

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

You Are Here: Activating Community Participation in Resilience Planning

- **Format:**

verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

Ellen Burke

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

- **Abstract (300 words):**

As cities contend with the potential of rising seas, extreme weather events, and the need to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and become more energy-efficient, resilience has become a focus of long-term planning efforts. In social-ecological systems (such as a city) resilience is understood to be both an outcome and a process, and its greatest asset is community engagement. Defined as a process, rather than an end result, resilience planning delivers strategic priorities for the city, as well as a more engaged and informed populous.

Developing innovative strategies for participation and engagement, ones that acknowledge and work with the realities of busy schedules and a plethora of diversions, is a key element to this work. Using a case study methodology, this presentation reviews creative placemaking methods for activating community participation in several communities across the United States, and presents a more in-depth case study of SLO Map, a community food resilience plan at the county level in California. The presentation addresses the following questions: How can citizens be engaged in a meaningful way

with long-term planning efforts? What role can art, design, participation, creative place-making, and co-making play in fostering participation? The examples in this presentation will include planning efforts at several scales (neighborhood, city, county) and across a number of demographics and locales, from low-income urban neighborhoods to rural coastal areas.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Ellen Burke

California Polytechnic State University, Assistant Professor of Sustainability in the Built Environment

Ellen Burke is Assistant Professor of Sustainability in the Built Environment at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a landscape architect whose practice and research focuses on resilience and regeneration in urban contexts, including food systems, novel ecologies, landscape performance technologies, and community-based environmental justice projects. Trained as a landscape architect, and as an artist, she has an interest in exploring non-normative modes of practice, and believes landscape architecture is a medium for re-establishing connections between people and the land. She holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies from Vassar College. Her research has been funded by Art Place America and the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

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