



Processes and Practices for Performing City Resilience in a 'Healthy City'

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Performing City Resilience

Goal: Strategically shape thinking on arts and resilience through an interdisciplinary engagement with artists, curators, cultural leaders, resilience stakeholders, city officials and us, as performance theorists.

Engaging performance theory with city challenges



PERFORMING CITY RESILIENCE

The art and culture of performance

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Walking

Very quickly after getting here, we realised we were going to have to traverse the city repeatedly to get to the meetings we had organised and to attend the buildings that are most relevant to the project. We have chosen to do this on foot, walking significant distances across different areas of the city, observing changing landscapes, atmospheres, and incidental moments of everyday performance. This isn't 'walking performance' *per se* but has become something more useful to our thinking than just being about getting places. In part this is because it has allowed us to engage in a small way with what Ana Paulina Lee calls New Orleans' complex 'memoryscapes, the spatial and material dimensions of cultural memory' (2017: 72) that are in conversation with the city's rich and diverse performance and cultural histories.

www.performingcityresilience.wordpress.com



Performing City Resilience: A case study of New Orleans

08.24.2018 | BY [DR. STUART ANDREWS AND DR. PATRICK DUGGAN](#)

At the centre of a growing urban resilience movement is the pursuit to define and respond to specific and shared challenges faced by cities around the world. The arts can play a valuable role in this work, often used to communicate resilience messages or contribute to placemaking efforts. Here however we argue that there should - and must - be a rethinking of the relationship between ideas and practices of arts and resilience. The arts can help enrich understandings and practices of resilience in a given city and globally.





Case Study: New Orleans, March/April 2018

Performance event: *The Stranger Disease*



Performance venue: The Music Box Village



Performance 'thinking': Situation Room





Practices and Processes of Performing City Resilience

- **Listening:** surveying arts practices, interviewing key stakeholders to understand multiple interpretations of the city, its arts ecology, and its resilience challenges.
- **Gathering:** placing ideas and practices from arts and resilience in conversation, inviting engagement, developing nuanced understandings of arts and resilience.
- **Challenging:** collaborating with key stakeholders to change understandings and practices in a city.
- **Recalibrating:** Reporting on findings with particular focus on policy development.



Conclusions

- PCR: a mechanism for thinking through city resilience
 - **Multi-faceted:** artworks, venues, civic infrastructures etc.
 - **Broad scope:** Identifies existing practice as current mode of thinking **AND** introduces performance theory as means to think about operation of cities.