

# DESIGNING FOR EQUITY

Design Advocacy Group | Thursday, February 7, 2019 | Center / Architecture + Design | Aaron Levy and Eduardo Rega

It is urgent that we come together to shift the conversation around equity in design

From racial and socio-economic inequality to labor rights, urbanization, migration and climate change, the challenges facing our city and society are many

How are we training the next generation of designers to approach architecture, planning, preservation, and other design disciplines as integrated spatial practices?

Space is a complex social construction that involves mutual interconnected-ness with environments, people, and politics. Spatial practice is a moral and ethical project that extends beyond the traditional emphasis on form and material.

How can we acknowledge the violence inherent in how the design profession has historically cared for communities?

How can the act of listening - to communities, their histories, stories, struggles and aspirations - become structural to design and design advocacy?

# STRUCTURE

- + Revisiting the urgencies of Whitney Young's speech
- + Architectural education as a form of practice
- + Community engagement and the importance of public discourse
- + Practical suggestions and discussion



**+ WHITNEY YOUNG'S SPEECH: URGENCIES**



WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR ADDRESSES THE CROWD AT THE 1968 AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

How has architecture changed in the approximately 50 years since the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968? Have the demands for equity and social justice raised in Whitney M. Young Jr.'s landmark address to the AIA convention that year been realized?

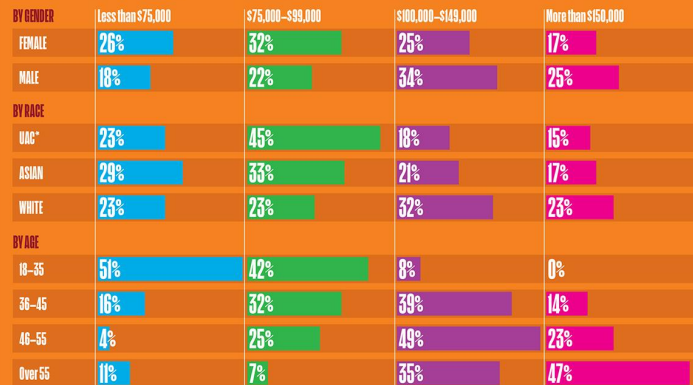
JUL 10 –  
SEP 15, 2018

# A CALL TO ACT!iViSM

CENTER FOR  
ARCHITECTURE

ECHOING WHITNEY YOUNG 50 YEARS LATER

## How much money do you earn / did you earn?



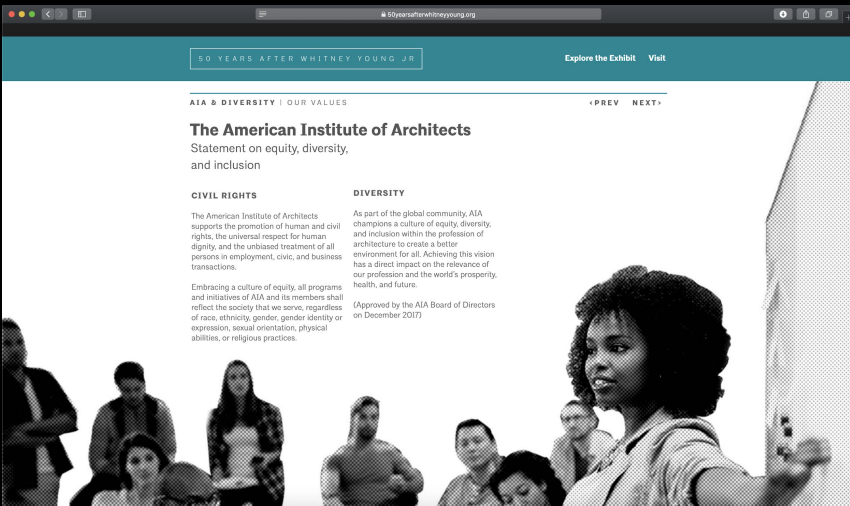
\*Underrepresented Architect of Color. See other side for definition.





On view through Nov. 24, 2018 at the Octagon Museum in Washington, D.C.

