



Healthy Food and Urban Agriculture for Regenerating cities?

Case studies in San Diego



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CLUDs: heuristic & holistic

CLUDs research program is gambling on subjects that show a powerful potential for identifying innovative tools in urban regeneration policies

The “PPP architectures” and the “Urban-rural relationships” are proving to be an intriguing intuition, predicting visions and outcomes to be validated following the “heuristic approach”

Also, they are involving a multifaceted panel of topics, issues and competences, which can be managed only through a “holistic” vision

What role of Healthy Food policy and Urban Agriculture approach for regenerating cities?



Starting points before San Diego....

- General framework: “Urban-rural relationship” issue
- Farmers’ Market and Community Garden phenomena
- Continuity with the research axis and findings of the first year in Boston (“PPP architectures”, identity and role of non-profit organizations for urban regeneration)

Case studies in San Diego: choice criteria

- Explicit or implicit significance relating to “Healthy food” and “Urban Agriculture” strategies
- Location within problematic areas; recognized revitalization priority by the city government and local community
- Potential of generating enduring effects for starting or enhancing a “virtuous circle” in terms of urban regeneration in its multifaceted interpretations (not only economic and physical, but social, environmental, cultural, symbolic,...)

Case studies in San Diego: choice criteria

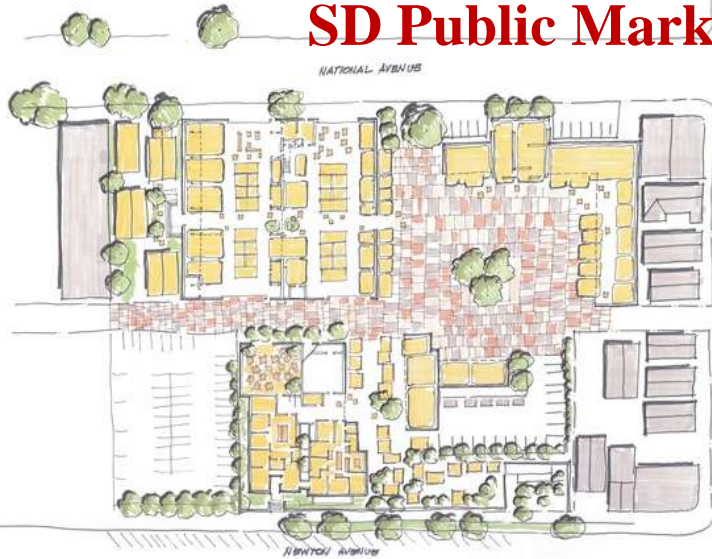
- Representativeness of the variety of initiatives in the city in terms of actors, partnerships, social value, community involvement, economic sustainability, mixed use functions, identity
- Possibility of interpreting the project within a polysemous and systemic vision embedded in the “civitas”, supported by the public administration and joined by the majority of stakeholders

San Diego Case studies – “Sapienza” FOCUS Unit



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SD Public Market



New Root Community Farm



Market St Food Collaborative



San Diego: the general context

- Towards a new season of project initiatives within a moderately confident vision for re-boosting economy and pursuing “fair, equitable redevelopment”
- “Awarded” General Plan of the city (2008) emphasizing the “Villages” dimension, with “ad hoc” cogent amendments (2012, Community gardens, Retail farms)
- Contradictory condition between a traditional conservative and bureaucratic identity and the political vision of the renovated city government for a “new deal”

Case studies in San Diego: the first findings

- Farmers' market and community garden phenomena as the “tip of the iceberg”: potential “critical mass” in related activities
- Emphasis on Community involvement (and empowerment?) with the rising importance of healthy and ethnic food implications (social inclusion, pro-active education, limited but socially significant economic rebounds)
- “Rediscovery” of ancient European models (i.e. “historical” public permanent market) looking at US examples as central places

