

QTMUN



Animal Crossing: New Leaf

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We ask for your cooperation in maintaining order, both inside and outside of committee session, so that we may provide a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational conference.

Throughout the conference, please note that delegates shall only:

1. Wear Western Business Attire (i.e., no costumes, no casual wear)
2. Embody their assigned country's/character's position, not their mannerisms (e.g., no accents, no props)
3. Opt for diplomatic, respectful, and tactful speech and phrasing of ideas, including notes (e.g., no foul language, suggestive remarks, or obscene body language)
4. Make decisions that contribute to a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational space for debate

The rest of our conference policies can be found on our website.

By attending all or part of a UTMUN conference, attendees agree to abide by all of our conference policies.

Furthermore, delegates' efforts to contribute to a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and equity at our conference, both inside and outside of committee session, will be considered by the dais and Secretariat when determining conference scholarships and committee awards.

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Equity Concerns and Accessibility Needs

UTMUN 2021's Secretariat and Staff are committed to ensuring every attendee has an enjoyable, comfortable, and safe experience and is able to participate fully and positively at our conference.

If you have any equity concerns (e.g., concerns about barriers to participation) or accessibility needs now or during the conference, please do not hesitate to contact your committees' dais and/or our Director of Academics at academics@utmun.org.

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Dear Delegates,

Hello and welcome to UTMUN 2021's *Animal Crossing: New Leaf* committee. My name is Jayden Jung and I will have the pleasure of serving as your committee director this year alongside your Vice Director, Paul Huang, and Moderator, Cindy Lui.

Since its initial debut in 2001, Nintendo's *Animal Crossing* franchise has become renowned worldwide as a best-seller social simulation staple in the gaming industry. Their audience has grown more and more familiar with their lovable anthropomorphic characters and interesting gameplay over the past two decades of development. Though their most recent main series game, *New Horizons*, debuted in 2020 and reaped great success, this committee takes place within its unforgettable predecessor, *New Leaf*, 2012, that revolutionized the franchise by putting the onus on the player to develop their own town.

In a fictional world where a greedy tanuki holds a monopoly over the housing and real estate industry and furniture falls out of trees on a daily basis, is it possible to apply a realistic perspective and work towards sensible solutions to improve the livelihood of its citizens? By acknowledging where the game falls short in realism, we hope to offer an enjoyable and accessible approach to discussing the intricacies of urban development and municipal governance by allowing the delegates to mold their own *Animal Crossing: New Leaf* town as they deem fit, from the town's name to its welfare system and much more.

I cannot wait to see the degrees of creativity and diligence you, the delegates, will achieve in working towards realistic solutions within this fictional setting. Diving into this experience, we hope to support you along the way as your dais team and ensure that the weekend of the conference will be filled with fruitful discourse and entertainment. I hope this backgrounder serves as a helpful starting point for the journey of research and critical thinking ahead of you. Please feel free to reach out and contact me if you have any questions or concerns at the provided email below.

Finally, I, Paul, and Cindy all wish you the best of luck in your deliberation leading up to the conference and look forward to working with you.

Jayden Jung,
Director, *Animal Crossing: New Leaf*
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Committee Description

Urban planning is the science of managing “the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment,” as defined by Encyclopedia Britannica.¹ As a subject, urban planning has been recognized and practiced as a sophisticated discipline around the world for a great chunk of modern history. Debate over the best approaches to urban planning is heated and ongoing, while its practical applications are being tested every day. It is a very current and pressing topic of discussion.

Due to its relevance, urban planning has become a common genre for many iconic games such as those within Nintendo’s Animal Crossing franchise. Animal Crossing: New Leaf is one of this franchise’s most prominent games — it is a social simulation that allows the player to directly manage their own personal world as a town mayor and interact with adorable animal villagers. Though many praise these types of games for being helpful tools for understanding the fundamentals of city planning, it goes without saying that such games fail to encompass all the intricacies of real-life municipalities.² Granted, these games are aimed at a young audience, but it is still necessary to note their downfalls to further our understanding of urban planning. The setting of this committee, Animal Crossing: New Leaf, is intended to aid in highlighting how simplified the nuances of urban planning are within simulation games by allowing delegates to tackle these fallacies in a realistic yet accessible manner.

This committee is essentially a city council that enacts executive decisions to sustain a small fictional town and improve the livelihoods of its residents, similar to how a player acts as a mayor for a town in Animal Crossing: New Leaf. Each delegate will act as a representative of their respective municipal department and be given the opportunity to engage with realistic, relevant topics and concerns surrounding the subject of urban planning in the Animal Crossing universe.

Thus far, the town that this council will oversee has been left without any precedence in governance and is generally very primitive, to a point where it is shocking that this town has managed to preserve itself. With residents unhappy and afraid of what may come of their current state, the townspeople have elected the delegates present within this committee to form a democratic government that strives to improve the state of the town.

