

## Appalachia Rising West Virginia | Building Momentum for Alternative Landscape Futures in West Virginia

"Appalachia Rising: West Virginia" is a multi-media report featured as part of the Architectural League of New York's American Roundtable project. Through photography, video, audio clips, mappings, and renderings, the report asks the question "How can we build momentum for alternative landscape futures in West Virginia?"



#### The Architectural League's American Roundtable Project

The American Roundtable project is an initiative of the Architectural League of New York. The project brings together on-the-ground perspectives of the condition of American small to mid-sized communities and what they need to thrive. The League commissioned nine design-led multi-media reports organized around five themes including Environment, Health, Infrastructure, Public Space, and Work & Economy.





#### American Roundtable

An Architectural League initiative offering on-the-ground perspectives on the condition of small to mid-size American

#### Reports

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Appalachia, West Virginia

Lower Rio Grande, New Mexico

River Valley, Maine









South Beach, Washington

Along the Lumbee River, North Carolina

Chevenne River Reservation, South Dakota

#### Themes

To promote comparison and synthesis across the reports, American Poundtable is organized around five broad thomos: Public Space. Health. Work & Economy, Infrastructure. and Environment







Environment

Health

Infrastructure





Public Space

Work & Economy

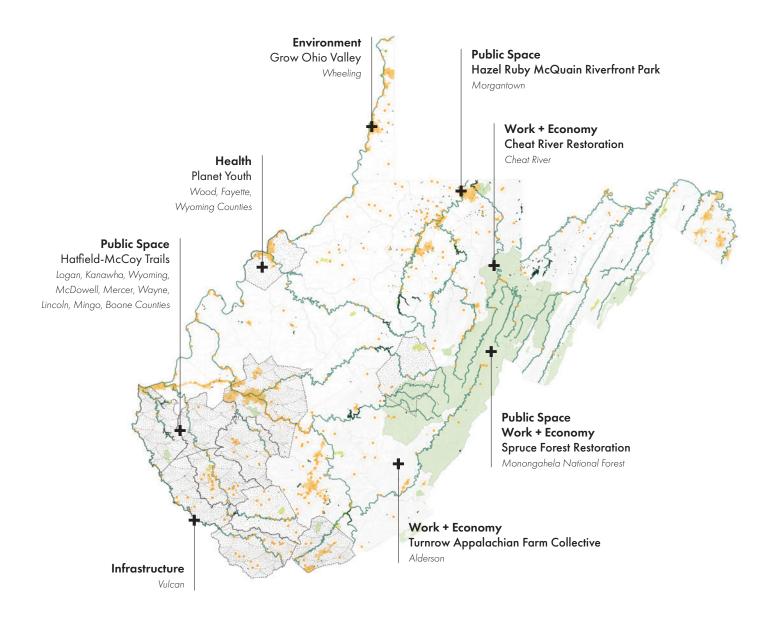






## **Showcasing Existing Places, Designing Alternative Futures**

The Appalachia Rising report aims to build momentum toward alternative landscape futures in two parts. First, the report showcases emerging examples of land-based projects as precedents across the state. Second, the report features visions of alternative landscape futures inspired by letters written by West Virginians.



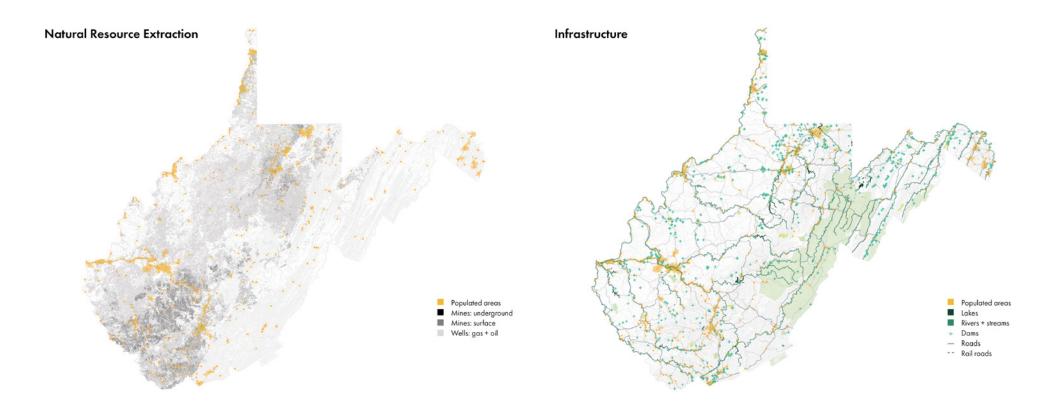
#### Existing Places | Emerging Land-based Projects Actively Shaping West Virginia's Future

Through the lens of the five American Roundtable themes (Infrastructure, Health, Work and Economy, Environment, and Public Space), the report includes five multi-media features that document emerging land-based projects currently providing inspirational counterpoints to the state's declining extraction economy.