50 YEARS  
AFTER  
WHITNEY  
YOUNG JR.



AIA & DIVERSITY | OUR VALUES

Explore the Exhibit Visit

## The American Institute of Architects

Statement on equity, diversity, and inclusion

### CIVIL RIGHTS

The American Institute of Architects supports the promotion of human and civil rights, the universal respect for human dignity, and the unbiased treatment of all persons in employment, civic, and business transactions.

Embracing a culture of equity, all programs and initiatives of AIA and its members shall reflect the society that we serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices.

### DIVERSITY

As part of the global community, AIA champions a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession of architecture to create a better environment for all. Achieving this vision has a direct impact on the relevance of our profession and the world's prosperity, health, and future.

(Approved by the AIA Board of Directors on December 2017)



50 YEARS AFTER WHITNEY YOUNG JR.

Explore the Exhibit Visit

AIA & WHITNEY YOUNG | INTRODUCTION

PREV NEXT

## Breaking the “thunderous silence”

Whitney Young and the speech that woke up architecture

Legendary civil rights leader Whitney M. Young Jr. didn't mince words during his keynote speech at the 1968 AIA National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

The preceding decades witnessed monumental progress in America's troubled road toward racial equality. But as he stood at the podium before the nation's leading architectural organization, Young gazed upon a sea of almost entirely white, male faces. He saw an AIA that appeared unbothered by the changing world around it and seized the opportunity to start a conversation that carries on to this day.

“One need only take a casual look at this audience to see that we have a long way to go in this field,” he told a crowd teeming with some of the most prominent figures in architecture.

“You are not a profession that has distinguished itself by your social and civic contributions to the cause of civil rights . . . You are most distinguished by your thunderous silence.”

noted civil rights supporter Robert Kennedy was gunned down in California. And earlier that spring, an assassin's bullet took the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, sparking race riots and violent protests in more than 50 U.S. cities. Even the specter of late President John F. Kennedy loomed at the convention, with Ladybird Johnson herself making an appearance to promote environmental conservation.

At the heart of Young's frustration with architecture was the ongoing growth of stark high-heating projects towering above the nation's toughest urban neighborhoods. For him, these “vertical slums” marked a failure not only for city governments, but also for the field of architecture as a whole.

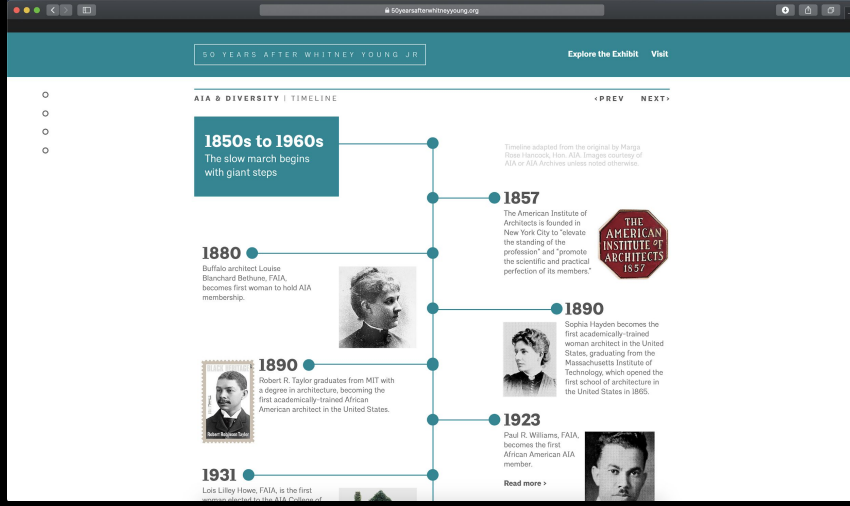
Following Young's sudden death in 1971 at the age of 49, AIA founded the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award to continue rising to the challenge of creating a more socially-conscious profession.

[Read more on the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award >](#)

[Read more on the life and career of](#)



Whitney Young challenges architects at the 1968 AIA National Convention to reconsider their role in fostering civil rights and social equality. (AIA Archives)



50 YEARS AFTER WHITNEY YOUNG JR.

Explore the Exhibit Visit

AIA & DIVERSITY | TIMELINE

PREV NEXT

## 1850s to 1960s

The slow march begins with giant steps

Timeline adapted from the original by Marga Ghose Banerjee. Photo: AIA, images courtesy of AIA or AIA Archives unless noted otherwise.

