

CULTURE, PLANNING, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Atlanta, GA
April 30 - May 3, 2014

Led by Caron Atlas with
Local Host Kathie deNobriga

Pratt Institute
City and Regional Planning
Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development

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CLASS INFORMATION

This experiential mini-course investigates arts and culture, broadly defined, as a critical part of envisioning and building an equitable and sustainable Atlanta. Through site visits, tours, cultural events, and conversations with practitioners and policymakers representing multiple perspectives, we will explore the intersection between arts and culture and participatory planning.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

While you are in Atlanta please keep a journal about your experiences and impressions. We will provide some opportunities for reflecting and writing. You will draw from that journal when we have our debrief session and for your reflection paper.

Below are some questions to consider while in Atlanta and as you write your paper. You don't necessarily need to answer them individually but rather let them guide your reflection.

- What assumptions did you bring to Atlanta? Did any of them shift as a result of your time there? What is something new that you learned from this experience?
- What values underlie the programs we experienced and the people we heard speak?
- What did you learn about the qualities of leadership needed to move forward this work?
- What challenges and barriers did you see and how are people overcoming them? Where are things still stuck and why? How might you approach it differently?
- What creative ideas did you hear about or experience?
- What is an open question that you have, something that you want to know more about?
- Was there an experience or something that someone said that was particularly challenging for you? What was it and how did it challenge you?
- What did you learn about how race, class, power and privilege play out in Atlanta?
- How did this experience shift the way you think about arts and culture?
- Will this experience change the way you are thinking about what you are learning and your current and future work? If so, how?
- If you could advise planners, community developers, and policy makers based on what you learned from community-based cultural practice in Atlanta, what would you say?

REFLECTION PAPER

Deadline: 12:00 Noon, Monday, May 12. Draw on all of the resources you have: the resource list; APA conference; the visits, discussions, presentations; and any other experiences you may have had in Atlanta. The paper is a required part of the course.

Approximately 2000 words – 6 pages double-spaced. Please be succinct and specific – and give examples. You can also include quotes from your journals. Send paper by email to: caronatlas@gmail.com

DEBRIEF SESSION

We will have a debrief session on Saturday, May 3 in Pine Lake. This session will give you a head start on your paper.

GRADES

I will be looking for how fully you embrace the experience and how deeply you reflect on it. I will also grade based on how well you convey your thoughts in your reflection paper, drawing on a range of resources and experiences.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Georgia Tech School of Architecture [**245 4th St. NW**]

1:30 – 2:30 PM

APA conference debrief, framing & review schedule

2:30 – 4:00 PM

Atlanta: The Big Picture (history, context & planning) with Dr. Mike Dobbins and Dr. Cliff Kuhn

4:00 PM

Leave for Project South [**9 Gammon Street**] from Georgia Tech by car

4:30 PM

Welcome to Project South with Dr. Les Etienne, Education & Research Director, Project South

5:00 PM

Dinner with participants of University Sin Fronteras

6:00 – 8:00 PM

University Sin Fronteras class: cultural work & organizing in the context of 1964 and Freedom Summer with Dr. Les Etienne and Ruben Solis.

Cars will return to downtown afterwards.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Clarkston Community Center [**3701 College Ave, Clarkston**]

8:30 AM

Take MARTA to Indian Creek Station (East Line). Caron will pick up you up at the station (look for “KISS Ride”) between 9 and 9:10. Also one car will leave at 8:30.

