

noghostrobot



field guide vol.1

GHOST ROBOTICS & PENNTRIFICATION:
From Gaza to Grays Ferry, Rise up to Stop Displacement!

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Ghost Robotics is responsible for violence in Gaza, on the US-Mexico border, and here at home in Philadelphia. These Field Guides are designed to help you learn more. Once you learn to spot death merchants, their “innovations,” and the displacement, state violence, and border violence they’re implicated in, you’ll be better equipped to stop them.

For even more info, or to get connected, visit www.noghostrobot.info.

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From Gaza to Grays Ferry, Rise Up to Stop Displacement!

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GUIDELINES/AGREEMENTS

We keep us safe.

- Mask up when not eating or drinking.
- No photos, audio, or video recording.
- Tonight everyone’s name is friend, neighbor, comrade, etc.
- Our safety team folks are here for you / here for us all.
- Take care of you. Take breaks as you need to.

Palestine will be free.

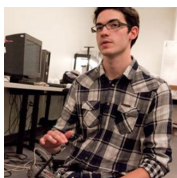
Palestine will free us all.

- Palestinian liberation is inextricable from our collective liberation.
- This is not a space for debate on this fact. Instead, our focus is on Ghost Robotics and its complicity in the violence of genocide and displacement.

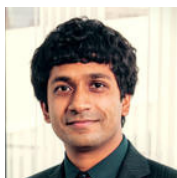
GHOST ROBOTICS

What is Ghost Robotics?

Ghost Robotics is a company that develops and manufactures AI-assisted, weaponized robotic dogs, which cost approximately \$165,000 each. It was founded in 2015 at the University of Pennsylvania by two Penn engineering students, Gavin Kenneally (*Bad Dog 1.1*), who serves as the current CEO and Avik De (*Bad Dog 1.2*), who serves as the Chief Technology Officer, as well as Jiren Parikh (deceased), who was serving as the CEO at the time of his death in 2022. Their current executive team also includes Michael Subhan (*Bad Dog 1.3*), Chief Marketing Officer, and Matthew Joyner, Chief Revenue Officer.



Bad Dog 1.1



Bad Dog 1.2



Bad Dog 1.3

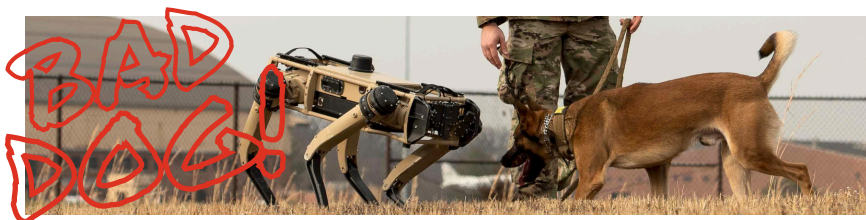
Ghost Robotics is headquartered at Pennovation Works, a Penn-developed property located at the corner of 34th St & Grays Ferry Ave. Pennovation Works is a 23-acre property that, in their words, is home to "state-of-the-art facilities, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry partners solving real world problems and translating inventiveness into viable ventures," which is a pretty disingenuous way to describe manufacturing weapons of genocide and border violence.

Ghost Robotics received initial funding and support from Penn's PCI Ventures, which helps Penn faculty and staff commercialize their inventions and technologies. Ghost Robotics receives tax breaks through the Keystone Innovation Zone Tax Credit Program, which provides tax credits totaling up to \$15M annually to for-profit companies. Additionally, as has been lifted up in recent years through the [campaign to pressure Penn to pay PILOTS](#), the university does not pay property taxes.

In 2022, when six leading robotics companies signed onto an open letter pledging not to weaponize their technologies, Ghost Robotics notably refused. They have continued to court military contracts both domestically and internationally, and are "happy" to see their robots armed, in the words of their former CEO.

What are robot dogs?

Robot dogs manufactured by Ghost Robotics are unmanned vehicles that can carry up to 22 pounds of material and withstand all terrain and weather conditions. Like walking drones, robot dogs both carry weaponry and act as tools of surveillance through built-in cameras and microphones. Armed with a submachine gun, Ghost Robotics' robot dogs are able to shoot up to a range of 1,200 meters.



How do robot dogs work?

Ghost Robotics' dogs are AI-enabled and can also be controlled by remote operator. "Vision 60," the name for the robot dog model currently deployed in Gaza, is virtually indestructible. In Ghost Robotics' own words, "Even if the environment is completely unknown, vision sensors degrade or fail, you can be assured that when our legged robot does fail, slip or fall, it will get right back up and continue moving."

Where are robot dogs being deployed?