# **Existing Places | Health**

In a powerful short documentary film, issues of public health in West Virginia are addressed through the story of grant-funded youth programs that temporarily provide short-term after-school activities for kids. Highlighting the natural beauty and outdoor recreational assets available across the state, the video advocates for sustained investment in structured outdoor recreation in order to dramatically improve public health and reduce drug use across the state.



## **Existing Places | Infrastructure**

Through a series of writings and mappings, the theme of Infrastructure explores the history of infrastructural investment in West Virginia communities marked by decades of precarity and neglect, and how reframing the landscape as foundational infrastructure is necessary for the state's future.







## Existing Places | Work + Economy

Through writing and audio clips, the theme of Work + Economy is explored through profiles of three experimental land-based ventures that provide economic benefits and novel work opportunities across the state.









## **Existing Places | Public Space**

Through three project profiles, the theme of Public Space is explored across a variety of scales of West Virginia public spaces. This feature asks what defines public space in Appalachia and how can public spaces support the region's future by celebrating the unique identity of a place.

Ann Penceke

icsander, Salamander,

Day 17, 2000

You fine came to me the other day as I was walking the mil trail above the mine divinage pool not fix from my Preston County bonne. This was after another beeny min during that spring of endless rain, and there I was, not a quarter mile from that orange uvantment pond, when I bothed down and spirid a submanuface countries the trail.

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But also 2000, the whole country specified. You'll know the knowy some a you on a country on the known you. On the country of the third you'll you for the known you will not you be presented and you for the country of the country o

Back on that miny Mey for its 2001, after I associated at the first salamands, I are a nerrori one.

Note deformed, not energiffing, both of them perfort, thoth of them that heartiful sported red-energy. And
how its God's name wore two salamandors specifiging across a former and bad on the odge of als square
makes of abundoord minoc? Training short and it soot that points or clark 1861.

Alexander, I think I know.

Something we knowed that search and upting, while we were builtered in against the view, and it assessed on Medicha's Day weeked. The temperatures jumped into record densities of the first or igido in a now. Every single for personals and or means, nearest temperature, required, requirement, walled, assessed from Elack. And the giref we fish, the house exent, that your of many horson. And what we farmed when, even the next flow results, alloust every one of those trees result a bit. Tink a breach. And make

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Which lief to your Alexander, your health, your release, you'pe, your clear creek and you anisomedour. And if you're thirties, your don't name health to the from the pipe from a palanish solds. We you get things, Anisometer, you kneef. You have your palans on the healt. You lean fireward, drop your whealt. You close your eyes, tolk the bottom of your flow into the creek, make on "ah" with your lips. Dearest Loved One.

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Love

Dear great granditusphie

has a your great parameter date, your request parame I weeked in with and cay yet has proud of your rection I see, set by you below I be too. If you Vicer in your was not incupping with the translate from a seal date among to advance work your open one. If in your this sounds many has, but people growing those and material is to be around inverse. Which was not meant that by compares about men to string their businesses have because their policies required dates electrical with a many that foreign mouth of the first.

It was said. There was such a top pay-between nigh-people in West Vrigona and exergence else. Hoursy people (including three was incoming the state because there samply water I a full of julk-sollens at Yorks.

emanded that people in charge care more about Neor Virginians than psycholos from big coel companies. They which is charge because they knew they were fighting for their state.

This work passed the way for your matter to create the positive change that you see traday My own grandbackflow. The fourtional single- the largest sole power company in the sourchy I south? Se provider. Your matter represents some it best that these viscous have to offer.

One worked with promovable to recision moving land that country be used for anything who and present order forms on that coupled and based could remark to work at two company and provided safe, relatine piles with a pool recome.