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Clarkston: Global Crossroads

- McKenzie Wren, Clarkston Community Center Director

- Jason Gaines, Planning and Development Manager, City of Clarkston
- Welcoming America Representative
- Chris Thompson, CDF, A Collective Action Initiative
- Others to be announced

Scene from Third Country by Suehyla El-Attar, produced by Horizon Theatre

11:00 AM

Walking tour of Clarkston

12:15 PM

Lunch at Katmandu Kitchen [**926 Montreal Road, Clarkston**]

1:30 PM

Travel by car to Little 5 Points Community Center [**1083 Austin Avenue**]

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Workshop with Theresa Davis, slam poetry champion

3:45 – 4:30 PM

Tour of the Little 5 Points Community Center with Abdul Mannan, center operations

4:30-5:30 pm

Social Change & Organizing in the South

- Shannon Turner, program director, Alternate ROOTS
- Wanique Shabazz, operations manager, WRFG Radio
- Yomi Noibi, executive director, ECO-Action

6:00 PM

Walk to dinner - The Wrecking Bar [**292 Moreland Ave NE**]

7:30 PM

Melanie Hammet Performance: *Edifice Complex*, a suite of songs on planning & zoning. Followed by song-writing workshop.

Return by car or MARTA from Inman Park Station.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Be prepared! There is a lot of walking today - wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle.

8:00 AM

Meet at MLK MARTA station for short drive to Thelma's Kitchen [**302 Auburn Ave NE**] for traditional soul food breakfast (leave 30 minutes to get there). One car goes directly to Thelma's. Then, short walk to Wheat Street Garden for morning session. [**75 Hilliard**]

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Old Fourth Ward, A Case Study in (re)Development

- Paul Hammock, director of education, Atlanta Preservation Center

- Jay Tribby, chief of staff for City Councilmember, Kwanza Hall
- Kit Sutherland, president, Fourth Ward Alliance Neighborhood Association
- Joe Brown, community resident and activist

11:15 – 11:45 AM

Rashid Nuri, director/founder, Truly Living Well

Noon – 1:00 PM

Lunch and Learn with chef/educator, Carla DeRosa with fresh produce from garden

1:00 – 1:45 PM

Tour of Gardens

2:00 – 3:30 PM

ON YOUR OWN: Visit King Center, National Historic Site Visitors Center; Dr. King gravesite; Ebenezer Baptist Church; Sweet Auburn Market; Wheat Street Market (market opens at 3 PM).

3:30 PM

Leave for BeltLine by car with a stop at Jake's homemade ice cream.

3:45 - 5:15 PM

BeltLine Tour with Ryan Gravel including public art

5:30-7:15 PM

Travel by car from BeltLine to dinner & drinks with #weloveatl at Carneli's Gourmet Pizza [**699 Ponce de Leon**]. Travel by car to Little 5 Points Community Center

7:30 PM

Movie Night with popcorn. Representative clips from:

- *Anne Braden: Southern Patriot* by Anne Lewis and Mimi Pickering, Appalshop
- *The Atlanta Way* by King Williams and Ajay Reeves
- *Rural People, Rural Power, Cultural Organizing - A Southern Tradition* by Bailey Barash
- *Will the Circle Be Unbroken, An audio history of the Civil Rights Movement* by George King

Return by car or MARTA from Inman Park Station

SATURDAY, MAY 3

9:15 AM

Meet at Indian Creek MARTA Station KISS Ride at 9:15 (leave 30-45 minutes to get there from downtown; there is an 8:50 train from Five Points station that arrives at 9:10). One car goes directly to Pine Lake from downtown.

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Neighborhood Pancake Breakfast [**300 Clubhouse Drive, Pine Lake**]

10:30 AM
Debrief

Noon
Lunch

Afternoon
Individual writing & reflection time (by the lakeside, on the trails, or in the gazebo) and head to airport.

ORGANIZATIONS

Appalshop is a non-profit multi-disciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia producing original films, video, theater, music and spoken-word recordings, radio, photography, multimedia, and books. Their education and training programs support communities' efforts to solve their own problems in a just and equitable way. Each year, Appalshop productions and services reach several million people nationally and internationally. Appalshop is dedicated to the proposition that the world is immeasurably enriched when local cultures garner the resources, including new technologies, to tell their own stories and to listen to the unique stories of others. // appalshop.org, annebradenfilm.org

