

COLLAB



A DUSP laboratory for action research, collaboration and innovation
with marginalized communities of color

THIS MOMENT



CLIMATE
CHANGE



RISING
INEQUALITY



MULTI-RACIAL
INEQUALITY

THIS MOMENT

By 2030,

without drastic reduction in CO₂ emissions, climate change will accelerate, exacerbating challenges from stressed ecosystems, aging infrastructure, and economic inequality.

\$30 trillion

will be inherited by white families over the next 30 years – **the biggest wealth transfer in history**. If current trends continue, during the same period, the **median wealth of Black and Latinx families will fall to zero**—just as they are becoming the population majority, leaving little economic power to drive the overall economy.

By 2035

there won't be a single racial or ethnic majority in the US, yet our political system is ill-prepared to incorporate diverse voices and forge agreement on major policy issues, e.g., healthcare, environment, gun control, and debt.

COLAB HELPS **DUSP RESPOND**



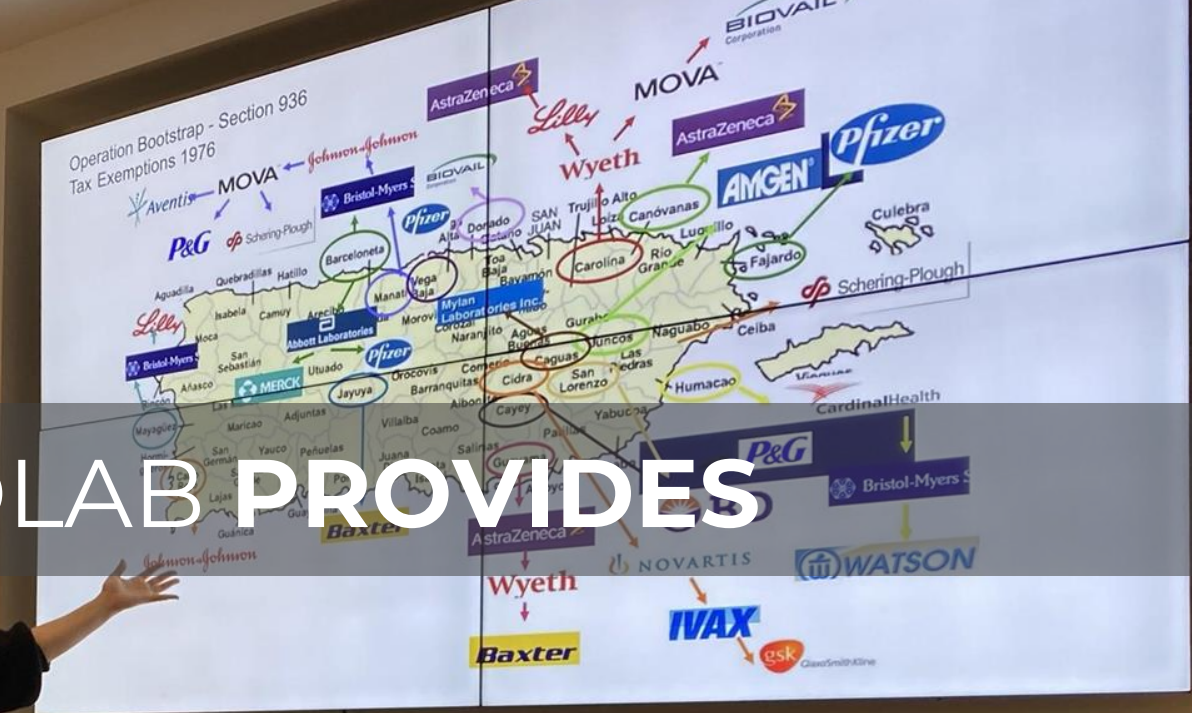
CoLab is DUSP's action research and development lab that guides students in hands-on immersion in marginalized communities on the front lines of change. **Our method is innovation from the margins:** Pairing insights of communities facing systems failure with the technical expertise of MIT faculty + students.



We provide students opportunities to **explore the workings of institutions and systems through multi-sector efforts to change them.**

EXPL
BROO

Operation Bootstrap - Section 936
Tax Exemptions 1976



COLAB PROVIDES



COLAB PROVIDES

Immersive community engagement to learn the skills and methods for collaboration with marginalized groups

Carefully chosen cases with potential to promote reform and innovation

A specific commitment to addressing race-based exclusion and violence

Reflective practice to “create a sense of professional self-examination”

Theory and epistemology of creating knowledge with marginalized communities

Self-assessment rubrics to help students evaluate the impact of practice-based work on their educational experience

Opportunities to democratize indigent communities' access to professional planning support by tapping student desire for hands-on work



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Conducted market research for the BronXchange marketplace that connects Bronx institutions and non-profits with high road local businesses to localize procurement and build wealth
- Developed a popular education Economic Democracy Training Series to prepare Bronx residents for meaningful participation in shaping local economy
- Supported local participatory strategic planning efforts to address Bronx-wide community displacement threats



Bronx

- Conducted participatory action research with community to develop a credible alternative to proposed local hospital closure
- Report set the stage for \$1.2 billion state investment in “Vital Brooklyn” comprehensive health initiative
- Trained over 200 local high school and college students in community survey research and other PAR methods



Brooklyn

- Built a peer learning network of local entrepreneurs developing culture-based businesses in Afro-majority Pacific Region
- Supported local activist demands for racial equity in local development proposals in City of Buenaventura he wake of armed conflict and civic strikes



Colombia



Through its **Mel King Community Fellows** (MKCF) CoLab provides students first-hand exposure to some of the most exciting innovators working on critical issues of social inclusion in the Americas today. Four of CoLab's MKCFs have gone on to win MacArthur Fellowships.



88% of students surveyed said work with CoLab helped them apply classroom learning from their other courses to practice-based work

COLAB'S GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS



CONTACT



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