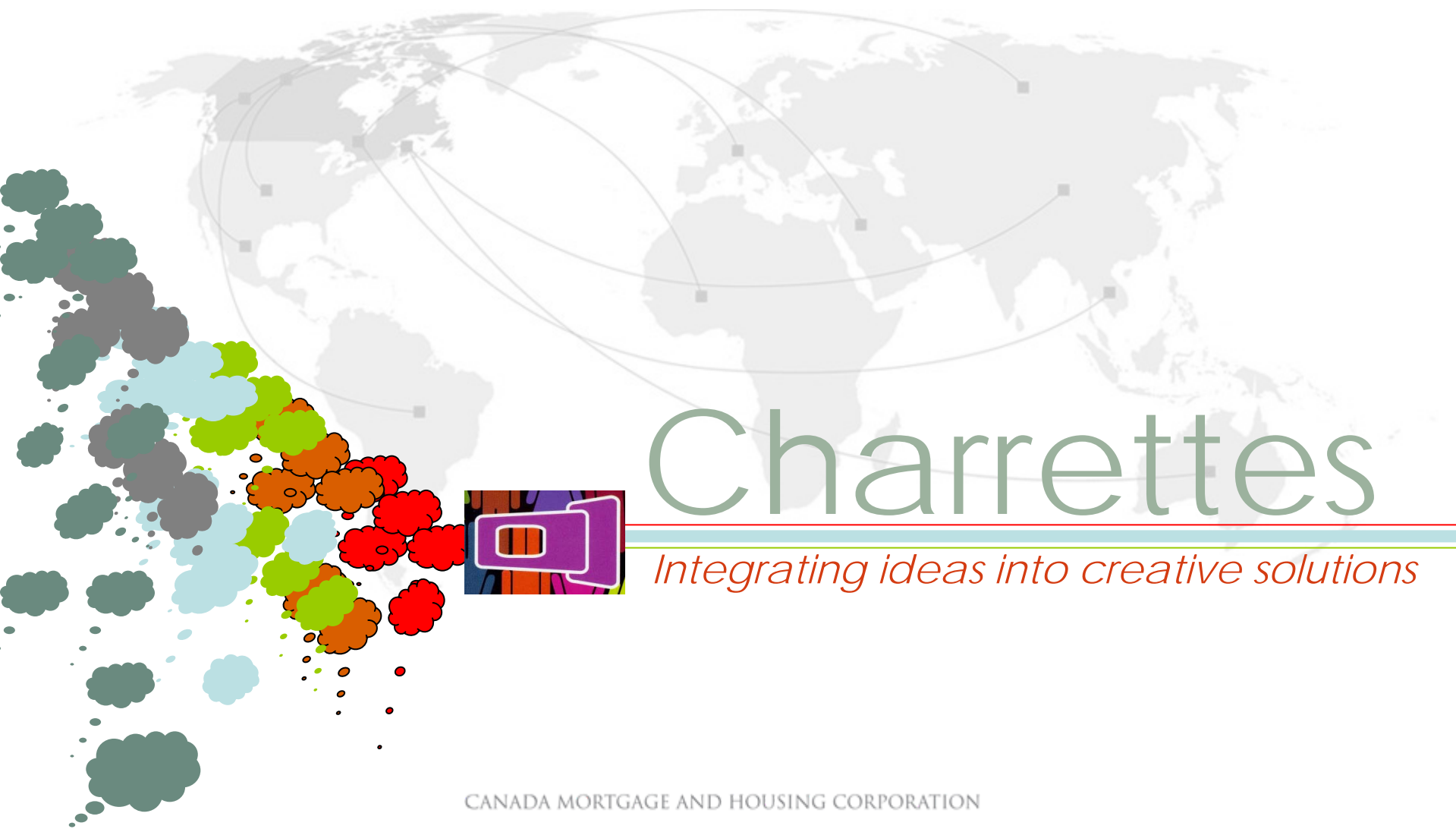




How community stakeholders can design safe, inclusive neighbourhoods





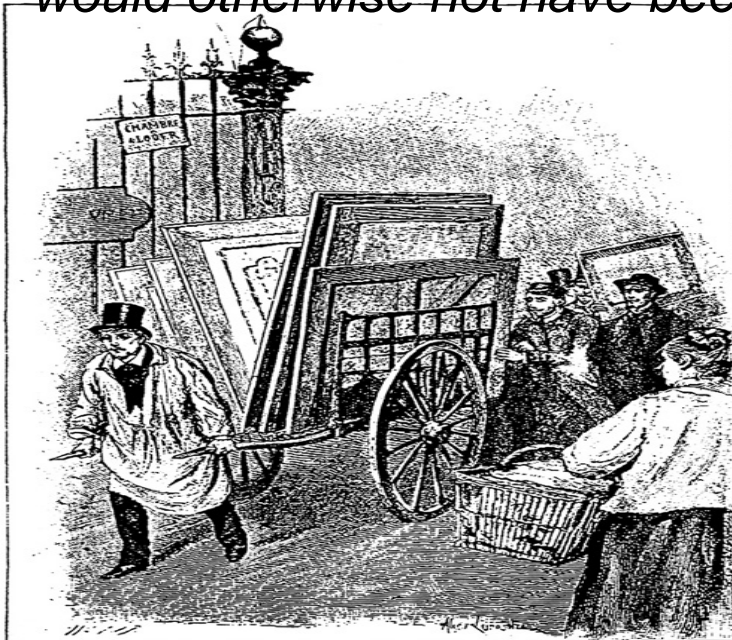
Charrettes

Integrating ideas into creative solutions

Charrettes are:

An intensive, multi disciplinary, multi day “illustrative brainstorming”

