

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

#### An introduction

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LED Seminar - Spring 2018





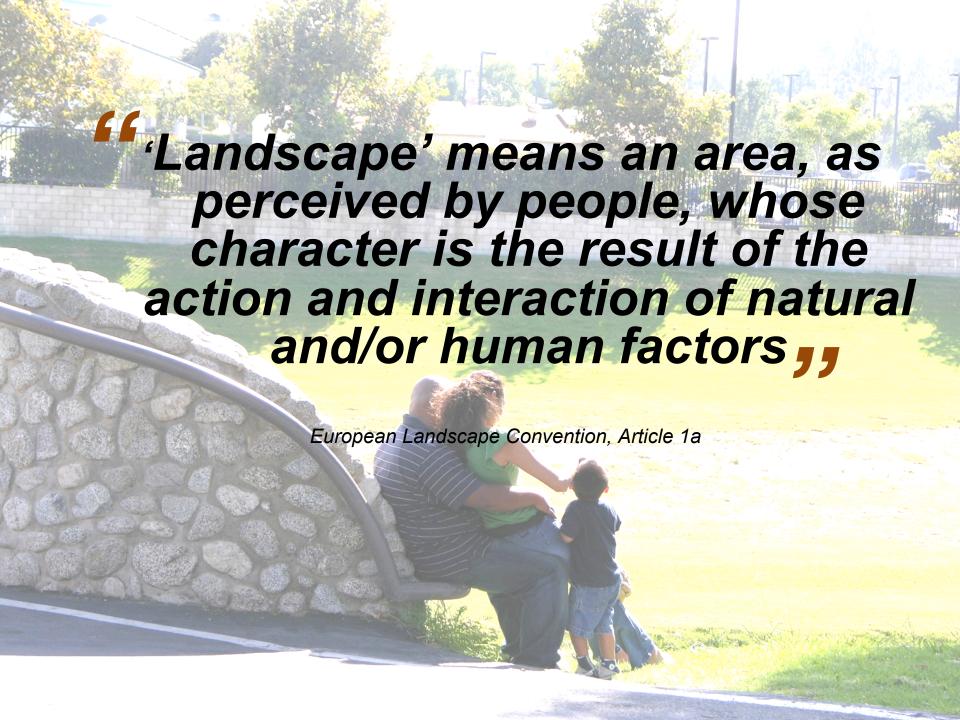
















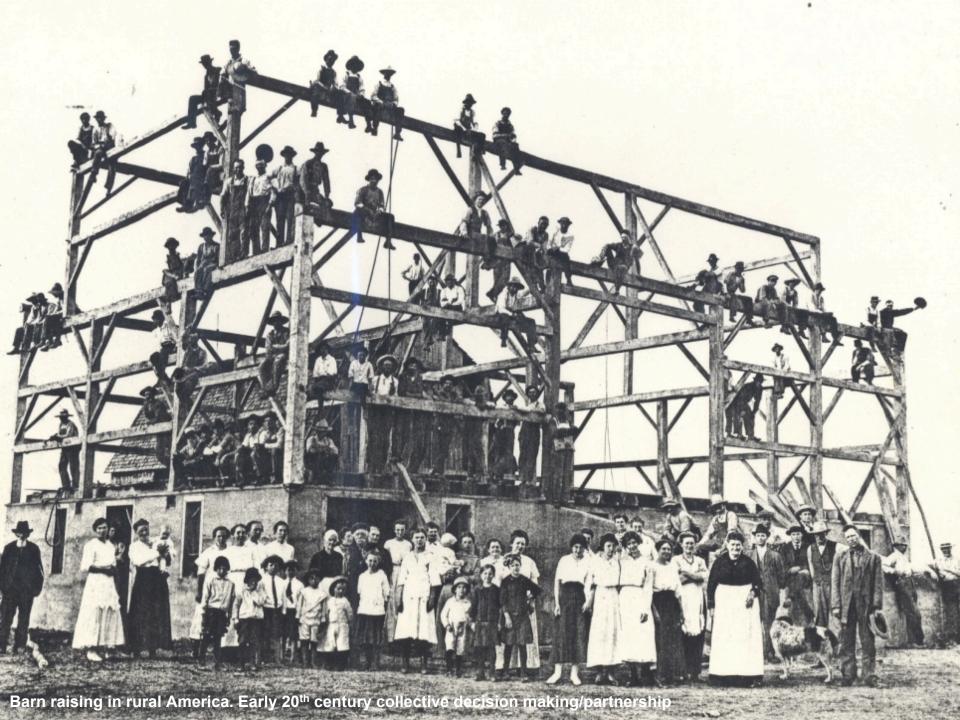
# The evolution of participation





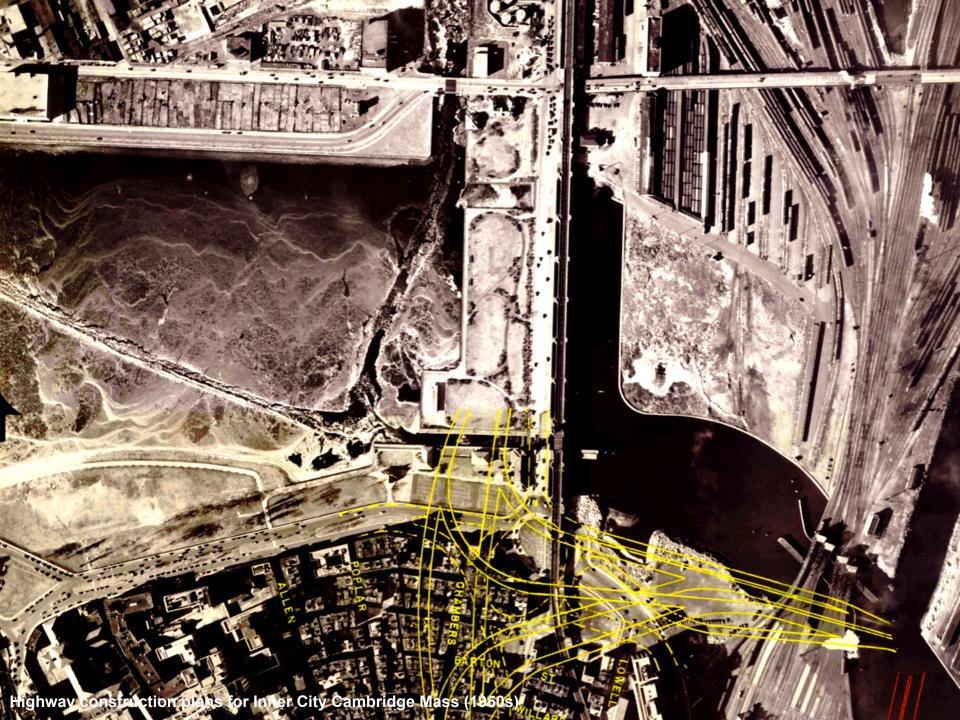
# **Roots of Community Participation**

- First example of participation in ancient Greek ecclesia
- Deliberative democracy in North America
  - 1831 Alexis De Tocqueville is sent to America to study its prison system
