Baltimore: Open City

An open city is a place where everyone feels welcome, regardless of whether they are rich, white, age, or religion. In every neighborhood of an open city, one feels like he or she belongs. However, in Baltimore—as in most American metropolitan areas—issues like housing discrimination and public transportation separate people and create an uneven distribution of wealth, health, and education.


cities exist to bring people together, but cities can keep people apart.
In Baltimore—like in most American cities—tall buildings sometimes separate neighborhoods and prevent us from knowing our neighbors. That’s wrong, because邻里关系 is important. People who live in the same neighborhood need to understand links between place and personal identity, public programming, community, and social cohesion.

What’s in store? Baltimore is an urban Planning and Design studio at the Maryland Institute College of Art. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to making the Baltimore region and its stations North and East Art Districts. We are a group of architects, planners, and urban designers: Roberta Aronson, Sarah Bradburn, Craig Brochard, Donald Brown, Grayson J. Riehl, Jennifer Krasnoff, Tracey M. Smith, Martha K. Smith, Brendan Wall, Megan White, and Nancy Seaton.

VISITING ARTIST

Damiar Rich is a New Haven, CT-based designer and artist who uses video, sculpture, graphics, and photography to investigate the politics of public space. His exhibitions, such as the recent West River Housing: Cooling Learning Center (2007) at Lamarre Museum of Art in New York, playfully look at human habitats and what we influence them. With the Center for Urban Pedagogy, the non profit organization he founded and lead for 10 years, he has created innovative curricula and teaching tools for public schools and community-based organizations.

COLLABORATORS

Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance–Institute for Computing in the Humanities (BNA-ICHI) is an organization committed to strengthening the principal and practices of informed decision making by providing accurate, reliable, and accessible data and indicators about Baltimore neighborhoods.

EDS FACULTY AND ORGANIZER

Daniel D'Oca is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University Graduate School of Design, and a Faculty and Organizer of the Metropolitan Urban Design Seminar (EDS). He is a visiting critic at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and led for 10 years, he has created innovative curricula and teaching tools for public schools and community-based organizations.

ABOUT BALTIMORE: OPEN CITY

For the exhibition Baltimore: Open City, students of Maryland Institute College of Art’s Exhibition Design Seminar (2012) worked with Baltimorean community members, community-based organizations, local artists, and visiting artist Damiar Rich to create a series of installations, workshops, and public programs that investigate the ways in which public spaces and infrastructure shape urban communities and how they might look and feel like.

From April, Friday, April 6 through May 11, Baltimore: Open City will take place at the former North Annex Museum, 16 W. North Ave. The exhibition hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 1-8 p.m. Additional exhibition space includes a downtown pop-up shop at 24 W. Fayette St., open from April, Friday, April 6 through May 11.

The AAGC was created to examine the conceptual framework through which the research, planning and education of a major exhibition. Students are required to attend every exhibition, including content, graphic design, social media, marketing, curatorial, and public programs.

For event updates, visit the website at www.baltimoreopen.com.
LANDSCAPE OF OPPORTUNITY
Chris McCampbell, Matthew Lohry

LANDSCAPE OF OPPORTUNITY is a topographic model and a tool that maps the accessibility of jobs, health, and education in the Baltimore region. In so doing, it confirms the uneven distribution of opportunity between Baltimore—like any city—a city is full of things that make people feel welcome (think parks, public transportation, and housing vouchers) and things that make people feel uncomfortable (think “no digging” signs, racial andometric, and restrictive covenants). Inspired by Peter Blake’s Neolithic Sandhills Proverb, The Arrangement of Exclusion it includes: “weapons” of exclusion and exclusion in operation in an imaginary landscape of downtown, slums, suburbs, beach, and green communities.

Baltimore City Hotspots
Betty Stoger, Casey Choa

Baltimore City Hotspots is a trading card game in which players take on the role of influential Baltimoreans in the past and compete to ultimately open or close the city.

The East Baltimore Oral History Project
JHU Center for African Studies, John Aquila, Ebe Perez

The East Baltimore Oral History Project aims to empower the residents of East Baltimore to tell the history of their community in their own words, to preserve this history, and to make it fully and freely accessible to all members of the community as well as researchers, students, and teachers.

Find Your Place in the City
Mary Chang, Karen Lang

Find Your Place in the City is a large interactive map that allows people to engage with the city and better understand the context in which they live, work, and play.

Flags
Margo Malter, Janna Karstens

Flags consist of two large Rags that say “WELCOME” and hang from the two towers on the roof of the North Avenue Market. Making flags for the market exterior is both an effort to add a new color and texture to the building and a way of advertising that something different is happening in the space.

Fortress Architecture
Tessa Petrus, Nick Clifford Simko

Petrus Architecture documents a variety of ways in which architects and urban planning schemes are intentionally used as devices of spatial exclusion in Baltimore.

