

SCENARIO for Unit 1b

After consulting with you about the events proposed in scenario 1a, OPSS City Repair is especially interested in sponsoring events for their central intersection – which is now an increasingly popular gathering place (see the "Transform Space Into Place") – that would establish common ground between all neighbors rather than focusing on different religious practices. City Repair staff have communicated to interested neighbors that they want to find ways to draw on existing relationships in the neighborhood (i.e., the "social web") to create a practice that neighbors will be actively participate in and want to perpetuate.

Knowing that you have studied colonial and modern Indian communities ("social webs") whose participation reinforced and perpetuated certain practices, the City Repair staff consults you about the three options they are considering (see links in on-line schedule for more information):

- A. A senior African-American man, who has been making art all his life as a hobby, recently saw an Igbo mask at a museum exhibit and was reminded of his grandmother's proud stories of the Igbo tribe (current day Nigeria) resisting colonizing forces. He wants to gather African American, Latino and Caucasian neighbors to help him **create sculptures and a mural** for the intersection that draw on this powerful Igbo symbol.
- B. A Sacramento State professor has lived nearby in Oak Park for several decades and gathered local stories of past and present. She is now writing a **novel showcasing local characters** and would like to **read highlights** of it at an intersection gathering.
- C. One neighborhood woman is a longtime member of the Fenix Drum and Dance Company, which has recently created a **Black History Month performance** that "chronicles the lives of women of African descent through a series of dramatic monologues set to haunting drumbeats and against a backdrop of colorful handmade quilts" (see company web site). They propose to bring this performance to the newly popular neighborhood intersection.

Having heard from you that these kinds of events are similar to certain artifacts and narrative traditions of colonial and modern India, the City Repair staff has asked **offer some advice about how to facilitate these activities effectively**, given that they want the existing neighborhood social web to perpetuate the practice through encouraging the participation of people in distinct roles.

HOMEWORK: Gather evidence from the on-line historical records of the medieval Indian practices assigned for this unit (see schedule) that helps you evaluate the way(s) that the **social web** associated with each practice **perpetuates the practice** through **participation** of people in **distinct roles**

- Identify **actions, objects, words, spaces/locales** and **roles & relationships** in each social web associated with the Indian sources, which show ways **social web perpetuates practice** by actively **engaging people in distinct roles**. ****MAKE SURE TO CITE PAGE #S FOR EACH EXAMPLE****
- Since you will eventually be asked to apply what you learned to activities A-C proposed above, **look for ways that the historical Indian practices are similar to those contemporary activities**.