

SpontaneousInterventions: design actions for the common good

CHICAGO
CULTURAL
CENTER
MICHIGAN
AVENUE
GALLERIES
78 EAST
WASHINGTON
STREET
MAY 24 TO
SEP 01
2013



Opening Week

Programs

June 1-5

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

>>WORKSHOP

10:30am-12:30pm *Ideal Chicago* creative place-making interactive workshop

Location Chicago Cultural Center, outside Washington St. entrance

Leader James Rojas, Place It!

Los Angeles designer, educator and *S.I.* exhibitor James Rojas has conducted creative placemaking workshops all over the country, and this edition in Chicago will similarly engage the collective community imagination to create an interactive diorama of the city—Chicago as it could be. Participants will be provided with thousands of small, colorful, vibrant, and tactile objects to place on a model of downtown Chicago. Open to people of all ages, participants are invited to reflect on, explore, experiment, and ultimately craft their ideal city.

>>EVENT

12pm *Visionary Chicago* walking tour

Location Meets in Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Galleries workshop/reading room

Leaders Alexander Eisenschmidt, Irene Cheng, and Brett Snyder

Chicago-based scholar and architect Alexander Eisenschmidt has partnered with New York architecture firm Cheng+Snyder to produce *Visionary Chicago at the Museum of the Phantom City*, an iPhone app that reveals past utopian schemes for Chicago that were never built. Join Eisenschmidt, Cheng, and Snyder for a walking tour and demonstration of the app in downtown Chicago, and visit sites of unbuilt plans by architects such as Aldo Loos, Hans Hollein, and Greg Lynn, to name a few.

>>EVENT

1pm Gallery walkthrough with *S.I.* curator and designers

Location Meets in Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Galleries workshop/reading room

Speakers Cathy Lang Ho (curator), John Hartmann and Lauren Crahan (Freecell), and Patricia McShane (M-A-D)

Join the *Spontaneous Interventions* project team in a walk-through of the exhibition to discuss the curatorial framework, projects, and exhibition design.

>>WORKSHOP

2pm Skill-Exchange Show and Tell Session #1

Location Meets in Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Galleries workshop/reading room

Moderator Mimi Zeiger, design critic

Participants Robyn Paprocki, Moving Design; Iker Gil, MAS Studio; Douglas Burnham, envelope a+d; and others TBD

S.I. participants from near and far will gather and share objects that relate to their practices. In this sociable roundtable-style exchange, designers and artists will present lessons they have learned in their projects using the objects as a prompt, and the public is invited to mingle with the participants and ask questions.

>>PRESENTATION

3:30pm *spacehacking // citytactics*

Location Chicago Cultural Center Michigan, Galleries workshop/reading room

Speaker Nathan John, U.C. Berkeley

Architect and scholar Nathan John will present from his research project *spacehacking // citytac-*



City of Chicago
Mayor Rahm Emanuel



Calendar and more information:
spontaneousinterventions.org

tics, which collects the reflections of more than 30 artists, architects, and makers from around the world; the picture that emerges of urban interventions as they are used today challenges the dichotomy between the beautiful and the socially engaged. He will also talk about the potential of digital design and fabrication tools to further elide this boundary.

>>PRESENTATION

4:30pm *Derelict Craft*

Location Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Galleries workshop/reading room

Speaker John Preus, Dilettante Studios

John Preus is a Chicago-based artist, builder, and musician whose work explores forms of attachment, craft, art, and community life. Through his workshop Dilettante Studios, he designed and built the seats in the *Spontaneous Interventions* workshop/reading room using reclaimed material. His work has been exhibited at *Documenta 13* in Kassel, Germany, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Heilbronn Kunstverein-Germany, the Portland Museum of Contemporary Craft, the Hyde Park Art Center, and the Smart Museum of Art, Chicago. He will speak about the relationships between art, design, and fabrication in his work.

>>WORKSHOP

4pm Center for Urban Pedagogy *What Is Affordable Housing? Chicago Toolkit* workshop

Location Chicago Cultural Center, Garland Room, 1st floor

Leader Christine Gaspar, Executive Director, Center for Urban Pedagogy

S.I. exhibitor, the New York-based nonprofit Center for Urban Pedagogy collaborates with designers, educators, advocates, students, and communities to make educational tools that demystify complex policy and planning issues. The Chicago affordable housing toolkit, six months in the making, is designed to help communities answer the all-important question of "Affordable to whom?" Interactive in nature, this workshop presents a series of hands-on activities that break down affordable housing policy into accessible visual illustrations.

Please RSVP info@spontaneousinterventions.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

>>WORKSHOP

11am *Big Ideas* with Dream It. Grow It.

Location Chicago Cultural Center, outside Washington St. entrance

Leaders Yael Briemer and Allie O'Neil, Dream It. Grow It.

Gardens are being established with increasing frequency in the urban environs. Yet design basics and opportunities for inclusivity are being overlooked. To tackle this, Chicago-based S.I. participants Yael Breimer and Allie O'Neill created an approachable tool, *Dream It. Grow It.*, that educates users about the design process, broadens definitions of "garden," and introduces concepts of universal design and accessibility for all. This workshop introduces the first of a three-step design process, *Dream It*, that promotes free thought and cooperative design, while challenging people to imagine big.

>>WORKSHOP

2-4:00pm *Ideal Chicago* creative placemaking interactive workshop

Location Chicago Cultural Center, outside Washington St. entrance

Leader James Rojas, Place It!

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>>PANEL

1-2:30pm *Spontaneous Urbanisms*

Location Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall (3rd floor)

Moderator Cathy Lang Ho, curator, *Spontaneous Interventions*

Panelists Teddy Cruz, Estudio Teddy Cruz; Gordon Douglas, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago; Roberta Feldman, College of Architecture and the Arts, University of Illinois, Chicago; Michael Sorkin, Institute for Urban Design and Terreform

Spontaneous Urbanisms examines the state of the city and some of the motivating factors for the wave of citizen-led actions to improve the public

urban realm. From urban blight to uneven development, property abandonment to stalled developments, social alienation to an overly privatized public sphere, urban interventionists are asserting their "right to the city." This panel will frame the movement—the urge of architects, designers, and everyday citizens to step in and fill in the gap where traditional top-down planning has failed or left areas of neglect—in a larger historical, cultural and political context.

>>PANEL

2:45-4pm *From Tactical to Strategic: What's Next?*

Location Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall (3rd floor)

Moderator Mimi Zeiger, design critic

Panelists Stephen Zacks, Flint Public Art Project; Douglas Burnham, envelope a+d; and Anne Guiney, Institute for Urban Design

What happens after the interventionist stage of urban engagement? This panel brings together architects, curators, and cultural instigators who explore a wide range of scales of design and production from the tactical to the strategic to investigate the promise and pitfalls of bottom-up design. Speakers will address the wide-scale use of these kinds of practices in activating the urban realm and community building, the lifespan of temporary projects, and, importantly, the relationship these projects have to policy and government.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

>>PRESENTATION

6:30pm *Talking Latino Urbanism + Other Things*

Location New Projects, 3621 S. State St, Chicago, IL 60609

Leaders James Rojas and Maria Gaspar

S.I. participant James Rojas and Chicago artist Maria Gaspar discuss new forms of Latino urbanism. Rojas has closely observed the ways in which Latino populations in the U.S. adapt their surroundings, changing staid, auto-oriented urban neighborhoods and suburbs into hubs of lively pedestrian and commercial activity. Gaspar, an interdisciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, performance, and writing, shares an interest in the transformation of sites through the collision of reality and myth.