### 1857

The American Institute of Architects is founded in New York City to “elevate the standing of the profession” and “promote the scientific and practical perfection of its members.”



### 1880

Buffalo architect Lucius Blanchard Bethune, FAIA, becomes first woman to hold AIA membership.



### 1890

Sophia Hayden becomes the first academically-trained woman architect in the United States, graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which opened the first school of architecture in the United States in 1866.



### 1890

Robert R. Taylor graduates from MIT with a degree in architecture, becoming the first academically-trained African American architect in the United States.



### 1923

Paul R. Williams, FAIA, becomes the first African American AIA member.



[Read more >](#)

### 1931

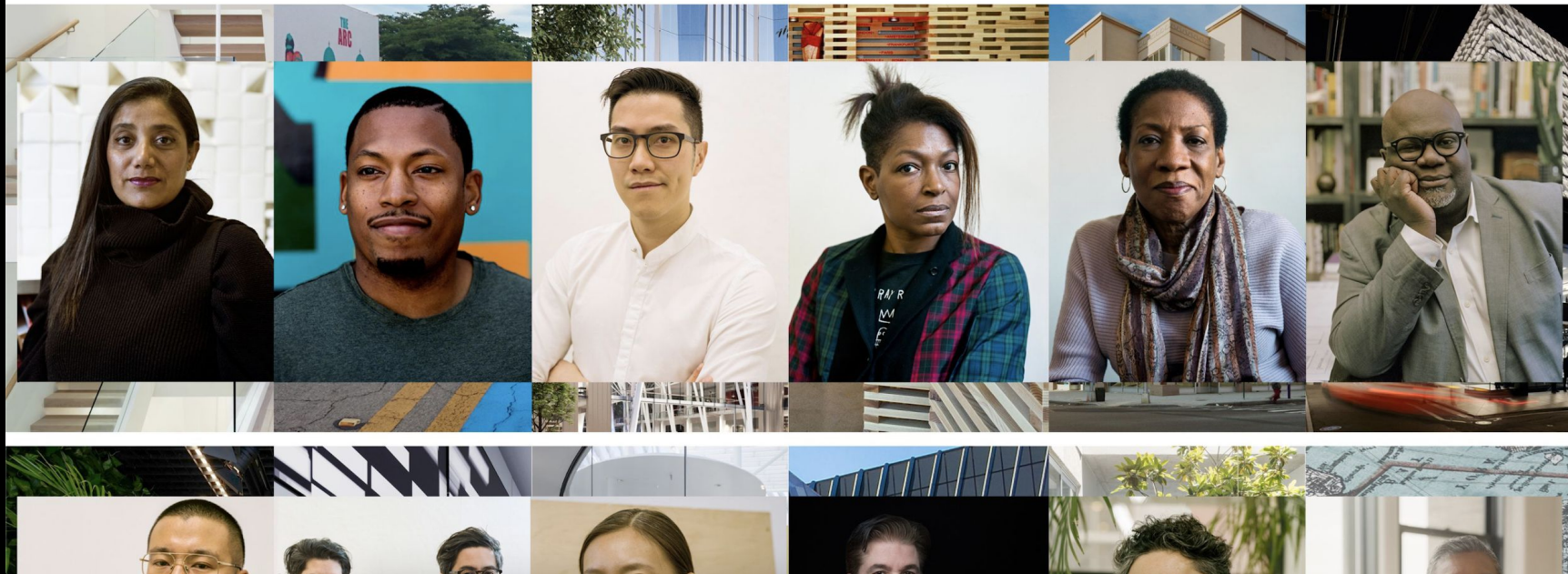
Lois Lilley Howe, FAIA, is the first

ARCHITECTURE

# 16 architects of color speak out about the industry's race problem

*"America has a lot of work to do"*

By [Asad Syrkett](#), [Tanay Warekar](#), and [Patrick Sisson](#) | Feb 22, 2017, 8:56am EST





From AIA's *Center for Communities by Design*, this short film provides an overview of Whitney Young, Jr.'s keynote address at the 1968 AIA Convention in Portland, Oregon

“Leaping from topic to topic, story to story, he covered racialized income inequality, the Kerner Commission Report on civil disorders, negative racial stereotyping, government-sanctioned housing segregation, inadequate subsidized housing quality and quantity, white middle-class pathology in promoting materialism and war-mongering, young people’s leadership in advocating social change, and on and on.”



