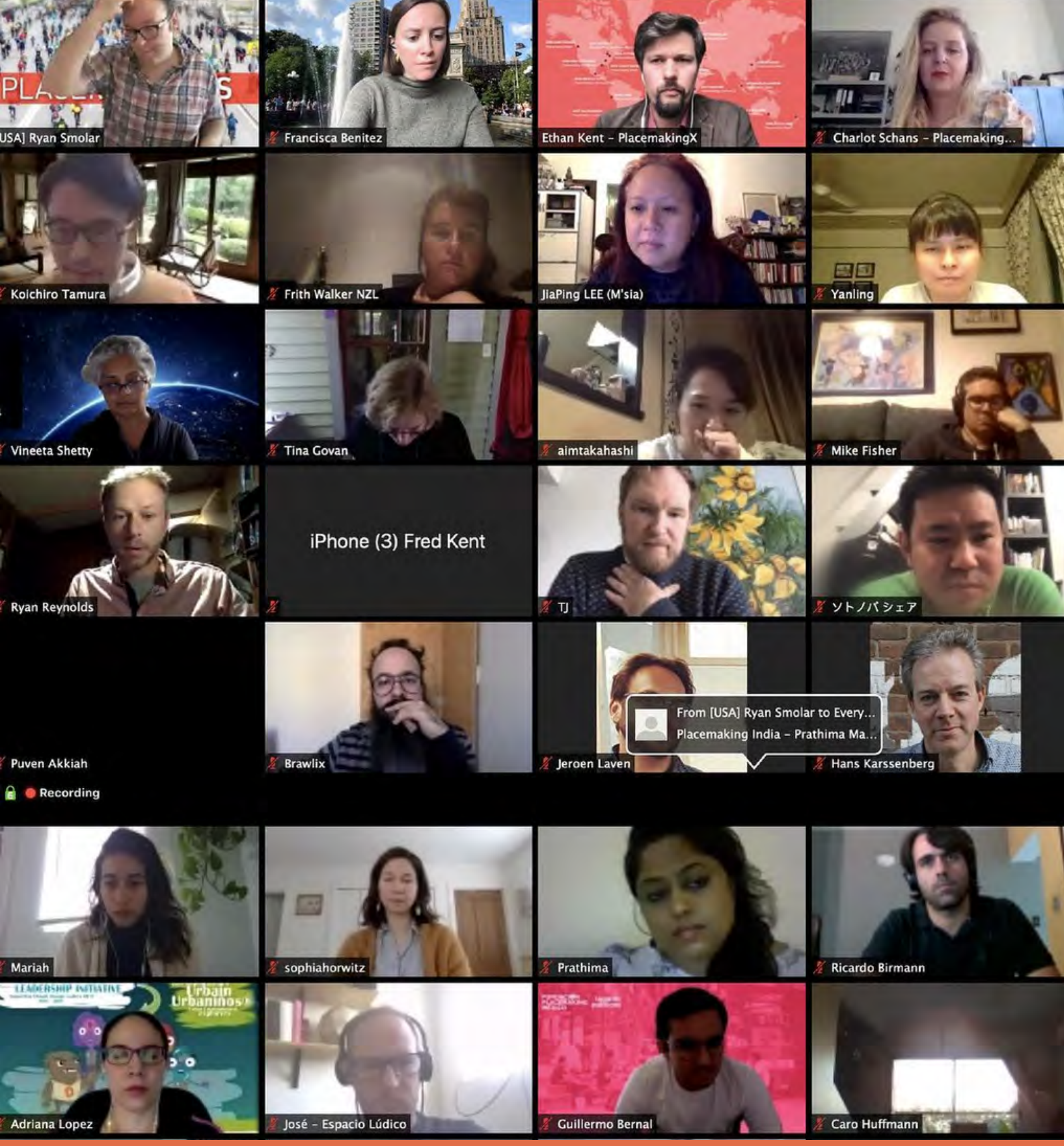


PLACEMAKINGUS

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

BIRTH OF A **NETWORK** IN A CHAOTIC NEW WORLD

PlacemakingUS was born into a worldwide family

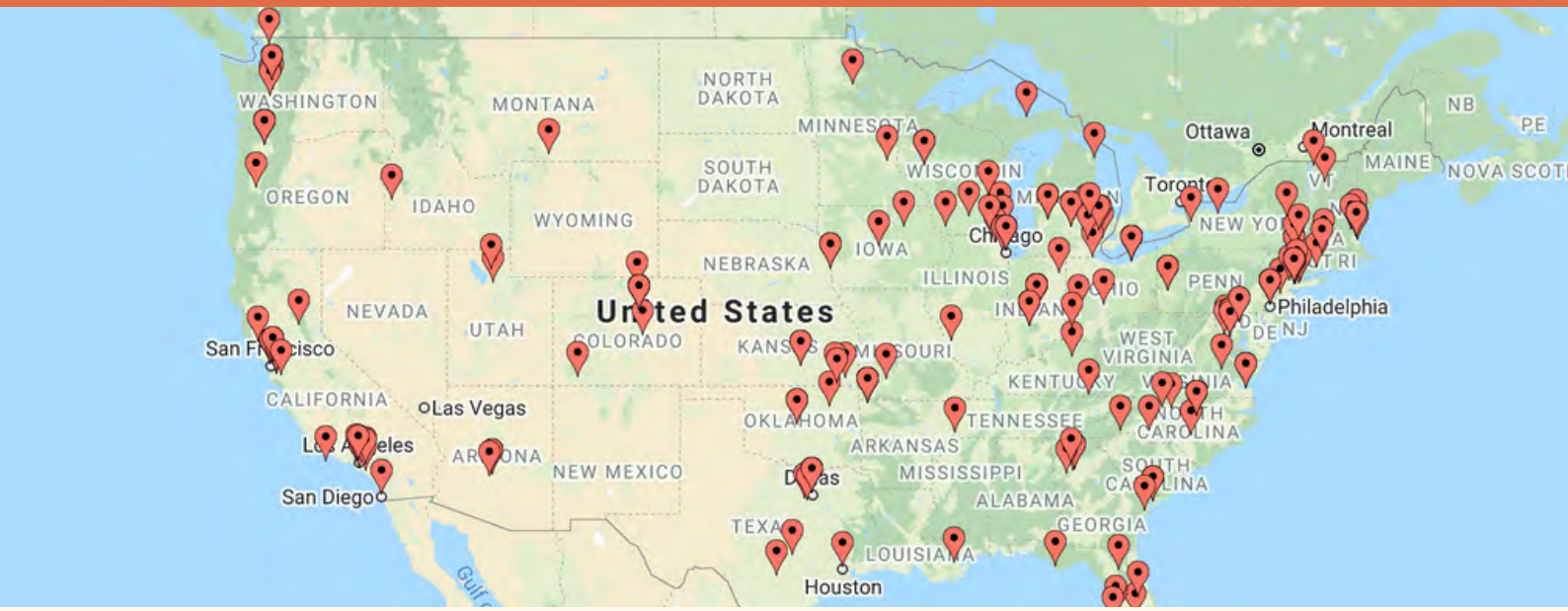
We started **PlacemakingUS** at **2019's International Placemaking Week** with a mission *to bring together placemakers from US cities and around the world.*

We were inspired by the launches of **Placemaking Europe**, **Placemaking Asia** and 12 other regional placemaking networks that span the globe in collaboration through **PlacemakingX**.

Since **Covid-19** struck in 2020, we quickly dashed our in-person plans for Placemaking Festivals in Portland, Long Beach and Philadelphia, and pivoted towards online interactions including webinars, international placemaking "tool tests," Zoom workgroups, in-person check-ins when safe, and we even commissioned a series of volunteer cross-country projects.

Facing an incredibly unique set of circumstances in our first full-year, we are excited to share the work that was done towards our goal of fostering a network to bring US-based placemakers together to spread innovations and support and share in the good work from across the country and around the globe.

PLACEMAKERS ACROSS THE U.S. ARE AT THE READY



Connecting the Dots

350+ Multi-disciplinary placemakers from across the country have signed-up with us to participate in open-source collaborations. We are reaching out to learn about each placemaker's practice to connect them with opportunities that build capacity.

Meet-ups, Check-ins & Phone Calls

Our network's value is exemplified by our hands-on check-ins, city visits and phone calls with placemakers across the country and with our international partners. We have already developed a track record of spreading innovation across the world.

United Streets of America

Placemakers collaborate on a site-specific community project.

International Tooltests

Tooltests are scheduled chances to try a technique or concept in local contexts while working in a global cohort.

