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## DEVELOPING SOCIAL CREATIVE FIELDS THROUGH URBAN PUBLIC SPACE (Case Study of City Park in Surabaya)

Moch. Junaidi Hidayat

### Abstract

Urban Public Space is one of the elements creating the shape of city, because, it has function as social interaction and characteristic concerning with communal matters. But sometimes, at present time, this function has changed into exposing or exhibiting individual to be exhibited, even to be public expression. The difference of function and the change make the meaning of public space function and existence to be changed into social creativity.

One of the urban public spaces is the city park. In order to overcome the limited green space in urban area, the government of Surabaya city makes an attempt to develop the concept of city park by transforming the available area. Now, Surabaya city has more than 30 city parks with different designs and concepts, such as *Taman Bungkul* as the icon of Surabaya, *Taman Buah*, *Taman Lansia*, *Taman Prestasi* and et cetera. So that, the urban public space has a new function not only as social interaction but also expression field creating new idea, appreciation field producing social creativity valuation, production field as well as new economic field that all of them have developed public creative fields without being realized.

This paper tries to describe critically how city park representing the identity of Surabaya city by thematic design approach is able to develop creative fields and how the form of public creativity from this opened space has developed the creative mindset socially that finally will produce creative culture

**Keywords :** Creativity, Public Space, City Park

### Abstrak

Ruang Publik Kota (*Urban Public Space*) merupakan salah satu unsur yang menjadi wujud pembentuk kota. Sehingga di dalamnya berfungsi interaksi sosial dan bersifat komunal. Namun, adakalanya kini fungsi itu juga bergeser menjadi fungsi ekspose atau ekshebisasi yang sifatnya individual menjadi tontonan bahkan ekspresi publik. Perbedaan fungsi dan pergeseran ini mengakibatkan pemaknaan terhadap fungsi dan keberadaan ruang publik itu sendiri juga bergeser menjadi bentuk kreativitas sosial.

Salah satu dari ruang publik kota itu adalah taman kota. Untuk mengatasi minimnya lahan hijau di perkotaan membuat pemerintah kota Surabaya mengembangkan konsep *citypark* dengan menyulap lahan yang sudah ada. Kini kota Surabaya memiliki lebih dari 30 taman kota dengan desain serta konsep yang berbeda-beda sebut saja *Taman Bungkul* sebagai *icon Surabaya*, *taman buah*, *taman lansia*, *taman prestasi*, dan lain sebagainya. Sehingga ruang publik kota mampu memiliki fungsi baru yang tidak hanya fungsi interaksi sosial namun juga medan ekspresi yang menghasilkan ide-ide baru, medan apresiasi yang menghasilkan penilaian kreativitas sosial, medan produksi hingga medan ekonomi baru yang kesemuanya tanpa disadari telah membangun medan kreativitas publik (*public creative fields*).

Makalah ini mencoba memaparkan secara kritis bagaimana taman kota yang merupakan identitas kota Surabaya dengan pendekatan desain yang tematik, mampu membangun medan kreatif (*creative fields*) dan bagaimana wujud kreativitas publik yang

muncul dari ruang terbuka ini telah membangun mentalitas kreativitas secara sosial yang pada akhirnya juga melahirkan budaya kreatif.

**Kata Kunci :** *Kreativitas, Ruang Publik, Taman Kota*

### **Park of Surabaya City**

Surabaya city, the capital of East Java Province as well as the second biggest city in Indonesia is actually a rich city of heritage inheritance and a potential city to be developed into a city with various objectives, such as tourism destination city, particularly for historical cultural tour, traditional cultural tour or shopping tour in the city. This city development really exploits the existing potential on every element of city. One of them is the existence of urban public space that physically more be realized on opened spaces and city parks. In order to more enhance the city value, the Government of the city tries to create the jargon of "Kota yang Sesungguhnya" (the Real City) by intensifying the development of infrastructure in the form of urban public space.

Right now, Surabaya has more than 25 city parks that altogether functioned as public space. Through thematic approach, city park has different concept and characteristic between one park and other parks. Therefore, a park as the public space indirectly has become a new icon for Surabaya city to be a beautiful city park having character. As a result, Surabaya has gotten some rewards such as Adipura, the Best City Management of Indonesia 2011, ASEAN Environment Sustainable City Award 2011, and ASEAN Center for Energy Award. Through thematic approach such as naming and offering the concept of city management having typical characteristic, for instance : palliative park (park having concept for cancer sufferer), Taman Prestasi (specialized for children), Taman Lansia (Aged Park), Taman Flora (a park completed with outbound facilities), Taman Teratai (because its design resembles lotus), Taman Kunang-Kunang, Taman Pelangi, Taman Bungkul and et cetera.





Foto 1 : Fruit and Vespa Park



The Government of Surabaya city gives not only an idea to change the public space face by park thematic approach but also supporting facility so that the citizen become attracted by, comfortable and peaceful in the park. There are free wife facility, Street Vendor structuring, 24 hour security supervision and park cleanliness guarantee. Those become self attraction value for citizens who are looking for a new amusement place, favorable re-creative facility, and free gathering-playing means.