“Our current political environment perpetuates and reinforces a discriminatory environment and socio-economic disparity that is both economic but also psychological and seems part of a never ending cycle that leaves us having this same discussion 50 years after my father began it.”

MARCIA Y. CANTARELLA, PH.D

**+ ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN EDUCATION  
AS A FORM OF PRACTICE**

How can we revolutionize the way that  
design is taught?

## Radical Pedagogies:

### Notes Towards a Taxonomy of Global Experiments

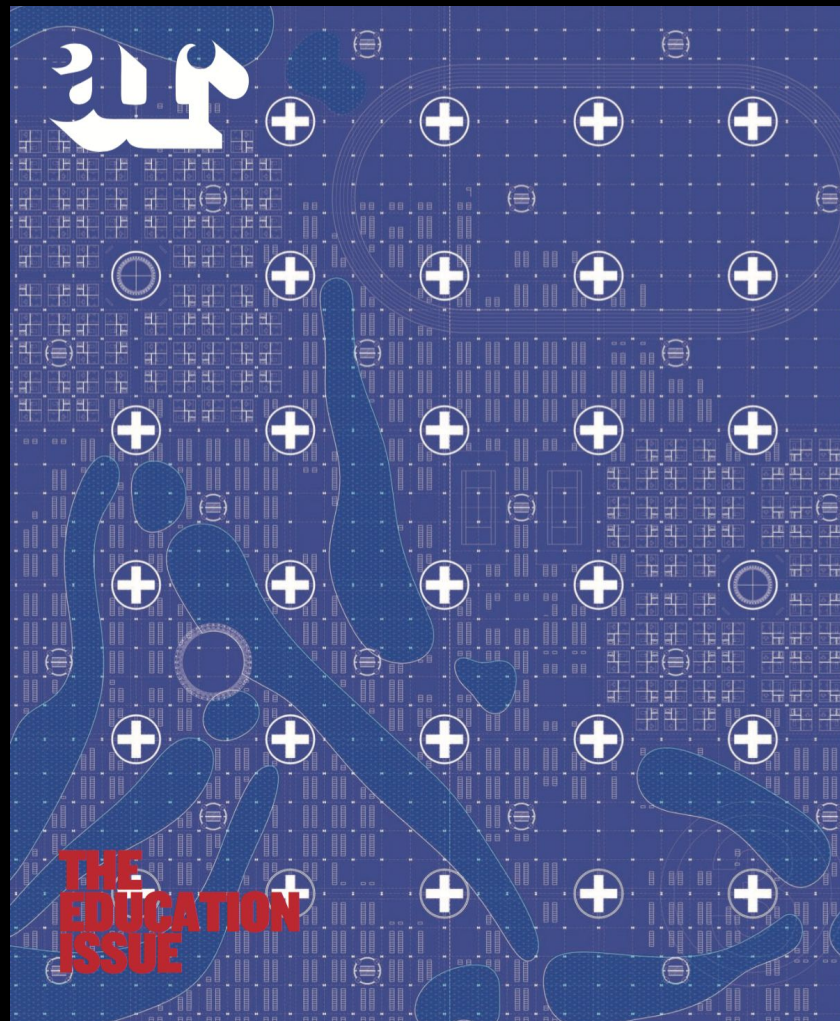
Beatriz Colomina, Ignacio González Galán,  
Evangelos Kotsioris, and Anna-Maria Meister

The School of Architecture at the Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile, can be considered a key example among a plethora of pedagogical experiments that unfolded globally in the second half of the twentieth century. During this period a series of short-lived educational experiments, which we have termed 'radical pedagogies', played a crucial role in shaping architectural discourse and practice. As a direct challenge to normative thinking in academia (from Beaux-Arts to Bauhaus on), a new generation of activist teachers questioned, redefined, and reshaped the postwar field of architecture. The impetus of Valparaíso's pedagogy since 1952—the year that Chilean architect Alberto Cruz Covarrubias joined the faculty and, along with Argentinean poet Godofredo Iommi Marini, led the school on a unique path that sought to destabilize university structures with pedagogical practices—acquires particular relevance when considered among this broader set of radical experimental practices, in dialogue with some of them and as a response to others.