Delegates are tasked with general topics as well as live updates concerning their town. This semi-crisis structure will further allow for an immersive and interactive experience. Delegates will be responsible for reacting promptly and effectively to fast-paced changes whilst always working towards finding long-term solutions, similar to how any efficient governing body must function.

1 “Urban Planning | Definition, History, Examples, Importance, & Facts,” Encyclopedia Britannica, accessed October 23, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/urban-planning>.

2 Emilie Reed, “Animal Crossing, SimCity, and the Long History of City Planning in Games,” EGM (blog), April 2, 2020, <https://egmnow.com/animal-crossing-simcity-and-the-long-history-of-city-planning-in-games/>.

Committee Mechanics

Rolling Updates

In order to immerse the delegates in a professional yet fast paced environment, this committee will have rolling updates similar to how a crisis committee may operate. We will be providing a comprehensive documentation of all updates through an interactive committee Twitter account throughout the duration of the conference. Delegates will be expected to recognize and react to live updates in order to simulate an active, effective, and reactionary municipal council.

Ordinances vs Topic Resolutions

A city ordinance is a piece of binding municipal legislation. Within this committee, they will act as the equivalent to public directives, which are real-time, short resolutions that factor into the committee's live simulation. This committee will require delegates to work together and produce ordinances throughout the conference whilst always working towards overarching topic resolutions for every covered topic. Ordinances are generally short-term while resolutions are long-term. An ordinance would be necessary to propose a PWP (see below), launch a campaign, or change or make new laws/regulations, etc.

Resolutions would then be expected to take into consideration what has been accomplished through ordinances and project what the council intends to accomplish in the long term based on their initial efforts. It should also be noted that resolutions may not reference PWPs, campaigns, laws/regulations, or any other substantial objects if they have not yet been achieved through ordinances.

Citizen Satisfaction

Once in a while, through the Rolling Updates format, Citizen Satisfaction survey results will be announced. These surveys ask citizens to rate the status of the town and then averages their answers to a simplified statistic between 0–100%. It additionally leaves room for citizens to point out features of the town that they either especially favour or disapprove of.

Citizen Satisfaction should be greatly considered by the delegates for two major reasons. First, certain council actions will not be possible without a certain minimum of citizen satisfaction as established at the discretion of the dais. Second, it indicates the villagers' general mood and therefore gives delegates a chance to predict how they would react to certain council actions.

This factor is very volatile as it is dependent on what actions the delegates choose to take. It may improve if the committee directly improves specific aspects of the town that were critiqued in surveys or if delegates take initiative to positively influence villagers' livelihoods. It can also very likely decrease from slow or ineffective reactions from the council to survey inputs, ignored inputs, and actions that negatively affect villagers' livelihoods without proper justification (e.g. higher taxation, disruptive construction projects).

Public Work Projects (PWPs)

The city council has the power to directly impact the town by organizing Public Work Projects, an action which may entail establishing a new building, structure, or feature to the town on a physical level.

Citizen Satisfaction

At times, villagers may request for certain PWPs through letters, petitions, or even through comments on

the Citizen Satisfaction survey discussed above. If the council does not react promptly, satisfaction ratings may decrease.

PWPs themselves can greatly impact citizen satisfaction, positively or negatively, depending on any factors. The type of project, timing, and execution all play into this. For example, a project that is considered to be harmful to the environment or requires long-term, disruptive construction would affect it negatively.

Committee Topics

Delegates are required to incorporate PWPs into their solutions to effectively address the issues at hand. Every topic offers a list of possible major PWPs the council may choose from to propose as well as general, minor ones they may reference. More detailed information on each suggested PWP will be made available during the conference. The subtopic of waste management, for example, could possibly be addressed through a PWP calling to establish a landfill.

It is important to keep PWPs in mind throughout the conference due to how essential they may be in drafting effective topic resolutions. If the process required to propose and execute PWPs are not undergone, they cannot be included in resolutions. Delegates would not be able to include a clause suggesting the use of safe landfills to improve waste management if a PWP building a landfill has not been implemented.

The Process

A proposal must be presented and voted upon as an Ordinance (public directive), following these steps;

1. Ensuring that the required department reps are sponsoring the ordinance
2. Confirming that, if there is one, the minimum citizen satisfaction rating for the PWP is met
3. Outlining the purposes and intentions of the PWP
4. Establishing how the costs of the project will be divided between the council and public contributions
5. Proposing how the council will incentivize citizens to donate to help cover the costs of the project

Due to limited Funding, the council cannot afford to cover the entire cost of most PWPs. Thus, once the PWP proposal is passed, the project's construction site opens as well as the donation box that townspeople can contribute to in order to support the project. Once the required donation amount is met, the PWP will be confirmed and may be referenced in topic resolutions. The longer donation/construction drags on for, the more likely it is that citizen satisfaction will decrease.

