



VERSION **14** N THE PLACEMAKERS SUMMIT

**Saturday, June 21-22, 2014 • 12:30pm - 6pm
Mana Contemporary Chicago**

Join us in the first floor gallery of Mana Contemporary Chicago for presentations and lectures about creative placemaking, urban innovation, and much, much more. With Sean Starowitz, Nance Klehm, Alex Gara, Robby Herbst, Charles Vinz, Krisann Rehbein, Logan Bay, Paul Durica, Rik Adamski, & Multiuso with The Graffiti Institute and 96 Acres.

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Version Festival: Placemakers Summit
Mana Contemporary Chicago
2233 S Throop St. First Floor Gallery
Free

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June 21 • 12:30pm

Join us in the first floor gallery of Mana Contemporary Chicago for opening remarks about the space and the Mana Contemporary project with Nick Wylie.

June 21 • 1pm

Contested Territory

- Multiuso, The Graffiti Institute and 96 Acres

Place and power shape Chicago, and for some communities, places are created by mass incarceration, segregation, and economic migration. In this discussion, Chicago cultural workers extend the story of placemaking to include disobedience, resistance movements, and creative engagement with power. What can be learned from historic struggles? Panelists include members of Multiuso, The Graffiti Institute and 96 Acres.

Graffiti Institute facilitates opportunities for emerging teenage graffiti artists to collaborate with experts on creating new artworks. Graffiti Institute believes in access to space, material, and knowledge.

Multiuso is an ad hoc feminist collective of cultural workers, educators and activists. Our work includes research and events that highlight the historic struggles of working class communities on the Lower West Side and La Villita. We are recipients of a one-year residency awarded by the Propeller Fund at Mana Contemporary.

96 Acres is a series of community-engaged, site-responsive art projects that address the impact of the Cook County Jail on Chicago's West Side. By soliciting proposals from the community, 96 Acres aims to generate alternative narratives reflecting on power,

and to present creative projects that reflect the community's vision of transformation.

June 21 • 2pm

Tactical Urbanism 101

- Rik Adamski

In recent years, there has been a growing shift toward Tactical Urbanism—low-cost, high-impact, often citizen-led approaches to neighborhood development—in city planning. Examples include painting of crosswalks and bike lanes, DIY signage, temporary activation of parks and storefronts, and use of food trucks and other vendors to add vibrancy to underutilized spaces. Rik will present the fundamental ideas of Tactical Urbanism, discuss examples, and work with attendees to explore potential projects for the neighborhood surrounding the summit.

Rik is a former Chicagoan and current Texan with a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from UIC. He has been a researcher for several leading planning organizations, including the American Planning Association (APA), the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT). He has also worked for the City of Fort Worth and bicycle/pedestrian planning firm Bowman Melton. Currently, Rik is a partner in Dallas-based ASH + LIME Strategies, which is focused on community-based approaches to planning and economic development. He heads the Incremental Urbanism Committee for CNU's 23rd annual Congress, which will bring thousands of leading urbanists to Dallas and Fort Worth in 2015. Rik is involved in numerous other committees and has lectured at UTA, Texas A&M, and various conferences on citizen-oriented neighborhood revitalization strategies.

He's keeping his 773.

June 21 • 3pm

ArchiGO

- Paul Durica and Nick Fraccaro

While researching photojournalist and Magnum Photographer Danny Lyon and his relatively undocumented formative years spent at the University of Chicago-- as a motorcycle rider, photographer and history student-- in that order—a gnomic mention of a gathering hosted by the then Chicago-based ArchiGO collective led Paul and me astray. It was time to consult more knowledgeable local historians of the

sprawling mid-century architecture and design “movement” centered around Chicago and the IIT campus. Join Paul Durica and Nick Fraccaro as they guide an audience down a forgotten rivulet of Chicago history that involves Archigram, intellectual piracy, radical playground architecture, Chicago public housing, and much more. Presented in the form of a half hour lecture program featuring a lecture, never before exhibited slides, and a lively question & answer session, we hope to rewrite, and re-right the long criminally forgotten exploits of Chicago’s very own collective ArchiGO.

About Paul: Paul Durica teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Chicago, where he received his PhD in 2013. On the side he runs Pocket Guide to Hell, a series of talks, walks, and reenactments dealing with Chicago’s past. He specializes in developing programs around under-narrated yet significant cultural people, spaces, and movements such as IIT’s ArchiGo collective. Learn more about <http://www.pocketguidetohell.com>.

About Nick: Nick Fraccaro is an instructor of film and media at Harold Washington College and a frequent collaborator with Pocket Guide to Hell. An incessant investigator of enthusiasms, he spends his time away from the classroom as a freelance educator, documentary film producer, and speculative humanist. His most recent work STACKS can be viewed at www.inthestacks.squarespace.com.

June 21 • 4pm
A Free Frame
- Robert Herbst

The Free Frame of Reference was an actual large yellow picture frame that was placed before a crowd by the SF Diggers in the Pan Handle before they shared their daily free meals served to the free people of San Francisco in the 1960’s. The frame served as a literal portal between a world of capital and the (then) emerging architecture of a living breathing free city. The Llano Del Rio Collective is a Los Angeles, CA. specific group that hosts a speakers bureau, plans activities, and produces free guides to that city.