As one of the parts of the shape of city, the existence and function of Urban Public Space at present time has become the city image shaper. Beside, in historical context and cultural development, public space, either located in city or in smaller area has become the center of social activity as social and cultural interaction space pragmatically that then by the decision maker in this matter the government, public space is formalized into public

space as well as urban opened space that become city scale in several places to be city icon.

According to Budihardjo and Sujarto (2005), opened space is a space planned for fulfilling the need of meeting and collective activity places in opened space. Meeting and gathering with people and relations likely will cause various activities in the opened public space. In fact, opened space is one of the types of public space. Basically, public space is a place for accommodating the certain activity of community, both individual or in group.

While the public opened space is described as an outer space happened by limiting the nature and its components (building) using hard element such as pedestrian, road, plaza, concrete fence and etcetera, or soft element such as plant and water as the softer element and landscape and a place for cultured community to do activity in city life. From the aspect of activity happened inside, public opened space is divided into two kinds of opened space, namely active opened space and passive opened space. Active opened space is opened space containing the elements of activity, such as, playing, exercise, ceremony and take a pleasure trip. This space can be in the form of park, town square, plaza, sport square, recreation place. And Passive opened space is opened space not containing human activity, such as space as distance to railway, river demarcation and et cetera.

### **City Park and Public Activity**

Through thematic park design approach and typical characteristic of park design and facility provided, city party at present time has changed either in function or meaning as well as the type of activity happened inside. In the past time, a park as individual or social activity place is used for limited activity such as sport, re-creative in city and social community activity. At present time, this public space is able to accommodate the various activities by involving individual, group, not in a small scale such as community, hobbyer, and a now become social interaction arena having characteristic as exhibition, exposing activity, both formal in relation to government and community involvement or non formal involving the community themselves. For example as environmental campaign arena by environmental lover community, hobby community place, religion activity as well as political activity (campaign) and etcetera



Picture 4: Park as gathering arena for hobbyier and Outbound facility for children



Picture 5 : Citizen are campaigning for zero garbage and religion activity in city park



Picture 6 : City park is used as education space as well as art expression space

The change and modification of this activity prove that the user of public area consisting of individual move forward creatively from closed into opened that more



explorative and has expose value in general. From the pictures above, the citizen activity in some parks of Surabaya city above show how the change of park activity from sport, gathering between individual, now change into communication arena openly due to design in park structuring which is able to accommodate some needs and activities of citizen. Street vendor area that previously become the enemy of park complication now given a pace, wi-fi area is able to give attraction value for children and teenager. Some parts having thematic design approach (has theme with unique concept such as taman Lansia, taman Prestasi, taman Buah, Taman Pelangi, taman Kunang-kunang etcetera) is able to present the new activity for the user.

In *Taman Flora* and *Taman Prestasi*, the park users especially children are given an interaction space openly with their fellows, moreover, they are facilitated. And some parks are also used as work and exhibition spaces openly such as children painting exhibition, environmental campaign by living environmental lover activity and artist demonstration arena that previously performed in formal area changed to public opened space.

A park as the urban public space providing space makes the activities performed by the community more various and demands more creative activity. It changes the individual creative space into social creativity that without being realized has developed public creative fields. In this matter, the role of the Government of Surabaya city is very needed by creating creative fields socially. Parks having thematic design are able to make the activity of the user more creative and opened, exhibited and become the public commodity. Park becoming creative individual commodity arena that going on continually and repeatedly has created a new social creative field.



Picture 7 : City Park has become the center of creative culture

The above pictures show how individual activity enters into more creative social activity. Park has become explorative arena from environment campaign, gathering of certain social group, hobbyier, playing activity that previously gone due to area limitation and park utilization as creative fields of public art that previously not given openly. At present time the installation art exhibition and its kind are given a space to be enjoyed publicly.

### **Park as Creative Individual Fields**

Park as opened space is able to produce creative individual activities that are able to create bright thoughts, fresh ideas, new ideas and radical thoughts. But creative individual is not enough, other terms and conditions are required to support creative culture. Creativity is not going on inside the individual thought but inside interaction between individual thought, cultural social context and environment.

Creativity can not grow if there are no creative individuals, namely individuals whose thoughts and actions are able to produce a new idea or innovation. A system that its structure support creativity, but no one has intention or motivation to make a creative contribution, no creative works. This shall be supported by environment condition that must encourage the spirit of having creativity. And city park has become a new field for individual creative fields.

As a new creative space for individual and social, a park supports the climate of creativity and innovation. As explained by Michel Faoucauld in *The Archeology of Knowledge*, Discourse formation very determines the production of knowledge (ideas, innovation, creative expression). Discourse formation is regularity, structure, function and correlation, position and transformation developing a discourse that may create the production of knowledge. A Discourse of knowledge that characterized by spirit of repetition, inheritance and passive repetition, no possibility of innovation. In order to improve the creativity power, spirit of finding, exploring, imagination and fantasy shall be involved in domain.

