

# RECLAIMING THE CANALS

“Understanding the value and significance of the green, blue and grey infrastructure of the canals and canalsides in Digbeth, Birmingham”

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## INTRODUCTION

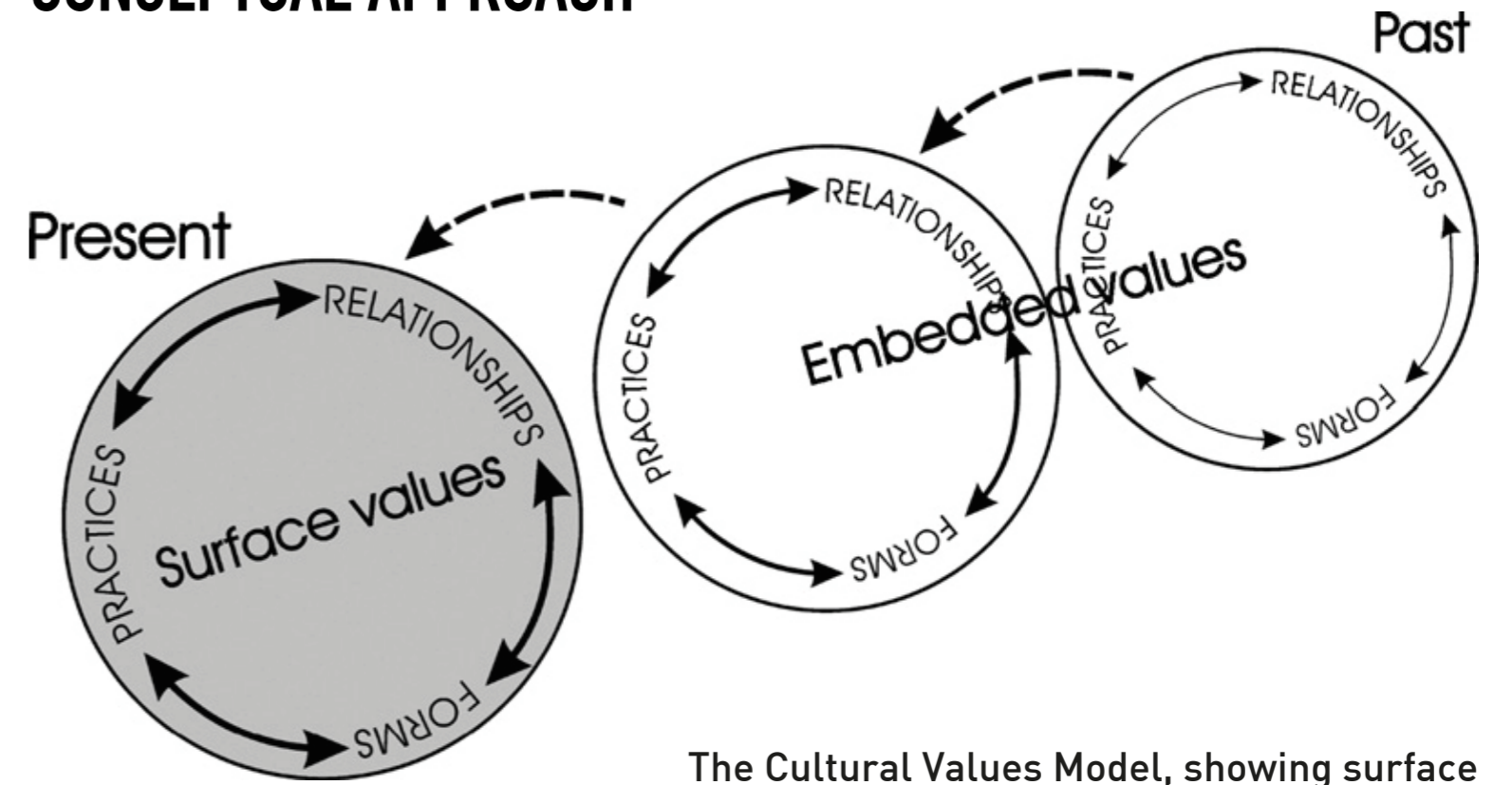
### AIM

To assess how local cultural and civic organisations assign value and contribute to the significance of the GBGI of canals and canalsides in Digbeth, Birmingham, UK, as a means for urban conservation.

### OBJECTIVES

To analyse how local cultural and civic organisations value GBGI.  
To assess how these values influence their current activities for conservation.  
To evaluate ways in which such values and contributions can support planning policy and practice.

### CONCEPTUAL APPROACH



The Cultural Values Model, showing surface and embedded values (Stephenson, 2008).

