***What is Infrastructure Student Workshop: Building a more Sustainable & Equitable Future in Atlanta and Beyond***

***Key Concepts and Questions Activity***

***Infrastructure serves multiple purposes***

Sometimes we look at a major infrastructure project and focus on one of its functions, but good infrastructure can serve several functions. The BeltLine provides a transportation corridor for transit, walking, and biking, while it also mitigates flooding, creates business opportunities, restores greenspace, and showcases artists.

1. Thinking about the Park’s site, as well as surrounding spaces like Ponce City Market, what are some of the purposes that you think the Park’s infrastructure serves now?
2. If you were a stakeholder of the Old Fourth Ward, what is one purpose that YOU would want the Park to serve?
3. What opportunities do you see for the Park to serve new purposes?
4. If you were working on this park in the future as a [your future career], what is one purpose that you would focus on?
5. Take a moment to recap what you’ve been discussing as you’ve answered the preceding questions. For this last question, turn to the piece of poster paper on your table. Write (or draw!) **1:** your key concept (use shorthand) **2:** an important takeaway from your discussion **3:** one thing, related to your takeaway, that you would change about the Park. We’ll ask some of you to share this answer with the entire group.

***Development decisions impact both human and non-human life***

Humans are just one piece of a complex and dynamic system. Therefore, our decisions need to take all forms of life into consideration. For example, the City of Seattle requires a proportion of new development to include vegetation, which offsets a portion of habitat loss attributed to development.

1. Thinking about the Park’s site, as well as the surrounding Old Fourth Ward, what human and non-human life has been affected by BeltLine development?
2. What is some element of the Park’s impact on human and non-human life that particularly struck you?
3. What could the Park do to further demonstrate its equal commitment to human and non-human life?
4. If you were working on this park in the future as a [your future career], what is one way that you could ensure a dedication to all forms of life?
5. Take a moment to recap what you’ve been discussing as you’ve answered the preceding questions. For this last question, turn to the piece of poster paper on your table. Write (or draw!) **1:** your key concept (use shorthand) **2:** an important takeaway from your discussion **3:** one thing, related to your takeaway, that you would change about the Park. We’ll ask some of you to share this answer with the entire group.

***Values influence development decisions***

Individuals and communities (professional, geographical, cultural, socioeconomic) bring their values and beliefs to every decision, whether they mean to or not. These values impact infrastructure developments. For instance, a city may transform a vacant lot into a community garden, but if neighborhood residents do not value farming or lack proper guidance, then the garden may fall into disrepair.

1. Considering the history you have just read, and the images available to you, what values do you see reflected in the Park’s development?
2. What are the personal values that YOU believe should drive infrastructure projects like the Historic Old Fourth Ward Park?
3. What could be done to assure that the values driving the future of the Park are not exclusive to one group, but all the affected stakeholders?
4. If you were working on this park in the future as a [your future career], how could your decisions account for the different values that stakeholders bring to the Park?
5. Take a moment to recap what you’ve been discussing as you’ve answered the preceding questions. For this last question, turn to the piece of poster paper on your table. Write (or draw!) **1:** your key concept (use shorthand) **2:** an important takeaway from your discussion **3:** one thing, related to your takeaway, that you would change about the Park. We’ll ask some of you to share this answer with the entire group.

***Infrastructure development impacts different communities in different ways***

Because infrastructure projects have multiple uses and multiple effects, we must consider why each project is being built, and whom it serves. Development outcomes have different impacts on different groups, and what may be useful to one group may be neutral or even harmful to another. For example, the Old Fourth Ward Skate Park serves as a social and recreational space for youth, but some nearby homeowners view it as a nuisance because it brings noise.

1. After reading about the Historic Old Fourth Ward Park and the Fourth Ward itself, what impacted communities can you identify? How have they been impacted differently?
2. What impacts, on what communities, do you find especially exciting? Concerning?
3. How can considering the Park’s different impacts on different communities help us make infrastructure more equitable and sustainable?
4. If you were working on this park in the future as a [your future career], how could your decisions account for the different values that stakeholders bring to the Park?
5. Take a moment to recap what you’ve been discussing as you’ve answered the preceding questions. For this last question, turn to the piece of poster paper on your table. Write (or draw!) **1:** your key concept (use shorthand) **2:** an important takeaway from your discussion **3:** one thing, related to your takeaway, that you would change about the Park. We’ll ask some of you to share this answer with the entire group.

***Your voice is a powerful and necessary tool in assuring that large development projects benefit existing communities and benefit nature.***

Government and business entities almost always end up controlling large development projects. To ensure that these projects benefit communities, individuals and communities need to organize and act. They must use their experiences and expertise to contribute a strong voice, one that will influence the direction of projects that impact, for example, the closing of neighborhood schools, a large infrastructural endeavor that impacts local educational practices and access to quality schooling in one’s neighborhood.

1. As you’ve read, many different voices, communities, individuals have asserted a say in the development of the Historic Old Fourth Ward Park. Name some of those voices.
2. Whose voices do you believe should impact the Park in the future?
3. By incorporating the voices you describe above, how could we improve the Park and its impact?
4. If you were working on this park in the future as a [your future career], how could your voice and experience positively impact its development? Who else’s voice would you seek out for consultation?
5. Take a moment to recap what you’ve been discussing as you’ve answered the preceding questions. For this last question, turn to the piece of poster paper on your table. Write (or draw!) **1:** your key concept (use shorthand) **2:** an important takeaway from your discussion **3:** one thing, related to your takeaway, that you would change about the Park. We’ll ask some of you to share this answer with the entire group.