Alternate ROOTS is an organization based in the Southern USA whose mission is to support the creation and presentation of original art, in all its forms, which is rooted in a particular community of place, tradition or spirit. As a coalition of cultural workers they strive to be allies in the elimination of all forms of oppression. ROOTS is committed to social and economic justice and the protection of the natural world and addresses these concerns through its programs and services. A regional arts service organization with 37 years of history, Alternate ROOTS is an invaluable national resource to artists, organizers and cultural workers. Alternate ROOTS provides the connective tissue for a distinct segment of the arts and culture field - artists who have a commitment to making work in, with, by, for and about their communities, and those whose cultural work strives for social justice. Alternate ROOTS contributes to the sustained artistic development, increased visibility, and stability of activist artists. // alternateroots.org

The Atlanta BeltLine is the most comprehensive transportation and economic development effort ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and among the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programs currently underway in the United States. The Atlanta BeltLine is a sustainable redevelopment project that will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly to each other. // beltline.org

Atlanta Preservation Center (APC) is the City's private non-profit preservation organization. It was founded in 1979 to promote the preservation of Atlanta's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings, neighborhoods and landscapes through education and advocacy. Throughout its 35 years of operation the APC has worked to make a richer environment in the City by advocating for Atlanta's historic

resources. They have sought to bring an awareness of the existence and value of a diverse range of treasures and to propose ways in which they can be made viable assets for use and purpose in the life of the City.
// atlantapreservationcenter.com

CDF, A Collective Action Initiative is a non-profit organization founded in 2010, working in Clarkston, Georgia's diverse, multi-cultural community. CDF works to connect and engage the community of Clarkston and surrounding areas by helping residents to recognize and develop the individual capacities of every person. By supporting participation and collaboration among community members, we work to build a community whose residents drive and direct the development of activities and services that benefit the community. Our primary goal is to encourage and equip community members to take a leading role in their own futures.
// cdfaction.org

Clarkston Community Center is located in the heart of one of America's most diverse, international communities. The Center celebrates and supports this diversity and honors and recognizes how the richness and strengths of many different cultures can help build a sound and progressive city. Located within a historic school, the Center is a gathering place for art, education, recreation and community building for Clarkston and Greater DeKalb County residents: long-time Georgians, transplanted Americans, established internationals and newly arriving refugees. In 2011 they served nearly 20,000 people with a wide variety of programs, classes, sports, arts, recreation and special events. // clarkstoncommunitycenter.org

ECO-Action's mission is to help communities organize to confront environmental health threats, and to strengthen and facilitate participation of communities in preventing and resolving such threats. ECO-Action serves the general population, but they focus their assistance on vulnerable communities – most often rural residents, people with limited formal education, those with few resources, women, and people of color. ECO-Action's work is based on the intersection of three things – threats to human health, environmental degradation and social injustice. ECO-Action believes that communities have the right to clean air, land and water and should have a right to participate in the decisions that affect their own lives. Those affected most by toxic chemical exposure are people who live in low-income communities and communities of color. ECO-Action believes that people who work collectively to organize, make change, share resources, and solve problems will make a positive impact on their community's health, environment and prosperity. // eco-act.org

Fourth Ward Alliance is a neighborhood group in Atlanta's Old 4th Ward
// facebook.com/fourthwardalliance

Horizon Theatre Company's mission is to connect people, inspire hope, and promote positive change through the stories of our times. Horizon has been bringing exciting area and world premieres of contemporary plays to Atlanta's audiences under the leadership of co-artistic directors and founders Lisa and Jeff Adler since 1983. A professional theatre with a reputation for excellent ensemble acting, Horizon produces outstanding new plays by today's playwrights that reflect and challenge the lives

of the diverse people living in the urban Southeast. In addition to producing its mainstage season, Horizon also develops new plays through workshops, readings, and the annual New South Play Festival, dedicated to producing plays from, for, and about the South. Horizon develops new audiences and artists through the Young Playwrights Festival, Apprentice Company, and Intern Company programs. Horizon's home is an intimate 172-seat theatre located in Atlanta's eclectic Little 5 Points business and arts district. // horizontheatre.com