Case studies: rediscovery of European models through US



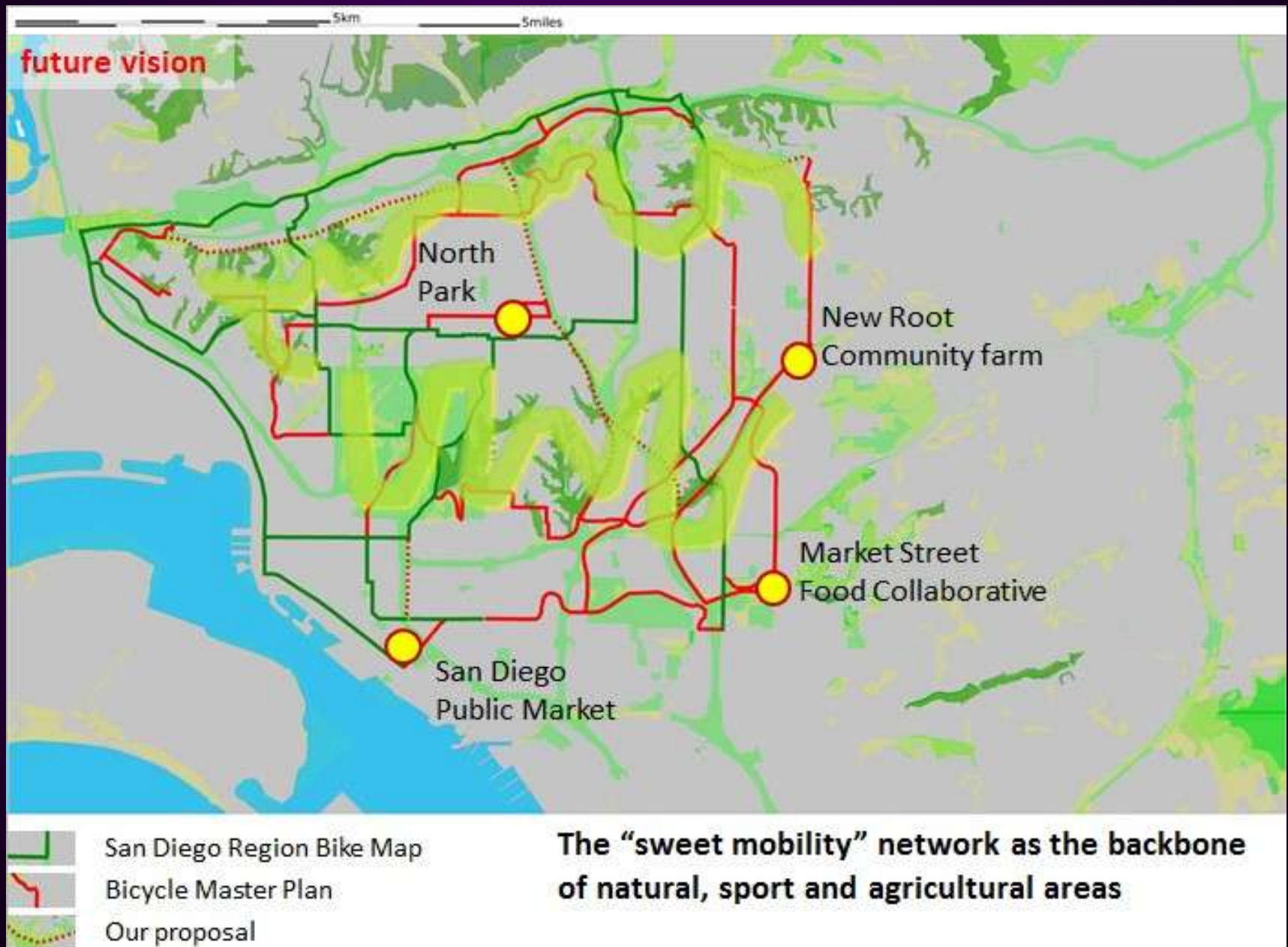
Case studies: rediscovery of European models through US



Case studies in San Diego: the first findings

- Risk of delaying or paralyzing the project cycle due to “dialogue difficulties” among non-professional proponents (i.e. non-profits) and the public government
- Project follow-up by the public administration typically “Common law” driven (more “referee”, less “turbine”)
- Facilities as self-referential spot projects; lack of an integrated vision for creating complex facility attractors and central place systems; weak or absent relationship with the open space and “sweet” mobility network

San Diego Case studies – “The Healthy network”



What role of Healthy Food policy and Urban Agriculture approach for innovating Urban regeneration strategies?

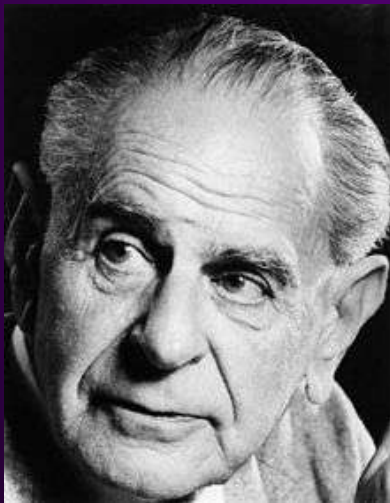
Concurrent, complementary role with interesting potential if:

- Integration, not competition with the “powerful land-uses”
- Availability of land resources (advantage of low density!)
- UA as part of the “greening strategy” of settlements
- Public inter-institutional cooperation (County, SANDAG, Greater City, local administrations,...) within shared goals
- Proactive role of the public sector (from “rule manager” to “program driver and booster”)

Healthy Food policy & Urban Agriculture

Closing the circle....

So, at the moment, we can be **reasonably confident** on the **concurrent virtuous impact** for regenerating cities, but...



as we are supposed to have a
scientific approach,

Karl Popper reminds us that
nothing is more scientifically true
than what can be falsified !!