



OCTOBER 2023

# Background & Teaching Philosophy

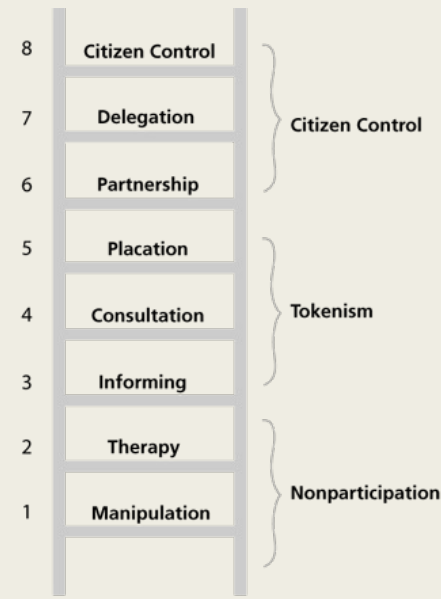
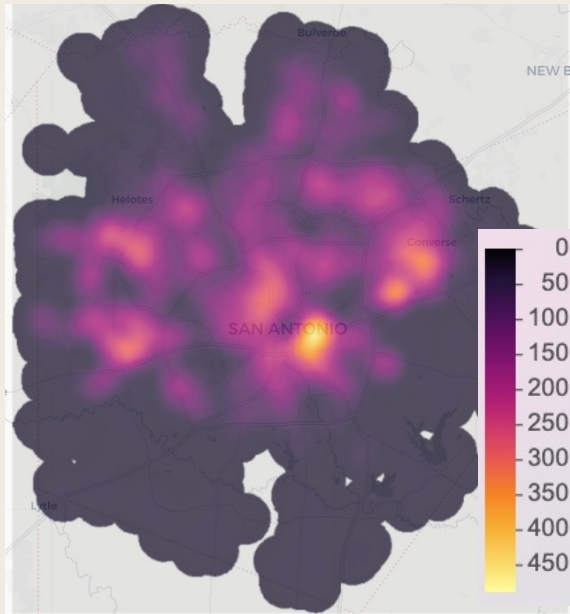
Sarah Serpas, AICP



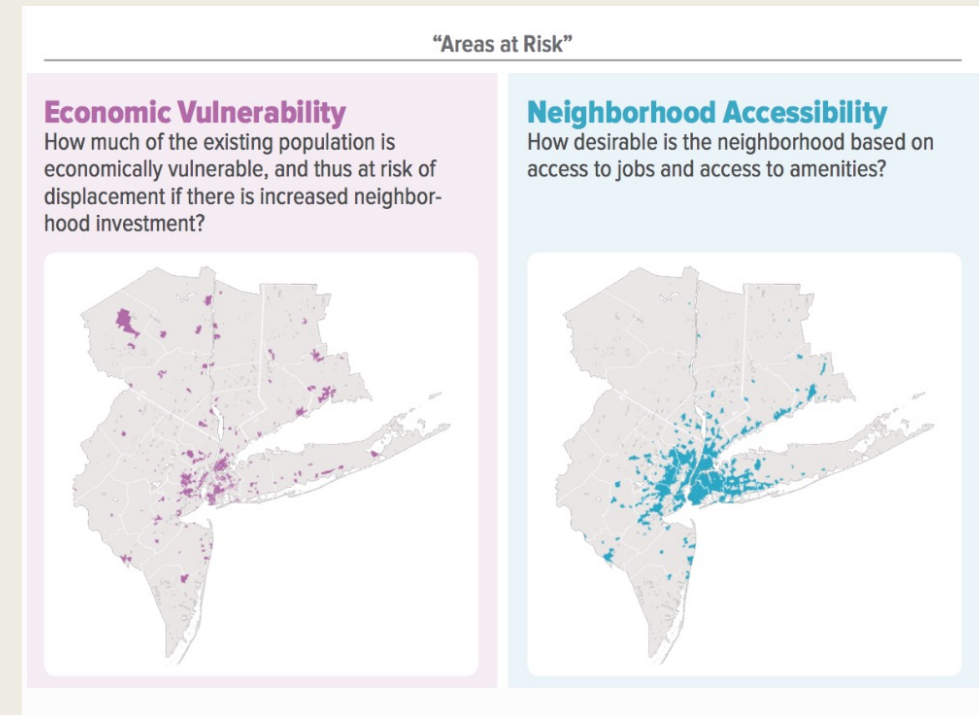
## BACKGROUND/PERSPECTIVE

# Sarah Serpas, AICP

- Participatory Urban Planning (Pratt MS CRP & AICP)
- Research & Data (GIS, R, SPSS, Excel)
- Experience in nonprofits & local government
- PhD\* in Applied Demography (\*In progress - ABD)



