Creative Community Planning
Transformative Engagement Methods for Working at the Edge

Wendy Sarkissian, Dianna Hurford
with Christine Wenman and a foreword by John Forester

Tools for Community Planning series

Creative Community Planning provides clear access to emerging innovations in artistic, narrative, embodied and technological methods, exploring the frontiers of community engagement and empowerment practice within a fresh sustainability framework. Academics, professionals and community members increasingly acknowledge that multiple perspectives enrich planning outcomes. Furthermore, it’s acknowledged that the engagement process itself can create imaginative forums and spaces that can nurture understanding and empathy for ourselves and our environments. Reflecting on the wide continuum of participatory practice, the authors discuss the work of planning theorists, researchers and practitioners engaging a diversity of people living in diverse and ever changing communities. The authors discuss how engagement practices are enhanced using practices such as visioning and participatory research processes, poetry, theatre, film, websites and exercises to access the creative ideas of all ages, including children and young people.

The style and methods in this book offer multiple points for both practice and dialogue, ideal for academics, practitioners, students and instructors in all forms of planning, social research, participatory action research, community cultural development and community engagement.

About the Authors

Wendy Sarkissian PhD, a speaker, planning practitioner, academic and workshop facilitator, has co-authored many award-winning books on planning and community engagement. Dianna Hurford is a planner who has worked for the past 10 years in the field of affordable housing and homelessness in Vancouver, Canada. Christine Wenman is a community and natural resource planner.

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