Working Groups

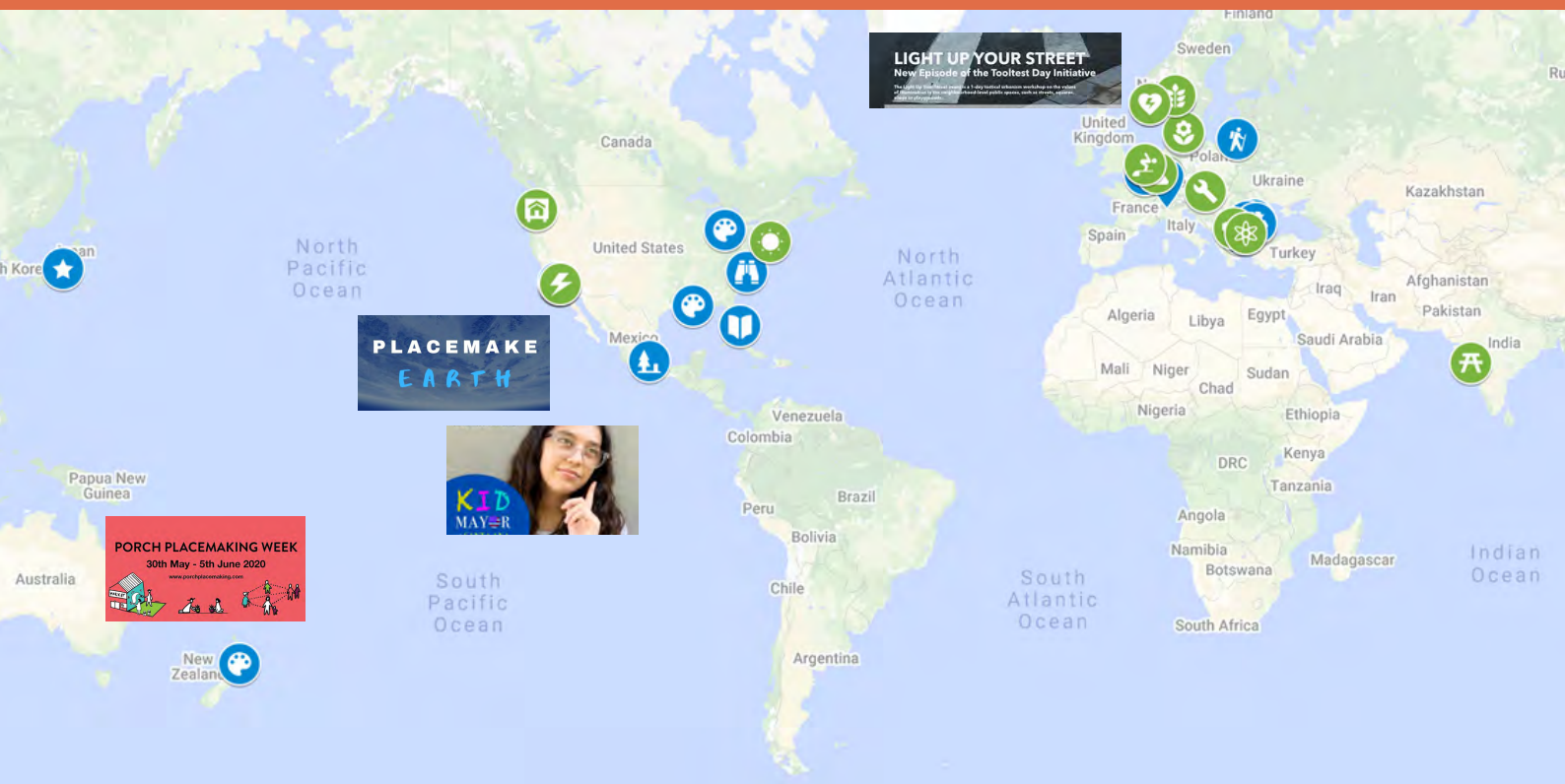
Workgoups meet regularly around a certain topic, theme, project or event.

Webinars & Content

We partner with practitioners to produce webinars and other types of media and content.

TOOLTESTS

TOOLTESTS ARE A CHANCE TO **TRY OUT A TECHNIQUE OR CONCEPT** IN OUR **LOCAL CONTEXT** WHILE WORKING IN A **GLOBAL COHORT**.



A brainchild of **Placemaking Europe: Toolbox** (shout out to the *"Tooltest Day Crew"*), previous **Tooltests** have focused around topics such as **lighting**, **climate resiliency** and even **porches**.

When a Tooltest challenge is issued, you are encouraged to implement a test of the proposed tool in your context and then report the results back to the global group participating. It's quite fun and network-building as we share our work together.

The World Map above shows where Tooltests were issued from along with all of the placemakers who participated in our **Placemaking Earth Tooltest** in April 2020.

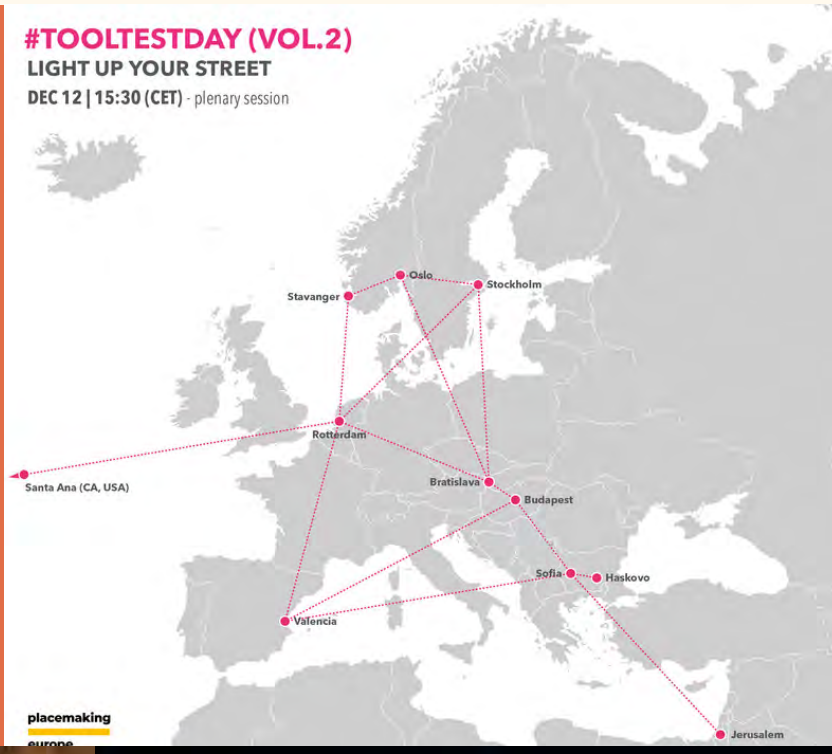
The Tooltests we participated in this year encompassed the following topics:

- **Lighting**
- **Climate Resiliency**
- **Porch Placemaking**
- **Kid Friendly Cities**