Project were needed to noted some parties at tomes and businesses, so these trigoniess stopped in the color to de find. Project was receded to builded immerch and design senders, more defined to the color and project in the color to the find. Project was receded to builded and the color to the color to the color and the color to the color to

And then comparise who exported clean electricity started chancing libeat triggins for their new office boutcons. So people clayed in the state to work at froze comparises.

And because of the, Nation Unique received more state taxes to spend on other through the inflational was disclusion and secure programs and shop inflationation installed. The state became cleaner and safer for receiveds and visitors. It became one of the most describe places to live in the failled.

tion mise class, sizes, and nations around the wind claims to any time or short, sometime, and topical or for solar expent in Tibel Virginia. If may seen reduction that filter Virginia could change so much in one person's Mistria. But remember, Grouple was bundles

It may assent adultion but filler region some range as much in the region in these contracts in large solution and only 30 years late it was the mind region of the service.

Your integration change were it may be making, but have the people like your makes flaggle for the vibrant state you have
been sharply change were it may be consequently but with and excellent and. When higher and would be provided to be with and excellent and. When higher and would be provided to the with and excellent and. When higher and would be a provided to the with and excellent and. When higher they are not took to be a provided to the with and excellent and. When higher they are not took to be a provided to the service of the service o

The story of their Virgins is a long and winding one just like the coult that lead on home. Great granding-line, know that yo matter is part of the story by heiging our state after an length today. You should be very provid. I know I am. Lives you.

Great Grandma Emily

PS. The secret family recipe for propertyl role is in the outboard above the hope at your mother's for

Dear Carla,

White some height to devolve her append of our of you. May appen used from Karassin producted by of the latter of VVV condisord. For these weeks we are possible of the Art of and YVV condisord. For these weeks we are produced to the Art of and YVV condisord. For these weeks we are produced to the first the condisord to the first housing. Each week with all of the gains, e.e., the chiefed to be to their against the Life has been desired by the produced to the first the first the produced to the first the produced to the first the first the produced to the first the first the produced to the first the first the first the first the first the produced to the first the f

I am trying to do everything I can to help Wheeling. I started some fundraisors, worked at the soup kinkless, planted trees even volunteored to see clothes at the food drive! Violings seems to get others to help. You know that save about Wheeling and the environment seep much. I hope that there will be many copile willing to keep

The color of the c

I know that we both live to bake, so I sent over a delicitors recipe for my newest creation: chocolate bombs. Read over the nocipe. I disks you will really like it. I know that I dil. But just be certiful taking them out of the even. There is a let of being powder in from, and if not handled carefully, they not be explode chocolary produces. I also sent outs a packet of reaggressing sends. I know you love to garden, so five your graduation, I decided to create a horizontal behind them between nonementaries and submiring.

I was born and raised in West Veginia and I chose to move back and make this state my adult borne. learned what it meant to be a kind and strong human being from my grandmother who beed in the railing hills of Preston counts. I didn't know until I was older that she was teaching me how to be a Vi Virginian, and for that I am forever created to be relation.

As I teach my own daughter how to be a kind and strong human being. I use many of the teaching an superstitions that my grandmather taught me, with an understanding of science and progress. Here a superstition of the beauty of the second of the second

 Forge new paths and possibilities for yourself and for the state. We cannot continue to rely on the same industries when the world around us is changing and are no longer needed. We do not have to the everyone else, but we must move threased.

spect.

3. Grow your own food and continue to pass the knowledge of using this fertile yet streep soil or

future generations.

4. Thout streams and rivers as friends, they give us life and could be the life funce for our new indu.

5. Learn flows nature and respect her.

6. Continue to be good reighbors to everyone and try to do something kind for a new person ever 7. Yake charge of poverty by learning more and investing in education and trades 8. Keep the secret of this place allow, by sharing more! The people that grow up in these hills have proposed to the proposed by the proposed of the propo

These are just a few things I hope you are still teaching and learning

Thank you for your tin

My Dear,

is the year of the garden. Sowing flowers, segrables, fruit and betts into nocky soil that in far too much like clay steps me great soluce.

