Critical Race Theory in Programming

Presented by Amara H. Pérez | March 2019

Intent & Purposes, LLC.
What is PCC Embarking On
What is a Critical Race Spatial Lens?
Tenets: Critical Race Spatial Analysis

Racism is embedded and engrained in all aspects of society, including built environments.

Space is not neutral; it is ideological and racialized.

Space functions as a mechanism of social reproduction.

Dominant narratives mask racism/white supremacy.

Identity and positionality shape our socio-spatial experiences and perceptions.

Voice, experiential knowledge, stories of people of color as counter-narratives.
Project Design

Develop shared lens and language
• CRT trainings and dialogue sessions
• Repository of online resources: Race, space, & equity

Practice
• Activities and exercises
• Applied CRT in project workgroups: IT, transportation, sustainability, public safety, facilities

Inquiry
• Focus groups
• Interviews
• Storytelling
• Surveys

Student leadership
Student Leadership & Inquiry Project

Training:
• CRT/Spatial theory
• Critical inquiry

Inquiry:
• Storytelling
• Spatial field notes
• Surveys

Action:
• Analysis of findings
• Recommendations for further inquiry and practice
Programming
Introductions
Orientation to the Space
Inquiry
Activity
Training
Participants
INTRODUCTIONS

Current
Name and role

Possible
Name, role, social identities
- Invite people to share their multiple identities

Programming
ORIENTATION TO SPACE

Current
Review existing plan
Tour existing space
Take pictures of space

Possible
Take pictures of space
• Design team and users
• Guided by inquiry questions
Programming

**INQUIRY**

**Current**
Kinds of space needed?
What’s working?
Missing?
Not needed anymore?
Experiences in space?

**Possible**
*Inquiry Wheel* as a guide to go beyond usage questions and explore social and cultural dimensions of space.
Programming

**ACTIVITY**

**Current**
Image cards: How do you want new space to feel? *(Ideal & aspirational space)*

**Possible**
“Space Bingo”—users take pictures of department space that match descriptors *(Social dimensions of space)*
- Safe-space, inclusive-space, intimidating-space
- Images and stories inform planning and design
Programming

**TRAINING**

**Current**

**Possible**

Workshop: *Reading College Space*

- Community building event and orientation to CRT/ST
- Analyze pictures taken by design team and users
- Generate ideas to communicate inclusion
- Insights and ideas inform planning and design
Programming

PARTICIPANTS

Current
Department leadership: FT/PT faculty, staff, admin, students; First staff (60 min) then students (30 min)

Possible
Round One: Student session (75 min)
- Activities: Space bingo, mapping

Workshops: (90 min) (Conduct 5-7 sessions)
- Engage: Faculty/staff/students of color; Student groups/resource center leaders; College community members
Activity