

VAN ALEN



INSTITUTE

**VAN
ALEN**

JESSICA LAX

Director of Strategic Initiatives
Van Alen Institute

INSTITUTE



OUR MISSION + BELIEFS

At Van Alen Institute, we believe design can transform cities, landscapes, and regions to improve people's lives.



We collaborate with communities, scholars, policymakers, and professionals on local and global initiatives that rigorously investigate the most pressing social, cultural, and ecological challenges of tomorrow.



Building on more than a century of experience, we develop cross-disciplinary research, provocative public programs, and inventive design competitions.

**VAN
ALEN**

STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

INSTITUTE

FOUR-STEP PROJECT MODEL

“Competitions are great for getting ideas. Traditionally, a government hires one firm to come up with one solution to a problem they’ve already defined. By doing things that way, you’re potentially missing out on lots of interesting new ideas.”

- Amy Chester, Managing Director, Rebuild by Design in The Guardian

LISTEN

IDEATE

IMPLEMENT

AMPLIFY



**VAN
ALEN**



REBUILD BY DESIGN

How do we rebuild coastal cities of the future?

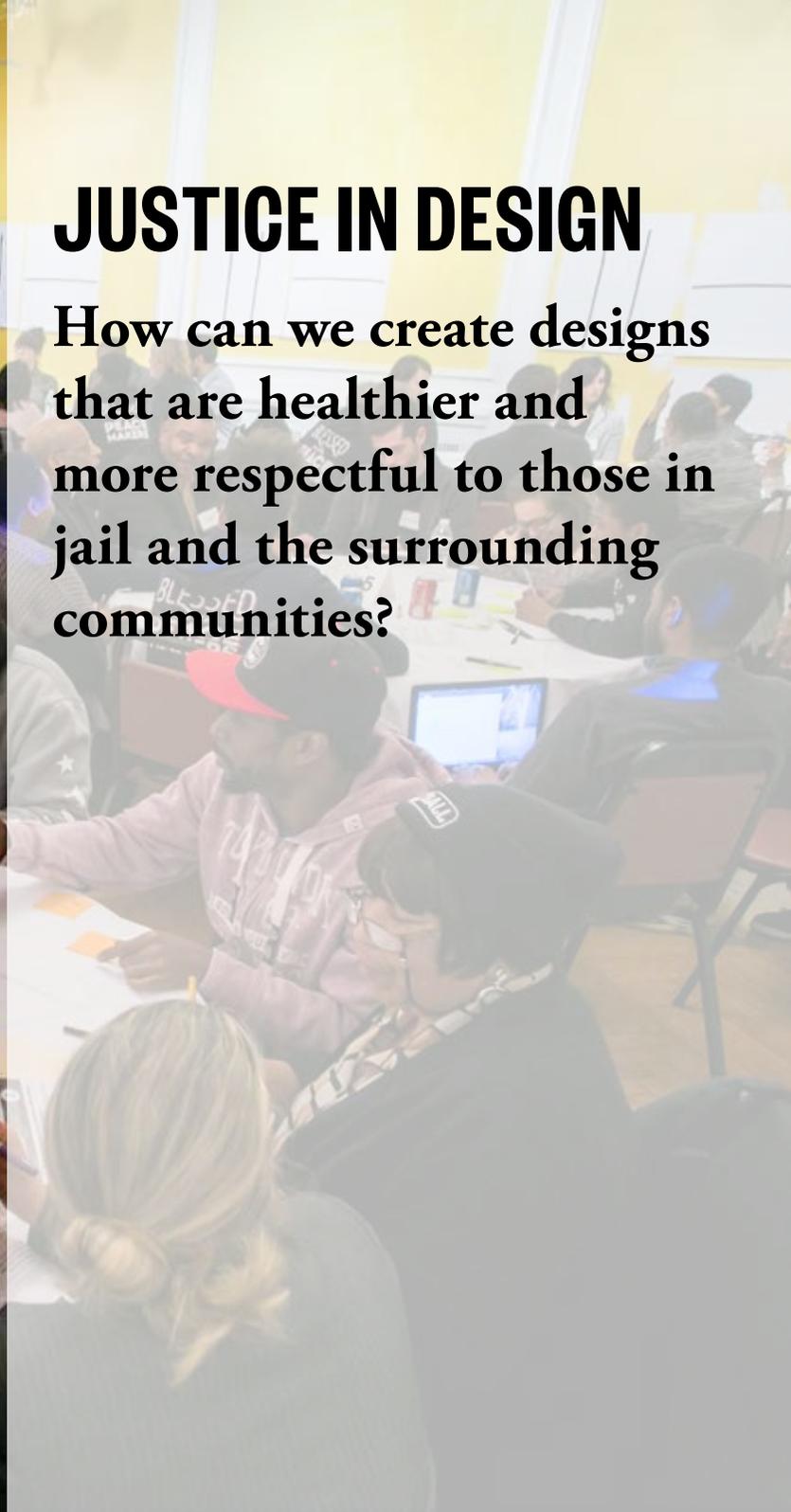


INSTITUTE



JUSTICE IN DESIGN

How can we create designs that are healthier and more respectful to those in jail and the surrounding communities?



**VAN
ALEN**

KEEPING CURRENT

INSTITUTE

**VAN
ALEN**



KEEPING CURRENT

Location

Miami, Florida

Goal

Create visionary but implementable/
replicable design interventions



INSTITUTE



ADVISORS

Christina De Concini

Director, Government Affairs, World Resources Institute

Nicole Hernandez Hammer

Biologist and Environmental Justice Advocate

Stuart Kennedy

Consultant, Sub-Culture

Jesse Keenan (Project Advisor Chair),

