

Project 2 Proposal

Topic:

The localist practice I chose is a theater company called Swamp Gravy based in Colquitt Georgia. It is an independent nonprofit run only by the residents of Golquitt and networks from local businesses within the area. By including local inhabitants in every aspects of the show (writing, producing, business development), Swamp Gravy creates productions that reflect the community. Branding and marketing are done by local businesses, while Swamp Gravy's gives back to its local economy through its highly coveted theater performances. Because the performances feature true stories from residents, Swamp Gravy gives a voice to its people and addresses economic, political and environmental concerns locally.

Archive:

Shuman, Michael. "Making the Case for Localism." *ABA Journal* 94.6 (2008): 6. *BALLE*. Nov. 2014. Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <bealocalist.org>

Swamp Gravy. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<http://swampgravy.com/>>.

Swamp Gravy - Partners for Livable Communities. Partners for Livable Communities, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<http://livable.org/livability-resources/best-practices/94>>.

Wilson, Teresa Cheeks. "How a Small Town in Georgia Survives on Swamp Gravy." *How a Small Town in Georgia Survives on Swamp Gravy*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2009. Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/bridges/summer-2009/how-a-small-town-in-georgia-survives-on-swamp-gravy>>

Conversation:

Hess, David J. *Localist Movements in a Global Economy: Sustainability, Justice, and Urban Development in the United States*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2009. Print.

Hess questions if localism can contribute meaningful solutions to social/environmental problems by just "opting out" of the global economy. He argues that localism must be rooted in a larger project to construct an alternative to a global based economy.

Kurland, Nancy B., Sara Jane Mccaffrey, and Douglas H. Hill. "The Localism Movement: Shared and Emergent Values." *Journal of Environmental Sustainability JES* 2.1 (2012): 1-14. *RIT Scholar Works*. Web. 27 Jan. 2016

Question: Through its localized production, does Swamp Gravy give its residents enough power to question and champion for economic, social and environmental justice? Is it more of a reaction against global corporate control or was it born from its desire to give a sense of community and power back to the people?