

Project 2: Weeks 7-10

Transformation – Cultural Identity in Chicago – Finding Inspiration in Community

Transformation:

In transitioning from our homes to the city – our “homeland” to a new country – our workplaces to our social lives – one relationship to another – our identity slowly shifts and changes – growing, evolving and adapting to the present. This process is transformation in an elementary sense. What informs transformation? How much control do we have? Is it better just to give up control?

Cultural Identity in Chicago:

Chicago is a very segregated city. Our neighborhoods are separated by highways, rental prices, development, public transit, and historical reputation. This is intimately linked to Chicago’s history of segregation, the meat packing district, immigrants and blue collar work, industrial districts, and the city as a Midwestern hub for economic activity. Yet, these cultures are slowly merging as the city is growing and changing. Strictly segregated areas like Pilson, Logan Square, UKV, Bridgeport, are diversifying.

Finding Inspiration in Community & the World:

How can we address and acknowledge the transformations, both cultural and personal – in the classroom and in our communities?

I propose we do this through active engagement. Your assignment is to address a personal transformation or cultural transformation by collecting information from people, things, places – AUDIO, VIDEO, still images, and text are all acceptable. Collect as much as you can over the next week.

- A) Choose a subject that you have personal access to, a place or situation that is unique to your life. How has the place, person, relationship, or situation changed? How does this change reflect changes in the larger community of Chicago and IN FACT – The MODERN WORLD?
- B) Collect materials and assemble them in a folder on your computer for next week. Don’t worry if your concept is not completely solid, the most important thing is to DO – just gather information.
- C) Make a sketch of a flash or HTML interface for the presentation of this information. Take a look at this examples for inspiration.

<http://theplace.walkerart.org/place.html>

look at “Urban Diary” and “Life of Father” - both great examples of using Text – Image – and Video to tell a story.

Final Product:

The final version of the project must follow the following parameters and follow the form of a hypertext/interactive web artwork:

- 1) Use a minimum of 4 webpages with hyperlinks. Use CSS style sheets to manage text formatting and background styles.
- 2) Flash elements should be dispersed within the site – for use of embedding buttons, movies, audio, or animation. 2 flash elements with some interactive element required.
- 3) Your movie should be 760 wide, and as long as you like. EVERYONES MOVIE should approximate 760 so they will look good together.