  - He observes collective decision-making forms In contrast with hierarchical European society Links to the Puritan society, based on gender equality
- Barn-raising by pioneers
- By late 1800s: politics become professionalized



# US participation as advocacy after WWII

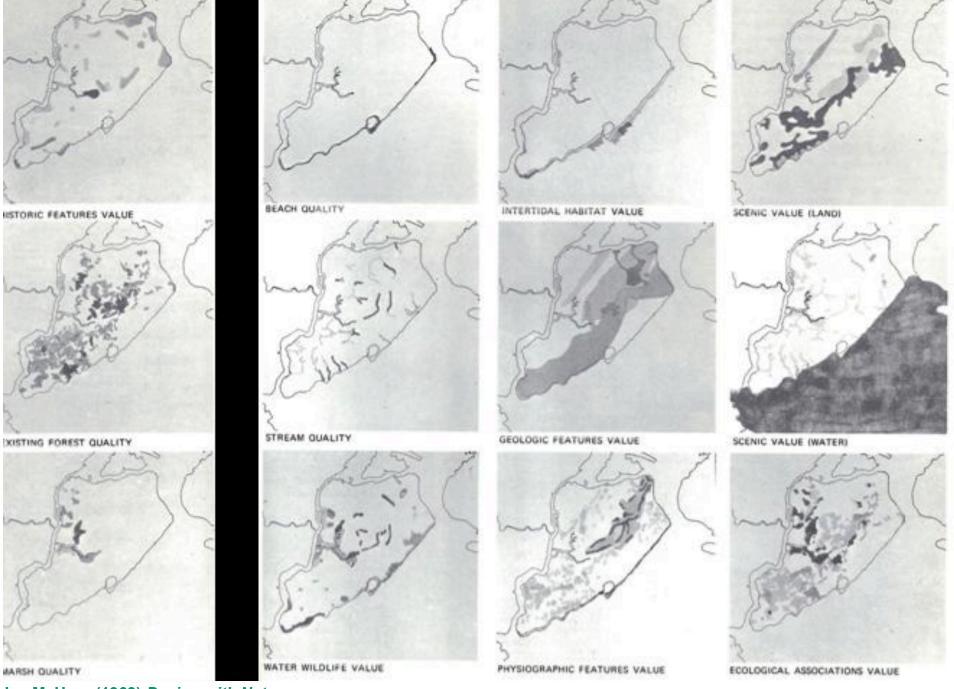
- Participation as advocacy planning
- Fights against urban renewal/freeways (US/ Europe)
- Civil rights (US)
- Public housing (US/Europe)
- Environmental movement (worldwide)
- Consequences of the advocacy planning
  - NIMBYism
  - Gridlock: politically charged projects are 'resolved' or stalled by participation
  - Focused on litigation and mediation



