



***PUBLIC ART COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***  
***SOUTHEAST LANCASTER***  
***FUTURE VISIONS FROM 2018***

**Josh Graupera**

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# WHAT IS PACE?

Public Art Community Engagement (PACE) pairs artists with neighbors to define future public art projects that fit wants, needs, and desires of the people that will see or use them the most through art-making-centered conversations.

## PACE WORKS IN PHASES

### PHASE ONE (CONVERSATIONS)

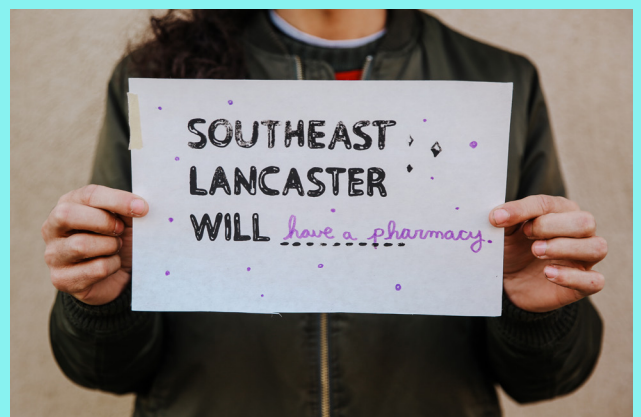
Critical questions about what makes a community, a home, a neighborhood will anchor the discussions. Through this interaction, areas for improvement and ideas are identified by participants, as well as ways to bolster projects already in the making.

### PHASE TWO (PROJECT BUILDING)

In the years to follow, Lancaster Public Art will implement public art projects based on the community input.

### PHASE THREE (EVALUATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS)

Artists again work with the community to assess the effectiveness of the new projects and gather more input for future.



## ***ABOUT PACE SOUTHEAST: APRIL-DECEMBER 2018***

Last summer and fall, PACE artist, Josh Graupera, a Lancaster-born, Philadelphia-based artist initiated artistic gatherings and workshops in Southeast Lancaster, asking residents to contemplate:

**“What places in your community would you like to transform or enhance with art?”**

**“How has your neighborhood helped shape you/your community?”**

**“How does your culture or traditions influence your community? Your home?”**

**“What resources and structures does your neighborhood need to flourish?”**

Their answers were collected and used to inform the planning of future projects. Over eight months and through over 20 events and pop-ups, Graupera spoke with hundreds of residents and compiled the data into the following report.

Working with six organizations (Crispus Attucks, San Juan Bautista, Hillrise Mutual Housing Agency, Lancaster Housing Authority, The Mix at Arbor Place, Community Action Partnership) and Lancaster Public Art, Josh hosted a series of arts celebrations to generate a future vision for art, culture and service in Southeast Lancaster. In June and July, PACE hosted four celebrations: June 25th, at Crispus Attucks, July 9th at The Lancaster Housing Authority (in collaboration with Hillrise Apartments), July 16th at San Juan Bautista and July 18th at The Mix at Arbor Place.

Each celebration had its own theme; chosen based on the services of the sponsoring organization, their history and the constituents they serve. In addition to these celebrations, pop-up engagements happened at different events: Crispus Attucks Food Bank, San Juan Bautista Festival, Annual Day and Celebrate Lancaster.

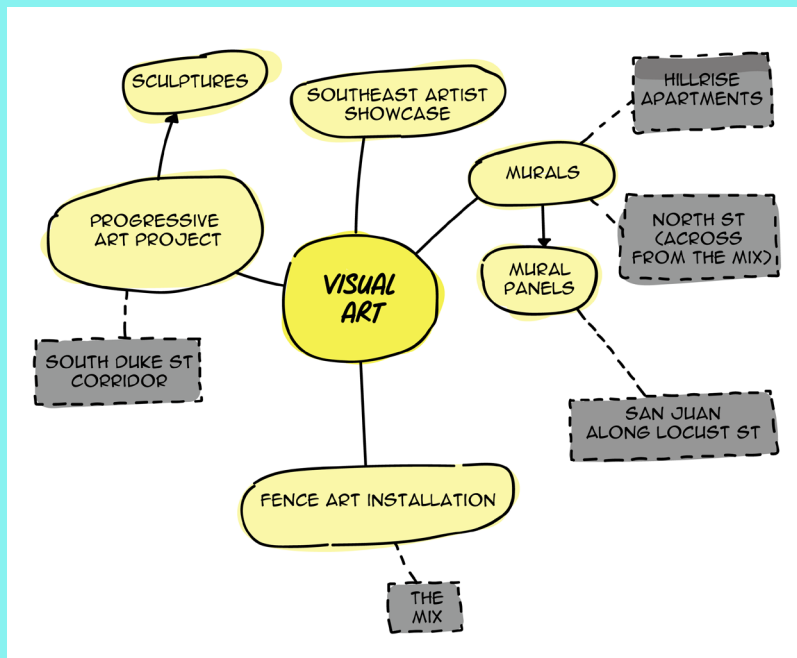
From October - December 2018, artist Josh used a roving pushcart, inspired by piragua carts used by local Latinx entrepreneurs selling water ice and fruits, as a way to further community-centered dialogue. Josh worked from the cart at various community events and also roamed the streets in Southeast Lancaster to start conversations with neighbors there. The cart opened to become a printmaking station and served as a community art-making hub.

In the spring of 2019, Josh organized data in hopes that the information could spark a series of conversations, projects, programs and services within and around Southeast Lancaster. The following pages are the result of this yearlong exploration.

