Public and Planful: Art, Design & Community Change

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How can temporary art installations and pop-up public spaces bring people together and celebrate community identity?
How might we understand who we are and what we bring into our relationship with collaborators and partners?
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How might we introduce skills, language, and self-reflective tools to address community-based contexts with honesty and sensitivity while building trust and open communication?
How do we prepare designers to engage with communities?
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STEP 0
Designing with not for
Community Engagement can be defined as the development of relationships with collaborators and/or community partners that are grounded in shared expectations and open communication, and mutually beneficial exchange.
Community Engagement Workshops
Center for Art + Public Life

Spectrum of Spectrums
Know yourself and what you are bringing

Power Dynamics
Navigating power dynamics in a community-based project

Implicit and Explicit Communication
Verbal and non-verbal communication

Active Listening
The ways we listen and communicate

Allyship
Qualities of allyship
CASE STUDY
An upper division interdisciplinary design studio
Transitory Place explores how place is created in public spaces of movement, and modes of transportation, commuter and other ambulatory circulation through urban space.
In partnership with Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), design students interacted with the broader public community to develop installations and engagements to support and public dialogues.
ENGAGING the SENSES
**Muni runs through a buried ship?**

Every day, thousands of passengers ride the Muni Lines N, T, and K lines through the hull of an 18th-century ship, the Roma.

The Roma was rediscovered in the 1990s when the city dug a tunnel to extend the N-Judah line. The Roma was once a whaling ship, and during the Gold Rush in 1849, the captain was desperate to get to California in any way, including by ship.

You can see three of these ships on this map: the Roma, the Apollo, and the Malakoff Dora.

**Under the Bay**

The Transbay Tube is an undersea rail tunnel in San Francisco that connects BART's four transbay lines.

Construction of the tube began in 1960, and was completed after the first section was opened on April 3, 1969. The first full route was opened by Mayor Joseph Alioto and Bart Executive Director John Wehrman.

The tube is 4 miles long and has a maximum depth of 229 feet below sea level. Construction was plagued with delays due to unforeseen geological and environmental issues.

**Then & Now**

The San Francisco Ferry Building has gone through many changes in surrounding landscapes and communities since it was first built. A brief history:

Construction of the original Ferry Building began in 1879 and in 1993, the clock tower was added along with a modern renovation.

In 1957, the double-decker Sacramento River was built, which separated the building from the community. The Ferry Building was demolished after damages from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Today, the Ferry Building is once again a popular hub of transportation in SF, connecting ferries, trolley buses, and other modes. It is a popular spot with restaurants, farmers markets, and great views.
Bringing Joy to the Everyday Commute

Powell St. Bart Station

Elissa Welsh, Ben Mclaughlin, Abdulaziz Alfayez
Why do bikes fall over?  
Because they're too tired!

Where do you take a sick boat?  
Do the dock!

What did the red light say to the green light?  
Don’t look at me! I’m changing!
CREATIVE PLACE-MARKING
NO ACCESS
SHAME PLANT- (Mimosa pudica) an interactive plant that folds inward and droops when touched.

PLANTER- A planter that matches the dimensions of the water filled barriers

WATER FILLED BARRIER- A water filled barrier that is found on a construction site
“Being an industrial designer means I design a way for people to interact with an object. But designing for public space means to encourage people to be interested in engaging with the design.”

Paul C., Industrial Design Student

“The biggest takeaway from engaging with others has been that you should never assume anything, go in with an open mind, you never know what you’re going to get.”

Moses M., Industrial Design Student

“A pause is what gives us an opportunity to make places into homes, people into communities, cities into culture... I’ve learned the power of a pause.”

Ridwan P., Interaction Design Student
“Engaging with communities is one thing, but you should spend time with people, let them open up and share what they want to share. Rather than pushing your own agenda or confirmation bias, let people tell you what they want to tell you. Not the other way around. When working with a community you build bonds that cannot be formed any other way. These working bonds only form when working on projects, and need to be cherished.”

Ben M., Interaction Design Student
Thank you

“Imagination is what, above all, makes empathy possible. It is what enables us to cross the empty spaces between ourselves and those we have called ‘other’ over the years.”

Maxine Green,
Releasing the Imagination: Essays on Education, the Arts, and Social Change