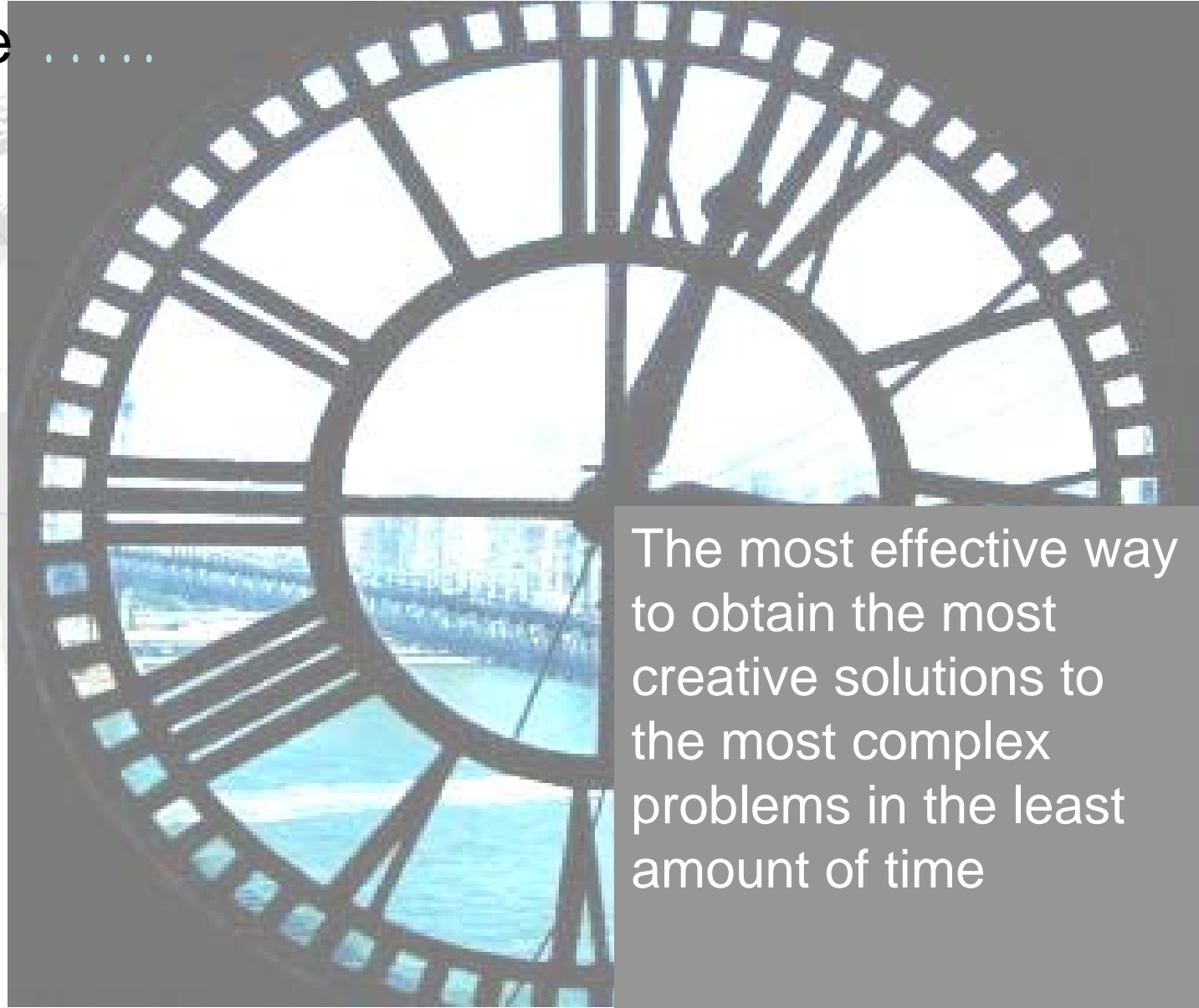
process used to generate ideas and design solutions that would otherwise not have been thought of.



École des beaux arts assigned complex one day problems which were collected by cart (charrette). Missing the cart meant failure

Frantic students sometimes jumped in with their assignments in order to finish thus working “en charrette”

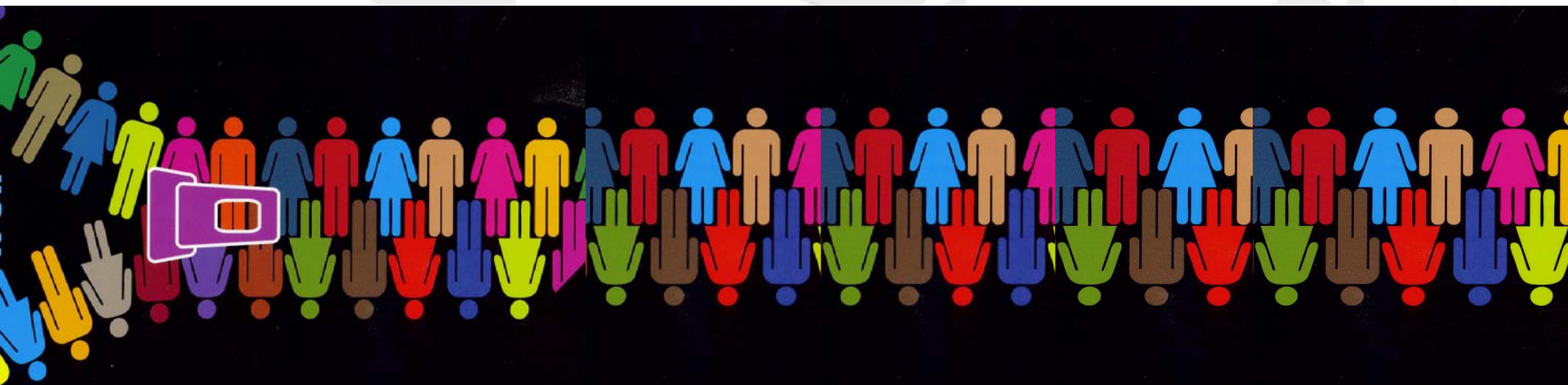
Charrettes are



The most effective way to obtain the most creative solutions to the most complex problems in the least amount of time