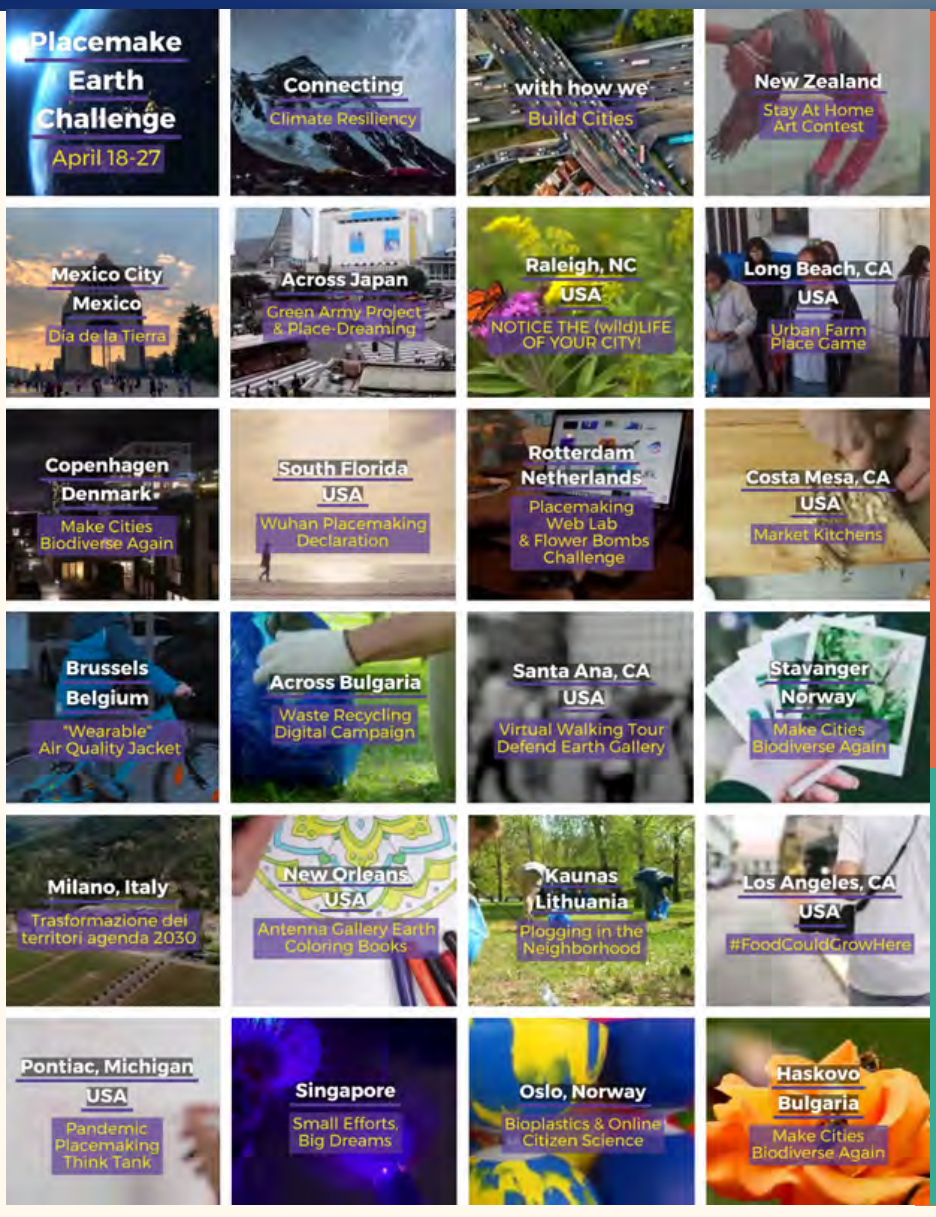
2020 TOOLTESTS

Light Up Your Street

The **Light Up Your Street** Tooltest connected cities with the goal to raise awareness of the importance of artificial light (design, positioning and technical parameters) in public space and promote light design as a tool for placemaking and tactical urbanism. We jumped on-board and participated by leading a webinar and encouraging US placemakers to participate.



2020 TOOLTESTS



Placemake Earth

We created this Tooltest in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Earth Day**. It resulted in 27 projects in 14 countries across 7 placemaking networks learning and practicing climate resilient placemaking actions together as part of the **Placemake Earth Challenge**! Way to connect eco, local and global!

WEBINARS

We are dedicated to sharing resources, talent, and stories with one another about all things placemaking.

2020 Webinar Themes

- Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Placemaking
- Plazas and Latino Placemaking
- Porches and the Black American Experience
- Placemaking Declarations
- Climate Resiliency

2021 Upcoming Webinars

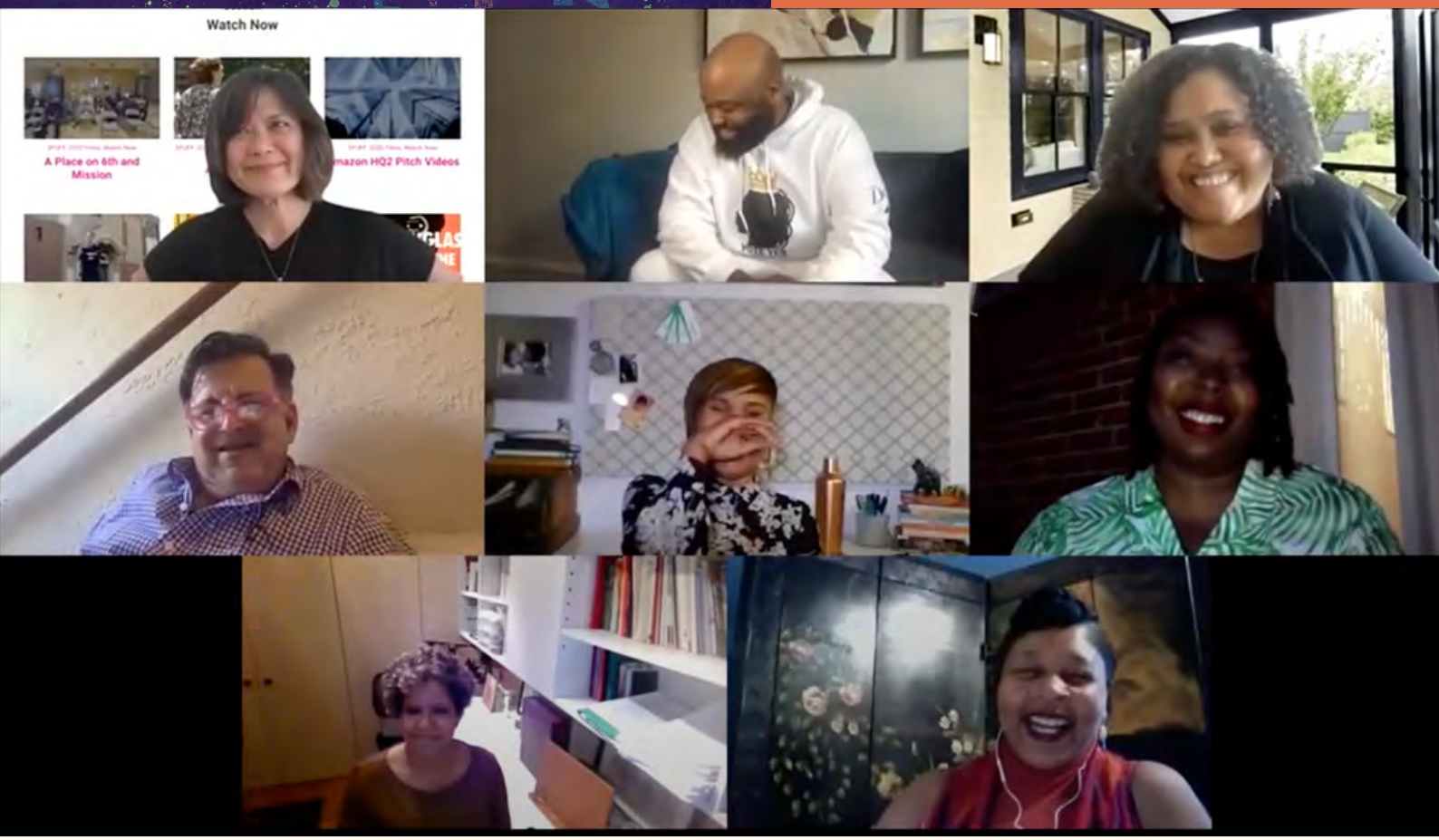
- Spiritual Placemaking
- Creative Placemaking
- Music & Placemaking
- Healthy Placemaking
- Post-Pandemic Place Economics

2020 WEBINARS

Porch Talk: RACE AND PLACE

with Madeleine Spencer

Inspired by the **Porch Placemaking Week** challenge out of Australia, **Madeleine Spencer** gathered a group at the height of 2020's civil unrest to meditate on the meaning of the porch as place in the African American family experience. This much accoladed conversation uncovered POC revelations and wishes exemplified in the overlooked interstitial place between home and public life.



2020 WEBINARS

Plaza Talk: RACE AND PLACE

with Madeleine Spencer

Latino Urbanist **James Rojas** was so excited by the meaningful dialogue created in the previous "Porch Talk" that he implored **Madeleine** to co-create another panel, this time to speak of the Pan-Latin experience with plazas. Speakers included Denver City Councilman **Paul Lopez**, anthropologist **Setha M. Low**, Seattle Director of Planning **Samuela Assefa**, **Jennifer Rangel** and **Christina Patino Houle**.

