

SOCIAL MODEL PROBLEM SOLVING UNIT # 1

Grid and Analysis

Week 1 Quarter III

January 11 & 12, 1974

PSU Report

After a supper conversation dealing with the vision of Uptown, the PSU turned its attention to a report on the methods and progress of 5th City and the applicability of the 5th City Model and approach to planning in Uptown. George Holcombe laid out the basic timeline of the 5th City project:

'64	66	68	72	76
/Research	Model	Actualize	Expand	

The Presuppositions of the project were listed:

1. Work within a delimited, grassroots, geographical community.
2. Work with all the problems of the community.
3. Work with the depth human problem, the issue of human spirit.
4. Work with all ages at once.
5. Symbol is the key to effective change.

The 5th City project is an effort at structural revolution, working for effective change within and through the structures of society, by altering the context the community functions within, and focusing on releasing the power of the grassroots community residents rather than hierarchical solutions; thus requiring the development and training in methodologies that allow local communities to forge their own destinies, and nurturing residents impatient for immediate solutions. The method of 5th City was to forge the practical vision for the community, build a model to embody that vision, discern the problemat(pattern of problems blocking that vision), and building the structures to manifest that vision.

Using the methods of 5th City, the PSU consensed on a grid of Uptown, divided into five "primal communities", and designated one, Uptown 5, as the demonstration sign, while preparing for replication in the other four. Thus, the guild in Uptown will be the demonstration model of a global network of guilds in 100 communities of between 20 - 30,000 people. The PSU scanned the population spread of the community, its diversity of cultures and economics. A summary of the businesses and services available in the community is included in this report.

A workshop was conducted to begin to articulate what is really going on in this community, asking such questions as:

- Where is the Innocent Suffering happening in Uptown?
- What do you hear about Uptown?
- What do you observe in the economic, educational, symbol, social, and political arenas in Uptown?
- What is Uptown's relationship to the rest of the city?
- What is the story about Uptown?
- How does Uptown function?

Then each of the program arenas, delineated as key aspects of the life of any primal community by the 5th City Model, were rated for effectiveness in Uptown. Included in this report are paragraphs written by each person in the PSU on the Innocent Suffering in Uptown, three summaries of the results of the workshop, and a compilation of the rating of effectiveness of the various dimensions of Uptown life.

REFLECTIONS ON INNOCENT SUFFERING

IN UPTOWN

The isolation of ones life from everyone whose life is at all different from his is the primary manifestation of innocent suffering that I see. It is that which sets people against people and narrows and restricts the operating world of the people who live in this community, leaving people living a compartmentalized, isolated and sterile life of conformity--restricted to a narrow range of experiences, responses, awareness, and a collapsed sense of their own significance.

I see innocent suffering in Uptown manifested in the living of life styles which are non-relevant, expressing no great joy from memories of yesterday, no fulfillment for today, and no hope or vision for tomorrow.

Innocent suffering is embodied in the child who is crying because of lack of milk, the wife who has been abandoned by her husband, or vice-versa, the mental patient, who, through no fault of his own, finds himself in a bewildered state.

Senior citizens still being exploited by not being included into their own recreational activities--programs being planned for them without their participation or input--

Innocent suffering is the powerlessness to participate effectively in the future born of myths, stories, images, and patterns of and about existence forged in another time and place which paralyze local man. The bum on Wilson who found success unattainable or empty, who had no method of grasping any other way of talking about success except out of collapsed values and modes of existence--the Indian who in the midst of stories about his brutalization and a collapsed culture had no way to rediscover the gifts of his heritage and using them to participate in forging a new future--the divorced girl who has seen the collapse of a marriage and lives without any way of actualizing her own insight that the world needs a new model for the family--these and many more examples of life paralyzed by the past as it grasps the future.

Innocent suffering in Uptown 5 is illustrated in an analysis of all age groups: (1) child, (2) youth, (3) adult, (4) elders. Child abuse is the most expressive case of innocent suffering among the children. Youth suffers from lack of patience and relevant directions many resulting from problems of their parents in the adult group. Many of the adults who live in Uptown came here as part of entry with the ideal of the American Dream. Their suffering comes from taking the statement literally. That is a lack of a viable story. Elders in Uptown suffer from the physical act of reaching age 65, forced out of their established mainline of life at an arbitrary age without ever being really prepared to accept the fact.

Child abuse and neglect which shows itself in children being beaten and maimed; parents who are unable to deal with their own lifestyles, thus their children suffer. Praying of the strong upon the weak of the community.

Slum landlords through their not caring inflicting pain upon others.
Women being raped.

Innocent suffering in Uptown takes place when people are trapped by their own self-story or the story of people around them that they appropriate which does not provide them a means to fulfill or seek to fulfill the creativity of their own talents, i.e., intellectual, physical, or social. It also takes place when others do not take into full account in their planning the means to provide avenues for developing everyone's gifts for the benefit of all.

The innocent suffering of Uptown is manifested in the self-stories and community story that suggests that life is other than the way it is, i.e., life is suffering, it is standing before chaos and creating a new future. To suggest that life is doing away with suffering or to suggest that embracing the suffering that is my life leaves me without possibility, creates either the illusion that I cannot live except in a different set of circumstances, or I have no responsibility for my existence. Both the transient who is condemned to seek green pastures elsewhere or the established who grasp after holding on to their situation are perpetually in illusion in which a suffering that ends creativity prevents participation in life itself.

