LONG TIME, NO SEE?

We no longer live in a condition where our future as a species can be assumed. Grasping the significance of this knowledge changes everything. Tony Fry, Professor of Design Futures

About Long Time, No See?

Long Time, No See? invites you to set out to explore and reflect, in the spirit of adventure, to reveal other and emergent ways of existing in this world through poetic actions and relationships that animate a sense of care. View the online visualisation on a desktop or laptop with the latest version of Google Chrome.

As a participatory project, Long Time, No See? draws participants into an innovative arts based engagement with sustainability. Drawing on participatory practices and through the use of mobile devices, the project guides participants through a process of thinking, mapping, talking and walking in their locality with a view to provoking grounded reflection about care and futuring. The intent is to map the intensities of shared values and commitment in a gradually expanding global network of affinity and momentum for change. This is set against and embedded into a web-based generative visualisation and sonification of massive datasets of demographic, geographic and environmental data.

The Long Time, No See? project is running a series of workshops engaging broadband enabled communities with a view to providing a platform for guided conversations exploring values and agency, also leaving a legacy of grassroots organising and facilitation that can extend far beyond the project. The objective is to build local collaborative resilience, capacity and governance. This engagement will happen in both workshop and DIY modes using freely available tools and resources. The growing global network is also supported through social media, such as a facebook group.

Practically the project will utilise mobile GPS mapping derived from participants’ walking (and other movement) through their localities, combined with their ideas captured in geo-located texts, images and sound alongside related global environmental data. With custom cartographic tools and real time generative capability this raw data and local context will feed an online visualisation and sonification. Long Time No See? will take shape as a dynamic composite map of values and care encapsulating a collective commitment to futuring and change.

Project Team

Dr Keith Armstrong | Artist, Creative Director
Dr Gavin Sade | Artist, Interaction Designer
Prof. Roger Dean | Sound Artist, Scientist
Linda Carrol | Writer, Urban Practitioner
Robert Henderson | Designer
Petro Nyfantis | Software Developer

Project Anatomy

The NBN is a significant investment in the future of our nation. Long Time, No See? captures its full potential to focus NBN audiences on the FUTURE OF THAT FUTURE – asking them to consider the long term future. Long Time, No See? is an evolving, publicly generated work about long term visions, tangible commitment and collective imagining.

The work is comprised of four interwoven components:

- A browser integrated, interactive visualisation and sonification scalable for online audiences that generates a poetic, endlessly evolving representation of care.
- A high fidelity, enhanced version of this visualisation and sonification distributed across an array of screens and speakers. Sited at a major new data visualisation centre in Brisbane and in large screen format for ISEA 2013, Sydney.
- A series of workshops and walks, generating both the work’s narrative form and a range of critical inputs, from an evolving national network of participants in NBN connected communities who develop localised, shared, aesthetic reflections for their community’s possible long futures. This process will include the use of an App.
- Social media and networks

The socially rich media generated by these ‘communities of change’ significantly form the shape and direction of the work. Long Time, No See? is a networked and evolving creative narrative for the future, fuelled by emerging and artist activated social networks.

What’s Involved

Long Time, No See? explores socially engaged and relational approaches through its engagements with NBN enabled communities. The project seeks to engage audiences and participants to trigger thinking about pathways for ‘sustain-ability’ and futuring. Given this, Long Time, No See? enables participants to collaborate, imagine, reflect, learn and act for change.

The participatory process is grounded by guided processes using two artist books intended to provide a platform for interrogating care. These processes are undertaken by participants – as individuals or groups, DIY or facilitated – to explore aspects of their care for themselves, for others and their world. The intention of this is to trigger awareness of our personal and cultural relationships with our surroundings with a view to move positive social and environmental awareness.

Long Time, No See? provides a platform to present personal and community responses to place and environment in a way that catalyses thinking about the future and enables futuring.

There are two ways of participating in Long Time, No See?

1. Pathmaking – use the project tools and resources to trace a path that becomes part of the artwork
2. Community Catalyst – use the project to develop skills in facilitation and community organising to enable others to participate in the project.

Additional online, DIY and social media based engagements are also planned. Where there is interest, a Community Catalyst workshop can also be presented to enable individuals and groups to continue organising in their community and continue to facilitate engagement in the project.
The Books

Two artist books and an app have been developed to enable participants to engage with the futuring and care themes of this project. Each booklet presents a stage in developing your engagement with the project and with the ideas driving it.

Setting Your Compass aims to prepare you for participating in and contributing to the Long Time, No See? Project. It does this by asking you to consider a handful of questions about the things you care about, what care and change mean to you, and the kind of world and future or sustainability you envision. You can use this booklet as a notebook, storybook and/or journal. You can respond to these questions and provocations in whatever way suits you – use the facebook group, contact the project team and talk with friends to discuss specific questions and responses.

This Fieldbook guides your pathmaking together with the app (you need to use the app if you want to contribute but can use the Fieldbook to make notes). As a pathmaker, you will be asked to follow a series of prompts that guide a walk around your locality and direct you to explore different aspects of that locality and your relationships to it in the present and into the future. In total there are nine stopping points where you are prompted to respond to a location with a photograph, sound recording and/or written statement.

The app presents the content of the Fieldbook for your mobile device. You need to use the app to contribute to Long Time, No See? as it allows you to enter your data and trace your path via GPS. This will be presented as part of the online visualisation.

- An app is available for iPhones and iPads from the App Store.
- A web interface is available for other smartphones.

Contact

Email: info@long-time-no-see.org
Community and Blog: http://long-time-no-see.org/community
Web-based Visualisation: http://long-time-no-see.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/longtimenoseeplot
Twitter: http://twitter.com/ltns

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