



Anthropology in Urban Planning Practice

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Q:What the Hell is Urban Planning?



A:I'm glad you asked!

Urban planners help guide the growth and development of our urban environments! We help politicians, citizens, developers, and more answer questions such as:

How dense should our neighborhoods be built?

What types of transportation modes should be encouraged on our streets? Just cars, or how about pedestrians, bikes, and buses?

What types of housing do we want and where? High end, affordable, single family, mixed?

How do we manage economic development with equity and environmental concerns in the development/redevelopment of our city?

That's Great and All, but what do YOU do?

You're some piece of work aren't you?

Anyways. I specialize in Neighborhood Planning. Here are some of the roles I've played with the City of Dallas:

- 1.Planning and Implementing federal block grants for infrastructure improvements in low income target areas, coordinating with low income housing production.
- 2.Developing neighborhood plans, strategies, and engaging the community and other stakeholders in the redevelopment of their neighborhoods.
- 3.Facilitating community development partnerships.

Q:How does an Anthropology Degree Prepare One for Urban Planning?!?!

A:Shut up. They totally complement each other.

Critical Thinking!

Planners must function in highly political environments with conflicting agendas, community priorities, and technical frameworks. They must be able to interpret and balance all of these priorities and sources of input to encourage policies that meets the always nebulous "public good"!

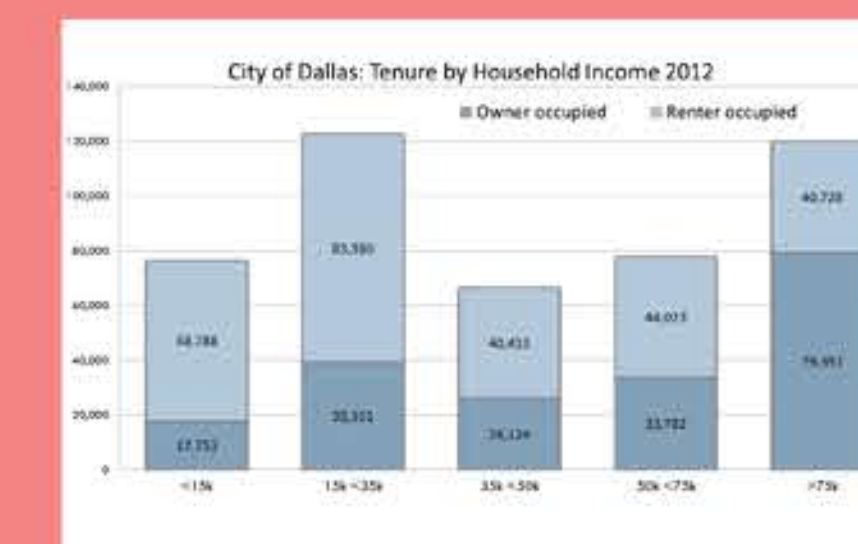
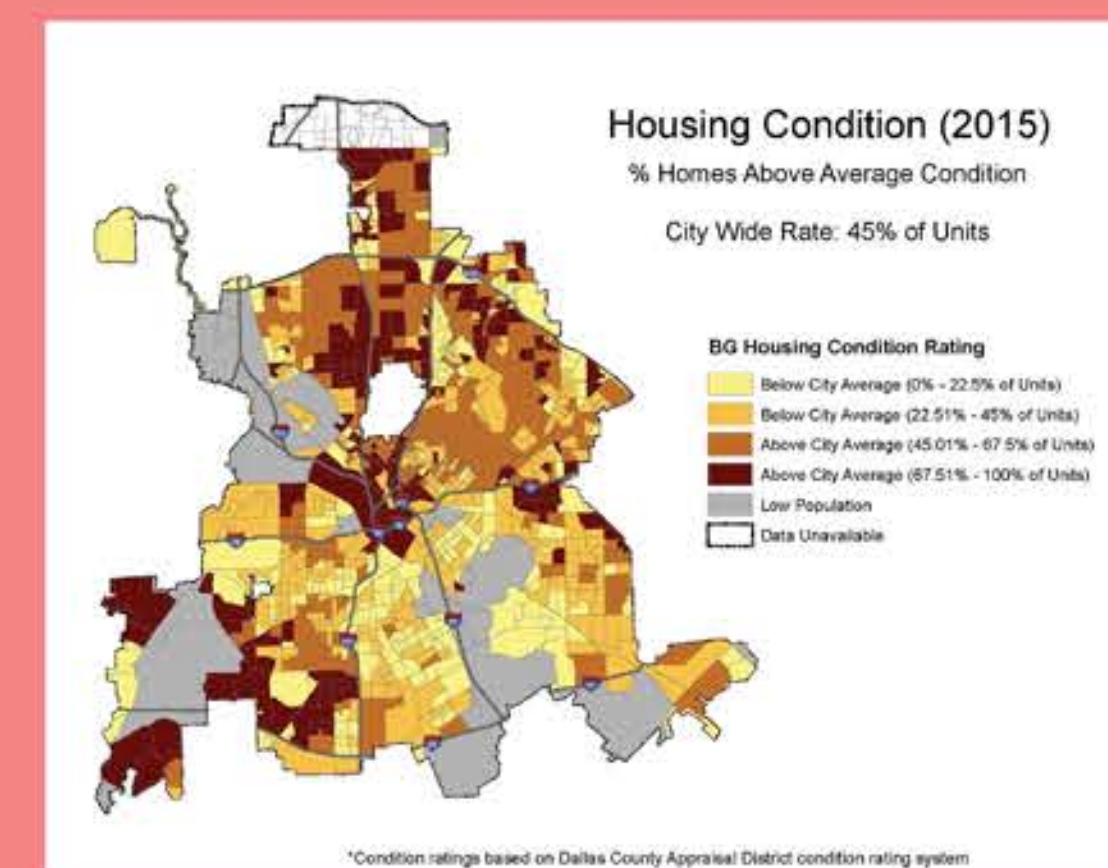


Communication/ Presentation!

Planners must have strong written and oral communication abilities in order to educate, persuade, and facilitate in a variety of professional, political, and community contexts!



Dallas city, Texas		
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total	467,501	+/-2,745
Owner occupied	200,859	+/-2,359
Renter occupied	266,642	+/-2,513



Data!

Planners collect data.

Quantitative, qualitative, primary and secondary in preparing plans, strategies, to visualize demographic, physical, social conditions and change!

Planners Analyze and Interpret data, reports, plans, policy for relevance, context, accuracy, often from a wide variety of sources in order to inform decision makers on complex issues!

Cultural Curiosity and Sensitivity!



Planners must be sensitive to the highly varied social contexts in which they operate. Every neighborhood is unique in terms of relationships to the political process and concerns and priorities for city action. Planners must be able to observe, listen, and be flexible in their plans and programs, particularly for traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities!