

# **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKING GROUP**

**Meeting Space:** IT Building Room 105B

**Zoom Link:**

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/93912023475?pwd=NTlEWmFXekZtRFJQZGkrZnVyK1Z6QT09>

Meeting ID: 939 1202 3475

Passcode: 247129

**Working Group Lead:**

*Jeff Hou (University of Washington)*

*Throughout the Pacific Rim, the rise of civic engagement and citizen actions is transforming the governance of cities and landscapes. Even in countries with limited democracy, citizens and communities have played an important role in mutual aid and self-help, particularly in times of crisis and emergency. However, despite the growing practices of civic engagement, there are continued challenges in the forms of tokenism, conflicts, and resistance from society and state institutions. How can citizens and communities participate effectively and meaningfully in matters concerning sustainable landscapes and cities in the Pacific Rim? What are the lessons and insights from current experiments and practice?*

*This working group is formed through the [Pacific Rim Community Design Network](#), established originally at the University of California, Berkeley in 1998. Through conferences and joint projects, the network has provided a vehicle for collaboration and mutual support, as well as a forum for a comparative understanding of community design in the fast-changing political and social context of the Pacific Rim. As a working group, its goal is to engage in the advancement and critical assessment of civic engagement and community design practices across the Pacific Rim. Recent activities included a webinar series on bottom-up resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic and a virtual gathering to share lessons and insights on civic engagement practices during the Pandemic.*

## Working Group Program

*\*Remote presentation*

### Day 1/ WELCOME & INTRODUCTION (+ LUNCH)

12:20-13:20 HST

WG Organizer: *Jeff Hou (University of Washington)*

### DAY 1/ SESSION 1

#### (COUNTER)PLACEMAKING

13:20-14:30 HST

*Session Chair: Jeff Hou*

**Community Engagement in Singapore for the Improved Wellbeing of Targeted Groups of the Community through Participatory Design Methods.**

*LIM Aunn Ning (Singapore University of Technology & Design)*

**Lessons from Neighborhood-based Community Engagement in Northeast USA.** *Kathleen DORGAN (Dorgan Architecture & Planning)*

**TERROIRS IN-BETWEEN: Indonesian Immigrants' Placemaking along Food Axes on the West Coast of the U.S.** *Klara INDRAWATI (University of Oregon)*

**Activating Neighborhoods through Ephemeral Actions.** *Veronika ANTONIOU (University of Tokyo) & Rene CARRAZ (University of Toyo)\**

### DAY 1/ SESSION 2

#### REBUILDING FROM EMPTINESS

14:45-15:45 HST

*Session Chair: Beng Kiang TAN*

**(Re)making Emptied Places in Post-tsunami Japan.** *Tomoko MATSUSHITA (Urban Disaster Research Institute), Elizabeth MALY (Tohoku University), Yegane GHEZELLOO (Kobe University) Nao SAKAGUCHI (Iwate University), and Tamiyo KONDO (Kobe University)*

**Building Social Capital by Rethinking Childhood and Local Built Environments for Sustainable Community Design.** *Isami KINOSHITA (Otsu Women's University), Mitsunari TERADA, Nobuko MATSUMOTO, Mari YOSHINAGA, Norie MIWA, Rena NAGAI, Mariia ERMILOVA,\**

**Vacant House Revival and Machizukuri in Onomichi, Japan.** *Nancy Ji (Keio University)\**

### DAY 2/ SESSION 1 (+ LUNCH)

#### DATA & ENGAGEMENTS

12:15-13:00 HST

*Session Chair: Jeff Hou*

**Disaster Recovery in Fukushima: Case Studies of Civic Engagement in the Tourism Sector.** *David NGUYEN (Tohoku University)*

**Community Engagement through Q-method as a Tool for Healthy Precinct Design.** *LUN Ci Min (Singapore University of Technology & Design)*

### DAY 2/ SESSION 2

#### SCALING SUSTAINABILITIES

13:10-14:20 HST

*Session Chair: Elizabeth Maly*

**Mechanism of Citizen Participatory Action in Collaborative Low-carbon Community: A Theoretical Framework and Case Studies in Japan.** *Ziyi XU (University of Tokyo)*

