

Reading #3: Ladder of Citizen Participation

It is important to note that this article is a testament to time involving how the planning participates or citizens can affect the planning outcome. The article written in the 60's utilizes a ladder and eight rungs in hierarchy as a supporting analogy to its intent. At the base of the ladder we have Manipulation where the planners are educators to the citizens. Next up the ladder we have therapy, which is a self-rioting indignation of patronizing citizens. Up we have Informing, which at the time participation was "Top Down." Another rung is informing, then placation, which these are barely giving citizens real participation rights. It is not until the Partnership rung that citizens really have a say. Next is delegated power where the "say" can input consequences or other outcomes. Finally it is with the top rung of Citizen Control that puts the outcome of a project in the hands of the citizens.