URBAN ASSEMBLAGE: THE CITY AS ARCHITECTURE, MEDIA, AI AND BIG DATA.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Work It Out! Apps as Fitness Circuits for Cultural Institutions Engaging in their Local Ecology

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• Abstract (300 words):
Cities need to know how their cultural institutions related to each other; yet these institutions themselves struggle to understand what their niche can and should be in a city (Kloosterman, 2014). However the public often implicitly ‘knows’ the role of a particular cultural institution within an urban ecology; increasingly this knowledge is made manifest on a variety of digital apps and social media platforms (Budge, 2020; Moreno-Mendoza et al., 2020). Cultural institutions can learn from visitors and other institutions by utilizing digital apps to view area content offerings and attendance patterns at cultural events. Such knowledge could assist cultural institutions in navigating exogenous shocks, as they would better know their role within their local urban context should such a shock occur (Janes, 2020). Additionally, apps could be considered as another, albeit digital, environment to engage the public; there is a wealth of research relating to attraction, perception, and expectancy theory that could be drawn upon when both constructing
and gleaning insights from apps (Berlyne, 1951, 1954; Bhandari et al., 2017; Feather 1982, 1992; Feather & Newton, 1982). This paper seeks to explore the role apps can play in assisting cultural institutions in understanding their role within an urban ecology, and what challenges remain when using such digital infrastructure. This paper seeks to disseminate these formative considerations as part of our work on The Circuit: A Platform for Increasing Access to, Deepening and Researching patterns of Family and Adult Participation in Informal Science, a National Science Foundation-funded project (Award No. 1906998).

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr. Rebecca F. Kemper, Ph.D. is a researcher at the Center for Research & Evaluation at COSI, located in Columbus, Ohio. She holds a Ph.D. and a practitioner Master’s degree in City & Regional Planning from Ohio State University’s Knowlton School. Her research is concerned with the Twenty-first century Knowledge-based Economy (KbE), and her work has been most recently featured in The Royal Society, Journal of Urban Affairs, Carolina Planning Journal, and The Routledge Handbook of International Planning Education. She was the co-founder of the Latino & Latina Engineering Graduate Student Association at Ohio State University; she is also the principal at Equitable Urban Futures, a think-tank dedicated to investigating needed policy and design action to ensure just economic opportunities within our cities.

Dr. Joe E. Heimlich is known for his work in learning theory, research, and evaluation. He has worked in the field of informal environmental learning for more than three decades. His focus is on exploring how and what people learn in and about the environment, as well as the efficacy of programs at achieving outcomes. Currently, as Senior Director of Research for COSI, Joe leads the institution in moving theory to practice. In the Center for Research and Evaluation, Joe is a senior researcher and leads multiple projects across the country. He is an Academy Professor Emeritus with The Ohio State University where he served as Leader, Environmental Science for Extension, and taught in the School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Environmental Science Graduate Program. He also serves as a facilitator for organizations in building and shaping their education and outreach efforts.

Bibliography


