



American Planning Association
Georgia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Social Equity and Public Participation

AICP EXAM REVIEW

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Georgia Tech Student Center

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Citizen Participation is the zeitgeist of the American revolution. As Lincoln said at Gettysburg in 1863, we are a nation “...**of the people, by the people, and for the people** ...”

- President Abraham Lincoln

Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

Planners stand on the shoulders of citizen participants, as a nation and as a profession.

Overview

- Social Equity
- Public Participation
- Discussion

Social Equity



According to Part A of the *AICP Code of Ethics*:

- We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.
- We shall give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them.
- Participation should be broad enough to include those who lack formal organization or influence.
- We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.
- We shall educate the public about planning issues and their relevance to our everyday lives.
- We shall increase the opportunities for members of underrepresented groups to become professional planners and help them advance in the profession.
- We shall contribute time and effort to groups lacking in adequate planning resources and to voluntary professional activities.

Social Equity Pioneers

Saul Alinsky

Sherry Arnstein

Paul Davidoff

Norm Krumholz

Saul Alinsky



He envisioned an **organization of organizations.**

"...It is a grave situation when a people resign their citizenship or when a resident...lacks the means to participate....The result is that he comes to depend on public authority and a state of civic-sclerosis sets in."

Sherry Arnstein



Citizen participation is a **categorical term for citizen power.**

"...It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future."

Paul Davidoff



From AICP Code of Ethics, Section A.1(f):

“We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to **plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration**. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.”

Planners must engage as **professional advocates**:

- Speak out.
- Be ethical.
- Engage.

Norm Krumholz



Provide more choices to those who have few, if any choices.

Krumholz was the Chief of Planning in Cleveland from 1969 to 1979

- Conditions in the city were deplorable.
- Development process was exploitative.
- Local politics were inadequate.
- Disproportionate impact on the minority poor.
- He developed a planning department that was known for its advocacy.

Public Participation?

NO!

“Citizen participation is a device whereby public officials induce nonpublic individuals to act in a way the officials desire.”

-Daniel Moynihan



Patrick Moynihan & Richard Nixon Touring the Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Area (1970).

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nostri-imago/5035443618/>

What is Public Participation?

The process by which **public concerns, needs, and values** are **incorporated** into **governmental and corporate decision making**. It's **two-way** communication and interaction, with the overall goal of **better decisions** that are **supported by the public**. (Creighton p. 7)

Civic engagement | organized **voluntary** activity focused on problem solving and helping others.

Why is participation important?

- Accurately reflect neighborhood needs
- Greater sense of ownership
- Harder for others to ignore the plan

Tensions in Participation

Pros:

Legitimacy

- Democracy
- Social development
- Civic engagement
- Faith in government

Efficiency

- Better decisions
- Program adoption
- Programs implemented

Cons:

Political Oversight

Stakeholder opposition

Budget and staff limits

Deadlines

How do Planners Engage the Public ?



- Interactive
 - Advisory Committees
 - Planning Cells
 - Neighborhood Planning
 - Negotiated Rule Making
 - Charettes
 - Joint Fact Finding



- Input
 - Public Hearings
 - Public Meetings
 - Nominal Group Technique
 - Survey Research
 - Delphi Processes
 - Visioning Processes
 - e-government Tools



