



# BEYOND THE POP-UP: RETHINKING INTERIM USE

Bringing together specialists in art, architecture and urban research the Revaluing Temporary Urban Use project led to a public debate and knowledge cogeneration to inform working practices

## Project description and aims

Revaluing Temporary Urban Use is a collaboration connecting urban researchers with art and architectural practitioners to discuss 'value practices' around temporary urban use. The project has focused on researching the values mobilised by practitioners, local authorities and users around selected projects in Hackney Wick, London. Through public events it has contributed critical insights into the potential impacts and is creating a publication addressed at practitioners, public- and private-sector organisations and policymakers.

The project set out to provide a space for critical reflection by practitioners operating within a complex set of competing value systems. By bringing together practitioners and urban researchers it aimed to expand understanding of the values mobilised on the ground by projects of temporary use, for example, alternative economies and voluntary labour. It sought to identify their relationship to the wider dynamics of urban transformation and collaboratively to answer the question: which value(s) are mobilised by temporary uses and who benefits from them?

## Impact on the business

Andreas Lang, director of Public Works, said: "We benefited from the working methodologies brought to the collaboration by the researchers, which have informed our practice. The collaboration has allowed us to reassess the rigour with which we reflect and interrogate our work." Collaboratively we produced a public debate (Wick Session) on the values of temporary use and published a response to the outcomes of the talks. Both contributions have had a slightly more academic tone than we usually have and therefore introduced a new and in some respects more critical audience to our event and project.

## Future directions

• The learning from the project will help inform practitioners and researchers for this type of urban use.



## ESSENTIAL INFO

**SME:** Andreas Lang, Public Works  
**Academics:** Mara Ferreri, David Pinder, Queen Mary University of London  
**Duration:** 8 months

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