

Hardee Street: Designed for Dignity

Poster prepared by Leidi-Di “Leidi” Salcedo-Ureña for the Hart Leadership Program at Duke University.

Original Project made in collaboration with Gerald Reiling and P. Elitzandra Dominguez Escobar, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and DHIC, Inc.

How can storytelling honor and amplify community?

Hardee Street Apartments is a new affordable housing development built by DHIC, Inc. (an affordable housing developer in the Triangle Area, North Carolina) and Self-Help Credit Union.

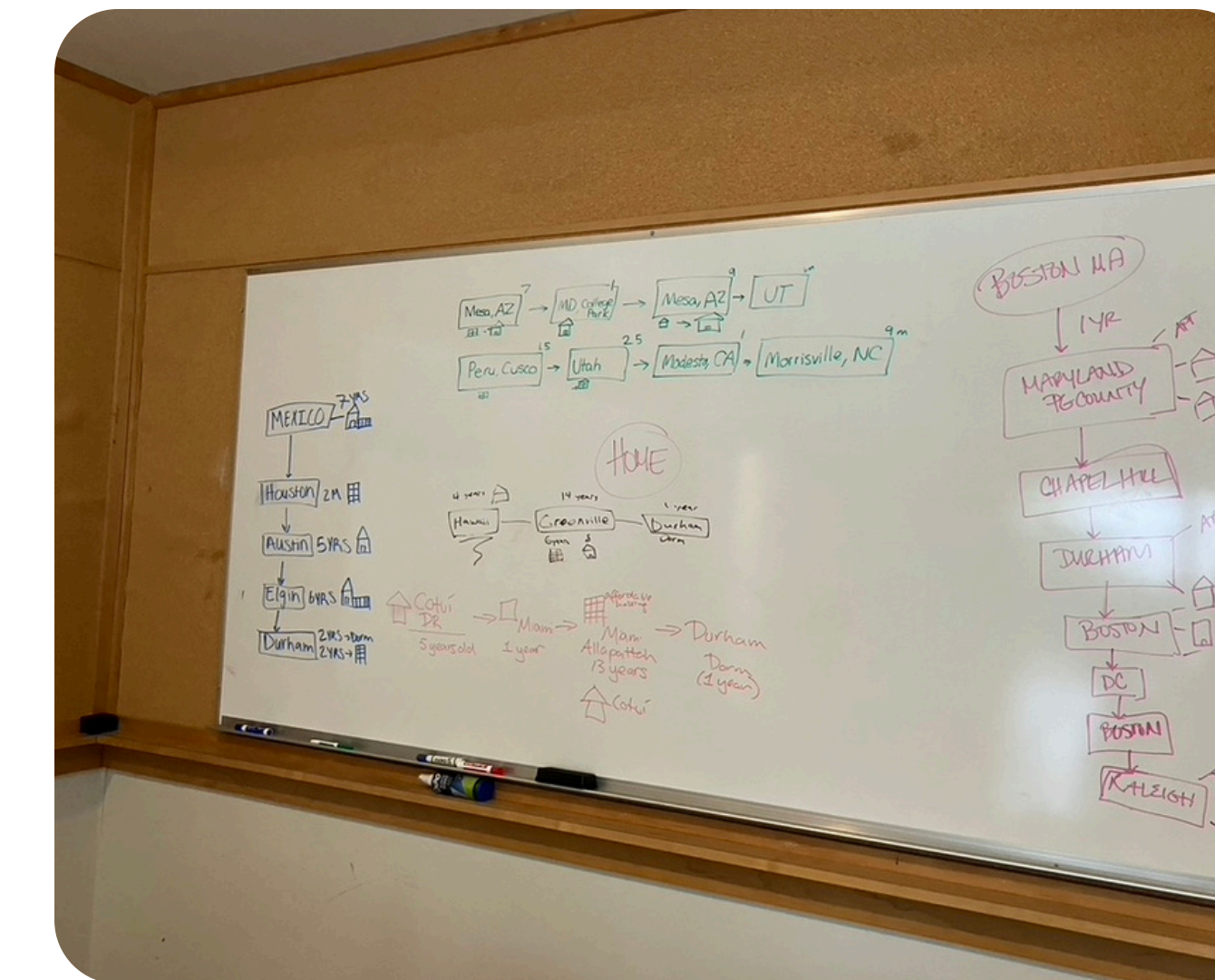
Working with DHIC, Inc. and the Center for Documentary Studies, our team set out to capture the story of the site and the community taking shape there. This project asked how can documentary storytelling represent affordable housing, not just as buildings, but as spaces of dignity, voice, and belonging?