Faculty of Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design

Caroline Lewis

Founder, The Cleo Institute

David Martin

President, Terra

Jayantha Obeysekera

Research Professor and Director,
Sea Level Solutions Center at
Florida International University

**VAN
ALEN**

LISTEN

INSTITUTE



INTERVIEWS

Spoke with over 100 individuals in government, for-profit, non-profit sector as well as community members.

- **No more ideas competitions!**
- Need to bring in
 - University of Miami
 - University of Florida
 - Florida Atlantic University
 - Florida International University



INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC SUMMIT



KEEPING CURRENT RESOURCE GUIDE



RESOURCE GUIDE

Compiled information from interviews and convening.

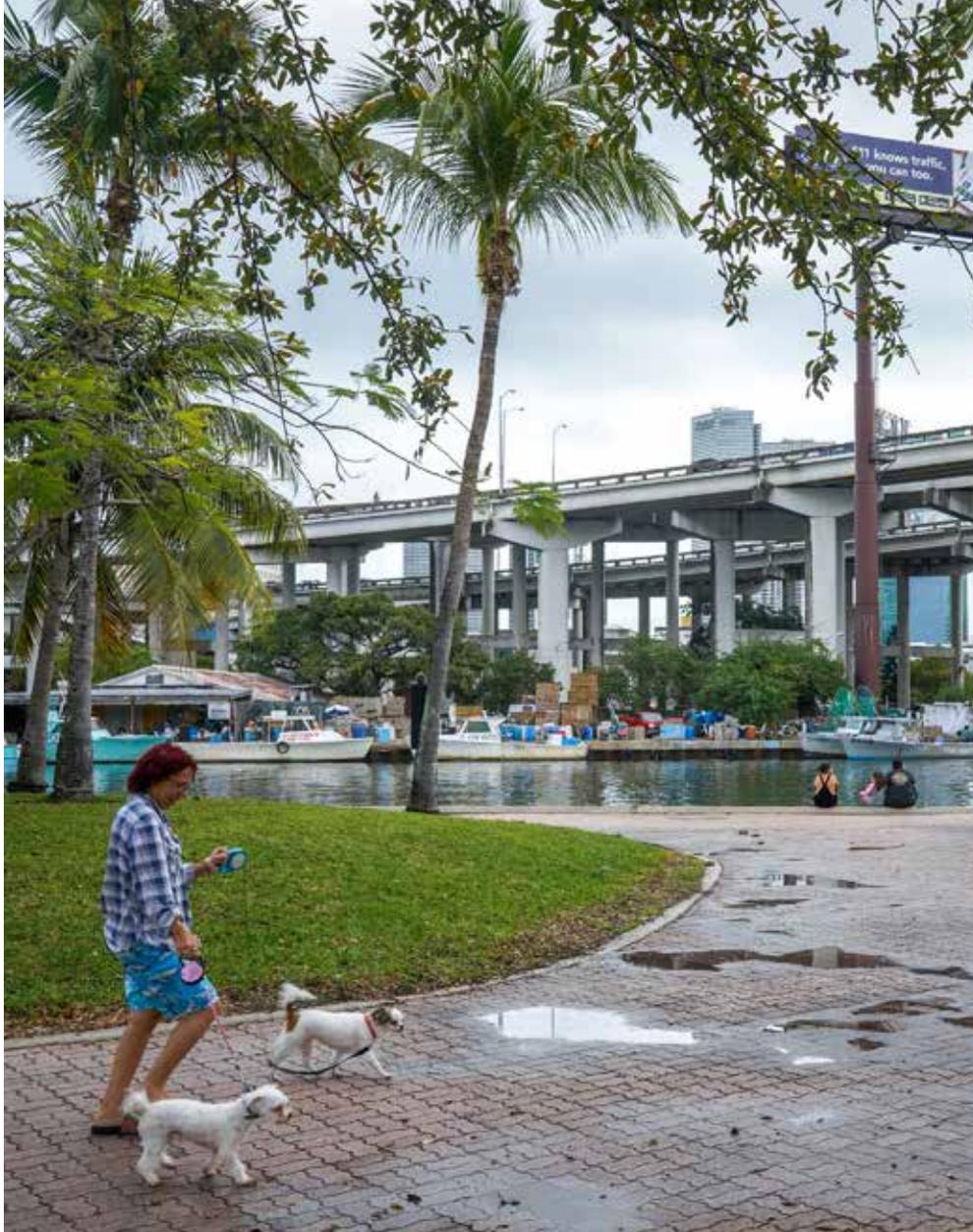
What should future designs and infrastructure make sure to incorporate?