SUMMARY OF STORY ABOUT UPTOWN

ECONOMIC

Uptown is a community in which bourgeois-oriented businesses are giving way to higher volume/lower quality merchandize outlets, mostly small businesses; housing is deteriorating under the thrust of being replaced by high rise apartments; and the job market is dominated by day labor while much of the income in Uptown comes from sources other than employment (like Social Security, retirement, public aid).

EDUCATION

Experimenting with community-oriented programming in curriculum, the public schools are struggling with relevance, in the midst of exciting diversity and little parental assistance.

SYMBOL

Uptown looks back with fond memories of what it used to be, while it has little vision of its future. The church has lost its influence and relevance and significance while the Aragon remains a center of entertainment for the metropolitan area.

STYLE

Uptown is a community of extrememdiversity with the very bourgeois living contiguous to those who sense themselves dumped into this community either as elders or half-way house residents, the diversity bringing the excitement of difference and the isolation of the unfamiliar.

POLITICAL

Uptown is a tough neighborhood which occasions fear for safety, while its liberalism has made it the new focus for Democratic-IPO contests, the training ground of new politicians.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Uptown is a community that has lost its vision of the future and its capacity to forge its own future, becoming a community administered from outside its bounds--either benevolently as in Neighborhood Health Center, or otherwise.

ECONOMIC

The Uptown area is dependent mainly on various forms of public income and day labor workers, is a poor business area providing limited and cheap services and goods.

EDUCATION

The local educators are creative but must struggle with the city to carry out experimental forms for bettering education.

SYMBOL

The Aragon Ballroom is still seen as an entertainment symbol with a past but otherwise the community lacks any meaningful symbols.

STYLE

The Uptown area is a port of entry for various cultural groups with many problems, who are dependent on various forms of public funds and day labor for income and the Uptown area is used by the city for location of residences for the elderly and half-way houses for mental patients.

POLITICAL

Politically Uptown is an area of liberal thinkers and political initiates with an unclear picture of its present or future.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Uptown is an area dependent upon outside forces for income and direction and is used by these forces for location of residences for elderlies, halfway houses for mental patients, and training grounds for new politicians which has resulted in a community with no relevant symbols, futuristic vision, or relevant life-style for today.

ECONOMIC

Business and housing in general are deteriorating, with high percentage of day laborers, used, surplus and cheap goods.

EDUCATION

It has tremendous problems in education with hardworking educators struggling to do a good job with few parent leaders and irregular support from the city.

SYMBOL

Its a "has been" community with lots of fond memories, old churches, old entertainers, and few signs or symbols of hope or affirmation.

STYLE

There are lots of drunken Indians, hillbillies, difficult Spanish speaking people; the highest number of elders, lots of half-way houses for mental patients, dirty streets, abandoned cars, abused children, and unattached young people.

POLITICAL

It's a tough unsafe neighborhood where it doesn't make any difference who gets elected because decisions for everyone are hard to come by and where new politicians are trying to "make a name for themselves".

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Uptown 5 is a deteriorating, seemingly unsafe neighborhood with culturally diverse unsettled and unattached people with no viable means for decision making, a difficult educational situation, living out of fond memories and a strong story of hopelessness.

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<u>I. RECREATION</u>		
(i) bars -----	44	
(ii) billiards -----	3	
(iii) dance, bowling -----	7	
		Total = 54
<u>II. RESTAURANTS</u> -----	53	
		Total = 53
<u>III. SERVICES</u>		
(i) banks -----	4	
(ii) laundromats -----	7	
(iii) launderers and cleaners -----	24	
(iv) barbers and beauty shops -----	33	
(v) medical services -----	27	
(vi) hotels -----	11	
(vii) motels -----	1	
(viii) temporary job services -----	13	
(ix) others -----	37	
		Total = 157
<u>IV. RETAIL</u>		
(i) drugstores -----	12	
(ii) grocery stores -----	38	
(iii) liquors -----	5	
(iv) gas stations -----	7	
(v) auto sales and repair -----	8	
(vi) general and miscellaneous retail -----	103	
(vii) resale stores -----	22	
		Total = 195
<u>V. INDUSTRIES</u> -----	7	
		Total = 7
		TOTAL = 466

SOCIAL MODEL RATING RESULTS									
ECONOMIC GUILD		CULTURAL DYNAMIC						POLITICAL GUILD	
		EDUCATIONAL GUILD		SYMBOLIC GUILD		SOCIAL GUILD			
I. Neighborhood Health		IV. Child Development		VII. Interfaith Relations		X. Youth Development		XIII. Civil Relations	
8.1	I	4.3	VI	3.4	XI	4.8	IV	4.4	V
II. Economic Services		V. School Support		VIII. Local Arts		XI. Social Services		XIV. Public Services	
3.4	XII	5.4	III	3.2	XIII	6.5	II	4.3	VI
III. Community Housing		VI. Adult Education		IX. Community Identity		XII. Community Care		XV. Community Organizatn	
3.1	XIV	3.8	VIII	2.9	XV	3.6	IX	3.5	X

Rank	Program	Guild Arena	Rating
I.	Neighborhood Health	Econ	8.1
II.	Social Services	Soc	6.5
III.	School Support	Ed	5.4
IV.	Youth Development	Soc	4.8
V.	Civil Relations	Pol	4.4
VI.	Child Development	Ed	4.3
VII.	Public Services	Pol	4.3
VIII.	Adult Education	Ed	3.8
IX.	Community Care	Soc	3.6
X.	Community Organization	Pol	3.5
XI.	Interfaith Relations	Sym	3.4
XII.	Economic Services	Econ	3.4
XIII.	Local Arts	Sym	3.2
XIV.	Community Housing	Econ	3.1
XV.	Community Identity	Sym	2.9