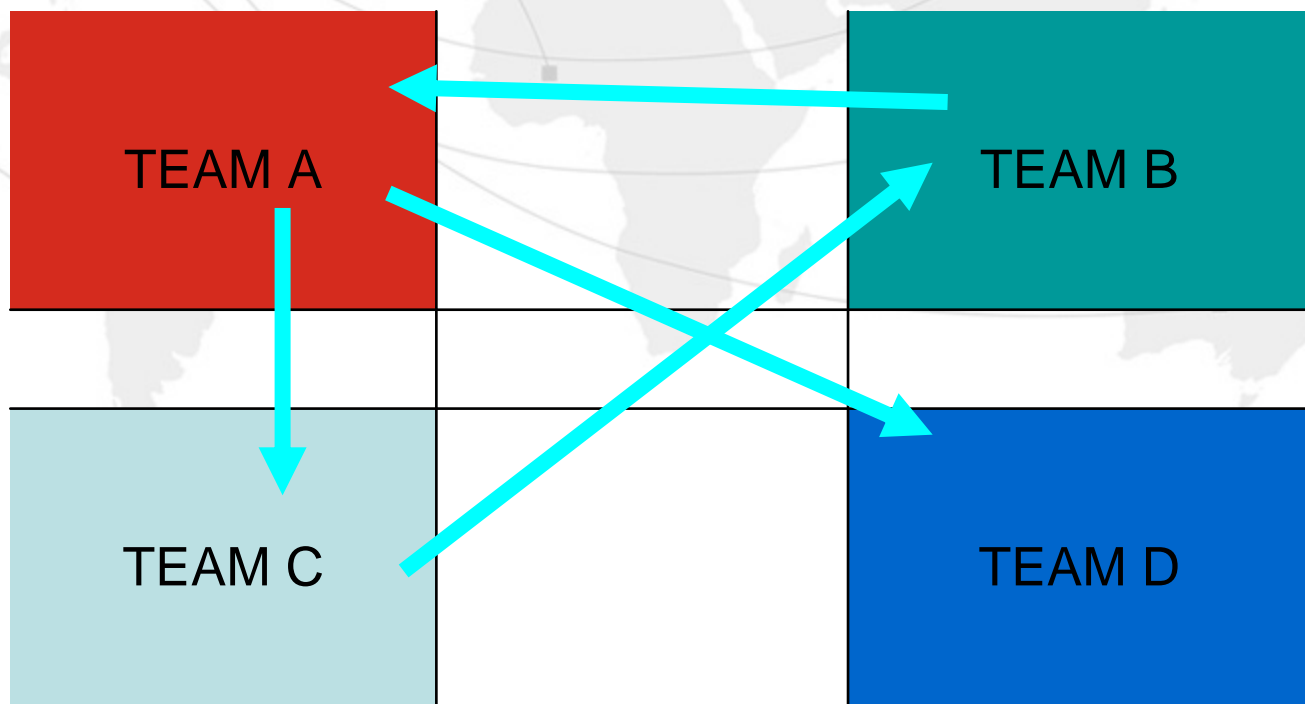
Charrettes are also

- a pivotal event in the integrated planning process
- the means by which to fit everyone and every idea together



Charrette features:

several teams working at once on the same problem and exchanging ideas frequently



Charrette features:

- **Specific Goals and targets**
- **A design brief:** provides performance measures for each sustainability feature – teams must brainstorm solutions that meet all goals
- **Multi-disciplinary teams**
- **Process:** constant invention, ongoing discussion and feedback, negotiation
- **Deliverables**
- **Innovative design solutions that incorporate numerous sustainability goals**
i.e housing, recreational needs, parking, traffic, landscaping, water management
- **Deadlines**
- **Fun and food**

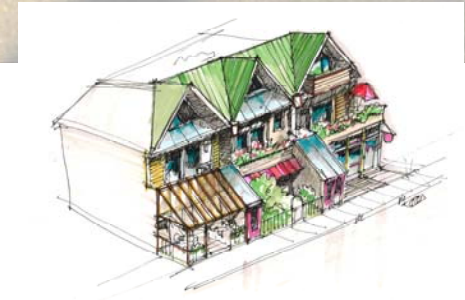
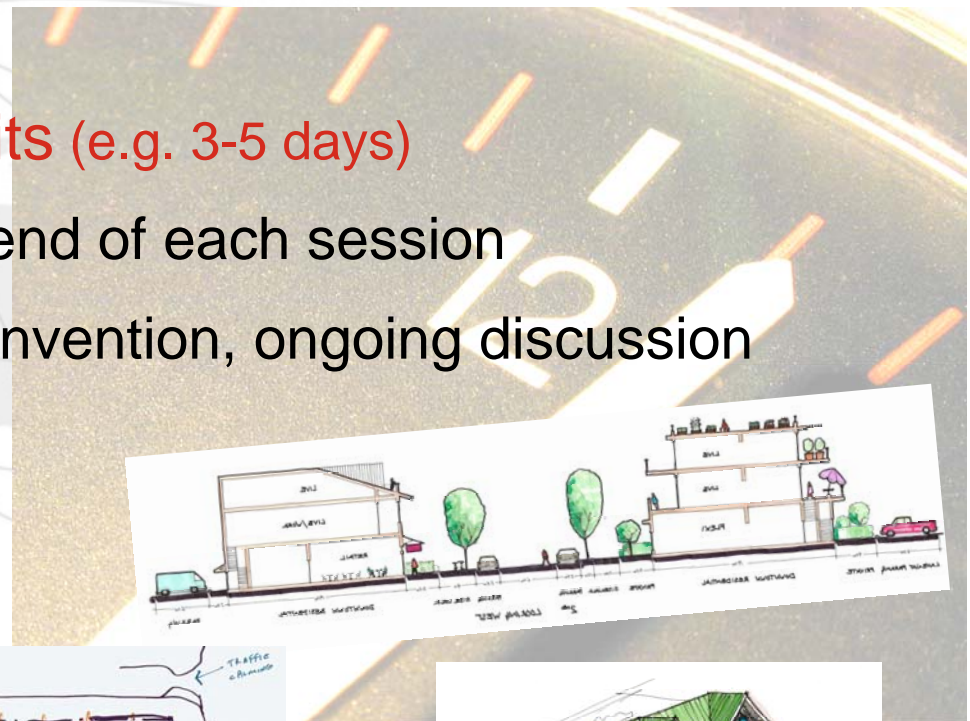
Multi-disciplinary teams