The guides the collective has produced include A Map For Another L.A., Scores For The City, An Antagonists Guide To The Assholes of LA, and Utopias Of So.Cal.. Together the guides map a path guided by sympathy, physicality, antipathy, and desire; rather than hatred, commuting, grin-it-and-bear-it, and ambivalence. The

Llano Del Rio Collective aims to frame radical practice rather than be a practice. For Versionfest Robby Herbst of the Llano Del Rio Collective will lead a talk on site-specific praxis, publishing, and frames for reality.

June 21 • 5pm
The Voice of the Neighborhood
- Krisann Rehbein

In 2010, the Chicago Architecture Foundation challenged itself to engage Chicagoans by raising awareness that interesting and historically significant architecture is everywhere. Robust funding, led by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), allowed us to pilot a strategy that speaks to the heart of what we do: give tours that showcase the city. Started as the Community Docent Program, CAF selected three neighborhoods to recruit and train residents to map their assets, develop architectural tours, and train neighborhood docents. One community in particular, South Shore, utilized the opportunity to organize and rally around their neighborhood and build on a rich preservation legacy that spans from resident’s successful efforts to save the South Shore Cultural Center in the 1970’s, to their current efforts to preserve the Jeffery Theater building. This program, called Neighborhood Voices, was created at the same time as Open House Chicago – the only event of its kind to partner with community organizations to highlight architectural, historic, and cultural assets. The annual event serves tens of thousands of Chicagoans annually highlights neighborhoods on the north, south, and west sides of the city. Learn about how residents used architecture to transform the conversation about their neighborhood assets.

Krisann Rehbein is a strategist, mentor, writer, and convener. She is currently the Director of Youth Education at the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Krisann began her career as a grassroots organizer in Chicago, New York and Pittsburgh, and served as the Midwest Recruitment Director for the Organizing Institute of the AFL-CIO. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a master’s degree in sociology from the University of Chicago where her research focused on land use policy and change in urban neighborhoods. She is a contributing writer for Newcity where she ruminates on the intersections between urbanism and parenting.

[June 22 • 1pm](#)
[Why Aren't We All Developers By Now?](#)
[- Charles Vinz](#)

Artists and their respective communities are the economic saviors to blighted urban areas. At least that's what we're told to believe by Atlantic Cities and Richard Florida. But then there's gentrification, the inevitable end game of that real estate roller coaster. So what do people in Rustbelt & Legacy Cities, cities in which blighted neighborhoods are in constant supply, do to create a sense of shared pride in place, economic stability, and a desirable quality of life? Create it themselves.

Charlie is a designer and project manager who, since January 2011, has worked primarily with artist and urban planner Theaster Gates on projects that look strategically at how arts and cultural activity can be a vital tool for community development and reinvestment. Charlie studied architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and the Bauhaus University in Weimar, Germany.

[June 22 • 2pm](#)
[Wicker Park Bocce Club](#)
[- Alex Gara](#)

Local Chicagoans transformed one of their neighborhood's many abandoned, overgrown city lots into a community park centered around the game of bocce ball in the summer of 2013. The project's conception was basic enough: take an eyesore and create a handsome, usable space for the neighborhood. The realization of this goal led us down the labyrinth of city bureaucracy, but also helped instigate Chicago's announcement of \$1 leases on empty city lots. Having experienced the overwhelmingly positive response of this project, the Wicker Park Bocce Club is now in the process of founding bocce clubs in neighborhoods across the city, all the with the aim of strengthening the bonds between people and their place.

[June 22 • 3pm](#)
[Space-taking and place-making](#)
[- Sean Starowitz](#)

The fall out of post-industrial centers and the automobile has lead to sprawl, racial and economic divides, and vacancy throughout the Midwest. What are the roles (if any) that artist, cultural workers, and neighbors can do in the urban/suburban context that lead

to transformation and renewal? How do we define and truly grasp vocabularies dealing with our civic life such as "creative-place-making", gentrification, revitalization and community? For VersionFest, Sean Starowitz will talk about a variety of projects in Kansas City that explore, discuss, and challenge the urban/suburban context.

[June 22 • 4pm](#)
[Fertile Substrate: the down and dirty job of placemaking](#)
[- Nance Klehm](#)

Intrepid earthy folk here and far are building fertile substrates in our landscapes of disturbances – aka Cities. Nance will share stories and images from a few local projects as well as other rooted efforts being engaged elsewhere to inspire you to throw in wherever you currently inhabit.

About Nance:

Nance is a process-oriented ecologist with proven experience in restructuring existing situations into more functional systems with a strong social dynamic. Nance and her work has been reported on in over 50 national and international media outlets including radio and print as well as in 10 books. She has formally exhibited her work nationally and internationally in galleries and museums. She was named a 2012 Utne Visionary and has been a two time finalist for the Curry-Stone Prize. She is currently at work on a book on: Soil. Check out her sites: [spontaneousvegetation.net](#) & [socialecologies.net](#)

[June 22 • 5pm](#)
[Hypercities :: Bangkok](#)
[- Logan Bay](#)

From street food and commerce to Buddhist and animist practice urban spaces take on a multitude of uses; often overlapping and developing a distinct hybridity in their physical manifestations. This is hyper-urbanism built through a rich multitiered cosmology that creates a cityscape teeming with access points to mystical reality. But this mythical sense of place making is no utopia and like many urban environments survival is still an important aspect of big city existence; leading to the appropriation and reuse of everyday objects--urban innovation. Join artist and curator Logan Bay as he presents a street level tour of South East Asia, with a heavy focus on urban life in Bangkok.