2020 WEBINARS

INSIDE OUT

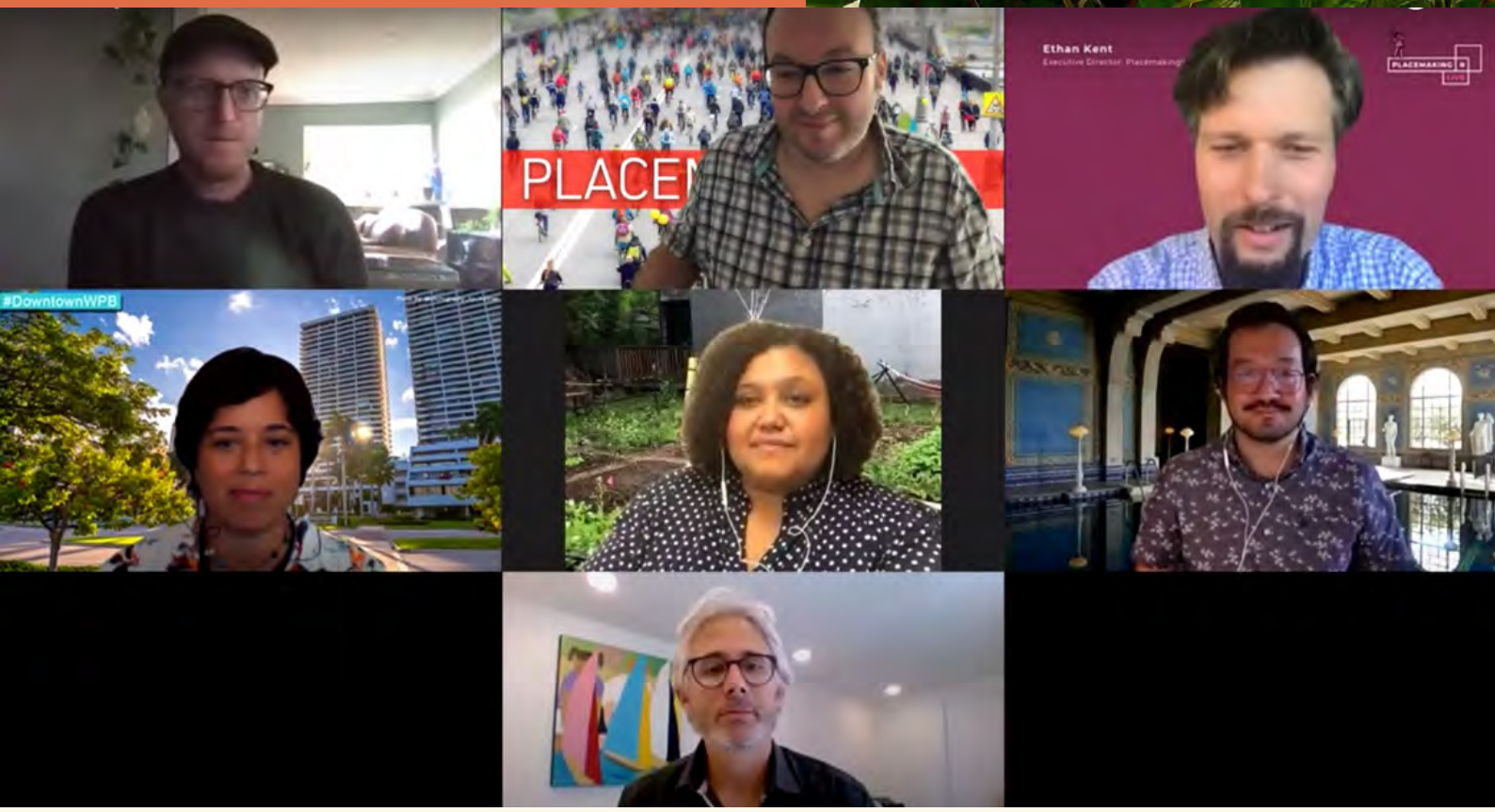
with Tina Govan and Special Guest Jaime Izurietta

Tina Govan is an architect/placemaker and principal of **Placemaking Studio** based in Raleigh, NC. She is passionate about bridging the gap between architecture and placemaking, individual and community. In the premiere episode of her show, she interviewed **Jaime Izurietta**, the founder of **Storefront Mastery**, a creative agency that guides local brick-and-mortars to create great places by celebrating the beauty of their storefronts.

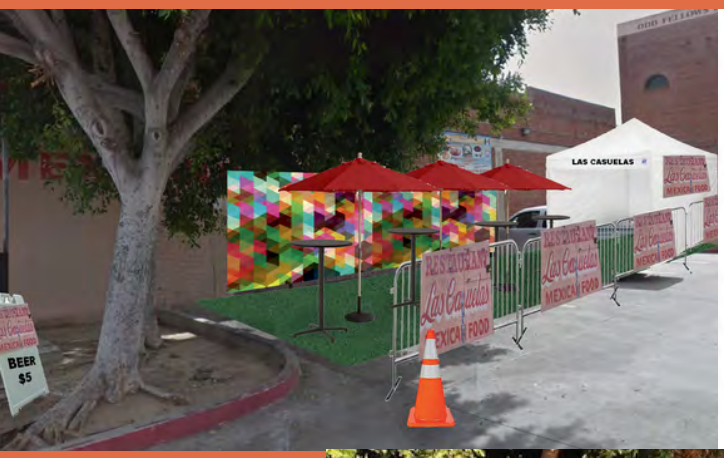
2020 WEBINARS

Streatery Ahead!

When cities began to allow restaurants to convert sidewalks, parking lots, even whole streets into outdoor dining areas, we organized a cross-cutting discussion among practitioners working on the new Wild West, blurry-lines between public and private space. We were excited to present approaches from **Robin Abad Ocubillo** at the **San Francisco Department of City Planning**, **Alan Pullman** from **Studio One Eleven**, **Sherryl Muriente** of **Downtown West Palm Beach**, **Jason Roberts** from **A Better Block**, **Alex Sasayama** of **NeighborWorks America** as well as **PlacemakingUS** and **PlacemakingX**.



CASE STUDY:
BEYOND WORDS TOWARDS ACTION



TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING + RETAIL ACTIVITY ON PRIVATE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CITYWIDE

Up to 50% of off-site private parking spaces counted for required parking may be converted to outdoor dining or retail space, when the lot is immediately adjacent to the parent property. The converted use must be in conformance with all Orange County Fire Authority (OFCA) requirements for building accessibility, and social distancing requirements that provide at least six feet spacing between tables and pathways. Additionally, no parking for disabled persons may be repurposed for restaurant or retail use. See **Exhibit D** for a sample layout.

By following the Streateries resources and processes promoted by PlacemakingUS, Downtown Santa Ana turned mockups into plans into pop-ups into funded permanent infrastructure.

AS WEBINARS AND ZOOM BECAME THE NORM, WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE OUR WORDS WERE HAVING A REAL-WORLD IMPACT.

Our *Streatery Ahead!* webinar helped inform many city planning and traffic departments, business districts and economic development bureaus on various approaches to opening streets.

We actively gathered and shared best practices on social media like the **Portland Bureau of Transportation's** *Healthy Business Plazas Program* (the street photo above permitted by **Greg Raisman**) and the **National Association of City Traffic Official's** *Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery.*

In **Santa Ana, California**, the Downtown association had advocated to the City for 5+ years for parklets, but received none. Finally, faced with Covid and inspired by PlacemakingUS-gathered materials, the City allowed **30+ outdoor patios** and parklets and awarded **$750,000 CARES Act economic relief funds** for more permanent designs after a successful pilot.

CASE STUDY:
BEYOND WORDS TOWARDS ACTION

Downtown Santa Ana followed the materials we gathered through our Streateries campaign and they received $750K CARE Act Relief Funds for permanent patio build-outs after a successful pilot for 30+ small businesses.

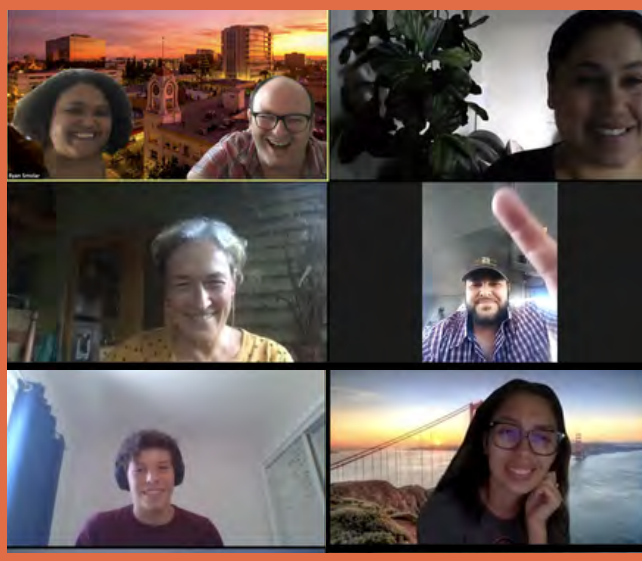
WORKING GROUPS

WORKGOUPS MEET REGULARLY AROUND A CERTAIN TOPIC OR PROJECT

We have workgroups meeting to discuss the following:

(1) Kid Friendly Cities
(2) Media and Content Creation
(3) Tooltests
(4) United Streets of America/Volunteer Projects
(5) Placemaking Declarations
(6) Hosting a Placemaking Festival

Please let us know if you'd like to join a workgroup or to help us start a new one. For example, **Placemaking Europe** has several workgroups including **Creative Bureacracies**, **Housing**, **Climate Change** and more.