- engineers, planners, architects, environmental specialists, community members
- all cross-checking plans and ideas throughout process
- produces “robust” concepts and innovative solutions



Charrette features:

- **Deadlines/ time limits** (e.g. 3-5 days)
- **Deliverables** at the end of each session
- **Process** = constant invention, ongoing discussion and negotiation



Before the charrette



Develop a charrette charter

Collate existing plans and studies

Identify and fill gaps

Set charrette goals and targets

Complete Charrette Brief

During the Charrette



Day 1 TALK

Introduction
Site tour
Opportunities and
constraints

Day 2-3 DOODLE

Diagrammatic concept
plans
Blended concept plans
Public review
Detailed concepts

Day 4-5 DRAW

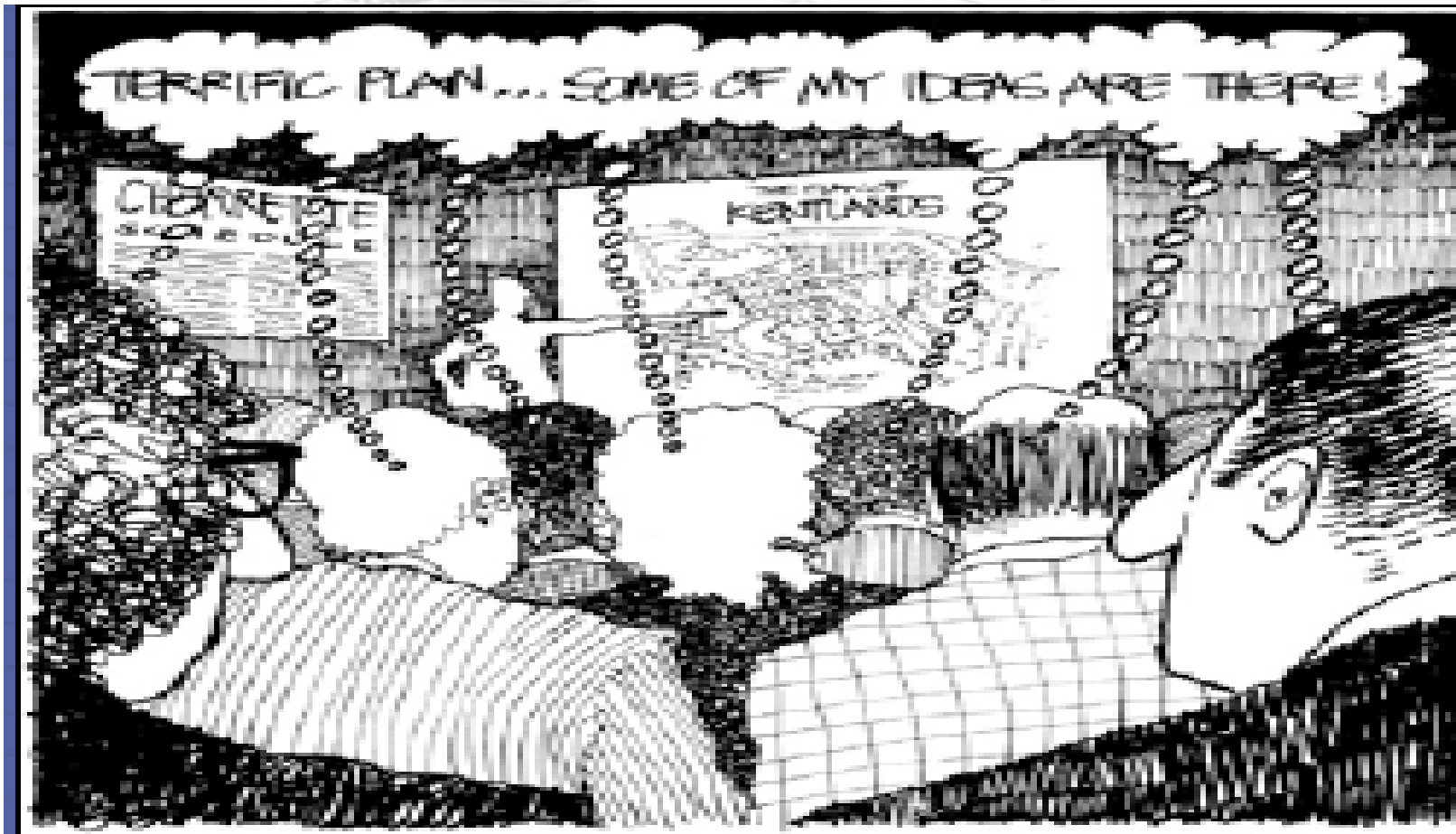
Detailed drawings
Public presentation

After the charrette

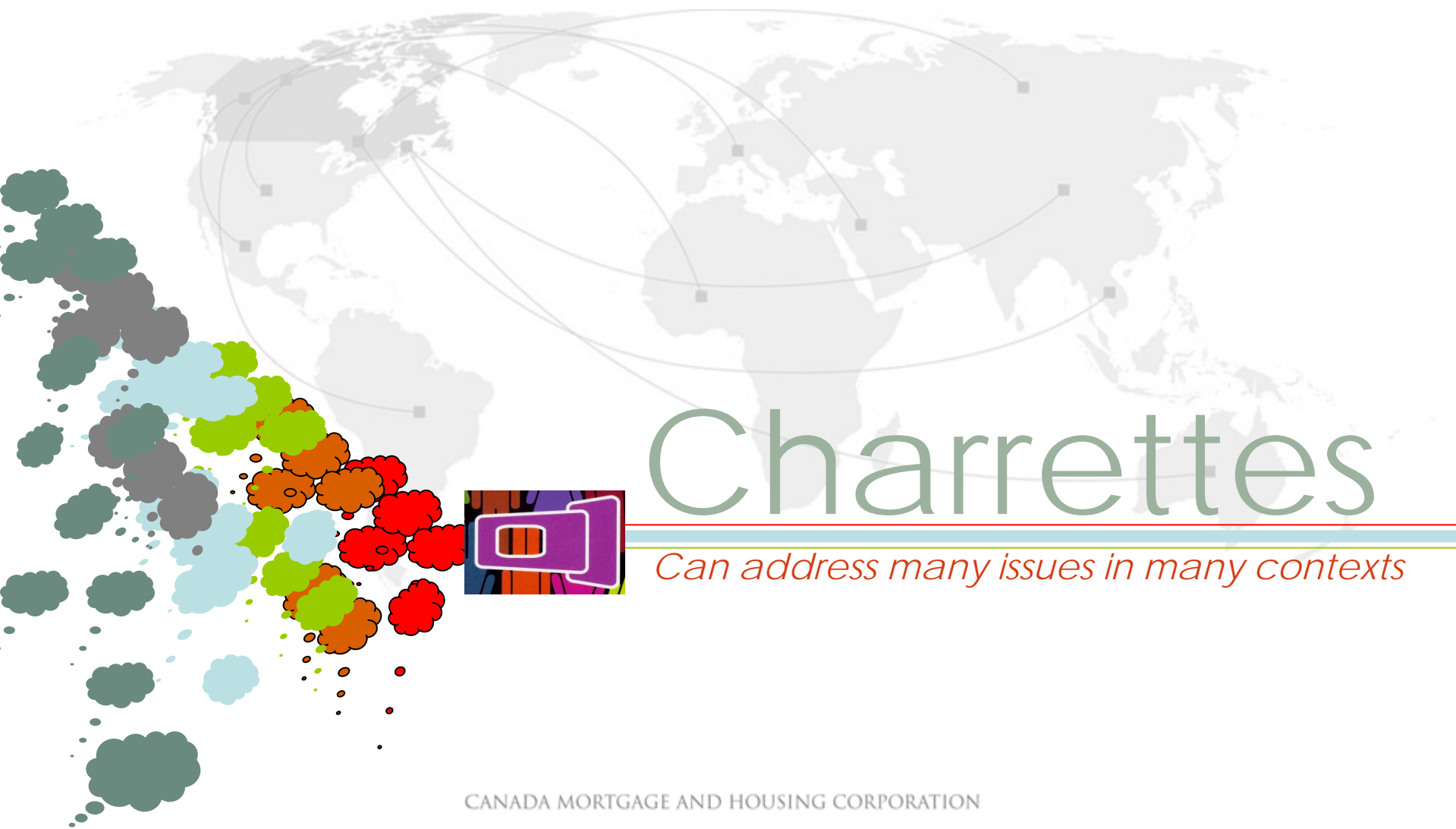


organize
review
summarize
evaluate
refine
report: website
media

Charrette results:



Drawn for The Washington Post, 1988, by Roger K. Lewis, FAIA, Professor, U. Maryland School of Architecture



Charrettes

Can address many issues in many contexts





neighbourhood revitalization
Old North End, St. John New Brunswick:

St John: Neighbourhood revitalization action plan

Issues

- a small struggling neighbourhood with Issues of poor housing stock, low percentage of owner-occupied units, absentee landlords, crime
- physically divided from the rest of the city.