Department Portfolios

Each delegate is a representative from one of four municipal departments. Delegates may and are encouraged to work cross-departments, as it is not expected for these departments to act as blocs but instead to aid in applying different perspectives on particular issues. In many cases, it would be necessary for delegates to cooperate amongst different departments to achieve a common goal, as certain PWP, bulletin notes, and resolutions require certain departments' cooperation to succeed.

Economic and Community Development (E&CD)

E&CD primarily focuses on economic development and social cohesion. It should be noted that this department is only focused on the general economics of the town, not on the finances of this committee. An E&CD rep must be included in council actions if the sponsors hope to research economic development or launch awareness/education campaigns of any kind.

General Government and Licensing (GG&L)

GG&L manages government assets and resources as well as the licensing of any businesses. Their cooperation is required for council actions that involve relocation of public property or the communication with both existing and potential businesses. It is absolutely essential that a majority of the department reaches a consensus if the committee hopes to award a license.

Infrastructure and Environment (I&E)

I&E is responsible for monitoring and making recommendations on infrastructure needs whilst also considering the status of the town's natural environment. Their cooperation is necessary in cases of developing new infrastructures or environmental research. Most PWPs will require at least one I&E rep's approval to proceed.

Planning and Housing (P&H)

P&H works in the realms of urban form and housing; they advise the council on planning, property standards, and housing developments. One of their rep's cooperation is required if the committee wishes to develop any residential or commercial structures or establish new property standards.

Topic A: Unaffordable Housing

Though the town may not be a metropolis in terms of size or development, the council's attention has recently been grabbed by its housing affordability crisis. There are less and less residents staying in the town let alone moving in in the first place because the cost of living has been driven to an unreasonable degree.

Monopolized Market

Unreasonably high prices in a market is a common indicator of limited supply. When there is a certain amount of demand for a good or service yet not enough supply to match it, affordable prices are hard to see. Thus, increasing supply until it can match the market's demand is a necessary step to take, but this is easier said than done. News sources in urban cities like Vancouver, Canada, blame their high costs of living on the fact that they have yet to find effective methods of matching the supply and demand in their housing market.³ Much of the fault can be put on the lack of competitive development, and our specific situation is a prime example.

Our town only has one supplier of housing, Nook's Homes, run and owned by its sole owner, Tom Nook.⁴ Nook and his company hold a complete monopoly on all existing housing and resources for building. Economists describe monopolies as "price makers" — because they are the only contributor to the market, they can set whatever price they'd like without having to worry about their consumers finding a competitor offering a better deal.⁵ Nook's Homes' complete monopoly allows them to control the housing supply however they'd like and set their prices at whatever rate they desire. They have perpetually driven up pricing to yield higher and higher profits with no concern for demand, leading to the current inflation of housing prices. This practice can be classified as price gouging. Such a practice is criminalized in many parts of the world; it has been deemed unethical in most cases as it takes advantage of vulnerabilities within consumers to reap profits and discriminates against those that cannot afford the inflated prices from having access to the good.⁶ This becomes an even larger issue when the good is as essential as water or housing. Analyzing existing laws and regulations under these conditions could be vital to providing effective solutions, though it should be further noted that there are no pre-existing laws within this town.

Furthermore, the presence of a monopoly is self-preserving in that it commonly contributes to high barriers of entry that hinder any other firms from entering the market as competitors. There is no way for any other firm to enter the market as Nook owns all the town's resources necessary for supplying housing.

Possible Solutions

Municipal Housing: The town's governance may consider building, operating, and managing housing entirely on its own; this is classified as municipal housing. The origins of "public housing" in America came from governments reserving housing for low-income marginalized groups that were systematically segregated

3 Maria Wallstam, "Commentary | The Debate on Housing Supply Is Really about Monopoly," *The Mainlander*, August 16, 2013, <https://themainlander.com/2013/08/16/commentary-the-debate-on-housing-supply-is-really-about-monopoly/>.

4 "Nook's Homes," Nookipedia, accessed October 23, 2020, https://nookipedia.com/wiki/Nook%27s_Homes.

5 Ibid.

6 "Anti-Price-Gouging Act, 2001," Legislative Assembly of Ontario, accessed November 10, 2020, <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-37/session-3/bill-102>.

against by the private housing market in the 20th century.⁷ On the contrary, Western Europe developed “social housing,” a system where housing is developed privately but built on government-owned land and is publicly overseen, creating more of a partnership between private and public management.

Regulations and Incentives: The Federal Trade Commission defines antitrust laws as a series of laws that prohibit unlawful or predatory business practices with the intention to protect the process of competition, benefit consumers, incentivize efficient businesses, and keep prices low.⁸ Many governments have approached this by manually monitoring industries, opening a way for consumers to report unfair business practices, and even criminalizing and prosecuting those that go against these regulations.*

If regulating monopolies is a repressive approach, a softer one may be through direct incentives. For example, financially subsidizing firms to develop more affordable housing to increase supply.