## CASE AND METHODS: GRAND UNION AND DIGBETH CANALS

### TWO EXAMPLES BY GRAND UNION ARTS



Photo by Grand Union Arts, 2022

'Reabsorption' engaged with the soil as a living ecosystem that comprises the economic and cultural inheritance of Digbeth.



Photo by Nina Baillie, 2021

The Minerva Apothecary Garden has been created alongside the Grand Union canal, next to Grand Union Gallery and Studios.

### PHOTOVOICE WORKSHOP

## RECLAIMING THE CANALS



13.10.23

9:00 - 13:30  
(Lunch included)

STEAMhouse  
Belmont Row  
Birmingham B4 7RQ



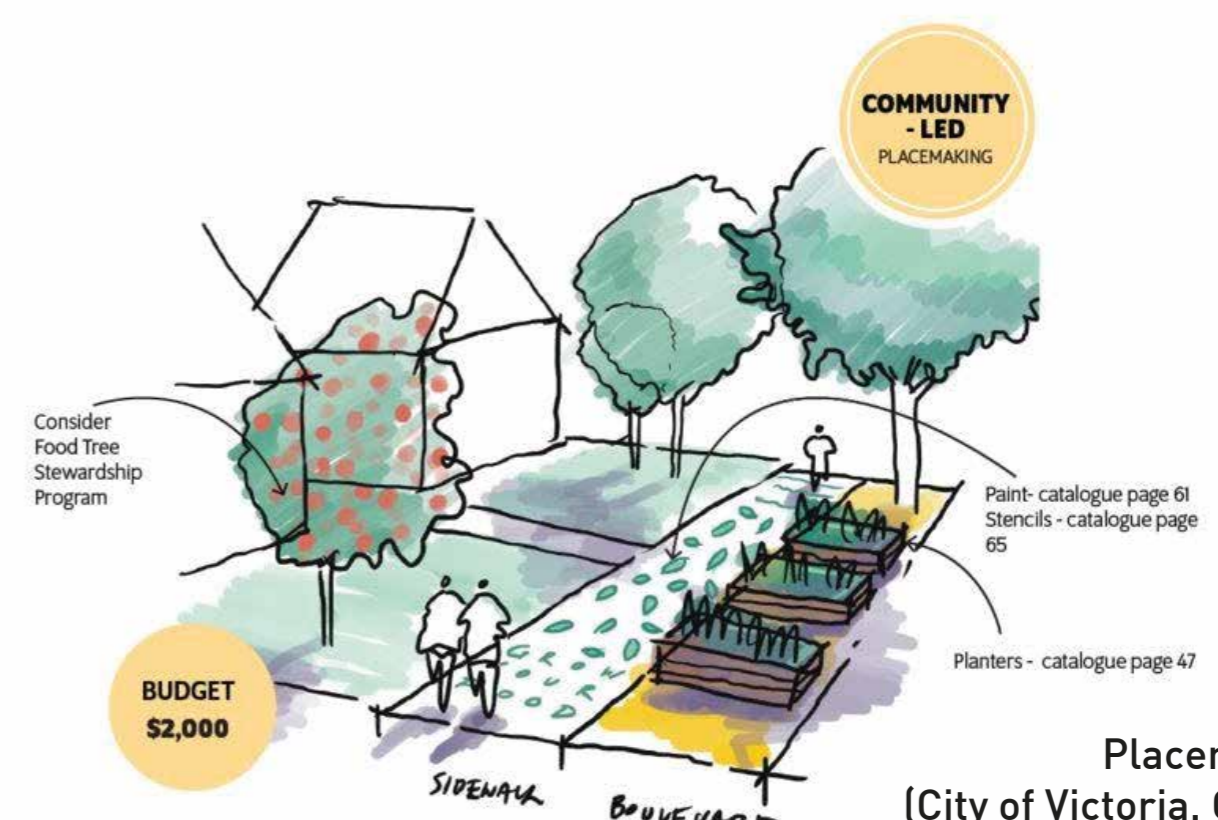
Photovoice is a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. (1) Enables people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns; (2) promotes critical dialogue and knowledge about important issues through large and small group discussion of photographs, and (3) help to reach policymakers. (Wang and Burris, 1997)

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

To develop a toolkit to narrow down the potentials of these GBGI, the values assigned by local communities, and the potential activities.

To support updates and revisions of instruments such as the Digbeth, Bordesley and Warwick Bar Conservation Area Appraisals.

To support decision-making and inclusion of local-based values and activities in Birmingham's 'Our Future City' Plan.



Placemaking Toolkit (City of Victoria, Canada, 2021).



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