

Indianapolis: City as a Living Laboratory; Science Learning For Resilient Cities

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Overview

Indianapolis: City as a Living Laboratory (NSF Grant #DRL-1323117) examines how different public art mediums can serve as conduits for informal science learning at a city-wide scale. The I/CaLL project employs the city of Indianapolis as an informal science learning space, using public sculpture, and poetry, music, and dance events as learning provocations to increase awareness and understanding of the science concepts linked to the city waterways. I/CaLL's physical installations are located at five waterway sites in underserved communities. These installations focus on water sustainability topics and community needs to most effectively capitalize on the connections people have with the natural environment in their own neighborhoods.

Question 1:

How do art experiences prompt science reasoning?

Data sources:

- Survey and interviews with I/CaLL artists to understand their process when producing the art pieces;
- Conversations between artists and scientists to identify affordances and challenges of collaboration; and
- Library conversations between artists and scientists and community members to understand community perspectives and knowledge about art and science topics.

Question 2:

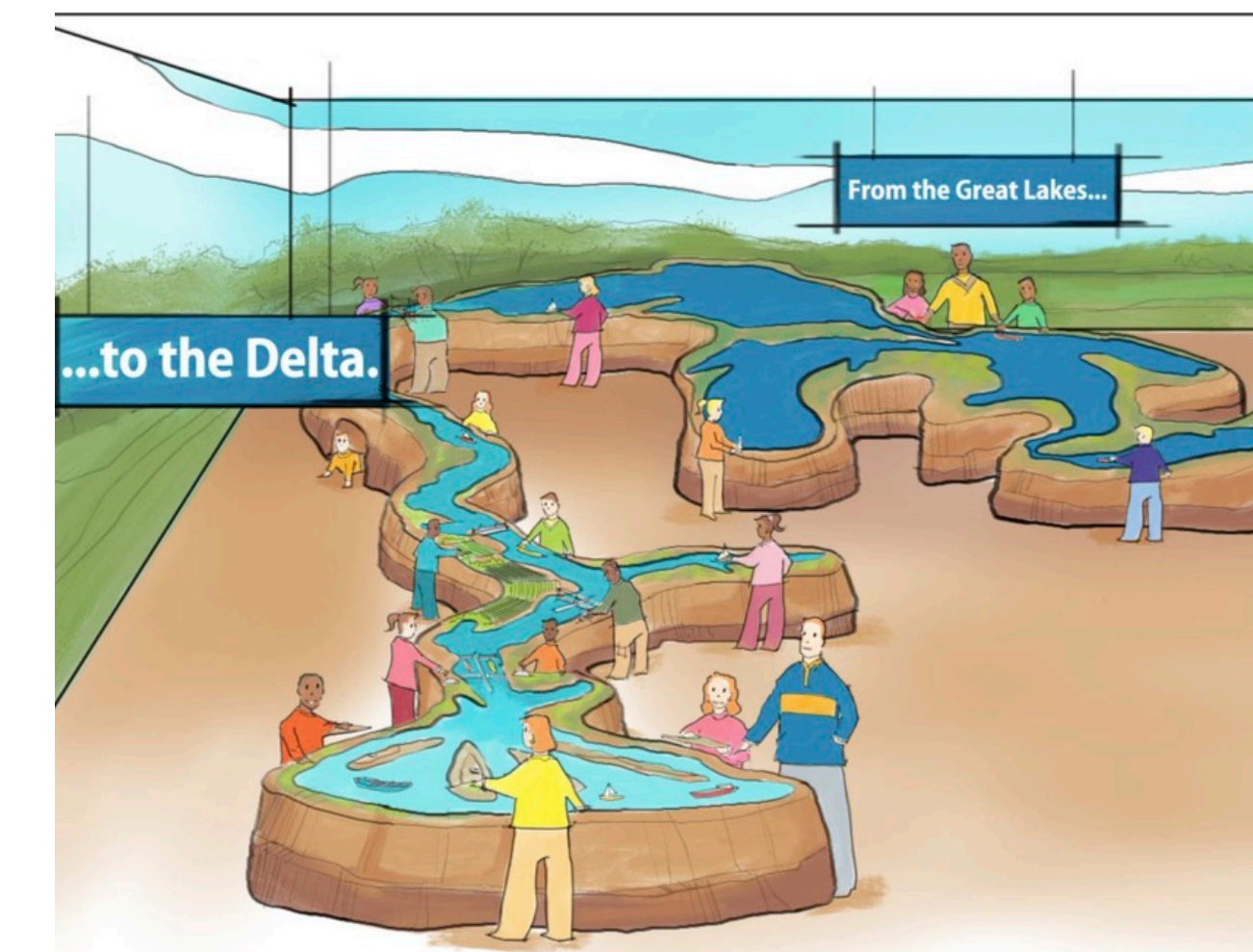
How do we measure science literacy change across a community?