*Note: within this committee’s fictional setting, there are no previously established or passed antitrust laws to go off on. Delegates may research existing laws from a variety of countries and communities as a frame of reference but must keep in mind that such laws are not pre-existing within this committee’s setting.

Gentrification

Lack of investment in low-income, affordable housing often leads to the process of gentrification; a neighbourhood’s cost of living increases beyond what is affordable for its residents and forces them out, replacing them with relatively affluent residents.⁹ This leads to home suppliers spiking their prices to drive out low-income households out of certain neighborhoods and resell to the highest bidders. Some refer to this practice as “urban colonialism.”¹⁰

Not only does gentrification often lead to direct displacement of lower income residents, it further amplifies the magnitude of urban poverty. A 2014 study on American metropolitan areas by the City Observatory found that, though around 5% neighborhoods developed out of high-poverty between 1970 and 2010, there was a much more devastating tripling of the number of high-poverty census tracts and disturbing doubling of the number of individuals in poverty.¹¹ Substantially more impoverished neighbourhoods became poorer than wealthier despite the gradual process of economic growth in the whole country. Gentrification is sometimes promoted as a way to make a neighborhood grow out of poverty as it lets the area benefit from residents who can afford higher property taxes amongst other contributing factors, yet it has proved to drive away those less fortunate and contribute to the increase of concentrated poverty.

Possible Solutions

Zoning: Market Urbanism lays out this approach to organizing cities into sections; each area/lot is designated

⁷ Will Merrifield and attorney, “How European-Style Public Housing Could Help Solve The Affordability Crisis,” NPR.org, accessed October 23, 2020, <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2020/02/25/809315455/how-european-style-public-housing-could-help-solve-the-affordability-crisis>.

⁸ “The Antitrust Laws,” Federal Trade Commission, June 11, 2013, <https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/competition-guidance/guide-antitrust-laws/antitrust-laws>.

⁹ “We Need to Change How We Think About Gentrification,” National Civic League, accessed October 23, 2020, <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/ncr-article/we-need-to-change-how-we-think-about-gentrification/>.

¹⁰ *ibid*.

¹¹ “City Observatory,” City Observatory, December 9, 2014, <http://cityobservatory.org>.

for certain usage and these lots are only permitted to be used for certain types of buildings.¹² Zoning specific properties to be used for apartments, condos, smaller houses could help fight against gentrification through legal regulations. This would increase the supply and density of housing, effectively reducing housing costs.

Rent Control: By capping how much the rent of housing units can be raised over a certain period of time, displacement of tenants who wouldn't be able to afford sudden spikes in rent costs would be limited. These regulations would essentially act as a form of insurance for low-income residents in gentrification at-risk communities.¹³ This does, however, raise concerns in the possibility of renters consuming excessive quantities of housing if not careful, as well as in the potential decay in rental housing stock as suppliers stop investing in maintenance because they predict no growth in profits over time.

Low Income

The previous discussion of poverty continues into its own problem. Certain individuals are economically worse off than others and cannot afford rising prices with a stagnant income. Since there is such a limited supply of housing and the median price of housing is so high, those with lower incomes have limited options.

Possible Solutions

Subsidized Housing: When housing is not affordable or greatly intrusive to consumers' lives due to its pricing, the government may step in to directly subsidize housing for the consumer by covering a certain amount of their rent or mortgage. Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) is a popular approach adopted by Ontario municipalities, where many suggest that rent/mortgage should only cost up to 30% of a consumer's gross monthly income.¹⁴

Self-Building: Practiced commonly in certain European countries such as the Netherlands, publicly managed self-building essentially allows individuals to buy plots of land directly from the government and customize their home in partnership with tradespeople, strengthening a relationship with the individual consumers and public authority and cutting out the profit-seeking middlemen.¹⁵

Possible PWP

Houses

Full-size, regular residential units. Most costly option. It should be decided on how many units will be made, what neighbourhood(s) they'll be built in, whether this process will be entirely dependent on the government or if it will be partially shared with private actors, and any other information that the sponsors deem as necessary.

Required department cooperation: P&H, I&E

¹² "Only 2 Ways to Fight Gentrification (You're Not Going to like One of Them)," Market Urbanism, January 28, 2015, <https://marketurbanism.com/2015/01/28/2-ways-fight-gentrification/>.

¹³ Rebecca Diamond, "What Does Economic Evidence Tell Us about the Effects of Rent Control?," Brookings (blog), October 18, 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/what-does-economic-evidence-tell-us-about-the-effects-of-rent-control/>.

¹⁴ "What Is Subsidized (Rent-Geared-to-Income) Housing and How Much Does It Cost? | District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board," accessed October 23, 2020, <https://www.psdssab.org/index.php/faq/what-is-subsidized-rent-geared-to-income-housing-and-how-much-does-it-cost/>.

¹⁵ "What Canada Could Learn from a Dutch Self-Build Housing Movement," accessed October 23, 2020, <https://www.macleans.ca/news/world/canada-learn-netherlands-self-build-movement/>.

