

# IS THERE A CROSS BORDER CITIZEN?

## PROGRAM

### OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017, 6–9 PM  
SCREENING ROOM & YOUTH ARTS LOUNGE  
Free w/ gallery admission

Celebrate the opening of Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman's *Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination* with a reception and artist conversation. At 6 PM, Cruz and Forman join YBCA's Director of Visual Arts, Lucía Sanromán, in a discussion of their research of a renewed public imagination in the Trump era.

*Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, #1 from the Cross-Border Citizenship Culture Survey (2011-ongoing).* Courtesy Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, with support from the Ford Foundation for the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego; Antanas Mockus and Corpovisionarios, Bogotá; and Studio Matthias Görlich

Cover image:  
*Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, Tijuana-San Diego border.*  
Courtesy Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman

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**TEDDY CRUZ AND FONNA FORMAN  
VISUALIZING CITIZENSHIP:  
SEEKING A NEW PUBLIC IMAGINATION**



① **The Cross-Border Citizen** Border regions are global laboratories for rethinking citizenship. Is it possible to conceive of citizenship beyond the nation state? Can we orient ourselves instead around shared values and common interests regardless of the physical barrier that separates us?



Architect and designer Teddy Cruz and political scientist Fonna Forman have developed an alternative cross-disciplinary practice based on researching existing government and civic structures, then using the diagrammatic and analytical tools of architecture, urban planning, and political theory to deconstruct and visualize urban and public policy. Since 2011, they have focused on what they term “geographies of conflict,” with an emphasis on Latin American cities, creating the three case studies presented in this exhibition, which were designed and produced in collaboration with Studio Matthias Görlich.

Their work proposes that the Tijuana–San Diego border, and the cities of Bogotá and Medellín in Colombia, offer models of governance and policy that leverage the strife at the heart of political transformation to bring together top-down state and municipal initiatives and bottom-up social reshaping of normative behaviors and collective action.

In a moment when distrust of public institutions and government is high, fueled by alarm over the dismantling of the social welfare system, media manipulation, and xenophobia, Cruz + Forman present vital examples of public imagination as exercises of citizenship that function through affinity rather than division. They remind us that architecture, urban planning, and policy can be informed by an investment in equity and in civic and social infrastructure rather than fatalistic expressions of isolationism and capital.

***The Political Equator***  
**2011**

Vinyl, color video

Courtesy Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, in collaboration with Studio Matthias Görlich

*The Political Equator* situates Cruz + Forman’s practice on the Tijuana–San Diego border region, which is both the geographical location of their office and a key site shaping their understanding of informality and zones of conflict as spaces for radical reinvention of public imaginaries. It includes a short video of a performance in which they and others walk across a drainage pipe that lies under the border wall that divides the United States and Mexico as the countries reach the Pacific Ocean. The gesture links a marginalized neighborhood in Baja California with an estuary in California, noting that these territories are ecologically interdependent. The mural maps five global border checkpoints, repositioning geopolitics as a factor in conflictive local processes of transnational cross-pollination rather than as a delimitation of nation-states.

***The Cross-Border Citizenship Culture Survey***  
**2011–ongoing**

Inkjet prints, vinyl

Courtesy Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, with support from the Ford Foundation for the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego; Antanas Mockus and Corpovisionarios, Bogotá; and Studio Matthias Görlich

With a combined population of more than five million, the cities of San Diego and Tijuana are the world’s largest metropolitan binational region. In the summer of 2014, Cruz + Forman brought the legendary former mayor of Bogotá, Antanas Mockus, to the border. There they applied the Citizenship Culture Survey, a research instrument designed by Mockus and his Bogotá–based think tank Corpovisionarios to measure public trust and social cooperation in cities. A series of tools and games that recalibrate social behavior and government systems, it has provided a baseline for assessing impact over time in more than sixty cities across the globe. For this project, the Citizenship Culture Survey was implemented for the first time in a specific border territory in partnership with the mayors of both cities and broad cross-sector participation, and with funding from the Ford Foundation.