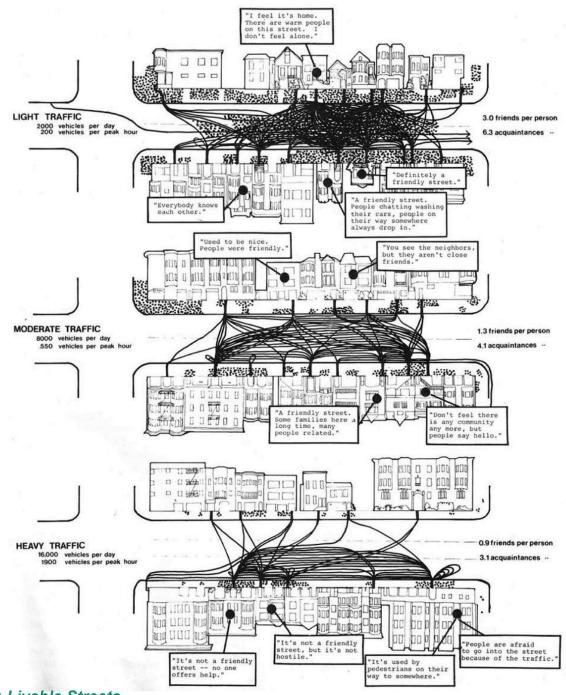


# **Community Participation as law in the US**

- 1954 US Legislation on Housing requires citizens advisory groups
- 1960s Donald Appleyard studies influence traffic policies in San Francisco
- 1970s and 80s: participation as a business
  - o "maximum feasible citizen participation"
  - Engaging residents in environmental planning/ Historic Preservation decisions



lan McHarg (1969) Design with Nature



# Participation and International policies

- The 2000 European Landscape Convention
  - Landscape as perceived by people
  - Signing countries to engage residents in participation (article 5, section b).
- UN Sustainable development Goals (2017)
  - 17 integrated goals
  - Goal 17 "A partnership to achieve all goals"

### UN Agenda 2030

"We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised **Global Partnership** [...] based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people."

# What is good participation?

# Critique of participation

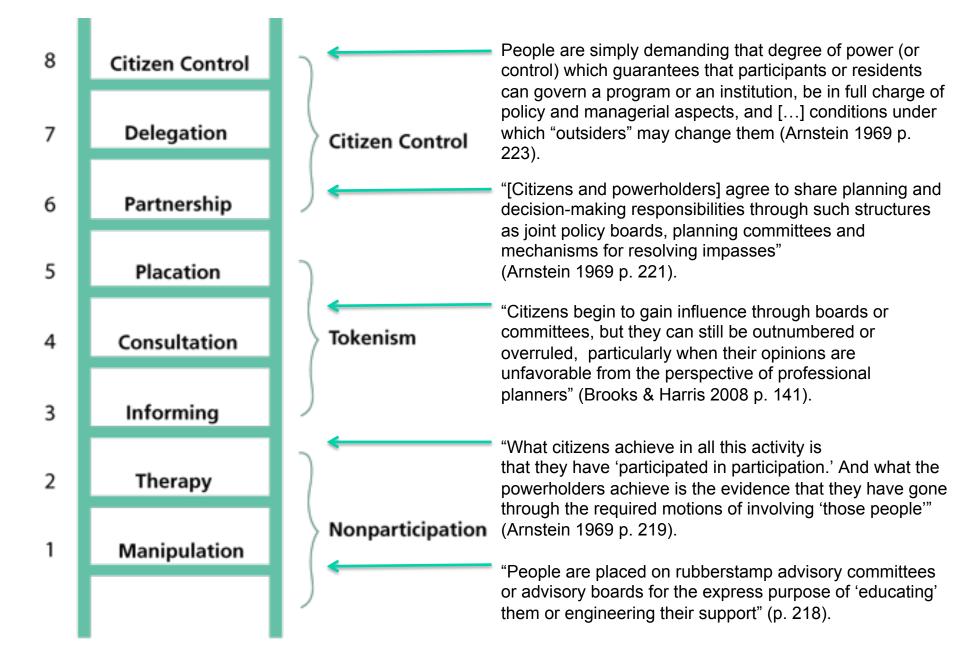
1969 Arnstein's critique of participation (the ladder of participation)

