“In situ” – Structural, Scalable, Sustainable – Place-based Changes in Multiple Cities
Community Input and Early Trials

Significant drop in heart rate when in view of newly greened lots

“You got to watch yourself walking past the lots because you don’t know who’s out there.”

“It’s not safe walking past [abandoned homes] because the one across from me looks like it’s getting ready to cave in.”

“If I could change things I would. There wouldn’t be so many vacant lots [and] abandoned houses.”
Greening Vacant Lots

- Significant -8% drop in gun violence
- Every $1 invested returns $26.00

n = 4,436  
Before  
After

n = 13,308  
Before  
After

Branas 2011/2016
Fixing Abandoned Buildings

n = 676

Before

After

n = 676

Before

After

• Significant -39% drop in gun violence
• Every $1 in returns $5.00

Kondo 2015, Branas 2016
Active federally funded RCTs

Vacant Lots
n ≈ 600

Cleaning + Greening + Maintenance
Cleaning + Maintenance
Control Lots

Abandoned buildings
n ≈ 300

Cleaning + Building + Maintenance
Cleaning + Maintenance
Control Buildings

Grant nos. R01AA020331, R01AA024941, R49CE002474
Significant vacant lot RCT results

- 28% Nuisance Crimes
- 17% Firearm Assaults
+39% Share Neighbors’ Values
+68% Go Outside More
+47% Relax Outside More
-45% Report That Vandalism Is Common
-40% Report There Is a Lot of Crime
-46% Self-Report Depression
-16% Self-Report Mental Illness