Goodbye We Buy Houses Signs
Citizens Planning and Housing Association, EDS

Goodbye “We Buy Houses” Signs draws attention to the “We Buy Houses” or “Buys” signs that are ubiquitous in Baltimore. The buyers who post these signs often promote unfair predatory and even illegal activities in real state transactions.

Grass Greener
Lydia University, Nick Clifford Simko

Cutting the green of the stadium turf to recreate the urban mood of the city by connecting basic symbols about Baltimore’s culture into a collaborative charitable drawing.

Baltimore Harbor Lightscapes
Mary Lohry

Baltimore Harbor Lightscapes is a series of interactive light sculptures that draws attention to the “We Buy Houses” signs that are prevalent in Baltimore City. Eighty grinders from around the country have been invited to participate in an educational workshop to learn about Baltimore through the contents of the exhibition.

Location and Life Changes
Harvey University, Grad School of Design’s “What’s in Store Baltimore” Studio

A critique of the Games of Life, Location and Life Changes teaches children about the economics of distribution, health, wealth, and education in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Morgan Park/Wilson Park History
Morgan State University, School of Architecture and Planning

Describing Baltimore’s earliest African American suburb, Wilson Park and Morgan Park are largely unknown. For Morgan Park/Wilson Park History, students from Morgan State University’s School of Architecture and Planning uncover the incredible history of these two communities and make a case for their designation as historic districts.

Mr. FURA
Katie Linkh, Nick Clifford Simko

Mr. FURA reflects on a very local history of redevelopment in the name of culture. The aim of Mr. FURA is to develop a permanent physical installation for MICA’s campus that reflects its roots in public planning for culture and integrating discussion of the aims and accessibility of such planning.

Mund Office
Karen Sarkissian, Nick Clifford Simko

In 1967, Mund Office was established in Central Baltimore in 1967. For MUND Office, recently found WMAR-TV footage of MUND’s social programs is screened in a recreation of MUND’s Central Baltimore headquarters.

A Set of Vague Directions to Several Specific Locations Dedicated to Disorientation
Sarah Miller

A Set of Vague Directions to Several Specific Locations Dedicated to Disorientation maps out the locations of Baltimore’s urban liminal landscapes in a single pathway running north and south around a central point.

Night Lights
Rachel Landon

Night Lights is an evening event providing telescopic viewing and live projections of the city. Each event is an opportunity to spend an evening outdoors and enjoy local music by Red Hamilton, Amanda Schnitz, and others, ranging from ambient sound installations to hip-hop instrumental lessons. Free refreshments and activities for kids are also provided.

Open Action Baltimore
The Social Stoops Project
Iam Cox

The Social Stoops Project aims to mobilize a series of public sculptures to highlight Baltimore’s history, culture, and landscape. Marble stools collected from soon-to-be-demolished row homes are raised to public squares, creating a form of seating and a platform for conversations around the city’s past, present, and future.

Street Level Interviews
Ebe Perez, John Aquila

Street Level Interviews is an online video series that collects the thoughts and opinions of Baltimore residents about their city. Each week the series will seek new voices to join an ongoing conversation about opportunity, accessibility, and progress in “The Greatest City in America.”

A Survivor’s Guide to Baltimore’s Renaissance
Chris Harris, Grant Auber

In a Survivor’s Guide to Baltimore’s Renaissance, Baltimore residents discuss their experience of urban renewal.

Thank You, Open City Advocates!
Cherie Bond, Lynne Bernstein, Alice Home

Thank You, Open City Advocates! We think progressive organizations for the important work they have done to make Baltimore a more open city and highlight the current projects of these organizations in order to provide go-to-people with the information and tools needed to fight for the right open city.

Baltimore’s Timeline of Segregation
Becky Slogeris, Chris McCampbell, Matthew Lohry

Baltimore’s Timeline of Segregation chronicles important events in Baltimore’s history. Archival photographs, statistics, and other historical documents help tell the story of Baltimore’s segregation in a way that pays homage to individuals who have fought to make Baltimore a more open city.

Postcards from the Open City
Kate Rodman

In Postcards from the Open City, Baltimore postcards document the beauty of Baltimore, a welcoming city.

Travel Tour Guide
Karen Sarkissian, Adam Weisel, Nick Clifford Simko

Travel Tour Guide is a brochure that provides tourists to Baltimore with an alternative set of sites that extend beyond the Inner Harbor. Travel Tour Guide also includes a series of tours.

Welcome Mats
Carina Sarkissian, Adam Weisel, Nick Clifford Simko

Welcome Mats is a series of mats women from a rural town for goseppe to go to homes to promote conversation about the open city. Special mats will be given as “thank you” if we must open the city. In addition, visitors can create their own welcome mats in a gallery workshop.

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