- strong community group, ONE Change, includes community members, business owners, and leaders, youth, seniors, etc.
- Charrette mandate: identify a plan to reverse current trends



- From many ideas to a plan and a project in four days



	Housing	Community & Social Services	Concerning youth	Health & Well-being	Health
120 Victoria Park improvements (washing well, benches, game boards)	3	1			2
121 Music practice space (soundproof, instruments, etc.)	3	1	2		
122 Stage / amphitheatre	3	1	2		
123 Place to watch movies	2	1			
124 Ice cream parlour			1	2	
Developing leadership and confidence					
125 Job shadowing for kids			1	2	
126 Walk home program (kids & seniors)	3	1		2	
127 Apprenticeship program for youth to do renovations	3		1	2	
128 Youth volunteer program (link with seniors)	3	1	2		
129 Recognize youth achievements - Order of the Maple Leaf	2	1			
LEARNING & SKILL DEVELOPMENT					
For community members					
130 Vocational training / trade skill promotion	3		2	1	
131 Peer mentorship / tutors (peer to peer)		2		1	
132 French schools & classes			2	1	
133 Reading mentor program	3	2	1		
134 Mobile school / training	3	2	1		
135 Art classes	3	2	1		
136 Sewing classes			2	1	
Providing programs and services					
137 Legal aid	3			1	2
138 CAP site (computer access and training)			2	1	
139 Employment workshops (resumes, interviews, etc.)	2	3	1		
140 Employment & development programs in ONE	2		1		
141 SED programs (@ Community Centre)	2	3	1		
142 Library	3	2	1		