# THE DATA

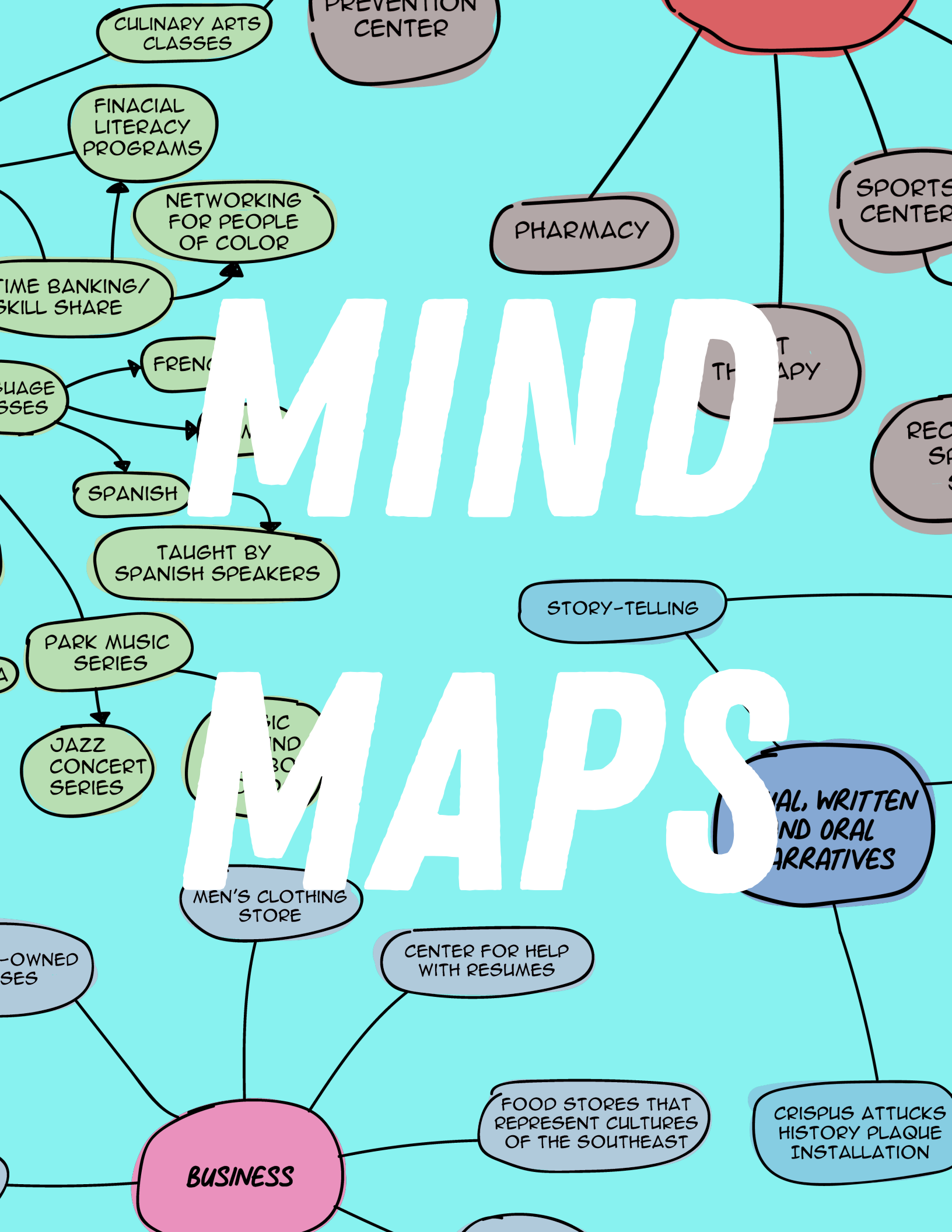
This data serves as a broad investigation of what residents in Lancaster's Southeast neighborhood hope to see in the future. Over 100 unique ideas emerged from hundreds of conversations and artistic gestures. This data can be useful for both organizations & institutions and individuals & stakeholders who invest a significant part of their lives to this neighborhood. Unique ideas were recorded and organized into the following categories: **Visual Art, Business, Transportation, Safety, Community Health, Arts and Culture Infrastructure, Food Access, Agriculture and Energy, Visual and Written Narratives, and Programming.**

**Mind Maps** were made to illustrate the ideas that fell into each category. A mind map is a tool used to organize information in a visual way. The map is hierarchical and shows relationships among pieces of the whole. It is often created around a broad topic or single idea, drawn as an image in the center of a blank page. Smaller and associated representations of ideas are added, from general to specific.



**Mind maps** begin at a central point and connect to ideas, which connect to tangential ideas. In these maps, **arrows** will point to smaller ideas. **Dotted lines** indicate if a location was in mind when suggesting an idea.

The maps in the following pages represent ideas that were expressed once or even a dozen times. Some of these ideas may not perfectly fit into the categories they are assigned to, and some may be compatible with ideas in other maps. Individuals and organizations alike are encouraged to use this data as a reference when looking to start a new project, support an existing one or wondering if folks in the neighborhood have the same ideas you do.



