**Transcript: Lily Linke + Ella Brady**

**LL:** My name is Lily Linke. And I am a recent graduate of the Tufts UEP program. I went to Mary Davis with the idea to start this podcast over a year ago. And you know, and at the time I was, I was working on a podcast for my master's thesis. And I was thinking a lot about how Policy and Planning professionals communicate their work to the general public. And through my time at UEP, going through a lot of, you know, public hearings and city council meetings and zoning board meetings. And realizing how inaccessible a lot of it was to the general public and how even I, as an urban planning student would go to some of these meetings and not be able to follow what was going on. And to me, it felt like, okay, if I'm getting a master's in this, and even I don't really feel like I can adequately understand or participate in this process, then how is someone who is a resident with no prior experience going to do that? And so I was thinking a lot about how could we introduce new forms of media to bring the public into these topics, as both a form of education and community outreach and community organizing? And so it seemed to me like a skill that that urban planning professionals should have is, okay, how can we communicate this, not just in some big super academic master plan, but also in a blog post, also in a tweet thread, also on a podcast. And so that was how this whole process was started. But now, obviously, it took so long, then now I graduated, and wanted to pass the torch to someone else, so it could keep existing. And that is where Ella came in. So I’d love if you could talk about yourself and how you got roped into this?

**EB:** Yeah, for sure. I'm Ella Brady. I am a second year UEP student, but I am also a fifth year, combined degree student and bachelor's/Master's. So in my fourth year of undergrad at Tufts, I started the first year of UEP. And I actually didn't know that there was going to be a UEP podcast until pretty recently. I saw a listing about it on off the wall. And a lot of my background in this work is through sound design because I did some sound design for theater, at Tufts. And I've done a little bit of sound engineering. I think I'm always looking for more ways to infuse creativity into the work that I'm doing at UEP. Obviously, we have a lot of people that are super talented at design. But I have a lot of conversations about creativity and I have a lot of conversations about Policy and Planning. And I think it's really exciting when the two can come together. And similar to Lily, I think now that I am well into my work and planning school. All of the conversations that I have are people asking about the work that we're doing, and it does feel pretty inaccessible at times. Also, podcasts are super fun, everybody. A lot of people are enjoying podcasts. I spend a lot of my time listening to podcasts about cities. So it's exciting to be able to add to that.

**LL:** I really believe that improving the communications process of local governments is an important part of equity. Because, you know, thinking back to foundations and learning about Arnstein's Ladder of Participation, we talk all the time about Okay, how can we get people to these meetings, and we talk about translation, and we talked about, you know, ASL interpretation and, and other ways to make it accessible to people. But ultimately, there is a portion of the population that's never going to show up to a meeting for whatever the reason might be. And if we can provide them with a way to stay up to date on what's going on, you know, while they're on their commute to work, or you know, cleaning the kitchen. To me, I think that is a big part of making the urban planning process more equitable.

**EB:** Yeah, absolutely. I think two things are really important about that. One is we're learning a lot about accessibility and forms of media, especially right now as we turn everything online. And there's different platforms that are more accessible to people with different abilities. And we always need to be working towards a better system with that, because we need things and facilities are accessible sometimes … and we can talk more about this later, who we're gonna have on the podcast, and what types of people in conversations we'll be having. But planning doesn't exist in a vacuum. And we I've learned in the work that I've done outside of school, that there's just so many different disciplines of work that need to be integrated into the process in order to give us the whole picture, because it's not a linear picture. And it's not a closed circle. And so I think it's also important as planners and policymakers to be wise, about what we're doing.

**LL:** I also feel like podcasts are really powerful educational tool that I used in my own life. Because there's, there can be something very intimidating about showing up in a space that maybe you're new to and you want to learn, but you don't have prior knowledge. Just like showing up to your neighborhood association might be kind of intimidating if you feel like people are gonna judge you for not necessarily knowing what's going on. And I've I found podcasts as a really nice way to like, learn about things that, frankly, I maybe felt too embarrassed to ask or didn't feel like, I would necessarily feel welcome in a more formal, like educational space on that topic. I can, in my own time, listen to a podcast and like, get some of that those basics, you know, on my own time, and then kind of use that to then involve myself more directly.

**EB:** That's such a good point. I listened to a lot of secret, sort of like tech and finance basic things. Don't know. And I got sneaky into it.

**LL:** Yeah, it can be, you know, I mean, I think we something I have been working on in just in my own life is being more comfortable saying like, I don't know, and asking questions, even when it feels like, maybe I'm not being invited to do so. But it's really hard. And you know, and that's so I think, yeah, that's just been a personal experience of my own. And, and I think that I'm probably not alone in that and giving people ways to, to get their questions answered and like a very non judgmental, kind of, like, at your own pace, kind of way I think is, is something is, at the very least an option that should be provided.

