



## Notes from “Healing the Democracy”

Sherryl

Close your Eyes.

What does healing the democracy mean to you?

Ryan

Adding the controls for a place to the place

Ben

Detroit’s community benefits agreement so that developments are more equitable

Cade

Making sure people are involved in shaping the public space

Democratic institutions should be neutralized and equalized

Healing our democracy at the scale of our neighborhoods are about sharing our investment/ownership

Carmen

People and processes, inviting people into spaces

Did an event called “Meet Me” inviting black transplants and people into the suburb to an inner city park for a brunch mixer and invited community elders. Intergenerational

Inviting people is rare. Barriers were broken down at the event. People want to have deeper connections but might be overlooked or only at one dimensional

Thea

Pronounced “TAY-uh”

Neighborhood in San Jose, lower income neighborhood, closest communit center was far away  
No one had a voice for a city  
Redevelopment funds came together to build a teen center  
It was a healing safe space  
Healing democracy was part of that process

Ethan  
Shared PPS articles  
Encountered all types of healing democracy stories  
refugee stories, governance at all levels faces issues  
How can placemaking disrupt and replace democracy

Ryan  
Introduced to book by Ryan Salzman book "Placemaking as Protest" which compared  
placemaking and protesting and found similarities in how they "embody the value/change we  
want to see in the public realm"

Cade  
Leveraged funding to make more bikeable and community development towards more walkable  
streets  
3 funding sources: NAtional Safe Routes to Scholl, Ruth Mott Foundation (housing around  
community centers), Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (was interested in increasing voting),  
AARP, National Association for Realtors

Ethan  
Did a Place Game in Tel Aviv  
Asked people what people like in the space and how they would improve it  
The people who were perceived as loiterers were actually great observers of the space  
And the problem was the solution

Sherryl  
Interviewed homeless people in a park  
The homeless people in the park were organized, went fishing for crab, two good fisherman  
were in charge of the process  
They had their own set of rules  
Systems for family visitation

Marcelo Rebelo (Cicades.co)  
We do placemaking here in Brazil  
Our business model is  
Every plaza has a whats app group of the neighborhoods  
Most improvement energy is not effecting change because people don't know how to do it  
We teach them how to do it

We teach the law, give out tools  
Giving access to knowledge to those spending  
Neighbors fighting against each other  
We mentor communities  
The plazas are in bad condition  
People can go to the government and say they will spend their own money to adopt the plaza  
We teach people how to do collaborative adoption. 3-4 become the leader of a plaza group, they  
crowdsource and organize neighborhood and find resources and become operator of the space  
20 most connected communities are entering their platform

Tina Govan, Raleigh, NC

Teaching people what they can and can't do  
Navigating the city's website  
Got a grant by AIA to walk people through the process of neighborhood popups  
Creating a lending library of street equipment for closing the gap between placemaking  
Boopsie does activist parklets and popups  
Did it on parking day and invited the city councilman and city department who committed to  
being in the parklet

Sherryl

Redoing the parklet ordinance  
Work on a booklet to walk people through it

Ryan

Concept of subsidiarity that social issues and opportunities should be handled on the lowest  
level possible  
Tells story of Whiskey Tax, the first tax caused the Whiskey Rebellion which cost more to  
squash than the tax ever raised.

Sherryl

We had a whiskey street, people have had to resort to going underground often

Ethan

Great to see Marcelo  
Were learning across the world that teaching people and giving people access to these abilities  
is the trend we're seeing everywhere and that place leadership is coming from all sectors

Sherryl

When I think of healing the democracy  
When I was living in Puerto Rico  
Great to have international points of view  
In Puerto Rico, you do what you do with what you have  
If there's a plaza, you take it over, we have 500 years of that history  
In America, the way cities are managed is different like having places closed from dusk til dawn

Giving people the ability to change these plazas or whether or not you even have one  
How do you make public spaces a common ground

Jackson

Visiting friends in Veracruz including architects and students

Importance of organizing for democracy

Core concerns were safety in public space

Like minded groups of people but how do we connect Placemaking Mexico with them

Ethan

Placemaking Mexico was in Costa Rica this week making their new network

And there is a Puerto Rico network coming soon

Cade

Our public process is so painful, it seems like it's purposefully set to keep people away from the halls of public participation

Have to bring your own dinner to go to city council

I get paid to be there sometimes

But it's rare to have neighbors go because it's not worth their time

Sherryl

Avoiding council should be one of the best ways

Used our own money to power wash an alley

Ethan

Frustration with some lacks of political will but start with where the energy is

Ryan

Placemaking Europe just released their After Covid City declaration in which they want people to have access to experimentation in public space

We have Placemake Earth going up on Friday April 1st as a learning/doing community

This is an opportunity to put what we're talking about into action