- Invest in stormwater management systems that have long-term benefits
- Change building codes to reduce the impacts of flooding
- Invest in public transportation and raised roadways
- Use parks as a way to mitigate flooding

**VAN
ALEN**

IDEATE

INSTITUTE



CITY OF MIAMI

Create a climate adaptive park with replicable solutions for river and coastal conditions

Collaborators & Participants:

- City of Miami
 - Resilience Team
 - Planning Department
 - Procurement
- Urban Impact Lab
- Project Outreach Team
- Peer Review Group
- Design Team

**VAN
ALEN**

CITY OF MIAMI

INSTITUTE





CITY OF MIAMI

“We hope that along with these projects, Miami’s resilience bond will become a catalyst for greater private sector investment and innovation in climate adaptation. We also hope it will spur similar initiatives in coastal cities around the globe.”

**-Francis Suarez
Mayor of Miami**



NORTH MIAMI

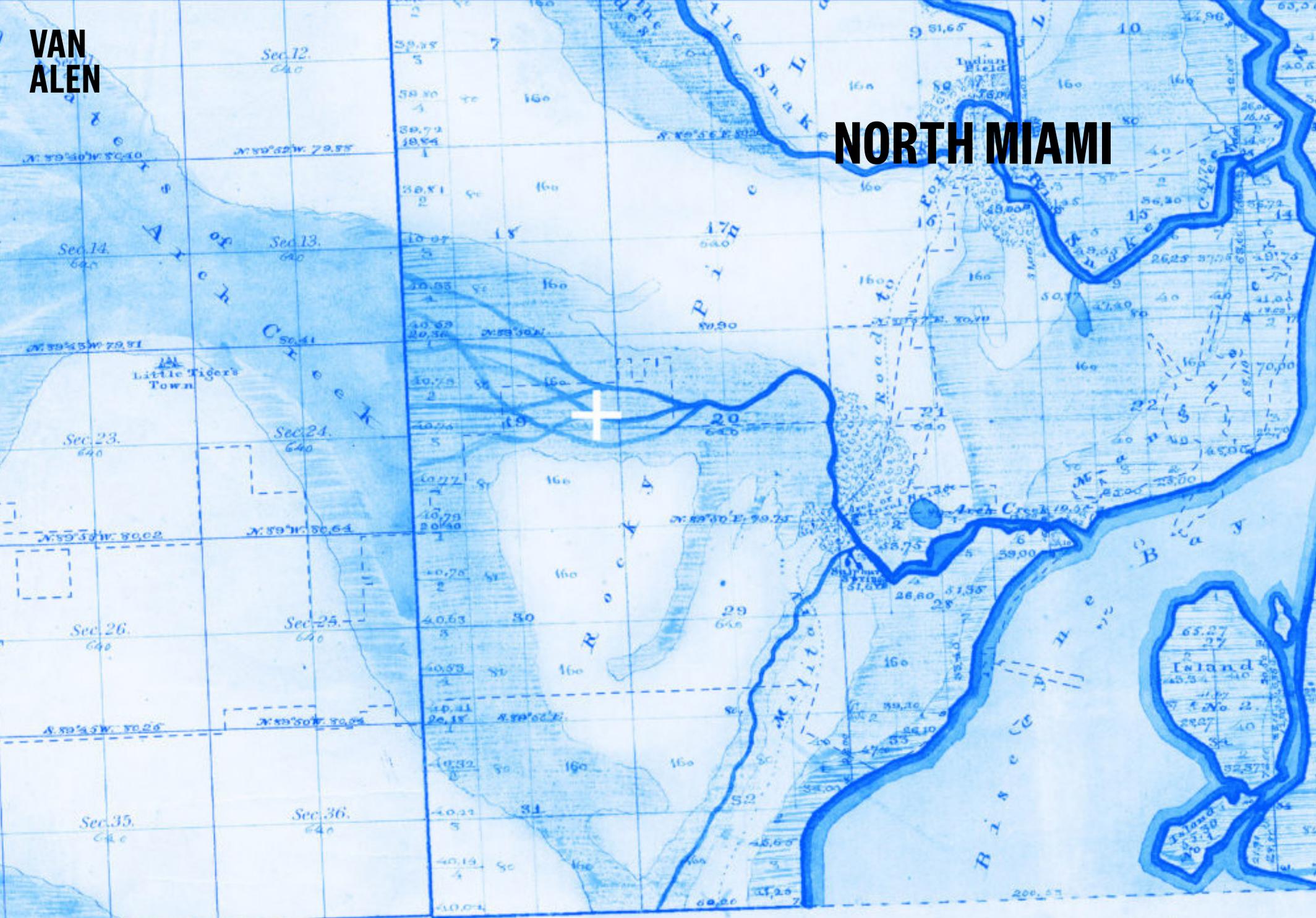
Develop a master plan and demonstration project for repetitive loss properties

Collaborators & Participants:

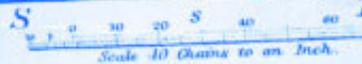
- City of North Miami
 - Community Planning and Development
 - Public Works
 - Parks Department
 - Procurement Office
- Urban Impact Lab
- Design Team
- Project Outreach Team
- Jury

VAN
ALEN

NORTH MIAMI



R INSTITUTE



Total Area 1478.51 Acres.

Survey Designated	By whom surveyed	Date of Contract	Amount of Surveys	When Surveyed
South Boundary	George McKay	18 th February 1845	Ac. Ch. 49 th 50	April 1845
				May 6 th 1870