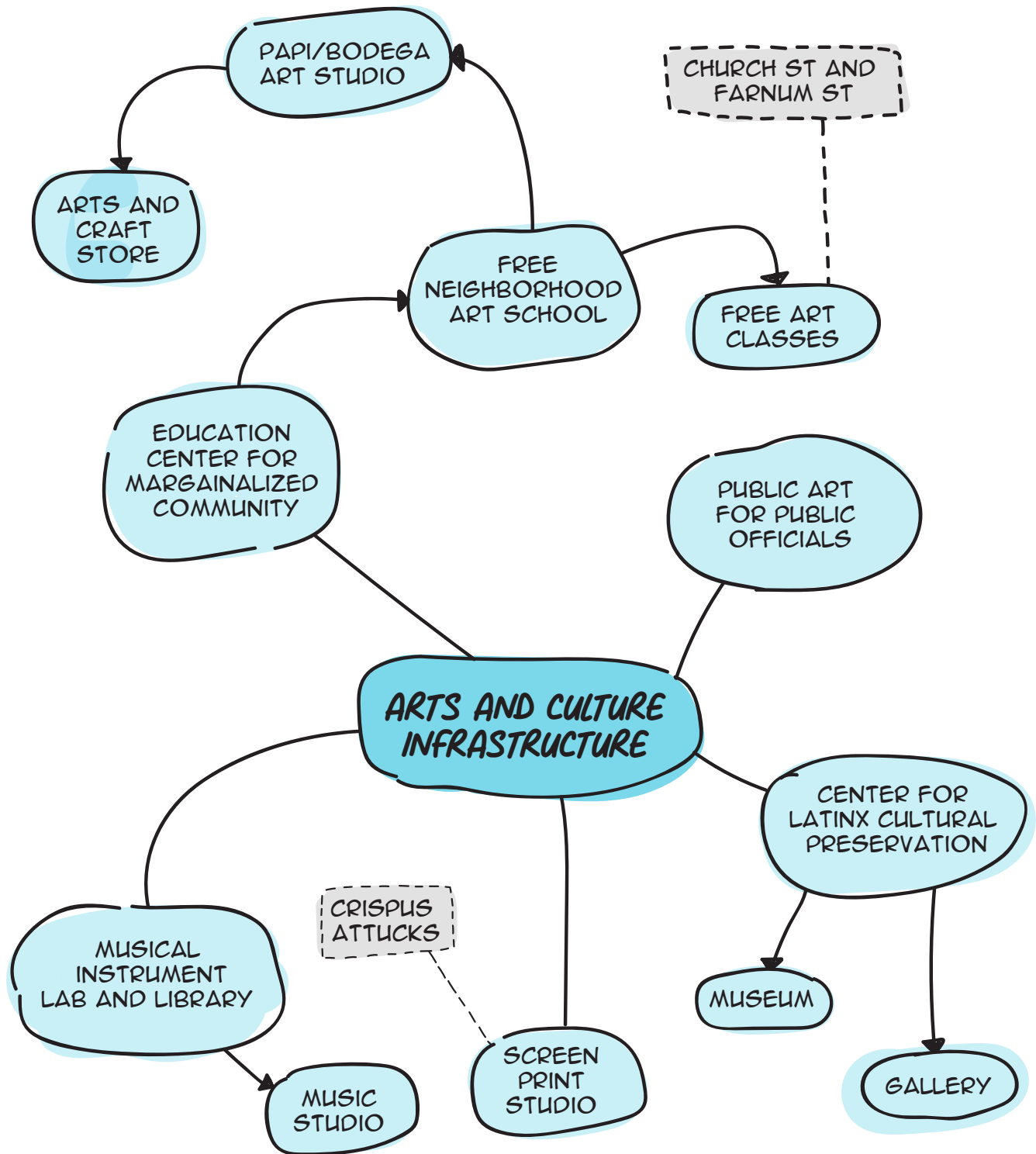
# COMMUNITY HEALTH



**Community Health** is the heartbeat of a neighborhood. It's the foundation that allows every other sector to thrive. Above is a collection of ideas related to physical & mental health, prevention and communal support.



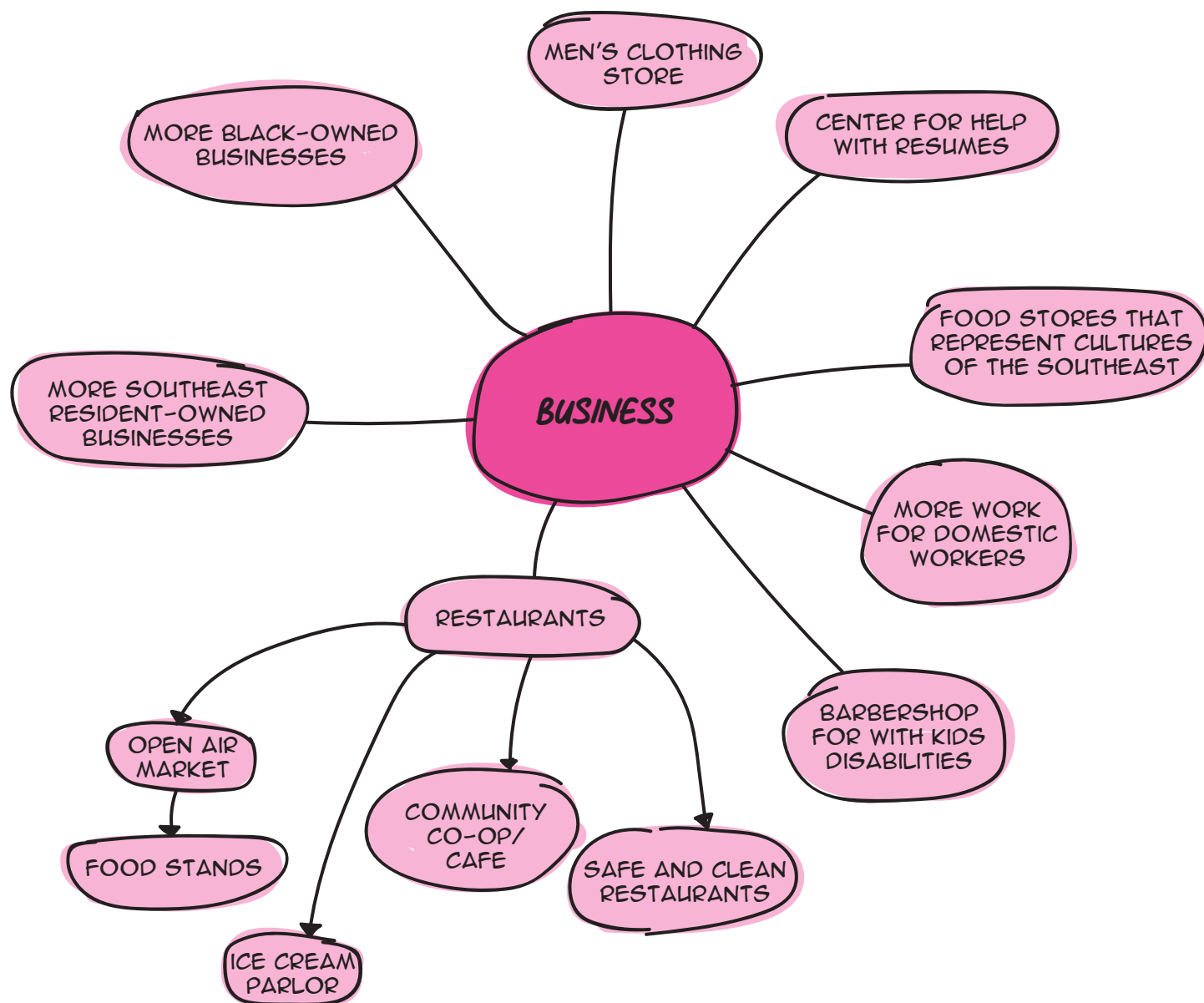
# ARTS AND CULTURE



**Arts and Culture** has a long history in Southeast Lancaster. The Southeast is the most diverse area of the city. The ideas above focus on the 'brick and mortar' or physical structures that can support programming and access to artistic and cultural practices.



