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Final Reflection

Cultural Placed Based Equity

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Part I:

In my own words, a place is a systematic view of one's community, engagement within the community, environmental understanding, awareness and economic function and values.

Everyone within a community views it differently, but the way it represents itself is really what shows key relationships, involvement and balance. To me, what gives a place character is engagement. "Community input is a critical aspect of any robust democratic society" (Orff, 2016, p.141). Without community input, a place has no support for those who are underrepresented in today's normalized expectations, no protection for the environment and no leverage against an often unjust political system.

Something that can bring a place together is "hope for recreating sustainable and fulfilling human/ nature lifeways" (Evans, 2012,p.147). A place includes all lifeforms, people, wildlife, algae, trees etc. If a place doesn't represent all forms of life, humans will over power the place through creating unjust, unsustainable and connected environments. When there are representations for all people, and landscapes, the place will have more equity, engagement and cohabitants. Now after discussing my outlook of definitions and important aspects of place, let's discuss what I have learned from this course.

Part II:

What an inspirational class. Thank you. Throughout this class I learned how to collaborate with others in ways that I felt will benefit my career in so many ways, especially about topics that can be uncomfortable to talk about. I learned that our powerful society creates forms of oppression that cause unjust systems due to things like capitalism, enforced dependency, injustice, and environmental bads. I learned that there are ways to improve urbanization, in a way that inspires me instead of aggravates me, for example implementing oyster tecture, water harvesting sidewalks, green roofs and many more opportunities for implementing this course into future careers. Most importantly, I learned the importance of representing all classes, life forms and systems in a place, and the importance of equity.

Part III:

Sustainability is the practice of balancing the needs for humans and our natural world, with the goal to maintain the status of the present and the future. This class helped me understand the importance of place in sustainable practices. Totally mind blowing if you think about it. A place is specific to climate (drought, floods, long winters etc), social classes (diversity), and equity inside the place. Some places have more segregation, some places have water constraints and some have limited public transit systems. Sustainability can help influence change by pointing out theories and practices that can create a more resilient society. Sustainability can determine if a place is contributing to climate change or helping regulate it. Sustainability is understood to be place based specific, and understanding that is going to help improve our global quality of life.