Me
the
ap

**VAN
ALEN**

NORTH MIAMI

INSTITUTE



**VAN
ALEN**

NORTH MIAMI

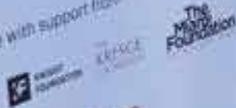
**KEEPING
CURRENT**

A project by

**VAN
ALEN**

INSTITUTE

Made possible with support from



INSTITUTE

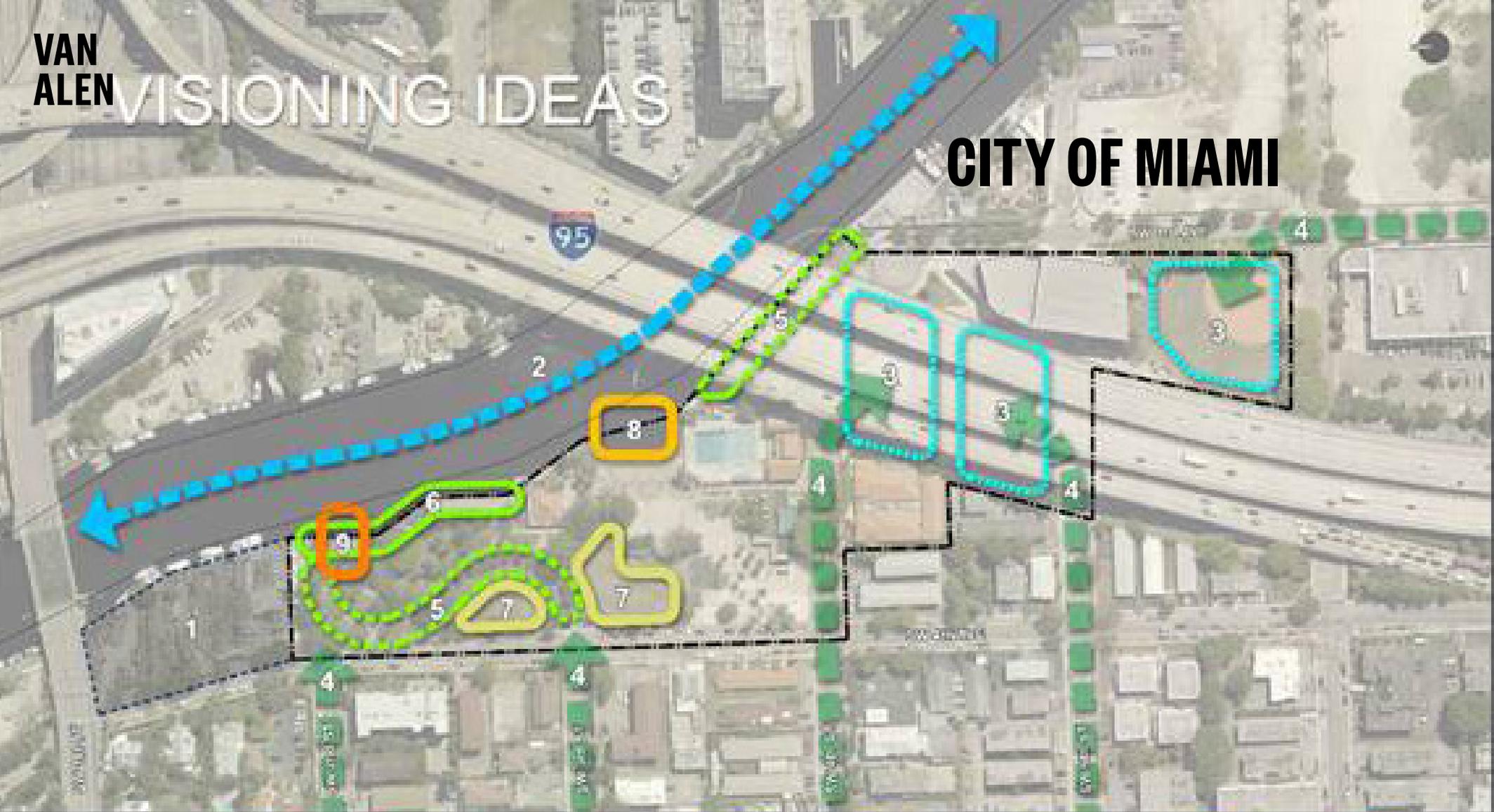
**VAN
ALEN**

IMPLEMENT

INSTITUTE

VAN ALLEN VISIONING IDEAS

CITY OF MIAMI



1 - PARK EXPANSION

2 - MIAMI RIVER

3 - RETROFIT WATER RETENTION AREAS

4 - GREEN DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

5 - PARKWAY

6 - LIVING SHORELINE

