



Braden Crooks + Gamar Markarian

Designing the We – New York, NY

Healthy Materials Lab at Parsons School of Design – New York, NY



Braden Crooks is a gardener turned landscape architect who entered into the fray of community organizing and advocacy. He founded Groundswell PA: an organization that passed the first popular vote to ban fracking using an Environmental Bill of Rights. Braden earned his Master of Science with departmental honors from Parsons in New York, where he hones his praxis developing forms of horizontal organizing within solidarity economies. Braden has recently worked with organizations such as the Center for Urban Pedagogy and the Right to the City Alliance, and in his spare time produces a web series about New York.



Gamar Markarian was born to an Armenian family in Beirut Lebanon and received her BS in Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management and MS in Urban Design from the American University of Beirut (AUB). She also taught landscape design studios at AUB and EARTH University Costa Rica. In 2008, Gamar co-founded Atelier Hamra with Maha Issa; a landscape architecture office in Beirut. She received her MS in Design and Urban Ecologies at Parsons School of Design in New York City in 2016. Currently, Gamar is part time faculty and a research fellow at the Healthy Materials Lab at Parsons. She has also been collaborating with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program with a particular focus on community engagement.