

# Out of the Box: Public Art, Placemaking and Planning

*Todd W. Bressi*

*Joanna Davis*

*Aislinn Pentecost-Farren*

*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.



Todd W. Bressi

Public Art ■ Placemaking ■ City Design

# Learning Goals

Understand Goals for Incorporating  
Public Art in Planning Processes

Learn about Case Studies

Explore Questions About Your Own Projects



Public Art ■ Placemaking ■ City Design

# Why Public Art?

Engage Diverse Stakeholders

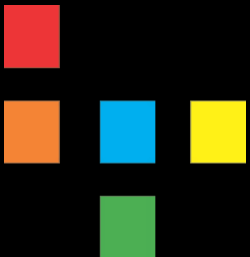
Spark Public Demand for Change

Explore Creative Solutions

Build Community Capacity and Agency

Bridge Scales: Local Experience in Larger Context

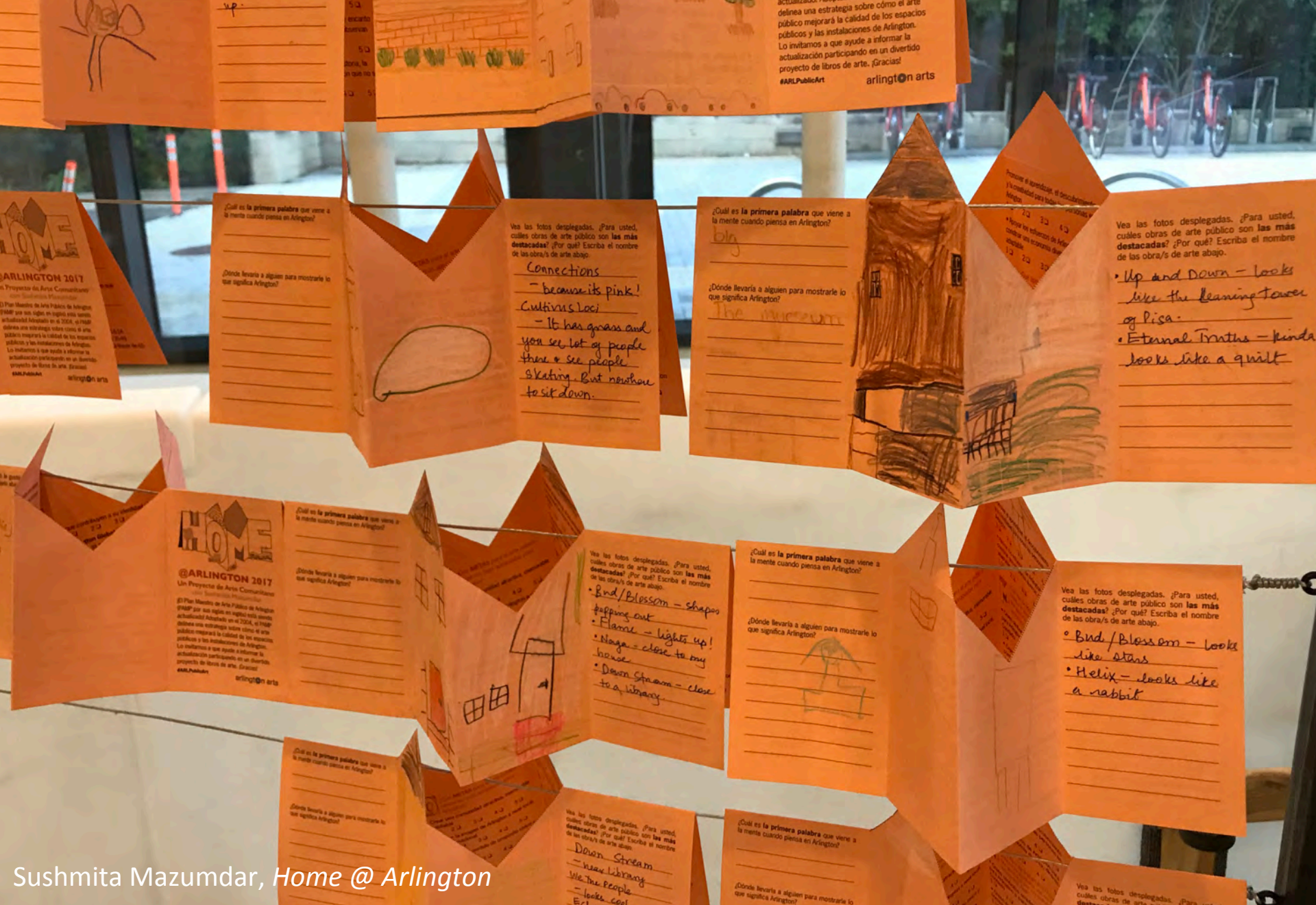
Create Social Capital and Resiliency



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Sushmita Mazumdar, Home @ Arlington