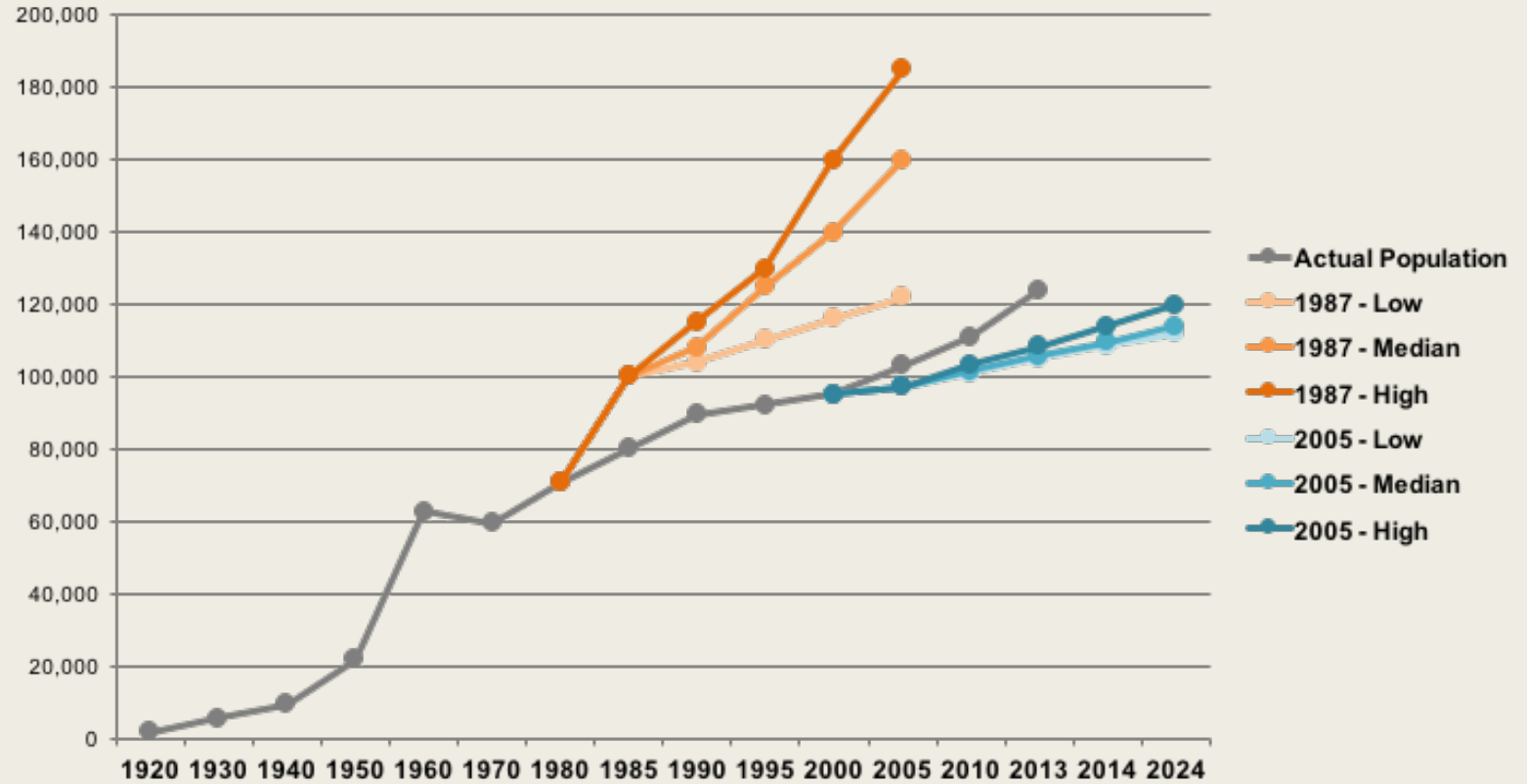
Arnstein's Ladder (1969)  
Degrees of Citizen Participation



