

Reading Tips and Study Questions: For Session 15

Required reading:

1. Norm Krumholz, "Equitable approaches to local economic development," *Policy Studies Journal* 27(1):83-95 (1999).
2. Editor's note, pp. 34-40 and 53-54 only in Briavel Holcomb, "Place Marketing: Using Media to Promote Cities," Chapter 2, *Imaging the City*, ed. Lawrence J. Vale and Sam Bass Warner Jr.
3. Sherry Arnstein, "A ladder of citizen participation," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 35(4):216-224.
4. pp. 217-223 (top) and 230-232 only in Patsy Healey, "The communicative turn in planning theory and its implications for spatial strategy formation," *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* 23 (1996).

"Revisiting the Field"

Tips and questions

I've chosen the briefest selections I could find to cover three important domains as we revisit the field and its evolution in this session: (a) prospects for using planning to promote more equitable economic growth at the local level (a worldwide concern); (b) dilemmas of democratic governance and participation that shape planning and—some say—can be shaped by planning; and (c) the power and limits of placemaking. So in big-picture terms, we return to and deepen our work on equity, democracy, and the role of physical design in improving the human condition—all of which were at issue in the Anacostia case.

1. **Krumholz** is a planning professor and former local official with many years of experience working to make economic development more equitable. You need not master the American policy specifics in this piece; we're interested in the larger lessons and arguments about the power of planning and government to promote equitable development. Does he convince you that "more progressive approaches to local economic development" can overcome the growth-machine pattern that Logan and Molotch described in American cities, or is that not what "progressive" means or requires? On what *three key principles* does he claim more

progressive approaches depend, and how is each of those three important?

2. **Holcomb** outlines the principal contemporary versions of 'place marketing' in the U.S. In what ways does the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative's vision conform (or not) to these trends, at least in the elements of the vision that include attracting newcomers to a 'forgotten' part of DC?
3. **Arnstein's** remarkably brief indictment of so-called "participatory" planning and policymaking in late 60s America is the most cited work in the English language on the subject of participatory democracy. Why exactly are processes that gather input from stakeholders—still common, still loosely design, and still vaguely "pitched" to people around the world—so unlikely to produce meaningful participation? What are the pros and cons of making what she calls "citizen control" the main objective of such processes?
4. **Healey** writes about the European context of spatial planning. She claims that policymakers and their publics face a variety of decision-making or democratic governance problems: What are they, and on what basis does she claim that contemporary work in planning theory and practice provides solutions? In light of the practical problems of the Anacostia project, do her solutions seem practical or appealing only in theory? Try to apply the ideas to Anacostia or other cases your study group can think of.

Recommended further reading:

Sharon Zukin, "Whose Culture? Whose City?" *The Culture of Cities*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1995. 1-48.