ENGAGE DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS





Jessie and Katey, *Summer Kaliedscope*

**SPARK DEMAND FOR CHANGE**





Nate Harris, Navy Yard Screen

**EXPLORE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS**





Ivo Bukvic, Aki Ishida, *Cloud*, "Public Displays of Innovation"

**BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND AGENCY**





Stacy Levy, *Street Lagoon*

**BRIDGE SCALES: LOCAL EXPERIENCE IN LARGER CONTEXT**





Pearl Street Community Meal

**CREATE SOCIAL CAPITAL AND RESILIANCY**



*[ Central Corridor ]*

*[ Fantastic Futures Bike Ride ]*

## An Atlas Of Fantastic Urban Futures



## Roadside Attractions







PRESENTS THE

# Central Corridor

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION  
BICYCLE

## TOUR OF FANTASTIC Urban Futures

**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?**

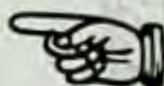
A bike ride and mobile conversation with the artists, designers and activists shaping the Central Corridor.

**WHY?**

A new way of having a public conversation to shape the Central Corridor Public Art Plan.

More info, map and RSVP at  
[fantastic-futures.org](http://fantastic-futures.org)

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



**SAVE THE DATES!**











# [ Athens, Ga., Public Art Master Plan ]



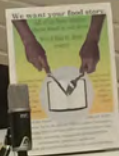




CLARKE MIDDLE STUDENT  
TODAY...  
OWLS FOREVER!

Give  
Me  
Your  
Food Story

ARTIST  
SEITU  
JONES





# We want your food story.

All of us have stories  
about food in our  
lives. We'd like to  
hear yours!

Artist Seitu  
Jones will be  
visiting Athens  
from October  
13-16 to collect  
food stories from  
the community.



Your stories will  
help inform a  
plan for new  
public art  
projects in  
Athens.

Join us to help create a public art plan for Athens

Oct. 13, 4 p.m., West Broad Farmstand  
Oct. 14, 4 pm, Athens Farmers Market;

Oct. 15, 4:30, Clarke Middle School  
Lecture: Oct. 13, 6 p.m., Athens-Clarke  
County Library

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 system as a lens on public health, culture and community. Matthew Mazzotta, from Cambridge, Mass., will visit Athens in December to set up "outdoor living rooms" and community conversations that explore public art and civic space in Athens.

# Athens Food Stories

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**

otherwise we have about 30 people out of 113 apartments.

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,



**Ethel Collins**

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.



**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 great

















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.





katey1018

FOLLOW

12 likes

7h

**katey1018** 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](#)

Log in to like or comment.

...



MOBILE

# Artists' 'Chalk Talk' prompts Cedar Shoals High School class to think deeply about life

By **JIM THOMPSON** updated Tuesday, April 19, 2016 - 8:57pm **0 comments**

"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 conundrum of when to use the verbs "lie" and "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 being led by Wing Young Huie, a Minnesota-born photographer who is in town this week as part of the community's ongoing development of a public art master plan.

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.



OnlineAthens  
Richard Hamm/Staff

Visiting public artist Wing Huie, right, takes a photo of Wendy Gonzales at Cedar Shoals High School on Tuesday. (Richard Hamm/Staff) OnlineAthens / Athens



Athens  
\$1 million  
grant to



## Visiting Artist Wing Young Huie Returns to Athens for Multi-Venue Exhibit, Lecture

Posted on January 11, 2017 at 11:35 am



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 a thousand lectures, keynotes 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 at the suggestion of consultant Todd Bressi, who has lead 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 each other based on what we look like," said Laura Hoffman, an ACAC commissioner who helped to coordinate the upcoming exhibit. In his talks the artist 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 2. The complete list of venues, many of which served as "Chalk Talk" locations, includes: Athens-Clarke County Library, Athens Community Council on Aging, Cedar Shoals High School, Cine, Clarke Central High School, Georgia Square Mall, Lyndon House Arts Center, The Sparrow's Nest, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Strickland's Restaurant, Tlaloc Restaurant, and the Willson Center for Humanities & Arts.

