WHAT IS DEMOCRACY PLAZA AT IUPUI?

The mission of Democracy Plaza (DP) is to support the development of well-informed and engaged students through critical thinking and civil discourse on political, cultural, and societal issues.

HISTORY

Inspired by NBC Television Network’s Democracy Plaza at Rockefeller Center, IUPUI’s Democracy Plaza (DP) launched in 2008 and was the first program of its kind at a university in the United States. The mission of Democracy Plaza is to support the development of well-informed and engaged students through critical thinking and civil discourse on political, cultural, and societal issues through a social justice lens.

DP is unique for its inclusion of physical spaces: 16 chalkboards located outside in the heart of IUPUI’s campus and 3 permanent dry-erase boards in the Campus Center. The Social Justice Scholars maintain these boards and put up weekly questions to engage the IUPUI community in current issues.

DP BY THE NUMBERS

Democracy Plaza is an effective platform for civil discourse, generating over 12,000 responses over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year. The physical design of DP encourages creativity in responses, including drawings, symbols and written text.

RESPONSE TYPES

- Written: 75%
- Drawings: 19.8%
- Symbols: 5.1%
IUPUI community members and organizations can submit questions they would like to see discussed. Last year almost 100 individuals submitted questions!

To submit questions, visit sjed.iupui.edu

HOW ARE QUESTIONS SELECTED?

Questions are changed each week to create dialogue about current events and issues happening around the world. In the 2017-2018 Academic Year, there were 438 questions posted! Scholars research and create questions that are non-partisan and not leading.

CAN I RESERVE DP?

Yes! DP is great programming space located in the heart of campus. You can reserve the outdoor boards and the physical space in between the boards by submitting the online reservation form. For the 2017-2018 Academic Year, DP was reservation 17 times!

To reserve the space, visit sjed.iupui.edu

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

There are several ways you can participate in DP. Below are just a few ways to get involved:

- Respond to the questions posted on the boards
- Submit questions of your own for DP
- Engage with DP online through Facebook and Twitter

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@IUPUIDEMPLAZA  DEMOCRACY PLAZA AT IUPUI  DPLAZA@IUPUI.EDU