- Output
 - Newsletters
 - Stakeholder Outreach
 - TV

Democratic Citizen Participation

1. Demystification

Magic is taken out of planning and it becomes user-friendly

2. Deprofessionalization

Not just professionals shaping the future of the neighborhood

3. Decentralization

Decision making is not concentrated downtown

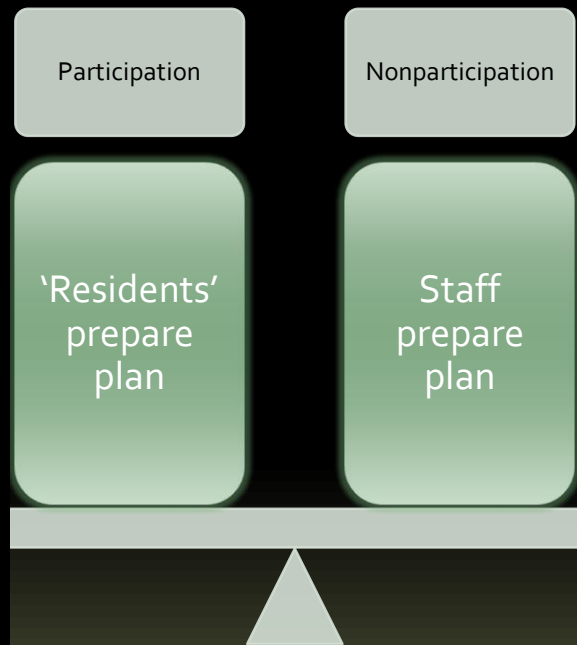
4. Democratization

more people are involved directly in decision-making, especially those with a stake in the community's future (residents, business owners, civic institutions, etc.)

Democratic Planning

Planning

- A process to learn about where you live, how to shape it for the better and how to sustain it for the long term.
- Planning is an act of community participation and an expression of its belief in its future.



Plan in two ways -

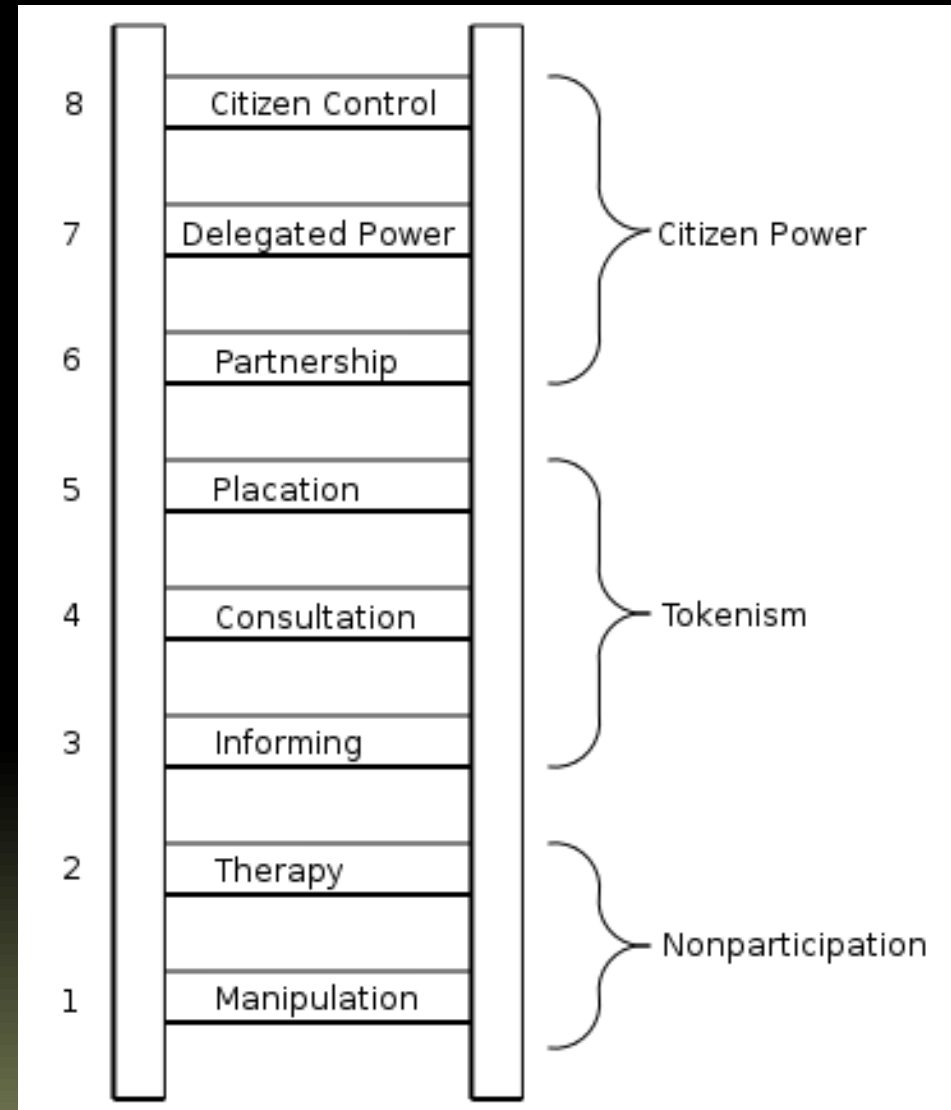
(1) *proactively*

(2) *reactively*

“... citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the *have-not* citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy by which the *have-nots* join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, and benefits like contracts and patronage are parceled out. In short, it is the means by which they can induce significant social reform which enables them to share in the benefits of the affluent society.”