**Civic Engagement and Bottom-up Approaches: Potential in regards to Japan's Vernacular Thatch Roof Culture Sustainability.** *Celine JAMIN (Kyoto University)\**

**The Factor of Time.** *Marcia MCNALLY (Neighborhood Laboratory), Randolph HESTER, Hailey MALONE, Marina STERN, and Xihan YAO\**

### DAY 2/ SESSION 3

#### ENGAGING LEARNING

14:30-15:30 HST

*Session Chair: Kathleen Dorgan*

**Design Action Alliance | Nepal.** *Ben SPENCER (University of Washington, Seattle)\**

**Reflections on Teaching Participatory Community Design.** *TAN Beng Kiang (National University of Singapore)*

**Pedagogy of Engagement in Design.** *Mari FUJITA (University of British Columbia)*

### DAY 3/ SITE VISIT

#### KAKA'AKO'S REDEVELOPMENT

9:00-10:30 HST (In-person only)

*Lead: Cathi Ho Schar (University of Hawai'i, Manoa)*

*Meet in the courtyard of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority Office, 547 Queen St, Honolulu, HI 96813*

An introduction to Kaka'ako's redevelopment by Carson Shultz, HCDA Director of Planning and Development, a presentation on UHDC's Kaka'ako Area Rules Policy Design Tank by Dan Milz, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban & Regional Planning and Matsunaga Peace Institute, a debrief on HCDA's work to explore Native Hawaiian development by Mark Hakoda, HCDA, Planner, and a walking tour of the area.

### **DAY 3/ WORKING SESSION**

13:00-14:30 HST

(Agenda to be announced)

---

## **Presentation Abstracts**

### **DAY 1/ SESSION 1**

#### **(COUNTER)PLACEMAKING**

##### **Community Engagement in Singapore for the Improved Wellbeing of Targeted Groups of the Community through Participatory Design Methods.**

*LIM Aunn Ning (Singapore University of Technology & Design)*

This presentation will share about two ongoing studies by the Social Urban Lab in Singapore under the overall umbrella of Urban Acupuncture, which seeks to achieve improved well-being of targeted groups of the community through participatory design methods.

The first study utilizes Design Ethnography to engage People Living with Dementia (PLWDs) and their caregivers who are living post-diagnosis, in the high-rise public housing typology in Singapore. Co-Visioning workshops with residents are also carried out as a ground-up site analysis of actual site use and user needs. This study aims to understand PLWDs' perceptions and real needs, from which design interventions to the public built environment can be proposed to achieve a Dementia Friendly Neighborhood. Such a neighborhood should then facilitate PLWD's continual living in their homes post-diagnosis.

The second ongoing study is about Mindful Placemaking, where the process of identifying, creating,

and building a public programmed space, as well as the continual social or physical engagement of the built space can promote mental wellbeing in the target users. Co-Creation methods were utilized in this study.

##### **Lessons from Neighborhood-based Community Engagement in Northeast USA.** *Kathleen DORGAN (Dorgan Architecture & Planning)*

This presentation will include an overview of various strategies employed by Dorgan Architecture and Planning to engage community residents in strategic planning including building partnerships. In addition, to presenting through photographs examples of specific techniques employed in various projects the discussion will include an analysis of methods and thoughts on the future of practices.

##### **TERROIRS IN-BETWEEN: Indonesian Immigrants' Placemaking along Food Axes on the West Coast of the U.S.** *Klara INDRAWATI (University of Oregon)*

Despite the relatively small population and publicly underrepresented cultural practices, most Indonesian immigrants dispersedly reside across the West Coast of the U.S. and find unique ways of placemaking to reconstruct homes and sustain the Indonesian food culture. However, the absence of an ethnic enclave seems to decrease public awareness of Indonesian cultural practices. It may have risked their involvement in the city and neighborhood planning and the design of public and private buildings. Consequently, a less inclusive design has possibly complicated Indonesian food practices, and thus, intensified immigrants' alienated feelings. I intend to raise awareness of Indonesian immigrants' existence and improve an understanding of the spatiality of their food practices by conducting mixed-method dissertation research. I plan to present the first part of my fieldwork in the Eugene-Springfield Area.

