

GSD 5468 (Fall 2012)
Advanced Workshop in Participatory Urban Planning and Design
Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

Mondays 11:30am-1:00pm [40 Kirkland Street, Room 401C]
Mondays 4:00pm-6:00pm [Harvard iLab, Room 122]¹

4 Units

INSTRUCTOR

Michael Hooper
Assistant Professor of Urban Planning

Office Location: 401A Gund Hall
Office Hours: Fridays 2:00-5:00 pm
Email: mhooper@gsd.harvard.edu

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop combines seminar and studio elements. In weekly seminar sessions, students discuss key readings on the theory and practice of participatory urban planning and design, drawing on both developed and developing world experience. In weekly studio sessions, students then tackle applied planning and design challenges facing marginalized Boston communities. The studio element of the course, which is referred to as the Community Innovation Lab, will be held in conjunction with the Kennedy School of Government's DPI 682 (Solving Problems Using Technology) and in partnership with the Boston Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics. In small interdisciplinary teams, students from both courses will work with community partner organizations to solve pressing urban problems. The teams will bring together students with interests in planning, design, technology and policy. Seminar sessions will take place at the GSD and shared lab meetings will be held at the Harvard Innovation Lab on the Allston Campus.

Recognizing that public participation plays a major role in urban planning, design and policy, the workshop seeks to provide students with a solid intellectual and professional foundation for work on participation-related issues. The seminar sessions serve as an opportunity to read and discuss cutting edge perspectives on participation that can inform the collaborative, applied work of the lab. The seminar will begin by looking at the history of participation and at different rationales for including the public in planning, design and policymaking. It will then examine the complexity of public participation in a wide variety of political, social and geographic settings. Major topics include the relationship between participation and project outcomes and the nature and scale of spillovers from participation to other aspects of social and political life. As a bridge to the lab sessions, the seminar will also examine key innovations in participation, particularly

¹ The course will meet from 4-6pm in Room 122, Batten Hall (home of the Harvard Innovation Lab, or iLab). The iLab is located at 125 Western Avenue, on the Harvard Business School campus.

looking at the role of new technologies and artistic practice in facilitating and shaping participation.

The lab will be highly responsive to the needs of our local partners and students will gain hands-on experience working with, and responding to the needs of, marginalized communities. Student teams will be assigned to work with community organizations in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. Further information on the workshop's community partners can be found in the "Partners" section of the syllabus. Together, students will work with these clients and the City of Boston to develop proposals that have the potential to improve living conditions and respond to urgent community needs. The specific design brief for the lab will emerge from our initial interaction with our community partners and be defined by their needs and the resources made available through the City of Boston and other partners. The course's partnership with local community groups and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics is meant to provide students with access to the actors central to urban planning in Boston and increase the likelihood that the proposals developed will be implemented following the course. To help ensure that this happens, the city has hired a facilitator who will work with the course and help to turn the course's innovations into reality.

The workshop is relevant for students who intend to go on to professional work involving public participation, including as urban planners, urban policymakers, designers, architects and landscape architects. It is also relevant to students who are undertaking graduate level research on participation issues.

The workshop will be limited to 15 students, who will be joined in the shared lab by approximately 30 students from the Kennedy School of Government and other schools. Students should be willing to work interdisciplinarily and to combine theoretical and applied aspects of participatory planning and design.

PRACTICAL OVERVIEW AND FORMAT

Each week, the workshop involves a seminar and lab meeting. As mentioned, two seminars tracks (GSD 5468 and DPI 682) run parallel each week, followed by a shared lab (Figure 1). GSD 5468 focuses on the theory and practice of participatory urban planning and design, while DPI 682 focuses on the applications of digital technology to urban problems. The lab brings together students from both seminars to tackle real-life challenges in Boston's Dudley Square neighborhood.

