

creating space *responses*

I spoke @dreamweek 2019 in San Antonio, Texas about creating space and I asked people for feedback. These are some responses.

Respondents are not identified.

www.siboneyds.com

the survey fields:

I value...

I create space for...

I feel uncomfortable when...

I wish Siboney had spoken about:

What resonated with me was...

The presentation made me feel...

I want to connect about...

I value... Time

I create space for... Myself, family and friends

I feel uncomfortable when... I find myself with a group of people that don't share my level of compassion towards others and the planet.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: -

What resonated with me was... The sense of responsibility she expects of others as we collectively share our community

The presentation made me feel... Happy that tough issues are being tackled

I want to connect about... How engineers can have more of a social impact stemming from their work. Thanks!

I value... loud voices and people who use them to shout above and not beneath them. Friction breeds progress.

I create space for... for new ideas, different perspectives and the opportunities to learn from them.

I feel uncomfortable when... when I have too much space. I can't relate to feeling like I don't have enough.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: The best was done with the time allotted. There was such a parallel between the fence and the wall. Lots of meat on that bone for future discussions with a broader audience.

What resonated with me was... -

The presentation made me feel... Less connected to my community than I would like to be.

I want to connect about... -

I value... mystery

I create space for... not sure

I feel uncomfortable when... Siboney puts herself down

I wish Siboney had spoken about: Her vision for the future of San Antonio

What resonated with me was... The poetry and structure of the presentation

The presentation made me feel... proud for my friend; uncertain of the future

I want to connect about... -

I value... equity in all of its forms.

I create space for... -

I feel uncomfortable when... My identity as a topic supersedes the legitimacy or value placed on my work.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: What do you do when there's not enough common ground to stand on, and there is no one willing to take the high road? (I know this is loaded but this has become the question that I tinker with in my mind constantly.)

What resonated with me was... The re-imagining of musical chairs was perhaps the most powerful anecdote for me.

The presentation made me feel... Fucking awesome! And so proud of Siboney for her ability to pull together a cohesive narrative using her experiences as the thread that links them all together. IT was not until this moment that I was able to fully understand what motivates her.

I want to connect about... -

I value... inclusive public spaces. Accessible safe healthy and reliable housing.

I create space for... Getting to know people from different background and in different stages of life. Divergent views and opinions.

I feel uncomfortable when... I'm reminded that despite latinosaurs/latinass/latinx being the statistical majority in San Antonio they remain a minority in the ruling social class. And when reminded of my own relative ease in navigating that social system.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: What do you do when there's not enough common ground to stand on, and there is no one willing to take the high road? (I know this is loaded but this has become the question that I tinker with in my mind constantly.)

What resonated with me was... The stories. It is easy to approach social injustice from an abstract perspective, but without understanding the real impact from both a large scale (funding) and personal scale (malicious rumors about legal status) it is easy to stay removed.

The presentation made me feel... like learning more

I want to connect about... -

I value... growth

I create space for... growth

I feel uncomfortable when... I am comfortable

I wish Siboney had spoken about: -

What resonated with me was... The musical chairs concept

The presentation made me feel... enriched.

I want to connect about... -

I value... art, history, people, culture, architecture, the environment, relationships...

I create space for... my art and photography.

I feel uncomfortable when... I can't talk openly about my experiences.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: what we need to be doing today.

What resonated with me was... Siboney's connections to the past and the places in San Antonio.

The presentation made me feel... that there are others who are trying to connect the dots too....

I want to connect about... goals and plans for San Antonio.

I value... consciousness and connectedness with humanity and ecosystems

I create space for... thoughtful interactions, histories, stories, music, poetry and comedy

I feel uncomfortable when... when large groups people are categorized and simplified. Also, when large groups of people agree with each other and chant things in unison.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: her experience, culture, and purpose. It was enlightening. I don't wish she talked about anything else.

What resonated with me was... San Antonio should Invest more in the culture that makes San Antonio a leading tourist destination. Mexican-American history & cultural arts should be more highlighted throughout the city.

The presentation made me feel... Proud of my friend, and happy that I live in San Antonio.

I want to connect about... Humanness

I value... understanding

I create space for... empathy, equity, opportunity

I feel uncomfortable when... tradition or ignorance is wielded against others, the trials of another are misunderstood or unappreciated

I wish Siboney had spoken about: -

What resonated with me was... your speaking on the creation of space and value understood for education and the opportunities it provides, and the clear examples provided to showcase the power this has. Education is powerful and the quality of it and access to it absolutely informs / restricts who partakes in the shaping of the future.

The presentation made me feel... Harmful. Privileged. Lazy. Motivated.

I want to connect about... -

I value... positive discussion, being open to others perspectives

I create space for... differences of opinion.

I feel uncomfortable when... we cannot discuss issues openly. Perception often matters more than intention. ...when the other parting is "listening", but they aren't actually listening.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: how two sides with differing opinions and priorities can always find common ground.

What resonated with me was... -

The presentation made me feel... -

I want to connect about... -

I value... our friendship.

I create space for... children. I mainly work on K-12 buildings.

I feel uncomfortable when...: people asked you a random almost controversial questions like the one about the Frost Tower. Which you answered perfectly.

I feel uncomfortable when... people asked you a random almost controversial questions like the one about the Frost Tower. Which you answered perfectly.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: her family. I loved hearing about your mom and dad and it made me want to hear more about where you came from and growing up in your family. I believe you have a real sister and I don't remember if she was mentioned.

What resonated with me was... how you felt about your "little sister" and how your "mama bear" came out when she told you about her rough experience in college.

The presentation made me feel... great, I loved it. I could of listened to you all day.

I want to connect about... -

I value... relationships and people who advocate for others. I value spaces that make people feel welcomed and encouraged them to have happier and healthier lives.

