

LA 407/507 Winter 2022

# DIGNIFIED ENGAGEMENT

CRN's 23926, 23947 - Mondays 8:00-11:50am in 405A  
Lawrence Hall

Instructor: **Jean Yang**. [jeany@uoregon.edu](mailto:jeany@uoregon.edu)



Citation: Jean Yang (Our County Engagement)

Participatory design is a process of give-and-take between community members, designers, technical experts, and power brokers. For participatory design to be truly democratic, it cannot remain a standardized public process. This task requires more than just conventional design skills—it challenges designers to seek meaningful, ethical, and effective ways to design with communities. The goal is to go beyond standard practices and chart a path toward designing together that is truly transactive, transformative, and tenacious.

In this seminar, University of Oregon landscape architecture students will facilitate a conversation with five (5) of New Avenues Youth. New Avenues is a nonprofit organization focused on the prevention and intervention of youth homelessness. In addition to providing basic needs, New Avenues also supports opportunities for education, job training, employment, and housing. **Students will need to travel to Portland four (4) times over the Winter quarter.**



**Landscape Architecture Department**  
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University of Oregon students will develop 4 participatory design workshops - these could range from working with New Avenues Youth to draw their dream school yard to a mapping exercise that gathers spatial information. New Avenues Youth will participate in the exercises and be asked to reflect on the experience. Over 10 weeks, we will not only explore community engagement techniques, but also seek to understand how New Avenues Youth interact with public space and how design can take their viewpoint into account. The results of these workshops will be written up and submitted to the Collaborative for Healthy, Inclusive Learning Environments (CHILE).

In addition to working with New Avenues Youth, there is the potential for students to develop college-wide workshops that will garner feedback from students.

### Objectives

- Understand how design techniques can facilitate communities that act collectively in more enlightened and tolerant ways
- Understand how the physical condition of public spaces, especially schoolyards, can become more welcoming to groups that have been historically marginalized
- Understand how participatory design can be civically responsible, considering both immediate needs and long-term consequences
- Provide new information, skills, and perspectives for New Avenues youth and University of Oregon landscape architecture student
- Enhance New Avenues youth and University of Oregon landscape architecture students' capacity to work together to address issues in the community - articulate guiding principles, set priorities, and map directions with near and far vision.



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## Rough Calendar

### Week 1 - First day of classes

Discussion on:

- Expectations and underlying site and community issues
- Potential barriers to seeing the community's values and uniqueness
- Becoming familiar with people and place in context

### Week 2 - Engagement techniques to acknowledge information and skills of all parties

This will include a discussion on:

- Co-defining the problem and co-generating new information
- Engaging community members to use their knowledge and skills
- Allowing community members to fully understand the implications of what they know about a landscape and how impactful that knowledge can be.

### Week 3 - Workshop 1

### Week 4 - Engagement techniques for setting goals

This will include a discussion on:

- Gathering, processing, and using community input
- Calling out what needs to be discussed for change to occur

### Week 5 - Workshop 2

### Week 6 - Engagement techniques for visioning

This will include a discussion on:

- Developing a short-term vision (and scope of work) for an immediate problem or concern
- Conceptualizing a distant vision and hope for the community

### Week 7 - Workshop 3

### Week 8 - Engagement techniques for co-generation

This will include a discussion on:

- Generating designs through active collaboration and critical exchanges.
- Negotiation of form alternatives and solutions that embody multiple perspectives and values.
- Social learning and shared exploration

### Week 9 - Workshop 4

### Week 10 - Final Presentation at University of Oregon Eugene Campus



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