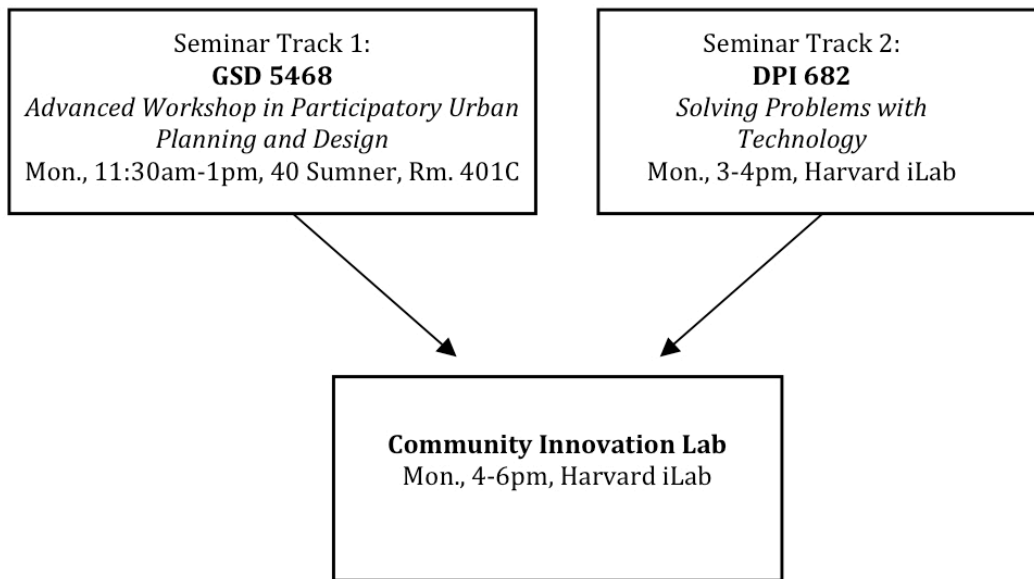


Figure 1. Basic workshop structure.

The GSD 5468 seminar meets from 11:30am–1:00pm at 40 Kirkland Street, Room 401C. Seminar sessions involve discussion of readings, in class debates and conversations with visiting academics and professionals. Readings for the seminar address participation in both domestic urban planning and international development arenas for two reasons. First, much of the theory on participation in domestic urban planning dovetails with that on participation in international development. At the same time, the literature from the two fields offers very different appraisals and critiques of participation. As a result, looking across both areas provides a strong foundation for understanding the strengths, weaknesses and dynamics of participatory processes. Doing so also highlights the political and institutional similarities that exist between developed and developing countries and the presence of cross-cutting substantive issues (such as poverty and inequality) that are too often treated in isolation. In each seminar session, students discuss these key readings to build a strong working knowledge of the public participation literature and the ways that participatory theory informs practice.

The shared lab for GSD 5468 and DPI 682 takes place from 4:00-6:00pm at the Harvard Innovation Lab. These sessions bring together students with interests in participatory planning, design, technology and policy to tackle real-world challenges in Boston neighborhoods. Students will be work in interdisciplinary teams and be paired with a community partner organization. Collaborators from the community and from the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics will attend the studio sessions to give a grounded perspective to students as they learn about their assigned community and its challenges, begin to develop ideas and proposals, and ultimately refine these ideas with their local partners. It’s important to note that the lab will differ from standard studios in a number of ways. Students should expect to work very closely with a community client, work in interdisciplinary teams and integrate methods and concepts from a wide variety of fields and practices. The workshop is ultimately about collaboration and sharing. To reach our goal of developing creative, workable and fundable innovations for actual

implementation over the medium-term, students will have to work together as a team, help each other learn and provide constructive feedback to their peers.

This syllabus provides full details on the overall workshop structure, the content of each seminar session and the topic of each lab session. Full details on all lab sessions (with a summary of readings, activities and assignments) are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

PARTNERS

The workshop is run in close collaboration with the following partners, who students will get to know very closely over the course of the term:

Institutional Partner

Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (<http://www.newurbanmechanics.org/>)

Community Partners

Orchard Gardens Residents Association (<http://tinyurl.com/8qaqfpr/>)

Upham's Corner Main Street (<http://www.uphamscorner.org/>)

Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) (<http://www.dsni.org/>)

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

First Session: Sept. 10

Holidays and Breaks: Nov. 12 (Veterans' Day)

Last Session: Dec. 3

Weekly Questions Due: Midnight each Sunday prior to class

Full Saturday Public Review Session: Nov. 17

Final Innovation Presentations: Dec. 3

Final Project Documentation Due: Dec. 3

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

This section summarizes the different assignments expected of students over the term. The following section presents the respective marking breakdown.

Seminar Assignments:

1) **Participation:** Students are expected to actively participate in seminar discussions as well in conversations with seminar visitors. The seminar is an inherently participatory forum and students will be expected to do the readings and contribute to class discussions accordingly.

2) **Weekly Questions:** For each seminar session, students will submit three detailed question questions they feel are important to understanding the readings for the session. Questions should be submitted to the isites dropbox by midnight on the Sunday prior to each session.

3) **Debates:** Two debates will take place over the semester. The debates will involve group work, with small teams of students collaborating to argue a position on a key topic

related to participation. Further information on the format of the debates will be provided as the debate dates draw near.

