Out of the Box: Public Art, Placemaking and Planning

Todd W. Bressi
Joanna Davis
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PA-APA 2019 Annual Conference
October 22, 2019
Todd W. Bressi

Bressi is an urban designer and planner, studied at U.C. Berkeley. He works with public agencies, arts organizations, civic groups and the private sector to develop public art strategies and implement public art projects.
Learning Goals

Understand Goals for Incorporating Public Art in Planning Processes
Learn about Case Studies
Explore Questions About Your Own Projects
Why Public Art?

Engage Diverse Stakeholders
Spark Public Demand for Change
Explore Creative Solutions
Build Community Capacity and Agency
Bridge Scales: Local Experience in Larger Context
Create Social Capital and Resiliency

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Public Art  Placemaking  City Design
ENGAGE DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS
Nate Harris, Navy Yard Screen

EXPLORE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
Ivo Bukvic, Aki Ishida, *Cloud*, “Public Displays of Innovation”

BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND AGENCY
BRIDGE SCALES: LOCAL EXPERIENCE IN LARGER CONTEXT
PEARL STREET COMMUNITY MEAL

CREATE SOCIAL CAPITAL AND RESILIENCY
[ Central Corridor ]
[ Fantastic Futures Bike Ride ]
An Atlas Of Fantastic Urban Futures

Roadside Attractions
Central Corridor
ROADSIDE ATTRACTION
BICYCLE TOUR OF FANTASTIC
Urban Futures

More info, map and RSVP at fantastic-futures.org

The Central Corridor Public Art Plan is a project of Public Art Saint Paul (www.publicartsaintpaul.org). Rebar is an interdisciplinary studio working at the intersection of art, design and ecology (www.rebargroup.org)

When?
Saturday October 15, 10-noon & 1-3
Sunday October 16, 10-noon & 1-3

Where?
Stopping throughout the Central Corridor.

Who?
You! Open to the general public and anyone interested in the future of the Corridor. Special guests at every stop.

How?
A bike ride and mobile conversation with the artists, designers and activists shaping the Central Corridor.

Why?
A new way of having a public conversation to shape the Central Corridor Public Art Plan.
[ Athens, Ga.,
Public Art Master Plan ]
Clarke Middle Student Today...

Owls Forever!
As part of the Athens public art master plan process, led by the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, the planning team invited artist Seitu Jones to develop a project that assists with community engagement and demonstrates contemporary practices in public art. Seitu visited Athens from October 13-16, 2015 to collect food stories from residents.

Many of these food stories relate to a place—a housing complex, a South American country, a table, a market, a restaurant, or home. These are just a few of the almost 30 stories collected by Seitu and artist Kira Hegeman. All of us have food stories and these stories could possibly help inform the placement and execution of public art projects in Athens.

Arlene Stern

As part of the Athens public art master plan process, led by the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, the planning team is inviting three artists to develop projects that assist with community engagement and demonstrate contemporary practices in public art. Visit http://www.athensculturalaffairs.org/ for more information.

Seitu Jones, from St. Paul, will visit Athens to explore his interests in urban food systems as a lens on public health, culture, and community. Matthew Mazzotta, from Cambria, Mass., will visit Athens in December to set up “outdoor living rooms” and community conversations that explore public art and civic space in Athens.

Arlene, born in 1923, is described as an angel in our midst and began as a volunteer for the Athens Land Trust. Miss Ethel grows food for the West Broad Farmers Market, using methods learned as a girl. She then prepares foods using recipes and techniques learned from her grandmother. She has always used food for healing and preventing ailments affecting many other older adults.

Arlene Stern

First story has to do with how you get seniors to come to meetings of things that are really important and educational is to serve food. Anytime we put out a little buffet the main lobby is packed, we have Good Neighbors Day that’s coming up next Tuesday and we do a big lunch and the whole building is coming down, otherwise we have about 30 people out of 113 apartments.

Maru Castellanos

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Maru Castellanos

My favorite food is by far, black beans...I love black beans, because black beans is something that in Guatemala, you will have in the morning and in the evening and sometimes for lunch. You can prepare different types of black beans, with different stuff. They go with everything. I just love it...Here I buy canned black beans from the Latin American market...Canned black beans from Guatemala...I just bought black beans yesterday.

Broderick Flanigan

Growing up I remember my grandmother making salmon patties. She would take canned salmon and put it in a bowl then add seasonings and one egg to help it stay together while it was being fried. Those and turnip greens were some of my favorites that she made. I would get some hot sauce and mustard and make a sandwich for lunch.

Ethel Collins

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It's all about me.
My fear is letting people down.

I fear telling people about my past. I don't want to be judged for the things I can't change.
So I got asked to be a part of a portrait of Athens today by @athenspublicart where you basically have a deep conversation with a stranger and then sum it up on a chalk board. I’d been having a bit of a rough day, and had been thinking about a lot of stuff that’s happened over the last couple of years. The conversation turned serious pretty quickly, and in the end it basically boiled down to owning up to the rough parts of ourselves and not being ashamed of the things we’re passionate about, and the things that make us happy, no matter how mundane they may seem. #SoThatWasCool #ApparentlyMyHairIsPhotogenic #AthensPublicArt
Artists' 'Chalk Talk' prompts Cedar Shoals High School class to think deeply about life

By Jim Thompson

"If you don't understand my silence, how would you understand me & my words."

