RESEARCH FOCUS

In **Chicago**, nearly one million residents live in food deserts with limited access to affordable and nutritious food. Despite being the third-largest U.S. city, **food access** remains deeply unequal. In areas like **Austin**, this stems from structural **inequalities** in urban planning, which have created disinvested food environments with few grocery stores. As a result, residents often rely on convenience stores or fast food, contributing to poor health caused by unbalanced diets.

While the link between **food insecurity** and **systemic inequality** is well established, more insight is needed into how **material, social, and institutional infrastructures** shape local food environments. This research analyzes the distribution and causes of food deserts in Chicago and explores urban planning strategies to improve **equitable food access**.

The ideal outcome is a neighborhood where all residents, regardless of income or background, can **access nutritious food**. This project proposes **spatial interventions** that enhance physical access, strengthen local food systems, and empower communities, providing **urban designers** and **policymakers** with targeted, practical **tools** to address food inequality within food deserts.

Keywords: Food Desert | Food Insecurity | Urban Inequality | Urban Planning | Spatial Equity

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

RESEARCH FOCUS

"How do existing infrastructures contribute to food insecurity in Chicago's food deserts, and what spatial planning and urban design interventions can promote food security in these neighborhoods?"

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

RESEARCH FOCUS

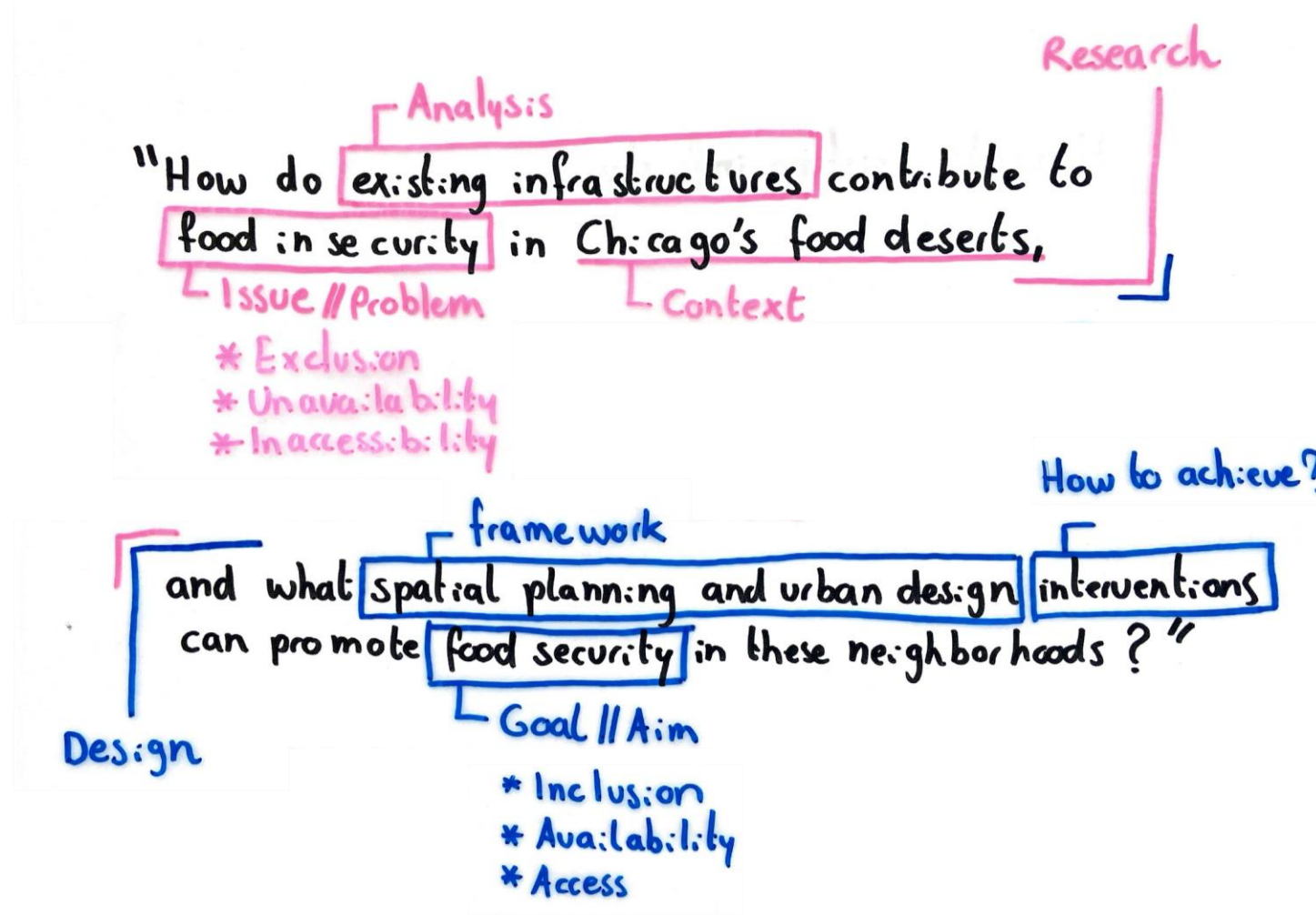


Figure 20 // Illustration explaining the main components of the main research question // Source: by Author.

SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

RESEARCH FOCUS

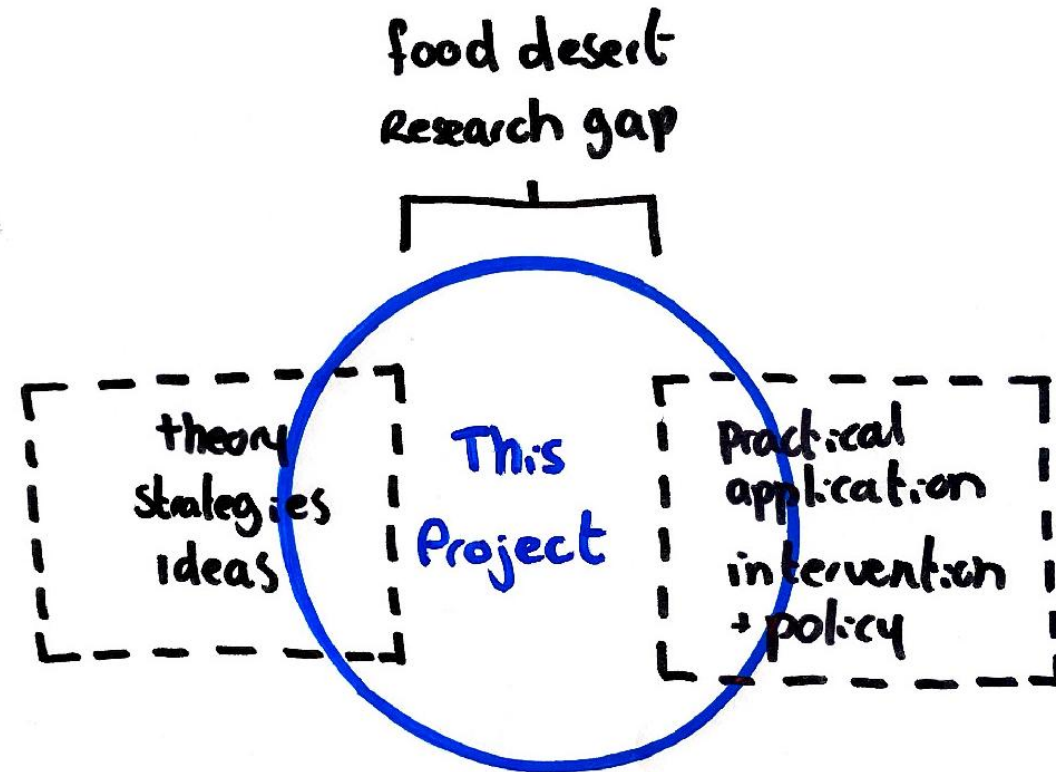


Figure 21 // Illustration of the research aim // Source: by Author.

4 // THEORY

INFRASTRUCTURAL APPROACH

THEORY

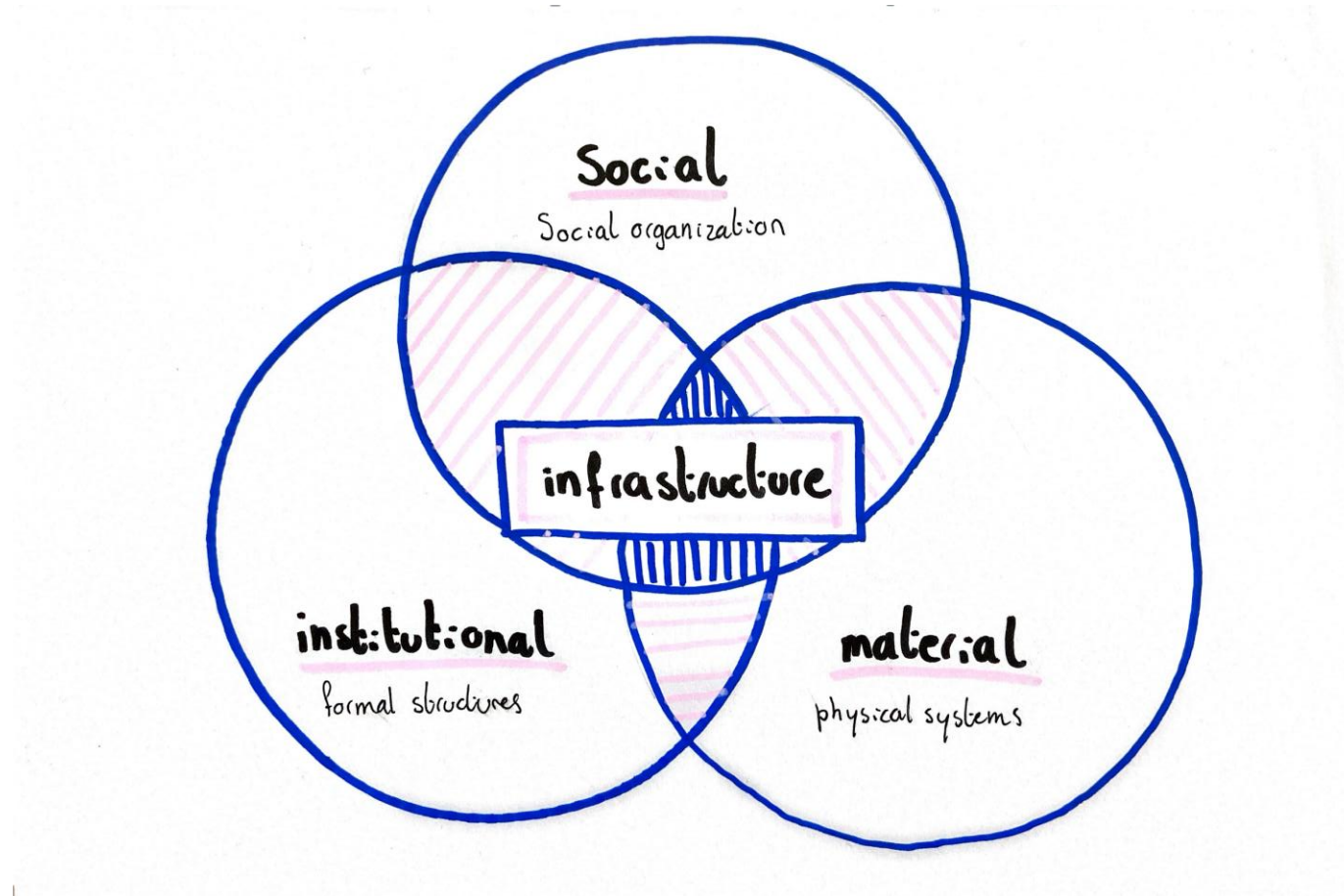


Figure 22 // Illustration explaining the different types of infrastructure // Source: by Author.

INFRASTRUCTURAL EXCLUSION

THEORY

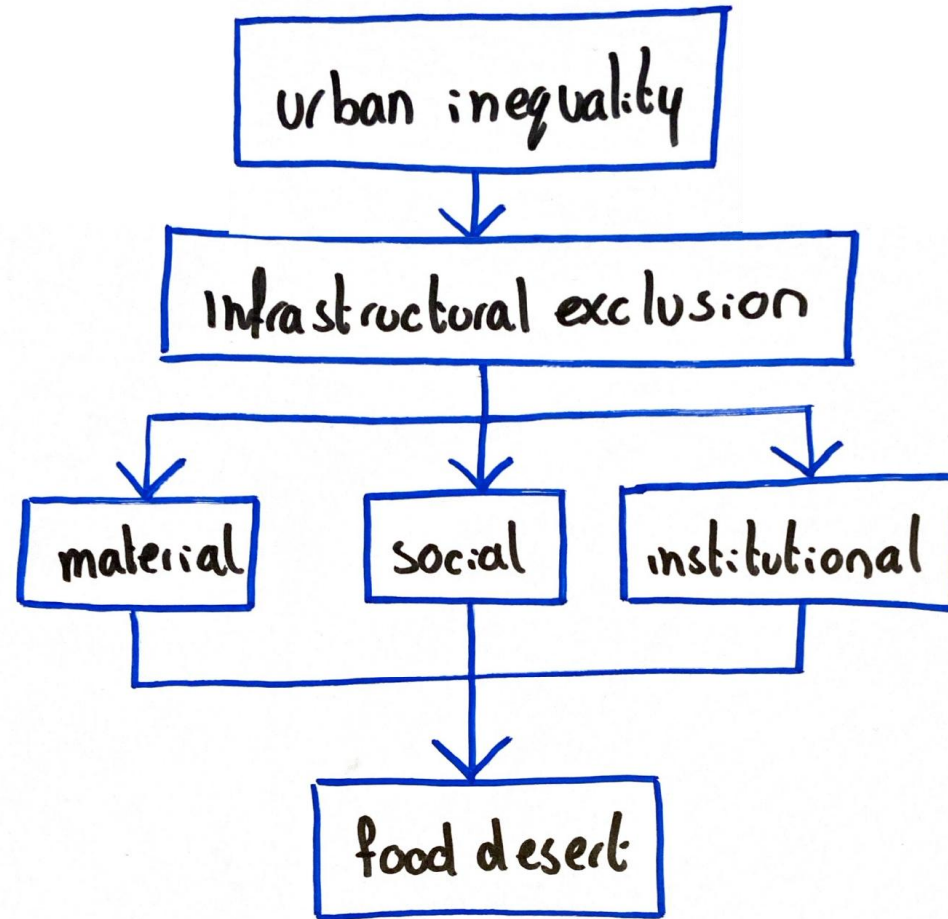


Figure 23 // Illustration explaining how urban inequality forms different types of infrastructure resulting in a food desert // Source: by Author.