Huie will return to Athens to deliver a lecture on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at Cine. 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 ]









Troy Summer Square















[ South Corridor Study]  
[Creative Community Engagement]





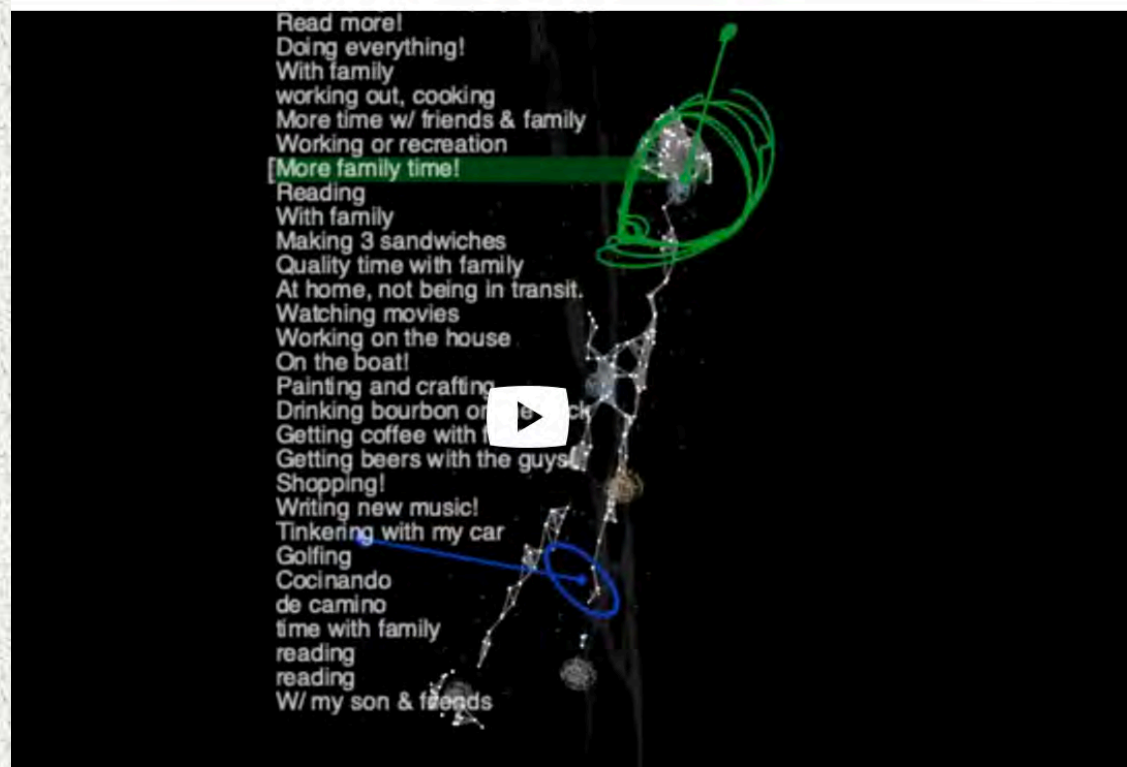
**NATCHEZ HILLS**  
Saturday, August 24, 2019 • 6:00-8:00 P.M.  
100 N. Main Street • 720 N. 1st St. • Natchez, MS 39101  
Natchez Hills is a family-friendly event featuring live music, food, and more. Tickets are available at [NATCHEZHILLS.COM](http://NATCHEZHILLS.COM)



# 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](#)





Heart  
of  
Columbia

Where is  
a place  
in town  
that you  
love?

What are  
the  
reasons  
why?

Share your story!

Join artist, Kristin Gibbons  
in a collaborative project  
with the Soul for Study.





Jumbo House  
Great food ~~long~~  
history -

ELIA!!  
FRIENDLY  
GREAT  
ATMOSPHERE

11♥ Hindu Temple  
It's our indian goal. we go  
and pray there. They have  
~~funct~~ 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 do  
what I  
love  
best!

