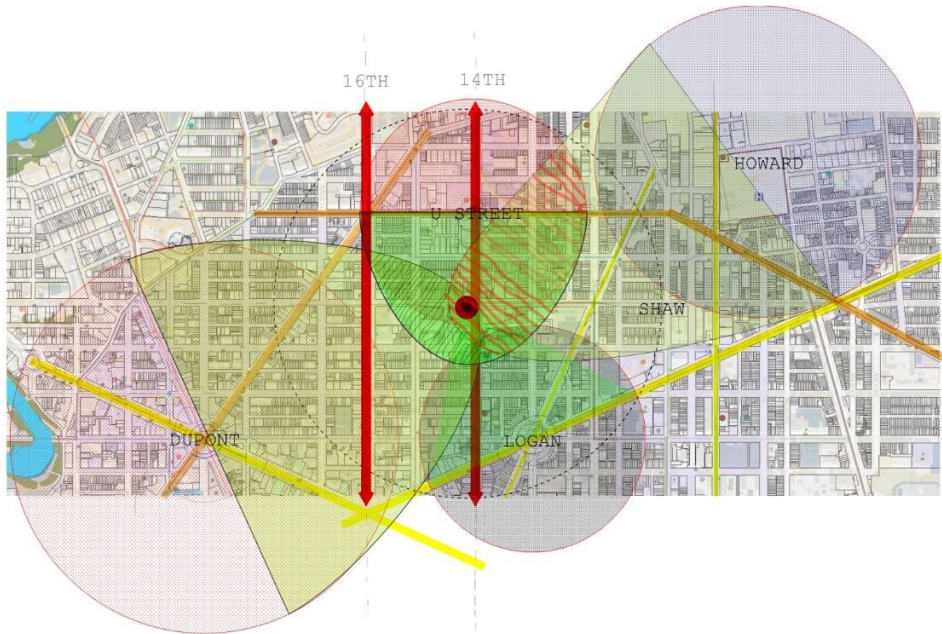# Project B, part 2

Finding "Identity"

Abstract:

Now that you have identified the "Center" of your neighborhood cluster, part 2 aims at honing in on an "Identity." Based on the terms in this week's readings from *Readings in Planning Theory,* we will spend one more week with our sites, attempting to understand the systems that structure the community.

As we have discussed, communities are complex systems of overlapping factors - many of which are not easy to identify. A community is made up of people; and if that community has a strong identifiable character, the people that live there more than likely have some common ground that shapes their collective identity. It is important to recognize however that a person does not belong to only one "group." As Iris Marion Young states in this week's reading, one's identity is akin to a **String of Pearls** - an aggregate of all the attributes and groups one belongs to.

Consider these four definitions of **Group** from this week's reading:

Social Group: A collective of persons, differentiated from others by cultural forms, practices, special needs or capacities, structure of power or privilege. People that "belong" to social groups are not necessarily defined by their essential attributes, but also by their relationships people "inside" and "outside" of the group.

Cultural Group: A collective of persons with perceived similarity and dissimilarity in language, everyday practice, spirituality, organization of residential and public space, visual art, buildings, food, music etc. Culture is a just a way-of-life for people practicing it - people aren't necessarily cognisant of "culture" at all times; those on the outside of a culture, who may find it strange and opaque, are often the ones characterizing a "culture"

Structural Group: A set of relationships and interactions that act together to produce specific possibilities and preclude others, which operate in a reinforcing circle. Individual experiences, although unique, many times reinforce larger social trends

Structural Social Group: A collection of persons who are similarly positioned in interactive and institutional relations that condition their opportunities and life prospects. A person's social location in structures differentiated by class, gender, age, ability, race etc is tied directly to law, education opportunities, employment opportunities, access to resources, political representation.

Our goal here is to **a)** use data to identify the groups that occupy your site, and **b)** visually represent these findings through diagramming. We will discuss this further via an in class work session on 9/29.

Primary Resources:

Readings in Planning Theory, *Third Edition, edited by Susan S. Fainstein & Scott Campbell*

Inclusion and Democracy, Iris Marion Young
Pages 3-7, 42-90

The Minority-Race Planner in the Quest for a Just City, June Manning Thomas
The City Image and it's Elements, Pages 46-90

Terms: String of Pearls, Aggregation, Social Group, Cultural Group, Structural Group, Structural Group, Socio-historical, Mutually reinforcing process, Identity Politics, equal dignity, structural inequality, public mantle of citizenship, common good, deep scrutiny, equity as normative criterion, Ethnicity, Politics of Difference, Just City, Equity Planning, Deep Difference, The Minority-Race Planner

Deliverables:

Comprehensive Plan Diagram (1)
Formatted to 11x17, scaled to overlay diagrams from Part 1 (Center)

Narrative (250 words)
Summarizing findings and process. Use terms from readings. Submit as pdf

Diagrams are to include multiple layers of data points based on student research. Presented in either physical (hand-drawn) or digital format, preferably combined.

Project B-2 will constitute 10% of the final grade for the course. Notes and process diagrams for Project B-2 should be included in your sketchbook, which will be graded periodically throughout the semester.

Due 10/06, in class (Mid-Term)