



The Design Studio for Social Intervention

***DS4SI** is a creativity lab for the social justice sector. We are dedicated to changing how social justice is imagined, developed and deployed here in the United States.*

Creative Placemaking within the Frame of Spatial Justice

Our take on creative placemaking involves working with residents and community organizations to imagine ways to achieve spatial justice in their cities and neighborhoods. Currently we are engaged in a creative placemaking project in the Upham's Corner neighborhood of Boston. Here are some examples from that work that highlight our approach to embedding creative placemaking into a spatial justice frame:

Imagining and prototyping new public spaces for community sociability

Public Kitchen-- Inspired by the family kitchen as a gathering place, Public Kitchen was a 10-day pop-up "food community center" that brought together hundreds of Dorchester residents to feast, learn, share, imagine, unite and claim public space. Public Kitchen was an intervention aimed at social and food justice-- an experiment in how more vibrant public infrastructures could improve the quality of our lives.

Curating opportunities for residents to understand the political context their neighborhood is situated within

Making Planning Processes Public—An upcoming installation in Upham's Corner aimed at making on-going planning processes more visible and accessible to local residents. The exhibit will be complemented by creative public signage that integrates invisible planning processes into everyday life in Upham's.

Connecting residents with crafts people, architects and designers to imagine and prototype small to large scale neighborhood improvements

Tactical Urban Lab-- Tactical urbanism refers to quick, often temporary, affordable projects that aim to make a small part of a city more lively or enjoyable. We aim to put tactical urbanism in the hands of the community by creating an open lab where community members can work with local artists, designers and builders to prototype and re-imagine everyday aspects of their neighborhood.

Partnering with community groups that are invested in the specific place we are working in to sustain efforts from ideas to action

Our work in Upham's Corner has already involved hundreds of community members and many community organizations, ranging from Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative to The Food Project, The City School, Upham Corner Main Street and more. These community based organizations have been critical to supporting residents' on-going work towards creating and fighting for the kinds of communities they want to live in together. This work has also been made possible by funding from The Boston Foundation and ArtPlace.



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