Workshop 19: The City as Art: Urban design catalyst for art in public places

Boston APP Lab = Collaborations to support art in public places by addressing various issues and challenges.
Please find past secessions notes from previous workshops online.

Action Item
Collect ideas and make proposal to New Urban Mechanics and Julie Burros

Presentation by Rob Trumbour and his Students
Rob Trumbour Wentworth Institute of Technology Associate Professor of Architecture
Introduces his previous students to present their Thesis work at Boston APP Lab.
Approaches to civic innovations: examples, results, and emerging principles in practice.
His studio for master's students on How space helps create the constructed object
The studio starts with a Trips to NYC, Big Bend National Park and views the work of Donald Judd

Thesis number One
Master’s student translations of what happened in places visited
Final image summarizes what they took back. Emerging and remote, scalelessness and edgelessness.
Thesis explores how you can get lost in a landscape
Concept was translating the scale of perception and how it is lost in larger landscapes. How do we organize a space when a space is a perceptual field?
Build out of modules. To create triangular structure
Creating different areas and boundaries

Thesis number Two
Thesis related to graffiti art is the true embodiment of a culture
Choose building with high visibility in East Boston

Thesis number three
Two Connections The city to the waterfront and the person to the location that they are in.
Language of how people relate to the environment around them. Provide a map at the start of the project.
Emerald necklace linkage. Providing small pavilions for events or discussion. Pavilions create their own sound. Identical pavilions.

Thesis number Four
Art and function in architecture
Site creates its own rooms. Space begins to be made by the existing conditions. Abstract site mappings. Created a series of interventions that the site already began to form itself. Pragmatic elements abound for performances. Interventions take on the look of pavilions. She has designed performance spaces. Spaces like this allow for improvisation or abstract performance. Breaking up the uniformity of the underpass.

Presentation by Chris Osgood
NUM and civic innovation: democratizing spaces in the city - Chris Osgood
Mayor's office of new urban mechanics
Innovation around engagement, economic development
App called citizen's connect could you manage your civic life as an app?
28% thru citizens connect
Participatory budgeting 12-24 year olds get to vote on where the funds go
HubHacks resolve permitting issues
Physical front door of city - percent of fabulousness has increased because of artful interventions
Innovation around education: School buses get backed up on snowy nights. Created an app to see the gps location of kids school bus.
IPads in education system for challenged students
Innovation in Streetscape thru interventions
Parking, outfitting trucks with vehicular side guards for bike safety
Make streets more delightful
Public health and public heart
Innovation and economic development
Affordable and middle income housing by 2030

Urban Mechanics
Run experimental projects
...that engage and empower residents....
...and improve the experience of the city...

Increase residence participation
What to do with City Hall Plaza
City Hall to Go
Mobil Charrette

Focus on innovation
daily execution of duties
Innovation to provide better services to citizens
Funding: Direct City funding, capital budget, grant funding, partner organizations interesting in trying new things.

How can we engage NUM?
What is it a resource for and for whom?
What are the big ideas that came out of tonight’s APP Lab?
1) We need something to engages people at a common level that is fun that is built on the simple quality of a conversation?
2) Communication does not reach the communities that need them. Where are the lists.
3) Street Art festival
4) Engagement
5) Streetscape with a target outcome
6) Can artists request a space to create art from the city?

Ideas to implement from tonight’s secession:
• Contact the Community Liaison. An amazing resource for each neighborhood.
• Bright side of the road is an installation in Boston 10'x14' Congress Street. Grand Circle Gallery. How can we install more of these
• Parklets in Boston.
• Agency to help artists build their pieces
• City to help create stages for temporary installations.
• How to get an "Art Permit" from a city or town? Neighborhood reps are first contacts.
• Different strategies for street art. Sometimes just do it guerrilla style.
• How to figure out the stages. Things are not impossible. Let's break it down and to manageable steps and get it done.
• Trying out temporary installations really do work
• Sounds like Tactical Urbanism!
• Where are we going from here? I would go to Uber....
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