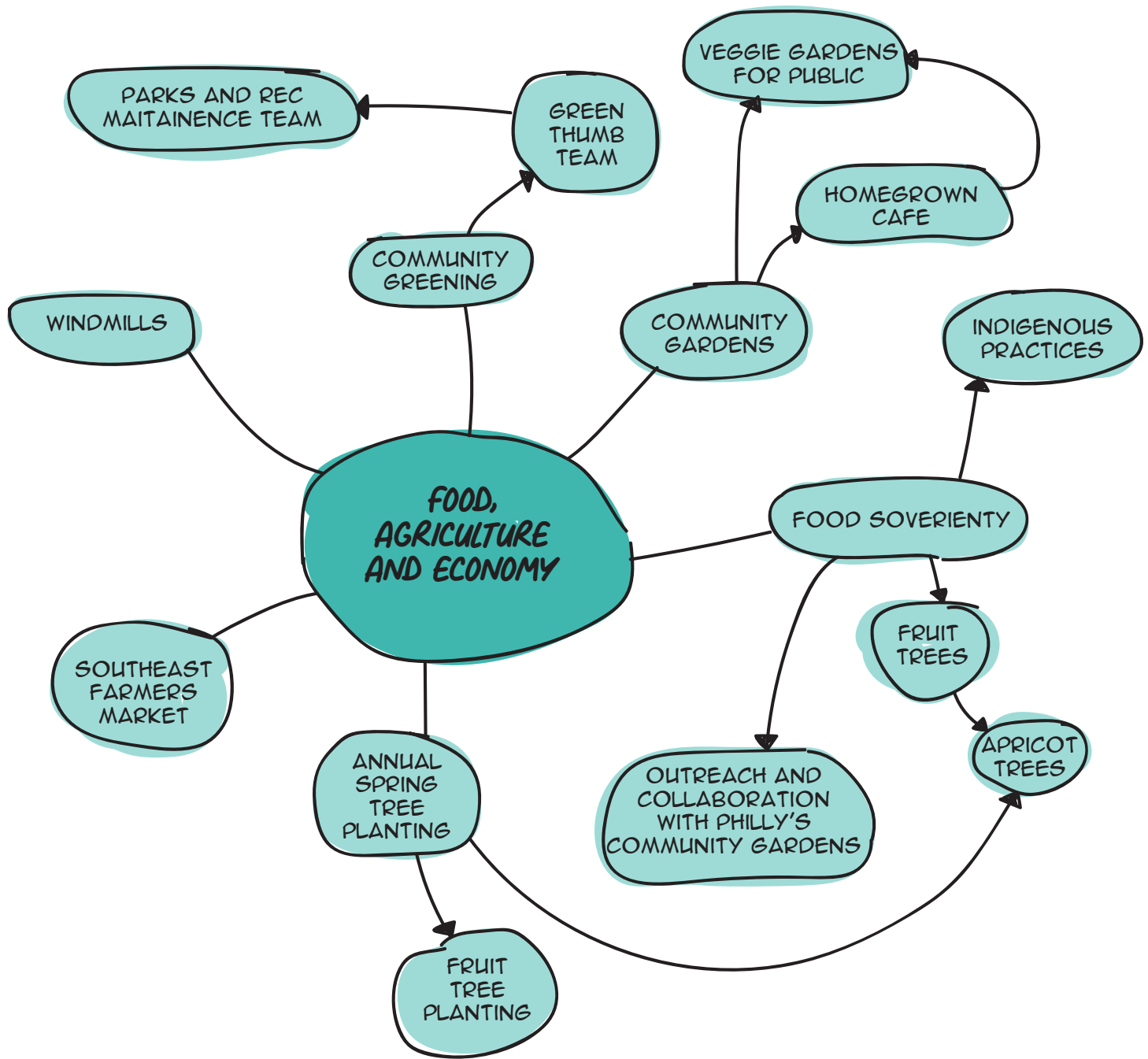
# BUSINESS



**Business** is an important part of any community. Having diverse businesses near your home can improve the economic, physical and mental health of a neighborhood-at-large. Many of the ideas in this section can be combined with ideas in **Arts and Culture Infrastructure** and **Food, Agriculture and Energy** to create a business model that also contributes to the overall well-being of their patrons.