ACTION PLAN

WINDS OF CHANGE PROJECT



output
178 possibilities

refine
categorize projects

plan
prioritize



Implement catalyst project
more housing. police station



a sustainable subdivision
plan

Iqaluit Nunavut

Iqaluit subdivision

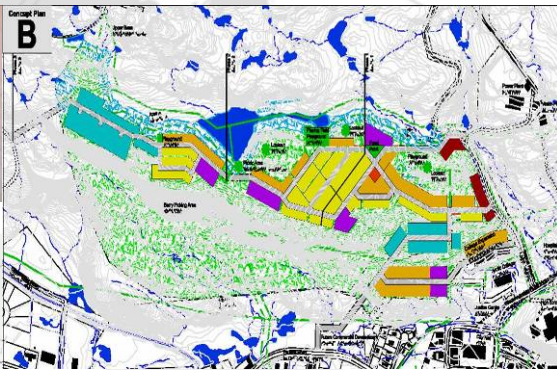
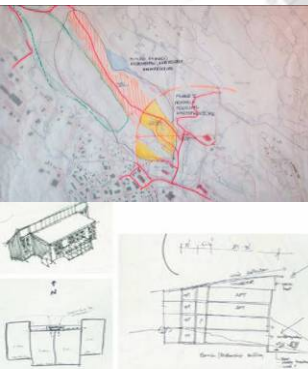
Issues

- fast growing community
 - high housing costs
 - high construction costs
 - high fuel costs
- (all supplies come by air or annual ship)
- delicate landscape (permanently frozen)
 - numerous social issues



- Charrette mandate: develop phased subdivision plan with minimal environmental impact, affordable, energy efficient housing and work opportunities

Iqualuit subdivision



Unanimous council approval



output
3 days

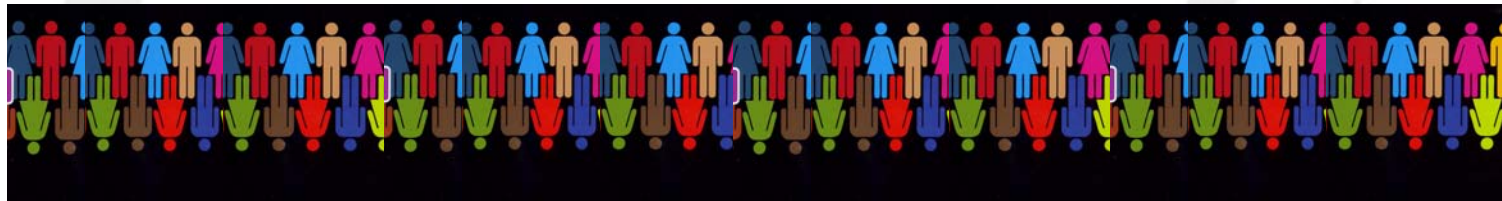
Refinement
one month



Approval
6 months



Project initiated
In one year



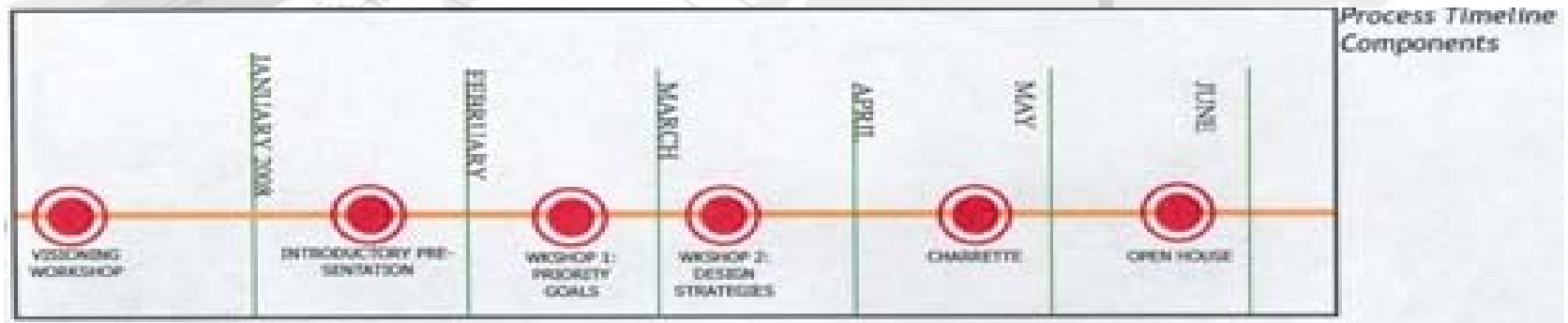


Rivergreen Eco Village Urban Infill Project Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Non profit group wishes to build
low cost,
high performance mixed use
project
to demonstrate green
construction,
revitalize waterfront and
neighbourhood



Rivergreen Charrette Process



Visioning workshop (75)

Priority goals workshop (75)