Many of these global experiments were aimed towards socio-political reforms, while others were reactionary departures from the status quo. But all of them were radical in the literal meaning of the Latin word *radix* (root), as they



Demonstration in the Central Hall of the FAU USP building,  
designed by Vilanova Artigas. Photo by Raul Garcez Pereira/FAU USP, 1979.



1. The guiding hand — or more accurately, signed pinky — of RIAA Prince Charles at a student presentation at the Prince's Institute of Architecture, which Alan Powers discusses overleaf



# EXPERIMENTS IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

From the burning of Yale Architecture School to the aristocratic outsiderism of the Prince's Institute and a proposal for a new school: alternatives to mainstream pedagogy offer a means of renewing a weakened discipline

“Pedagogical experiments played a crucial role in shaping architectural discourse and practice in the second half of the 20th century. In fact, the key hypothesis of our Radical Pedagogy research project is that these experiments can be understood as radical architectural practices in their own right.”

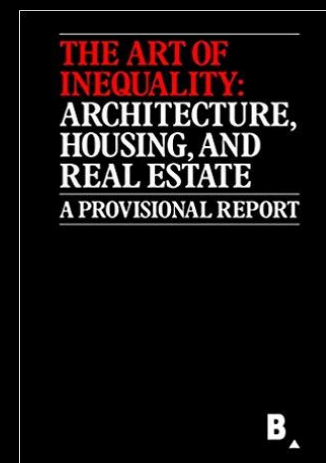
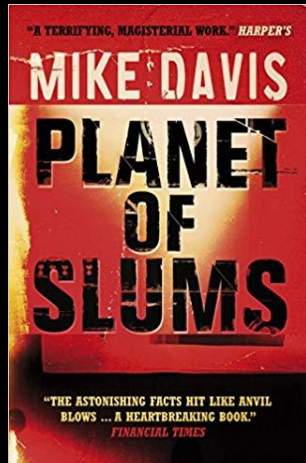
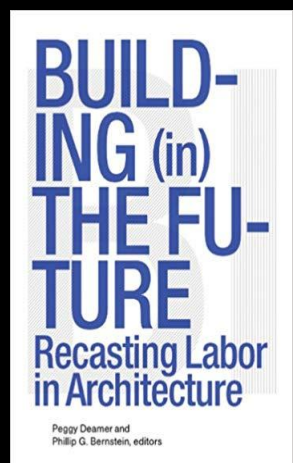
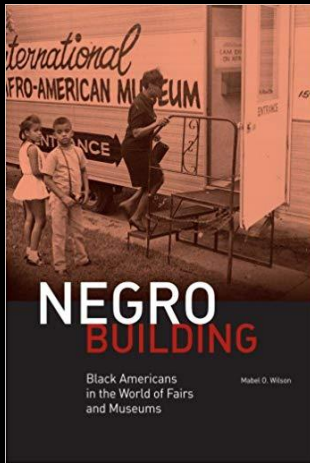
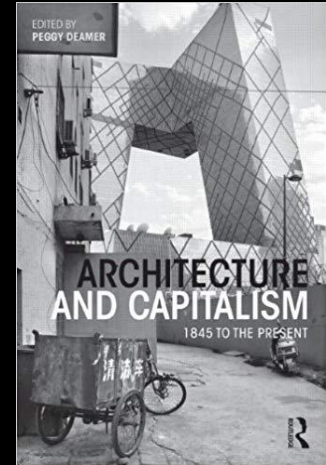
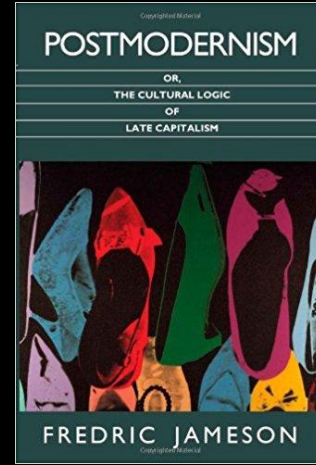
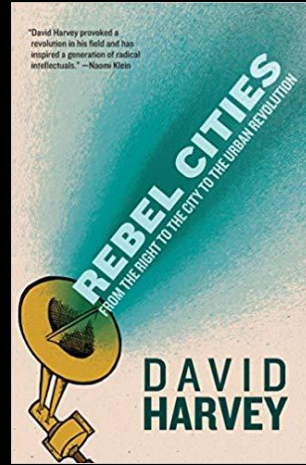
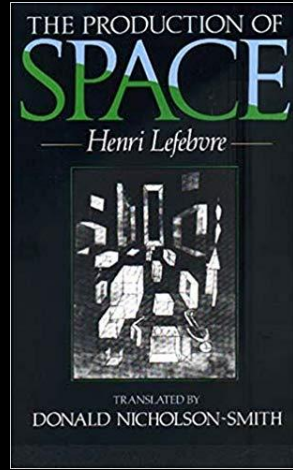
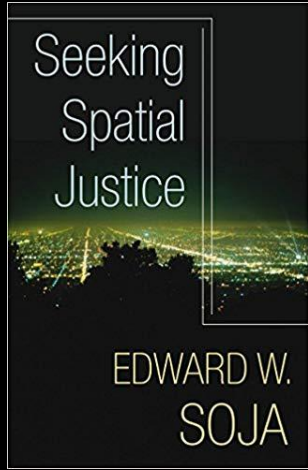
BEATRIZ COLOMINA, ESTHER CHOI, IGNACIO GONZALEZ GALAN AND ANNA-MARIA MEISTER

