Snout – Community Art and Environmental Activism meet Pervasive Computing

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Overview

• What is community art?
• How does it relate to activism?
• What does any of this has to do with the KLab?
• Participatory sensing
• What we built
• Snout performance
• Credits
Community art

- Is rooted in a shared sense of place, tradition or spirit
- Is as much about the process of involving people in the making of the work as the finished object itself
- Is situated in more public, accessible and resonant places, geared to a specific audience and a specific time

The Art of Weaving Faiths
Great Leap, LA
Community art and activism

- Community art often has an activist agenda
- Commonalities
  - collective, not strictly individual
  - representation
- Art can be catalyst that illuminates a political issue in a way that leads to mass mobilization and action.

Environmental Justice Project
Sierra Club, Louisiana
What’s this got to do with the KLab?

• Community art and activism are about knowledge
  – they build social capital i.e. the grassroots networks that enable people to move information and ideas to a broader audience
  – they make change happen

• Education is activism
  – if people only knew what is going on, they'd do something about it
Pervasive computing

• Miniaturization of electronics
• Ubiquitous wireless communication
• Sensing and actuation
• Cheap!
Participatory sensing

- People as a system resource
  - mobility
  - social network
  - community
  - meaning

- Urban environments
  - higher people density
  - patterns
  - ownership
An interdisciplinary collaboration between

Sensing and learning

• Feral Robots project:
  – Toy robotics + urban tapestries + wireless sensing
  – Open source designs

• Explore further:
  – explore relationships between the body, community and the environment
  – scavenge
  – performance
An interdisciplinary collaboration between

Building Snout
An interdisciplinary collaboration between Snout Performance
Summary

• Technology
  – pervasive computing, participatory sensing
• Information everywhere
• Take ownership of everyday
• Involve the community