Through a park, an opened, exposed and expressive new creative space will be produced so that the citizen who has courage to apply the idea through a free means of expression will be born, the individual will be ready to be exhibited and exhibit his creative form, expressive groups through joint activity will be exhibited publicly and the government has courage to change the mindset of citizen through creative idea to shape his city image.



Creative spaces that created by the Government are welcomed by the citizen through a means named public space. Citizen uses maximally the city part as the realization of environment where their creativity may be expressed and their works has possibility to be accommodated from private area into public area, from individual creativity into social creativity. The shape of thematic park offered by the government of Surabaya city as creative space may be enjoyed and appreciated by the public as identity of city (culture). Surabaya now has changed into the real city for its citizens.

### **Park as Creative Cultural Fields**

Basically, individual creativities will create a creativity socially. This will produce creative society, that this society needs development systematically and comprehensively form various cultural capitals. It means that developing creative and innovative society can not be performed partially, sectoral or piece by piece, but through systematic, comprehensive and continual efforts. To understand the concept of creativity more comprehensive, the concept of capital its self need to be expanded by referring the concept of sociology of Bourdieu concerning capital and field.

Capital according to Bourdieu is "...a structured position space containing positions and its interrelation is determined by types of resources or different capital. Field structure can be understood as "...special ownership capital distribution structure determining the success of field winning external or special profits inhibiting the field . In the context of creative works such as art "artistic field" can be defined as "...a literature or artistic positions space determined by ownership in certain quantity of capital (acknowledgement) and at the same time, certain position mastery in certain capital distribution struction " (Piliang : 2012).

Pierre Bourdieu in *Distinction* gives his attention mainly to the role of the culture in producing social structure or the method where the unequal power relationship is not accepted as a legal matters, rather than unacknowledged. Those two things according to him are set in classification system used to describe and discuss the daily life by cultural practice, where the domination system influences cultural practice area and symbolic exchange such as choosing sport, food, music and etcetera.

Then, Bourdieu develop the concept of capital based symbolic power that cannot be reduced into economic capital, for instance : degree in academic capital. There are 4



(four) forms of capital in cultural production arena, namely : first, economic capital, second : social capital, that is various relations types having value with other parties having meaning, third, symbolic capital referring to accumulation degree of prestige, famous, respect and built based on knowledge and introduction dialectics. Fourth, cultural capital observing the shape of cultural knowledge, competition or certain disposition. Bourdieu defines as a form of knowledge, internal code or cognitive acquisition completing social agent with empathy, appreciation, competition, relation and cultural artifact (Bourdieu, 1991:229-231).

From Bourdieu point of view concerning field and capital, it can be suggested a creative special field that called creative field, Creative field can be defined as a structured creative competition space producing difference that determined by distribution of the difference types of creative capital.

Yasraf Amir Piliang identifies four fields constructing a creative environment , namely field of expression as a field containing new ideas or innovation ; field of production as a field containing new ideas that realized by various of productions methods (not only economic production, but also social production, cultural production, even religion production)' field of dissemination as a field containing disseminated and distribution creative products (not only economic product or industry but also social product, cultural product) and field of appreciation as discourse field containing appreciated and valued creative works by standards of evaluation and certain value.

Park City as public space is able to produce creative field creating individual expression field into social expression field, Inside the park, a creative idea is produced that is created intentionally by the Government as producer, or by citizen using the park as creative activity producer by utilizing the public space. The activity of this citizen meet in field of dissemination that is exhibited, modified so that producing field of appreciation socially in the form of creativity. This creates the system of public evaluation standardization upon exhibited and modified creative work. In other words, the Government as the manager (producer) and citizen as the user (costumer) meet in social creative field through city public space. Finally, it will produce creative culture on social level that is expected capable of forming creativity on the higher level.

## Summary

City park in Surabaya as public space has shown the relationship of symbolic mutualism between the Government and created society, between opened space and united customer, between public creativity that is met and formed by individual creativities that in the end produce creative cultural production arena socially. The Function of city park in the past time is only as gathering place with limited activity but now its function now is changed significantly.

City park producing creativity of citizen with bright idea, new idea, new creative activity, creative community as well as form that more expressive to be exhibited publicly. Connecting various ages to have activity, uniting the difference of gender, religion, language, race into social creative unification; communicating the government and citizen that in the past time is blocked by communication channel, meeting the interest of producer and customer in opened market until meeting traditional culture with modern culture

Public spaces that is expressed in ideas through thematic design approach of city park is not only to be city identity but also has succeed in stimulating, changing even producing social creativity restrictiveness. Even though this phenomena shows pro-contra, positive-negative, friction and chaos, but the success of Surabaya in arising, producing and forming creative culture socially needs to be see and imitated. Social mindset on creativity can be seen from energy of attention and thought to be applied to develop a new idea or innovation through created public spaces. Developing Social creative fields through City Public Space actually can be realized through the process of developing the individual creative field. and individual creativity will form social creativity that finally will develop and produce creative culture.

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