THE ARTS AND ARTIST IN URBAN REVITALIZATION
Tuesdays, Oct 27 – Dec 8, 2009
4:55 – 6:35 pm
Bobst Library Lower Level Rm 138
70 Washington Square South

Professor Ruth Ann Stewart    Vivian Yela, Admin Assistant
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Course Description: A 7-week course (2 credits) designed to introduce students to the historical role of the arts in the development of U.S. cities. Examines recent trends in the use of arts-based revitalization strategies designed to reverse the decline of post-industrial American cities and comparative international examples. The viability of such models going forward will also be examined in light of the recent financial downturn.

Course Prerequisite: Completion of Intro to Public Policy (Wagner); Urban Development and the Arts (Steinhardt); or instructor’s permission. A background in the arts/art history not required.

Course Objectives:
The course enables students to increase their analytic skills and broaden their policy framework through the examination and understanding of the emerging field of cultural policy and its use in local planning strategies.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Preparation and Participation (20%)
   - Class meetings include lectures and discussion of assigned readings and cases. Students held responsible for assigned material as the basis for regular and informed participation in class discussion.
   - Blackboard (BB) folders for each class session contain articles and reports essential to an understanding of the course. Students responsible for additional items that may be added throughout the semester.

2. Feedbacks (20%)
   - Students will submit at time indicated on syllabus a 150-200 words (include word count in email) assessment of three (3) course-relevant concepts or issues they found particularly interesting or challenging in class discussion/readings.
   - Feedbacks are not philosophical ruminations, advocacy statements, summary of the readings/lectures, or book reviews.
   - Grading based on students’ ability to analyze topic as it relates to the focus of the course in a concise and timely manner. Include Feedback within body of email, not as attachment. Spelling and grammar count!
   - Email Feedbacks (within body of email) to instructor within 48 hours after designated class with Subject Box marked: FEEDBACK4219#1/LastName [note: no spaces betw words]

3. Team Presentations (30%)
   - Working in teams, students will use websites, periodical articles, and books to research and present a well analyzed (not just descriptive) case study of a city whose government/private sector have engaged the arts as a significant part of the city’s urban revitalization strategy.
   - A list of city choices will be provided by the instructor on a first-come basis.
Using power point, each team will make a 20-30 minute report to the class of its findings and conclusions. Each member will be responsible for a key aspect of the presentation. See BB for Guidelines for Team Presentations. [Check classroom equipment compatible with personal laptops]

Teams will submit their bibliography/research source list to instructor at end of their presentations.

4. Final Research Paper (30%)

- Students will prepare a 10-page, footnoted research paper (plus list of references used)
- Students are free to choose their topic as related to course but must submit to instructor in advance via email (within body of email) for approval by **Friday, November 20.** Subject Box must be marked: FinalPaperTopic4219#1/LastName [note: no spaces betw words]
- See BB for Guidelines for Final Research Paper and Wagner Integrity Statement
- Final papers due in **hard copy** in instructor’s Puck Bldg mailbox by **12:00 noon, Friday, December 18.**

**Readings:**
- **Required Readings** and **Recommended Additional Readings** are unless otherwise indicated posted on NYU’s Blackboard or on reserve at Bobst Library.
- For helpful information on artists and cities see:
  - Center for Architecture [www.centerforarchitecture.com](http://www.centerforarchitecture.com)
  - New American City [www.newamericancity.org](http://www.newamericancity.org)
  - Metropolitan Policy Program [www.brookings.org](http://www.brookings.org)
- Good sites re artist live/work space issues:
  - Artspace [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org)
  - Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC). [www.lincnet.net](http://www.lincnet.net)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Session #1 October 27**

**Role of the Arts and Artist in American Cities: Historical Perspective**

**Required Readings:**
- Blackboard articles

**Recommended Additional Readings (Bobst Reserve):**

**Assignment:**
Feedback #1 (Session 1 topics)

**Session #2 November 3**

**Reinventing the City: Cultural Policy as Agent of Urban Revitalization**

**Required Readings:**

  [www.hhh.umn.edu/projects/prie/pdf/161_urban_core_sticky_place.pdf](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/projects/prie/pdf/161_urban_core_sticky_place.pdf)

**Recommended Additional Readings:**

- For further information about Richard Florida, see [www.creativeclass.org](http://www.creativeclass.org).

**Assignment:**
Feedback #2 (Session 2 topics)

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**TEAM PRESENTATIONS**

By this time in the semester, each team should have met to select its city and begun to develop the research strategy for its presentation. Teams will choose one of the cities cited in the article, “The Next Youth-Magnet Cities” by Sue Shellenbarger (Wall Street Journal 9/30/09)  
Each team will email (within body of email) instructor its first and second city choice to be assigned on a first come basis. Of the 10 cities cited in the article, New York and Washington DC **cannot** be selected. See BB for Guidelines for Team Presentations.

**Session #3 November 10**

**Arts/Urban Revitalization Models: U.S. and international**

**Required Readings:**


**Assignment:**
Feedback #3 (Session 3 topics)

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**Session #4 November 17**

**Arts/Urban Revitalization Models: Adaptive Reuse (Case Study film)**


**Required Readings:**
• Museum of Contemporary Art. www.massmoca.org
• Susan Bush. “North Adams and Great Barrington Named to Top 100 Arts Communities List” iBerkshires, April 8, 2005.
• Blackboard articles

Additional Recommended Readings:

Assignment:
Proposals for Final Paper Topics are due to instructor for advance approval via email by **Friday, November 20**. Proposals can be in narrative or outline form but cannot exceed 300 words.

Sessions #5/#6 November 24/December 1
Team Presentations: Utilizing the concepts, models, public policies and issues explored throughout the semester, each team will present to the class a Case Study of a selected U.S. city. See BB/Assignments for Guidelines for Team Presentations
  • Session #5 -- Team 2 and 4
  • Session #6 -- Team 1 and 3

Session #7 December 8
Surviving the Crash: Arts-based Revitalization Strategies Revisited
Guest Lecturer: Jason Schupbach, Director, Creative Economy Industry, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, Boston, MA

Required Reading:
TBD
Blackboard articles

Final papers due in **hard copy** in instructor’s Puck Bldg mailbox by 12:00 noon, **Friday, December 18**

10/23/09