FOOD SECURITY

THEORY

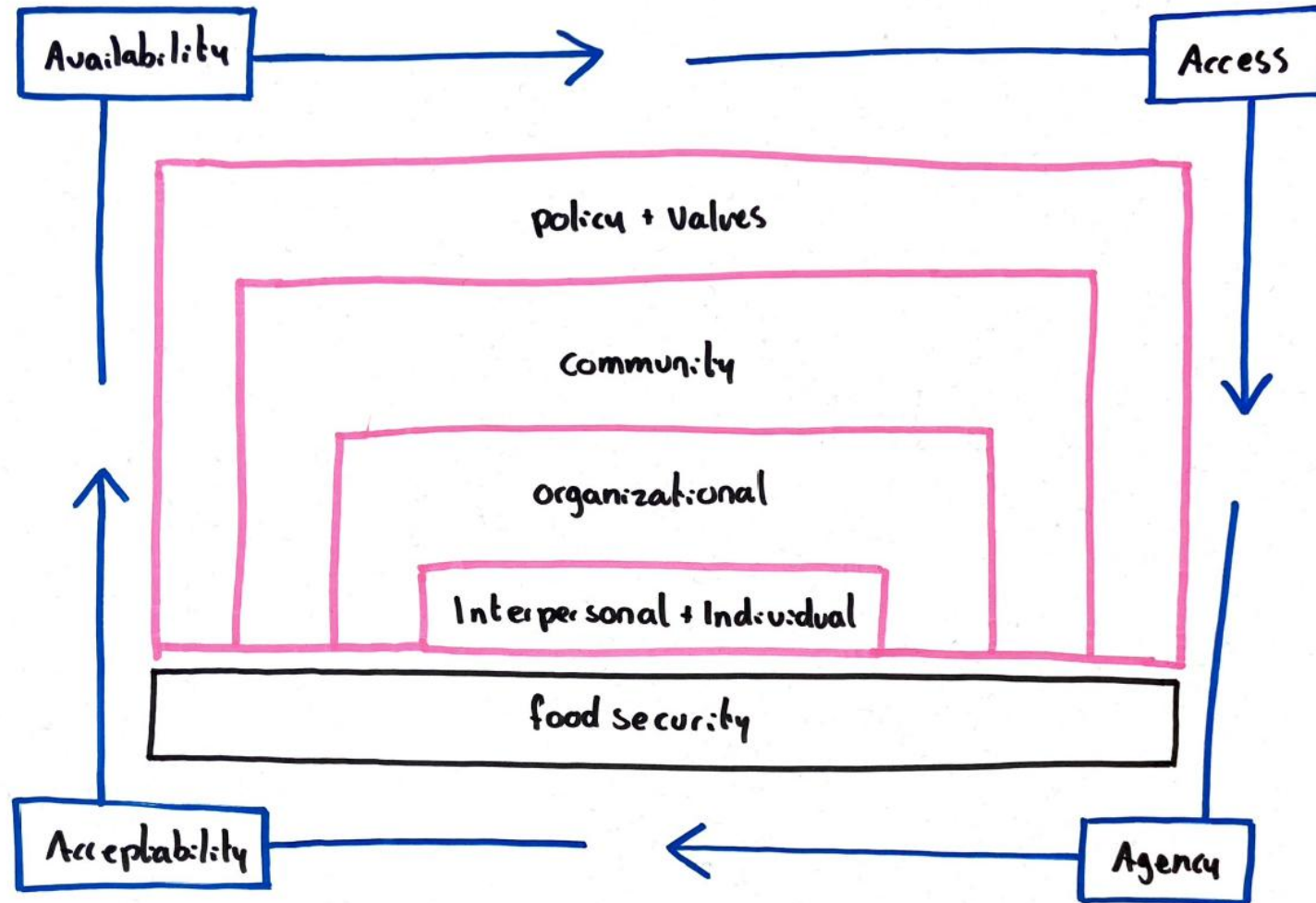


Figure 24 // Framework explaining the food security model // Source: by Author.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

THEORY

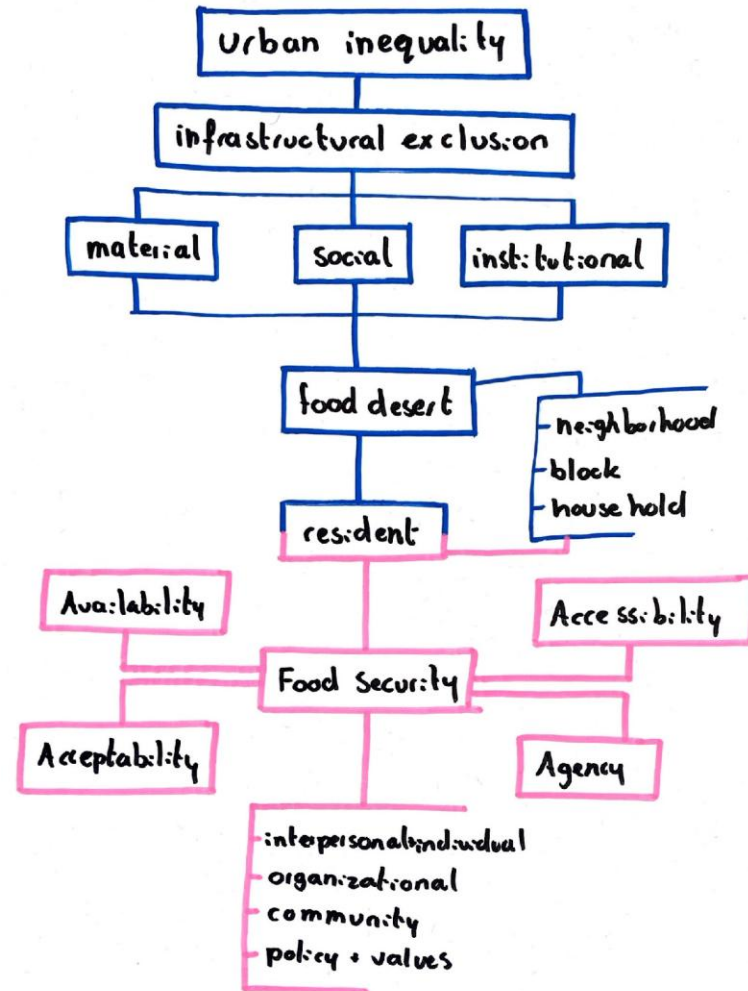


Figure 25 // Visualization of the four components of food security and the multiple layers of influence // Source: by Author.

5 // INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

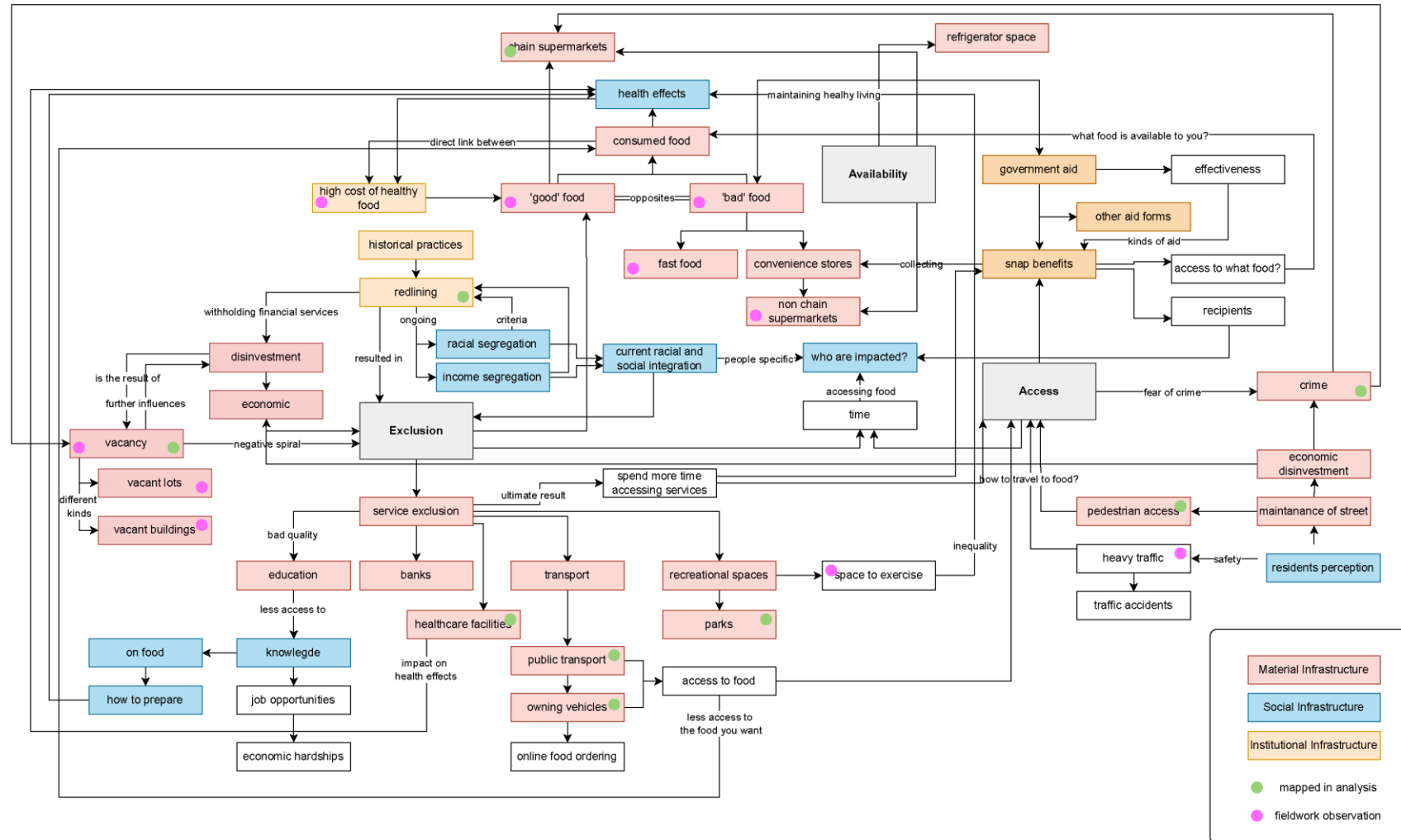


Figure 25 // Illustration on how the different categories of infrastructure interact // Source: by Author.

INFRASTRUCTURAL APPROACH

THEORY

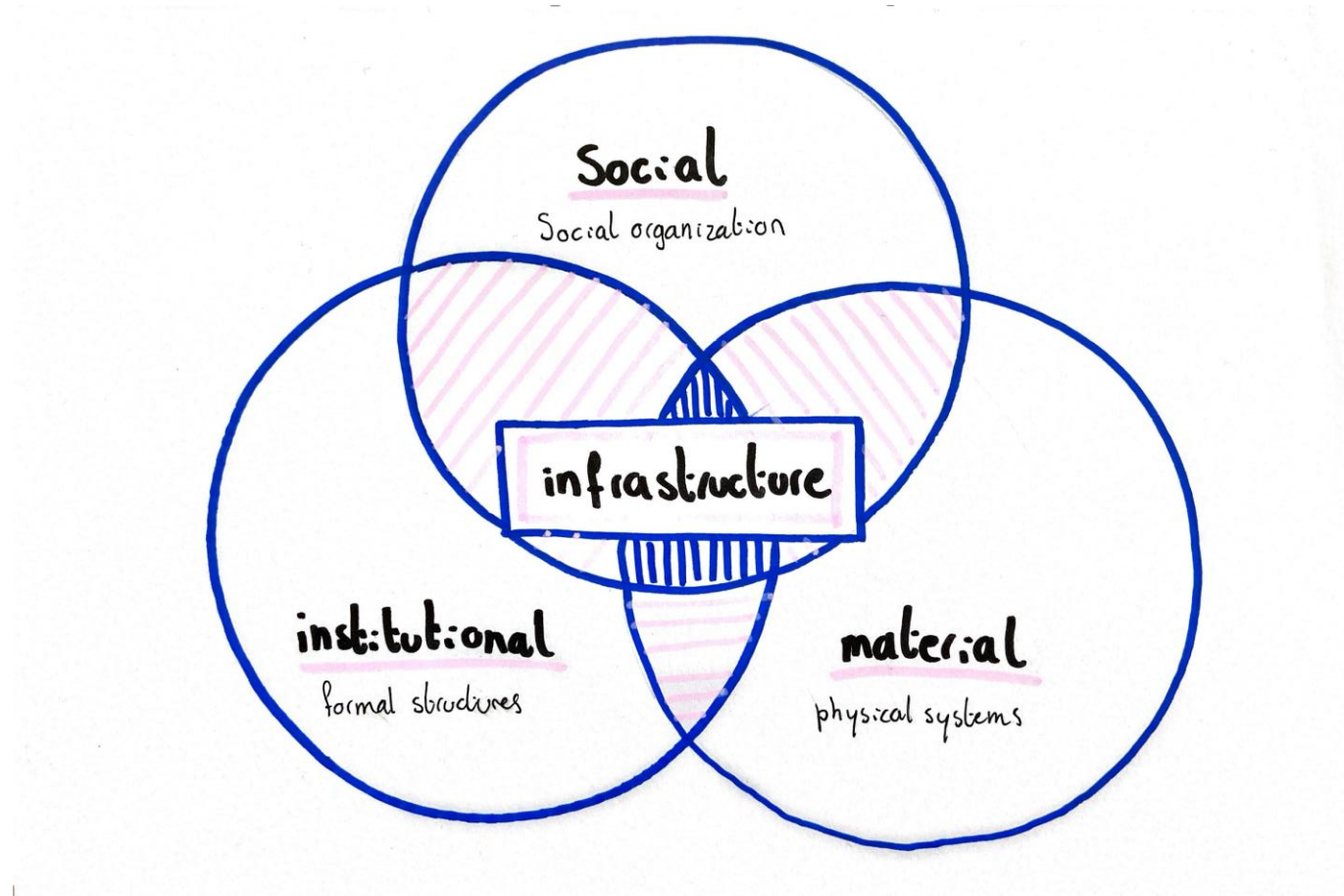


Figure 27 // Illustration explaining the different types of infrastructure // Source: by Author.

MATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

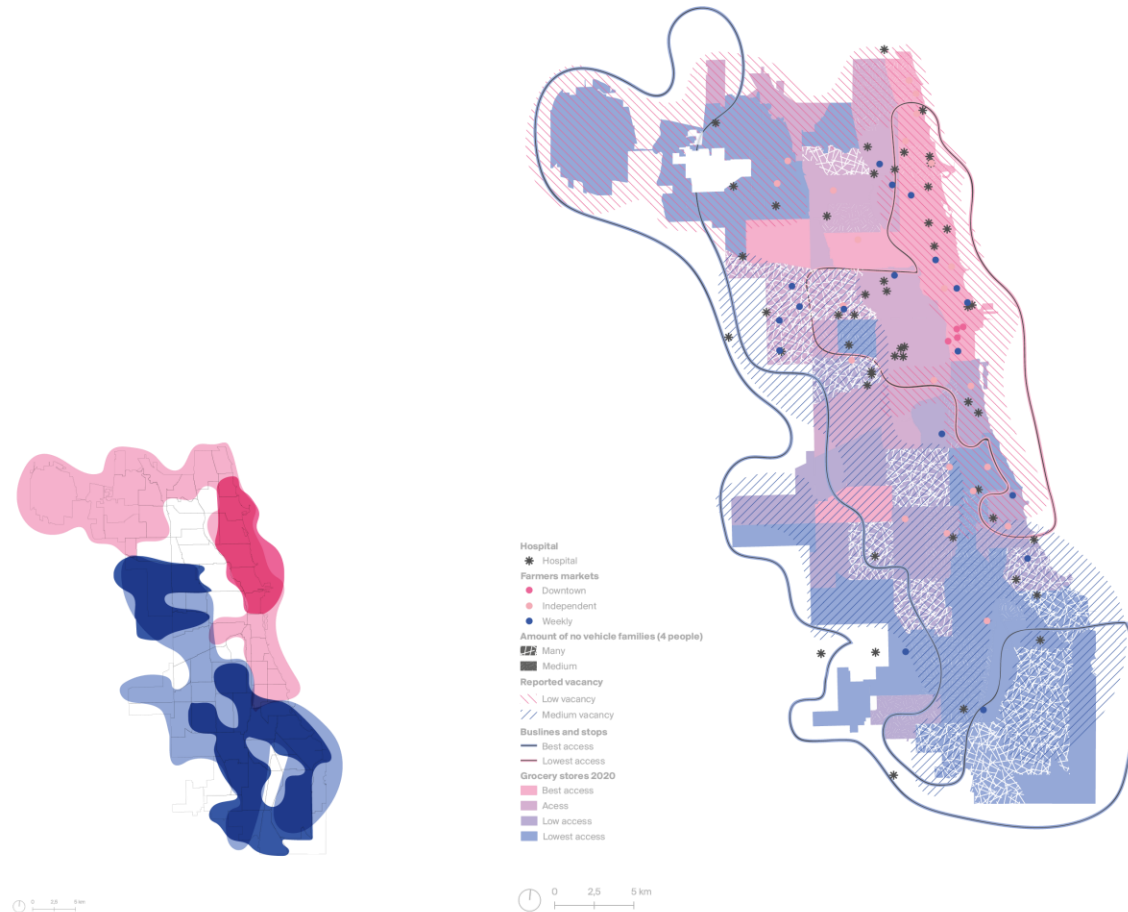


Figure 28 // Map of material infrastructure // Source: by Author.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

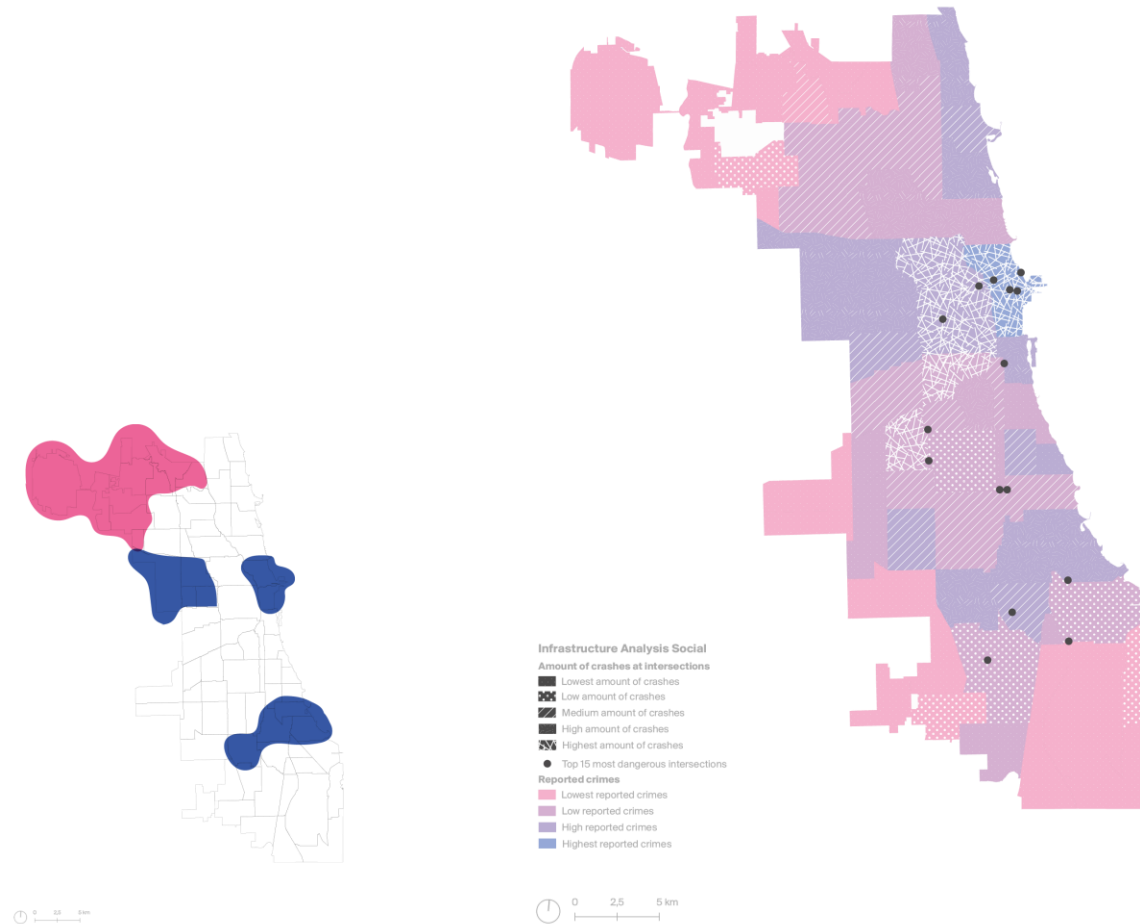


Figure 28 // Map of social infrastructure // Source: by Author.

INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

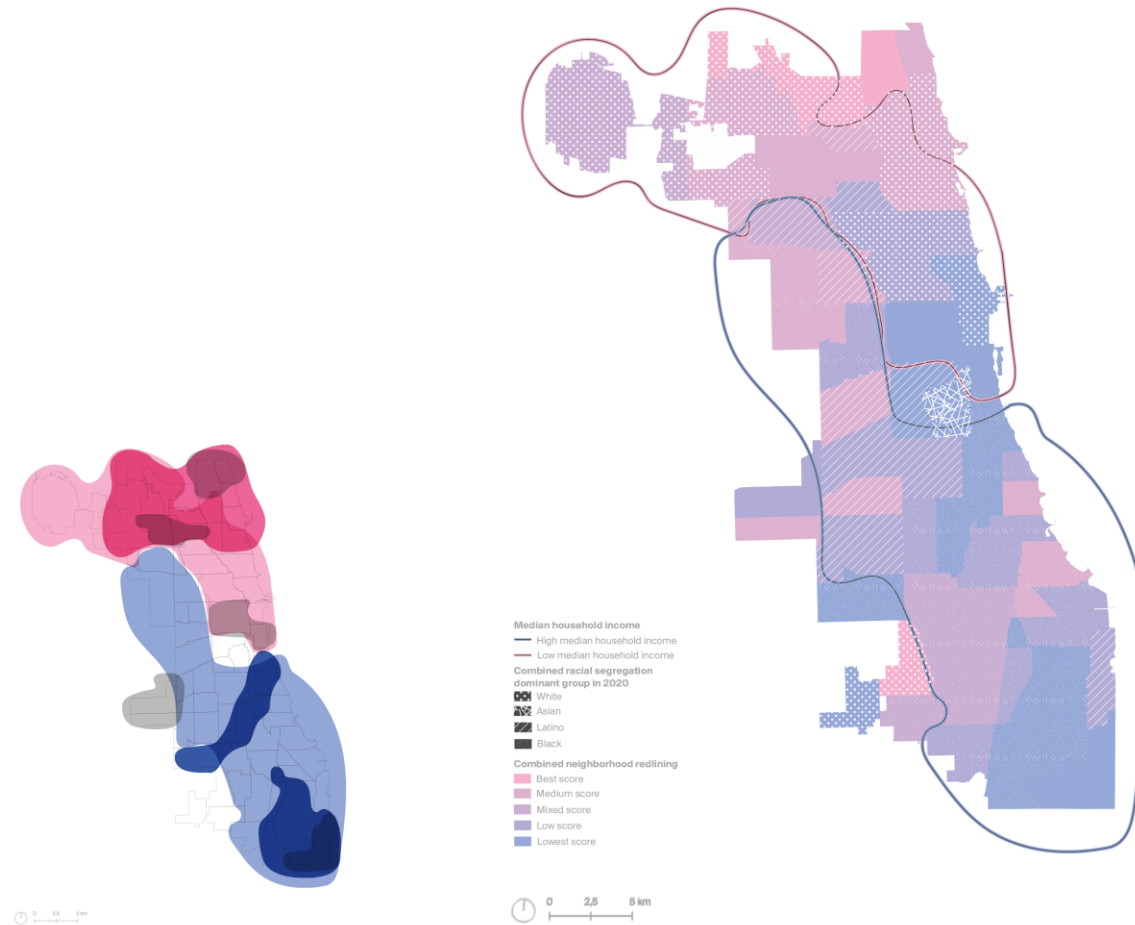


Figure 30 // Map of institutional infrastructure // Source: by Author.

6 // CASE SELECTION

CASE SELECTION

CASE SELECTION

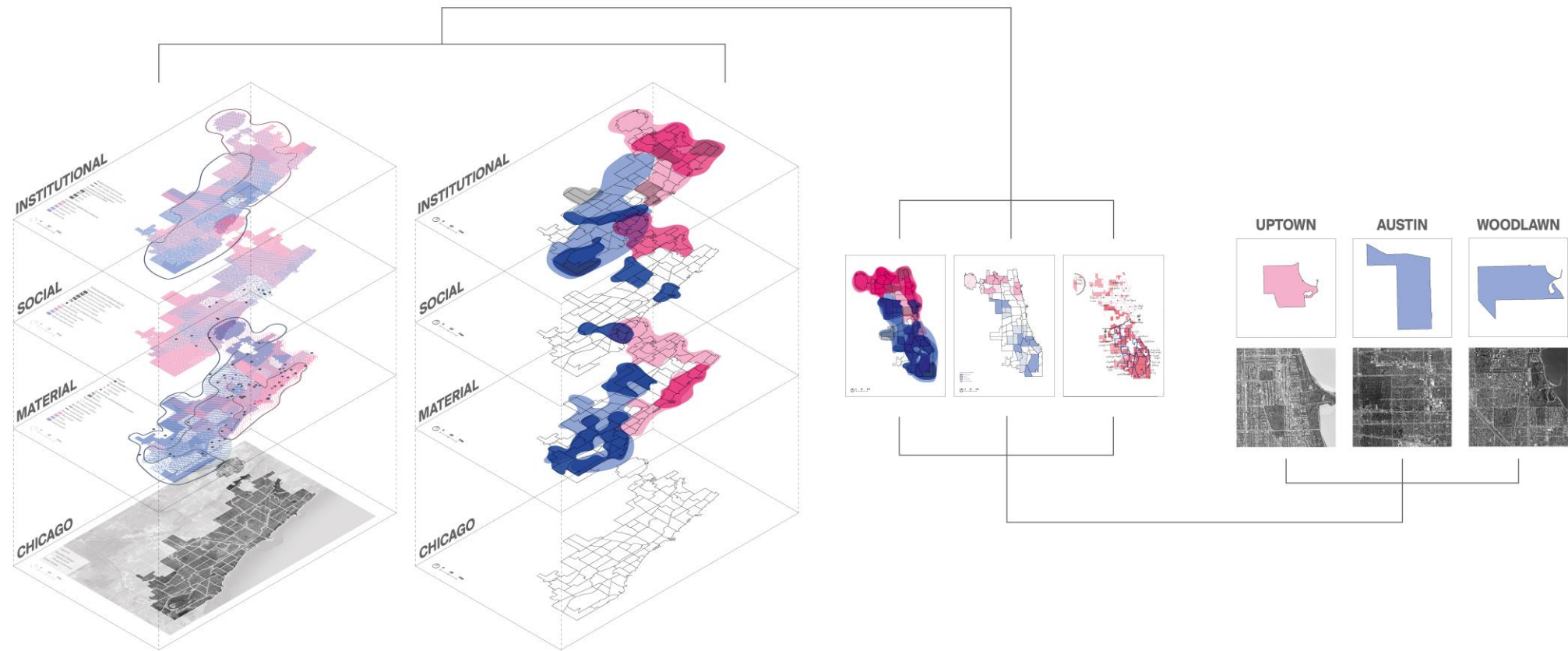


Figure 31 // Scheme depicting the process of turning the infrastructure analysis into a case neighborhood // Source: by Author.

7 // CASE AUSTIN

CASE SELECTION: AUSTIN

CASE SELECTION

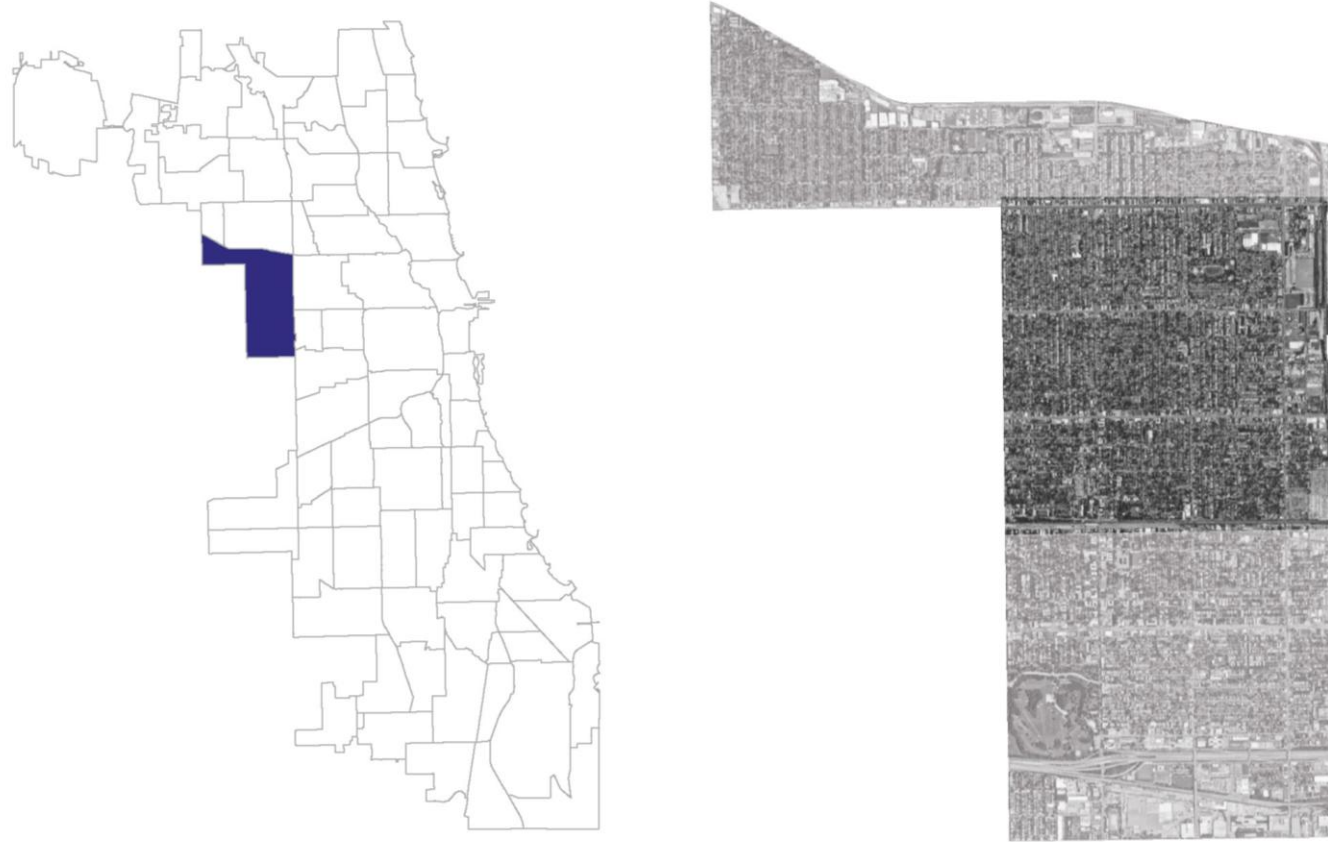


Figure 32 // Location of the case neighborhood Austin in Chicago // Source: by Author.

MAP OF AUSTIN

OBSERVATIONS

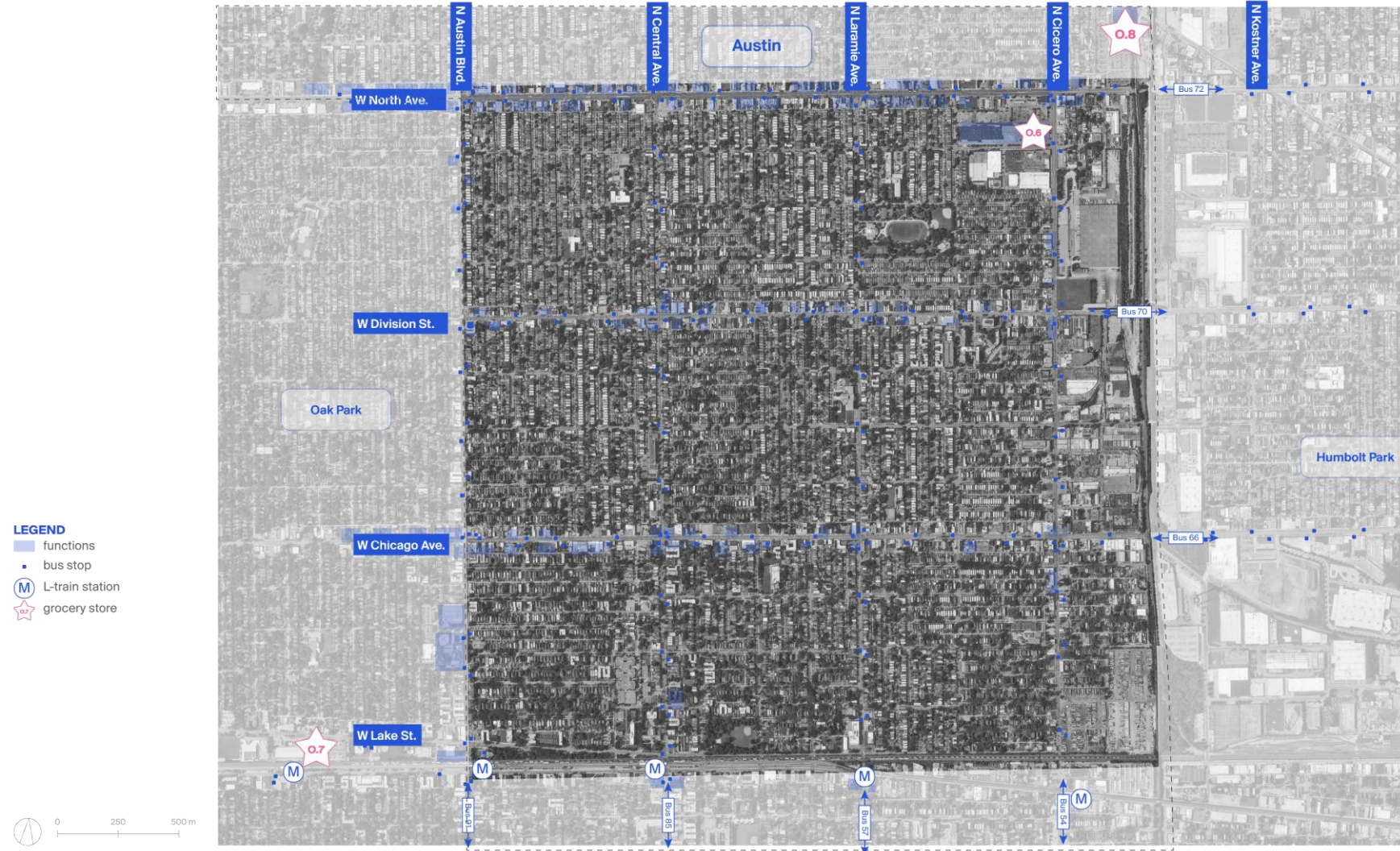


Figure 33 // Zoomed-in satellite image of selected case neighborhood Austin // Source: by Author.

TIMELINE OF BECOMING A FOOD DESERT

OBSERVATIONS



Figure 34 // Timeline integrating the history of Austin in combination with its food desertification // Source: by Author.

CURRENT SITUATION // FOOD DESERT

OBSERVATIONS



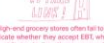
Figure 35 // Collage illustrating the current food desert situation in Austin // Source: by Author, sources for images: Rinaldi (2018), Stoervoer Festival (2025), Hagen (2017a), Hagen (2017b), One Omaha (2023), Walmart (2019), Saba (2022), Olive Branch Cookery School (z.d.), Public Building Commission of Chicago (z.d.), Getty Images (2025), Bulthuis (2014), and David (2021).