“Radical architectural pedagogies aimed to challenge the status quo by attempting to destabilise the very institutions they depended on, and in so doing they generated forms of institutional critique.”

BEATRIZ COLOMINA, ESTHER CHOI, IGNACIO GONZALEZ GALAN AND ANNA-MARIA MEISTER

How can we radicalize the teaching of 20th century architectural history and theory?





How can architecture and design learn  
from, and contribute to, social policy  
and the humanities?

**+ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND THE  
IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC DISCOURSE**

“Conversation is not about communication.  
It is a way of rebuilding community and  
decolonizing the imagination.”

-- WALTER MIGNOLO, SLOUGHT, FEB 6, 2019

Join us in bridging communities through dialogue and creative action. Support our work.

LOCAL WORLD CLOUD

# slought

**INTRODUCTION**  
Learn how and why we resist our programs

**EDGE**  
Take part in and support our community

**CURRENT PROGRAMS**  
Find dates and locations for our programs

**RESOURCES**  
Explore our archive of programs and publications

We foster intercultural exchange, research, and advocacy around the world

Our website functions as an active resource for prodding and sharing knowledge



**CURRENT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

- Photography in Crisis**  
Jan 07, 2016 - Feb 17, 2016
- On the Other Side of Elsewhere**
- Remediate**  
Revised Aug 29, 2013

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# Social Justice & Arts Integration Initiative

Imagining Justice. Making Democracy.

Introduction Programs Calendar Resources

“Now is the accepted time—not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best studying can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the

# INTO THE OPEN

**about the exhibit overview**  
on-line public programs

**projects participants images multimedia audio**

**orientation resources credits press kit**

The exhibition *Into the Open* highlights America's rich history of public space as a collection of ideas and actions. We are pleased to announce that we are working collaboratively to integrate community activities and environmental policy.

In the absence of large-scale public infrastructure programs in the United States, local citizens are increasing collaboration for generating new forms of mobility and civic engagement. This new generation of citizens are questioning traditional modes of transportation and exploring new research into the socio-economic challenges and environmental implications for the future. They are a political force to be reckoned with. They are a political infrastructure. We also are a social relationship.


*Into the Open* is shown in the official United States representation of the 2016 Venice Biennale. When a national architect is reviewing public space, critics and the exhibition itself are under constant review. The challenges are, as well, the creative attempt to generate architecture to integrate these conditions. By presenting the exhibit for the exhibition in Venice, New York, and finally Philadelphia, where the American experiment began, we endeavor to move the political engagement on a national level.