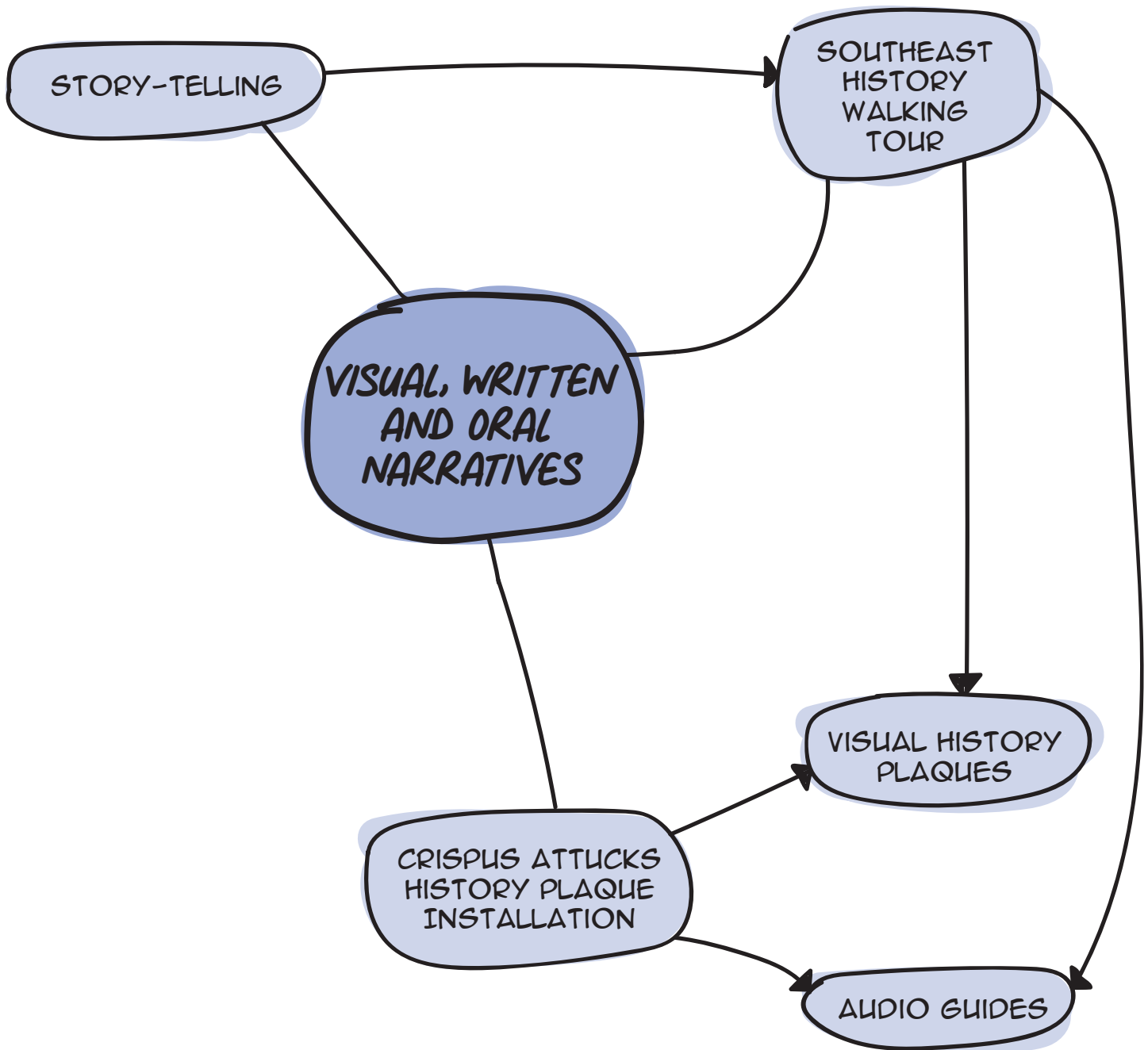
There are already great businesses in the Southeast; you can get your groceries, buy electronics, get a haircut and refill your prescription just along Duke St. But it's hard to shop for clothes. Some of the country's most vibrant neighborhoods have a business for everything you can think of, and Southeast Lancaster could be one of them. Many folks want to see businesses owned by people who live in the Southeast and that represent the cultures of the neighborhood. And of course, more businesses create jobs and increase the amount of money that comes into the area.

# FOOD AND ENERGY



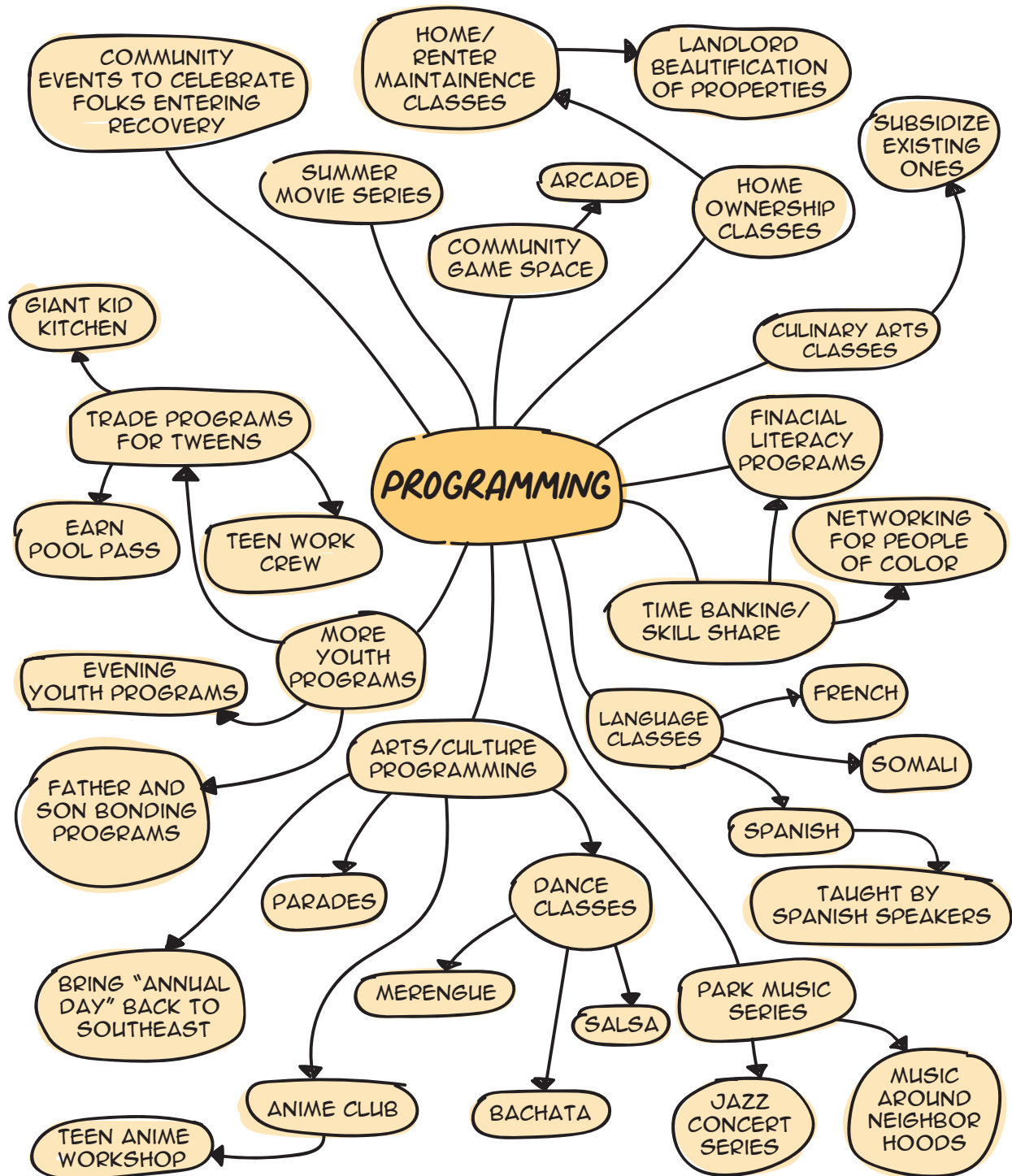
**Food and Agriculture** is one of the largest economies in Lancaster County. Above are a series of ideas that increase access to local produce, healthy food and environmental practices that connect to indigenous roots. Zoom out a little bit, and a singular answer for **energy** emerges, windmills.

