

What Makes A Space Public? (by Noorul, Deven, Bryan, Neil and Sotir)

Outline.

Sound clip: Bryan will say, “You are listening to beyond the camera radio.” (with background music)

Introduction by Devin.

Brief mention of some things that make a space public and who will be talking about it.

Some aspects that make a space public:

Ownership. (by Noorul)

- Who owns the place?
- Different kinds of ownership
 - Privately owned
 - Publicly owned.
 - Public private partnership.
 - Grants
 - Corporations.
- Examples: Bryant Park and The Met Museum

Cost/Fee to enter or use. (by Deven)

- Benefits of free public spaces
 - Local businesses.
 - Opportunities.
- Benefits of paid public space
 - Labor.
 - Recreational space in public space.
- Drawbacks of paid public space
 - Affordability.
- Drawbacks of free public space
 - Maintenance.
 - Security.
- Examples: Union Square and Bryant Park

Purpose/Use. (by Bryan)

- Activities
 - Are there any events that can be done for the public?
 - Activities built in to the place (playgrounds, parks, etc.).
 - What events can occur in the space?
- Flexibility
 - Can it be used as a place for fun organization?
 - Is there enough space to bring other uses to the space? (Holiday Market).
 - Does the place allow political activism? (protests, political art, flyers of political events).
- Design
 - What historical uses makes this a public space?
 - The style of the space and how it helps its purpose and use.
- Examples: Bryant Park.

Architecture. (by Neil)

- How welcoming and Accommodating.
 - Will users feel welcomed or feel excluded?
- Safety
 - Walkways.
 - Steps.
 - Hand Rails.
 - Are things secured to wall or floor?
- Accessibility.
 - How users get in.
 - Is everything accessible to everyone?
 - Is there an entrance for the disabled?
- Comfort depending on type of space or facility.
 - Aesthetics.
 - Ventilation.
 - Lighting.
- Example: The Met on 5th Avenue.

Value to the Community. (by Sotir)

- Accessibility
 - Free to get in.
- Education
 - Benefits.
- Benefits to different classes of people
 - Children.
 - The Elderly.
 - The Poor.
- Examples: Public Libraries (Brooklyn Public Library) and Community centers (JCH)

Open Discussion Seession (started by Sotir).

Conclusion (by Devin).