#### Goods

- Simple, easy to understand
- Levels differences in power distribution from the powerful to the powerless

#### Bads

- Insufficient in explaining the complex practices of citizens' engagement
- Does not explain the full reasoning of people who participates (meaning)



# Think of your own experience in participation: at which level of the ladder was it?

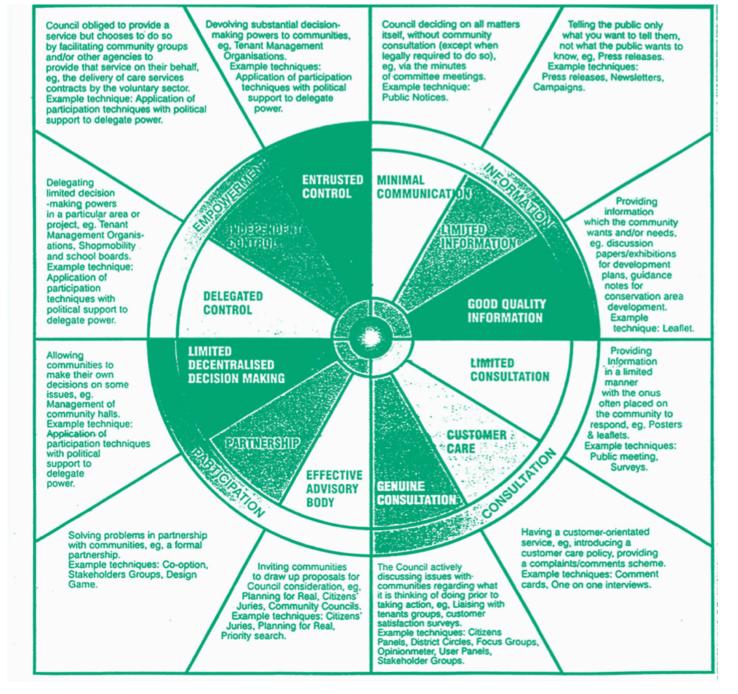
1 Manipulation 2 Therapy 3 Informing 4 Consultation 5 Placation 6 Partnership 7 Delegated Power 8 Citizen Control

What was the key method/technique employed in the participatory projects you have experienced?

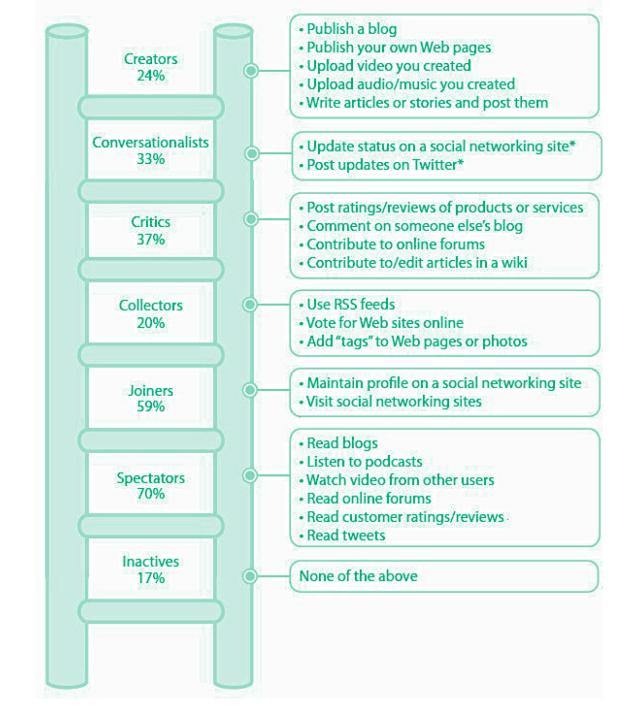


# Beyond the ladder: shades of participation

- Wheel of engagement (Davidson 1998)
  - Participation should be customized/diverse
- Visionary creative synthesis (Hester 1999)
  - Collective creativity
  - Designer as synthesizer of visions
- Participatory Action Research (Reason & Bradbury 2001)
  - Partnerships
  - Co-creation
  - Citizen science
- Full Participation (Sturm 2006, 2010, 2011)
  - Recognition that participation should be rich inclusive of diverse viewpoints
- Ladder of digital participation (Bernoff & Li 2010)
  - Focus on people's varied/overlapping behaviors
  - Takes into account possible strategic choices