7 - RAISED LAWN AREAS

8 - WATER TAXI

9 - KAYAK LAUNCH RAMP





CITY OF MIAMI

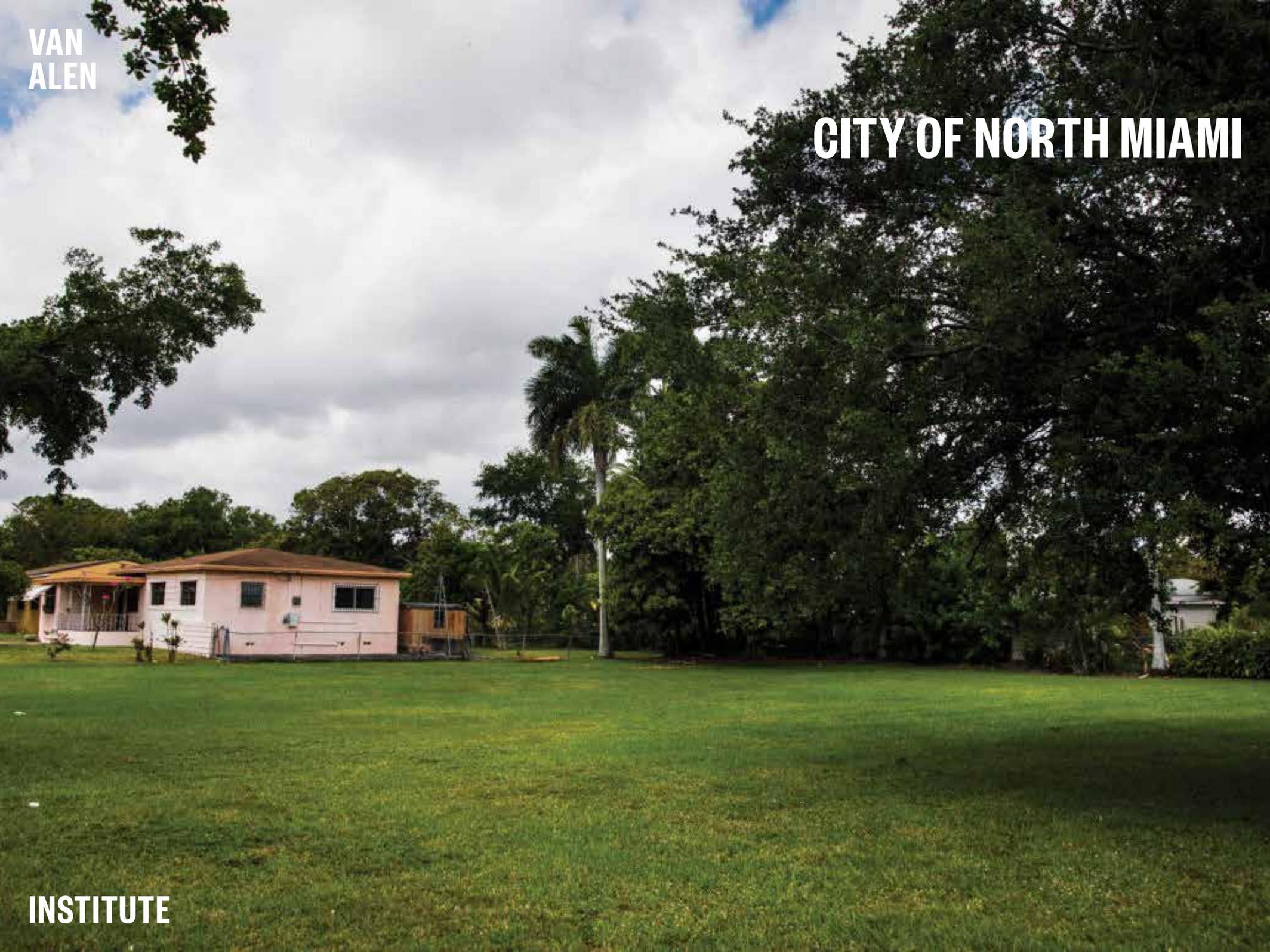
“South Florida is taking climate change seriously and working with Van Alen to bring the best minds to the table for how to protect our cities and citizens. Van Alen’s Resource Guide pulls together best practices and recommendations for how to plan, design, build, and maintain stronger, safer buildings, infrastructure, and landscapes to better serve everyone living in our coastal communities.”