8 // OBSERVATIONS

CATALOGUE OF OBSERVATIONS

OBSERVATIONS

SPATIAL

0.1 # CONVENIENCE STORES  These stores are common and accessible, but primarily stock cheap, ultra-processed, non-perishable foods. They rarely offer fresh produce, limiting residents' ability to eat healthily. They present sustenance poor nutrition rather than serving food access issues. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.2 # CORNER STORES  Locally owned and typically at intersections, corner stores mostly carry canned goods and snacks. Owners avoid selling fresh items due to limited space and cost concerns. As a result, healthy food options within walking distance is scarce. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.3 # DOLLAR STORES  Prevalent in low-income areas, dollar stores offer affordability but no fresh food. They stock shelf-stable items like pasta and canned goods. These stores typically don't equate to nutritious offerings. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.5 # GROCERY STORES  Full-service grocery stores are often located on the edges of or outside the neighborhood. Distance, lack of transportation, and financial constraints make them inaccessible. Residents may have to travel outside the neighborhood to access food. These stores typically don't equate to nutritious offerings. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.6 # FOOD 4 LESS  A more budget-friendly supermarket, Food 4 Less is popular among working-class families and individuals on tight budgets. It offers a wide range of fresh produce and essential food items at affordable prices. However, the other full-service grocery stores in the neighborhood may be more accessible to residents, making it less likely to see a Food 4 Less store in a high-poverty area. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.7 # PETE'S MARKET  This is a high-end grocery store offering both regular groceries and organic, specialty, and luxury food items. The store layout and branding emphasize quality and exclusivity. While it provides access to fresh, high-quality foods, the store's location and pricing may limit its accessibility to residents, making it less likely to see a Pete's Market store in a high-poverty area. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.8 # WALMART SUPERCENTER  Positioned as a bulk-buying destination, Walmart caters to customers who can drive and purchase large quantities of goods. It offers a wide selection of products, from fresh produce to household goods, at relatively low prices. However, the store's location and pricing may limit its accessibility to residents, making it less likely to see a Walmart Supercenter store in a high-poverty area. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.9 # ABUNDANCE OF FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS  The neighborhood has many fast-food restaurants, offering convenience and cheap meals. These foods are high in fat, sugar, and sodium. Healthy dining options are rare, reinforcing diet-related health problems. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.11 # AUSTIN HARVEST  A youth-led farmers market built out of a donated building, Austin Harvest provides locally grown fresh produce to the community. It provides free, engaging outdoor space for the community and encourages residents with whom food comes from, fostering a deeper understanding of healthy, sustainable food systems. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.12 # JULENARY FARM  A small urban farm with goats, offering hands-on experiences with food production. It provides free, engaging outdoor space for the community and encourages residents with whom food comes from, fostering a deeper understanding of healthy, sustainable food systems. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.14 # FORTY ACRES FRESH MARKET  A Black woman-owned mobile grocery business working to bring affordable, fresh produce directly to residents. Through pop-up markets and delivery services, Forty Acres helps address barriers and empowers residents with healthy food choices at low cost. Its mission is to provide a deeper understanding of healthy, sustainable food systems. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 
0.15-A # COMMUNITY GARDEN  Austin is also home to several community gardens, green spaces where residents can grow their own food. These gardens are a vital resource for fresh produce and serve as vital social and cultural hubs in a disinvested urban environment. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.16 # HARMBREE COMMUNITY GARDEN  Established on a vacant lot, Harmbree offers plots, berries, and greens. It hosts workshops, cultural events, and youth programs, centered for food, education, and community leadership. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.17 # THE HART AT PEACE  This garden prioritizes accessibility and intergenerational knowledge-sharing. It hosts workshops, cultural events, and youth programs, centered for food, education, and community leadership. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.19 # FOOD PANTRY THROUGH CHURCHES  Churches in Austin offer food pantries, distributing surplus food from dry cleaners and some times fresh produce. These services are deeply rooted in local networks and local traditions, helping residents access food with dignity and familiarity. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.20 # PEOPLE WAITING OUTSIDE  Long lines often form outside food distribution sites, leaving people exposed to sun, heat, or cold-weather drafts. This affects comfort, dignity, and accessibility, especially for the elderly or those with health conditions, and signals a need for more accommodating infrastructure. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.29 # GROCERY STORE BUS STOP  In Chicago, some grocery stores are directly serviced by bus stops, allowing convenient access for transit-dependent shoppers, especially seniors. Their location and accessibility of services, as well as route planning, significantly impact the ability to access food. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.30 # PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUS  Public buses link many communities to grocery stores, offering a vital lifeline for those without cars. However, the quality and reliability of services, as well as route planning, significantly impact the ability to access food. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.31 # LIMITED SPACE FOR GROCERIES ON BUSES  Shoppers using public transportation often struggle with the physical burden of carrying multiple grocery bags, particularly during crowded hours. There is limited designated space for bags, often, or even making space through changing for larger households or the elderly. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.32 # ADDITIONAL PARKING LOT DISTANCE  Large surface parking lots in front of grocery stores create significant walking distances for people arriving on foot or by bike. This design forces cars over parking lots, creating an unnecessary barrier for shoppers without vehicles. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.35 # LACK OF EBT STATION IN GROCERY STORES  High-end grocery stores often fail to include whether they accept EBT, which contributes to the stigma surrounding food assistance. The lack of visibility can make EBT users feel unwelcome or unsure if they're allowed to shop there, reinforcing feelings of exclusion and discouraging them from accessing healthier food options. It's important to ensure EBT stations are visible and accessible to all shoppers. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.36 # ACCESS TO REFRIGERATED SPACE  Some households do not have reliable refrigerators, limiting their ability to store fresh produce and other perishables. This forces a dependence on shelf-stable, processed foods and restricts the ability to plan meals in advance. Improving access to cold storage could significantly expand residents' food choices. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 
0.37 # ABUNDANCE OF CHURCHES  The high number of churches in the neighborhood presents an opportunity to activate these trusted spaces for food-related activities during off hours. They can host food distributions, communal meals, or nutrition workshops. Churches are often deeply embedded in the community and can be powerful partners in mobilizing resources. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.38 # CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  Chicago Public Library branches offer accessible, neutral spaces that can be used to distribute information about food assistance, gardening resources, and cooking classes. With internet access, community books, and multi-generational staff or materials, libraries are ideally positioned to bridge knowledge gaps and promote resource awareness. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.42 # VACANT LOTS  Scattered throughout the neighborhood, small vacant lots sit unused and overgrown. These underutilized spaces represent tremendous opportunities for food growing, gathering, or vending and could be transformed into active, productive areas that support community health and local food access. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.43 # PARTLY VACANT LOTS  Lots with partial vacancy often feature abandoned structures or unused parcels, creating safety concerns and visual clutter. These spaces could be repurposed for pop-up markets, gardens, or vending, bridging gaps in food access while revitalizing the neighborhood's appearance and function. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.44 # VACANT BLOCKS  Entire blocks of vacant or abandoned properties weaken the neighborhood fabric and reduce access to essential services like food. Redeveloping these areas through community-led initiatives could stimulate food infrastructure, foster safety, and activate public life in otherwise neglected zones. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 	0.45 # PARKS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD  Local parks offer vital open space for recreation, recreation, and gathering. However, many lack food-related programming like markets or gardens. These underused spaces could be activated to support food access, education, and community engagement through events, growing spaces, or distribution points. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 					

INTANGIBLE

0.10 # GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  Despite structural challenges, Austin is home to several innovative and inspiring community-led initiatives that aim to improve local food systems and access to fresh produce. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.13 # AUSTIN COMING TOGETHER  A coalition providing backbone support to over 50 organizations across Austin, all aligned around the mission of improving life in Austin. While not solely focused on food, ACT supports collaborative efforts to address food insecurity through resource sharing and coordination. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.26 # COOKING CLASSES  Food access is only part of the equation. Cooking classes offer vital opportunities for residents with the skills to prepare healthy meals using affordable ingredients. These programs teach nutrition, budgeting, and meal planning, fostering resilience and independence. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.22 # TIME OF FOOD AID  Food pantries often run during standard working hours, which makes access difficult for residents with full-time jobs or irregular schedules. This research finds that offering more and highlights the need for more flexible, flexible, and more flexible options to reach more people. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.28 # TYPES OF GROCERY STORES  Grocery stores in or near low-income neighborhoods are not always affordable for residents experiencing financial hardship. Other, cheaper stores are located further away, requiring additional time, effort, and transportation costs. Ideally, healthy stores should reflect the economic realities of the communities they serve. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.33 # DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT  Different modes of transport, including walking, cycling, buses, and other early support and encouragement people have in food or shopping more affordably. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.34 # NEED FOR ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS  Many older adults lack access to a private vehicle, yet they face mobility challenges that make walking long distances or carrying heavy groceries difficult. Senior-friendly services like assistance in public transport, delivery services, or assistance in stores are often missing or under-publicized. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.39 # SUPPORT GROUPS  Support groups can create safe, step-by-step environments for individuals to share coping strategies, build community, and access emotional support. They can also connect people to local resources and empower participants through storytelling and advocacy. These groups help foster isolation into collective agency. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.40 # KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO PREPARE FOOD  Even when fresh ingredients are available, residents may feel unsure how to prepare them due to lack of experience, tools, or culturally relevant recipes. Community kitchens, cooking demonstrations, and recipe-sharing events can boost confidence and encourage healthier eating habits. Food education is key to turning access into actual use. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  
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POLICY

0.4 # SNAP (FOR BUSINESSES)  Businesses can apply to become SNAP-authorized and must meet certain federal criteria. Many local stores accept SNAP but their food selection is limited to unbranded, processed items. Without grocery store ratings, businesses have little choice or ability to spend wisely. SNAP's potential is weakened by the neighborhood's food retail landscape. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.15 # FREE KITS FOR GARDENS  City-funded kits allow residents to grow their own vegetables, herbs, and fruits. They remove financial and material barriers to home gardening. This initiative promotes healthier diets and food independence. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.18 # LOCAL FOOD ASSISTANCE  Community-based efforts form the front line of food assistance in Austin. Churches, food banks, and other organizations distribute canned goods, dry staples, and sometimes fresh produce. These efforts, embedded in local food systems, help residents access food in a familiar setting. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.21 # FOOD BOXES FOR CHILDREN  Some community programs prepare and distribute kid-specific food kits. Churches, food banks, and other organizations distribute canned goods, dry staples, and sometimes fresh produce. These efforts, embedded in local food systems, help residents access food in a familiar setting. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.23 # CITY-WIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE  The Greater Chicago Food Depository distributes food to pantries, soup kitchens, and other organizations. These efforts help address food insecurity and ensure resources are distributed where they're most needed. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.24 # FOOD AID FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS  Through programs such as free or reduced-price lunch, schools offer critical food access to children and their families. These programs help address food insecurity and ensure resources are distributed where they're most needed. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.26 # MARKET FOR PEOPLE  The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income households, offering flexibility and dignity. While SNAP is a vital resource, it's often underutilized. Community-based efforts, such as SNAP education, can help increase awareness and use of this program. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.27 # MARKET FOR PEOPLE  SNAP and EBT provide crucial support for food-insecure households, yet not all income-eligible households use them. Outreach, education, and simplified application processes can help increase participation and ensure resources are distributed where they're most needed. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  	0.41 # AID IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES  Food assistance in Austin is made more accessible through multilingual outreach. Community-based efforts, such as SNAP education, can help increase awareness and use of this program. This reflects the community's diversity and promotes inclusion. FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:  
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Figure 36 // Catalogue of observations // Source: by Author.

NETWORK OF OBSERVATIONS

OBSERVATIONS

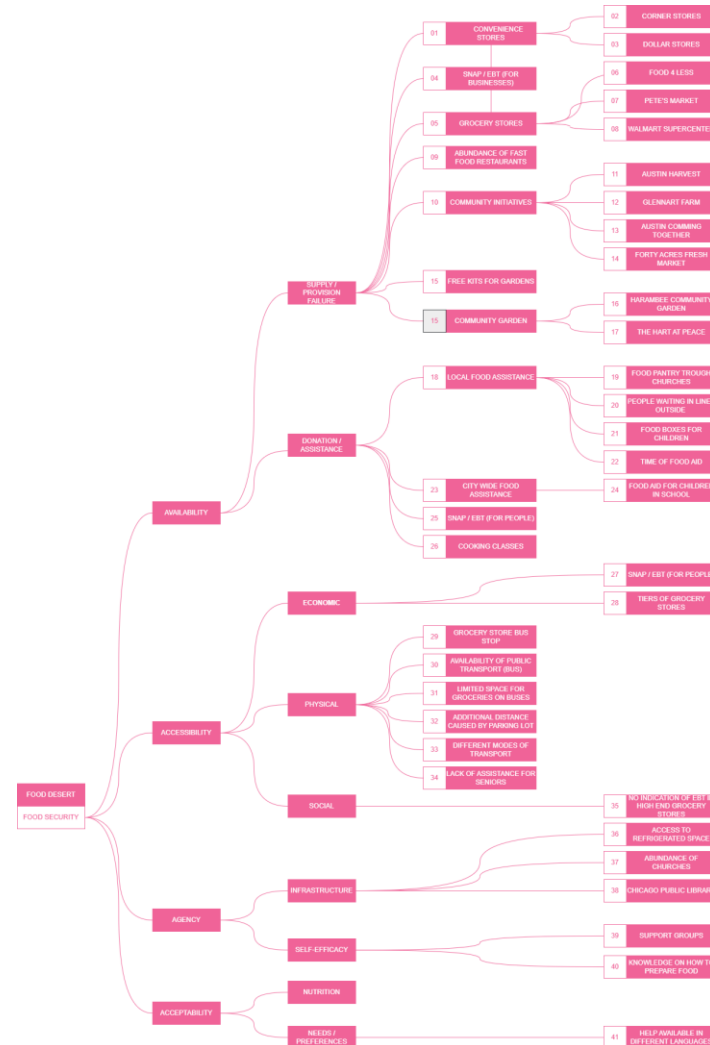


Figure 37 // Network of observations // Source: by Author.

LOCATION OF OBSERVATIONS

OBSERVATIONS

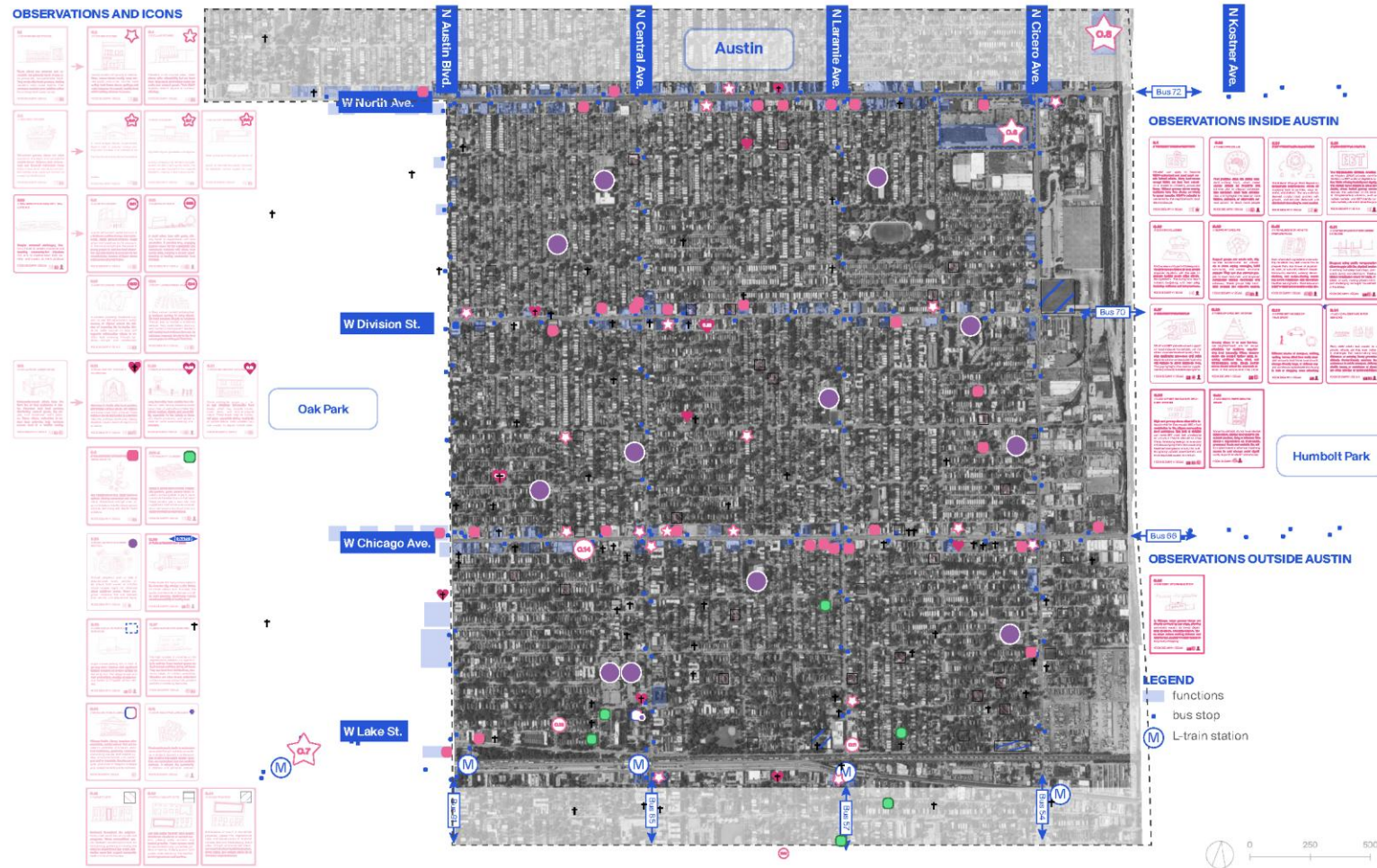


Figure 38 // Map of Austin and the location of the observations // Source: by Author.