Little 5 Points Community Center (L5PCC) is a non-profit entity composed of partner organizations, community leaders, and neighborhood representatives. Their resident partners are non-profit groups with a wide range of goals with the common thread of community awareness and improvement. In the fall of 1982 the L5PCC leased their historic former school building (built in 1918) from the Atlanta School Board and set up operations with a mission to support arts, cultural, and community service organizations in the Little 5 Points area of Atlanta. They have continued to contribute to the stability of the in-town arts community and to the growth of community cultural organizations. As a successful experiment in adaptive reuse of older school buildings, L5PCC purchased the site from the Atlanta School Board in 1995. // L5PCC.org

Project South is a Southern-based leadership development organization that creates spaces for movement building. They work with communities pushed forward by the struggle – to strengthen leadership and to provide popular political and economic education for personal and social transformation. They build relationships with organizations and networks across the U.S. and global South to inform their local work and to engage in bottom-up movement building for social and economic justice. Founded in 1986, Project South works with communities living on the frontlines of poverty, violence, and racial injustice. Project South develops movement leaders, organizes young people, produces education, and coordinates Southern-wide collaborative actions to advance the legacy of the Southern Freedom Movement. // projectsouth.org

Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture (TLW) is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta. TLW uses quality local food production to connect people to their food and the land, creating better communities through education, economic development and environmental improvement. TLW was founded in 2006 by K. Rashid Nuri to meet the fresh food needs of families in the local Atlanta community. The objective was to bring nutritionally-rich, fresh-picked produce to local residents through a community-supported agriculture program. The Truly Living Well Center builds communities by providing healthy food, agricultural education and job creation. Their model supports urban economic development through growth of local businesses. Truly Living Well demonstrates the potential of a renewed paradigm – the local food economy. // trulylivingwell.com

University Sin Fronteras is a national effort with an Atlanta campus. Decolonize the South is a set of 7 weekly classes that explore the history of Southern social movements, the current realities of colonization, and visionary strategies to build another world. The University Sin Fronteras's

Liberation Spring Semester is examining the role of rising social movements in the South that aim to build community power to confront injustice, to build a NEW 21st Century Southern Freedom Movement. The Liberation Spring Semester course will act as a critical part of building momentum for Southern-wide summer (Liberation NOW) organizing campaign. // projectsouth.org/university-sin-fronteras

Welcoming America is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. The ultimate goal of Welcoming America is to create a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants are more likely to integrate into the social fabric of their adopted hometowns. // welcomingamerica.org

#WeLoveATL's goal is to bring the citizens of Atlanta together to tell simple and authentic photographic stories of their love for the city and the people that inhabit it. // weloveatl.org, @weloveatl

WRFG 89.3 provides a voice for those who have been traditionally denied access to the broadcast media and the involvement of a broad base of community elements to guarantee that access. Since going on the air in 1973, WRFG has filled a void on the Atlanta airwaves. WRFG was the first Atlanta radio station since the 1950s to feature such regional musical forms as blues, bluegrass and jazz. Reflecting Atlanta's emergence as an "international city", it pioneered programming oriented toward the area's growing Latin, African, Asian and Caribbean communities. WRFG's achievements extend beyond music alone. WRFG produced live broadcasts of speakers at the Hungry Club, Atlanta's famous weekly interracial forum. It was the first and only radio station to air the work of local poets, playwrights and authors on a regular basis. WRFG has also initiated programming directed toward Atlanta's neighborhoods, the disabled, alternative lifestyles, and other special audiences. Its in-depth coverage of events such as the 1987 rebellion at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary has received widespread acclaim. // wrfg.org



Additional resource: MARTA Trip planning tool
 // mycommute.itsmarta.com



Pratt Institute, Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development

PLAN 801-A Special Topics in Planning: Culture, Planning, & Community Engagement

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