- Sherry Arnstein, *Ladder of Citizen Participation*

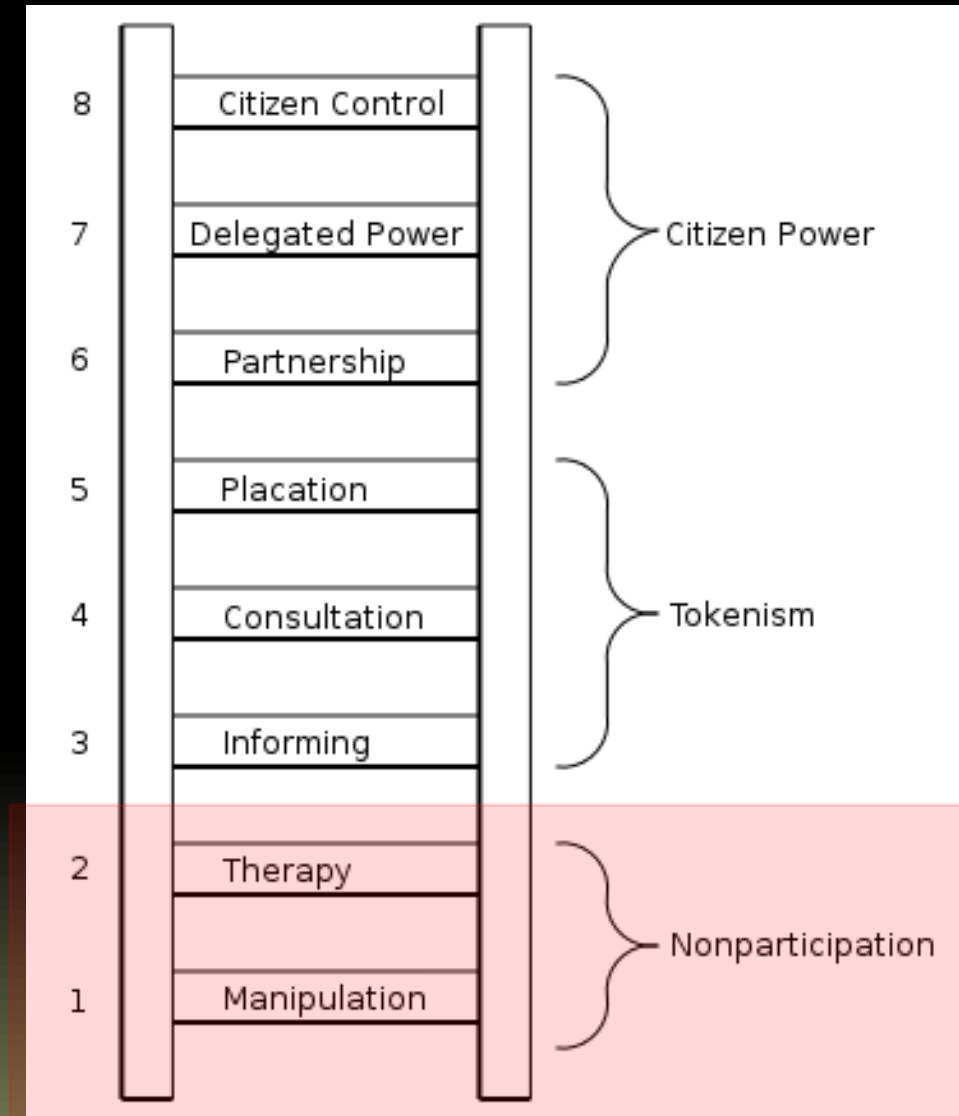
Ladder of Citizen Participation



Nonparticipation

Objective: Not to enable people to participate in planning or conducting programs, but to enable power holders to “educate” or “cure” the participants.