O.2 // CORNER STORES

OBSERVATIONS

O.2 // CORNER STORES



Locally owned and typically at intersections, corner stores mostly carry canned goods and snacks. Owners avoid selling fresh items due to spoilage and cost concerns. As a result, healthy food within walking distance is scarce.

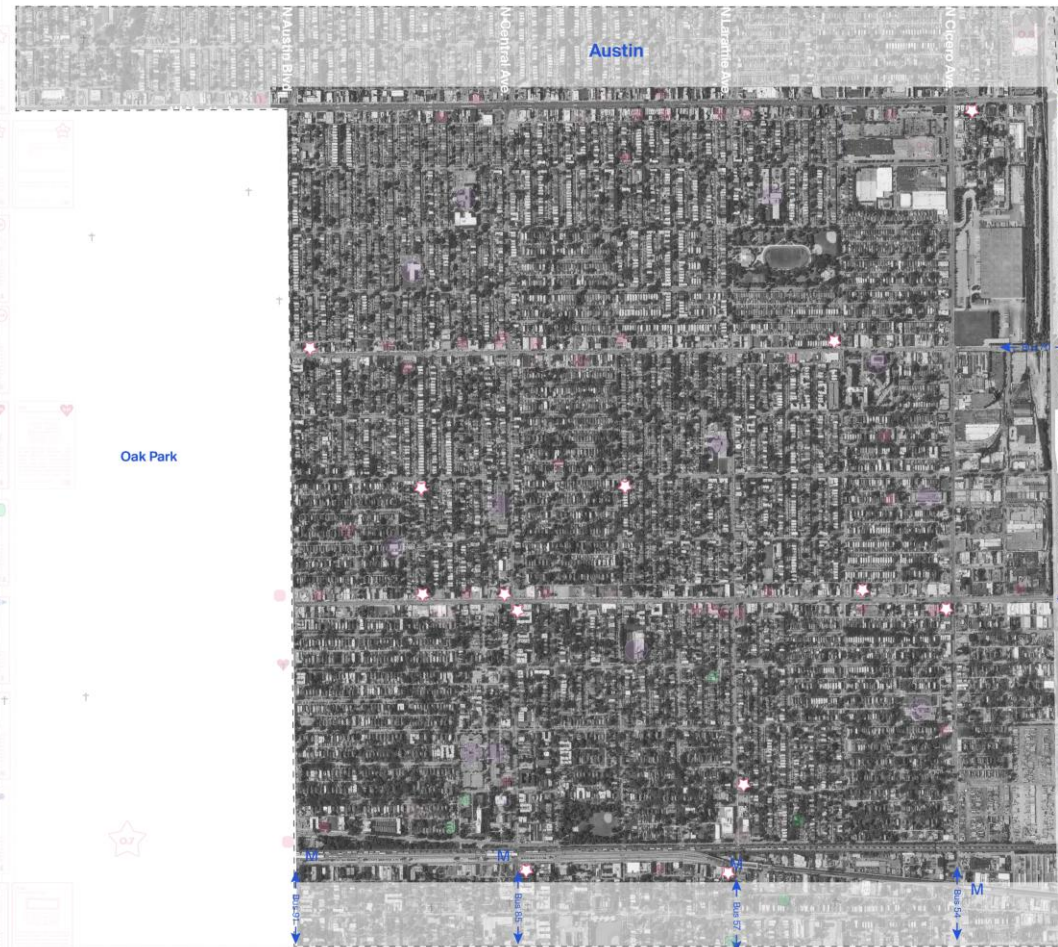
FOOD SECURITY / SCALE:



OBSERVATIONS AND ICONS



Oak Park



Bus 72

OBSERVATIONS INSIDE AUSTIN



Humboldt Park

Bus 66

OBSERVATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTIN



LEGEND

functions
bus stop
M L-train station

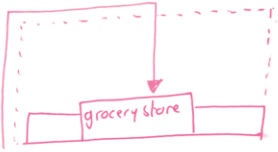


Figure 39 // Map of Austin and the location of observation 2 // Source: by Author.

O.32 // ADDITIONAL PARKING LOT DISTANCE

OBSERVATIONS

O.32 // ADDITIONAL PARKING LOT DISTANCE



Large surface parking lots in front of grocery store clusters add significant walking distance for people arriving on foot or by bus. This design favors cars over pedestrians, creating an unnecessary barrier for shoppers without vehicles.

FOOD SECURITY / SCALE: 

OBSERVATIONS AND ICONS



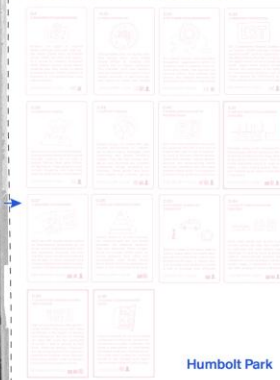
Oak Park



Austin

Bus 72

OBSERVATIONS INSIDE AUSTIN



Humbolt Park

Bus 66

OBSERVATIONS OUTSIDE AUSTIN



LEGEND

functions
bus stop
M L-train station



Figure 40 // Map of Austin and the location of observation 32 // Source: by Author.

9 // INTERVENTIONS

CURRENT SITUATION // FOOD DESERT

OBSERVATIONS



Figure 41 // Collage illustrating the current food desert situation in Austin // Source: by Author, sources for images: Rinaldi (2018), Stoervoer Festival (2025), Hagen (2017a), Hagen (2017b), One Omaha (2023), Walmart (2019), Saba (2022), Olive Branch Cookery School (z.d.), Public Building Commission of Chicago (z.d.), Getty Images (2025), Bulthuis (2014), and David (2021).

INTERVENTIONS



WHAT TO ACHIEVE?

STRATEGY

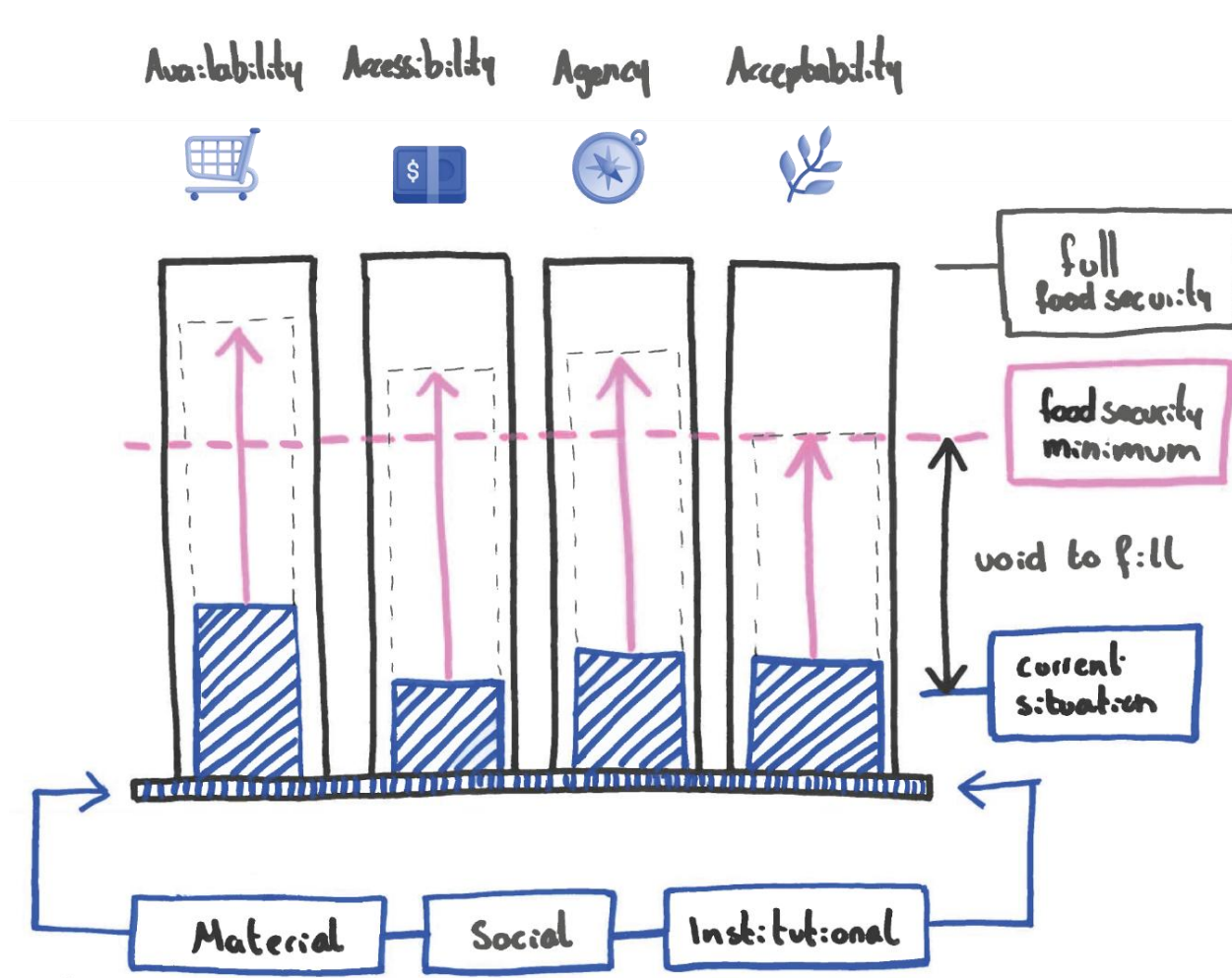


Figure 43 // Visualization of this project and the link between the interventions and the components of food security // Source: by Author.

STRATEGY



Figure 44 // Catalogue of interventions // Source: by Author

CATALOGUE OF INTERVENTIONS

INTERVENTIONS

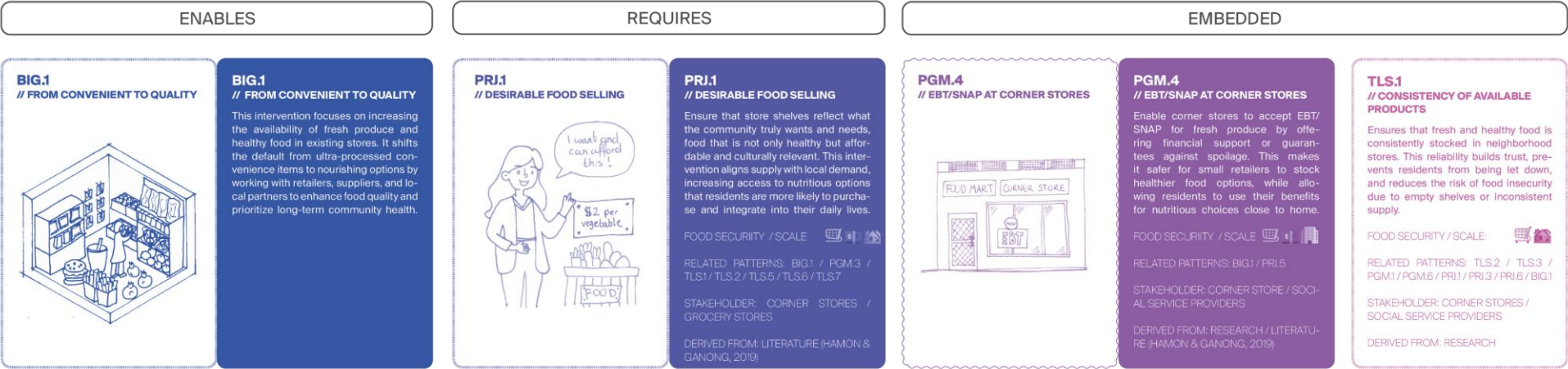


Figure 45 // Explanation of interventions // Source: by Author.

OBSERVATIONS INTO INTERVENTIONS

INTERVENTIONS

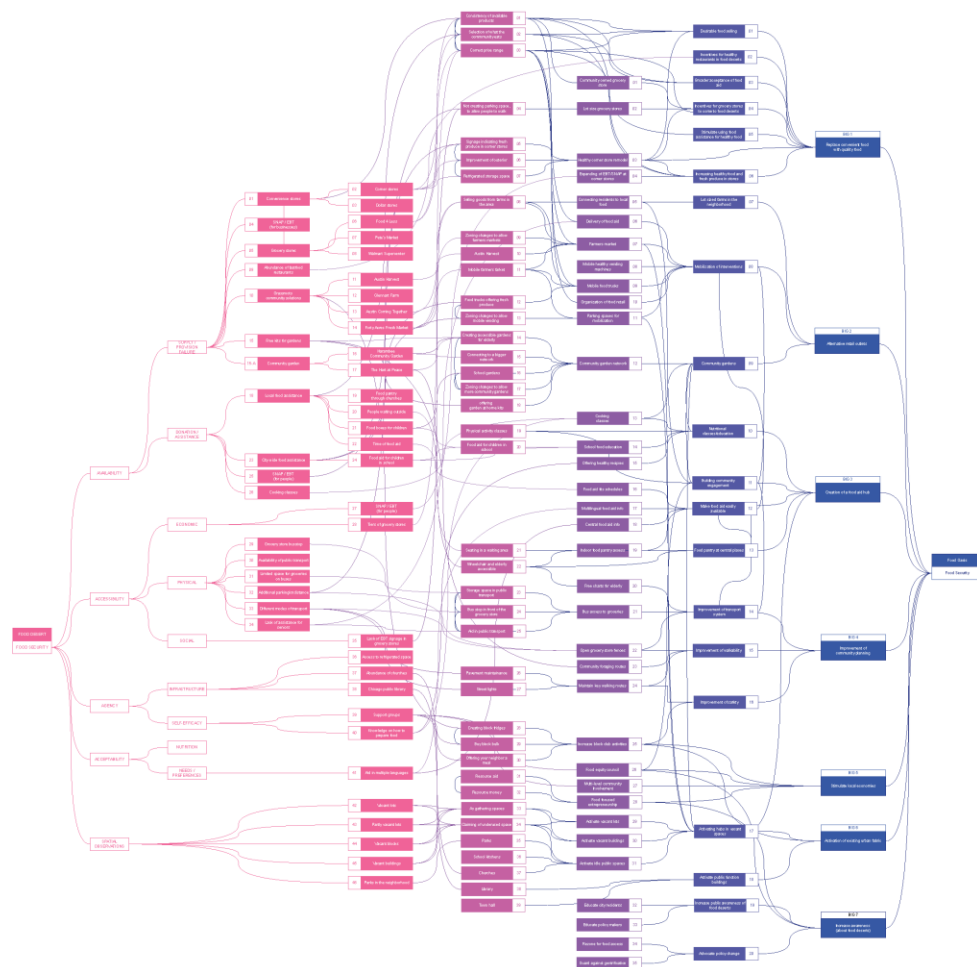


Figure 46 // Network of observations into interventions // Source: by Author.