Apartment

Large-scale, dense buildings that accommodate large sums of smaller residential units. Less costly than full-size housing. It should be decided on how many units will be made, what neighbourhood(s) they'll be built in, whether this process will be entirely dependent on the government or if it will be partially shared with private actors, and any other information that the sponsors deem as necessary.

Required department cooperation: P&H, I&E

Shelters

Temporary mass public housing — no private rooms. Least costly in the short term but requires continuous maintenance fees. It should be decided on what the scale of the building would be, which area of the town they'll be built in and any other information that the sponsors deem as necessary.

Required department cooperation: P&H, I&E, GG&L

Topic B: Sustainability and Waste Management

There is very little consideration for this topic within Animal Crossing: New Leaf's game play yet the oceans, lakes, trees, and ground are littered with trash. With this topic, the committee will tackle the pressing issues of waste management and its impacts on the community from the ground up in a world where no prior regulations exist.

Waste Generation

Production of waste has been a long-term global issue. The World Bank's 2018 report projected that "rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic development will push global waste to increase by 70% over the next 30 years."¹⁶ Businesses, households, and individuals all contribute to the abundance of produced waste. Within our municipality, there are no past nor current regulations or measures intended to fight this issue.

The problem with waste generation is that it is much more convenient to be wasteful than not. Often, the cheapest options of goods aren't sustainable, yet consumers don't seem to mind generating extra waste if it benefits their personal convenience. Modern throw-away culture exists because it is often cheaper to throw out an old good and replace it with a new one than to repair it. Not only that, but the positive reinforcement in the consumers' participation incentivizes businesses to further develop efficient production of replaceable, unsustainable goods. This circulatory chain of results leaves us with an economic model that, without intervention, will perpetually increase waste generation.¹⁷ No party involved in this system has any incentive not to participate in it. Despite the increasing societal costs of waste productions, individual players are continuously rewarded by the decrease of individual cost and thus have little to no consideration for the big picture.

Possible Solutions

Awareness: There are major social factors at play here. Conventional psychological studies show that communities tend to regulate themselves at the standard of the "social norm."¹⁸ For example, in combating a lacking social response to a recycling campaign, it was recorded that implementing messages suggesting that an individual's neighbourhood or social circle is participating in the campaign led to a near 200% increase in the number of participants.¹⁹ Public, informative campaigns to spread awareness of the ramifications of waste production and ways to minimize wasteful behaviour could help contribute to establishing a new, greener social norm. The 1976 Declaration of Tbilisi by UNESCO in 1977 wrote a report about the significance environmental education has as a tool to implement change and allow the population to understand the environmental crisis.²⁰

Regulations and Incentives: Though there are varying scales on which this solution can be carried out, it has

¹⁶ Silpa Kaza et al., *What a Waste 2.0 : A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050* (Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank., 2018), <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30317>.

¹⁷ Steven Gorelick, "Our Obsolescent Economy: Modern Capitalism and 'Throwaway Culture,'" accessed October 24, 2020, <https://theecologist.org/2017/sep/26/our-obsolescent-economy-modern-capitalism-and-throwaway-culture>.

¹⁸ Katherine White, David J. Hardisty, and Rishad Habib, "The Elusive Green Consumer," *Harvard Business Review*, July 1, 2019, <https://hbr.org/2019/07/the-elusive-green-consumer>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Florica Morar and Bucur Bogdan. "Raising Awareness on Waste Generation and Collection," 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proeng.2017.02.415>.

a lot of potential to effectively limit waste generation. Certain municipalities have successfully enacted anti-waste initiatives by fining households and businesses that do not properly dispose of waste, and charge for any waste production that exceeds a specified cap.²¹ As an example, Japan's Basic Recycling Act legally establishes the basic principle that recyclable resources should be processed based on priority.²² By defining such entities, this regulation places responsibility on consumers and business operators that dispose of waste. Another approach is to reward consumers and producers who choose to be environmentally aware in their practices, such as through direct subsidization of eco-friendly products. Japan also has a Small Home Appliance Recycling Act enacted in 2012 in which consumers, business operators, municipalities, and others were encouraged to recycle their small home appliances as they contain valuable resources and were eventually returned to consumers as products.²³

Methods of Storage and Disposal

In this town, there are no established public disposal services. Waste disposal/recycling is entirely privately managed by a local firm, Re-Tail. Due to their monopolistic hold on the community, they reap great profits by charging unreasonably high prices for the usage of proper methods of waste and recycling disposal, directly disincentivizing citizens from participating in recycling. Not only that, but because this firm has never been regulated, managed, or supervised by any external bodies, there is no way to be sure of what their disposal methods are and if they are actually ethical and environmentally friendly. Improper waste disposal such as incineration of hazardous waste may actually further harm the surrounding environment.²⁴

Another issue is the complete lack of infrastructure. This town lacks any form of landfills, waste treatment and recycling systems, composting plants, incinerators, and other important aspects of waste management services. Such infrastructure is necessary to carry out effective waste storage and disposal.²⁵ Without any public investment in this field, citizens are not left with much choice but to dispose of their waste in the ocean, bury it in the ground, or even to deposit it in forested areas. With much of the land, air, and sea polluted, the wellbeing of citizens is put at risk.