Approaches

To explore this question, we combined several approaches:

- **Researching** ethical documentary-making guidelines
- **Performing archival research** on the site and its history, making sure to honor the past as well as the present and the future.
- **Filming and photographing** different facets of the Hardee Street Community (i.e., art, amenities, etc.)
- **Interviewing** DHIC, Inc. and Self-Help project managers, residents, and community members.
- **Editing collaboratively**

Pre-Production



- Site visits with project manager, Kayla Rosenberg-Strampe.
- Acknowledging our own experiences and biases on affordable housing
- Planning out how many perspectives we can view this topic from

Production

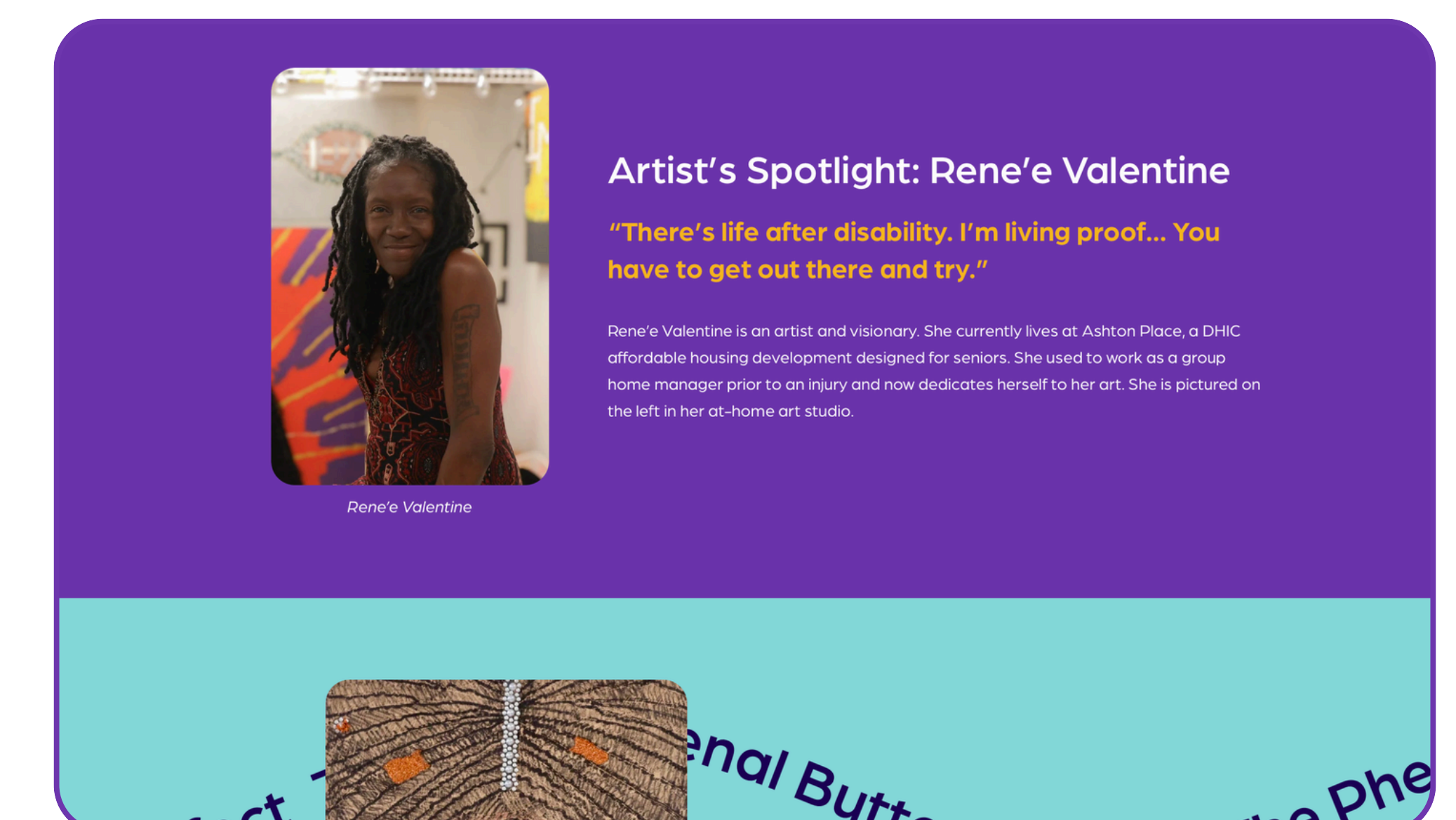
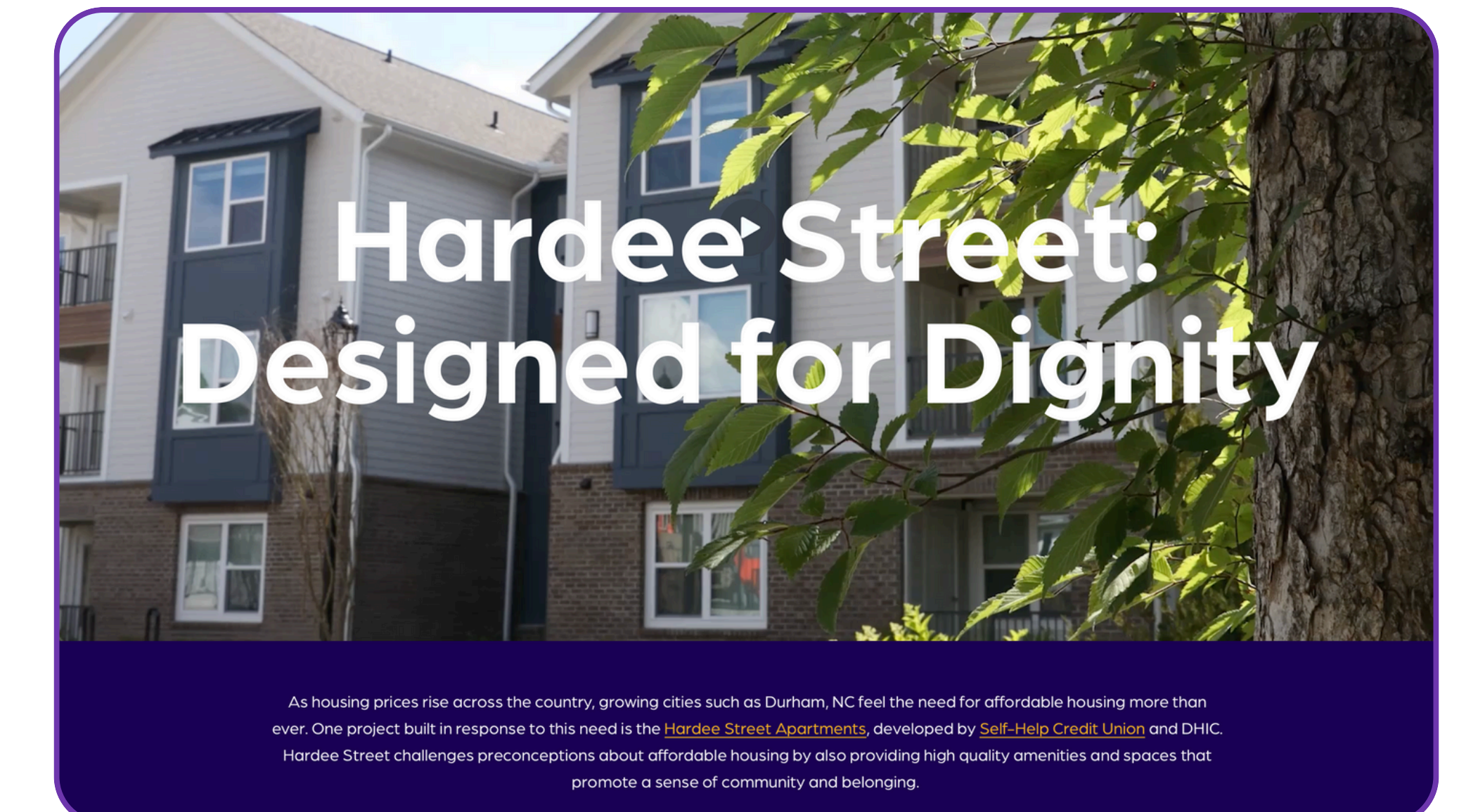


- Filming/photographing a range of people involved in the project.
- Getting their insights/feedback on how best to represent their story.

Post Production

- Collaborative editing and establishing a consistent feedback loop; the more people that saw our project, the more perspectives we got.
- Making sure the story still flowed and that a diverse set of experiences were being represented.

Outcome: Web Documentary



Key takeaways:

Documentary storytelling and ethical research go hand in hand.

Storytelling, done collaboratively, builds community when all voices are properly represented.