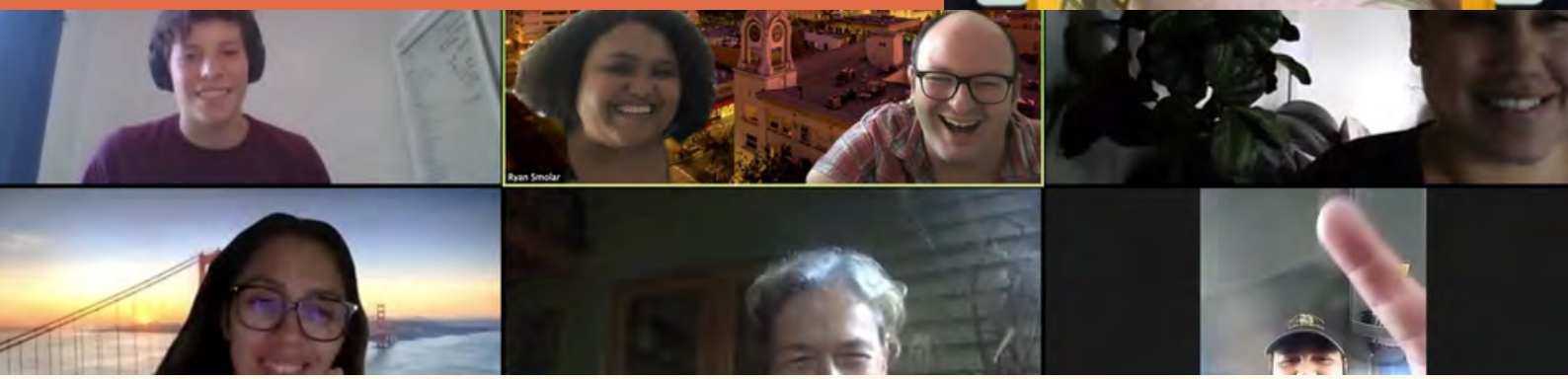
WORKING GROUPS

Kid Friendly Cities

Facilitated by Madleine Spencer and Tina Govan

The **Kid Friendly Cities Workgroup** was inspired by **UNICEF's** *Child Friendly Cities Initiative*, a program which defines a Child Friendly City as *"a city, town or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions."*

This year, our group has launched a **Kid Mayor** campaign to ask kids how they'd help their city.



WORKING GROUPS

Content Creation

Creating videos, writing articles, updating the website, moderating the social media accounts -- it's a ton of work! We're grateful for placemakers who have helped share the load this year of building content for the network to share.

- Madeleine Spencer
- Ryan Smolar
- Ethan Kent
- Tina Govan
- Hilary Ho
- Abraham Gomez

Please contact us if you can help us with production so we can expand our content delivery and reach!

Placemaking Weeks

We started 2021 working with several different workgroups focused on making Placemaking Weeks happen across the country.

The time we spent together was no waste as we've been able to collaborate and cross-promote during the pandemic and look forward to in=person gatherings when possible.

Philadelphia Placemaking Week

Ian Litwin, Nate Hommel, Katrina Johnston-Zimmerman, Ethan Kent

Long Beach Placemaking Week

Long Beach Fresh Advisory Board and Urban Aggies Group

Portland Placemaking Week

Amanda Leigh Evans, Kirk Greener Rea, Matt Bibeau, Mark Lakeman, Greg Raisman, Rich Eisenhauer

UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

As a result of COVID, American cities began drastically reallocating their streets in 2020. The changed plans were thought to be temporary, but many changes made during COVID are beginning to have long-term impact for our communities' pandemic-aware built-environment.

Recognizing this opportunity to re-envision how streets work, PlacemakingUS began gathering placemakers to help spread innovative policies and work with community-based groups and independent small businesses to facilitate site-specific help planning their outdoor space.

2020 Contributing Placemakers:

- James Rojas, Latino Urbanist, Place IT! Oakland, California
- Triveece Penelton, AICP, Public Involvement Innovator, Vireo, Kansas City, Missouri
- Carmen Mays, CEO, Elevators, Birmingham, Alabama
- Madeleine Spencer, Coordinator, PlacemakingUS, Santa Ana, California
- Ryan Smolar, Coordinator, PlacemakingUS, Southern California
- Tina Govan, Architect, Placemaking Studio, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Erin Holsonback, Landscape Architect, Otten + Associates, Portland, Oregon
- Candice Ji, Independent Urban Planner/Architect, Kirkland, Washington

UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

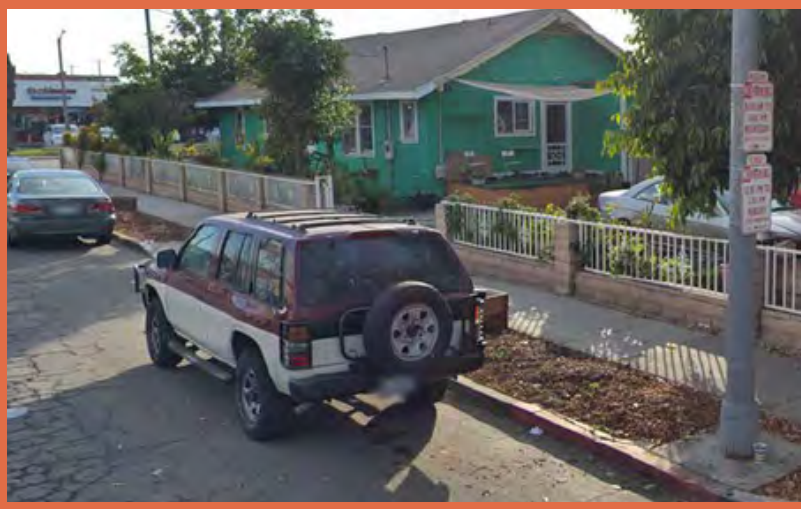
MAYE Center "Marklet"

Long Beach, California

The **MAYE Center** cultivates self-healing and wellness for Long Beach's **Cambodian community** affected by the trauma and displacement of the Khmer Rouge genocide in their homeland.

This **USofA** project helped extend the vital services of the MAYE Center by utilizing the **Long Beach Open Streets Initiative** to serve the community with food access and a safe outdoor environment.

Part **market** and part **parklet**, they called this new space the "**Marklet**" and hosted pop-up Cambodian vendors including a BBQ smoker, fresh juices and local clothing makers. The space is currently in pop-out mode and is a finalist for $20k in grant funding to build the full vision.



Before utilizing the street began

Currently operating in pop-up mode

Design solutions and fundraising proposal

UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

Sowing Seeds of Change Urban Farm

Long Beach, California

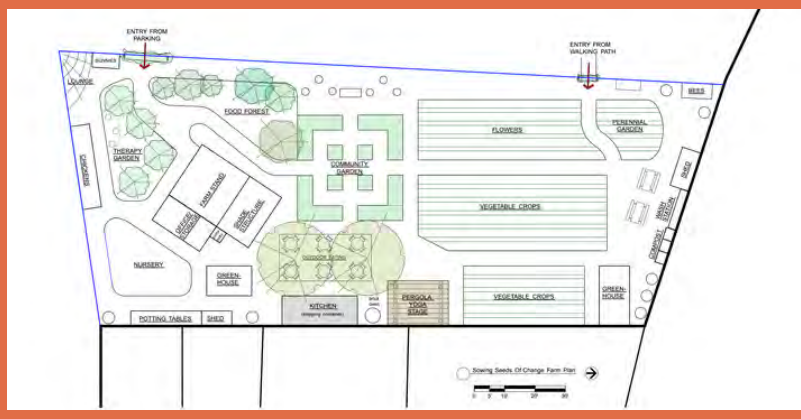
We helped two dreamers looking for a site for a farm and food sytems workforce development space as a place to teach disadvantaged adults who are aging out of the foster youth system. As we supported them with drawings, visualizations and strategies, the **City of Long Beach** gained interest and offered **Dina** and **Lindsay 14,000 sq. ft. in the heart of an $8.5 million new park** in a neighborhood in need of ecological interverntions, job opportunities and healthy food. The project is moving forward and currently seeking funding and breaking ground.

Lindsay and Dina want to create an oasis of hope.

The current site is a bus storage yard which is being relocated away to create a park.

Their passion assisted with strategy and articulation by our team helped them secure a 14,000 sq ft. lease

Visualization of the farm created by Tina Govan as part of the USofA team.



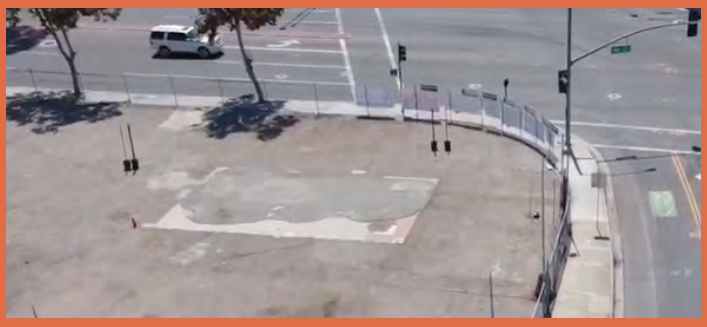
This is the site layout conceived by Lindsay and Dina, drawn by Erin Holsonback and adapted by Tina Govan.

UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

Blue Lot

Santa Ana, California

The Blue Lot is a large, vacant lot on a busy street in Orange County's creative Latin urban heart. Event promoter **Ruben Salazar** has been activating the lot with community music festivals, vegan village pop-ups and "Gente Night Markets," but the **City of Santa Ana** wants to see the site develop and have permitting so we helped Ruben envision a more complete layout and infrastructure for the Blue Lot including gardens, staging, food truck spaces, a popup marketplace, signage and more. The City is excited to issue Ruben a pilot permit to operate this new concept in the city and he is raising funds to help phase in this implementation.