10 // STRATEGY

TIMELINE OF STRATEGY

STRATEGY

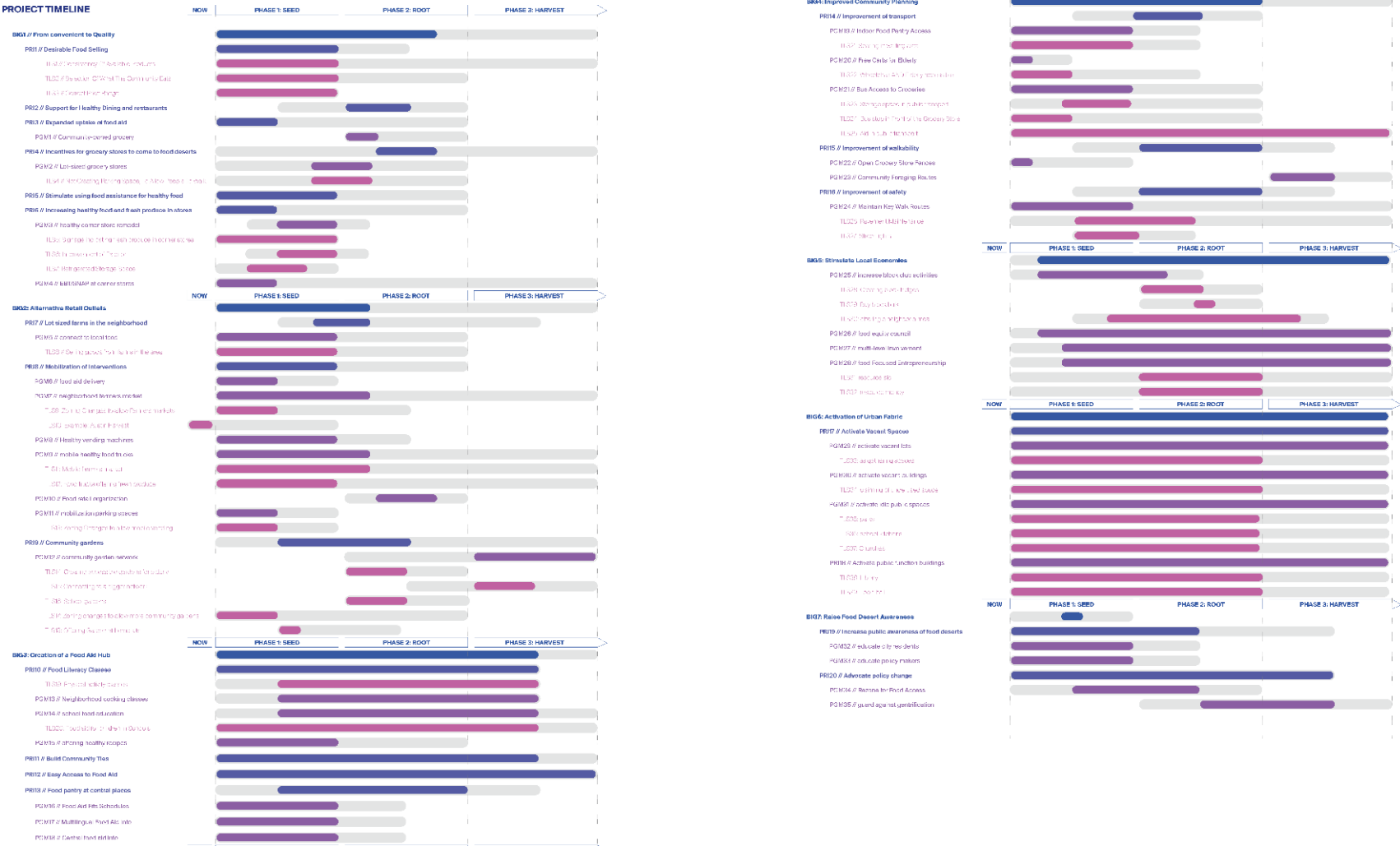


Figure 47 // Timeline of the strategy // Source: by Author.

ORGANIZATION OF INTERVENTIONS



Figure 48 // Catalogue of interventions // Source: by Author.

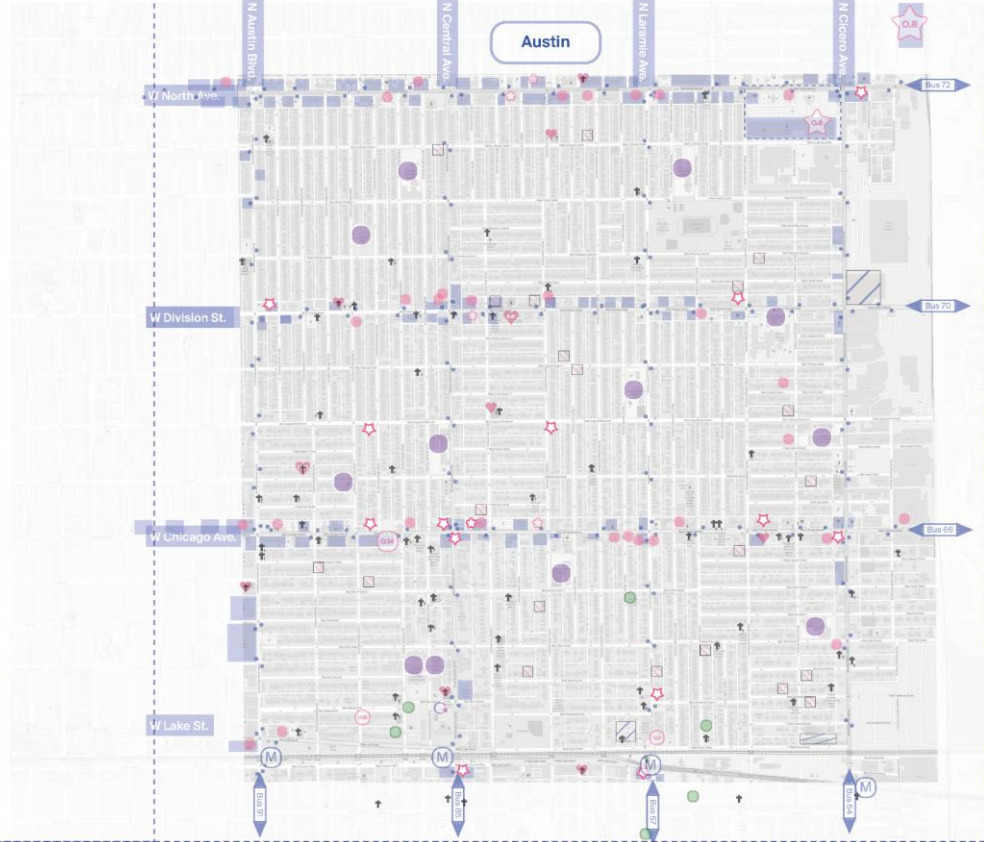
PHASE 0 // NOW

STRATEGY

PHASE 0 // NOW



SPATIAL ELEMENTS



POLICY ELEMENTS

INTANGIBLE ELEMENTS

Figure 49 // Phase 0: Map of Austin and the location of the interventions // Source: by Author.

PHASE 1 // SEED

STRATEGY

PHASE 1 // SEED

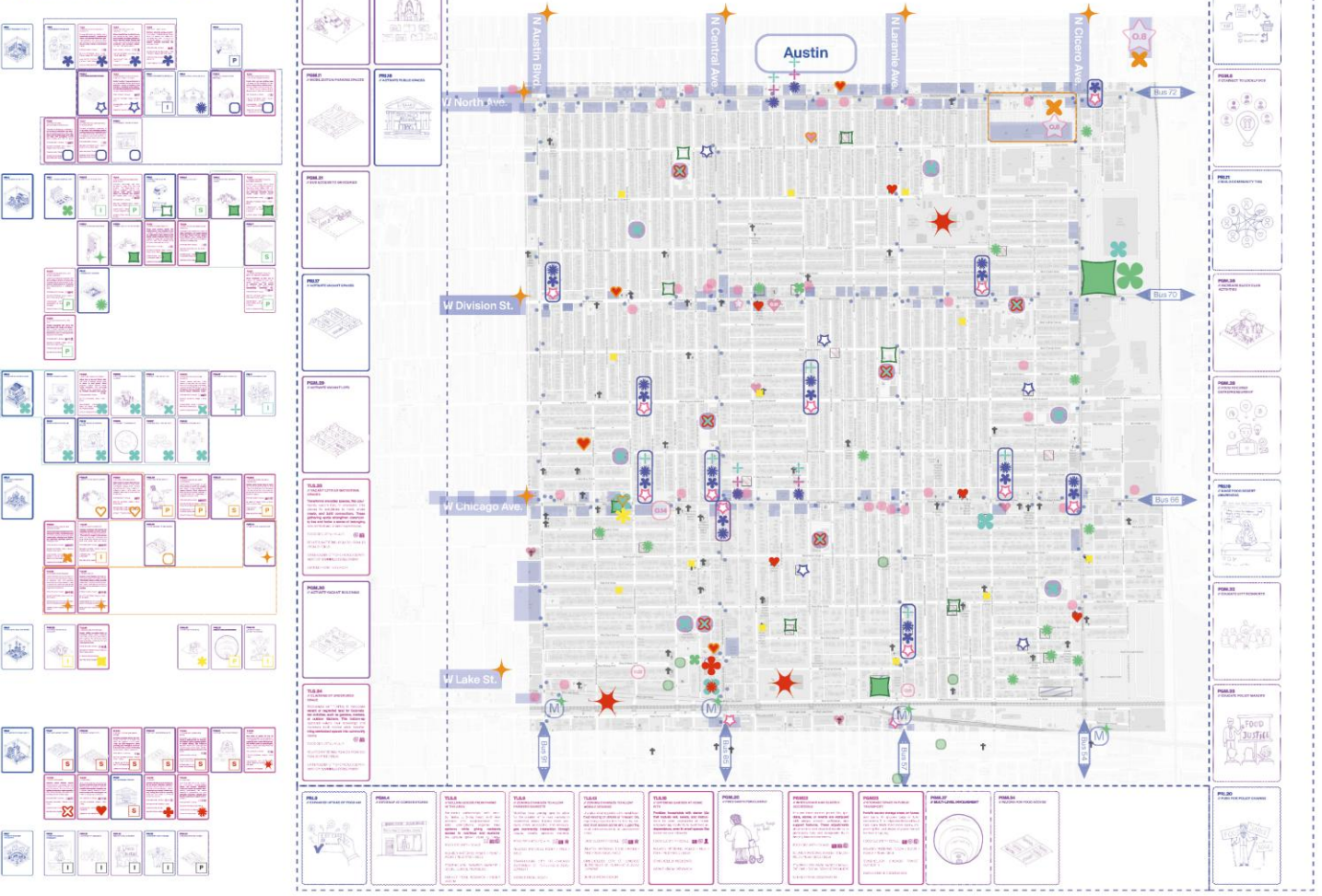


Figure 50 // Phase 1: Map of Austin and the location of the interventions // Source: by Author.

PHASE 2 // ROOT

STRATEGY

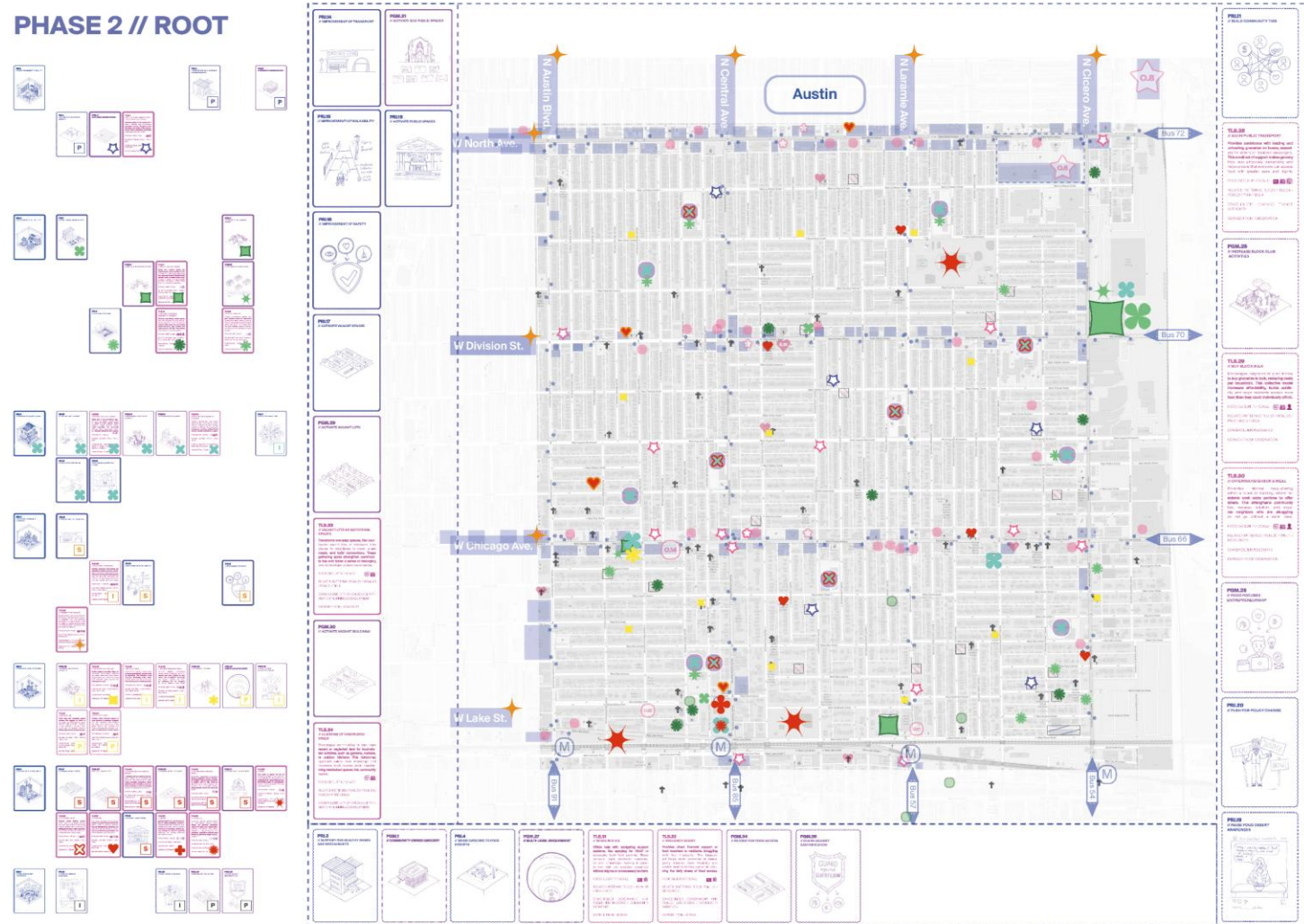


Figure 51 // Phase 2: Map of Austin and the location of the interventions // Source: by Author.

PHASE 3 // HARVEST

STRATEGY



Figure 52 // Phase 3: Map of Austin and the location of the interventions // Source: by Author.

PHASE 4 // FUTURE

STRATEGY

PHASE 4 // FUTURE

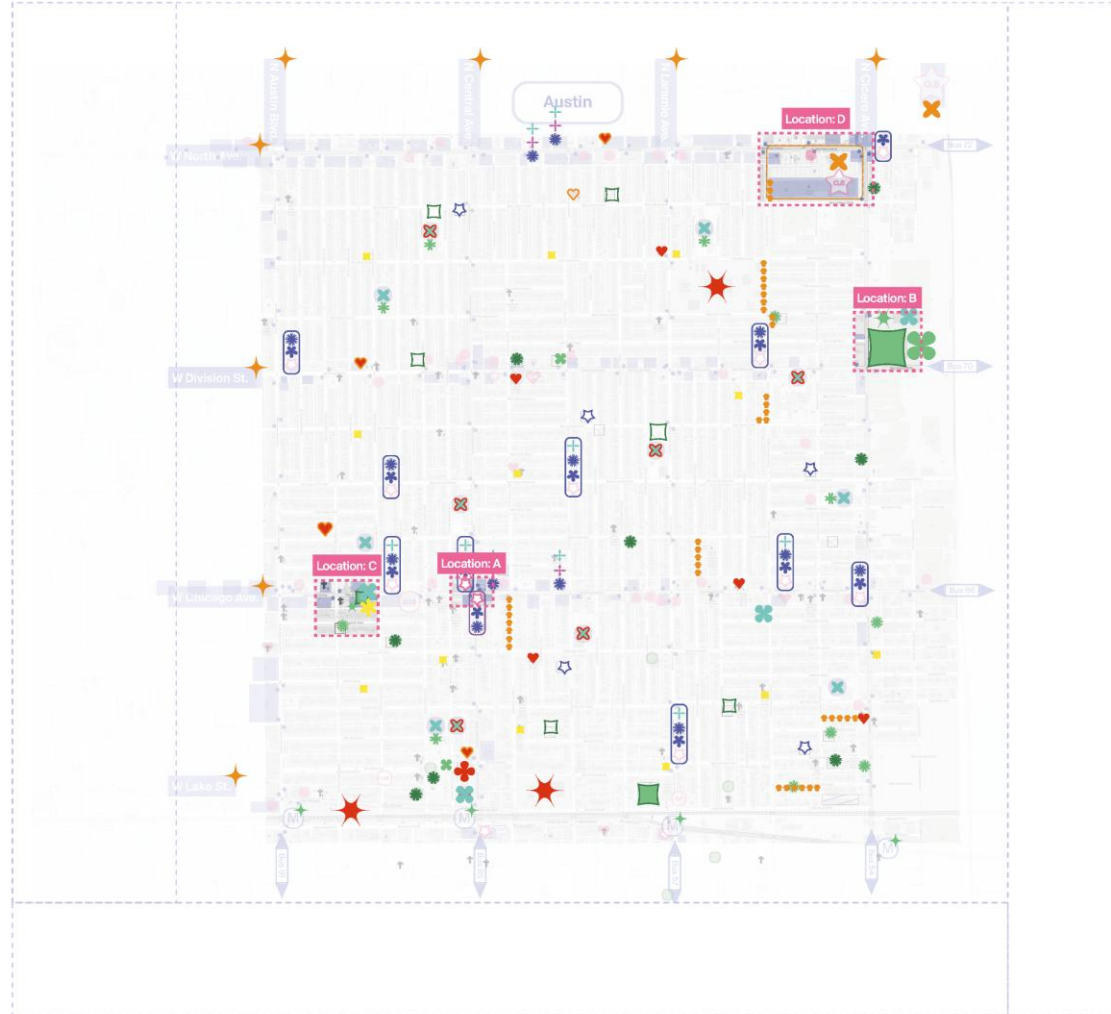


Figure 53 // Phase 4: Map of Austin and the location of the interventions // Source: by Author.

