



Currents

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The Currents Project

Currents is the next phase of the SPICE Project (Synergizing Process Innovation for Climate and Equity). The name “Currents” represents the need for collaborative climate work to be aligned and responsive to the urgent and current needs frontline communities face, while also representing, metaphorically, the energy that makes an intelligent network work.

This project is a national collaborative effort that aims to develop place-based pilot projects which ultimately will transform economic, cultural, and political power to accelerate the transformation required to act on and create racially just climate action. This is done by addressing the conditions necessary for relationships between local government and frontline communities through an ecosystem of networks and institutions aligned and rooted in restorative and movement-accountable values and principles.

A summary of activities that will be covered by the Currents project:

1. An assessment across networks for resources, assets, leadership, and commitment to advance transformative place-based pilots in service to frontline communities.
2. Alignment on values, roles, goals, and commitment for collaborative service/support offerings to communities.
3. An ecosystem scan to identify potential place-based partners.
4. Co-design of the pilot project with local frontline communities.



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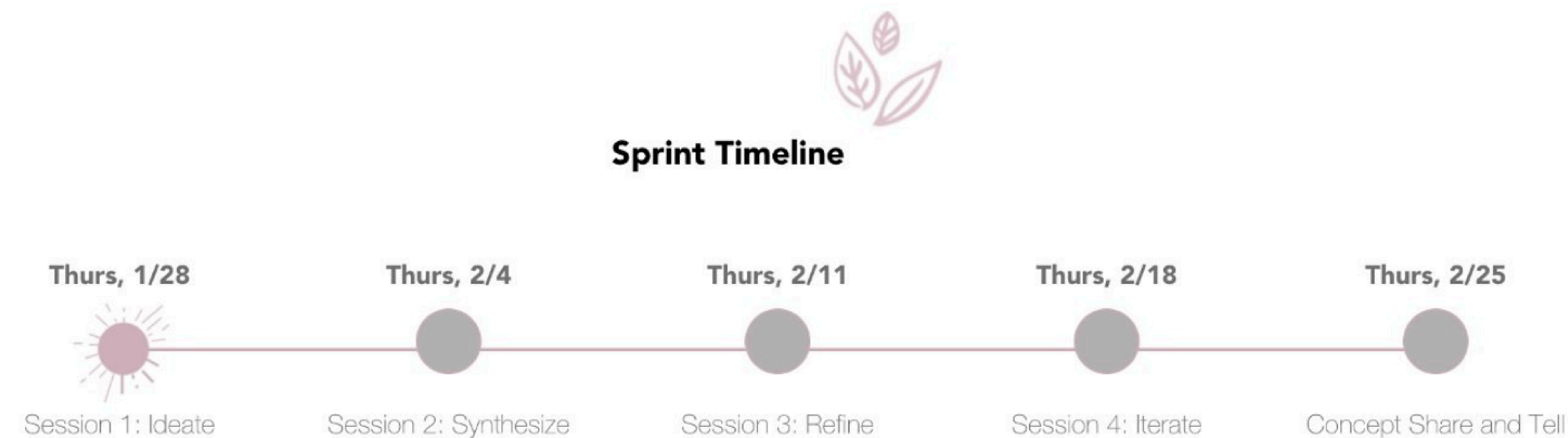
The SPICE Design Sprint

The SPICE Design Sprint was the culmination of several months of relationship building and alignment work. The SPICE group had been meeting together for several months, and realized that the best way to move our collective thinking into collective action was to engage in an intentional Design Sprint.

We gave ourselves a set amount of time (four weeks) in order to work in teams to innovate solutions around the challenge that we saw as the most pressing.

How might we design the conditions for relationships between local government and frontline communities that accelerate the power transformation required to create and act on racially just climate action?

Our design sprint took place over a four week period in early 2021.



Design Sprint Q&A

How did the Design Sprint work?

During our four-week Design Sprint, SPICE designers worked in small teams to refine a design concept that met the design challenge defined above. During each of the four sprint sessions, designers had a chance to convene and collaborate in order to ideate, synthesize, refine and iterate their design concept. We used an [innovation platform](#) to organize our sprint resources and materials, convened via a weekly web conference, and met as individual teams to move our work from early ideas to refined concepts.

Who was involved?

The original SPICE group included the following members:

- Corrine Van Hook-Turner (she/her), Movement Strategy
- Rosa Gonzalez (she/her), Facilitating Power
- Pandora Thomas (she/her), Movement Strategy
- Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish (she/her), Movement Strategy
- Sarah Quiroga (she/her), Movement Strategy
- Tracy Morgenstern (she/her), Urban Sustainability Directors Network
- Leah Obias (they/them), RaceForward
- Sasha Forbes (she/her), National Resources Defense Council
- Desiree Williams-Rajee (she/her), Kapwa Consulting
- Kimberly Powe (she/her), Kapwa Consulting
- Lukas M. Soto (they/them), Kapwa Consulting
- Minna Toloui (she/they), Kapwa Consulting
- Erin Stevanus (she/her), studio b:ask

What did the concepts have to do?

The concepts were to address the tensions & assumptions as well as integrate the design principles. Each team had to answer the following questions about their concept:

- How does the concept meet the design challenge?
- How does the concept address the design tensions?
- How does the concept apply design principles?
- What will it take for the design concept to be implemented (What are desired vs. minimum resources needed? What are other considerations that the team has used to define viability?)

How were the concepts evaluated?

During the final session of the design sprint, each team shared their concepts to the other SPICE designers.

Design Principles

Emergent design principles were developed by SPICE designers in recognition of what has and has not worked in past community-government relationships. These serve as both inspiration and instigation for the design challenge and will be incorporated into final concepts. [Click here to request a copy of the SPICE Design Principles.](#)

Tensions & Assumptions

Our design challenge necessarily implies factors that are multi-faceted and complex. We identified some of the main tensions and assumptions held within the design question to be considered as teams work towards a design concept. [Preview these tensions and assumptions.](#)

SPICE Design Sprint

During a four-week Design Sprint, SPICE designers worked in small teams to refine a design concept that met a pre-defined design challenge. During each of the four sprint sessions, designers had a chance to convene and collaborate in order to ideate, synthesize, refine and iterate an innovative design concept. [Learn more.](#)