

# ***Critical Race Participatory Action Design Process***

## **An Equity Approach to Campus Planning**

**\*\*DRAFT\*\***

July 2018

### **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

An initiative of the Portland Community College Planning and Capital Construction Office, Coordinated by Amara H. Pérez