THREE NEIGHBORS IN AUSTIN

STRATEGY



JAMAL

MRS. CARTER

LISA

LOCATION A // RECLAIMING THE CORNER STORE

STRATEGY



Figure 55 // Photograph of Location A // Source: Google Maps (n.d.-a).

LOCATION A // RECLAIMING THE CORNER STORE

STRATEGY

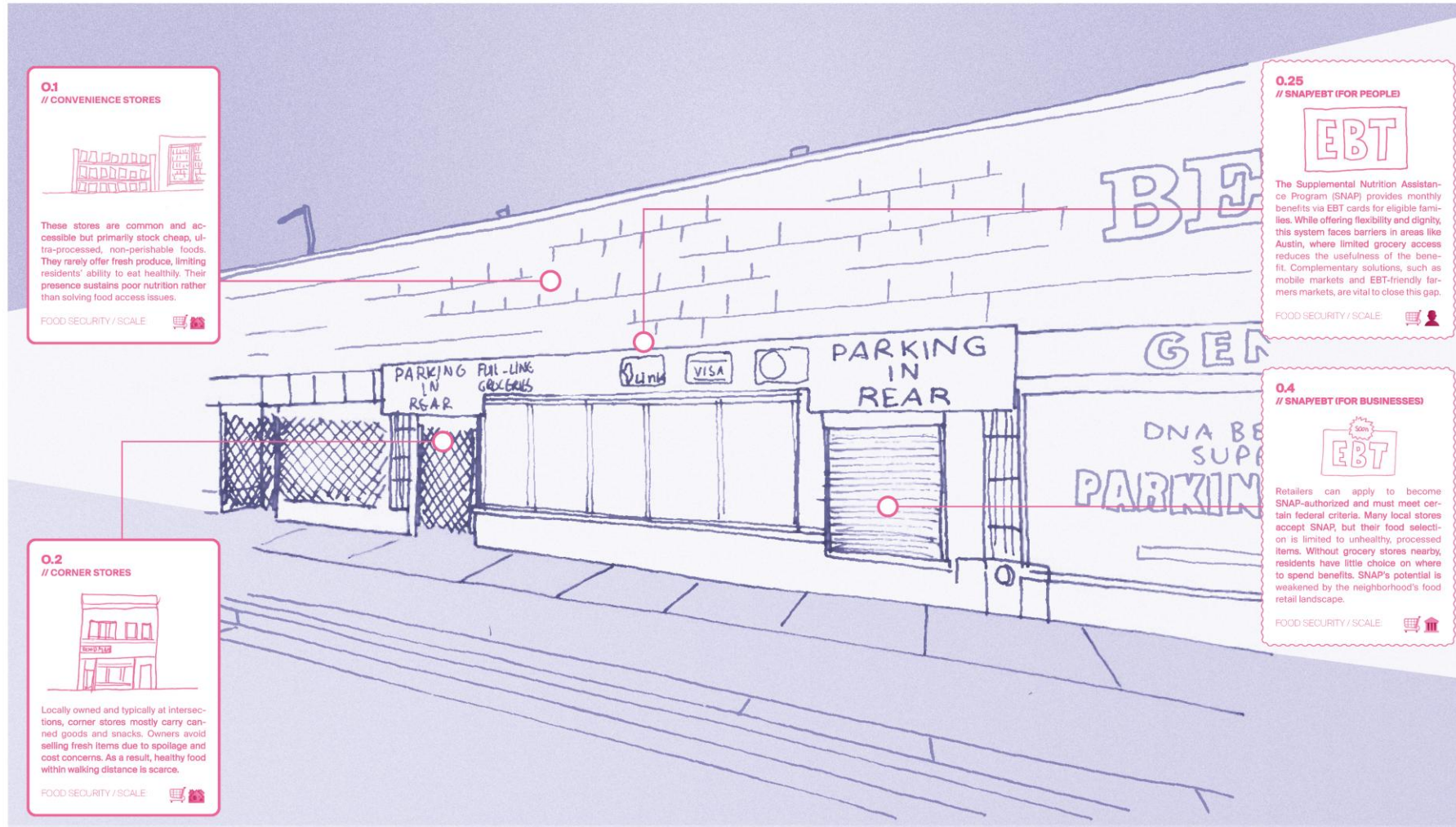


Figure 56 // Visual on Location A, the current situation including the observations // Source:

LOCATION A // RECLAIMING THE CORNER STORE

STRATEGY

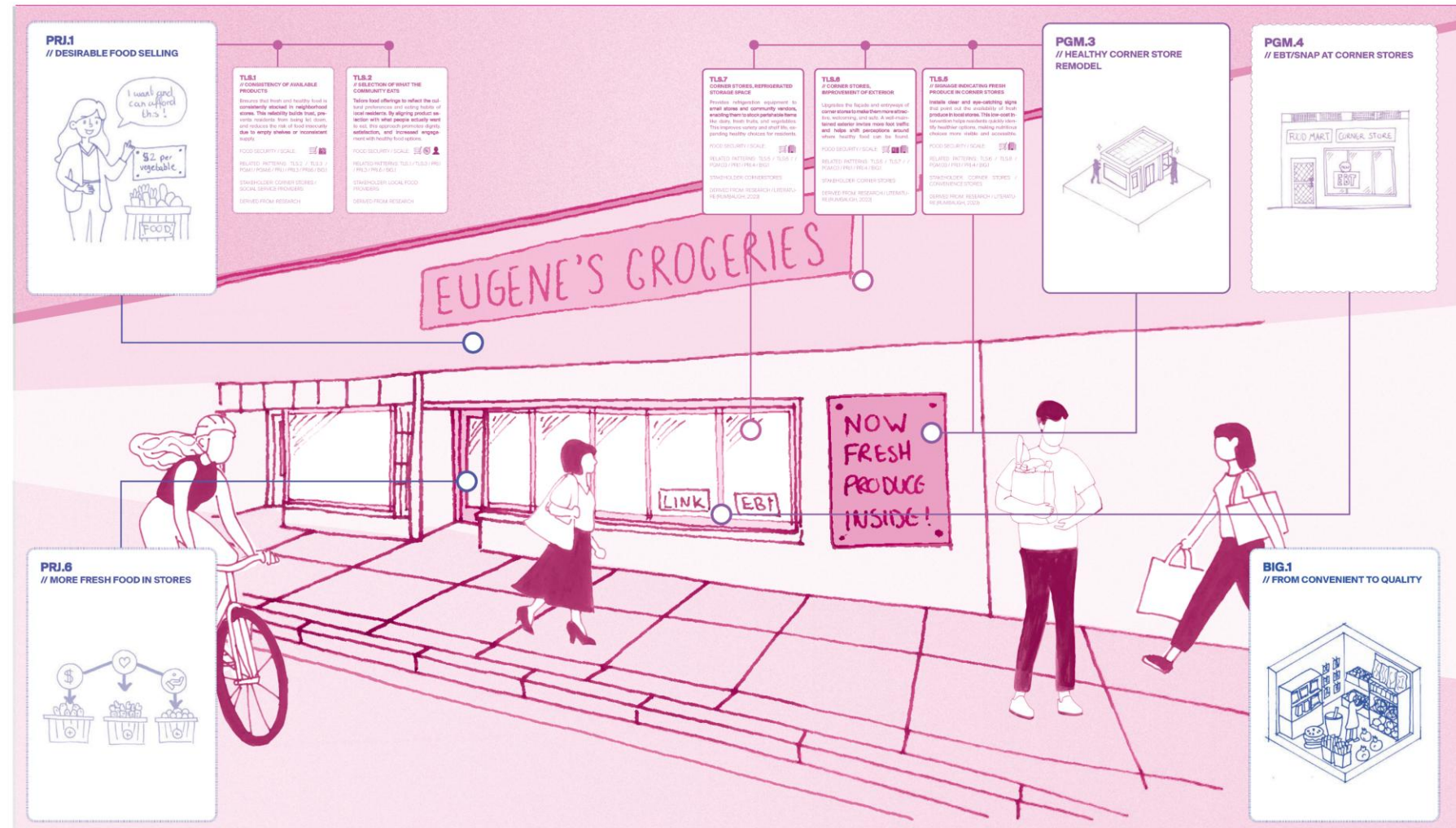


Figure 57 // Visual on Location A, the proposed situation including the interventions // Source: by Author.

LOCATION B // CLUSTER OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGY



Figure 58 // Photograph of Location B // Source: Google Maps (n.d.-d).

LOCATION B // CLUSTER OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGY

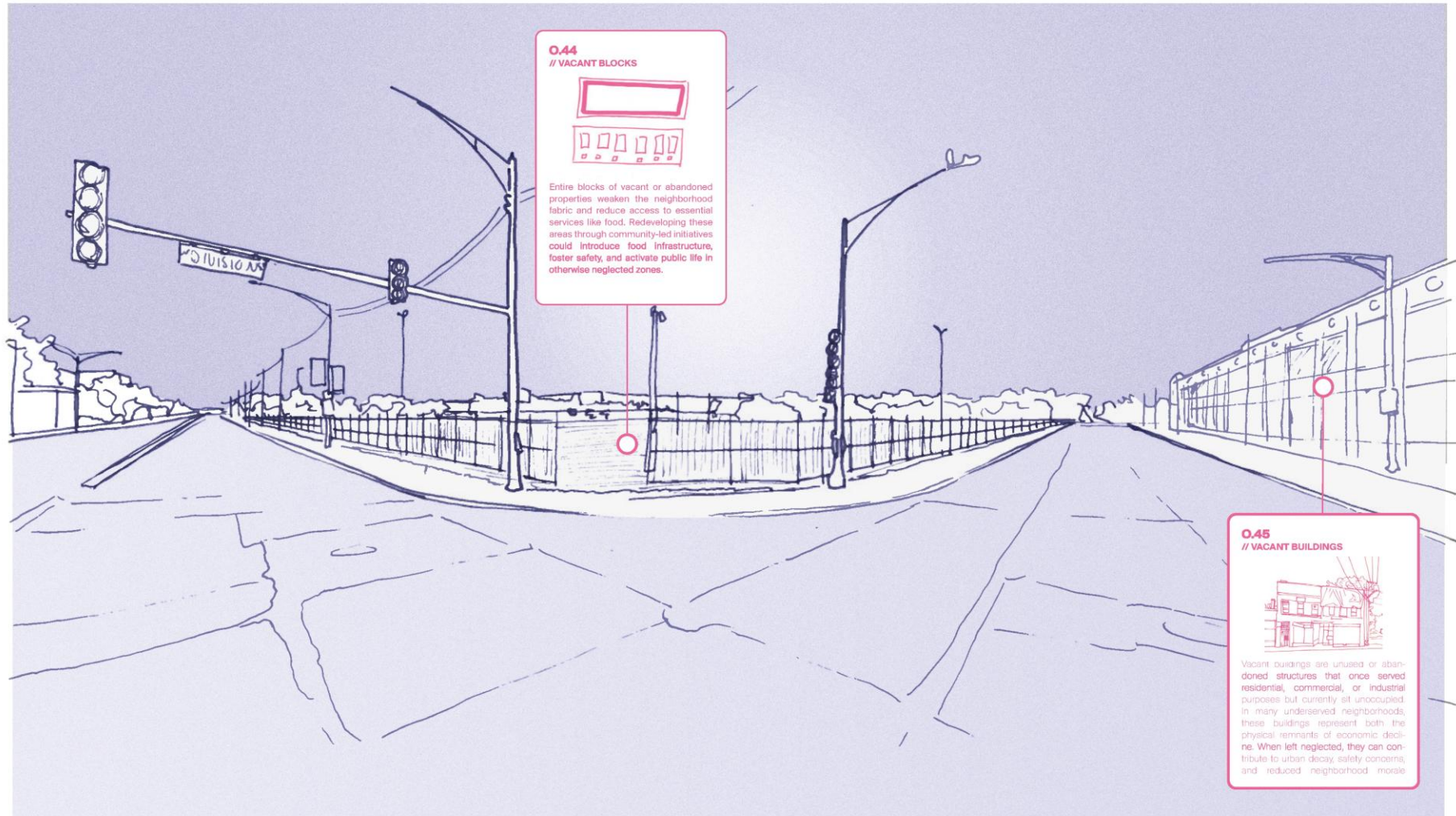


Figure 59 // Visual on Location B, the current situation including the observations // Source: by Author.

LOCATION B // CLUSTER OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGY

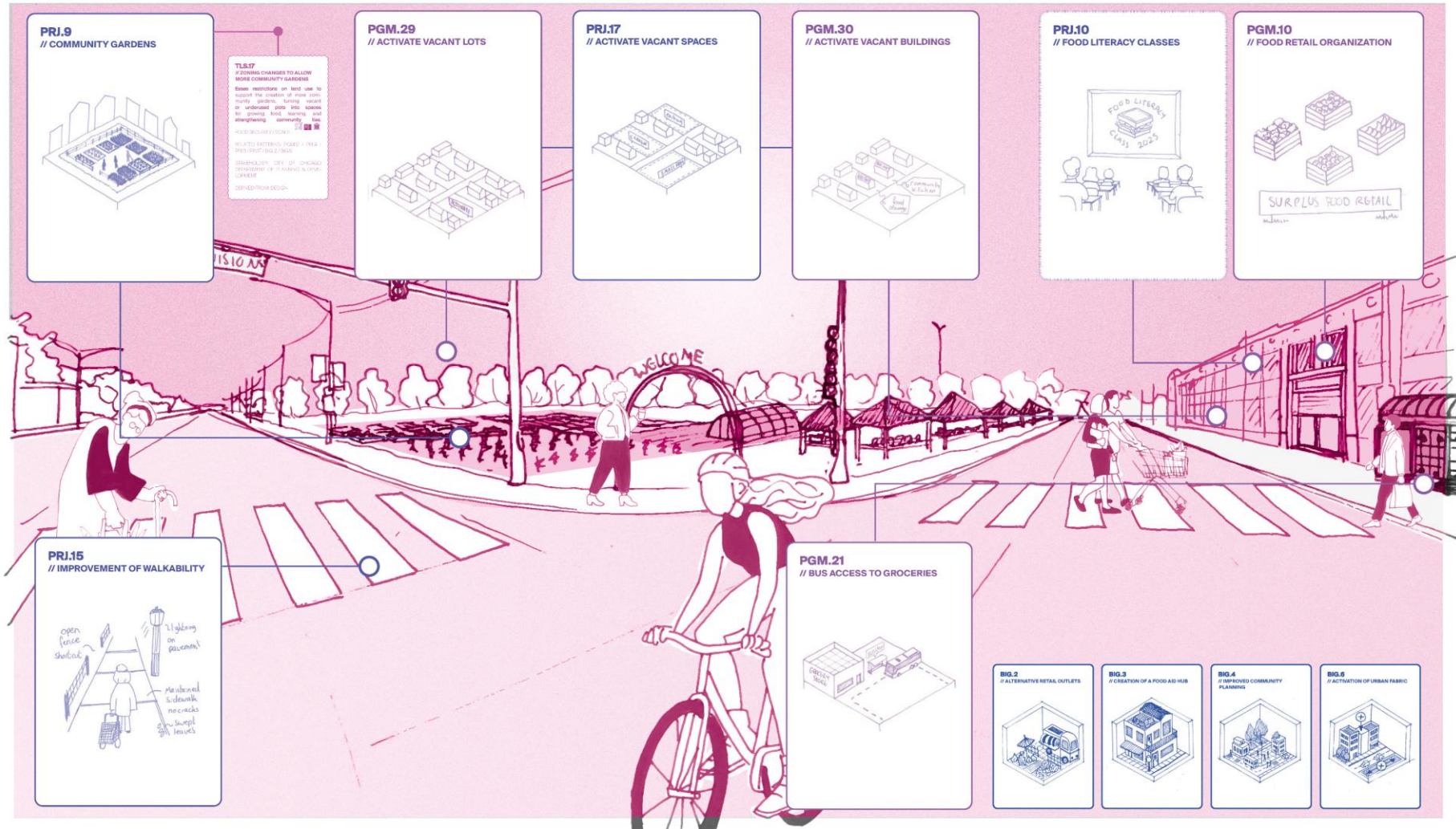


Figure 60 // Visual on Location B, the proposed situation including the interventions // Source: by Author.

LOCATION C // THE AUSTIN FOOD HUB

STRATEGY



Figure 61 // Photograph of Location C // Source: Google Maps (n.d.-b).

LOCATION C // THE AUSTIN FOOD HUB

STRATEGY



Figure 62 // Visual on Location C, the current situation including the observations // Source: by Author.

