Critical Race Participatory Action Design Process
An Equity Approach to Campus Planning
**DRAFT**
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CRT and Spatial Theory draw attention to various ways in which space matters:
  • Racism is embedded and engrained in all aspects of society, including built environments.
  • Space is not neutral.
  • Space teaches dominant narratives and communicates socializing messages.
  • Space functions to normalize racial and other social inequities.
  • People experience and perceive space in diverse ways based on lived experiences, multiple identities, and positionality.
  • Design in service to equity and inclusion opens possibilities for institutional and social change.

4 Elements of Design Process
1. Participatory and Inclusive Design: Who is at the table
2. Training & Inquiry: How we support and invest
3. Demystifying and Disruptive Architecture: What we imagine for college space
4. Action-Oriented: How space furthers institutional equity and inclusion

Participatory and Inclusive Design: Who is at the table
  • Foregrounds the participation, leadership, and experiential knowledge of students of color in a design process
  • Recognizes multidimensionality of students of color
  • Acknowledges the epistemic advantage of people most affected by racial and other social inequities

Training and Inquiry: How we support and invest
  • Applied critical race spatial theories as an equity lens
  • Inquiry, dialogue, & storytelling as a means to explore students’ diverse socio-spatial experiences
  • Critical questions guided by critical race spatial theories to explore ways students experience, perceive, and re-imagine college space

Demystifying and Disruptive Architecture: What we imagine for college space
  • Architecture in service to racial and other social equities
  • Design to demystify implicit, unnamed, hidden expectations, functions, “rules”
  • Design to disrupt dominant narratives and socializing messages that function to (re)produce and normalize racial and other social inequities

Action-Oriented: How space can further institutional equity and inclusion
  • Process informs policies and practices for planning and design
  • Assists in aligning built environments to institutional values of equity and inclusion
  • Acknowledges and engages in an on-going cycle of inquiry, action, and reflection as a means of institutional change

Developed by Space Matters Student Leadership and Inquiry Project
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