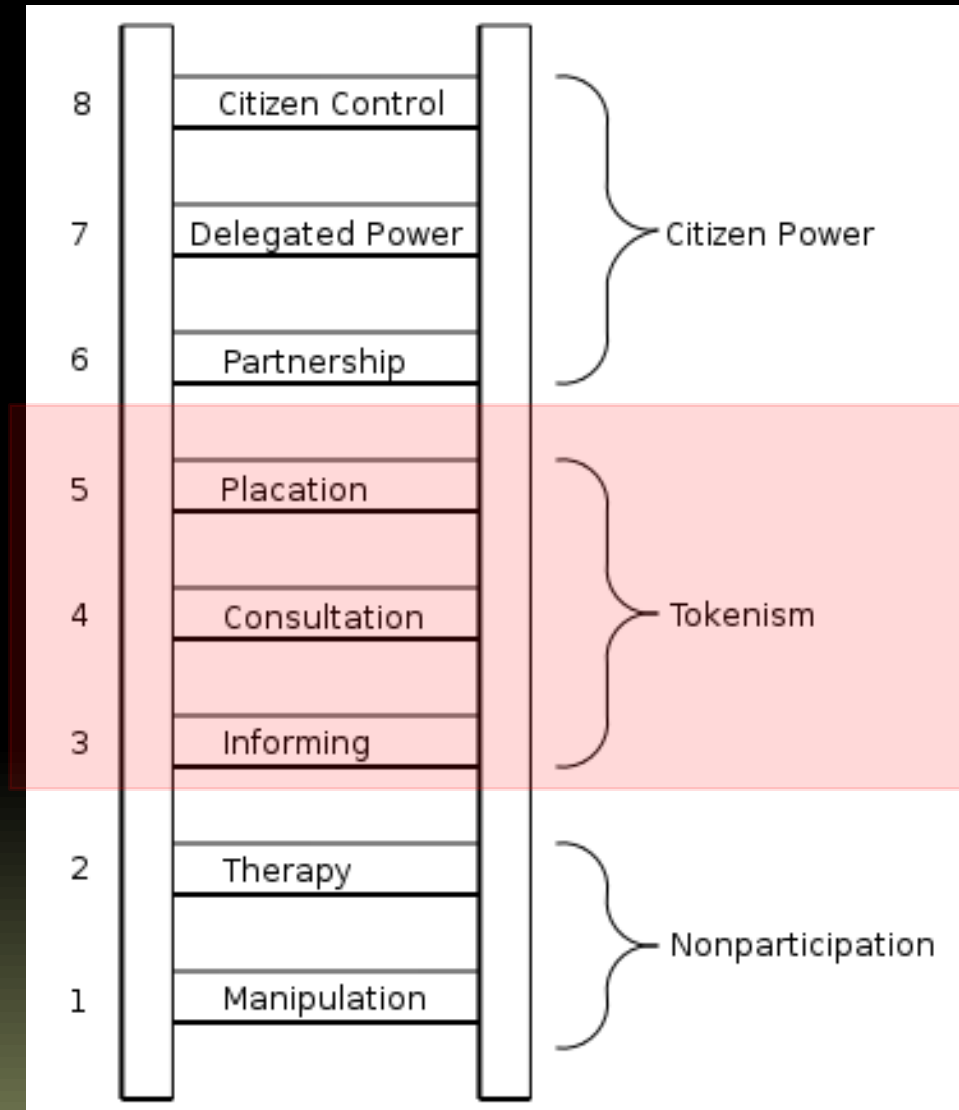
- Therapy
 - Citizens “cured” through action
- Manipulation
 - Citizens educated and informed through action



Tokenism

Objective: Allow the have-nots to hear and to have a voice ... but no power to ensure their views are heeded by the powerful.

