

MFA Collaborative Design + MA Design Systems Group Statement for Online Exhibition:

**By/With/For: Collaborative Design 2020**

As grad students in Collaborative Design and Design Systems, we are both curious and passionate about changing systems, shifting cultures, and transforming communities.

In our work it is important for us to begin with asking questions and listening to a plurality of voices and experiences. Our work creates connections and fosters design that is based in community-informed, participatory approach to exploring solutions. We share different design strategies to realize equity and justice in communities. We engage with and are inspired by collective action, ecology, adaptive systems, and their intersection with design.

There are many ways to collaborate and it's rarely easy to do. However, as designers seeking social change and innovation, we are committed to reimagining spaces between all of us where our ideas intersect and where there are opportunities for action. The COVID pandemic - which hit us just before we were set to graduate - had us pivot in many unfamiliar ways and face a different reality. Yet this time is also offering an opportunity to reset and shape new ways of learning, and to usher in different systems and ways of being. If there was ever a time and need to harness our creativity and imagination to rebuild healthy and strong connections with each other, our communities and our environment, it is now.