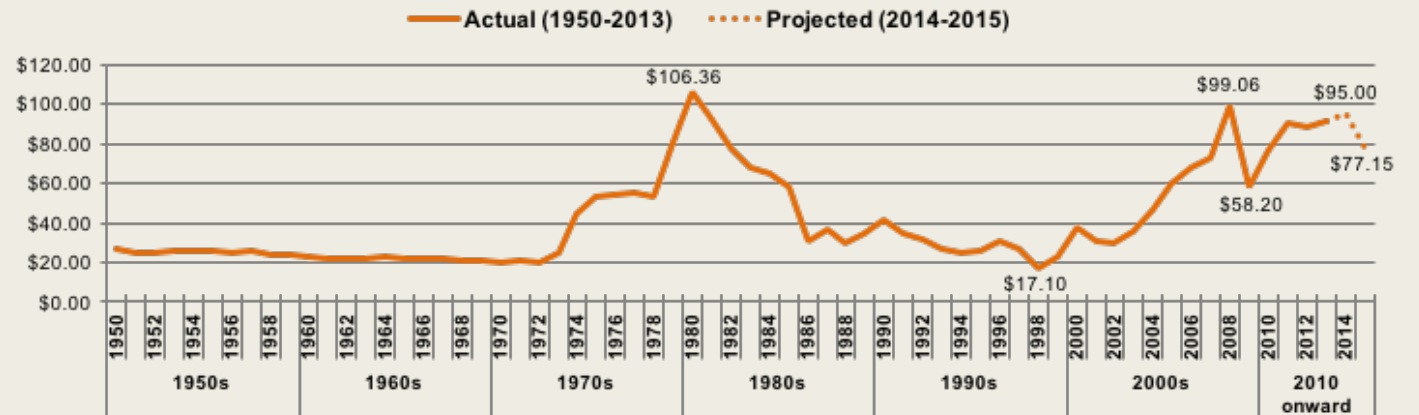
# BACKGROUND/PERSPECTIVE

## Midland, TX

(Hometown)



U.S. Crude Oil Prices, Annual Average 1950-2015 (in \$2014/Barrel)

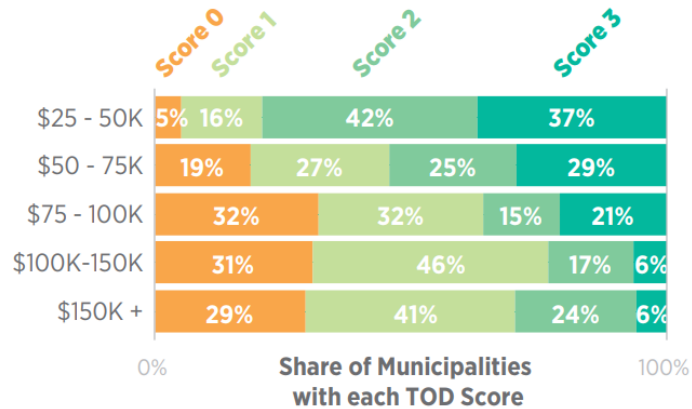


Work examples from Pratt Master's Thesis

# BACKGROUND/PERSPECTIVE NY-CT-NJ Region

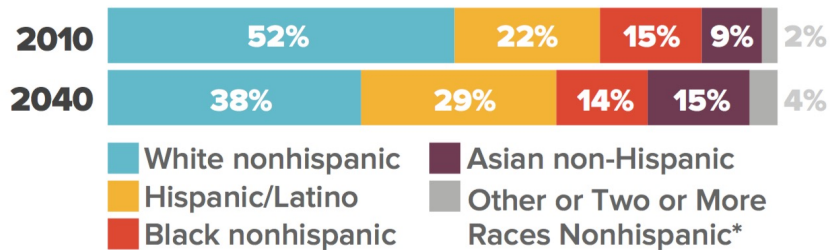
**Wealthier municipalities are less TOD friendly**

**Median Household Income by TOD Friendliness**  
(for municipalities with train stations nearby)



Source: RPA Analysis; American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2015