Possible Solutions

Un-Privatization: It is very much possible for this council to move towards a public waste disposal system. The question of how far this initiative should be taken is now what needs to be answered. There are many pros and cons to both the options of taking on this responsibility in its entirety or partially managing and overseeing private firms, in which economic, social, and policy factors should be considered.²⁶ Perhaps the adoption of landfills or other technologies through public consultation should be regarded with the utmost importance. In fact, Walter Lippmann observed that because the world was becoming too complex, complex issues such as

21 "These Policies Helped South Korea's Capital Decrease Food Waste," PBS NewsHour, March 19, 2017, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/policies-helped-south-koreas-capital-decrease-food-waste>.

22 Office of Sound Material-Cycle Society, Policy Planning Division, Waste Management and Recycling Department, Ministry of the Environment. "History and Current State of Waste Management in Japan," 2014. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/recycle/smcs/attach/hcswm.pdf>.

23 Ibid.

24 "What a Waste: An Updated Look into the Future of Solid Waste Management," World Bank, accessed October 24, 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2018/09/20/what-a-waste-an-updated-look-into-the-future-of-solid-waste-management>.

25 Ibid.

26 Julie Young, "Talking Trash: The Pros and Cons of Privatizing Waste Management," *The Municipal* (blog), August 5, 2018, <http://www.themunicipal.com/2018/08/talking-trash-the-pros-and-cons-of-privatizing-waste-management/>.

waste management required the public's participation in solutions rather than the institutions themselves.²⁷

Infrastructure: Investing in infrastructure development is a conventionally supported step towards improving waste management. This process would have to be a gradual one with the partnership of this council with its people, as much of the development would come from public resources (e.g. taxation). A successful public waste disposal system requires the interests of the community to be considered. In Kingston, Ontario, with their landfill closed, waste diversion options scarce, and hefty costs if they were to continue shipping waste to the US, China, and other regions, the city's officials were forced to look at implementing a local waste processing facility which would allow the city to turn garbage into a resource.²⁸ This practice eventually helped to create a long-term source of environmental and financial sustainability.

Environmental and Economic Ramifications

It goes without saying that poor waste management directly contributes to pollution and harm to the natural environment.²⁹ The current status of the town's environment is disastrous; less and less wildlife persist as their habitats are littered with solid waste and unsafe waste disposal is directly contributing to gas emissions.

Something to note is that within this town, interacting with natural resources is an essential part of sustaining economic activity. Townspeople make their livings off of fishing, bug catching, farming, and lumber collecting. The decreased quality and quantity of wildlife and other environmental aspects directly and negatively impacts individuals' livelihoods by threatening their sources of income. With the continuous urbanization of the town, these resources will become scarce and less green space will be available.

Possible Solutions

Reserved Parks: Establishing and enforcing zoned out reserves for certain purposes may help contain the negative impact that waste production has on the town's environment. This is a common practice that has been shown to preserve wildlife populations.³⁰ It is important to recognize that effective execution of this solution would be extremely dependent on research, as the municipality would have to assess what parts of the town hold the most prominent wildlife, are under the most danger, and other important factors in the quest to preserve biodiversity. For example, part of Parks Canada Agency's responsibilities includes the conservation of national parks, national marine conservation areas, and historic sites.³¹ These parks and areas help protect the environment as well as the rich ecosystems that comprise them.

Economic Stimulation: In the long term, it is important to recognize that capitalizing on natural resources can risk inevitable depletion, which may be sped up by the current lack of sustainable development. Considering ways to move the pressure of the town's economic development away from these industries may allow for citizens to find different sectors that may be more reliable sources of income. How should scarce resources

27 Myra J. Hird, Scott Loughheed, R Kerry Rowe, and Cassandra Kuyvenhoven. "Making Waste Management Public (or Falling Back to Sleep)." *Social Studies of Science* 44, no. 3 (2014): 441-65. Accessed November 13, 2020. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43284240>.

28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

30 ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, "'Portfolio' of Marine Reserves Enhances Fish Populations," ScienceDaily, accessed October 25, 2020, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200928152915.htm>.

31 Parks Canada Agency, Government of Canada. "Parks Canada Agency." Parks Canada Agency - History and culture, April 1, 2017. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/beefp-fhbro/roles/apc-pca>.

be allocated to meet desired goals? In fact, there is a lack of involvement from economists when it comes to environmental sustainable developments.³² This leads to a gap in understanding the decisions of production and consumption, resulting in poor environmental and economic impacts.

Possible PWPs

Landfill

A site for the storage of waste materials. Quite costly and would require perpetual maintenance. Should be decided where it would be and who would be responsible for its management.