Visually pleading with the world, those white-chalked words stood in stark relief on the blackboard in front of the young man who wrote them.

Behind him, in an art classroom at Cedar Shoals High School on Tuesday afternoon, a young woman worked to fill the foot-or-so-square blackboard in front of her with her own words, eventually writing, "I fear telling people about my past. I don't want to be judged for the things I can't change."

And in a back corner of the classroom, another Cedar Shoals student struggled with the classic grammatical quandary of whether to use the verbs "lie" or "lay." She eventually decided on "lie," for the double meaning it contains, and finished writing, "They see my smile, but not the pain that lies behind it."

The two dozen students in Hunter Wright's art class were among the people participating in this week's "Chalk Talks," a public art project begun by Wing Young Huie, a Minnesota-born photographer who is in town led by Wing Young Huie, a Minnesota-born photographer who is in town.

Briefly, the "Chalk Talks" require participants to think through a question, answer it on a chalkboard, and then have a photograph taken featuring them and their chalkboard.

The Athens Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) has organized a city-wide exhibit of a photographic project by visiting artist Wing Young Huie at thirteen venues and pop-up locations around Athens beginning Jan. 24. Collectively titled "We Are the Other: A Photographic Portrait of Athens, Georgia," the more than 100 images displayed will showcase the people Huie documented during his brief residency in April 2016.

A photographic artist who has conducted over 5,000 lectures, keynote and workshops for audiences of all kinds, Huie focuses on how mass culture images shape our points of view. He was one of three guest artists invited to Athens with the suggestion of consultant Todd Beatz, who has led development of a public art master plan over the course of the last year. Now near completion, the final draft of the plan was presented to the Athens-Clarke County mayor and commission during a work session on Jan. 10 and is scheduled for a vote to approve the plan at their regular session meeting on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.

During his visit last spring, Huie hosted "Chalk Talks" for community organizations, businesses, classes, and in local establishments around town. "Wing's approach gets behind the assumptions we make about other based on what we prompted participants with questions such as, "How do you think people see you?" and "What don't they see?" These prompts encouraged intimate discussion about identity and cultural assumptions. After discussions prompted by these and other questions, participants helped each other to voice personal insights written on chalkboards and took portraits of one another. The resulting photographs "show people as individuals as well as our shared humanity," said Hoffman.

Each venue in the city-wide exhibit will feature different and distinctive displays and will host a selection of photographs from Jan. 24 through March 24. The complete list of venues, many of which serve as "Chalk Talk" locations, includes: Athens-Clarke County Library, Athens Community Council on Aging, Cedar Shoals High School, Ciné, Clarke Center High School, Georgia Square Mall, Lyndon House Arts Center, The Spoke's Nest, Stone Mountain Park, Stocking's Restaurant, Tailor's Restaurant, and the Wilson Center for Humanities & Arts.

Huie will return to Athens to deliver a lecture on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at Ciné. Titled "How Photographs Form Us - What Do You See?" the talk and reception that will follow are free and open to the public.
[ Troy Summer Square ]
[ Explore Troy Awards ]
[ South Corridor Study]
[Creative Community Engagement]
Imagining a Better Future

*Get Back to Your [Life]* helps identify the challenges of traveling through the South Corridor while prompting a collective imagination of a better future. The work, shown below, uses a short survey to gather information about travel challenges, habits, and transit preferences along the south corridor. Answers to survey questions are incorporated into the piece when they are submitted allowing participants to share their mobility challenges and visions with transit analysts, other participants and everyone viewing the piece.

+ Take the survey
I'm going to like it because the food is good.

ELIA!!
FREINDLY
GREAT
ATMOSPHERE

It's our Indian god. We go and pray there. They have a fun program on every Saturday dinner and etc.

Southern
Tray's stuffed mushrooms!

The place I love most in Columbia is my half-marathon route through downtown Columbia and around all the neighborhoods. I love seeing all our neighbors while I'm doing what I love. Thank you!

The Dotted Line
They are so welcoming and respectful.
Why Public Art?

Engage Diverse Stakeholders
Spark Public Demand for Change
Explore Creative Solutions
Build Community Capacity and Agency
Bridge Scales: Local Experience in Larger Context
Nurture Sustainable Local Economies
Create Social Capital and Resiliency

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Public Art  Placemaking  City Design
Rules of Thumb

Why public art: Have clear goals!
Partnerships: What do you bring? What do you need?
Artists: Understand their practice, support their work
Communication: Have vigorous platforms for getting the word out
Document your work
Capacity: Resource your team

Todd W. Bressi
Public Art  Placemaking  City Design
Our Services

Planning
Participation
Project Delivery

Todd W. Bressi
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