I create space for... people to feel included, safe, inspired and propelled for whichever life vocation they have.

I feel uncomfortable when... I feel uncomfortable when people do not have the resources they need to succeed, when people are unable to follow their dreams because they need to worry about money, when public spaces are not respected, when whole communities are neglected, when issues are being ignored, when people are unaware and/or not informed, when the wrong people are making decisions or all existing entities are not taken into account in the decision making process, when architecture is done with a bias interest, when design is done irresponsibly, when the environment and context is being ignored, etc...

I wish Siboney had spoken about: I wish she had spoken more about the future of San Antonio and how she envisions the topics that she talked about in the lecture to evolve within time. I also wish she had given more information about how can people be more involved with these issues or how can we be more informed. The more we are aware of the issues the more we will be able to accomplish things as a community and as a city.

What resonated with me was... that it is okay to make the privileged feel uncomfortable when there is a neighbor in need. I truly believe that whether big or small there is always a way to help others. But more importantly, I believe there is many ways of service that not always come in the form of money. One can be there, listen, speak for them, train them, advocate for them, etc...

The presentation made me feel... empowered and inspired to keep researching about underdeveloped communities.

I want to connect about... I want to connect about the Plaza Guadalupe and its continuing story. I want to connect about other issues in San Antonio that must be heard and how we can begin to have a conversation.

I value... Critical thinking

I create space for... I try, I'm not sure if I'm successful, but I try to create space for poor people and poor people of color.

I feel uncomfortable when... confronted by dominant culture and presupposition about the way the world should be. IE, we should all strive to make as much money as possible, or we should applaud as tall buildings as possible, etc.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: Siboney was great. I think there are a lot of directions this conversation could have gone in. I always like interactive components, whether people are speaking/sharing or not, at least asking attendees to become participants is powerful. I wonder if making time for people to think about their opportunities to create space and who they would create space for and why would be a useful addition. For example I wonder if some of the folks in the audience Monday might have been thinking "that's nice Siboney" versus, reflecting personally on the space they currently occupy and what they do with it.

What resonated with me was... This presentation has stayed with me. I watched a different talk (not associated with Dreamweek) after Siboney's and it struck me that Siboney's talk was very focused on her experiences as they relate to others and was not self-serving in its focus or intent. I am so tired of self-serving talks that follow a narrative of: "learn from how awesome I am." This talk was not that. I am also very challenged on my own anger and how best to channel it. It struck me that though Siboney doesn't shy away from difficult conversations, there were so many friends and supporters who came to support and learn, and I think that speaks to a kind of making space that is patient and supportive and honest and genuine. Unlike me, who just gripes at and alienates people. ;) There's something to consider there.

The presentation made me feel... Inspired to action. I love how action focused this talk was.

I want to connect about... -

I value... wisdom / wholeness / depth / truth(s) . I value the people around me that lead by example.

I create space for... I (want to) create space for... evolution: for younger people to find strength & power wherever they are and inspiration to keep moving/changing.

I feel uncomfortable when... when I am forced to grapple with how the world views me / when life forces politics / that everything worth fighting for is political.

I wish Siboney had spoken about: those lessons she shared with Angelica when dropping her off @ college. We all need those

What resonated with me was... the idea of non-finite space through cooperation/collaboration, and it being super hard. It's easier for us as designers to think about but harder to sell in the realm of politics, where it is too often zero-sum game. I think it's very different from "infinite space." At some point, you need to find space / someone needs to make space for that space to really multiply. It is exhausting, yes. As an introvert, I am exhausted. What also resonated with me was how space, or room to growth, is created from inside out / outside in, beginning in one's own mind, as your sister, mother, father did for you. After a while, you start running out of space, and need more. Everybody needs to take time to do be real, rest, and do this for themselves.

The presentation made me feel... enriched.

I want to connect about... -

I value... I value equity and accessibility in all design approaches, and inclusivity in the process by all impacted.

I create space for... In the museum environment in which I work my goal is transform my organization (Smithsonian) into a Latino-serving institution. My job is to create intellectual and physical space for the research, presentation, preservation and celebration about and of the US Latino experience from. First Voice perspective.

I feel uncomfortable when... the Latino community is unable to tell stories of how it was participated in building this country and shaping US Culture. Like Siboney, I don't have a problem with feeling comfortable with the uncomfortable. As she notes, we must elevate untold stories. I'm also uncomfortable with the disparities in equity in major building projects (e.g. Witte vis-a-vis Guadalupe Cultural Arts Ctr).

I wish Siboney had spoken about: I think Siboney did a wonderful job in covering a lot of territory in a short period of time. I like the way she organized her talk by section, I just wish she would have had more time to develop each topic a little more. For example, I would have liked to have learned more about how direct community engagement impacts better design approaches (e.g., who is absent who needs to be present, how are all parties impacted, how is collaboration and solidarity enabled, how can architects let untold stories influence their work, who is defining what inclusivity, importance of identifying and reframing design approaches that no longer serve community and the project),

What resonated with me was... There was a lot that resonated for me. Allow me to briefly list: 1) The organization of the presentation by section, and how some of the. Intersected. 2) The interrelationship between equity and good design, and how, when the connection is solid, how this process and finished project give dignity to those served (e.g., ChildSafe). Architectural practice should not continue to design in ways that promote and preserve injustice. 3) The way Siboney was able to broaden the definition, kinds of space. 4) Her point that representation and language matter. 5) I loved the way Siboney, drawing from her mother, reframed the Musical Chairs game, inferring that we must approach design from perspectives of abundance and inclusivity, not scarcity and me-first.

The presentation made me feel... hopeful that architectural practice can transform itself into one that is strategically community connected, and committed to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion..

I want to connect about... -