WHOSE PUBLIC? Planning & Placemaking for Welcoming Public Spaces

Looking for ideas for how to integrate spatial justice into your work?

This document provides resources shared by speakers and participants in our discussion series, "Whose Public? Planning and Placemaking for Welcoming Public Spaces," a collaboration among the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Design Studio for Social Intervention (DS4SI), and New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA).

Explore more work by DS4SI:

- Spatial justice is, at its core, the right of BIPOC people to "literally be in public—to go about their business and pleasure without concern for violence." Read more in this post from DS4SI's Lori Lobenstine on NEFA's blog.
- Take a look at their original paper on spatial justice and newly published Spatial Justice Zine.
- Consider Social Justice in a Time of Social Distancing.
- Read their new book, Ideas-Arrangements-Effects. To join the reading group co-hosted by University of Orange & DS4SI, click here.

Apply for these grant opportunities from NEFA:

- Public Art for Spatial Justice: www.nefa.org/CreateSpatialJustice
- Collective Imagination for Spatial Justice: www.nefa.org/ImagineSpatialJustice

Join the conversation with MAPC:

- Want to revisit discussions in the series? Watch the recordings here.
- To be part of planning conversations for Greater Boston with MAPC, help us tell the story of our region by sharing yours.
- Sign up to make your voice heard as we envision the future of Metro Boston and update our regional plan, MetroCommon 2050.
- Learn more about our ongoing partnership with NEFA: www.mapc.org/resource-library/regional-arts-culture-discussion-series-public-art-public-places

Dig deeper into our discussion topics:

Resources from Session 1: What is Spatial Justice? Principles of Planning for Welcoming Public Spaces

- Be sure to check out University of Orange, a community organization and free people's urbanism school that builds collective capacity for people to create more equitable cities.

- To learn about horizontal development, read this paper from University of Orange & DS4SI.
- Policies put in place decades ago shape our access to green space, housing, and so much more. Learn more here and read *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It* by Mindy Thompson Fullilove.
- For further conversations on urbanism, public space and the arts, check out the San Francisco Urban Film Fest.
- The Center for Urban Pedagogy transforms complex planning issues into digestible, engaging visuals. Learn more about their work and approach
- For further reading on spatial justice through a disability lens, read *What Can a Body Do?* by Sara Hendren, *Hearing Happiness* by Jaipreet Virdi, and *Design Justice* by Sasha Constanza-Chock. Also explore the Disability Visibility Project with Alice Wong and read this piece by Anna Leahy.

Resources from Session 2: Making it Public: Activating Public Spaces for Creativity, Connection, and Celebration

- What if we used public space for the collective creation of opportunities for interaction, laughter, dialogue, and surprise? Take a look at DS4SI's proposed strategies for public-making in this short paper. And explore more writings from DS4SI here.
- Learn more about DS4SI's approach to public-making in their Social Emergency Response Center and Public Kitchen.
- Learn more about Karen Young's artist residency with the City of Boston and her initiative, Older and Bolder, developed in partnership with Boston's Grove Hall Senior Center.
- Roberto Bedoya's framework for public-making considers the unintentional and exclusionary effects of creative placemaking—and what we can do to promote a more inclusive public realm. To learn more, read Bedoya's essay on the politics of belonging and dis-belonging, his thoughts on placekeeping and spatial justice, and Oakland's cultural plan, "Belonging in Oakland."

Resources from Session 3: Public Works: Planning and Designing Public Spaces for Spatial Justice

- How do subtle (and not-so-subtle) visual cues and design features signal how public a space really is? This article from the Project for Public Spaces considers how "actively inclusive design" can help foster a sense of belonging for all.
- Tufts University planning professor Julian Agyeman argues that exclusive spaces are the result of both *design* and *rule*. Active design choices (such as aesthetic styles, enclosures, or surveillance) shape exclusionary spaces—but so do rules that prohibit certain social and cultural uses. In this blog post, Agyeman highlights some examples of exclusion by rule—and considers what designers and planners can do to make spaces more welcoming.
- Learn more about what Library Director Jessica Vilas Novas is doing to make the Lawrence Public Library a more welcoming space and community hub.
- As Director of MASS Design Group's Sustainable Native Communities Design Lab, Joseph Kunkel is demonstrating what it means to design with—not for—Native communities.