- Intercept surveys and interviews of visitors to I/CaLL sites and events to capture the process of science learning; and
- Video journals describing engagement efforts by a local community organizer.

Question 3:

Where does informal science learning happen in life outside of school?

- Two-year ethnography/auto-ethnography documenting the out of home learning pursuits of 8 Indianapolis families.



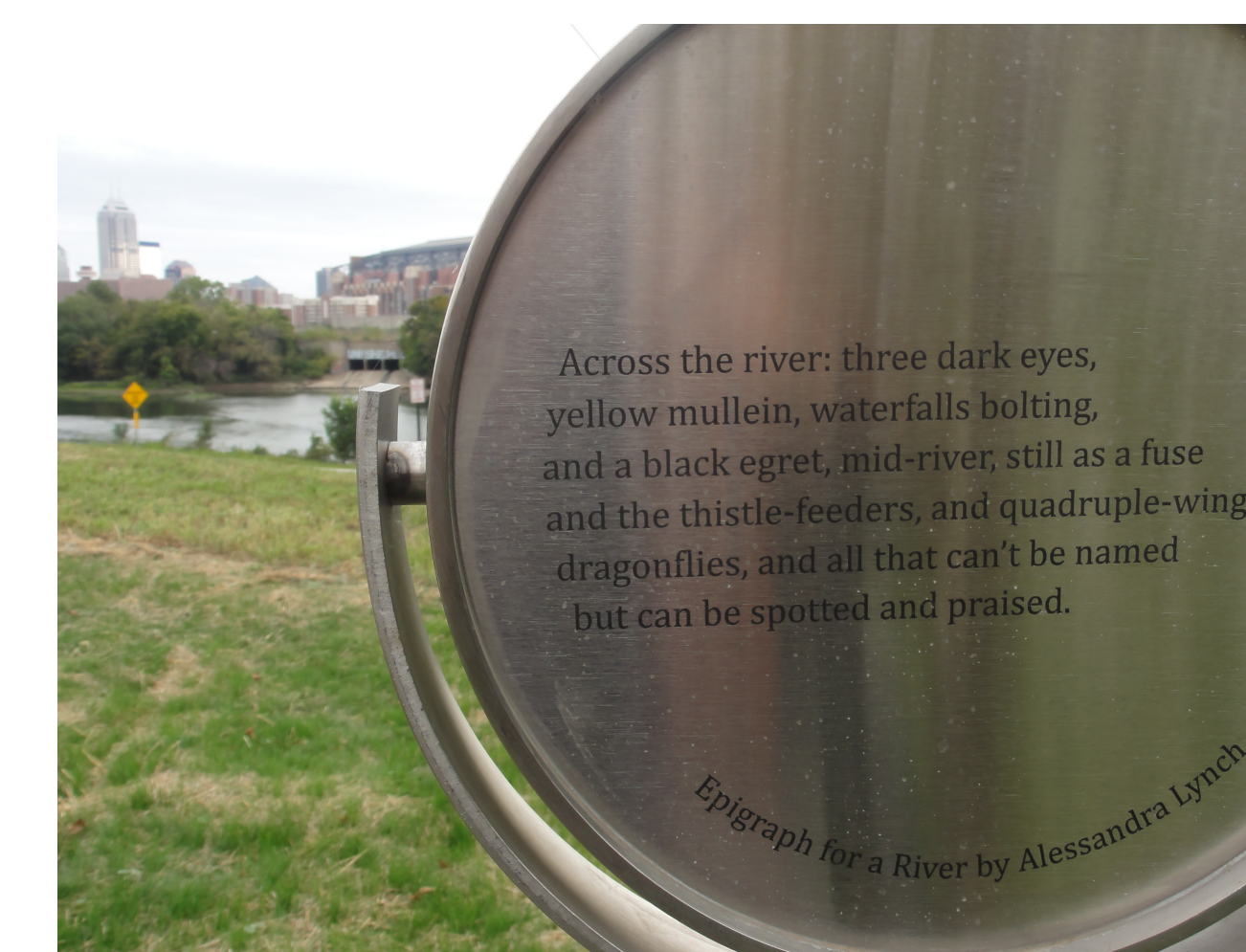
Museum



Music



Dance



Poetry



Sculpture



Artists



Family Study



MARY MISS / CITY AS LIVING LABORATORY CaLL

POETS HOUSE