##### **Activating Neighborhoods through Ephemeral Actions.** *Veronika ANTONIOU (University of Tokyo) & Rene CARRAZ (University of Toyo)\**

This paper focuses on a series of community-based activities in Nicosia, Cyprus, undertaken by a local NGO together with the community and local authorities with the aim of reviving a dormant neighborhood of the capital city.

The paper focuses on an in-depth analysis of the annual neighborhood festival "Pame Kaimakli" which consist of

a series of activities and events (workshops, research, spatial installations, placemaking, and socially engaged art projects) that aim to revive and transform places and social relations in the neighborhood. The festival has been evolving and transforming in the last ten years and it offers a rich set of research materials and insights.

We will focus here to present a diverse range of activities adopted as an alternative to creating human-oriented neighborhoods and cities, as opposed to more local top-down planning practices. This exploration aims to highlight the importance of mobilizing creative activities that are deeply rooted in “place” in order to activate spaces and communities.

These actions illustrate a new approach to planning practices, which could help to create positive outcomes on the urban landscape with minimal resources. Through the documentation of different actions, we highlight the importance of the creation of networked connections between places, communities, and people. This is achieved by enhancing the role of the place through the activities and through the use of place-based and creative methodologies to conduct, curate, and implement the diverse activities.

## DAY 1/ SESSION 2

### REBUILDING FROM EMPTINESS

#### **(Re)making Emptied Places in Post-tsunami Japan.**

*Tomoko MATSUSHITA (Urban Disaster Research Institute), Elizabeth MALY (Tohoku University), Yegane GHEZZELOO (Kobe University) Nao SAKAGUCHI (Iwate University), and Tamiyo KONDO (Kobe University)*

In the name of reducing risk, disaster mitigation and reconstruction processes that displace or relocate residents create spatial voids, which may be small holes in the urban fabric or vast areas. After physical structures are removed, they appear empty. However, these places hold local memories, and also may become contested sites in debates on future (re)use. In coastal areas affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, residential relocation has been carried out on an unprecedented scale. In addition to the massive disruption of lives and communities caused by resettlement, these projects have also resulted in a vast amount of land acquired by the government, now designated as hazardous areas, where new residential construction is forbidden. These places are being reused in various ways, including many municipalities that have

converted former residential land to commercial or industrial uses, or open space, as well as the creation of three large-scale memorial parks in each of the most damaged prefectures. Ranging from small-scale interventions to larger official projects, this research surveys community-based placemaking activities in these vacated areas, to identify cases that embody meaningful processes and outcomes for the local community’s wellbeing.

**Building Social Capital by Rethinking Childhood and Local Built Environments for Sustainable Community Design.** *Isami KINOSHITA (Otsuma Women’s University), Mitsunari TERADA, Nobuko MATSUMOTO, Mari YOSHINAGA, Norie MIWA, Rena NAGAI, Mariia ERMILOVA\**

On the other hand, the improvement of convenience through technological innovation breaks the bonds between people and reduces the social capital of the community, and the impact is manifested in vulnerable people. In Japan, where the birthrate is declining and the population is aging, the emphasis is on the welfare of the elderly, and there is little interest in the child’s growing environment. Here, the changes in the physical environment and social relations capital are grasped from the intergenerational comparison of childhood, and the ideal physical environment in which children play outside and are nurtured by local human relationships is studied in the Kanbara district of Shizuoka City as a case, where the historical environment remains. The movement of renovation of old folk houses has been gradually coming. The idea to invite people from outside to renovate old vacant houses would lead the sustainable community design by making a mixture of old and new as well as the new social capital overcoming the crisis of depopulation of the community.

