Create connections
The design project will emphasize relationships between this site, the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City and the Harlem African Burial Ground with their respective teams of scientists, architects, students and partners.

A documentary will be produced to tell the story of the Discovery of the Pine Street African Burial Ground and it being brought to light by the community, Growing Films will be documenting the design process.

Designing with teens
The Kingston YMCA Farm Project and KaN Landscape had already partnered successfully on a previous pilot design project in June 2019. Photos in this brochure illustrate the process.

The Pine Street African Burial Ground was protected in 2019 by the Kingston Land Trust in partnership with Harambee and in collaboration with Scenic Hudson.
The purpose is to create an educational methodology, an immersion into local history and culture, through investigative learning.

It will also support the students to inquire, through open discussions and the analysis of memorial precedents, the notion of “memorial site”.

How Memorials aim to symbolize the meaning related to the history of an event or a person/a culture to recall, celebrate, honor, or memorialize significant people, places, ideas, or events in its history.

Students will share with the community their immersion into history and investigative design.

Process

- All partners will launch the series with a kickoff event to present the overall project to the community.
- The design project will run weekly on Tuesdays, for 3 hours from November 2019 to March 2020
- Special guests will be presenting to the community on monthly events: Historians, archaeologists, architects...
- At the end of the sessions, the students will organize a community design charrette and present their work.

How to Design an African Burial Ground Memorial?

In the context of the acquisition of the Pine Street African Burial Ground, KaN, in partnership with Kingston YMCA Farm Project’s students, Harambee and the Kingston Land Trust propose to facilitate a series of design workshops in collaboration with the Kingston YMCA Farm Project’s students and the Kingston communities.

On account of the significant cultural and (hidden) historical legacy of the site and the inclusive and community-oriented design process, the series will be filmed by Growing Films to produce a documentary which would allow for a broader national conversation.

Could this be the preamble to Restorative Design?

The series of workshops will give the students the tools and skills to comprehend the process of site analyzing and planning, of evaluating existing conditions, constraints and assets to address a specific program within a site, and propose creative educated answers.

The team will launch the series with a public event to present the overall project to the community.

Throughout the series, special guests will be invited to share their knowledge and professional skills. Speakers would include: archaeologists, architects, historians...

The guests will present relevant projects to the students and encourage an interactive conversation with them as well as the community. The students will then present what they have learned to the community. There will be mini events throughout the design process to keep the community informed and engaged.

The workshops will be set up to stimulate their creativity and critical thinking, and will include the means and processes that lead to a successful project implementation, such as:

- How to invite/create interest in the community.
- How to convey information.

Students will share with the community their immersion into history and investigative design.