The year is 2000. The day is June 7th. I'm sure you've studed about this ere. Amid this Cavid 19 pandemic, civil uners, and a great movement for equality, sole makes some. Lund is constant. It's home: In the Mycobincturium seasons, there is happiene. And of infer. I've showed down, you must remembe to do this, too. And in the musclave things like perforing and like my fifth my errorfd kning her for thely sooth (Solphia has her first my first the percent of the performance).

Well, I'm certain I haven't cracked the code, but I've set my anchor in the future. I see, muted, a guth through the leads to something better. Something good, I'm certain that you, Issing one handerd years from today, know what I am referring to. The year 2000 is a reclaiming for human. And with a let of hard work and thoughtful interests. Element

Regardines, I send you there things. First, you are a king in your community. What do I mean? I am 38 years old And I have finally realized that each of on most treat the time we have and the space we've given with grant, someph, and courage. Respect is, Live up to the title so that your community and your happiness biscoom. While brings me to my second point.

bops home is with you as you read this.

And one last thing. One hundred, two bundred, those hundred years ago someone lived for one just as I lived for you. I lived you already I lived you first. And I built this house, this gorden for you. I lived you.

Adiru Goodsight Godgent.

Dear Aunt Nancy

I had so much fun coming to Morgantown last week and getting a chance to visit you not celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! It was so easy to get down there on the bullet train from loston. I really loved getting to ride the train through the mountains as well. I think I'll ride the

I maily enjoyed getting to go to work with you and get a tour of the Nuclear Power Plant. I really think WHU's nuclear engineering might be something I really need to look in to 1 lived touring the investmity. The campus is pretty. It's amazing how well the integrate the solar panel into every building's selected.

Tell filling is fatory thanks use for use as well campus execution.

Tell Underlang's exercises.

Tell Underlang's have you for me as well? I neatly appreciate him taking me to see all the wind furthires that he helped build. It was nice of him to also take us down into all the old mines. W/ had dockeds ago, Can't believe it hook so long for us to move away from cost, but it am glad we finally did!

Honestly, the highlight of the week was the fee days we got to spend at Sumnersville lake. Since they stated all those clean water initiatives and put so much money and soursen that area has stelly grown. The backers are so well kept, it, I help is full they have the recycling this is obles no matter where we set us. It was very smart of the state to send people out to Colorado to vall Apper, Kaystone, and Struckandige in nopel sensor in the state. The resorts

Thanks for the great time!

s my dear great-grandaugh

Name of the State United State

Fast our examination for the facility of first in the price in the pri

Long ago, when this triginate intered code is provide energy for the coacity, they were found in southire their hands, and without health, leven is in their foreignizer for relations. These that intered in space differency their hands were secretary and the control of the coacity of the coacity of the coacity of their services and their services. The coacity of their services are found to assorted their best to all their services. The coacity of their services are found to assorted their best to assort and their services are found to assort the coacity of their services when their coacity of their services are found to assort their services are found to assort their services when their coacity of their services when their coacity of their services when their coacity of their services when their services when their services are found to assort their services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to assort their services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to assort their services are serviced to assort the services are serviced to asso

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Finally, I encourage you be lessy in more that is accord or executed by how it values the most disadmentage. I excourage you to devote your such to beging others. I encourage you to what and debath you broad once. I encourage you to spend each day either making at algorization of in yourself or doing sumething that brings you by lighter your home and poor community, but never limit your printpective.