LOCATION C // THE AUSTIN FOOD HUB

STRATEGY

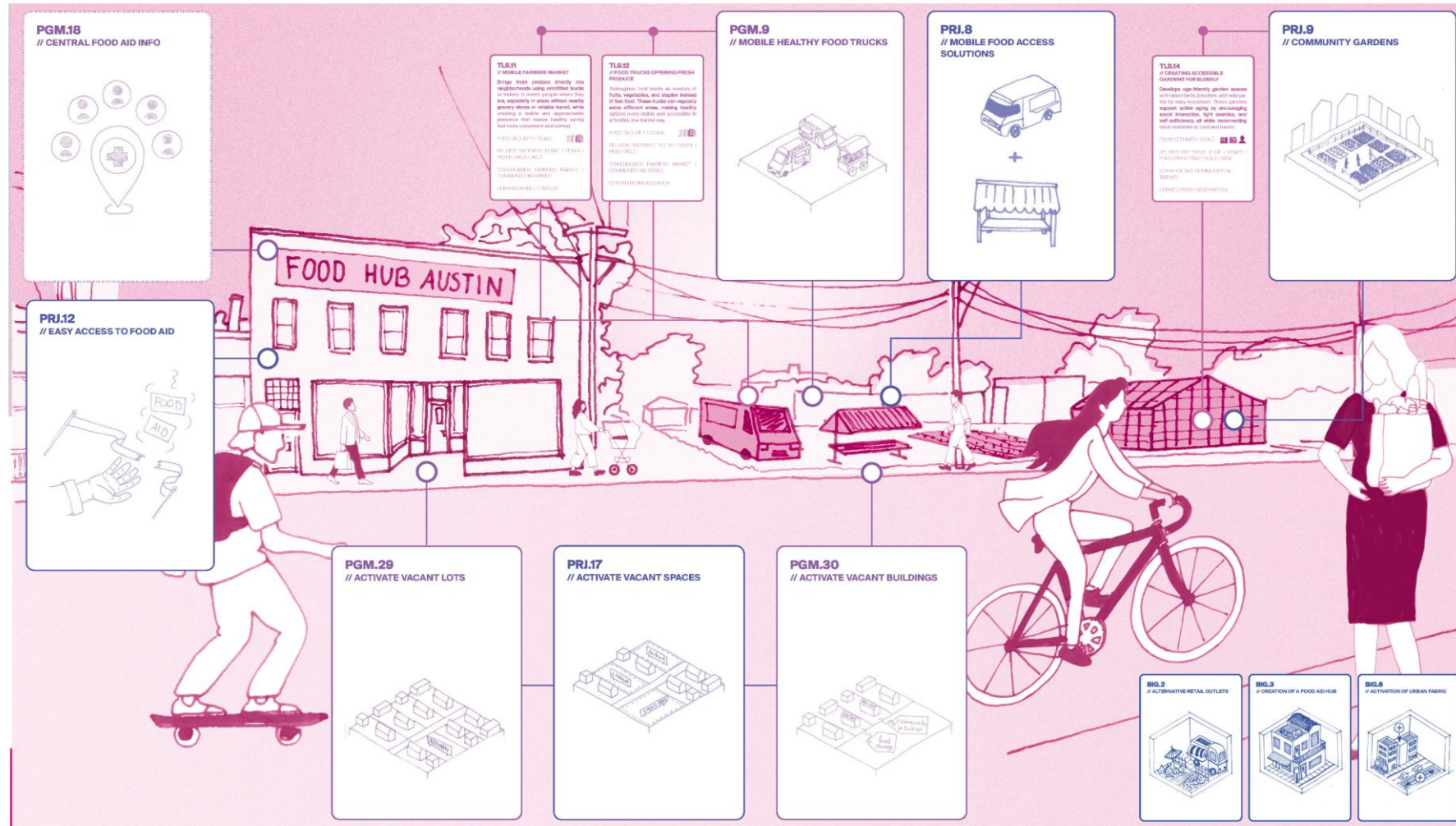


Figure 63 // Visual on Location C, the proposed situation including the interventions // Source: by Author.

LOCATION D // IMPROVED GROCERY ACCESS

STRATEGY



Figure 64 // Photograph of Location D // Source: Google Maps (n.d.-a).

LOCATION D // IMPROVED GROCERY ACCESS

STRATEGY

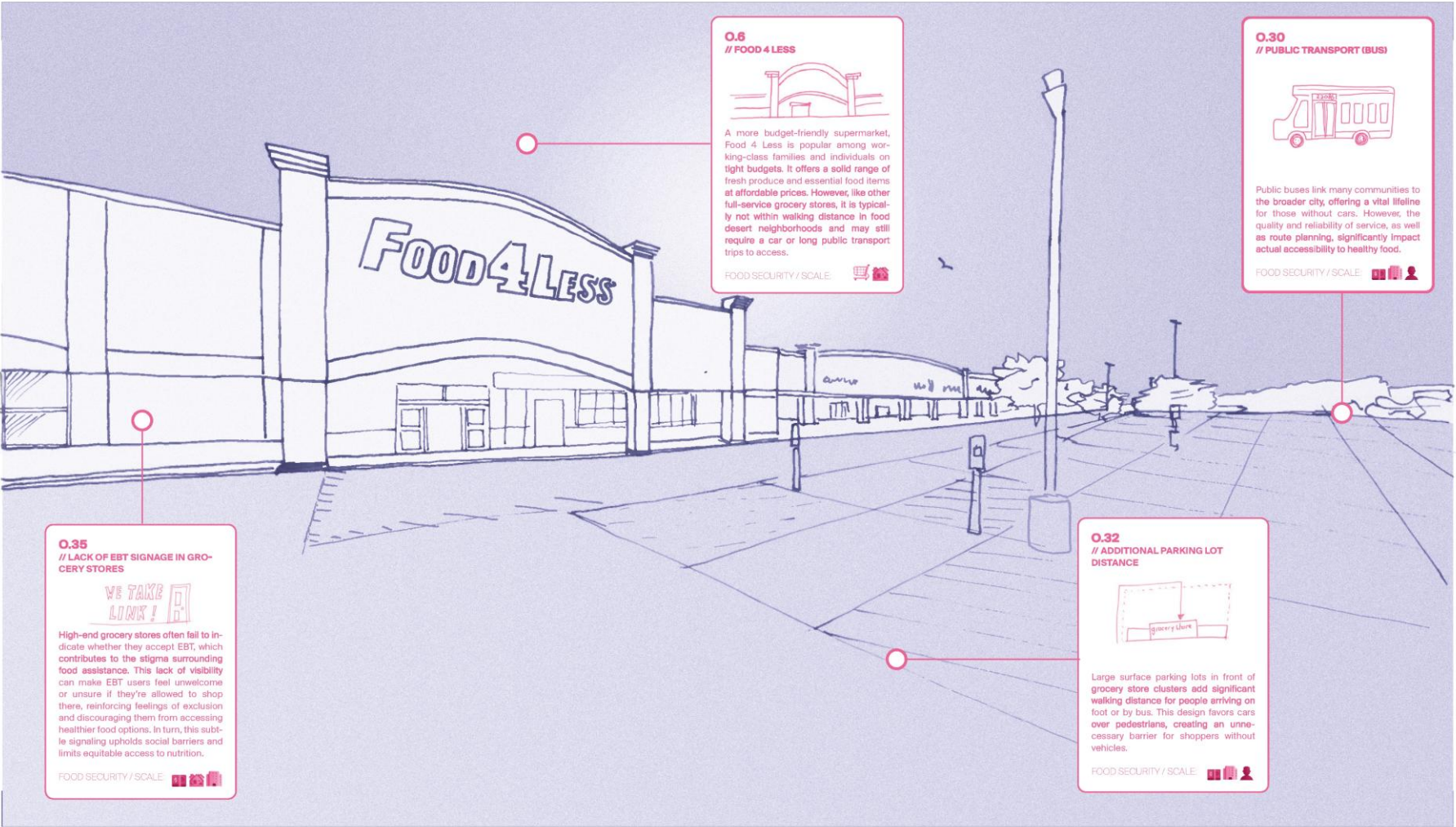


Figure 65 // Visual on Location D, the current situation including the observations // Source: by Author.

LOCATION D // IMPROVED GROCERY ACCESS

STRATEGY



Figure 66 // Visual on Location D, the proposed situation including the interventions // Source: by Author.

9 // CONCLUSION

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

CONCLUSION

"How do existing infrastructures contribute to food insecurity in Chicago's food deserts, and what spatial planning and urban design interventions can promote food security in these neighborhoods?"

CONCLUSION



Figure 68 // Collage illustrating the current food desert situation in Austin // Source: by Author, sources for images: Rinaldi (2018), Stoervoer Festival (2025), Hagen (2017a), Hagen (2017b), One Omaha (2023), Walmart (2019), Saba (2022), Olive Branch Cookery School (z.d.), Public Building Commission of Chicago (z.d.), Getty Images (2025), Bulthuis (2014), and David (2021).

CURRENT SITUATION

CONCLUSION

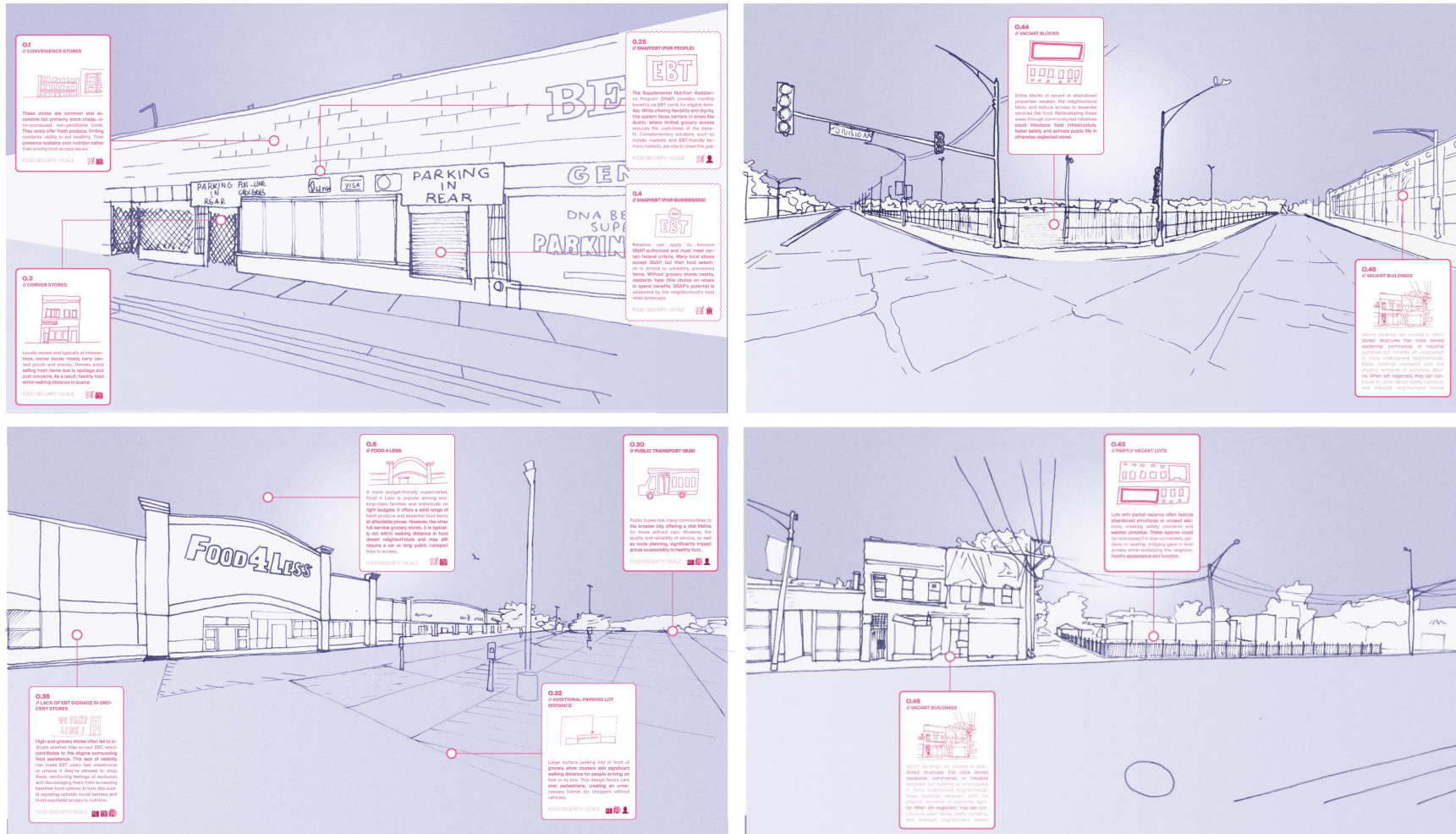


Figure 69 // Collection of the current situation including the observations // Source: by Author.

CONCLUSION



FUTURE SITUATION

CONCLUSION

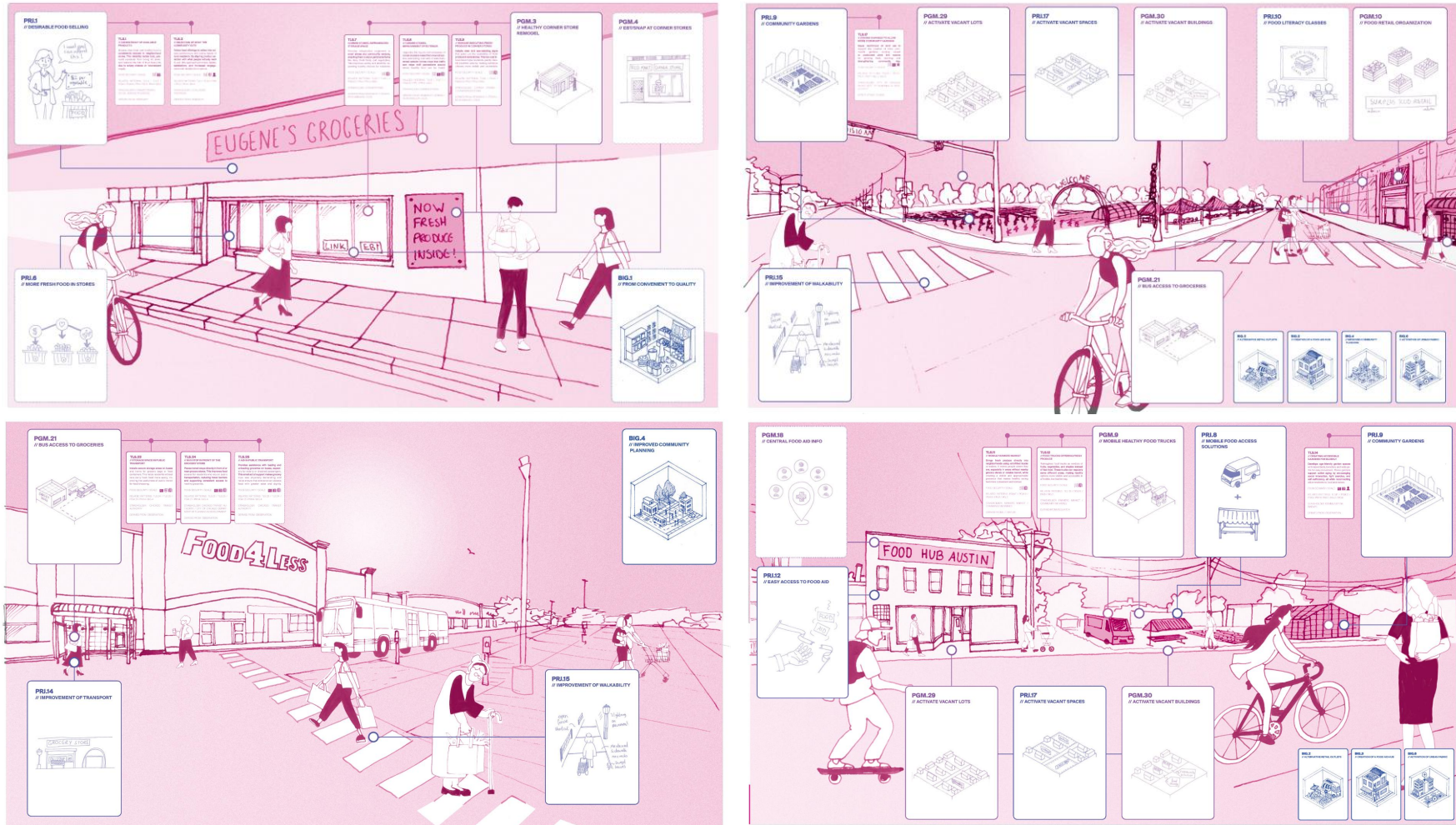


Figure 71 // Collection of the proposed situation including the interventions // Source: by Author.

THREE NEIGHBORS IN AUSTIN

STRATEGY



JAMAL

MRS. CARTER

LISA

WHAT WILL WE EAT? // REPLENISHING FOOD DESERTS

P5 // Serah Bremer