**Figure 8: Tri-State Region Population Potential by Race, 2015-2040**

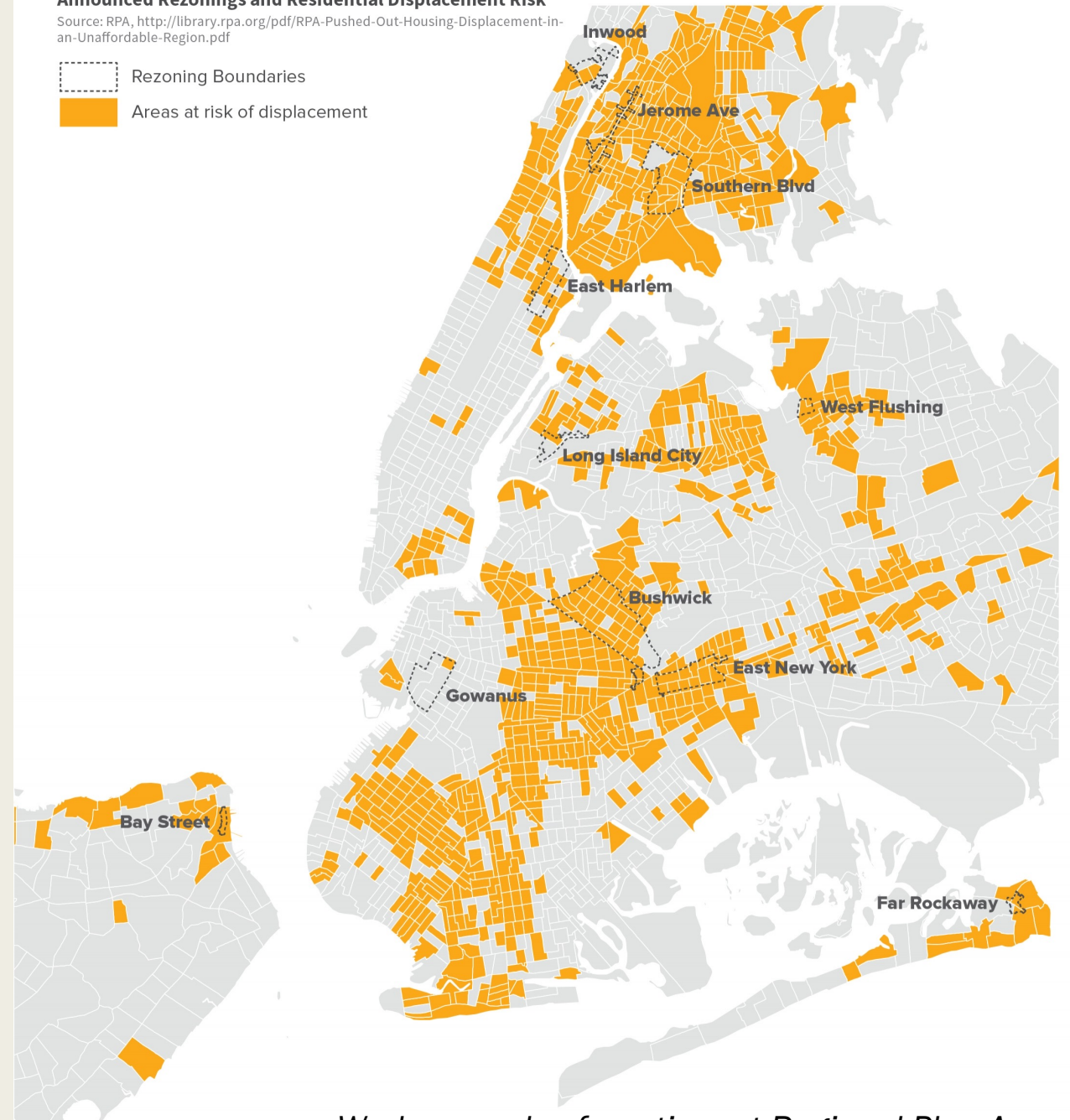


Source: Regional Plan Association; U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census 2010

## Announced Rezoning and Residential Displacement Risk

Source: RPA, <http://library.rpa.org/pdf/RPA-Pushed-Out-Housing-Displacement-in-an-Unaffordable-Region.pdf>

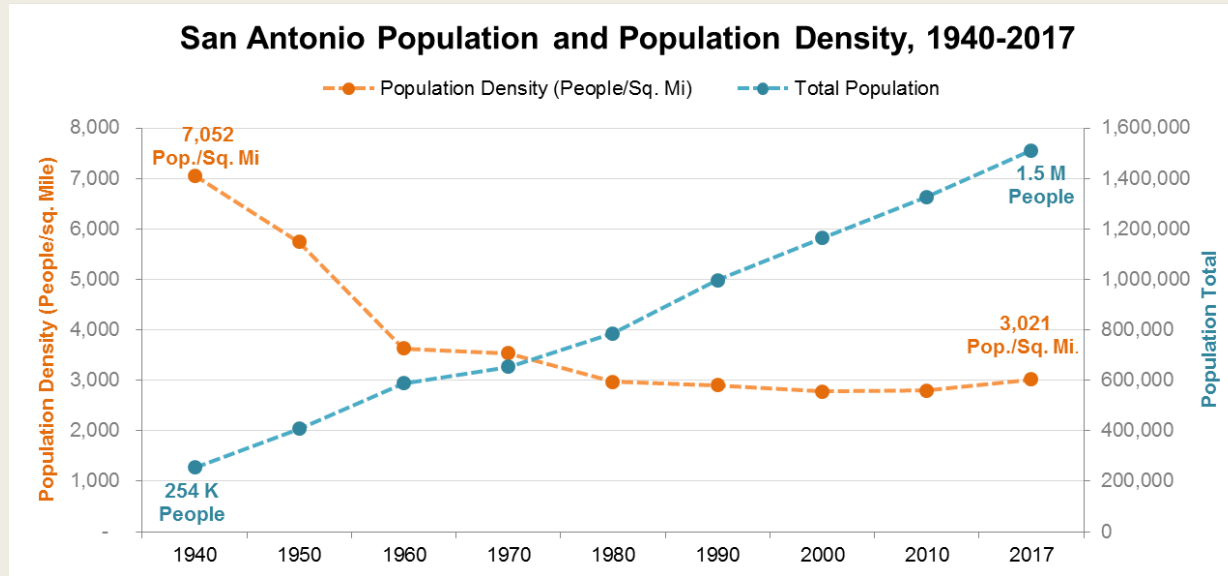
Rezoning Boundaries  
 Areas at risk of displacement



Work examples from time at Regional Plan Association

## BACKGROUND/PERSPECTIVE

# San Antonio



*Work examples from time at City of San Antonio Planning Dept.*



# While I've always considered myself a "numbers person," many of my strengths center on collaboration and relationship building.

