COMMUNITY CAPACITY: Des Moines is a vibrant city, with numerous strong grassroots food initiatives making large strides, particularly in terms of organization, production and distribution. As we continue to work with Des Moines, we will focus on better connecting these initiatives, creating neighborhood and municipal networks of agricultural urbanism tactics including: community and school gardens, food hubs, and local grocers through both programming and physical infrastructure amenities, i.e. alleyway designs, complete streets, and edible landscaping. The existing amenities and gaps will be analyzed to understand neighborhoods with strong local food systems that can bridge to neighborhoods that are lacking access to local food programming.

RESEARCH + ANALYSIS: Focus on connecting these initiatives to create neighborhood and municipal networks of agricultural urbanism tactics including. The maps confirmed opportunities for vacant land use, opportunities to connect with neighborhoods that are currently included in the low-income low access food atlas maps, and having creative strategies to grow food. From these conversations, the steering committee determined that a neighborhood(s) to focus on would be the new Viva East Bank!, a coalition of three neighborhoods in Des Moines: Capital Park, Capital East and Martin Luther King, shown in future pages.

PUBLIC INPUT: Des Moines had two public meetings, one within Viva East Bank and one focusing on the entire city of Des Moines. This led to a comprehensive understanding of where residents perceived opportunities of local food system development within their neighborhoods. The open house allowed for residents from organizations, neighborhoods, businesses, to express their interest and offer insight on potential sites for implementation. The Open House input was used to determine the tactic priorities for implementation.

TACTIC PRIORITIZATION:

High Impact: Low-Hanging Fruit
1. Eat Greater Des Moines: Awareness Campaign:
2. Manual/ Workshop Series:

High Impact: Medium-Term Goal
3. Public Edible Landscapes: Viva East Bank:
4. Food Box/ Food Hub Aggregation Analysis

High Impact: Long-Term Goal
5. Green House + Urban Farm: Viva East Bank: CDL + new entrepreneurial group