Milo-Grogan is a quietly forgotten neighborhood just east of Italian Village. Surrounded by railroad tracts, a once lucrative transportation system for the community, it is now bisected by I-71 and the trains that have long stopped bringing business to the residents. As it stands today, residents are a family oriented neighborhood with a strong faith based culture. However, lacking essential educational, nutritional, and recreational amenities; those that have remained in the community after the fall of the industrial age live so with restricted development.

After a seven-week analysis of the community, this studio was able to discover the rich history of industrial firsts, architectural character, and thriving urban community. We also learned a great deal about the residents residing there, both before and after the fall of the industrial heart of the community. Despite having a highway remove 400 homes and businesses and divide the community into two halves, residents remain steadfast in the hopes of turning their community into one thriving with the vibrancy it once had.

A strong backbone exists in Milo-Grogan, and it is surrounded by communities that have successfully rebounded from a previously forgotten state. Reconnecting to these communities, such as Victorian Village, Italian Village and Weinland Park will help begin the much awaited transformation. Milo-Grogan is also in the middle of a major Educational Corridor, with successful diverse campuses surrounding the community.

In order to revitalize the community, a focus on educational outreach was used. With terrific institutions surrounding Milo-Grogan, but often too far to meet the needs of the residents, it seemed natural to reach out to these facilities to create their own educational core within Milo-Grogan on which to build around. Education is the key to success, and it is not something that is done alone. For this reason, it makes sense to partner this new educational core with existing institutes rather than a go-it-alone approach. A new program would establish connections with successful institutional campuses to both pull educated individuals to teach in Milo-Grogan and to extend the influence of residents to surrounding communities.

To materialize this Community Campus, a circulation network had to first be improved upon and added to. Within the community, two circuits would be established, an inner core circuit and an outer peripheral circuit. These circuits would be connected by the two major roadways of Sth Ave and Cleveland. These two roadways would also be major outreach points linking the new community campus with existing institutions. Next, developing the educational centers would be crucial. Rather than a single school, we opted for dispersed individual nodes along the circuits. This would facilitate movement and connectivity within the community while allowing for flexibility to ensure a successfully sustained community.

Finally, developing these education circuits would include the placement of educational nodes, commercial and retail, food and recreation, and transportation and residential units. The phasing and flexibility of the mix and quantity of uses would ensure a successful outcome of the project, creating a vibrant and dynamic core focused on education, with a strong connectedness to surrounding communities and institutions.