Ghost Robotics' Vision 60 robot dogs are currently on the ground in Gaza, having been purchased by Israel for around \$150,000 per unit. Ghost Robotics is also under contract with the US Department of Homeland Security, which is testing the robot dogs for use along the US-Mexico border. Ghost Robotics has shipped over 450 robot dogs and works with over 25 "national security partners" around the world.

~~GHOST ROBOTICS~~

PENNTRIFICATION

What do we mean by “Penntrification”?

In short, gentrification that is driven by the University of Pennsylvania is what we mean by Penntrification.

According to [Slate](#): University City, the area where Penn focused initially, [grew](#) 3% to 46,500 residents between 1990 and 2010, but its Black population fell by 29%. (In West Philadelphia as a whole, population grew by 13% and Black population fell by 18%.)

How is Penntrification perpetuated?

In the 1950s and 60s the City of Philadelphia designated large portions of West Philly as redevelopment zones, and despite resistance from longtime residents, the city seized large portions of land via eminent domain in what was historically called The Black Bottom and displaced thousands of mostly Black Philadelphia residents to pave the way for so-called University City.

According to our comrades from the [People's Townhomes](#) fight, this transformation by theft and force of The Black Bottom into what is now mapped as University City "was perhaps the earliest functional template for university led gentrification/displacement in the US."

The choice of the name "University City" was a marketing tactic to try to attract professors and university-affiliated people to settle in the area.

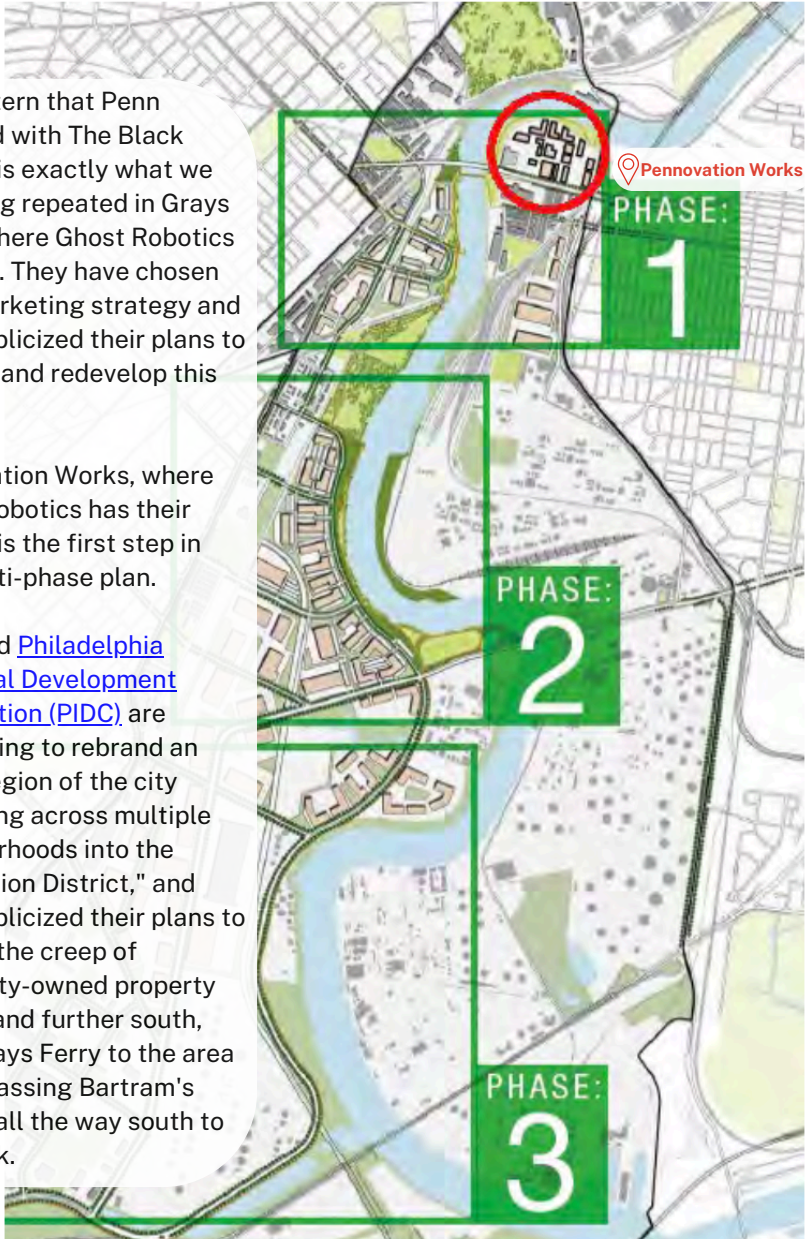
To encourage Penn-affiliated individuals to buy property in the area, Penn currently offers a [homeownership incentive program](#) for employees of the university to purchase homes in a [specific zone](#) of West Philly, in the form of an interest-free \$7,500 down payment loan.