Cruz + Forman set out to identify the existing informal dynamics that bind Tijuana and San Diego, and the cross-border urban flows through which a regional civic consciousness emerges from the actual experience of living there. Survey results revealed that a majority of respondents on both sides of the border wanted to see increased cross-border collaboration on many issues, from economic development to border wait times, immigration, public health, and the environment.

As mayor of Bogotá from 1995 to 1997 and 2001 to 2003, Mockus understands that urban transformation requires more than infrastructural intervention and investments in social services. His “citizen culture” policies expressed commitment to an open and collaborative model of governance, and his strategies of infiltrating the behavioral patterns of civic dysfunction with performative gestures successfully changed social norms.

The seventeen posters created for this exhibition synthesize key findings of *The Cross-Border Citizenship Culture Survey* into vignettes that weave together data gathered by the survey with images and texts that narrate Mockus’s extraordinary “citizen culture” platform. Like all of Cruz

+ Forman’s graphic work, it eloquently visualizes alternative civic imaginaries.

***The Medellín Diagram***  
**2012–ongoing**

Vinyl, digital video animations, monitors, tables, inkjet prints

Courtesy Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman with support from the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego; Alejandro Echeverri (URBAM, EAFIT, Medellín); and Studio Matthias Görlich

During the 1980s and 1990s, Medellín was widely regarded as the most dangerous city on the planet, with murder rates as high as 6,300 in 1991 alone (a staggering 380 per 100,000 people), and was plagued by severe unemployment and poverty. Two decades later it has undergone an urban transformation so dramatic that it captured the attention of city planners, architects, and politicians around the world. The determination to reduce violence and poverty in Medellín intensified under the government of Sergio Fajardo, mayor from 2003 to 2007. His government sought to improve public health and stimulate a vibrant, participatory civic culture. This was activated through innovative tactics of collaborative municipal governance and planning, and a campaign of massive cross-sector investment in public infrastructure and social services in the poorest and most violent neighborhoods of the city.

*The Medellín Diagram* is an urban and political research tool and an exercise in what Cruz + Forman describe as “visualizing the political.” This process involved an online survey, research with stakeholders in Medellín, and

interpretation of policy and civic changes. It was designed to be useful to the citizens of Medellín as a method to guide future interventions, but also as a tool for municipalities elsewhere. The diagram reveals that Medellín’s famed urban transformation was, first, a political project through which institutions were reimagined, while cross-disciplinary collaborations facilitated knowledge and research exchange at all levels. From the perspective of participatory democracy and social justice, Medellín’s story is about how citizens restored urban dignity, instigated collective agency, and reclaimed the future of their own city.

*The Medellín Diagram* functions as a periodic table, subdividing areas of government intervention, which are animated by specific examples of infrastructural changes and process diagrams.

***Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination is part of The City Initiative, a series of case studies by architects, designers, planners, and artists creating provocative work in the urban environment. It is curated by Lucía Sanromán, Director of Visual Arts, and organized by Martin Strickland, Exhibitions Associate.***

**ARTIST BIOS**

Teddy Cruz is a Professor of Public Culture and Urbanization in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego. He is known internationally for his urban research on the Tijuana/San Diego border, advancing border neighborhoods as sites of cultural production from which to rethink urban policy, affordable housing, and public space. Recipient of the Rome Prize in Architecture in 1991, his honors include representing the US in the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award in 2011, and the 2013 Architecture Award from the US Academy of Arts and Letters.

Fonna Forman is a Professor of Political Theory and Founding Director of the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego. A theorist of ethics and public culture, her work focuses on human rights at the urban scale, climate justice in cities, and equitable urbanization in the global south. She has also written extensively on recuperating the public and social dimensions of modern economic theory. She serves as Vice-Chair of the University of California Climate Solutions Group, and on the Global Citizenship Commission (advising UN policy on human rights).

Cruz & Forman direct the UCSD Cross-Border Initiative, and are principals in Estudio Teddy Cruz + Forman, a research-based political and architectural practice in San Diego. Their work emphasizes urban conflict and informality as sites of intervention for rethinking public policy and civic infrastructure, with a special emphasis on Latin American cities. From 2012–13 they served as special advisers on Civic and Urban Initiatives for the City of San Diego and led the development of its Civic Innovation Lab.