We Can Build On This (30 min.) is a collaborative documentary project focusing on architecture and civic engagement. During the course of production, our guiding principle was that a depiction of best practices provides the strongest critique of existing conditions. The documentary is a joint production between architects and media-makers, and highlights student architects consciously contributing to positive social change. Media and architecture students develop physical constructions and media productions for environmental and social justice community projects located at two LA sites: The John Muir Middle School in Burbank (a multi-use outdoor classroom), and the CA State Parks Bowtie Parcel (public use structure). These two contrasting sites provide a springboard for conceptual, material, programmatic, and tangible explorations. The documentary follows students in the fast-paced studio course dedicated to research, design, construction, and visioning (“Tactical Place-Making and Urban Engagement” co-
taught by Jeanine Centuori and Oscar Corletto). The first half of the studio (and documentary) focuses on site, program, material, form, and design explorations with client interaction and feedback. The second half involves full-scale construction with a concurrent investigation of large-scale implications for the built work. This documentary depicts the process of project-based education, and provides insight into pedagogies enhancing civic engagement, design thinking, and service learning.

LINKS:
Here is a link to the documentary + trailer, and a newspaper article regarding one of the structures (an outdoor classroom at the John Muir Middle School in Burbank, CA):

Documentary:  
https://vimeo.com/224249899  
Password: Fireworks17

Trailer:  
https://vimeo.com/189542134

Article:  

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

We Can Build On This is an interdisciplinary project developed by the following collaborators:

Jeanine Centuori, MArch, FAIA (Co-Producer, We Can Build On This) is Professor of Architecture and Director of the Agency for Civic Engagement at Woodbury University. This multi-disciplinary outreach unit operates with low cost/high impact projects of social relevancy in the cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, and the region. Projects have included an outdoor classroom for the John Muir Middle School, the Wilmington commercial corridor storefront improvements in Watts, garden pavilions for the nonprofit Taking the Reins, and folly structures for the CA State Parks Bowtie Parcel along the Los Angeles River. The work can be seen in the Los Angeles Times, Newsweek, International Business Times, Curbed LA, and KCET Artbound. A university-wide initiative will expand projects to incorporate all disciplines at the university. Jeanine is also founder and co-principal of UrbanRock Design located at the Brewery Arts Complex in Los Angeles with artist partner Russell Rock. This studio-based art and architecture office has completed many integrated public art projects, spatial environments, and public art plans for urban centers. Her educational and practice work seeks to bring design, art, and culture to wider audiences and unconventional venues. Jeanine was recently elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows.
**Nicole Keating, PhD** (Co-Producer, *We Can Build On This*) is a writer, educator, and documentarian. She is Associate Professor of Communication at Woodbury University in Burbank, CA. She received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and then joined the faculty of The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, teaching there for nearly a decade. Nicole began at Woodbury in 2011, running the Communication Dept. for four years and starting a graduate program in Media for Social Justice. She has published on topics dealing with media and social change, particularly in relationship to gender issues. Her documentary trilogy *Three Women in the City of Brotherly Love* was shown on public television in Philadelphia.

**Justin Mickens, MA** (Director/Editor/Cinematographer, *We Can Build On This*) is an independent documentary filmmaker based in Burbank, California. Justin has a strong interest in social innovation on a global scale. He completed his MA in Media for Social Justice from Woodbury University in 2016, and works to spread awareness of pressing social issues through the power of film. His documentary work includes *The Creative Method* on the defunding of arts programs (broadcast on Rocky Mountain Public Television) and *Dribble*, examining oil run-off from cars into the oceans. He has worked in production for the Media Policy Center in Santa Monica, CA and completed his BA in Film, Television and Theatre from the University of Colorado Denver in 2014.