Topics and dates for the two debates are as follows:

- a) *Critiques of Participation*: “Participatory planning practices in their current guise do more harm than good.” (Monday, October 29)
- b) *Technological Innovation and Participation*: “New digital tools will rapidly open opportunities for the engagement of previously marginalized groups in planning and development.” (Monday, November 26)

Lab Assignments:

- 1) **Participation**: As with the seminar sessions, students are expected to actively contribute to the discussions and other activities that make up each lab session.
- 2) **Public Review**: Lab groups will present at a public review of their proposal several weeks before the end of term. This will be a chance to get feedback from a panel of experts on emergent ideas before the final client presentation at the end of term.
- 3) **Final Presentation**: Students will present their final projects at the end of the semester to their community partners and other workshop collaborators.
- 4) **Final Project Documentation**: Lab groups will complete a final project report (~10 pages) that carefully documents their idea and outlines why it should be adopted and how it can be implemented.

EVALUATION AND GRADING BREAKDOWN

Seminar and Lab Participation (including weekly questions): 20%

Seminar Debates: 10%

Public Review Presentation: 20%

Final Presentation: 20%

Final Project Documentation: 30%

Grades for GSD students will be assigned according to the standard school breakdown of Low Pass, Pass, High Pass and Distinction.

GUESTS

In addition to lab visitors, several guests will join the seminar sessions over the semester. The speakers will speak about their work, join students in discussion and answer questions. These individuals will generally be practitioners engaged in innovative participation efforts from around the world.

Guests this year will include:

Michael Haggerty, Project Director, Solo Kota Kita Project, Indonesia

Jeffrey Warren, Director of Research, Public Lab for Open Science and Technology

Shirley Kressel, Co-Founder, Alliance for Boston Neighborhoods

PLAGIARISM

Needless to say, plagiarism is not tolerated at Harvard. Further information on Harvard's plagiarism policy can be found online via the "Harvard Guide to Using Sources" (<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu>).

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

SESSION 1: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

- **SEMINAR MEETING 1: INTRODUCTION (11:30am – 1pm, 40 Kirkland St.)**
Introduces the course’s rationale, goals and overall approach as well as expectations for the term.

Seminar Activities

- 1) Workshop and seminar introduction (rationale, goals and approach).
- 2) Overview of Assignments and Expectations.
- 3) “Defining Participation” Exercise.

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Spector, Tom. 2001. “Theory” in *The Ethical Architect: The Dilemma of Contemporary Practice*, pp 33-63. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press.
- 2) Campanella, Thomas. 2011. “Jane Jacobs and the Death and Life of American Planning” *Places* (<http://places.designobserver.com/feature/jane-jacobs-and-the-death-and-life-of-american-planning/25188/>)
- 3) Pritchett, Lant and Michael Woolcock. 2004. “Solutions When the Solution is the Problem: Arraying the Disarray in Development” *World Development* 32(2): 191-212.

- **LAB MEETING 1: INTRODUCTION (4:00-6:00pm, Harvard iLab)**

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 2: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

➤ **SEMINAR MEETING 2: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND TRAJECTORIES**

Examines the historical origins of contemporary approaches to participation in planning and development.

Seminar Activities

1) Discuss readings.

Required Seminar Readings

1) Lane, Marcus. 2005. "Public Participation in Planning: An Intellectual History" *Australian Geographer* 36(3): 284-299.

2) Scott, James. 1998. *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

- Ch. 3: "Authoritarian High Modernism" pp 87-102

- Ch. 4: "The High Modernist City: An Experiment and Critique" pp 103-146.

3) Hickey, Samuel and Giles Mohan. 2004. "Towards Participation as Transformation: Critical Themes and Challenges" in *Participation: From Tyranny to Transformation?* Samuel Hickey and Giles Mohan eds, 3-24. London: Zed Books. (focus on the section titled, "A Brief History of Participation in Development," pp 5-9.)

➤ **LAB MEETING 2: UNDERSTANDING DUDLEY**

Full details on each lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST (STARTING @ 2PM) – NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS

Community partners will lead tours of Dudley Square and Upham's Corner, followed at 4pm by a screening of "Gaining Ground," a documentary about DSNI's history. This is a mandatory activity.

See accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout for more details.

SESSION 3: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 3: VARIETIES OF PARTICIPATION

Examines the varieties of participation encountered in planning and development, from tokenism and co-optation to broad-based community participation, explores the complexity of the term “participation” and compares participation with deliberation.

Seminar Activities

- 1) Discuss readings.
- 2) Guest: Jeffrey Warren, Director of Research, Public Laboratory of Open Technology and Science / Fellow, MIT Center for Future Civic Media.