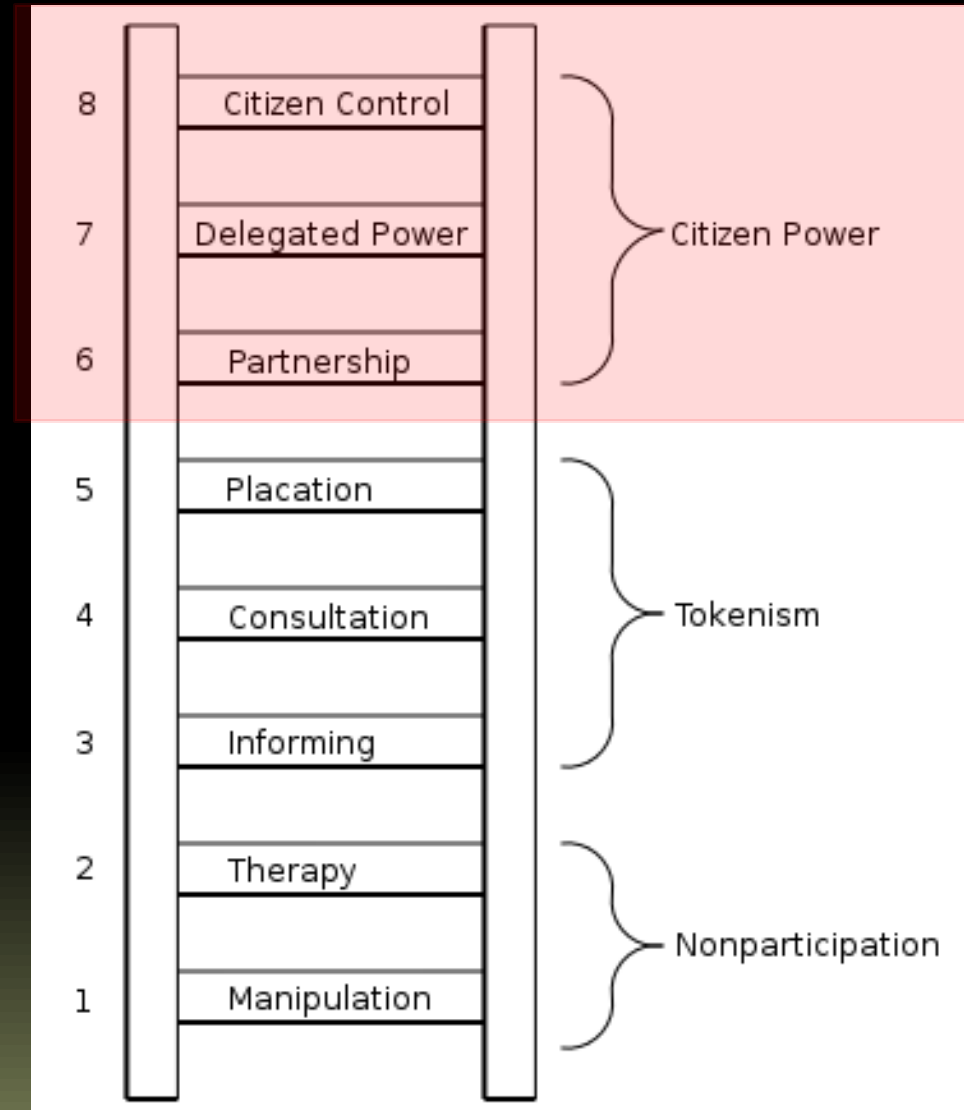
- Placation
 - Have-nots advise
- Consultation
 - Opinions sought
- Informing
 - Advised of rights & responsibilities



Citizen Power

Objective: Increased degree of decision-making clout.

- Citizen Control
 - Citizens control program or an institution
- Delegated Power
 - Officials give citizens power
- Partnership
 - Power is shared



