

Environmental Design 1

July 8, 2019

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Exercises Two—The Film of Your Neighborhood

Overview:

The purpose of Exercise Two is to introduce you to a neighborhood in the East Bay that your team has been assigned. A neighborhood, in this exercise, is being defined as a sub-district, approximately, a six-block square section, of a larger area of the East Bay. It is expected that you visit this assigned area several times, as a team, to get a feeling for the nature of the context and atmosphere of the places that make up the area. These visits should take place at various times of day and days of the week. As you make these visits take notes, in your journal, discuss what you are seeing and experiencing. Be aware of not only the physical nature of the area, but try to interpret what the social, economic, political, spiritual, etc. make-up is as well. You should do no library searching about the history or development of area or any other type of research at this time. The outcome of this set of observations will be for the team to tell an interesting and engaging story that communicates what you have found and experienced. This is a story of your personal experiences as a team embedded in a place—your neighborhood.

Storytelling/narrative in film format is a direct and easy way to observe and record a set of experiences in an entertaining format; it respects the intricate relatedness of things in a way that makes the situation easy to remember. As such, the story format provides a dense, compact way to deal with and communicate complexity in a visual and sound driven format.

The task is to now express your continual development over time, from several visits to your neighborhood, of the understanding of this place in a film that captures the group's understandings and meanings of this place. The film should be as detail as necessary, growing from a set of storylines (the vignettes) the group articulates. This should not just be a visual experience but capture the sounds and spirit of the place that is grounded in a framework that connects the elements, i.e., people, artifacts—buildings, landscapes, events, etc., so the outcome should tell a compelling story, in visual images, sound—music and narrative.

Step One: Creating the template of the Storyboard

Initially, make at least two trips to your neighborhood and during this visit identify nine distinct areas by identifying the characteristics/attributes that seem to define the nature of these places, as well as the larger understanding of the neighborhood. Record these nine places in digital still shots form, which you will make the framework for a storyboard and will be the diagrammatic strategy for creating the film. Create a background board of two layers of corrugated paperboard that is exactly 22" X 27" square. In addition, create nine white squares double ply, each square 5" X 7" on which the nine vignettes will be composed. Once completed the nine collages will be composed as illustrated in the diagram below. They are to be equally distributed vertically and horizontally with equal margins at the top and side-to-side of 2" with space between vignettes of 1." There is a space of 3" at the bottom to provide for the group number and a title of the collage. This

will be your template of the storyboard for this project. The template should be completed by the end of the work session on July 11.

Step Two: Collaging the Elements of Your Story

Utilizing the nine small 5”X7” white paper pieces, construct abstract vignette collages that summarize your understanding and meaning of each of the nine places you have chosen to represent your neighborhood. Establish a structure that connects each of the vignettes in a sequence or pattern that can be used to guide the film recording and editing process that results in the final film. This storyboard and its incorporated collages provide the structure and script for telling the story about your neighborhood. The collage should start with parts or wholes of the still digital images you have taken in the nine selected areas. Added to this start with found objects or other materials to establish you message in each of the nine vignettes. The collage can be 2D or 3D but the 3rd dimension of no more than 1.”

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Step Three: Submission of Storyboard

The template for the storyboard is to be completed on Thursday, July 11 in section, so bring the materials necessary to construct the required outcome. This includes one ply paperboard, enough to cut two pieces, 22” X 27.” These top pieces are glued together with the corrugations at a 90-degree angle. This will provide a stable and flat surface to work on. On this surface mount the nine 5”x 7” double-ply white sheets for the vignettes once they are completed. Color sheets can be used if there is a need for doing so. (A designer option)

Step Four: Completion of the Storyboard

The Storyboard is to be completed at the end of class on Tuesday, July 18. At that time the team should be ready to begin the remainder of your film shoots and start the editing process.

Step Five Film Production

1. Make several more visits to the assigned area and specifically to the nine areas you identified in the storyboard component of the exercise at different times of the day: morning, afternoon, evening and days of the week. At least half of these visits should be as a team. As a precaution do not go only at night and in a group be extremely aware of your surrounds. None of the areas are extremely dangerous but remember this is Berkeley. If you are uncomfortable with night visits do not do them.
2. Take notes in your journal and discuss what you are seeing and experiencing.
3. Continue to take at least 4-8 photographs on each of your visits. Date and organize the images as a record of each visit.
4. Create an eight-to-ten-minute film of the area that tells the story that you created in the storyboard exercises of the nine places documenting the people/environment condition. The film should be edited to include images, voice, music, and other appropriate elements as required resulting in an appropriate outcome.
5. Create an electronic process document using the digital images and other materials utilized in creating the film that clearly illustrated the sequence of events and steps in the development of the final film outcome.
6. The film representation and the electronic process document must be posted on BOX with a notification by email to both Mike and Colin that your film and process documents have been uploaded, no later than Sunday, July 28, at 9:00 PM. The film should be no larger than 90-100MB, process document no larger than 15MB.
7. The exercise will be reviewed and discussed in class on Monday, July 29 in Wurster 112. Each Group will be given 10-12 minutes to make their presentation including a short introduction, showing the film and questions and comments. As we only have 3 hours to make 14 presentations, we may run over on this day so make arrangements to stay until 5:00 pm. Let me know as soon as possible, if this creates any difficulty.