The Dotted Line

→ They are so welcoming  
and respectful ♥



# Why Public Art?

Engage Diverse Stakeholders

Spark Public Demand for Change

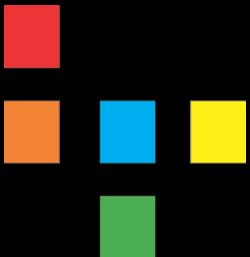
Explore Creative Solutions

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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# Rules of Thumb

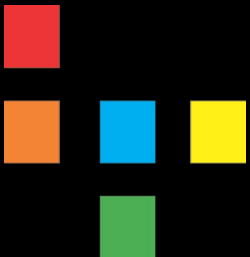
Why public art: Have clear goals!

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



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# Our Services

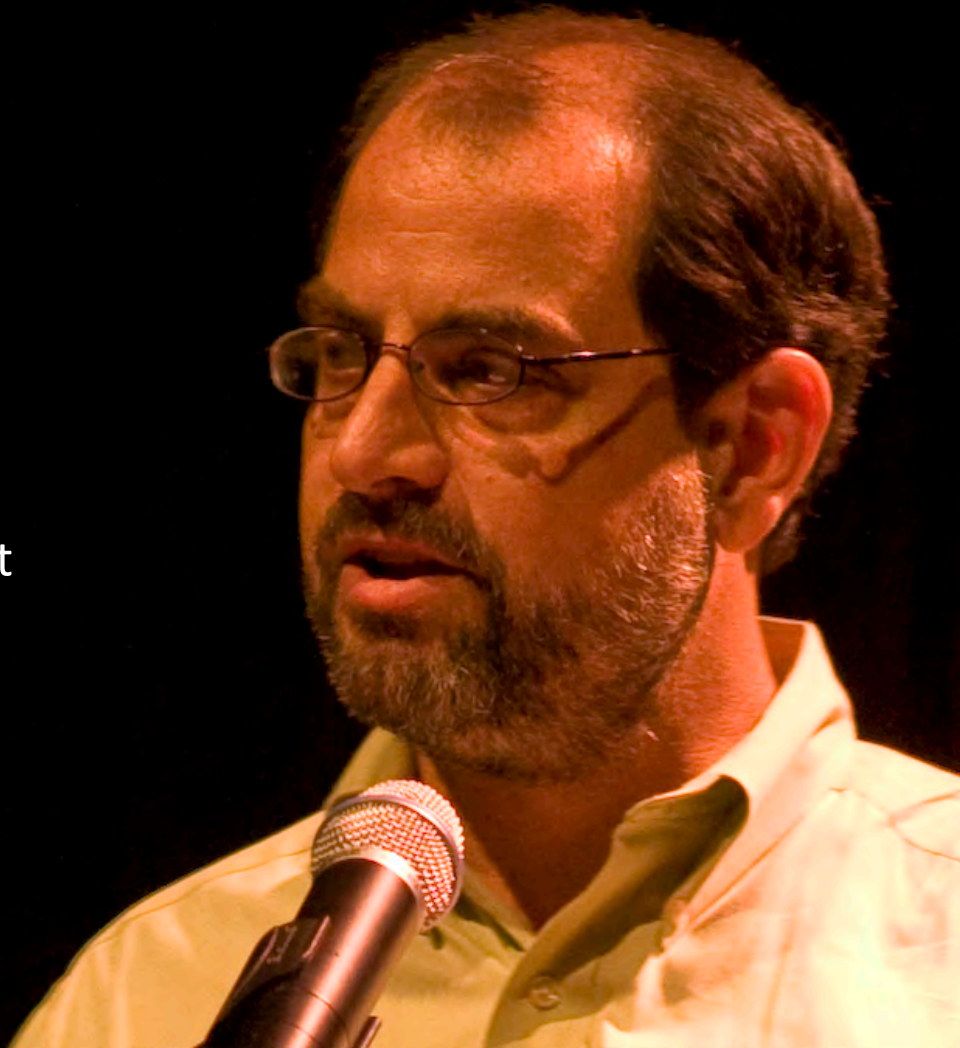
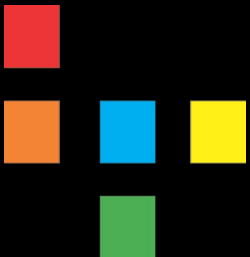
Planning  
Participation  
Project Delivery

Todd W. Bressi

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215-292-3642, [placedesign@verizon.net](mailto:placedesign@verizon.net)

[artfulplaces.com](http://artfulplaces.com)





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