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Arnstein, Sherry R. 1969. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" *Journal of the American Planning Association* 35(4): 216-224.
- 2) Fung, Archon. 2006. “Varieties of Participation in Complex Governance” *Public Administration Review* 66: 66-75.
- 3) Cornwall, Andrea. 2008. “Unpacking ‘Participation’: Models, Meanings and Practices” *Community Development Journal* 43(3): 269-283.

➤ LAB MEETING 3: DESIGN BRIEFS AND PARTNER ASSIGNMENTS

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 4: PARTICIPATION AND PROJECT OUTCOMES

Assesses evidence on ways in which participation influences project outcomes.

Seminar Activities

- 1) Discuss readings.
- 2) Guest: Michael Haggerty, Director, Solo Kota Kita Project, Indonesia.

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2002. "Participation and Development: Perspectives from the Comprehensive Development Paradigm" *Review of Development Economics* 6(2): 163-182.
- 2) Isham, Jonathan, Deepa Narayan and Lant Pritchett. 1995. "Does Participation Improve Performance? Establishing Causality with Subjective Data" *World Bank Economic Review*, 9(2) 175-200.
- 3) Carpini, Michael X. Delli, Fay Lomax Cook and Lawrence R. Jacobs. 2004. "Public Deliberation, Discursive Participation and Citizen Engagement: A Review of the Empirical Literature" *Annual Review of Political Science* 7(1): 315-344.

➤ LAB MEETING 4: COMMUNITY PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 4A: MONDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 4A: PARTICIPATION AND SOCIETAL SPILLOVERS: DEMOCRATIZATION & SOCIAL CAPITAL

Investigates the societal benefits of participation, focusing on two outcomes: democratization and social capital formation.

Seminar Activities

1) Discuss readings.

Required Seminar Readings

1) Altschuler, Daniel and Javier Corrales. 2012. "The Spillover Effects of Participatory Governance: Evidence from Community-Managed Schools in Honduras and Guatemala" *Comparative Political Studies* 45(5): 636-666.

2) Nylen, William. 2002. "Testing the Empowerment Thesis: The Participatory Budget in Belo Horizonte and Betim, Brazil" *Comparative Politics* 34(2): 127-145.

3) Wollebaek, Dag and Per Selle. 2002. "Does Participation in Voluntary Associations Contribute to Social Capital? The Impact of Intensity, Scope and Type" *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 31(1): 32-61.

Additional Seminar Readings

4) Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78. (Read if you are unfamiliar with the concept of social capital)

➤ NO LAB MEETING

SESSION 5: MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 5: PARTICIPATION AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Seeks to understand how minority and marginalized groups fare in participatory process. Examines how small groups can both distort and be negatively influenced by participatory exercises. The session also examines why some individuals do engage in participatory and mobilization efforts.

Seminar Activities

1) Discuss readings.

Required Seminar Readings

1) Tauxe, Caroline S. 1995. "Marginalizing Public Participation in Local Planning: An Ethnographic Account" *Journal of the American Planning Association* 61(4): 471-481.

2) Hickey, Sam. 2005. "The Politics of Staying Poor: Exploring the Political Space for Poverty Reduction in Uganda" *World Development* 33(6): 995-1009.

3) Williams, Glyn, Rene Veron, Stuart Corbridge and Manoj Srivastava. 2003. "Participation and Power: Poor People's Engagement with India's Employment Assurance Scheme" *Development and Change* 34(1): 163-192.

➤ LAB MEETING 5: EXAMINING PRECEDENTS

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 6: MONDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 6: WHO PARTICIPATES AND WHY?

Investigates patterns of individual participation, asking who participates and why?

Seminar Activities

- 1) Discuss readings.
- 2) Guest: Shirley Kressel, Co-Founder, Alliance for Boston Neighborhoods.

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Hooper, Michael and Leonard Ortolano. 2012. "Motivations for Social Movement Participation in Urban Africa: A Study of Mobilization in Kurasini, Dar es Salaam." *Environment and Urbanization* 24(1): 99-114.
- 2) Manzo, Lynne and Douglas Perkins. 2006. "Finding Common Ground: The Importance of Place Attachment to Community Participation and Planning" *Journal of Planning Literature* 20(4): 225-350.
- 3) Fowler, James H., Laura A. Baker, Christopher T. Dawes. 2008. "Genetic Variation in Political Participation" *American Political Science Review* 102(2): 233-248. (Skim)

Additional Seminar Readings

- 4) Kosfeld, Michael, Markus Heinrichs, Paul Zak, Urs Fischbacher and Ernst Fehr. 2005. "Oxytocin Increases Trust in Humans" *Nature* 435: 673-676. (Skim)

➤ LAB MEETING 6: THREE BIG IDEAS

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 7: MONDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

➤ **SEMINAR MEETING 7: CRITIQUES OF PARTICIPATION**

Examines contemporary critiques of participation in planning and development, from both the left and the right.