**Vacant House Revival and Machizukuri in Onomichi, Japan.** *Nancy Ji (Keio University)\**

This presentation introduces the case of a small port town community in Japan as an example of ‘machizukuri,’ which roughly translates to community design. Since the end of the high growth period in the early 1990s, an increasing number of young people are choosing to move outside of large city centers to start a new life in small towns in the countryside. Instead of building new homes, many have chosen to renovate and reuse vacant houses transforming them into homes, shops, and ateliers through DIY methods often

involving the wider community in the sharing of knowledge and resources. This paper presents initial findings from a recently completed one-year fieldwork in the study site comprising ethnographic methods involving visiting and participating in renovation projects and interviewing key actors involved. The projects examined are the everyday vernacular comprised of buildings that are not seen as historic monuments worthy of protection yet are being preserved in some ways by the efforts of amateurs and in turn, maintaining the identity of the town. I would like to put forth the term 'DIY heritage' to open the discussion on how heritage is interpreted and call for a re-examination of non-professional approaches that contribute to the preservation of local character and place.

## DAY 2/ SESSION 1 (+ LUNCH) DATA & ENGAGEMENTS

### **Disaster Recovery in Fukushima: Case Studies of Civic Engagement in the Tourism Sector.** *David NGUYEN (Tohoku University)*

I will present my research on communities in Fukushima, which are recovering from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and the ongoing rumors and disinformation regarding radiation. Specifically, our team examines two sectors, the first is the Sake industry which faced significant difficulties in long-term recovery due to radiation fears and import bans. The second are businesses located in hot spring destinations, which are dealing with a sharp decline in tourism due to radiation fears and had pinned their hopes on tourism recovery by becoming the venue of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Our research explores the challenges these businesses face in their recovery process and provides examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships (businesses, local residents, academia, and local governments) that can be vital for both business and destination recovery. We hope our research can hope to inform community-based tourism planning and development occurring elsewhere in the world.

### **Community Engagement through Q-method as a Tool for Healthy Precinct Design.** *LUN Ci Min (Singapore University of Technology & Design)*

In Singapore, low-income and high-income households can be found within the same precinct, often sharing the same physical environment. Studies have shown that the physical environment plays a drastic impact on

an individual's health and well-being (Ohrnberger, Fichera, & Sutton, 2017). However, the ease of access to green and social spaces or fresh and quality food products may not be equal depending on one's level of affluence and preference. Therefore, there is a need to investigate how physical, environmental, and social factors influence the behavior and overall health of individuals from different socioeconomic groups.

This paper presents the findings from a Behavioral Needs Assessment conducted in a selected town, Boon Lay, where civic engagement was realized using Q-methodology (n=200). Q-methodology is a quantitative method that explores issues related to human subjectivity (Brown, 2008). Participants in the study were tasked to rank 25 statements about their health behaviors into a Q-sort grid according to their subjective sentiments about the statements. Factor analysis is then performed based on data collected through Q-methodology to capture the sentiments of three main socioeconomic groups: Vulnerable (low-income earners), Heartlanders (middle-income earners), and Executives (high-income earners).

The application of the Q-method in this paper meaningfully engages stakeholders by allowing participants to feel heard and valued through this inclusive engagement model. Furthermore, Q-method provides deeper insight and better quality of data into the perceptions and behaviors of different socioeconomic classes.

## DAY 2/ SESSION 2 SCALING SUSTAINABILITIES

### **Mechanism of Citizen Participatory Action in Collaborative Low-carbon Community: A Theoretical Framework and Case Studies in Japan.** *Ziyi XU (University of Tokyo)*

In micro levels of sustainable urbanization, participatory pro-environmental action is becoming an important topic in low-carbon communities under the psycho-social-ecological framework. An objective of the research is to explore the mechanism of citizen participation action in collaborative low-carbon communities in Japan from the view of pro-environmental behavior and the interaction mechanism in social organization networks with other participants, as well as three case studies of sustainable cities in Japan.

the research tries to set up an “individual-collective-collaborative network” framework, from individual effort to collective behavior, and the interaction with several bodies on a larger scale. As for the “individual-collective” part, the emphasis is on collective environmental behavior research, in which an empirical study will be conducted in Japan through quantitative survey and statistical analysis. As for the “collective-collaborative network” part, three collaborative models are set up between citizens with several other bodies including corporations, governments, and academic institutions, which are 1. “Joint knowledge production,” 2. “Joint policy making,” and 3. “Joint regional resources cycle”. Each network is analyzed with corresponding case studies of Japanese low carbon communities, including “Eco-school district in Kyoto”, “Collaborative low carbon planning in districts in Nagoya”, “Sustainable career in Yokohama,” etc.