Current site is an empty, corner parking lot.

Helping locals go from parking lot to public place.

The envisioned site has a mix of food trucks, garden, stage, community space and popup marketplace.

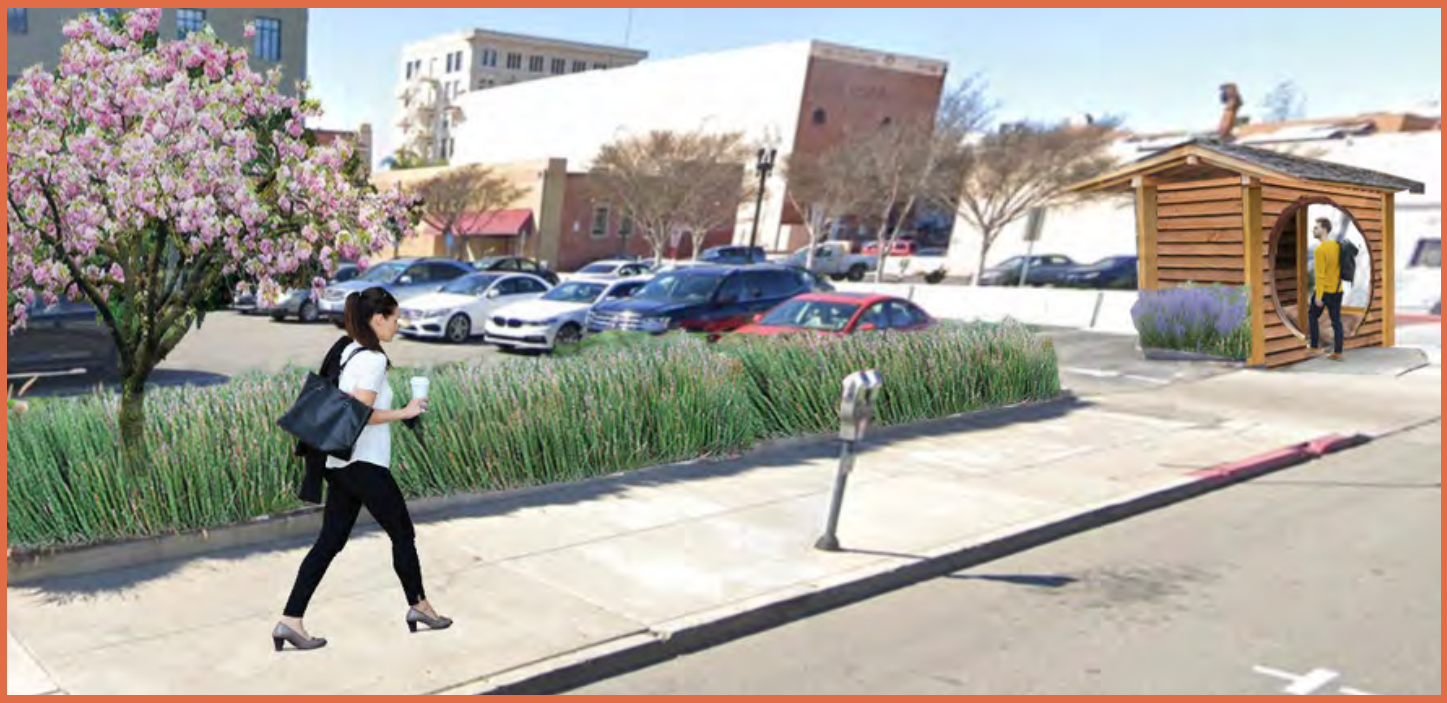
UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

Chinatown Memorial

Santa Ana, California

In 1905, the **City of Santa Ana** burned down its **Chinatown** blocks. Despite the tragic event and its repercussions, no marker or signifier recalls the old place. We're supporting local historian **Dylan Almedral** as he worked with the site's current building owners and Chinese elders from the community to organize thinking around a memorial. Together, we analyzed original source materials including texts, interviews, archive images as well as other U.S. Chinatowns and additional perspectives and insights from our team member **Candice Ji** who is originally from Shanghai, the same port town many of the Santa Ana Chinese hailed through.

The memorial will hold photos, a marker and text.



Relandscaping has been approved as well as memorial elements, though the structure is going to become more of an abstract element and in-laid sidewalk panels are likely to be added.

UNITED STREETS OF AMERICA

United Streets Design Process

OUR BASIC ROADMAP TO PROJECT SUCCESS

Community Sponsor and Placemaker *meet* and *scope* out the Project Deliverable. A simple scope and straightforward approach works best

Placemaker does *Research, Explores Use Cases, Finds Models, Scours Maps, Helps Visualize Ideas*

Community Sponsor *gets reactions* from the community, investigates *sustainability* plans. Ensures the community's *co-authorship*

Meet regularly and keep committed until you complete the agreed upon Project Deliverable

Create documentation to help *raise funds* and *support,* and to *share* the project as a template others can learn from!

Expanding United Streets in 2021

We absolutely love this program: it's fun, inspiring and educational for placemakers to participate in and it is providing real, tanglible changes in communities thanks to the efforts of these citizen-led initatives. We want to expand the United Streets program in 2021 and we think we can by promoting the program to specific geographies.

We hope to partner with cities, community foundations, equity and economic uplift initiatives to help us organize cross-country United Streets teams to work with locals on their idea, visualizing it, gaining permissions, raising funds and developing an inclusive and effective organization to run and maintain their project.

Support our Work

WE ARE LEVERAGING THE NATIONAL PLACEMAKING NETWORK'S EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT SITE-SPECIFIC CHANGES FOR MAXIMUM COMMUNITY RECOVERY.

How to Support our Work

Municipalities & BIDS

BUILD A CONSULTING BANK WITH US TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO YOUR STAKEHOLDERS

Philanthropy & Giving

GIVE OR RAISE FUNDS TOS SUPPORT UNITED STREETS PROJECT(S)

Schools & Universities

PARTICIPATE ON A PROJECT AS A CLASS OR IN-FIELD LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

MEETUPS

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE NETWORK IS TO CONNECT PLACEMAKERS THROUGH GATHERINGS, MEETUPS, PHONE CALLS, WORKGROUPS OF INTEREST AND SHARED PROJECT WORK.

We believe the core benefit of having a **PlacemakingUS** network is our ability to connect thousands of placemakers with each other. We actively welcome new members and connect them with the right people, growth opportunities and resources they seek. We also actively visit placemakers in their context to learn from them and help them further shout their innovations from the rooftops.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Oregon

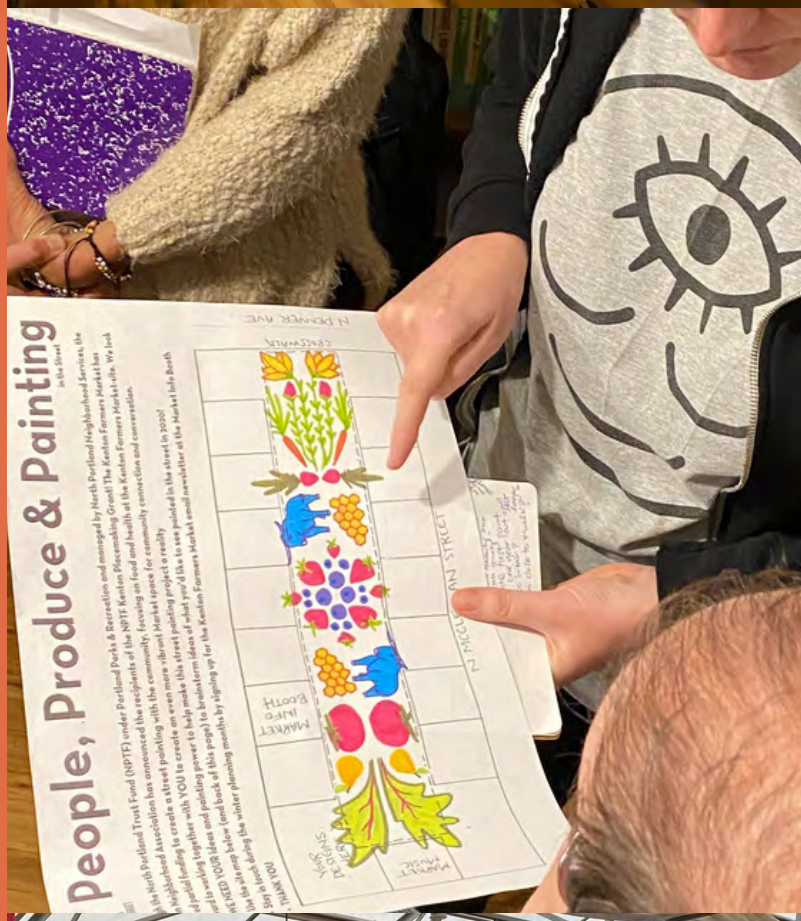
Portland

We spent a lot of this year in PDX. Before the pandemic, we had hoped to host a placemaking festival here in 2020. As famous as Portland is and as widely as it's cited, we believe very few of its best tools. policies, ideas and practices have spread far enough.