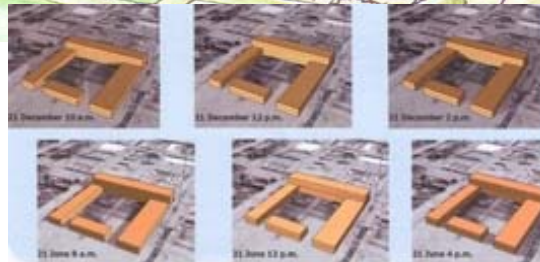
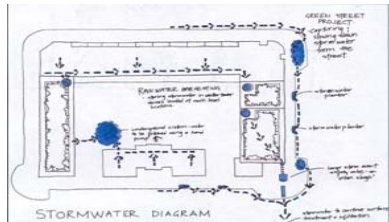
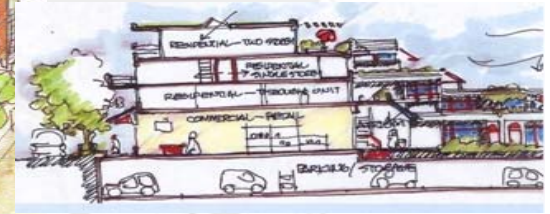
Design strategies workshop (75)

Charrette for smaller design team (30)

Open houses during charrette for full input


Follow up open house for city and community

Rivergreen charrette outputs



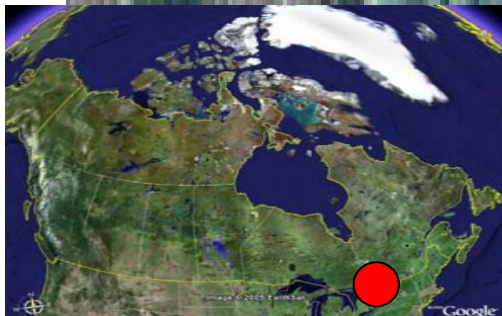
One scheme:

- plans
- sections
- sketches, renderings
- shadow studies,
- infrastructure schematics, rough modelling

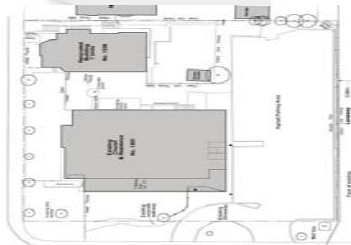


Apartment building retrofit

Green Phoenix Project, Toronto, Ontario



Green Phoenix apartment retrofit



Issues

- **City:** 3M, fast growing, multicultural, many distinct neighbourhoods
- **Neighbourhood:** older, tired, houses numerous marginalized citizens and recent immigrants
- **Site:** small with tower/ church, converted house / food bank, parking lot
- **Tower** does not match neighbourhood character or scale, outdated standards

Green Phoenix apartment retrofit



Issues (continued)

Client: demolished own church for low cost housing 40 years ago, urgent need to add more units and demonstrate viability of sustainable approach



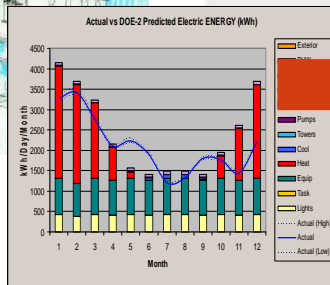
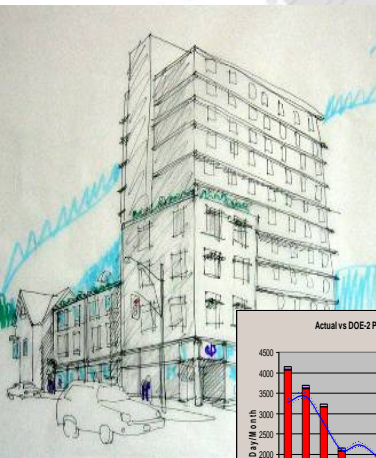
City: no more high rise, maintain neighbourhood form

Neighbours: privacy, solar access, traffic, increased density

Charrette mandate: integrate all points of view: find compatible form for more units at low cost and high performance



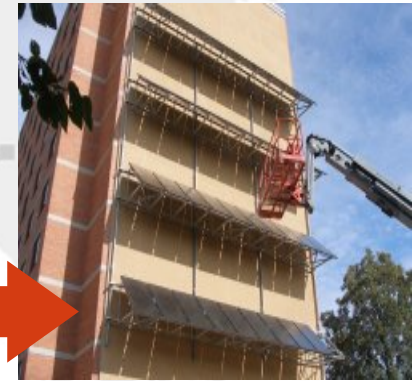
Green Phoenix apartment retrofit



Outputs: 3 options in 3 days



refinement (one scheme)
and approval 2 weeks



all parties consent

\$2m funding secured

Advances to
construction





Inner city neighbourhood planning

South East False Creek, Vancouver

, BC

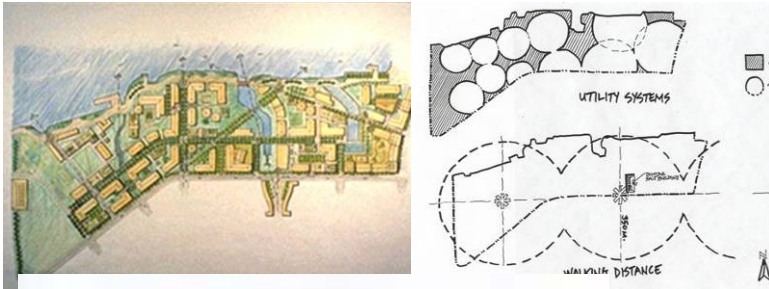
- **City:** Fast growing, geographically constrained needs profitable high density development on city owned brownfield site
- **Planning:** sought sustainable green neighbourhood... developed 250 page sustainable guidelines with citizen input
- **Citizens:** demanded more park space, neighbourhood character preservation
- **Charrette Charter:** integrate city demands, sustainable guidelines, development and citizen desires



