

# Blueprint for a Digital Urban Planetarium

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*"Changing the nature of the dialogue is key to changing the nature of the world"*

## The Urban Planetarium Concept

***"Our traditional patterns of problem-solving are flagrantly defective in presenting the future in ways that contribute insight and understanding."***

50 years ago Harold Lasswell proposed the urban planetarium as a mechanism for exposing public audiences to complex information related to policy deliberations. The planetarium is discussed as an element of "THE LASSWELL TRIAD" by the late John Warfield.

Design Seminar



Urban Planetarium



Deliberative Congress

New Bedford citizens will contribute  
ideas for the City's future



Ideas will be publicly displayed  
in a “civic planetarium”



Reflections from the planetarium will  
raise ideas for deeper consideration

*The planetarium will be  
BOTH physical and digital*

## New Bedford Wishing Well



### Physical Urban Planetarium: Vacant Storefront

### Digital Urban Planetarium: Facebook

#### RECENT POSTS



**Thomas R. Flanagan** added photos to October 9, 2013.

*Best wishes from the Citizens of New Bedford*



In the future,  
I wish that  
New Bedford  
had a ...

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · Share · 2 minutes ago



**Thomas R. Flanagan** updated the description.

The Wishing Well is a physical site that is opened during AHA Night and collects ideas from Citizens for display in a "civic observatorium."

*Expectations: We will Catalyze Public Reflection / Deliberation on the Future*

## Hybrid Digital / Physical Urban Planetarium



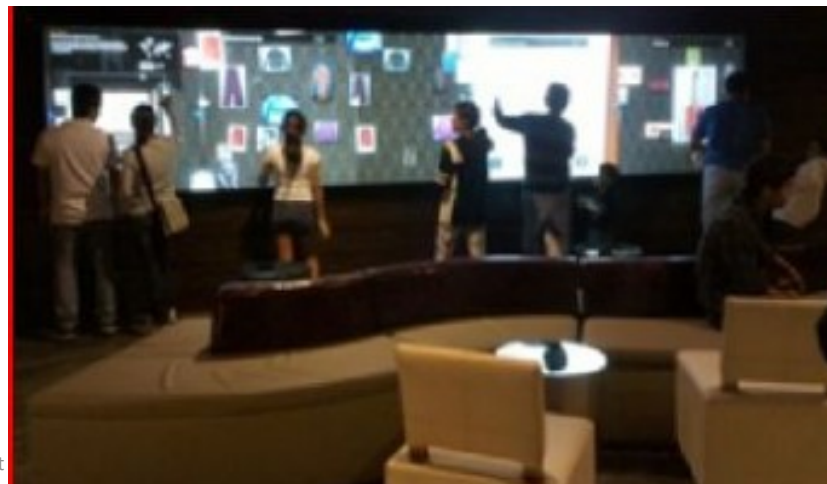
**Churchill War Room.**



**Current U.S. Situation Room**



**NASA Mission Command**



**The idea is to  
move toward a  
museum-like  
exhibit within a  
conversational  
public space**



## Curating the Urban Planetarium of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Curate: To apply selectivity and taste to, as a collection of fashion items or web pages



1. Gather Ideas (catalogue)
2. Explore Similarities Among Ideas (images and recorded clarifications)
3. Construct Affinity Groups with All Contributed Ideas (graphic)
4. Identify Connections Linking Individual Ideas into a System (graphic)

The curating process appropriate for an urban planetarium will not be based upon distinctions made through debate, but rather on connections made through inclusive systems thinking.

**Democratic statements are pluralistically curated. Propaganda is not.**

Thank You !!

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*<http://socialplanetarium.org/>*