# NARRATIVES



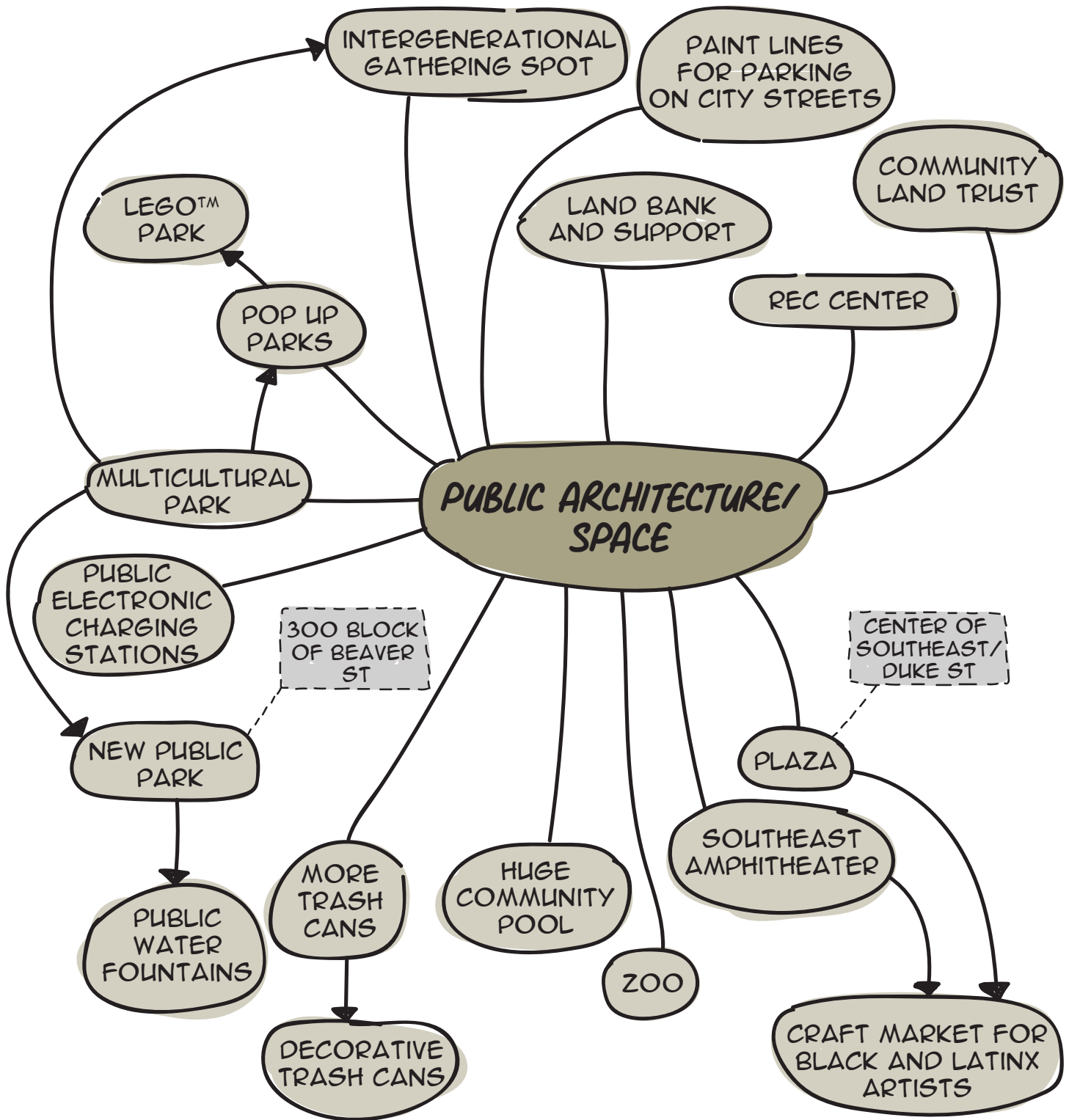
**Visual, Written and Oral Narratives** guide the way we understand the past & present and inform the future of places we live and the people & moments that have shaped our collective experience in those neighborhoods. We all know something about where we live and these stories should be recorded. Some of these ideas already exist (ex: Crispus Attucks History Plaques) and could use more support and more stories!

