Participation in Post-Disaster ReDevelopment

Opportunities for participatory development in the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans

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Introduction
Introduction

**Problem:**

- No mutual understanding about what participation is.
- No current process that enables government and residents to start working together in the recovery phase.
- No mutual interests identified.

**Objective:**

- To provide a clear concept of participation.
- To provide a model that allows excluded communities to enter the recovery process by building on mutual understanding and interests among local government and residents.
- Identification of project-based mutual interests, including specified recommendations.
Introduction

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION
How can a community start participatory developments in the recovery phase by working towards consensus with the local government in order to overcome being left out of the post-disaster redevelopment process?

SUB-QUESTIONS
1) What are the perspectives of the city government and the local community on recovery and participatory development in the Lower Ninth Ward?
2) How can the differences or similarities in the perspectives of the city government and the local community identify opportunities for local recovery projects?
3) In what ways can the methods used in the case study contribute to the prevailing models of participation in post-disaster redevelopment?
Introduction

Research Design

H2

Theoretical Framework

To provide a clear concept of participation.

H3

Methodology

H4

Case Study

H5

What are the perspectives of the city government and the local community on recovery and participatory development in the Lower Ninth Ward?

To provide a model that allows excluded communities to enter the recovery process by building on mutual understanding and interests among local government and residents.
Introduction

H6: In what ways can the methods used in the case study contribute to the prevailing models of participation in post-disaster redevelopment?

H7: How can the differences or similarities in the perspectives of the city government and the local community identify opportunities for local recovery projects?

H8: How can a community start participatory developments in the recovery phase by working towards consensus with the local government in order to overcome being left out of the post-disaster redevelopment process?

Consensus
Theoretical Framework

Post-Disaster Redevelopment

- Specific form of UAD
- Every phase has its own characteristics and activities
Spectrum of Participation

- Arena of UAD
- Levels of Power & Interest
- Top down & Bottom up
Theoretical Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNERSHIPS</th>
<th>INFORM</th>
<th>CONSULT</th>
<th>INVOLVE</th>
<th>COLLABORATE</th>
<th>EMPOWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Participation Goal:</td>
<td>Public Participation Goal:</td>
<td>Public Participation Goal:</td>
<td>Public Participation Goal:</td>
<td>Public Participation Goal:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.</td>
<td>To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.</td>
<td>To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</td>
<td>To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.</td>
<td>To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Theoretical Framework

Post-Disaster Development
- Every phase has its own characteristics
- Every phase has its own activities
- Importance of participation is evident
- All participation models for post-disaster redevelopment rely on pre-disaster implementation.

Participatory Development
- Five levels of participation
- Every level has its own usefulness
- Levels are based on extend of top-down or bottom-up approach
- Can be initiated by both stakeholders
Methodology

Delphi Method

- **Round 1**
  Identifying recovery factors
  *In person*

- **Round 2**
  Ranking factors on the spectrum of participation
  *Online*

- **Round 3**
  Project suggestions
  *Online*
Methodology

Delphi Panels

• Local Government
  - Worked for NOLA government during Katrina
  - Has work-related knowledge of the Lower Ninth Ward
  - 10 panelists

• Residents Lower Ninth Ward
  - Currently home-owner or renter in the Lower Ninth Ward
  - 11 panelists
Structures in the United States

- Federal, State, Local
- Highly institutional
- Ongoing social & economic effects due to past segregation

- State of Emergency will change prevailing government structures
New Orleans

- Local government:
  - Mayor = executive
  - Council = legislative

- Response on Katrina was disastrous in itself

- Years of struggles in plan and decision making
Case Study

Lower Ninth Ward

- History of community activism
- High poverty
- No progress in recovery
- Residents feel left out
Can you list factors, whether they are social; economic; or physical - or of any nature - you can think of - that in your opinion could help the Lower Ninth Ward recover, but are currently insufficiently present or not present at all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; Resources of Residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Neighborhood Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Accessibility</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Perspectives

Round 2: Ranking Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Kendall’s W</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>Confidence in Ranks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>0.6216</td>
<td>Moderate agreement</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0.6699</td>
<td>Moderate / strong agreement</td>
<td>Fair / High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>0.6322</td>
<td>Moderate agreement</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Round 2: Example
Sustainability

- Both panels chose the same two levels
- Government has more faith in a collaborative approach
- Residents are almost equally distributed
Round 2: Variables without concordance
Population, Environment, and Affordable Housing

POPULATION

ENVIRONMENT

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Round 3: Project Suggestions: **Technology & Resources**

*Can you think of a possible way to improve [variable x] under the participation level that you marked as best?*

- Collaborate
- Empower

*Connect with organizations, ask for support from the government to do so.*

*If all residents can pay a small amount of money, the sum can be invested in necessary building equipment, like scaffolding and tools. A library-like system can be set up where residents can borrow tools.*
Projects

Round 3: Project Suggestions: **Infrastructure**

*Can you think of a possible way to improve [variable x] under the participation level that you marked as best?*

- Inform
- Consult

> Government’s responsibility, but should listen to residents as they know what problems are.

> Consult, see if people without a car need bus alternatives. Maybe look into bicycle plans if the city can provide the paths.
Round 3: Project Suggestions: **Sustainability**

*Can you think of a possible way to improve [variable x] under the participation level that you marked as best?*

- Collaborate
- Empower

> Let people use abandoned lots as gardens.