**Curators on display in Philadelphia:** the projects featured in the exhibition are shared between the National Architecture Center, Independence Mall, and the Slought Foundation on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, off-site activities programming is being presented in partnership with local organizations. At the National Architecture Center, the curatorial team will be presenting projects, including *Trinity Cross* by the late photographer of U.S. Slought and also *How to build* by Brian Kavanagh, curator of Independence Mall, Independence Mall and University. The interest of this exhibition is to inform and provoke. We encourage you to participate as an event. We hope that the show presented in the exhibition provide discourse to your own community, adding the another layer to the mix: your thoughts, your voice.

**Venues**

- National Architecture Center, Slought Foundation, October 1, 2016
- 1315 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, October 1, 2016
- Parsons The New School for Design, New York, October 1, 2016
- Harish through High 1, 2016

The U.S. Pavilion for La Biennale di Venezia, 12th International Architecture Exhibition, September 24 through December 22, 2016



**Slought Foundation and Penn Foundation**  
Presenting Organizations  
**William Wendling, Aaron Levy, and Andrew Stearns**  
Curators

**Participations:**

- The Center for Land Use Interpretation
- Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)
- Design Edge
- Department of Architecture
- Design Center
- East Studio
- International Center for Urban Ecology
- Jonathan Kinoshita Award
- Power New France
- Rebar
- Reed Wolfe
- Slought Foundation Design Lab/Laura Keegan
- Slough Hill Press
- The Public Infrastructure Value Statement
- Urban Food Project
- Urbanside Food Project
- Urbanside Food Project

health ecologies lab

About Initiatives Collaborate

## Envisioning health across disciplines, institutions, and geographies. Our lab focuses on the impact of social systems on the health of individuals and communities.

READ MORE

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

**Reading Group at Slought**  
2018-2019

ONLINE RESOURCES

**Listening as a form of care**



How can we support spaces for  
conversation and platforms for expression?





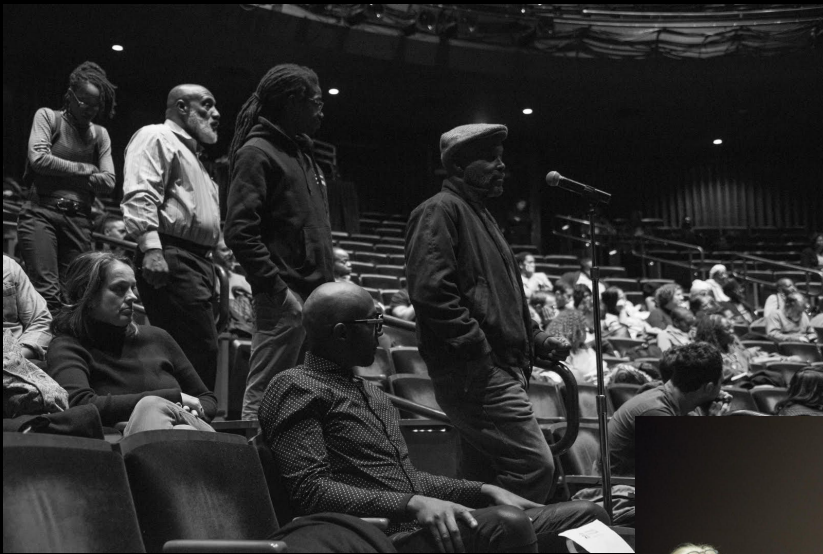


BLACK POWER MIXTAPE SCREENING WITH KATHLEEN CLEAVER AND ARISTIDES BALTAS, SLOUGHT, JANUARY 2019

How can we design different methods  
for engaging communities, and support  
new and imaginative methods of  
interaction?



STRONG ISLAND SCREENING WITH YANCE FORD AND KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR, BARNES FOUNDATION, DECEMBER 2018



HALE COUNTY THIS MORNING THIS EVENING SCREENING WITH DANNY GLOVER, JOSLYN BARNES,  
PATRICIA WILLIAMS AND ROB MOSS, ANNENBERG CENTER, NOVEMBER 2018

How can we support and amplify those  
who advocate for their communities?

**+ PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS  
AND DISCUSSION**

- Be aware of systems of power

- Refuse to work on projects that contribute to gentrification



- Center your design practice in active listening and caring

- Work with partners, not clients

- Engage with civic platforms, community groups and progressive grassroots organizations

- Embrace alternative economies and cooperative models

- Support progressive public policy, participatory politics, and citizen activism

Thank you