REMAPPING LA: Cultural Civic Computing in Los Angeles

Using advanced technology combined with community participation from local residents, UCLA's Center for Research in Engineering, Media and Performance (REMAP) is developing a project that will create a powerful, unique dialog for civic engagement in Los Angeles.

WHAT IS REMAPPING LA?

A New Model for the Intersection of Technology, Culture and Community.
Dovetailing with existing community plans and the mayor's initiative for citywide Wi-Fi access, REMAPPING LA will combine mobile and other technologies with community participation – from local residents, artists and officials – to express the cultural identity around the L.A. State Historic Park.

Civic Engagement.
This model for "Cultural Civic Computing" will create a platform for civic engagement, ultimately helping us shape the evolution of community development in public spaces and providing resident-inspired data for community works projects, such as the development of transportation and park facilities.

A Cultural Record & Manifestations of Identity.
The project will create a dynamic historical record of culture via pictures, testimonials, first-person narratives and other media. REMAP then will interpret the community-driven data to develop media installments, performances by locals, literature that reflects the collective ethos of the area or manifestations of identity and history that we haven't yet imagined.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Understand Our Residents & Culture.
REMAPPING LA will produce an active dialog for community members and political leaders to explore the culture of Los Angeles through technology, collaboration and a tangible forum to exchange ideas and affect change. The project will be a powerful step in understanding our city and its diverse residents.

Foster Wellness.
The participatory, educational and collaborative aspects of the project will create limitless opportunities to foster cultural and community wellness, as well as develop a meaningful forum for local voices before the area changes with further downtown development.

Preserve L.A.'s History.
The L.A. State Historic Park has played host and witness to prehistoric animals, Chumash and Tongva Indians, missionaries, Gold Rush entrepreneurs, Mexican, Chinese and Japanese immigrants and Los Angeles' first railroads, water systems and freeways. REMAPPING LA can preserve the rich historical identity of this area as it continues to evolve.

REMAP HAS THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS:

- The Haynes Foundation
- The William C. Velásquez Institute
- The Anahuak Youth Soccer Federation
- Nokia
- The Packard Foundation
- UCLA's Center for Embedded Networked Sensing (CENS)
- Walt Disney Imagineering Research & Development
- Cisco Systems

To create this meaningful vehicle to capture the tapestry of Los Angeles' identity, we also need the help of elected officials and local leaders who represent the fabric of this city. To learn more about REMAP and its potential impact on Los Angeles, please contact Chase Knowles, Project Coordinator, at chase@remap.ucla.edu or visit http://remap.ucla.edu/losangeles. We look forward to hearing from you and to creating a powerful platform for civic engagement in Los Angeles through technology and the city's heartbeat: its local residents.