We look forward to a season ahead where we can share with you more about our amazing friends and their projects in Portland including **City Repair** and their **Village Build Convergence (VBC)** event and trainings (which we attended virutally this year—shout outs to fellow *VBC'ers* **Rebecca Sanborn Stone, Matt Bibeau, Erin Holsonback, Mark Lakeman** and **Kirk Greener Rea**).

Greg Raisman of the **Portland Bureau of Transportation** showed us how his department has worked with the VBC to help 70+ community groups complete intersection paintings and also where all the good beer in town is.

We built new pathways at a work party at the **Living Lab Farm** and learned how **Sustainability at PSU** is a keystone of the Portland Placemaking movement.



2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Oregon

Portland

We had great tours and talks with social practice artist and educator **Amanda Leigh Evans.**

Evans facilitates **The Living School of Art**, an intergenerational art collective and alternative art school that she and her neighbors co-develop in their affordable housing apartment complex in East Portland.

Evans also co-created **KSMoCA**, a topsy-turvy teacher's take on the contemporary art museum by housing it in the first elementary school in the country to be named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Evans has an incredible process for involving students in world-class artmaking and in bringing world-class artists back to work with kids.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Washington

International District, Seattle

We had an extraordinary tour of Seattle's **International District** primarily focusing on all of the visual representation telling the story of the Japanese Internment which greatly affected Seattle's Asian downtown enclave.

Gregg Scuggs, who was a principle reporter of Seattle's erupting Capitol Hill Autonomos Zone, generously shared the afternoon with us and WOWed us with stories he's pursued from hallowed tribal lands to the decommisioned Ministry of Cities in Brasilia.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Washington

Port Townsend, Jefferson County

We instantly felt **Port Townsend** would be an incredible place for a Placemaking Festival. Do not underestimate small Jefferson County: this rural, wealthy, educated and *purple* port town is a placemaking powerhouse.

We spent time with one of the smartest public officials you'll ever meet: **County Supervisor Kate Dean** and her husband **Rico Quirindongo** who was recently appointed Deputy Director of Seattle's Office of Planning and Community Development.

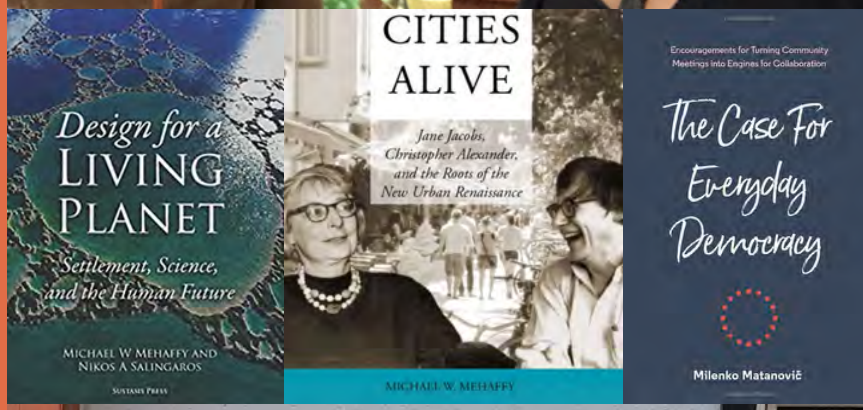
They connected us with **Magdalene Adenau** who is co-creating a local placemaking group with **Katherine Baril** of the local chamber of commerce who educated us on a barrage of waterfront placemaking projects and explained their incredible way of welcoming new residents in the community with a compulsory dinner party. We couldn't miss **Finnriver Farm & Cidery** or 434-acre multi-use **Fort Worden State Park.**

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Washington

Bellevue

We benefitted from an afternoon with **Milenko Matanovič**, pouring through his books, *The Case for Everyday Democrarcy* and *Multiple Victories: Pomegranate Center's Art of Creating Community-Crafted Gathering Places*, as he described his process of community building which evolved over a 30 year period with 60 projects completed between 1990 and 2017.



White Point

The deeper philosophical roots and physical dynamics of placemaking were on the table when we met with Jedi Placemaster, **Michael Mehaffy**, in the quiet Washington town he calls home when he's not splliting his time in Stockholm at the **KTH Royal Institute of Technology's Centre for the Future of Places.** Mehaffy dazzled us with stories of working with his collaborator, **Christopher Alexander**, the writing of the **United Nations'** *New Urban Agenda* and his theories of place dynamics, Wikiplaces and the Force.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Washington

South Park, Seattle

We explored the issues amd opportunties facing South Park, a sort of island neighborhood encircled by freeways, industrial wastewaters and heavy industry with the owners of **Resistencia Coffee**.

Cote dreams of a potential removal of the freeway that bisects South Park in favor of more housing, green space and a school. After we met, she continued to successfully lay the groundwork for this transformation.

Her husband **Tim Soerens** co-leads the **Parish Collective**, a global movement of Christians reimagining what it means to be the church in, with, and for the neighborhood. Tim recently authored *Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where you Are.*

Also visiting that night was **DeAmon Harges**, the original *"Roving Listener,"* who practices and has created a cadre of community "deep listeners" based out of the principles and practices of the **Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD).**

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Washington

Spokane

We visited with **Shae Blackwell**, Legislative Assistant to City of the Spokane District 1 Council Office to explore **Riverfront Park**, a former industrial site which was revitalized into an open space heartland for the Expo '74 "World's Fair"-type event held here.

Some highlights of the park include metal goat sculptures who vaccuum garbage out of your hands and a house-sized Radio Flyer red wagon with a handle that acts as a slide.

On the way out of town, we dropped-in on the **Downtown Spokane Partnership** and had an extensive meeting with Marketing and Programming Director, **Elisabeth Hooker**, about Downtown's sporty events including free yoga at the park, Hoopfest and the incredible Bloomsday Run.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

Montana

Missoula

We met with **Russ Roca** and **Laura Crawford** from *The Path Less Pedaled* which is a successful Youtube Channel as well as a bikeways consulting firm.

Russ and Laura told us they recently led a workshop at **Walk Bike Places** in Indiana and that they regualrly work with destination marketing organiztions to promote bicyle-based tourism that often include visiting small shops, historic locales and farms for tastings.

We were lucky to grab lunch with **Nick Peterson**, Project for Public Places alum and former Co-Director at the New York City Department of Transportation where he managed the *CityBench* program. He is taking it easier in Missoula these days but is still happy to share his experience and participate in projects that make the world a better place.

2020 U.S. MEETUPS

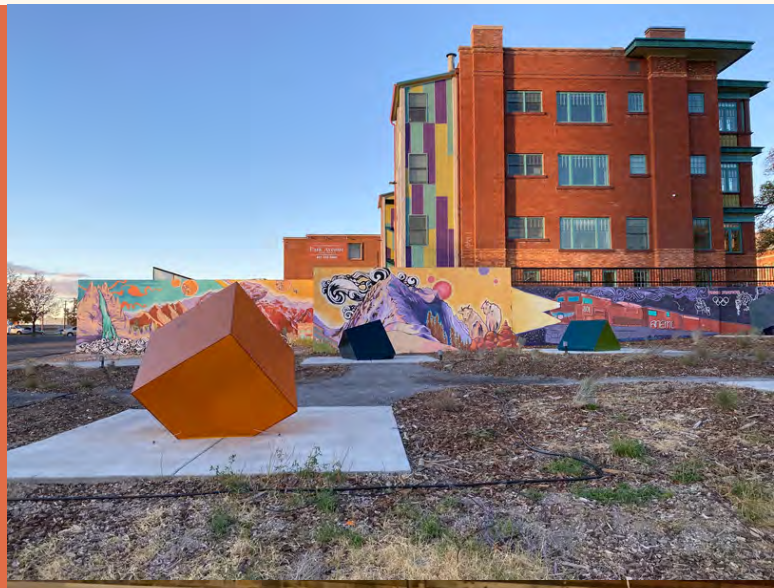
Utah

Ogden

We caught up with **Scott Patria**, the Director at Patrajdas Contemporary | Art & Consulting in Downtown Ogden. We toured his PLATFORMS project, a brilliant transformation of a corner vacant lot into a venue for large-scale outdoor art shows. This project catalyzed the surrounding arts district and Scott has been hired by the City as a consultant to invite both local and international arts to tango up and down the streets of Ogden.