**-Jane Gilbert, City of Miami
Chief Resilience Officer**

**VAN
ALEN**

CITY OF NORTH MIAMI

INSTITUTE



**VAN
ALEN**

CITY OF NORTH MIAMI



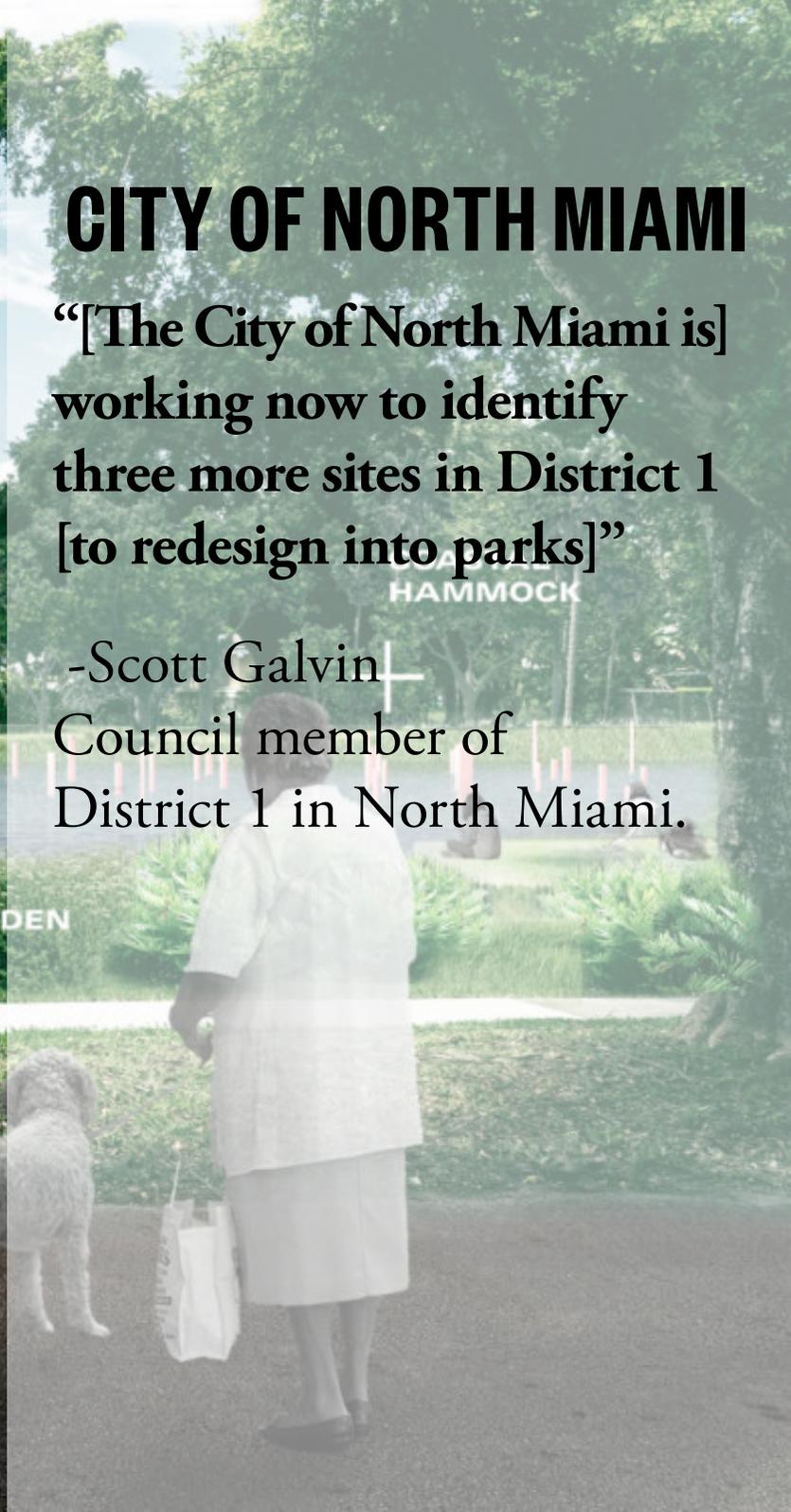
INSTITUTE



CITY OF NORTH MIAMI

“[The City of North Miami is] working now to identify three more sites in District 1 [to redesign into parks]”

-Scott Galvin
Council member of District 1 in North Miami.



**VAN
ALEN**

AMPLIFY

INSTITUTE



CLIMATE DESIGN LAB

Two 3-Week Paid
Summer High School Program

- Climate Education
- Design Thinking
- Lectures from over
20 Climate Leaders

VAN
ALEN

CLIMATE DESIGN LAB



INSTITUTE



CLIMATE DESIGN LAB

“It’s been absolutely pivotal in shaping my future, and it’s helped light a fire in me that I thought I lost a few years ago.”

-Climate Design Lab 2018 Student



FESTIVAL

Three day festival to activate the public to advocate for climate adaptive solutions to climate change

- Showcasing innovative resilient designs
- Climate art pop-up, interactive installations, music in performances from local artists
- Exchange information between youth, and climate leaders





DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOP

- How might we encourage building innovation given the complexity and pace of regulatory change?
- How might we increase the government's capacity to get climate adaptive designs built faster?
- How might we enable responsive communication between government, developers, and communities?



NEXT STEPS

**VAN
ALEN**

THANK YOU

INSTITUTE