## 1. Individualization

People exceptionally talented in the Individualization theme are intrigued with the unique qualities of each person. They have a gift for figuring out how different people can work together productively.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## 2. Achiever

People exceptionally talented in the Achiever theme work hard and possess a great deal of stamina. They take immense satisfaction in being busy and productive.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## 3. Learner

People exceptionally talented in the Learner theme have a great desire to learn and want to continuously improve. The process of learning, rather than the outcome, excites them.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## 4. Ideation

People exceptionally talented in the Ideation theme are fascinated by ideas. They are able to find connections between seemingly disparate phenomena.





[LEARN MORE](#)

## 5. Relator

People exceptionally talented in the Relator theme enjoy close relationships with others. They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### DOMAIN KEY

-  **Executing** themes help you make things happen.
-  **Influencing** themes help you take charge, speak up and make sure others are heard.
-  **Relationship Building** themes help you build strong relationships that hold a team together.
-  **Strategic Thinking** themes help you absorb and analyze information that informs better decisions.

You Lead With **Executing** CliftonStrengths themes



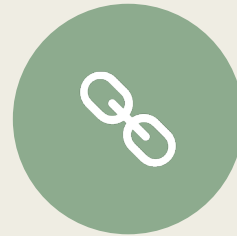
Leaders with dominant strength in the Executing domain know how to make things happen. When you need someone to implement a solution, these are the people who will work tirelessly to get it done. Leaders with a strength to execute have the ability to "catch" an idea and make it a reality.

# My Teaching Philosophy

Examples of each in following slides



**EVERYONE HAS  
SOMETHING TO  
TEACH YOU.**



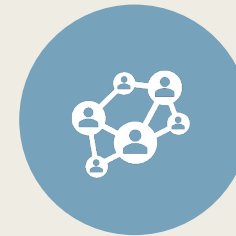
**LINK THE  
PERSONAL WITH  
THE TECHNICAL.**



**KEEP IT  
INTERESTING &  
INNOVATE TO  
IMPROVE.**



**FOCUS ON THE  
"WHY" – ESPECIALLY  
FOR ABSTRACT  
CONCEPTS.**



**COLLABORATION IS  
AN ESSENTIAL  
(THOUGH DIFFICULT)  
SKILL.**



# EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH YOU

## City as Play Workshops



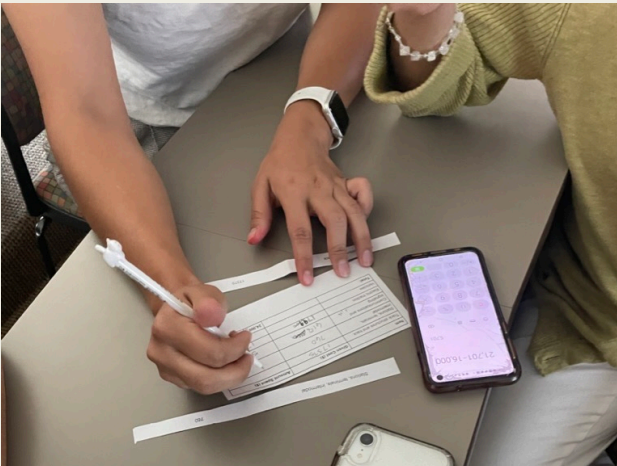
*Concept by Planner James Rojas, Photos from workshop facilitated by Sarah Serpas, 2012*





# EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO TEACH YOU

## Students Teach Project Management Case Studies



3. Rate how successful you believe Team 1 was in...

[More Details](#)