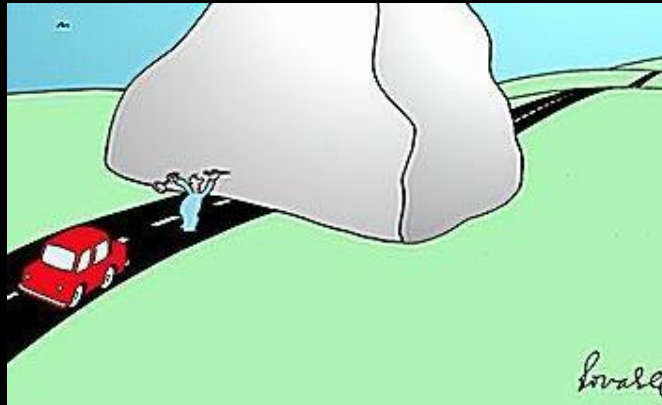
The *Ladder* Caveat: Roadblocks

Haves

Resistance to Power
Redistribution

Paternalism

Racism



Have Nots

Inadequate Political

Socioeconomic
Infrastructure and
Knowledge

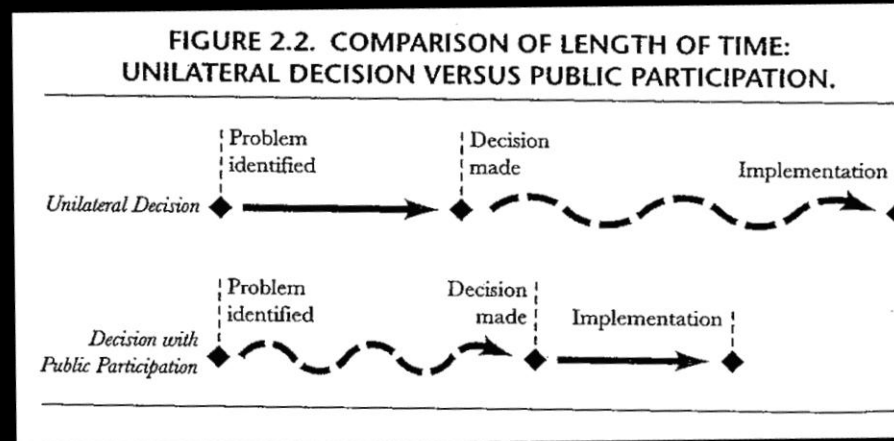
Difficulties
Organizing/capital

Myth of homogeneity

Communities are similar and have cross cutting interests and positions.

Rather, communities are more heterogeneous than we often realize.

Unilateral Decisions = Inefficiency in Public Participation?



- The traditional and 'inefficient process'
- Advertise in the legal notices
- Hold hearings at the seat of government during the work day
- Make presentations using technical language
- Representation is biased heavily toward affected interests
- Take testimony; do not engage in discussion
- Don't provide feedback

Decisions with Public Participation

- Results of the traditional, inefficient or unilateral decision
- Results of the decision with public participation



“Plan to do it right first, or plan to do it over again later...”

- Gary Cornell, January 2013

Prepare for Participation

- What are the issues? What is the planning process?
- What situational variables are at play?
 - History
 - Role of technical data or analysis
 - Communication Patterns among parties
 - Power relationships
 - Resources for planning
 - External constraints
- What are the key decisions in the planning process?
- What information is needed from, or should be provided to participants at the time of each decision?
- Design participatory methods to provide what input or education is needed at each key decision point.

Ways to get people to participate

■ Outreach

- Personal contact
- Media
- Field Office/Drop-in Center
- Utilize Existing Organizations
- Displays at Key Settings
(Churches, Community Centers)

■ Mediated Participation Methods

- Large Community Meetings
- Small Living Room Meetings
- Open House
- Workshops

• Data collection (joint)

- Responsive Publication
- Individual Interviews
- Informal Consultation
- Direct Observation
- Activity Log
- Behavioral Mapping
- Advisory
Committee/Reactor
Panel
- Walking Tour
- Surveys

Information Sharing

- Hi-Tech
 - e-Government
 - Web summaries
 - Wikis
 - Web comment, discussions, etc.
- Low-Tech
 - Newsletters
 - Bulletin boards
 - Community presentations

Useful Resources

- Elaine Cogan. Successful Public Meetings: A Practical Guide. Chicago, APA Planners Press, 2000.
- James L. Creighton. The Public Participation Handbook: Making Better Decisions Through Citizen Involvement. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2005.
- Jones (1990) Neighborhood Planning,
- Nancy Roberts. "Public participation in an age of direct citizen participation." American Review of Public Administration. 34 (4, 2004): 315--353.

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QUESTIONS?