Remember, Mountaineurs, each one of us, are also

Savannah

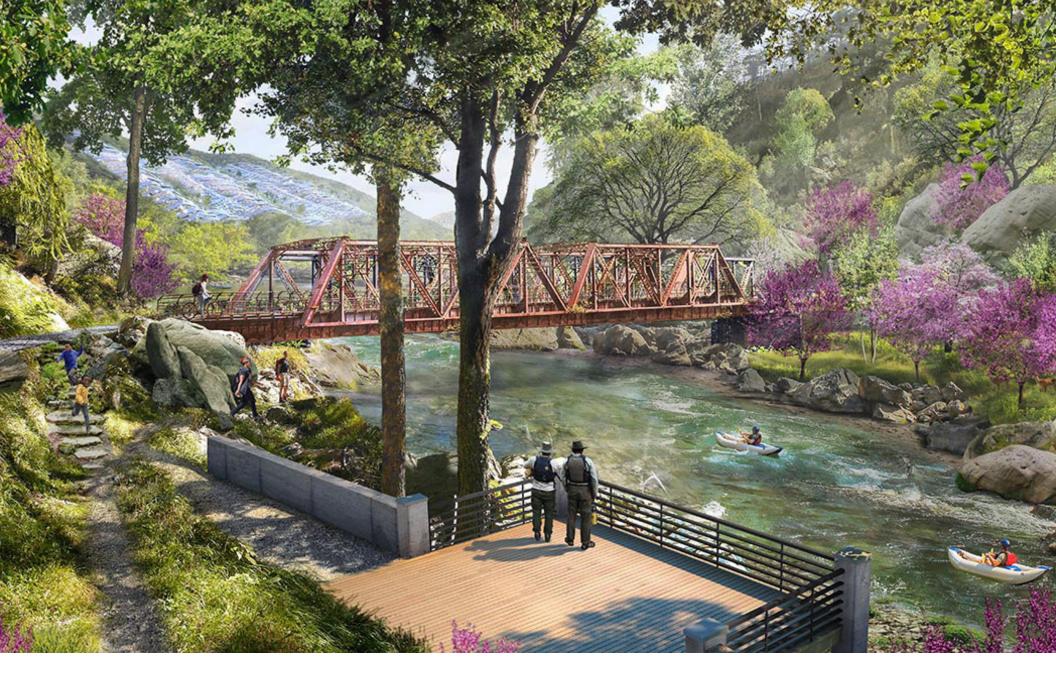
They are omicing and extremely healthy, so make ours to grow them ASAP. Water them daily and keep it in sanligh I am ours you will be pleased with the results.

As a 12-year old, I am is here of the dustine "leading" in Stating" gainers. Due the sales are as a size production. The sales is "leading," with the sales of th

## Alternative Futures | Land-based Visions Inspired by West Virginians' Words

West Virginians were invited to shape alternative narratives by writing letters to future family members residing in the state in the year 2120. These speculative futures offer glimpses into collective hopes and dreams of residents and inspired renderings visualizing a series of alternative landscape-based futures.





# Alternative Futures | The Natural Beauty of the State

"Dearest Loved One, I am hoping that the best of small-town life is still available to you...I am hopeful that the natural beauty of the state is still readily available for hiking and camping—inspiring West Virginians to protect it...May your own love for our state continue to preserve what makes it authentic and exceptional."



# Alternative Futures | Soil Makes Sense, Land is Comfort

"My Dear, Amid this COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and a great movement for equality, soil makes sense. Land is comfort. It's home...The year 2020 is a reckoning for humans. And with a lot of hard work and thoughtful intention, I know a great reward exists that I think your generation may reap."



# Alternative Futures | The Life Force of New Industries

"To my kin, many years from now, Grow your own food and continue to pass the knowledge of using this fertile yet steep soil onto future generations...Treat streams and rivers as friends, they give us life and could be the life force for our new industries."



#### **Events**



January 13, 2021 Understanding the Past/Documenting the Present/Imagining the Future

Event



January 27, 2021 American Roundtable: *Appalachia Rising*, West Virginia

Event



January 29, 2021 American Roundtable: Diverse Peoples, Arid Landscapes, and the Built Environment, Lower Rio Grande, New Mexico

Event



February 26, 2021 American Roundtable: *Dynamic Landscapes*, South Beach, Washington

Event



March 5, 2021 American Roundtable: *Labor*, *Landscapes*, *and Legacies*, River Valley, Maine

Event



March 12, 2021 American Roundtable: *Along the Lumbee River*, North Carolina



March 24, 2021 American Roundtable: The Lakota Nation and the Legacy of American Colonization, Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota

April 9, 2021 American Roundtable: *Brownsville Undercurrents*, Texas

Event



April 23, 2021 American Roundtable: *In the Mahoning Valley*, Ohio

Event



Explore Video American Roundtable

Sha

#### Appalachia Rising, West Virginia

Editor and report contributors and present the report Appalachia Rising and discuss key themes and findings.

January 27, 2021



#### Regional Focus, National Impact

The American Roundtable project became a national dialogue focused on understanding pasts, documenting presents, and imagining futures for communities across America. As an initiative instigated during the COVID 19 pandemic, the digital reach of the project provided national dissemination through dozens of Zoom events, online content (www.archleague.org/project/american-roundtable/), and digital lectures.