INNOVATION DISTRICT

The pattern that Penn followed with The Black Bottom is exactly what we see being repeated in Grays Ferry, where Ghost Robotics is based. They have chosen their marketing strategy and have publicized their plans to rebrand and redevelop this area.

Pennovation Works, where Ghost Robotics has their offices, is the first step in this multi-phase plan.

Penn and [Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation \(PIDC\)](#) are attempting to rebrand an entire region of the city stretching across multiple neighborhoods into the "Innovation District," and have publicized their plans to expand the creep of University-owned property further and further south, from Grays Ferry to the area encompassing Bartram's Garden all the way south to Eastwick.





mapping for preservation + power



Penn, the PIDC, and companies like Ghost Robotics have their vision of the future, but they do not have the last say. Our vision, one where people from Philly to Palestine can live in dignity, in right relationship with the land and with the people around them, is worth fighting for.

People are innovating, creating, connecting, and building for the good of their neighbors in Grays Ferry, the lower Schuylkill River region, West Philly, and the city as a whole.

To lift up the community assets that advance the struggle for a livable and liberated future, we can use the practice of Participatory Asset Mapping.

What is Participatory Asset Mapping?

Participatory Asset Mapping is an activity where people from a community name and categorize resources within their neighborhood, city, or community, including:

- **Place-based assets** (parks, schools, libraries, health centers, food distribution sites, community gardens, meeting spaces, etc.)
- **Organizations/Associations** (community-based or grassroots groups, faith-based communities, service providers, unions, etc.)
- **Anything else?** Intangibles? The magic that's part of a community that's hard to pin down? Map it! Naming things for ourselves and our communities has power!

You can also add a category if you feel like something important is missing. Try to map assets that are worth preserving and aid in our struggle against profit-driven entities like Penn and Ghost Robotics, who would happily wipe such resources (and the people who care for them) off the map if it helped their bottom line.

When you're ready, get mapping on the next page!



~~their map~~

our map



place-based assets

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____



organizations / associations

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. _____ | G. _____ |
| B. _____ | H. _____ |
| C. _____ | I. _____ |
| D. _____ | J. _____ |
| E. _____ | K. _____ |
| F. _____ | L. _____ |

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS

What has worked?

- Developing sustained, strategic campaigns that employ a variety of tactics and have **clear aims and targets**.
- Identifying **secondary targets and pressure points** (banks that finance a company, contractors, etc.).
- **Organizing direct action** — occupation, strikes, blockades, pickets, property damage, and so forth — to disrupt the status quo.
- Toxifying corporations through **narrative change**.
- **Targeting and vilifying executives** and forcing them to leave the company.
- **Educating media** and leveraging their influence to help enact reputational damage on companies.
- **Amplifying stories** of those we're struggling alongside, from incarcerated people and their families to subjects of coordinated state violence.
- **Disrupting business models through policy campaigns**, making it difficult or impossible to conduct business as usual.
- **Blocking acquisition growth** to prevent both public and private entities from further expansion.
- **Diverting investors and capital** by proving that a company is not a viable or profitable investment through narrative work and direct outreach.
- **Educating and mobilizing the public** through public events, canvassing, phone and text banking, and collecting signatures and organizational endorsements.

Past & ongoing campaigns have targeted:

- Securus, the nation's largest prison & jail telecoms corporation
- Chinatown stadium expansion in Philly
- Real estate developers in Louisville, KY
- Mountain Valley Pipeline in Appalachia
- Palantir, whose tools fuel deportations and surveillance
- Elbit in Oldham, UK and Tamworth, UK
- Condiltox Laboratories in London, UK

so what's next, dogcatcher?

Ghost Robotics was founded in 2015, less than 10 years ago. Its existence is not inevitable, and neither is the occupation of Palestine.

There's a growing and diverse movement in Philly committed to shutting down Ghost Robotics. We hope you will join it!

Remember, it only takes a few friends to make a crew! Who knows what you can do!

If you want to connect with us, you can scan the blue QR code and send us a little note via the encrypted form at noghostrobot.info/signup, or email us at noghostrobot.info@proton.me. Your responses won't be shared outside of our crew, we'll just use them to get in touch with you to say "hey, neighbor!"

Hope to see you soon!



Other upcoming teach ins:

- ▼ **GHOST ROBOTICS AND THE DEADLY EXCHANGE:
PPD, KKK, IOF They're All The Same!**
Monday June 10th | 6:30 pm | 2125 Chestnut St.
- ▼ **GHOST ROBOTICS AND BORDER VIOLENCE:
From Palestine to Mexico, All the Walls Have Got to Go!**
Wednesday July 10th | 6:30 pm | Virtual
- ▼ **Details available at www.noghostrobot.info.**



**BYE BYE
BAD DOG!**