Zoning incorporates LEED silver building standards (first in North America)



Site chosen for Olympic Village Neighbourhood to become sustainable district and upgraded to Gold standard





Charrettes

Can adapt to suit context and budget

Alternate charrette formats: involve children and youth



Children have amazing insight and can contribute directly or conduct cross informing concurrent sessions



Alternate Charrette Formats



\$500 budget
Uses city hall (free) volunteers, post it notes instead of computers



During
charrette



Post charrette by local architect

Alternate charrette formats: Canadian first nations



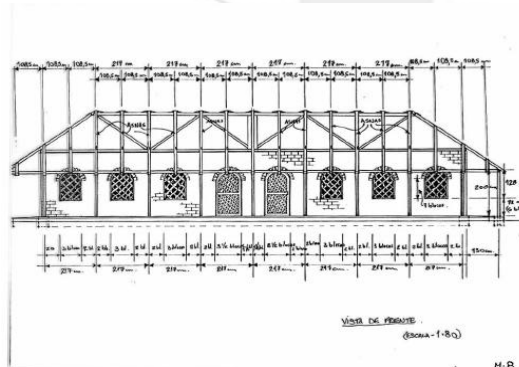
Northern Quebec Cree community:
uses traditional structure and means of
dialogue
Including sweat lodge ceremony to
start

Alternate charrette formats



Existing school

African school
redesign and
reconstruction

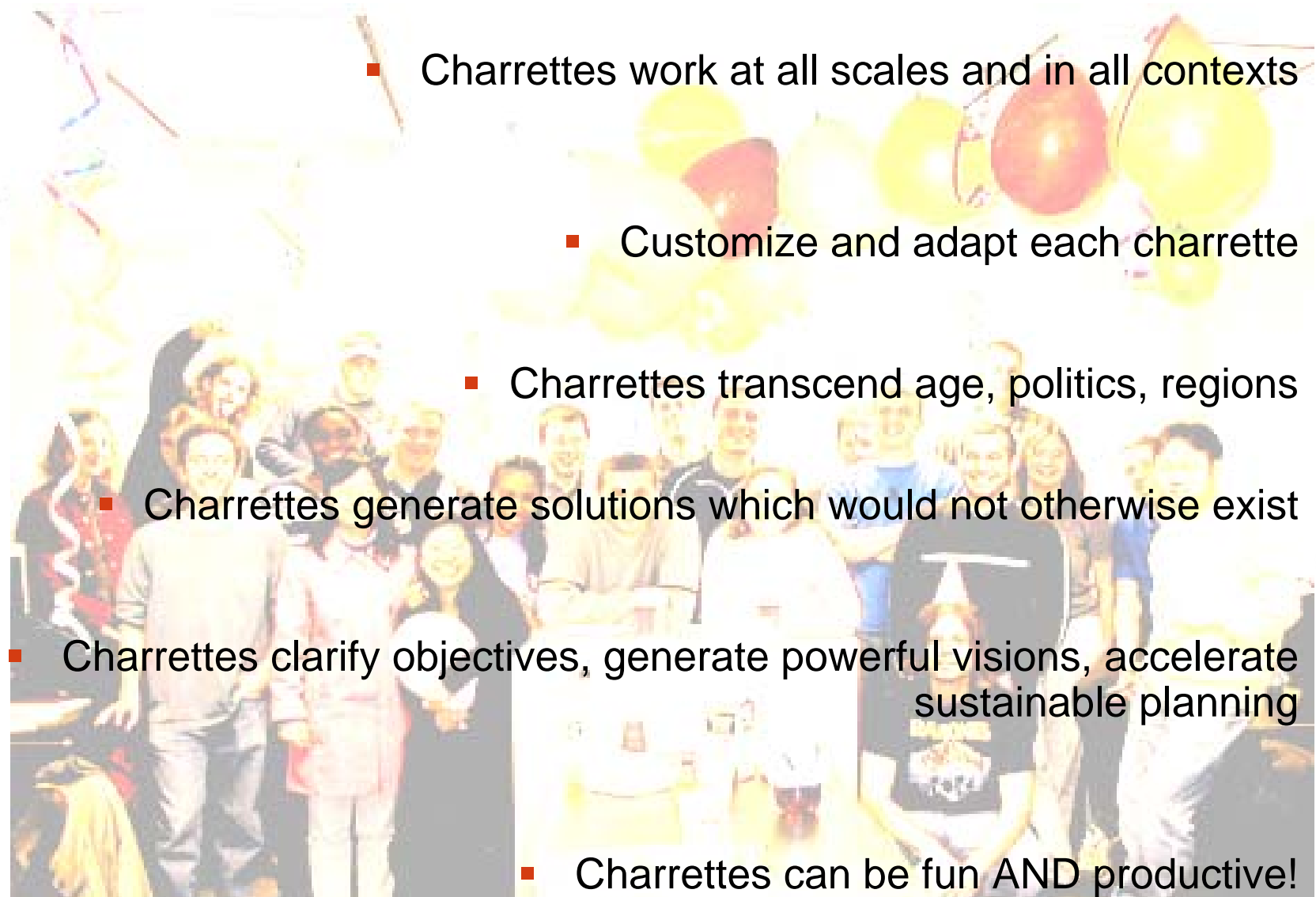


Alternate Charrette formats: Moratuwa Sri Lanka



Post tsunami charrette to design women' center





- Charrettes work at all scales and in all contexts
 - Customize and adapt each charrette
 - Charrettes transcend age, politics, regions
 - Charrettes generate solutions which would not otherwise exist
- Charrettes clarify objectives, generate powerful visions, accelerate sustainable planning
 - Charrettes can be fun AND productive!

Thank You

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