URBAN RESEARCH PROTOTYPE: #000

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EXPERIMENTAL DOCUMENTATION OF URBAN PLANNING IN NEW YORK CITY / LENAPEHOKING

MIXED-MEDIA THAT CAPTURED TIME & SPACE BETWEEN 2019-2020
Through a system of grassroots urban planning a radically different system of research and decision making can exist. This system can utilize the knowledge of City residents and resources of public institutions to create holistic and inclusive planning. If the planning process is led by the people then it has a better chance of fighting against displacement and preserving the environment. The bottom-up planning process has already been happening in many communities but is not implemented in the political process.
Creating and sharing media has become a vital tool in local planning. Given the power of smartphones and other devices to record video, audio, and take photographs, along with editing, means there is an endless opportunity for people to contribute their observations and ideas. Connecting the media that people generate themselves to how planning decisions are made could be a powerful tool in and of itself.
Finding physical space in New York City that can be used for community-entreprise can be very difficult. Office space is easy to find, but a social center with shared space and social services, not so much.

The lack of space for activities like art-making, food storage and production, urban planning and design meetings, and more, is thought to be a contributor to the erosion of social cohesion and the ability to organize a grassroots planning process. Generating new spaces and opening up existing institutional spaces for local use and management can create a multiplier effect of how many people are connected and the ideas they generate.
In the past year there have been dozens of mutual aid systems that have sprung up to provide everything from food to educational services to millions of New Yorkers. The concept of mutual aid demonstrated that it can function in the face of adversity where the dominant system fails. Not only that but the mutual aid networks that are now in place have the ability to keep providing services given that society is in the midst of a prolonged crisis. With a functioning system of mutual aid for the provision of some necessities (food, transportation, etc) there are many people who would opt to stay out of mainstream financial and labor markets.
Technology:
In the midst of social upheaval and climate change, we are transitioning to a society almost completely dependent on networked technology. Creating a public vision for the role of technology can stop an abuse of power by governments and reduce the accessibility gap between rich and poor when it comes to what technology can do and how it’s regulated. If technology runs rampant before we have community discussions on its ethics then we run the risk of further empowering the titans of corporate technology while continuing to compromise our own safety.
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