Required department cooperation: I&E, GG&L

Disposal Infrastructure

This PWP has many distinct options for delegates to choose from in terms of what the infrastructure would specialize in. They are all generally equal in their cost but differ in function. For each option, delegates must decide where in town it would be located and who would be responsible for maintaining it.

Possible types: sorting plant, recycling, compost, incineration

Required department cooperation: I&E, GG&L

Parks

This option has been left flexible for the delegates to be able to decide on the details of what the function of a park would be — whether it's recreational, restricted, or if it fulfills any other purpose or requirement. Nonetheless, delegates must decide where it would be located, how big they'd want it to be, and who would maintain it. Due to the flexibility of this PWP, its cost would depend on how the council decides to define the park's exact specifications

Required department cooperation: I&E, P&H

32 Stephen Polasky, Catherine L. Kling, Simon A. Levin, Stephen R. Carpenter, Gretchen C. Daily, Paul R. Ehrlich, Geoffrey M. Heal, and Jane Lubchenco. "Role of Economics in Analyzing the Environment and Sustainable Development." PNAS. National Academy of Sciences, March 19, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1901616116>.

Topic C: Culture and Public Art

Urban planning presents a wonderful opportunity for communities to display both its local characteristics, as well as the plethora of diversities that make up its vibrant community. It is the responsibility of public governance to ensure that these diversities are represented and that the various values and beliefs best convey the community to the outside world. The town currently is extremely bare and lacks substantial cultural representation, as there has been no past actions intended to achieve these goals.

Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Political Subtexts

Art allows people to express their individuality through numerous creative mediums. It functions as a conduit for neighbourhood revitalization, and bridges the community together through unique cultural bonds.³³ Therefore, it is necessary that public art is representative of the varying beliefs and expressions that modern, diverse societies hold. As artists endeavour in creative projects, they aim to provide the community with an emotional response that intrigues the viewer.

Likewise, maintaining an inclusive culture through public art will promote long-term harmony between the varying demographics within our township. In order to avoid displaying repressive and oppressive artistic sentiments, there needs to be a firm education of the importance of diversity and multiculturalism. It goes without saying that communities gain through public art whether it be cultural, social, or economic value.³⁴ Thus, it is of great importance for the town to foster an environment that is welcoming and free from any alienating cultural signifiers. If negative emblems continue to be recognized as worthy of praise, then future generations of our citizens will have a distorted image of what it means to progress as a society.³⁵ The townspeople should seek to ensure the promotion of an equitable community through displaying and promoting culturally diverse public art.

Possible Solutions

Publicly Organized Events: Free events such as community art shows and public art galleries provide opportunities for the township to learn more about widespread diversity through the lens of art. These publicly organized events can be set up by the township, and can be a “great motivator for artists to keep advancing their work.”³⁶ Cultural diversity be expressed through art; art therefore has the ability to transform these public events into wonderful demonstrations of multicultural education and mentoring.³⁷ Community events provide both a platform for artists as well as a space for learning for the public.

Affirmative Action: Affirmative action was developed in the 1980’s as a method to address racial inequality

33 Carl Grodach, “Art Spaces in Community and Economic Development: Connections to Neighborhoods, Artists, and the Cultural Economy,” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 31, no. 1 (March 2011): 76, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X10391668>.

34 “Why Public Art Matters,” Americans for the Arts Public Network Council, accessed November 10, 2020, https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/PublicArtNetwork_GreenPaper.pdf.

35 German Lopez, “The battle over Confederate statues, explained,” *Vox*, August 23, 2017, <https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/8/16/16151252/confederate-statues-white-supremacists>.

36 Bill Shelley, “Why Community Art Shows Are Important,” *Bill Shelley Art* (blog), August 4, 2019, <https://www.billshelleyart.com/why-community-art-shows-are-important#:~:text=Art%20center%20shows%20can%20be,galleries%20and%20other%20exhibit%20spaces.&text=In%20the%20art%20world%2C%20if,pieces%20can%20justify%20the%20effort>.

37 Carl Grodach, “Art Spaces in Community and Economic Development: Connections to Neighborhoods, Artists, and the Cultural Economy,” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 31, no. 1 (March 2011): 80, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X10391668>.

and racial exclusion within academia and work environments in American society.³⁸ Here, it is important to promote the artistic talents of the groups that have been historically marginalized and rejected. By promoting and becoming educated on the artistic brilliance of many underrepresented communities, the potential for the town's diversity can expand ten-fold. Through affirmative action, those who have been disadvantaged will be propelled into improving the overall uniqueness of our town.

Art Classes: Education provides another basis for individuals to learn about the world that surrounds them. By promoting the education of visual arts, the township can atone for its lack of artistic diversity. This will lay the foundation for different demographics to display artistic works that are reflect of their unique culture, and that can ultimately contribute to the overall diversity of the town.

Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development

Aside from promoting the diversity and multiculturalism within a confined community, public art and culture also creates opportunities to increase economic development. Not only can social benefits arise from the town's unique diversity, it can attract visitors and customers from all across the growing world. Our town has seen a progressive shift towards promoting tourism and outside businesses. Thus, the promotion of multicultural art and public works within our community can certainly improve the likelihood of future economic growth.

Essentially, community-based artistic works indirectly support local economic growth by enhancing interaction between communities, which in turn creates revenue from new business ventures, job opportunities, and tourism.³⁹ People will always remain interested in learning about different cultures, histories, and identities. Likewise, they will seldom lose their knack for creativity, especially when it comes to promoting their works to those around. This is why public art and cultural promotion is not only essential for the makeup of society, but it is also integral to its economic survival.⁴⁰ The United Nations even deems cultural employment as imperative for the livelihoods of millions, all of whom wish to achieve the 8th Sustainable Development Goal of Inclusive and Sustainable economic growth.⁴¹ Much like how South Africa has seen its "cultural and creative industries" sector contribute to about 2.9% to its overall GDP, the town intends to see how economic growth can coincide with the promotion of diverse and multicultural artistic and cultural projects.

Although the town does have a community museum, it has operated solely off privately donated objects and has thus been struggling to attract much tourism. There have also been reports of cases where individuals submit counterfeit or fraudulent works to the museum which has damaged its reputation over time.

Possible Solutions

Art Galleries and Museums: Unlike publicly organized events, whereby individual creativity is prioritized over revenue and profits, art galleries and museums create permanent institutions that can achieve both artistic

38 Leah Shafer, "The Case for Affirmative Action," *Harvard Graduate School of Education*, July 11, 2018, <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/07/case-affirmative-action>.

39 Carl Grodach, "Art Spaces in Community and Economic Development: Connections to Neighborhoods, Artists, and the Cultural Economy," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 31, no. 1 (March 2011): 75, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X10391668>.

40 Larry Alton, "How culture and art influence economic development," *Economic Development News & Insight* (blog), July 24, 2015, <https://economicdevelopment.org/2015/07/how-culture-and-art-influence-economic-development/>.

41 "Cultural Employment," UNESCO Institute for Statistics, accessed November 10, 2020, <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/cultural-employment>.

and economic success. Not only do museums and galleries display works from artists in our own town, they can purchase and sell works from individuals who are not necessarily from our community, allowing for an even more diverse promotion of artistic and cultural works.

International Business and Trade: One can consider cultural trade to be the nexus between creativity and globalization.⁴² Through limiting the barriers to international trade and foreign businesses, the town's prospects for urban, cultural, and economic development will greatly increase. International trade creates opportunities for our town to obtain goods and services that are culturally diverse. Likewise, an influx of international businesses contributes to the growing inclusivity and diversity that our community intends to espouse. Economic growth and urban development becomes a successful byproduct of increased global reach.

Expanding the Bureaucracy: Much like how the province of Ontario has a Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries,⁴³ or how the government of Canada has a Department of Canadian Heritage,⁴⁴ our township could look to invoke a dedicated part of its municipal leadership towards expanding the bureaucracy. Our town should look to uniting culture, tourism, and economic development as a singular unit. By creating new departments within the local government, urban expansion can become more reliant upon cultural and artistic factors, and how they interact with neighbouring regions. Bureaucracy will allow for issues of art and culture once deemed unworthy of focus to now become primary areas of concern for particular departments.

Possible PWP's

Art Galleries

This PWP is open for interpretation on what the council intends for an art gallery to act as in the community. This would then go on to help answer the questions of where it would be and what the scale of it would be, as well as what the process of its maintenance would be; these factors would all contribute to the final cost of the project.

Required department cooperation: E&CD, I&E

Public Monuments

This PWP is open for interpretation on what the council intends for a monument to act as in the community. This would then go on to help answer the questions of who it would be commissioned from, where it would be and what the scale of it would be, as well as what the process of its maintenance would be; these factors would all contribute to the final cost of the project.

Required department cooperation: E&CD, I&E

42Jen Snowball, "How international trade can unlock the potential of the cultural economy in developing countries," *The Conversation*, January 20, 2020, <https://theconversation.com/how-international-trade-can-unlock-the-potential-of-the-cultural-economy-in-developing-countries-126793>.

43 "Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries," Government of Ontario, accessed November 10, 2020, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/government-ontario>.

44 "Canadian Heritage," Government of Canada, accessed November 10, 2020, <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage.html>.

Advice for Research and Preparation

Delegates may refer to https://nookipedia.com/wiki/Main_Page for any Animal Crossing: New Leaf specific knowledge. It is strongly advised that delegates ensure that the information they are gathering is relevant to the New Leaf edition of the game and not other alternative ones.

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- "What a Waste: An Updated Look into the Future of Solid Waste Management," World Bank, accessed October 24, 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2018/09/20/what-a-waste-an-updated-look-into-the-future-of-solid-waste-management>.

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