> Allow residents to sell both food and energy.

> Look into federal funding for sustainability and farming.

> Collaborate, have a meeting with other stakeholders too (energy/park/nature) to see if any projects with the residents can be initiated that would generate profit for multiple stakeholders.
Why?

- No guidelines for implementation of participatory development in the recovery phase
- Tools mentioned are particularly difficult to realize during the recovery phase
- Current models focus on neighborhood organizations, which might not be present or might be disfunctional
Communities with the technology, resources, and a functioning neighborhood organization can enter the process by means of the existing models and tools.

Communities without the technology, and resources, and with no functioning neighborhood organization are unable to enter the process at an earlier stage and cannot join later on.
## Model

### Sequence | Action | Description | Documents
---|---|---|---
Step 1 | Assign Process Manager | Designate the task of managing the process to an independent actor. This can be a government official, as long as he/she remains neutral and entirely observational of the actual input. | A1

### Step 2 | Panel Criteria | The process manager sets up criteria for two stakeholder panels. | A2
Panel Selection | The process manager contacts possible panelists and acquires contact information. | A2
Panel Review | The process manager verifies the criteria and selects with experts. | A3

### Step 3 | Delphi Round 1 | The process manager conducts the round 1 interview. Well-structured guidelines can be used for assistance. | B1
Interview Transcription | The process manager transcribes the interview. Well-structured guidelines can be used for assistance. | B1
Transcription Analysis | All transcriptions are analyzed using the Delphi software. If the process manager is unable to perform the analysis, a professional with Atlantic expertise should be hired. | B2
List of Variables | The results of the transcription analysis are used to compile a list of variables. | B2

### Step 4 | Delphi Round 2 | The process manager conducts the second round of the Delphi method. Well-structured guidelines can be used for assistance. | C1
Designing the Questionnaire | The process manager sets up a questionnaire. | C2
Questionnaires | The process manager provides questionnaires to the questionnaire. Well-structured guidelines can be used for assistance. | C3
Analysis of Results | The panel concordance is calculated and the results are analyzed for each variable. | C3

### Step 5 | Delphi Round 3 | The process manager conducts the third round of the Delphi method. Well-structured guidelines can be used for assistance. | D1
Project Suggestions | The project manager performs open interviews with the panelists. | D2
Analysis of Results | The suggestions are evaluated and the project manager writes a report explaining all options for each variable. | D3

### Step 6 | Panel Meeting | The project manager organizes a meeting to discuss levels of concordance and suggested projects. | E1
Implementation | The process manager oversees any adopted projects and their planning and implementation. Include the point of contact for all panelists and takes measures to facilitate any future meetings. | E2

### Step 7 | Delphi Round 4 | The process manager repeats the second round of the Delphi method. | F1
Results | Changes in perspectives are analyzed and prioritized to the panelists. | F2
Follow-up | Any changes in perspectives lead to a consultation previous followed variables, the third round of Delphi is repeated. | F3
Panel Meeting | New project suggestions are discussed in a second panel meeting. | F4
Subquestions

1) What are the perspectives of the city government and the local community on recovery and participatory development in the Lower Ninth Ward?

- Similarities and differences in the panel answers;
  - Government focus on general structures
  - Resident focus on specific projects

- Perspective on levels of participation for each variable have moderate agreement;
  - no clear agreement for Population, Environment, Affordable Housing
Subquestions

2) How can the differences or similarities in the perspectives of the city government and the local community identify opportunities for local recovery projects?

By asking panelists to suggest possible opportunities for participatory development projects related to specific variables, a selection of suitable projects can be made.
Subquestions

3) In what ways can the methods used in the case study contribute to the prevailing models of participation in post-disaster redevelopment?

- Methods can be used to form a model based on recovery-specific circumstances, making it possible to implement participation in post-disaster redevelopment phases other than the pre-disaster phase.

- Further evaluation and testing is necessary, but it does offer a good starting point to overcome current issues with participation in post-disaster redevelopment.
Main Research Question

How can a community start participatory developments in the recovery phase by working towards consensus with the local government in order to overcome being left out of the post-disaster redevelopment process?

This thesis aims at providing the knowledge, tools and guidelines to successfully accomplish taking the first step towards a consensus. Whether a consensus will be reached, is up to the stakeholders and their commitment to the process.

This thesis is offers the means to kickstart a recovery process for communities that have found themselves unable to join the city in its redevelopment. It leads to a mutual understanding on what participatory development entails. It presents a model that will research, evaluate and support a mutual understanding among government and residents. The only step left towards a consensus is the actual implementation of recovery projects.
Conclusions

Recommendations

- Any person or institution publishing plans & documents on participation needs to explicitly clarify the conception of the term. The theoretical framework of this research is recommended for this purpose.

- The model offered in this research is recommended for the purpose of starting participatory developments in excluded neighborhoods. The model does need to be tested and reviewed first. It should be used with caution.

- The suggestions made for recovery projects are recommended for further evaluation by local government and the residents of the Lower Ninth Ward. After additional reviewing, they are highly recommended for implementation.
Improvements

• Expert Review

• Elaborate more on project opportunities
  - maps, photos

• Include list of terminology

• Odds & ends
  - preface, images, citations, layout
Questions?