Davidson, S. (1998) 'Spinning the wheel of empowerment', Planning 1262(3) pp14-15



# Performance of participation

## Henry Sanoff's functions/goals for participation:

- generate ideas
- identify attitudes
- disseminate information
- resolve conflict
- review of proposals
- allow pent up emotions to surface

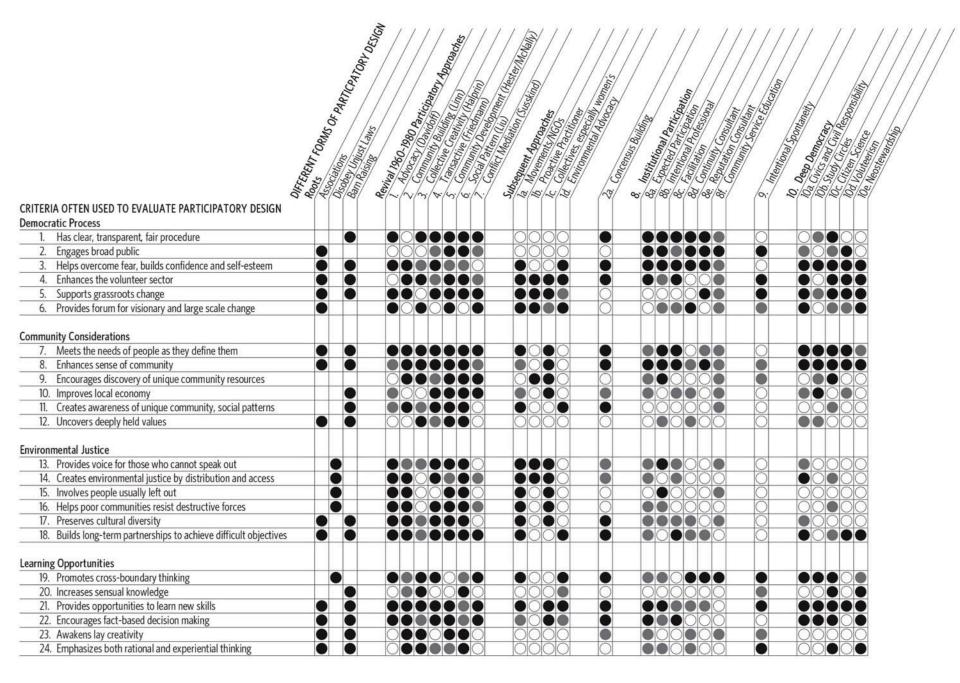
#### other functions:

- Opening of process to stakeholders
- Diversity of viewpoints
- Meaningful participation
- Integrating stakeholder concerns
- Information exchange

# Performance of participation

# Randy Hester (2012) 42 criteria for evaluating community participation

- Democratic Process
- Community Considerations
- Environmental Justice
- Learning Opportunities
- Power Distribution
- Ecological Considerations
- Design Outcomes
  - 37. Improves everyday environments
  - 38. Stimulates creative design
  - 39. Improves design in practical ways
  - 40. Shares form-making with public
  - 41. Makes design experiential and sensually arousing
  - 42. Creates places for civicness



Hester, R. T. (2012). Scoring collective creativity and legitimizing participatory design. Landscape Journal, 31(1)

# What should participation do?

Include the excluded/unheard
Enrich/delight/fun/engage
Be consequential/improve decision making
Allow consensus to emerge efficiently
Reveal/celebrate differences and nuances
Allow designers' to express their abilities/knowledge
Enriching the design process
Integrate complex transdisciplinary thinking
Educate/create opportunities to learn
Build new stories/meanings
Shift values/beliefs
Promote sustainable actions
Redefine expertise
Allow context /traditions to inform design
Fight global forces/pressures
Make projects more lasting/resilient
Promote greater stewardship/ownership
Innovate, be technologically advanced
Empower self-determination/control