# PROGRAMMING



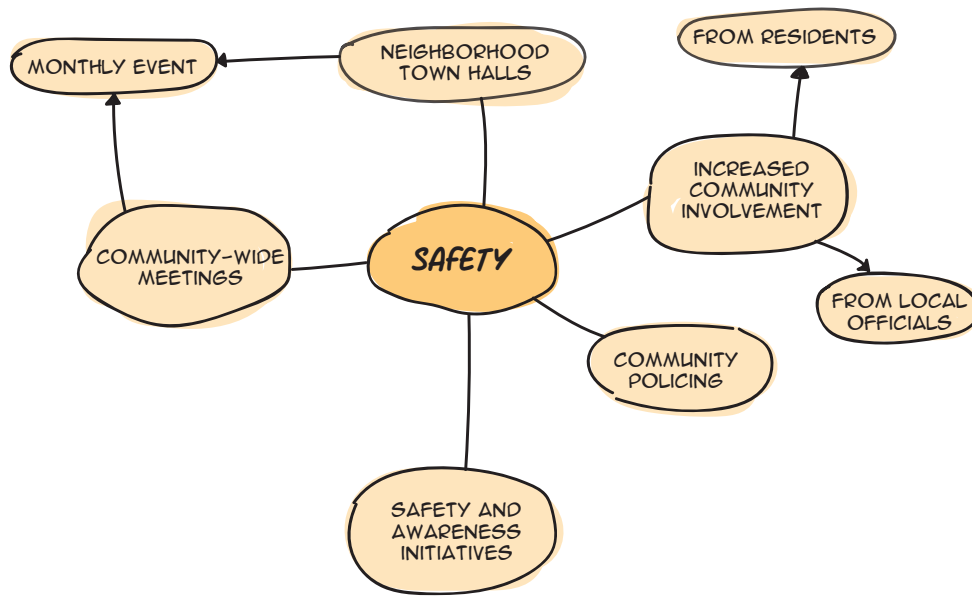
**Programming** is by far the largest category. That means more folks expressed a desire or need for an event, class or program more often than anything else. What is exciting about this is that a) programming does not require the same massive investments in time and resources it takes to run an organization and b) there are a lot of community spaces already available in the Southeast that are looking to support more programs and have the space to host events of all kinds.

# PUBLIC SPACE

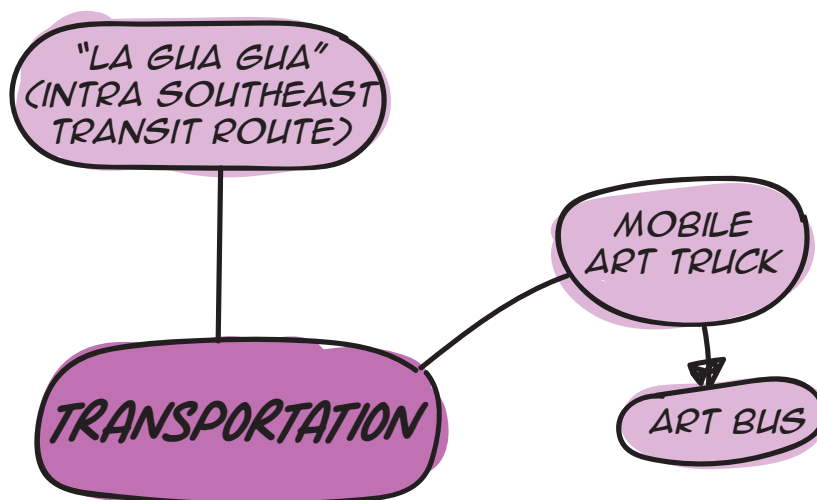


**Public Architecture/Space** is one of the most important parts of community cohesion. It's open to everyone, it's free and designed in ways to bring people together. Many city's accross the country are losing their public spaces to private development. The ideas offered in this group creates a primer for wanted architecture, littler control, ammenities and pop up events.

