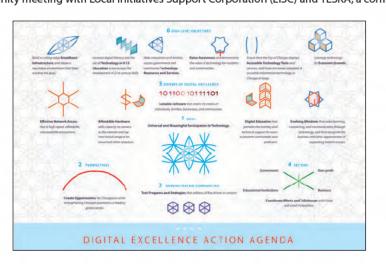




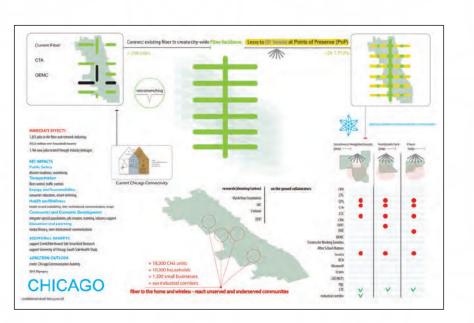
Digital Excellence Initiative and SmartChicago Recovery Act Proposal

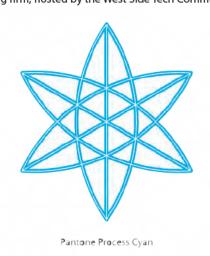
November 2008 - August 2009

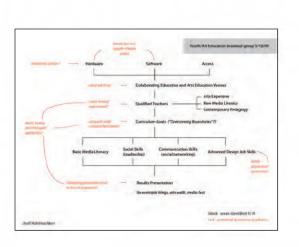
Community meeting with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and TESKA, a community planning firm, hosted by the West Side Tech Community College, March 2009

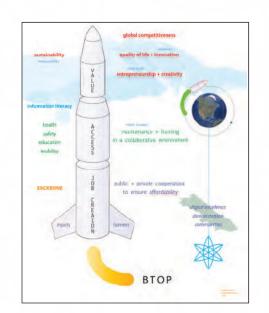


My role as an embedded artist asks that I react to the work processes I encounter in ways that are prompted by my practice. Initially, I surveyed academic literature on the digital divide and on digital cultural policy. I then read the specific studies that support the current work of DoIT, a city wide connectivity survey conducted by UIC, and a MacArthur funded/City commissioned report, "The City that Networks: Transforming Society and Economy through Digital Excellence." As I came on, a Smart Communities program intended to increase digital access in underserved neighborhoods was being prepared for launch, through community organizing, inter-agency collaboration, work with corporate donors and a technology consulting group.



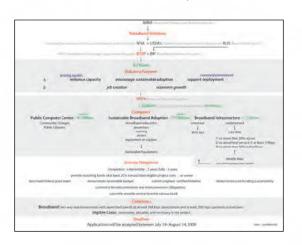


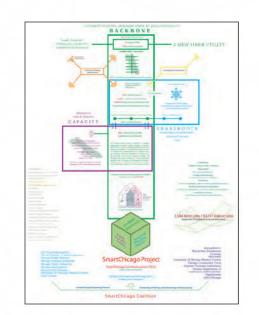


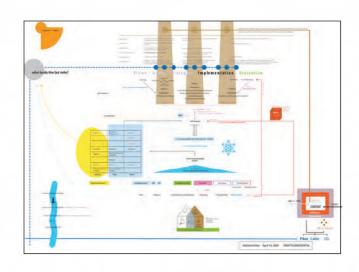




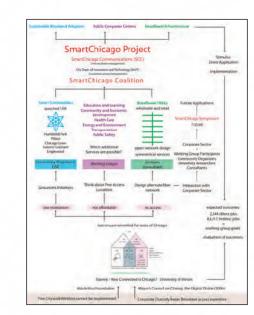








As a warm-up, I designed the project logo and created a visual summary, to be included in the press materials. Participating in weekly meetings with stakeholders, in phone conferences and in meetings ranging from 8 to 100 participants across the board, a series of diagrams for internal use arose that accompanied the processes: conference concepts, breakout group feedback, and diagrams tracking negotiations across participant groups over several weeks. When the BTOP stimulus grant was announced, I shadowed the six working groups and further kept up by email as the grant language was hammered out, providing an additional, visual feedback loop for that intense process. The visual summary of the application on the reverse is the formal culmination of the project, included in the application as part of the submitted materials.





Press conference to launch the Smart Communities, at the Resurrection project, Pilsen, June 2009

Smart Chicago Conference at Mayer Brown, July 2009

water

gas

electricity

fiber

polT has responded with great enthusiasm to this experiment and expressed a strong interest in continuing the relationship with artists - myself and others. On my end, to witness large scale public policy negotiation and some of its implementation has been greatly enlightening. I am pleased to have been able to bring an extended arts conversation to the table, and to come away with a refined set of critical questions.