■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Decent ■ Good ■ Excellent

Creating a clear narrative with their presentation

Using visual elements in their presentation

Explaining complicated concepts

Speaking with clarity and confidence

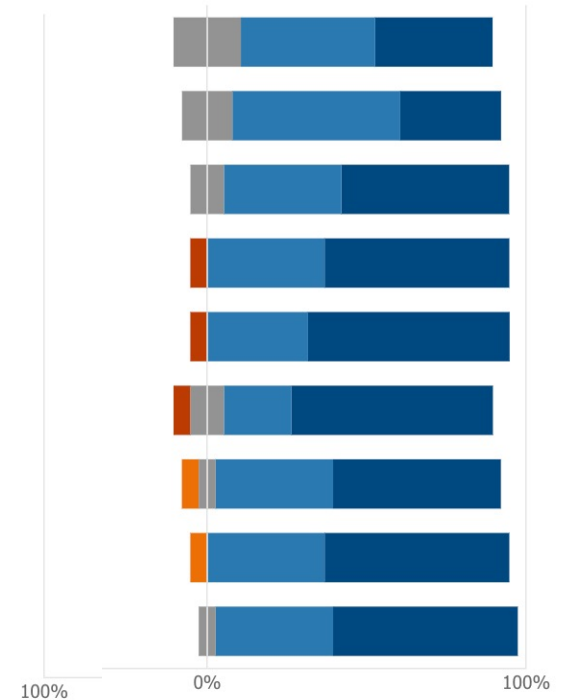
Demonstrating that they understand the material