# SAFETY/TRANSPORT

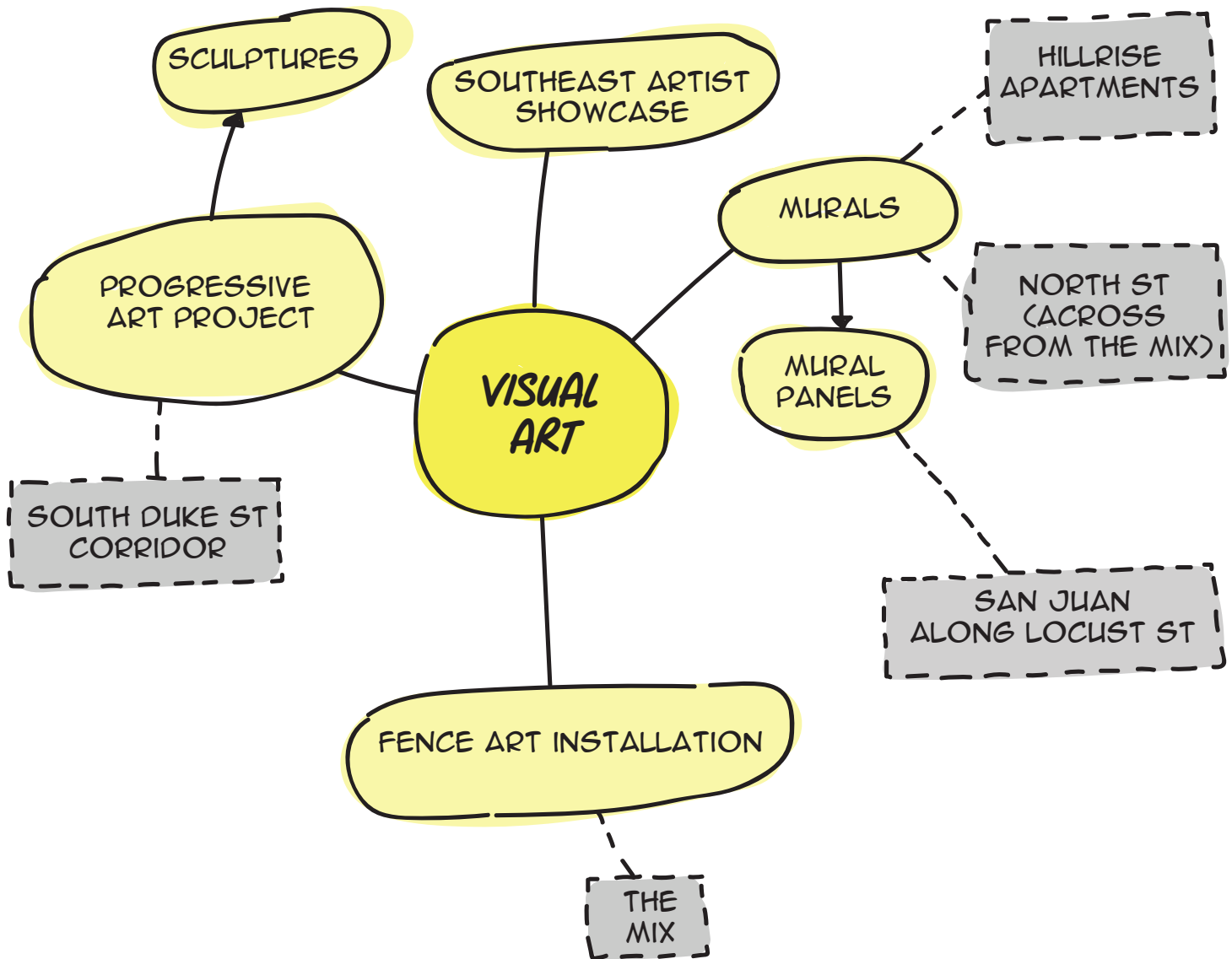


**Safety:** A sense of safety is crucial anywhere you go. Increased surveillance and policing may be one way to make a neighborhood feel 'safe', but an informed neighborhood can go a long way to creating a community that looks out for each other. This category offers ideas for more community contact with public officials, regular informational sessions for residents, and alternatives to traditional policing.



**Transportation:** Lancaster City is pretty small and walkable but many folks find themselves traveling throughout the larger county. Assuring a strong neighborhood **transportation** system in the Southeast allows people to easily move around the neighborhood and connect to the RRTA. A neighborhood-wide transit system allows greater movement for elderly and disabled residents.

# VISUAL ART



**Visual Art** is the outward expression of all of the other categories before it. It represents what we think our community is and what it can be. Murals, sculptures and installation boost pride and confidence in one's neighborhood, but it does not fix structural issues or deficiencies. Visual art can be combined to highlight and boost ideas in **Public Space, Food and Agriculture, Business and Community Health**. Visual Art projects can also be combined with work-ready programs that provide professional development trainings.



## TAKEAWAYS/CONCLUSION

It's pretty easy to see that the collective vision for the future of Southeast Lancaster would transform it into a paradise, and there's no reason it shouldn't happen. There are 12,000 people in this quadrant of the city who can make this vision a reality. There are so many organizations, groups, churches and business who are already invested and are continuing to invest in the neighborhood they serve. With growing interest from local institutions and government programs, it absolutely possible to develop this paradise, as long as it's directed by the people who live there.

From infrastructure to resources and programming, the varieties and combinations are endless. Programming by far is the largest category, which is great because the neighborhood is rich with groups and organizations who have space to host many of these programs. There's also a lot of concern and excitement around public space & community gardens and both are spaces where additional programming can happen.

Some ideas may already exist. A few examples:

*Crispus Attucks has an existing History Plaque Installation. However, residents requested that additions be made and an audio component included to make the history more accessible.*

*SACA's Tec Centro offers low-cost culinary arts classes for folks wanting to enter the field. Supporting this program and SACA could allow them to create additional classes for the public and continue to subsidize these programs.*

*Brother's SuperMAX and Brother's International Grocery provide multicultural foods but it doesn't represent all of the cultures in the area. Which means, there's still plenty of opportunities for other markets, food stands and food production in the neighborhood.*

Some of these categories can be combined to create a dynamic new program, organization or service. For example:

*Art Therapy from the Community Health category can be combined with Mobile Arts Truck from the Transportation category to create a mobile art therapy program that can provide arts and mental health services to folks who don't have access to them. Planned Parenthood created a similar mobile health clinic with an unlikely partnership with the Keith Harring Foundation to increase access to health services in The Bronx.*

*A Drug Prevention Center can sponsor a mural created through a work-ready program. Mural Art Program of Philadelphia does this all the time.*

All of the ideas in this report are can happen as long as there's a community to support and invest in them. Individuals and organizations should use their imagination while combing through this data. And keep in mind that building this paradise is absolutely **possible!**

## LINKS

Josh Graupera | PACE

<http://www.joshgraupera.com/pace/>

Lancaster Public Art | PACE

<https://www.lancasterpublicart.com/pace/>

Michelle Johnsen Photography

<https://www.lancasterphotocollective.com/Michellejohnsenphotography>

Silas Crews | Portfolio

<http://www.silascrows.com/>

Lina Sejio Photography

[www.sejiophotography.com/](http://www.sejiophotography.com/)

The Mix at Arbor Place

<https://arborplace.org/>

Crispus Attucks Community Center

<https://caplanc.org/our-programs/safety-empowerment/crispus-attucks-community-center/>

San Juan Bautista

<https://sanjuanbautistalancaster.com/>

Community Action Partnership

<https://caplanc.org/>

Lancaster Housing Authority

<https://www.lchapa.com/>

Hillrise Mutual Housing Association

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Real-Estate/HillriseApartments/about/>

Brightside Church

<https://brightsidebc.org/>

Spanish American Civic Association

<http://www.sacapa.org/>

## THANKS

Thanks to Lancaster Public Art for their support on this project. A huge thanks to Salina Almanzar for helping co-facilitate the workshops. Thanks to Victoria Lang for helping set up each event. And gigantic thanks to Crispus Attucks Community Center, San Juan Bautista, The Mix at Arbor Place, Hillrise Mutual Housing Authority, The Lancaster Housing Authority, the Spanish American Civic Association, Brother's Grocery and Brightside Church for hosting me and providing a space for this work. Thanks to Lina Sejio, Michelle Johnsen and Silas Crews for documenting the work. Lastly, thank you so much to all of the people that took time to make art, leave their stories, and who helped make this project possible.



Josh Graupera is a Philadelphia-based artist and activist. His practice explores the relationship between visual art and community organizing, using painting, screen printing and socially-engaged processes. Josh is an Arts and Media organizer with Stadium Stompers, a worker-owner of Bonfire Media Collective, and the Operations Assistant at YallaPunk.

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture  
BFA Millersville University