**Civic Engagement and Bottom-up Approaches: Potential in regards to Japan’s Vernacular Thatch Roof Culture Sustainability.** *Jamin CELINE (Kyoto University)\**

The Japanese contemporary conservation process of the thatched roofs seems to have stayed fixated on the traditional process dating to over 50 years ago, while much has evolved within the trade from the profession’s structure itself to the sourcing of material. Such a lack of updates on the trade disfavor the visibility and sustainable potential of the thatched culture to the general public. This case study research is focusing on the Miyama Kayabuki Company (MKC), a team of Japanese professional thatched craftsmen. The research investigates how through their private initiatives but also community events and inter-crafts professionals’ cooperation, the thatchers of MKC are attempting to revive the thatched and straw culture in their region and throughout Japan. Through the study, it has been observed that as a result of their thatched culture revival efforts, the thatchers are initiating positive life cycle changes of various sustainable factors branching from the usage of sustainable, organic materials in contemporary used buildings; to a revival of rural communities’ activities; Preservation of traditional knowledge and techniques; and Economical and professional opportunities for the youth. This research is presenting some of those positive results and is looking to contribute to strengthening the validity and potential of well-structured civic engagements and bottom-up approaches in regard to the sustainability of vernacular architecture and its associated knowledge. Such civic actions could be considered tools to aid long-

term durability, sustainability, and local community involvement to facilitate the revival of vernacular architecture culture.

Data has been collected over literature reviews and field expeditions to the Kita village of Miyama, Japan. Through those research expeditions in 2021 and 2022, the author has been especially following the works of the MKC and recorded the full process of some of their conservation activities.

**The Factor of Time.** *Marcia MCNALLY (Neighborhood Laboratory), Randolph HESTER, Hailey MALONE, Marina STERN, and Xihan YAO\**

LAEP and SAVE have partnered since 1997 to create sustainable plans that benefit the globally endangered Black-faced Spoonbill, the human communities with which they co-habitat, and the ecosystem of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). Over time we have developed a method that combines land planning, science, and democratic design, sometimes with success, sometimes not. This presentation will present our current work on the Hwaseong Wetlands in the Republic of Korea (ROK), the heart of EAAF. The wetlands are one of the most productive migratory stopovers, supporting 150,000 waterbirds annually. While it is one of ROK’s most contested wetlands, it is under consideration as a Phase Two Getbol Korea Tidal Flats World Heritage site. Adjacent to a thriving city, Hwaseong Wetlands has the opportunity to demonstrate ways to resolve urban-nature conflicts. After nearly two decades of largely unsuccessful attempts to work locally in ROK to stop wetlands reclamation, it appears now may be the time to prevail.

**DAY 2/ SESSION 3**  
**ENGAGING LEARNING**

**Design Action Alliance | Nepal.** *Ben SPENCER (University of Washington, Seattle)\**

The Design Action Alliance is a consortium of Nepali and international organizations with a shared goal to improve living conditions in Nepal’s marginalized urban communities, or 'sukumbasi'. Drawing upon knowledge shared by community members over the past 5 years, the Alliance has gained valuable insights into sukumbasi challenges and priorities. Places of gathering, vocational training, income generation, and other interventions that strengthen social and economic capital rank high among these priorities. Building upon this knowledge,

the Alliance is launching a multi-year initiative that will harness infrastructural improvements, education, and entrepreneurial action to establish a distributed network of multi-functional community centers and self-sustaining economic hubs.

The presentation will provide an overview of sukumbasi communities in Nepal, introduce key players in the Design Action Alliance, outline the Alliance's objectives, and detail the steps it is taking to carry out these objectives.

