11.945
Katrina Practicum
Session 9

Agenda:

Update on presentations
Vision on what happens next
Assistance needed
Questions
Proposed Activities for trip to New Orleans

Group Conversation:
- What is your vision for this?
- What is the sequence of what you are going to be doing while you are in New Orleans?

Updates:

Housing Group meeting with Lee Farrow:
   o Mechanisms like Land Trusts and Mutual Housing Associations can be cash cows, but there is nothing in them that determines their political philosophy
      ▪ Need to be tied to a community building component / philosophy / politics to keep it on mission, tied to a larger vision

Tulane Architecture:
   - Students have developed a good model for prototype housing
   - Tulane and Wentworth students have done a ton of work
   - Tent-cities are growing up all around outside the city
   - Latino workers have increased in the city.

Student Presentations
   - The presentations need to be pretty targeted rather than just general overviews
      o Housing:
         ▪ The groups want to know what will work best for New Orleans rather than what all the options are
         ▪ More useful: narrow options, show cases, how can they be tailored to New Orleans
            • How are we supposed to decide what is going to work best for New Orleans without any deep knowledge?
            • Look for loose similarities
               o Housing types

- o Disaster recovery

- o Housing Styles:
  - Duplex, cottage-style housing
- o Need more New Orleans context
  - Aerial photographs
    - Lot sizes
    - Housing sizes
  - Sanbourn maps
    - Previous uses in the area
      - o How/when it was developed
      - o Freeway construction – what was there before?
        - Impact on investment in the area
      - o School locations
      - o Need a picture, need to place it in the neighborhood
        - Focus on specific sites
        - Talk about strategies for doing different things
  - Use the research to inform/frame the presentation
- What is the goal of the presentation?
  - o Preliminary idea of where you are headed
    - More risks
    - Get feedback about what to focus on for the rest of the semester
  - o Helping client think about the tradeoffs
    - Architecturally appropriate vs. speed of construction
    - Key concerns framed on housing and demographics
    - Assessment based on factors
- Demographics:
  - Synergy with the housing group presentation
- Environment
  - Tie data to the housing
  - What to do about environmental center?
  - Need a way to join visions of how organizations work with context of codes and regulations in LA and USA

such that people can get information without putting themselves at risk for liability.
- Presentation is currently highly technical
  - Use as background source of thinking to frame the presentation given to the neighborhood
  - Check out Tulane Bio-Environmental Center.
- Synthesis:
  - Important to do critical analysis of the data
  - Possible to put options into scenarios
  - Combine research on housing with other information about New Orleans and other options
  - Timid approach yields timid results
  - Presentation:
    - What can the client take with them?
  - What is the class recommendation?
    - What is the capacity of the class?
  - NHS/Ujaama:
    - Collaborative and competitive
    - Can we do a presentation that helps to hold the collaboration
      - Address the capacity and skills of each client; how they fit together.
    - How to we set expectations?
      - Position the meeting to set expectations for the final product
  - How do we integrate the environmental/housing elements of the class's work?
    - Environment is part of the context for housing
    - Before:
      - Part of the demographic situation with certain characteristics
        - Flood plain
        - Contamination
    - During:
      - Exposures, etc.
    - After:
      - Ujaama and community center elements
- What is the timing?
  - Is this a conversation?
  - Is this a formal presentation?
- Planning
  - Thinking about the two organizations
    - Building the relationships between the two organizations around housing and environment
      - Ujaama: based in the community, typical practicum client

- o NHS: city-wide CDC not based in any particular neighborhood.
  - More challenging because it isn't community-based.
- o Is the goal to get the groups to agree on something or to work on something that might separate them
- o Our expectation should not be about a clearly defined project/typical practicum
- Unevenness in understanding
  - o Important to get everyone on the same page
  - o End with a more specific conversation about scenarios/synthesis
    - How elements (environmental/housing/etc.) fit together
    - Recommendations in a broader context
      - Not too heavy-handed
  - o Enable more people to participate in the conversation