

A12 - New Thoughts For Old Brownfields & Industrial Sites: Art-Space Conservation-Economic, Political & Social Benefits Across Land Use Agendas

Presentation title: Art-Space Conservation: Economic, Political, and Social Benefits Across Land-Use Agendas

Presenter:
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Abstract

Rather than viewing art as an item of consumption, we propose to examine ways to use art as a medium to improve economic vitality, cultural diversity, and community health in cities and regions. Applying a political economic perspective on art may help us understand the functional and practical linkages between the art, economic development, and community. Doing so could enable the practitioners across the related fields of urban design, urban planning, and community development to better incorporate art-space into the overall social fabric of urban environments. Many efforts have been made to include art-spaces in a variety of public and semi-public locations. Many people believe there is value in the legislation of specific percentages of money to be invested in public art. Others find such investments to be a waste. Often, when discussions of cultural resources ensue, there is a quantifiable lack of data on issues relating to economics and political and social structures in society; it is art without a solid foundation for production. Art-spaces not only to improve the physical appearance of the urban landscape, they serve as policy interventions to attract industries and promote cultural diversity and community health in urban spaces. Art-spaces are often located near industrial and residential tracts, but less often are incorporated into the workflow of the industrial land-use. There could be some benefit in incorporating a percentage of the art-spaces within the financially lucrative industrial spaces, not only for the artists and those who personally consume his work, but also for the corporation who hosts the artist under examination. The environment, and the economy in general could be enhanced and a greater sense of community could be created. There is a necessity to conserve land for industrial use because industrial lands are one of the critical resources for preserving economic diversity and growth in urban areas, and the arts could provide as much of a foundation for industry as industry could provide a foundation for the arts. During the course of this presentation, hands-on activities will illustrate the concepts under examination. Space is only understood when one moves through space. Sound is only understood when one creates sound. We use art in the broadest sense of the term to include literary, visual and performing arts. These and other concepts will be made clear and practical via case study, and research principle. A q & a period will follow the presentation.

Speaker Biography

Jody John Ramey is a dancer, musician, visual artist, and disability advocate, working in interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary formats to educate people about inclusion for people with and without disabilities. He publishes and presents internationally on a variety of issues related to arts production, social and community development, and disability. Doo-Joon Chung is a Ph.D. student at Portland State University, currently doing his working dissertation on industrial land use and management issues and their policy implications for community change. His academic interests range from urban spatial economics and politics, planning and community development, and the relationship between the market, local community and cultural change. Beginning with his Master's work at University of Oregon to the present, he has been interested in social equity issue and has been actively involved in a number of community-initiated, collaborative social research projects including, examining food insecurity issues in the state of Oregon and employment status among the disabled. His work on food insecurity was presented to the Oregon Housing and Community Services and resulted in a report titled Hunger and Food Insecurity of Low-Income Households in Oregon, available at Oregon Food Bank website.