### **Reflections on Teaching Participatory Community**

**Design.** *TAN Beng Kiang (National University of Singapore)*

This presentation will give an overview of how community engagement is embedded to different degrees in our design modules and community service projects. I will share my experience of teaching a Participatory Community Design module to architecture, urban design, and urban planning students. It is a non-design studio module introduced in 2018 to build capacity and skills in our students so that they may apply it in their studio or thesis projects, and to equip them for future professional practice. The learning outcomes of the module are 1) Understanding the theory and practice of participatory community planning and design and the context for its application; 2) Understanding the importance of participatory community planning and design; 3) Learning methods and tools often used in participatory planning and design and applying them through experiential learning in real-life projects. The presentation will cover the structure of the module, the types of projects, the collaboration with external organizations, how engagement is carried out in-person, how digital technology is leveraged for online workshops due to pandemic restrictions, the challenges faced and opportunities identified, and the learning points for students, educator, and stakeholders.

**Pedagogy of Engagement in Design.** *Mari FUJITA (University of British Columbia)*

Design for the built environment fundamentally engages places and people. Awareness is growing that many practices within the disciplines of architecture and landscape architecture fall short of JEDI tenets/principles and even perpetuate harmful systems and structures. The question arises, how to evolve our disciplinary knowledge and practice? Doing so would require a transformation of our pedagogy, methods,

roles, protocols, systems, and so on. The project Pedagogy of Engagement in Design focuses on one slice within the large project described above: how to design engagement to be ethical, respectful, and meaningful for all parties involved.

The project will consider the pedagogy of engagement specific to design education: how we teach what engagement is, what are the ethics within engagement, and what are the best practices of engagement. The focus will be given to engagement with marginalized communities. Rather than approaching these questions from the top-down, knowledge will be co-developed by academics, practitioners, community groups, and resident peers. In parallel, the project will use a process of circular learning to develop the content for a design workshop with resident peers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community. Ultimately the research and praxis will come together to evolve disciplinary knowledge and practices around engagement.

---

## **Working Group Participants & Contributors**

**Veronica Antoniou**, University of Tokyo  
**Rene Carraz**, University of Toyo  
**Shenglin Chang**, National Taiwan University  
**Alejandro Collia**, Global & Local  
**Joshua Cooper**, University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu & Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights  
**Kathleen Dorgan**, Dorgan Architecture & Planning  
**Mariia Ermilova**, Chiba University  
**Cara Flores**, Fulbright Taiwan/ National Cheng Kung University Institute of Creative Industries Design  
**Mari Fujita**, University of British Columbia, Canada  
**Rachael Han**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Institute for Sustainability and Resilience  
**Randolph Hester**, University of California, Berkeley  
**Cathi Ho Schar**, UH Manoa School of Architecture  
**Jeff Hou**, University of Washington, Seattle  
**Klara Indrawati**, University of Oregon  
**Nancy Ji**, Keio University  
**Celine Jamin**, Kyoto University  
**Sandy Kim**, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
**Ismail KINOSHITA**, Otsuma Women's University  
**Miwako KITAMURA**, Tohoku University  
**Tamiyo KONDO**, Kobe University  
**Jae Ho Lee**, University of Seoul

**LIM Aunn Ning**, Singapore University of Technology and Design

**Yinghao Liu**, Tohoku University

**Eva Lloyd**, UNSW Sydney (Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture)

**LUN Chi Min**, Singapore University of Technology and Design

**Elizabeth Maly**, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University

**Nobuko MATSUMOTO**

**Tomoko MATSUSHITA**, Urban Disaster Research Institute

**Marcia McNally**, The Neighborhood Laboratory

**Norie MIWA**

**Rena NAGAI**

**Boonanan Natakun**, Thammasat University

**David Nguyen**, Tohoku University

**Bo Peng**, University of Washington, Seattle

**Giang Phung**, University of Oregon

**Samantha Rich**, UNSW Sydney

**Nao SAKAGUCHI**, Iwate University

**Ben Spencer**, Design Action Nepal, University of Washington

**Marina Stern**

**TAN Beng Kiang**, National University of Singapore

**Mitsunari TERADA**, Takasaki University of Economics

**Jolie Wanger**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

**XU Ziyi**, Collaborate Community Design Lab, Department of Urban Engineering, University of Tokyo

**Xihan Yao**

**Ariel Yau**, University of Hong Kong

**Mari YOSHINAGA**