

TH3.10

Seeking the Inclusive City

Beyond Participation: A Review of Best Practices in Inclusive Problem Solving

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There is a growing movement of practitioners and community members interested in considering how design might better address the web of complex problems facing our globe: climate change, health, education, transportation, natural resource depletion, affordable housing, and etcetera, which all have disparate, but overlapping impacts on communities. The design professions typically underserve these more vulnerable constituencies. Herbert Simon's definition of design as "changing current situations into preferred ones," positions design as a trans-disciplinary, democratic, creative process that inherently accepts the ethical stance to "first, do no harm" as a foundational characteristic of any design intervention. But historically the approach in many design professions has been one of patronage and elitism— articulating its value as something outside the common problems communities face. The rise of community engaged design has expanded the boundaries of the field through creative problem solving in collaboration with local leaders who have intimate knowledge of the ecosystem of issues at play.

The situated knowledges of those perspectives that are often unheard in the planning and design professions- minorities, women, and persons from lower income backgrounds- need to be amplified in order to make lasting change to a community's most intractable problems. Design and planning must find venues to position these leaders and other underrepresented stakeholders in the center of decision-making processes. Leveraging the local knowledge and inherent empathy of these nascent leaders will make them more effective change agents in their community and in the field. In this paper we will present the results of a survey of community design organizations to assess the current state of the field including: an assessment of leadership opportunities within organizations; funding mechanisms and flows; impact frameworks currently used to assess outcomes; methods employed to identify inequities; and the identification of other existing models that might help community engaged design support its own self-critical reflection. The paper will conclude with a few brief case studies of best practices where situated knowledges were amplified to innovative ends in community design projects.

Immigration and the marketing of Indianapolis as a 'global city'

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Indianapolis, Indiana, is a new destination for immigrants in the US Midwest. With a growth in its foreign born population from less than 2 percent in 1990 to nine percent in 2010 (US

Census), the city has become home to immigrants from a wide diversity of countries including Mexico, China, India, and Myanmar. Indianapolis has enacted a variety of programs that address or celebrate ethnic diversity in response to the increase in immigration. Similar to other rustbelt cities hoping to utilize immigrant population growth as an economic springboard, Indianapolis's cultural diversity programs are revealed to be part of a larger economic development plan by the city. Of course, this use of immigration as an economic development tool is not a new story. What is new is the use of globalization as a rationale to build Indianapolis' presence internationally and attempt to assert their identity as a 'global city'. The revival of the Sister Cities International program in Indianapolis has been one strategies used by the city to acknowledge the local growth in the international and immigrant community, while also advancing Indianapolis' global economic development strategy. Indianapolis has put much attention on cultural diversity as a planned and sought out asset to the community. However, questions arise about who is being recruited to the city, and the actual allocation of resources. Using qualitative methods and archival research, this paper examines the differences amongst immigrant community-based organizations (CBOs) in their interactions and engagement with the city's Sister Cities International program. Immigrant CBOs that are best able to articulate their relevance in an international marketplace are the best matched to capture the city's attention and resources, but immigrant CBOs are strategic in navigating this economic and political landscape to claim their belonging within the community.

Reducing the Perception of Cycling Danger in the African American Community

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Cities and government agencies around the world are recognizing the need to increase cycling. Traffic and congestion continue to be a problem, and from a public health standpoint, it is important to introduce ways to reduce obesity and obesity-related illnesses. This emphasis on health and active transportation is changing policy and design that support the provision of safe, convenient, and attractive infrastructure. This is a step in the right direction; however, changes in the bicycle infrastructure and facilities alone would not result in a substantial increase in African Americans' attraction to cycling. This paper explores cycling disparities in the African American community that are linked to negative perceptions. African Americans are often inexperienced cyclists or non-cyclists. Some studies associate these disparities with poor exercise patterns and eating behaviors. However, studies show that perceived barriers to cycling and exercise can be overcome by culturally-tailored interventions. The aim of this outreach/research CAAC (Cycling in the African American Community) project is to reduce the perception of danger, which often stems from human error and a lack of bicycle knowledge about cyclists and motorists through a culturally-tailored intervention. Data from 79 study participants were gathered from a pre/post survey designed to measure experience level, perceptions, and socio-demographic factors for changing attitudes that potentially could affect

modal choice. Findings show that the safety training significantly improves perceptions of cycling.

Understanding Learning in Participatory Budgeting: Identifying Dialectic Tensions + Resolutions using a Discourse Analysis Approach

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Few researchers have studied how participants learn civic capacities in situ in participatory planning. In this paper, the skills, identities and dispositions (Martinez-Cosio, 2006; Price et al., 2011) needed to actively participate in a civic process are referred to as civic capacities (Briggs, 2008). Research on the actual “how” of learning, not only the who and what in democratic activity, has been limited (Holden, 2008). This research focuses on how language offers a window into how participants learn in participatory planning practices, where citizens are brought into the decision making process of creating and implementing public policy (Innes and Booher, 2004). Ultimately, this paper takes a step towards filling the gap in research by presenting a way to “see” the learning in the planning process. The results provide insight into the kinds of roles that certain types of dialectical tensions play in democratic activity. The findings could help planning and other related disciplinary researchers to articulate and develop theories on how civic capacities are learned in the practice of civic engagement. This paper presents an ethnographic case study that focuses specifically on the Latino immigrant community’s participation in Participatory Budgeting (PB), in Chicago’s 49th Ward, using a comprehensive approach to the context: positioning Spanish-language mediated participation in relationship to English-language mediated participation. This situates Spanish-speaking participants in their lived-in world context (Lave, 1988), vis-a-vis English-speaking participants. The findings are from a discourse analysis of Spanish-language assemblies in a participatory budgeting process. It uses a Dialectic Cultural Historical Activity Theory (Dial-CHAT) methodology framework to identify how certain types of tensions in PB are resolved. The findings of how moments of tension are resolved dialectically become evidence for how learning within PB occurs. Learning in this paper refers to the change or development that occurs as a result of the resolution of the tensions that were identified in the discourse.

Beyond workers and criminals: How local immigrant organizations in the U.S. and Canada resist national policy designs

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This paper uses theories of policy design and discourse to comparatively analyze the work of local immigrant-serving organizations in the US and Canada. Policies typically designate particular groups for benefits or punishments, and officials justify these allocations with depictions of groups in positive or negative terms (Ingram and Schneider). Immigration policy in the US and Canada focus on quite different groups of immigrants: in the US, there is an

emphasis on punishing undocumented immigrants with detention and deportation, whereas in Canada, policy rewards workers, especially skilled workers, with legal entry. Despite national policy emphases, however, the local situation of immigrant settlement is vastly wider and more complex. This paper examines the relationship between national policy and local organizations, showing where organizations employ national policy and where they resist or challenge it. Using field research conducted in Ottawa, Ontario, and Newark, New Jersey, I show how the two national contexts present different challenges at the local level. In the US, organizations seeking to help immigrants must work to counter and resist negative characterization and treatment of them. In Canada, local organizations build on a positive discourse about immigrants, and rely on government funds to aid immigrants arriving with skilled work visas, but also resist an increasingly narrow national focus on work. They find resources to help other immigrant groups besides skilled workers and seek to promote a wider definition of integration beyond work. While the two cases illuminate key differences in national context, they both demonstrate the disjuncture between national and local understandings of immigration “problems,” and highlight the innovative and proactive work of local actors.