

## **Project #2: Community Needs / Strategic Interventions**

“Architectural practice as it stands is valid and interesting. Yet, there is an urgent need for further in-depth engagement with the complex structures of the city, not in order to conquer them, but to add systems, which address different aspects of the city that should not be left for others to deal with. Spatial practice should be viewed more openly; it should include a spectrum of backgrounds and disciplines producing unpredictable results that are more diverse than the skill of building as an isolated art form. Today, more than ever, there is a serious need for a holistic reading of the city that values friction and processes of uncertainty. Such valuable variables should not simply be conquered by superimposing archipelagos of order. A new practice can only emerge as a synthesis out of constrictions on the one hand (image, economy, law and regulations) and liberation on the other (globalised geographies of contention, zones where modernity failed, and an irrepressibly agile and powerful media).”

--Markus Miessen

We have previously engaged in a process of knowing, representing and re-inventing our project site in Holyoke through in-depth analysis and notation. We will continue this analytic inquiry by designing a small-scale intervention that supports an identified community need. It is important to consider this project a continuation of your critical analysis –and recognize the ability of a proposed project to extend and express your insights regarding the city. Use your observations, analysis and notation of the site as a critical “new ground” on which your project should emerge.

### *Assignment # 1 / Project/Site Identification and Intervention Strategy*

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Read the Notes from the AIA150 Blueprint Community Design process that is documented on the course web site. Review the “Possible Community-Identified Small Projects for Holyoke” document to see the smaller scale projects and events that interested the community. Select a project from this list or develop another small-scale project from your own interactions/observations in the community. Your selected project may be an event or a space/place. Select a site (or sites) to design an “intervention” that supports/enables your chosen project/activity. Develop a visual presentation that documents the need and develops a strategic analysis and/or approach for your design. **This strategic approach should emerge from a critical reflection of the work and readings of the semester.**

### **Project/Site/Approach Presentation: Tuesday, October 9 (Monday Class Schedule)**

### *Assignment #2 / Intervention*

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Develop a design that acts to support/enable your selected project and that utilizes a strategy that emerges from a critical reflection of the work of the semester. Your project should not be a “building” but a small-scale “intervention.” Your “intervention” may be the design of a small construction –a park bench or a gateway; or it may be a “program,” visual strategy, installation, etc... While I expect you to be inventive you should also be responsive to the community’s needs.

*A successful project would address a pressing need in Holyoke while using a critical understanding of the ideas/concepts we have discussed as a class this semester.*

### **Final Presentation: Monday, October 15**

**The Final Presentation should be well organized on single or multiple board(s)/panel(s). Include detailed site information, clear conceptual/strategic approach information, and a detailed physical and/or digital three-dimensional model.**

### **Recreation / Outdoor Spaces**

1. Improve bathroom facilities and water fountains
2. Create/support more variety of outdoor activities
3. Additional garden areas. Possible Urban Farming and Markets
4. Foster variety of activities in parks by constructing covered pavilions with table and benches that would be flexible and able to be used for different activities.
5. Connect Canal walk to Park at River
6. Sponsor outdoor theater in Hamilton park
7. Create bike paths to connect existing recreation areas
8. Install grills or bar-BQ pits in the parks
9. Make Holyoke high school gym and pool available to the public nights, weekends, and summers
10. Create events/activities to connect/bring in the Latino community to Open Square
11. Rebuild pedestrian bridge over the tracks to the Flats
12. Heritage park: under utilized, create spaces/places events for greater utilization.
13. Wi-Fi hotspots and low-cost computer access (there is a cyber café on High Street but it costs too much.)
14. Install lighting at sports fields for nighttime football and soccer
15. Create a safe running/walking trail around the Flats (Canal Street)
16. Create feeling of safety in open space environments, re-develop to be well-lit and family/kid friendly (Neighborhood safety issues --crime, drugs, etc--leads to lack of use of some recreation/public areas.
17. Footbridge across the canals
18. Develop support spaces for a variety of activities that could include: dancing, playing chess, weightlifting outdoor theater, salsa/folk dancing, mask making-arts&crafts, car repair, computer skills, gym, sports, weight lifting, singing, socializing.
19. Drinking water and Bathroom facilities for basketball/sports areas
20. Repair/improve playground equipment

### **Arts and Culture / Neighborhood Connections**

1. Cleanup vacant lot(s) and create vendor area(s)
2. Park bench and table design
3. Kiosks & outdoor performance spaces should be created.
4. Overlooks of parks, canals, and the river should be constructed.
5. Outdoor/Indoor art gallery, open to public.
6. Outdoor movie night could be organized; possibly w/ community themes.
7. Neighborhood Gateway to Latino Community
8. A city arts & events inventory should be published and distributed to unite all existing programs.
9. Water shows on Heritage Park should be resumed.
10. Latin Jazz festival should be expanded.
11. Canal walk should be opened to vendors, musicians, and events; ex. "lighting of canals night".
12. Public Art/community engagement project could be commissioned
13. Model of Holyoke could be built and exhibited at youth activities
14. Façade restoration of High & Main Streets.
15. Puerto Rican Fort Icons for sign posts; neighborhood Gateways constructed, murals painted.
16. Walking audit of town sidewalks
17. Fix streetlights at 391 and Main Street
18. Statue/Monument to Roberto Clemente
19. Clean up alleyways (and add lighting)
20. Paint Murals
21. Limit access to alleyways
22. Park clean-up
23. Painting Projects (High Street Businesses / South Holyoke and Flats Apartment Porches)
24. Cleanup porches and backyards --establish small play-areas.
25. Cultural exhibits (From Wistiriahurst to Heritage Park)
26. Historic Plaques w/ Puerto Rican contributions