

11.123 Big Plans & Mega-Urban Landscapes

MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Spring 2014

Assignment 3: Big Plan

Assigned Apr 10, 2014

Due as presentation and report on **Tue, May 13, 2014** – in-class presentations will take place on Tue, May 13, and Thu, May 15.

In Assignment 1, you explored the city through large-scale processes. In Assignment 2, you focused on unearthing key issues in specific Boston/Cambridge neighborhoods. For your final assignment, you will form your own vision, your own Big Plan.

Site

You must work in teams of 3. Your site will be in one of the neighborhoods/areas researched by teams for Assignment 2, and collectively determined in class (today). You can choose any specific site/location within this one neighborhood/area.

Objective

Teams will focus on specific opportunities or deficiencies unearthed by the previous assignments. *What are the problems?* Students will then propose a “big plan” to address the problems cited.

Initial Deliverables (due next Thu, Apr 17)

- Initial defined site (within chosen neighborhood), supplemented by visual material, including photos and maps from Assignment 2 (either your own or others' in class)
- Statement of the “problem” to be addressed and initial ideas for solutions (1-2 page write up). Speculations on how these solutions might address physical, social, economic, and environmental issues.

Final Deliverables (due Tue, May 13)

- **15-minute, 3-person team, in-class presentation.** Students are advised to take a maximum of 8-9 minutes for their verbal presentation
- **Slide presentation** (8-12 slides) explaining the project
- Graphic plans, including drawings and other visualizations (renderings, collages), 4-6 **11x17** printouts
- **Planning document**, including introduction, context, plan for intervention in text and graphic form, submitted as PDF.

A good project and presentation will address the following:

- Why did you choose that specific site?
 - Including: the relevance of the site in a larger context, for example, to that part of the city, to the larger flows of the city we explored in Assignment 1, or to a specific population of people within the area

- What are the problems you found in and around the site?
- How are you addressing the problems you found?
- How do you know it will work?
 - What precedents or previous studies are you learning from? Here, consider referencing some of the readings for the class, your work from Assignments 1 and 2, and the presentations by our guests
- What are the future prospects for this site, particularly within the larger context of the future of the Boston metropolitan area? Think about our discussions with the BRA about climate change and planning, for example.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

11.123 Big Plans and Mega-Urban Landscapes
Spring 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.