Salt Lake City

Resident leader, health advocate, and economic development aficionado, **Turner Bitton**, toured us around downtown Salt Lake City, eschewing the interesting dynamics of places like downtown's LDS-owned shopping mall with the city's original artesian springwaters running right through it. Turner is currently excited about the conversion of a rundown Raging Waters theme park in his neighborhood.



ONLINE CONNECTIONS

Placemaking Declarations

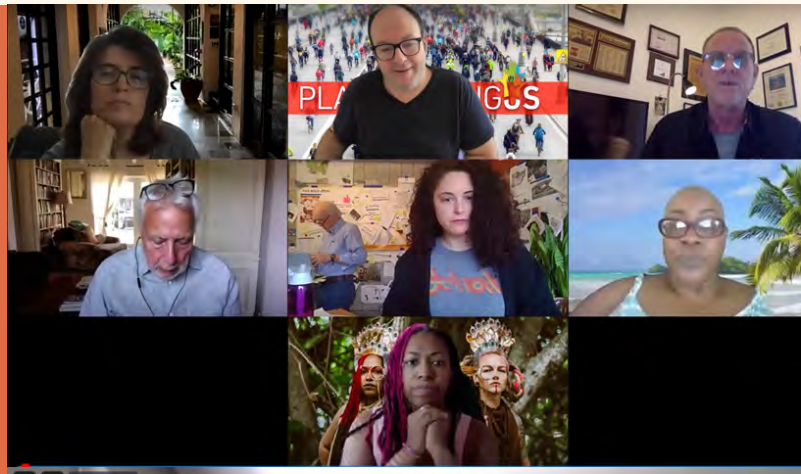
We held an online chat about the monumental **Wuhan Placemaking Delcaration** which inspired **Scott Strawbridge** of **Placemaking SoFlo** to host a local thinktank to establish a South Florida Placemaking Declaration. **Monica** and **Jim** at the **Pontiac Holonomy Incubator** helped out by facilitating the online community mind-mapping.

PlaceIt! Train the Trainer

Carmen Mays, **James Rojas**, **Triveece Penelton** and **Madeleine Spencer** teamed up for a train-the-trainer session for the staff and community surrounding Red Mountain Park in Birmingham, Alabama. Rojas is a Latino Urbanist and his *PlaceIt!* tool has been used in counteless communities of color to reimagine spaces using toys and found objects.

Additional Online Gatherings We Participated in:

- PlacemakingX All Regional Networks On-Deck World Meeting
- City Repair's Village Building Convergence
- PlacemakingUS Happy Hour
- Pontiac Park(ing) Day
- Walk Bike Places Indianapolis



PHONE CHECKINS

In 2020, we had long **phone conversations** with placemakers across the United States. While so many of us are subscribed to each other's Facebook feeds, LinkedIn updates, Google Alerts and quartely newsletters, you still find out much more when you pick-up the phone and make calls across the country.

In online posts and releases, we tend to celebrate completed milestones, but when you call someone, you hear about their plans, their uncertainties and help them troubleshoot places they might be stuck along the road. We were excited to have long chats with the following placemakers and many others:

- Ebrahim Varachia, Patronicity
- Jim Walker & Elizabeth Nash, Big Car Collective, Indianapolis
- Mark Lakeman & Kirk Rea, City Repair
- Rebecca Sanborn Stone, Placemaking Vermont
- Nate Hommel, University District, Philadelphia
- Greig Raisman and Rich Eisenhauer, Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Alexandra Gonzales, Hive Public Spaces, New York
- Alan Pullman, Studio One Eleven, Long Beach
- Carmen Mays, Elevators on 4th, Birmingham, Alabama
- Rachel Halfaker, Porchlight, Georgetown
- Chris Casillas, Regenerating Sonora, Arizona
- Blair Cohn, Bixby Knolls Business Improvement
- Megan Ihnen, Creative Placemaking, New Orleans

In 2021, we are promoting the **phone call check-in** as an important tool for getting and keeping in touch.

Long phone calls are incredibly value, but they also take time so in 2021 we are working to share the value of small conversations we're holding through report-outs. Lookout for **Placemaker Speaks** articles and **Placemaker Profiles** shared on our social media channels.

2020 INT'L MEETUPS

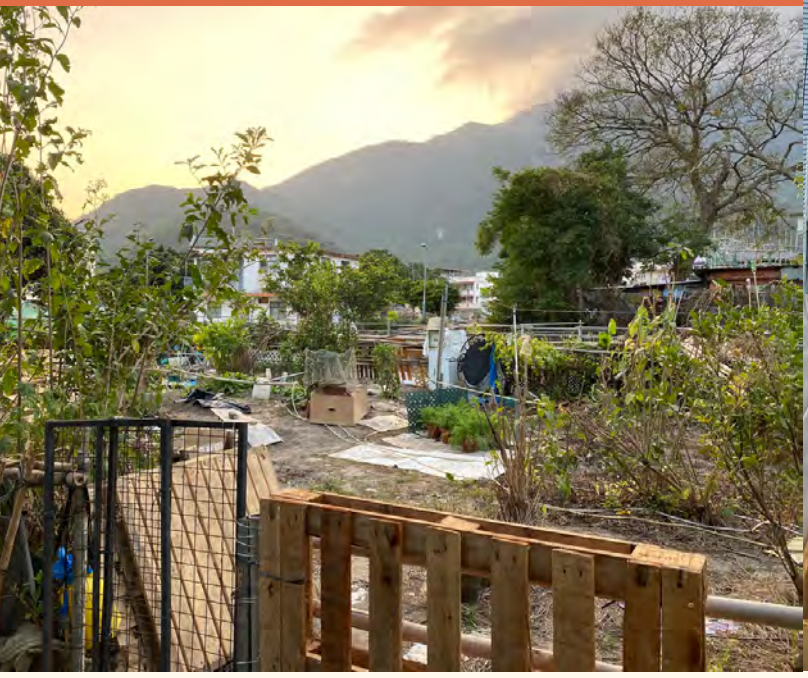
Learning and Sharing with Placemaking Networks abroad

The most intoxicating part of our work is the exciting international exchanges occurring between the **11 PlacemakingX regional networks** that span the globe. Before the pandemic set in, it was exciting to travel overseas and meet with placemakers in Japan and Hong Kong and to exchange infromation about many differences and similarities.

2020 INT'L MEETUPS

Hong Kong

Activist, preservationist and placemaker **Judy Chan** took us on an in-depth tour behind the veil of the student unrest in Hong Kong. She helped us understand the dire state of public space in Hong Kong by taking us to **Sidewalk Pier**, a reclaimed, people's waterfront. Later, we perched above an event being held on a street that is closed to traffic because it is too steep for vehicular traffic. Judy decoded all of the dynamics and politics of the production below before we left the city to see traditional villages where food justice and farming reclamation programs are flourishing. Lastly, we had dim sum with **Jason Hilgefort** before we bounced, imbuing him with ideas for collaborations that tap the incredible changes happening around China.



2020 INT'L MEETUPS

Japan

From **Hokkaido** to **Fukuoka**, **Tokyo** to **Yokohama**, we had a whirlwind visit to Japan in the beginning of the year with several exciting conferences and office visits organized by **Koichiro Tamura** and **Rui Izumiyama** of **Placemaking Japan**.

Placemaking Japan is spearheading placemaking in fastidious partnerships with national and local government, unversities, shopping mall managers and developers, their own media conglomerate, hosted events.

We also got to connect with powerful placemakers outside the hub of Tokyo. **Emi Watanabe** toured us around the local agricultural hub Itoshima, **Naho Degawa** showed ecological and historical renewal projects in the suburbs and **Nomura Patterson** shared his incredible acumen to parlay his shrinking city into an expansive real estate portfolio for incubating a new generation of pop-up style creative businesses.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We want to connect where you are with our open-source network.

PLACEMAKERS

- Call us to get acquainted and make sure we are connected in a meaningful way.
  - We will share with you contacts in your area of interest and geography
  - We can work together to find ways with you to share your ideas and insights with our broader community:
    - Webinars & Dialogues
    - Articles and Case Studies
    - Workgroups & Projects
    - Help us build the network

EDUCATORS & STUDENTS

- Post-graduate students regularly contact us and contribute to our work including **Hilary Ho**, **Candice Ji** and **Abraham Gomez**.
- We are excited to work with matriculated and post-graduate placemakers on research and applied learning.

FUNDERS/CLIENTS

We are actively seeking grants and funding relationships to further our work to build a US placemaking network to diffuse placemaking innovations across the United States.

Help connect us with funders who oversee a geography where we can connect national placemaking energy to.

Municipalities/BIDs - City, business and community leaders have reached out asking if PlacemakingUS can provide technical support to help their communities develop placemaking plans and site specific ideas.

Foundations/Equity Funds/Economic Relief Programs - Grantors providing placemaking, equity and relief grants are seeking our technical assistance help to prepare their grantees' projects for maximum street-level impact.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLACEMAKING WITH YOU

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