Engaging with you and the rest of the class

Helping you learn more about project management

Being innovative or creative in their approach

Showing good teamwork and collaboration

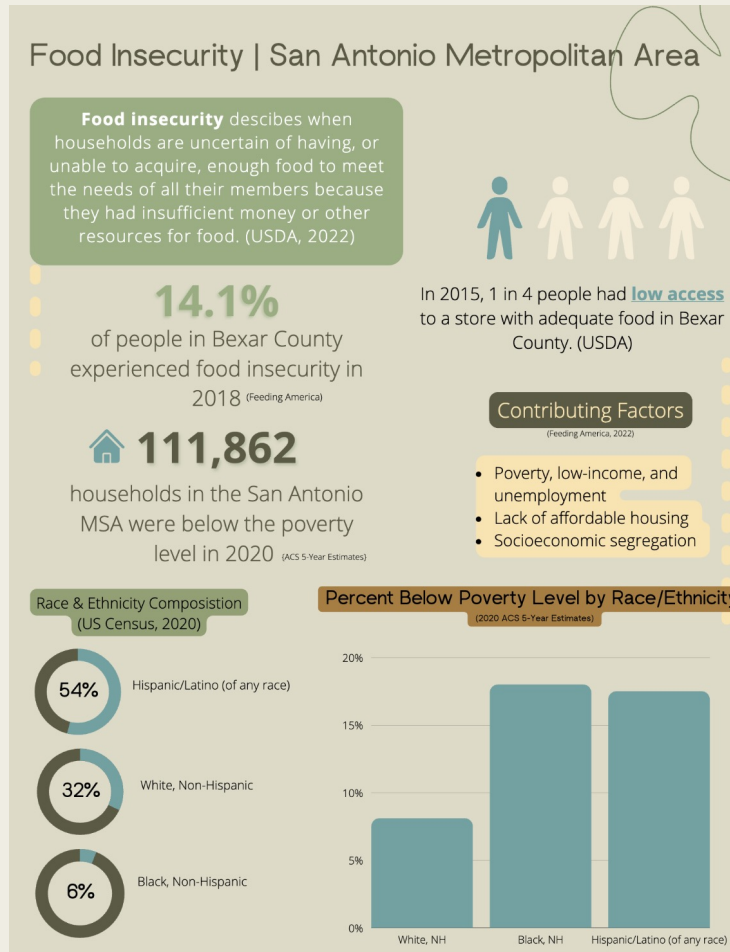


Case Studies from Course Textbook, Project Management Course 2022

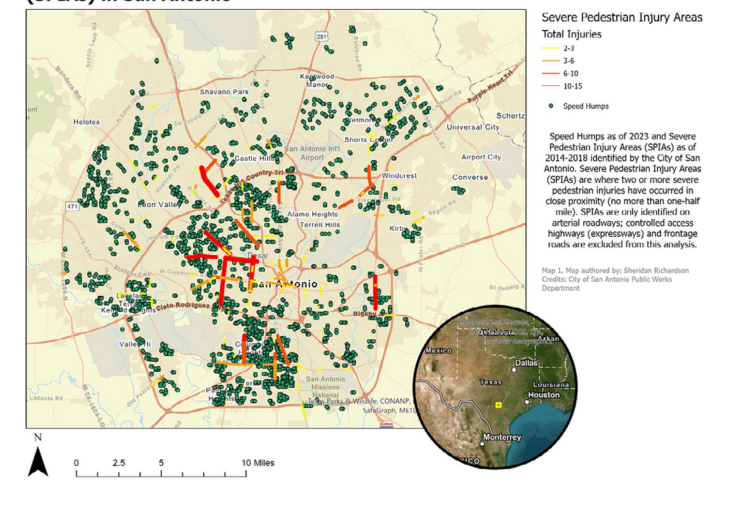


## FOCUS ON THE WHY

# Factsheets/Webpages with Topics of Choice



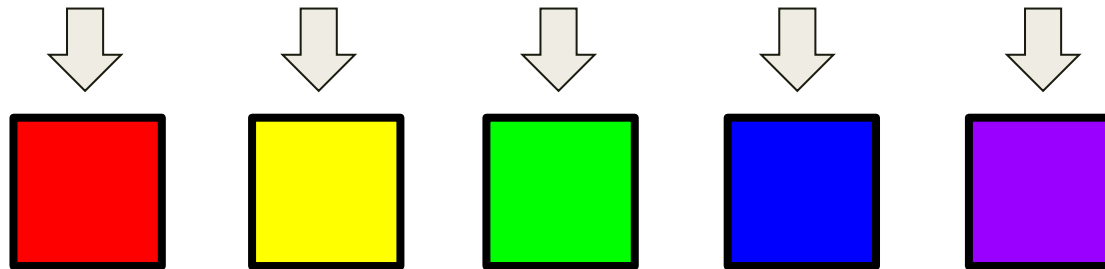
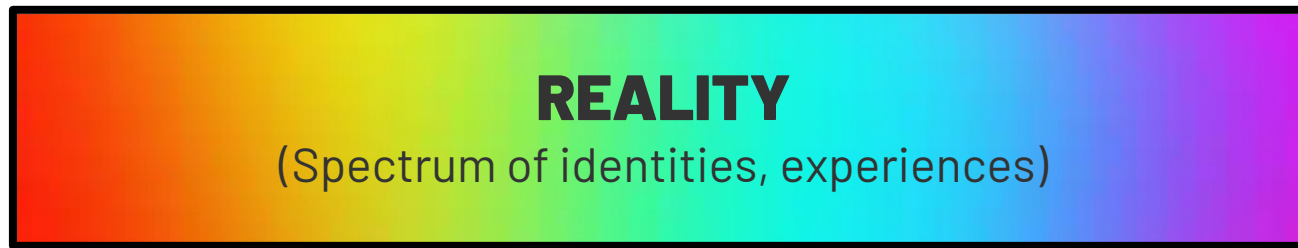
Speed Humps & Severe Pedestrian Injury Areas (SPIAs) in San Antonio





# LINKING THE PERSONAL WITH THE TECHNICAL

## U.S. Census & Identity



### **SURVEY/CENSUS FORMS**

(check boxes that don't reflect full identity or experience)

THE EXPERIMENT

*The Experiment* Podcast: Latinos Are a Huge, Diverse Group. Why Are They Lumped Together?

The answer involves Chicanos, the census, and Celia Cruz.

< What the 2020 census can — and can't — tell us about LGBTQ+ people

May 25, 2023 · 12:02 AM ET

▶ 3-Minute Listen

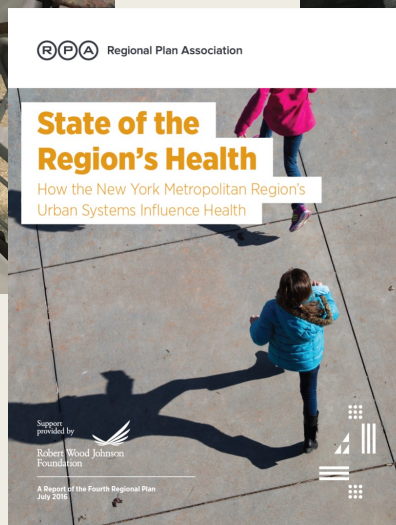
+ PLAYLIST





# LINKING THE PERSONAL WITH THE TECHNICAL

## Body-mapping & Health Data to Inform Policy



*Work with Regional Plan Association, 2016*

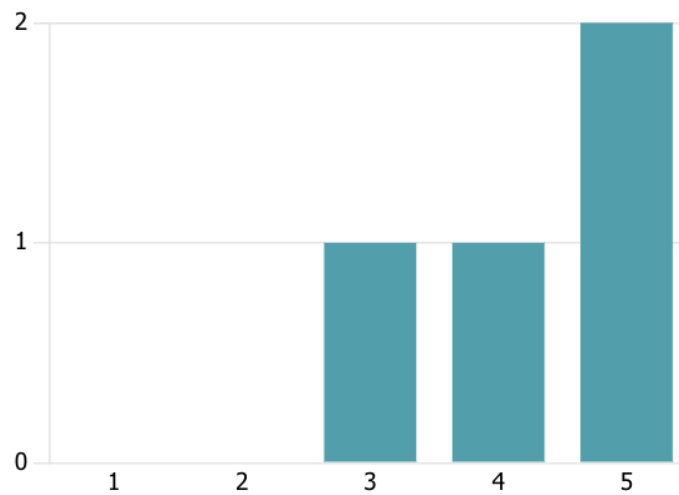


## COLLABORATION

# Group Projects – with peer review.

2. **Self Assessment:** Overall, how well do you feel that you contributed to the team's work for this presentation? With 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest score.

