

ECONOMY THROUGH ECOLOGY

The aim of the AgriCultural center is to enrich the immediate community by fostering self-sufficiency through the dissemination of the food production throughout Roxbury. At the heart of our project is the notion of germination, a process which involves transformation from seed to plant which once fostered can replicate itself. Germination is initiated at the center but does not end there as the growing and harvesting process is transferred from the center to the surrounding area. As food production spreads out from the center, the results of germination will be visible throughout the site and the surrounding community.

Central to the center are 10'x10'x10'pods that are vessels for plant life and social activities. Most of these pods are a permanent part of the building site, but others are mobile. Fixed pods include office space, classroom space, music practice rooms and a composting cell. There are eight mobile pods that are hydroponic vessels for the growth of plants which can be moved around the site to take advantage of environmental conditions and eventually relocated to the surrounding community. Hydroponic technology allows for denser growth than would ordinarily be possible on the ground by taking advantage of vertical surfaces and permitting stacking of plants. The mobile pods will be a part of the Adopt-a-Pod program. These pods will be leased out to local supermarkets and farmer's markets also offering the option to lease to own. Pods that are purchased by the community will be repurchased by the center and this cycle will continue.

Central to the activity of the center is the fostering of knowledge on urban farming. The germination and dissemination of this knowledge is symbolically represented in the pods as knowledge is mobile and will be utilized throughout the area. A key concept is the notion that as a plant grows larger the original seed is smaller in proportion to the resultant plant. Similarly, our agricultural center in which our pods are an extension becomes smaller in proportion to the active farming outside the community center.

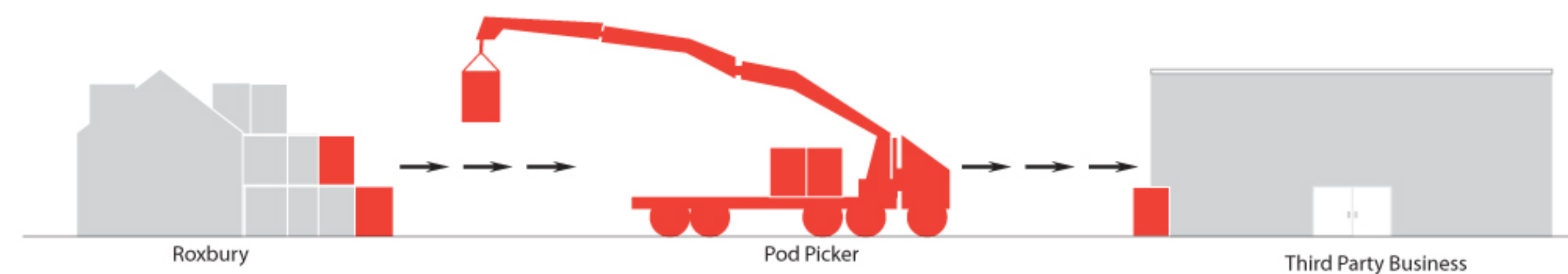
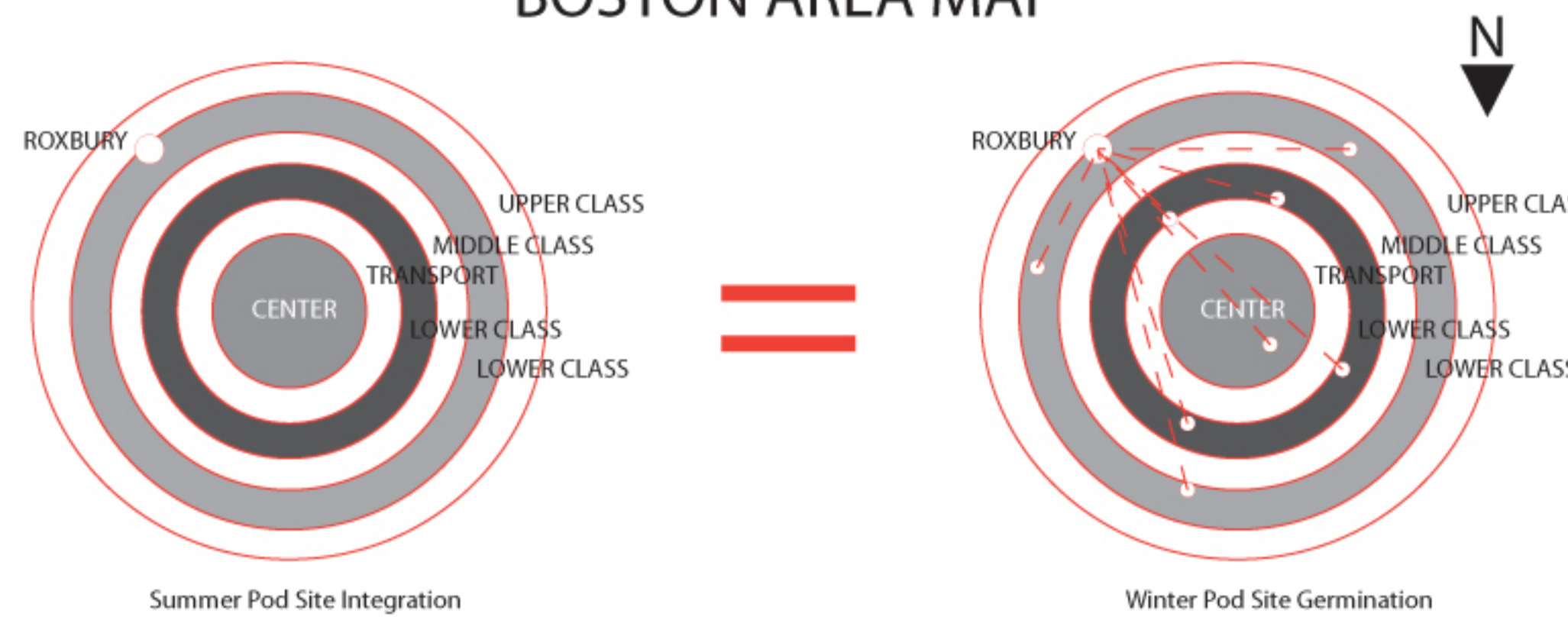
Our economic strategy for the center deals with the long term. The mobile pods are productive economic resources spread throughout the community and eventually will limit the dependency on outside food sources including the community center. Pods that are not used for residential production would be rented out to local grocery stores and/or farmer's markets and would help create an even and continuous exchange of capital and knowledge between the community and this cultural center.

DAY ONE: THE CHARETTE



ADOPT A POD PROGRAM

BOSTON AREA MAP



Buildings Annual Cycle



1. Every year at the end of summer Roxbury begins to lease out a total of 8 pods to surrounding communities within the greater boston area.
2. Once the pods have been leased they are then shipped out by the pod picker which transports the pod to a pre-designated site.
3. Preference will be given to low income areas and businesses that cater to those who aren't exposed to healthy living.
4. Pods can be taken by way of the following two options. They can be leased for a time period of nine, six, or three months otherwise leased to own.