Seminar Activities

- 1) Discuss readings
- 2) Debate #1: “Participatory planning practices in their current guise do more harm than good.”

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Cooke, Bill and Uma Kothari. 2001. “The Case for Participation as Tyranny” in *Participation: The New Tyranny?* Bill Cooke and Uma Kothari eds, pp 1-16. London: Zed Books.
- 2) Winker, Tanya. 2011. “Retracking Johannesburg: Spaces for Participation and Policymaking.” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 31(3): 258-272.
- 3) McCann, Eugene. 2001. “Collaborative Visioning or Urban Planning as Therapy? The Politics of Private-Public Decision-Making” *Professional Geographer* 53(2): 207-218.

Additional Seminar Readings

- 4) Laurian, Lucie and Mary Margaret Shaw. 2009. “Evaluation of Public Participation: The Practices of Certified Planners” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28(3): 293-309.

➤ **LAB MEETING 7: WINNOWING THE FIELD**

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 8: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

➤ **SEMINAR MEETING 8: CIVIL SOCIETY: PROMISE AND LIMITATIONS**

Investigates the rise of civil society and arguments both for and against this concept.

Seminar Activities

1) Discuss readings.

Required Seminar Readings

1) Chabal, Patrick. 1999. "The Illusions of Civil Society" in *Africa Works: Disorder as a Political Instrument* Patrick Chabal and Jean-Pascal Daloz eds, pp 17-30. Oxford: James Currey.

2) Appadurai, Arjun. 2001. "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics" *Environment and Urbanization* 13(2): 23-43.

3) Clark, John. 1995. "The State, Popular Participation, and the Voluntary Sector" *World Development* 23(4): 593-601.)

➤ **LAB MEETING 8: REFINING AND HONING**

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH – NO CLASS (VETERANS' DAY)

SESSION 9: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH – PUBLIC PROJECT REVIEWS

Groups present their emergent ideas to a panel of critics and receive feedback. Review panel composition will be announced before the session.

SESSION 10: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 10: INNOVATIONS IN PARTICIPATION: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

This session investigates technological innovations in participatory democracy.

Seminar Activities

- 1) Discuss readings.
- 2) Debate #2: “New digital tools will rapidly open new opportunities for the engagement of previously marginalized groups in planning and development.”

Required Seminar Readings

- 1) Manta-Conroy, Maria and Jennifer Evans-Cowley. 2006. “E-Participation in Planning: An Analysis of Cities Adopting On-line Citizen Participation Tools” *Environment and Planning C; Government and Policy* 24: 371-384.
- 2) Diamond, Larry. 2010. “Liberation Technology” *Journal of Democracy* 21(3): 69-83.
- 3) Gladwell, Malcolm. 2010. “Small Change: Why the Revolution Won’t be Tweeted” *The New Yorker* October 4.

Additional Seminar Readings

- 4) Elwood, Sarah. 2006. “Negotiating Knowledge Production: The Everyday Inclusions, Exclusions and Contradictions of Participatory GIS Research” *Professional Geographer* 58(2): 197-208.

➤ LAB MEETING 10: RE-CALIBRATING

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 11: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

➤ SEMINAR MEETING 11: INNOVATIONS IN PARTICIPATION: ARTS AND CULTURE

Focuses on innovations in the areas of art and culture, with a special focus on the role that artistic practice can play in facilitating participation. The class also addresses the overriding question of how we can develop a broader “culture” of participation.

Seminar Activities

1) Discuss readings.

Required Seminar Readings

1) Mouffe, Chantal. 2007. “Artistic Activism and Agonistic Spaces” *Art and Research* 1(2): 1-5.

2) Sharp, Joanne, Vanda Pollock and Ronan Paddison. 2005. “Just Art for a Just City: Public Art and Social Inclusion in Urban Regeneration” *Urban Studies* 42(5-6): 1001-1023.

3) Semenza, Jan C. and Tanya L. March. 2009. “An Urban Community-Based Intervention to Advance Social Interactions” *Environment and Behavior* 41(1): 22-42.

➤ LAB MEETING 11: IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOWING THROUGH

Full details on the lab session are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.

SESSION 12: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

➤ FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Workshop will meet at a location to be determined in Dudley Square to present to community partners, community members and the Boston Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics.

Full details are provided in the accompanying Community Innovation Lab handout.