4.25  
Average Rating



10. **Teammate 3's name:** \*

Enter your answer

11. **Teammate 3 Assessment:** Overall, how well do you feel that this teammate contributed to the team's work for this presentation? With 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest score. \*

1

2

3

4

5

12. **Teammate 3:** Provide any additional comments on why you chose this score here.

Enter your answer



## COLLABORATION

# Organizing Group Conversations with Professionals

**MODERATED BY:**

**SA2020**

**Kiran Kaur Bains**  
SA2020

**Kimiya Factory**  
Black Freedom Factory

**Ryan Lugalia-Hollon**  
UP Partnership

**Sebastian Schreiner**  
United Way

**Candelaria Mendoza**  
COSA Innovation

**Alamo Regional Data Alliance**  
**SPARK!**  
2021: ROOTED IN DATA  
GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY

**Breakfast Panel ☕ 9am - 10am**  
Rooted in Data: Grounded in Community

*Example: Panel organized for ARDA Virtual Event in 2021*

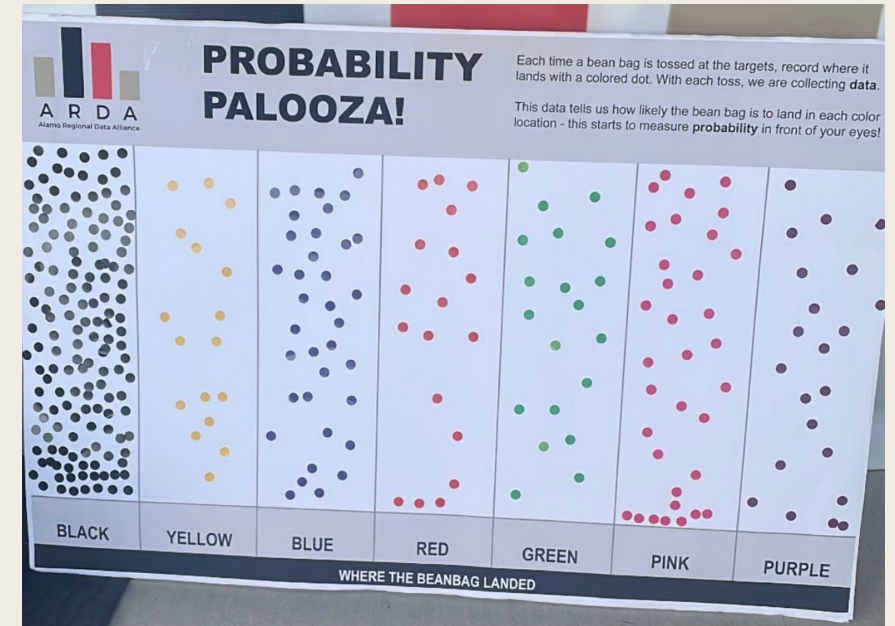


# KEEP IT INTERESTING

## Probability Palooza



Work with Alamo Regional Data Alliance, 2021





# KEEP IT INTERESTING

# Project Management Construction Activity

University of St. Thomas, Minnesota  
UST Research Online

Operations and Supply Chain Management Faculty  
Publications

Operations and Supply Chain Management

2006

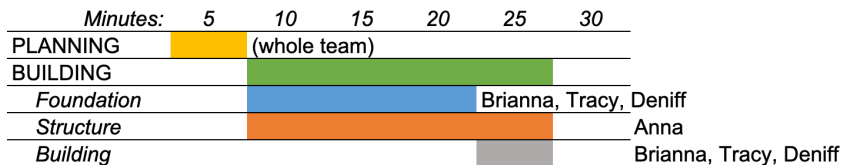
The sky's the limit: An activity for teaching project management: an experiential learning activity

John R. Olson  
University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, jrolson2@stthomas.edu

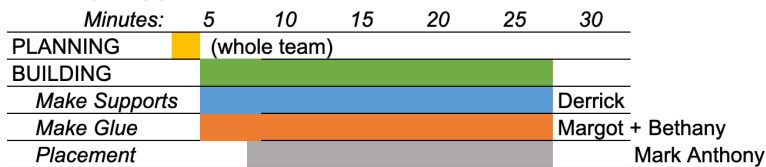
### TEAM: BUILDERS



### TEAM: MARSHMALLOW DEFEATERS



### TEAM: GIZMOS



Activity by J. Olson (2006)



## SUPPORT FOR THE WHOLE STUDENT

- Pandemic has affected us all
- Get to know students (coffee, one-on-one meetings)
- Point to resources such as counseling center
- Check in surveys

## NURTURE EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKERS

- Teach essential skills that can be overlooked: How to read and assess reports, data, disparate perspectives and make a balanced decision
- Data is not always neutral!
- Learning through projects and experiences.