## HOMELAND LAB Exploring the intersection of public space and homelessness



NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Episode 31: Cassie Hoeprich, Lena Miller and Suzanne Nienaber



NOVEMBER 12, 2018

Episode 30: Barron Peper and Jescelle Major



SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Episode 29: Paul Simmons and Sylvana Niehuser



JULY 18, 2018

Episode 28: Jonathan Martin and Scott Greenstone of Project Homeless



MAY 31, 2018 Episode 27: Marla Torrado



MAY 28, 2018 Episode 26: Natasha Ponczek Shoemake

Podcast Blog About





























Episode 13: Richard Rothstein

Episode 12: Scott Gilmore













HOMELAND LAB







Episode 7: Harley Leve







Episode 1: Sally Bagshav







Episode 6: Reflections #1







To understand how homelessness affects urban landscapes, the HomeLandLab project looked at the 10 largest population centers for people experiencing homelessness.





The percentage of "unsheltered" homeless people - community members sleeping outdoors or in their cars - was significantly higher both proportionally and in raw numbers on the west coast compared to the rest of the country.

Boston 186

New York 3,936 5.1%

Philadelphia 16.8%

Washington DC 12%



In these West Coast cities, "management" of homelessness on public lands can lead to spectacular, devastating, and dangerous fires like this one at an unsanctioned homeless encampment.



In addition to the significant personal traumas, visible, unsheltered homelessness also has a profound impact on the public's "civic trust," eroding long-term support for public space capital investments like parks and streetscapes.

SPACE INVESTMENTS

REDUCED HOMELESSNESS IN PUBLIC SPACES

WELL-STEWARDED PUBLIC SPACES



HomeLandLab guests revealed three sets of public space strategies: 1) connection (e.g., "just say hello"), 2) invitation (make spaces welcoming for everyone), and 3) prevention (use public lands to provide low-barrier housing)



Vehicular housing is a fast-growing segment of the unsheltered homelessness population.

Episode 16



Public lands are increasingly being impacted by people experiencing homelessness. With shelters full, interchanges offer a modicum of housing stability for people experiencing homelessness.

We have a refugee crisis except these refugees aren't from another country, they're from our own economy. And when you have a refugee crisis, you don't check the zoning code, you put up the tents, and you get the Red Cross there, and you serve food, and you figure out how to return people back to a place where

> Mike McGInn Former Seattle Mayor Episode 23

It's easy to fly at 10,000 feet on this issue and say, "This isn't permanent housing. This isn't going to work," and then you step into that [tiny house] village and you go over to the house and you find a woman and her four kids living there and you go, "Where would you be if you were not here right now?"

> Barron Peper Designer at The Block Project Episode 30

Fortunately, cities are experimenting with new solutions including tiny house villages, which offer stop-gap solutions by providing basic shelter and supportive case management.





In Walla Walla, Washington, public land was quickly transformed to create low-cost, low-barrier housing for the rural community's growing homeless population.



The Community First! Village in Austin, Texas offers a compelling spatial model to house formerly homeless individuals with wrap-around services, job training and service learning.

[The activation of Occidental Park] wasn't about moving poor people out, it was about making the park more active so that they would remain a welcoming space for homeless folks to use throughout the day, and that's exactly what happened.

> Tim Harris, Executive Director Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project Episode 22

Members of the public from all income and backgrounds enjoy the successful, inclusive activation of Seattle's Occidental Park.



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Public space offers a pathway to prevent homelessness as demonstrated at the San Francisco Civic Center where ex-convicts work with Hunter's Point Family to steward and enforce rules to make everyone feel welcomed.



This kind of secret sauce that we've developed [by using ex-convicts as public space stewards] has really been to hold these spaces for everybody. We avoid the common complaint that, when you use law enforcement, you're just trying to sweep away all the poor people so you can make rich people comfortable. I think that's hard for a city like San Francisco to swallow and a little embarrassing. So [our strategy] has allowed everybody to be in the same space and feel safe, and interact with dignity. The folks who are currently homeless in Los Angeles are, in some ways, one of our largest constituencies at the [Los Angeles County] Bike Coalition. You know we were two blocks, if that, from Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. And we know that many of the folks who were our neighbors who were experiencing homelessness, what they had was their bike.

Tamika Butler Former Director Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition Episode 18