**EB:** I agree. And I think that that is a really important part of UEP to me, honestly, because I came in, there's only a handful of people in this combined degree every year, I have found in the most wonderful way that everybody comes in with their own gaps, where I have gaps in terms of professional experience, because like, the people in my cohort went straight through school. But I also have a knowledge of a whole host of other things that other students have gaps in, and I think there's just there's no way to master it all. And so we we can all be better about technology, and we can all be learning from each other in that way.

**LL:** Yeah, that's something I also, I feel like I have really appreciated about uep, I came into this program, from a totally different background, I used to run a theatre company, and I did arts education work, and I was really nervous, you know, in my first semester that people wouldn't, like, I don't know, respect that that background, you know, or would like, not take me seriously because of it. And that was so not my experience at all, like the faculty, the other students, I felt like people actually, you know, viewed me as someone who had valuable experience and had something different to contribute. And so, yeah, that that has been like a very meaningful part of, of my time it up is feeling like the diversity of people's backgrounds is a strength, and that we're not expected to follow like one linear, educational or professional path.

**EB:** And you can always pick up new skills like,

**LL:** Exactly, exactly. Yeah, something I totally did not come into UEP thinking I was going to make a podcast like that was not my plan. But here we are. I mean, I would say it kind of started in the second in the spring semester of my first year, I took Penn's Communications and Media course. And we're just was awesome. I don't know if he's doing it this spring, because I think he's on it. Kind of like semi sabbatical. But we did, you know, we got to practice writing op eds, and press releases. And we did like, practice, like TV interviews, like pretending to be like the communications director for like a nonprofit or a political party. And I thought that was

such a good practice. And like a really like being able to practice those skills of like, I've never written an op ed before. And so it just made me start to think about, like, what are some of the other communications skills I might benefit from practicing? And at the time, I was working on a podcast with Bob Massie, who's a former gubernatorial candidate for in the state of Massachusetts, who I worked a lot on his campaign in 2018. So he asked me to be a producer on this podcast that he was making. And I didn't do I wasn't a host and I didn't do the like, audio editing. So I was in much more of like a I helped them pick the guests and I helped write the interview questions or not actually, I did write the interview questions and was thinking kind of more about, like, crafting the story of each episode. And so through that experience, I guess I got it into my head that maybe I could do. Not realizing, you know, I was like, Oh, yeah, there's a lot of other stuff that I didn't actually get to practice. So I sort of had to learn it as I went along. But as I discovered, and as, as you are discovering, and I think we'll talk more about this as we go on, but there was certainly new skills that I needed to learn. But at the end of the day, it's not that hard to make an episode. You know, there's in terms of the equipment that you need, you can do it with a phone. And, you know, there are I used Adobe Audition, which is like a little bit more of a professional editing software. But there's also a lot of free things online that are way simpler. And so I think realizing that it actually wasn't as it was more accessible than I necessarily realized it was before. Made me feel like, Oh, this is something that like, a lot of people could do, and at least practice, even if they just did it once. For the experience.

**EB:** Yeah, no, yeah. And I think that, I mean, I feel the same way about everything that I've ever done with sound, because it's not as though I had a background in doing that I, I, I thought that I wanted to pursue either a long time ago. And I found out that I do not really like being in front of a lot of people. But But then I got into sort of this work where I was like splicing together clips, and I would get sort of like a curated like list of what they want the soundscape to be, and then put something together. And that's like, I have no idea how to do any of these things. But I'm actually it's actually just kind of, it's a little fun. Pretty fun. If you can take it, I think the part of it, that's fun. And this goes along with the podcasting is it's really fun to craft like a narrative and a story that has sort of arcs. And I love music. I really do. I think it's so fun. And, yeah, we don't get to tell stories that often. Everything. And I'm a I'm an English major under ad. And so I love I love writing and storytelling, so those things, they make it more fun than to get over the initial intimidation factor.

**LL:** Yeah, I mean, I, I'll hold myself back from going too deep into this, because it might be going off on a tangent, but like, I have really come to believe over the past couple years that like everything is storytelling, like there is not a single profession that isn't ultimately storytelling. And that, in many ways, the the experience of being a human being is a form of storytelling, and that the way we you know, like, I would make the case that like every city is a story, and that we each have a role to play in choosing, like how that story evolves, it's being actively created by each of us. And so there's sort of like a small but growing like group, at least in from what I've been able to find of people thinking really concretely about like storytelling as a form of social change. And what can we learn about storytelling in the, in the movement for for social justice, and I think that is something that particularly in urban planning and policymaking if we start really thinking about that more concretely, the storytelling piece of it I think there's only we could only benefit from that.

**EB:** I agree, I think something that's great about this form of media is that it doesn't have to be that that is doing all of the storytelling. I really like the idea of conducting interviews and highlighting other people's voices on podcasts. Because a lot of storytelling of studies and planning is who's telling it? Yeah. And how they bias those stories. So it's, we have a lot of people that need to talk to, you know, so that's exciting.

**LL:** Yeah. Yeah. And on that note, I think we can talk about the thing that obviously, the part about this UEPodcast that I'm most excited about, is that it is the the idea, God willing, please participate. The idea is that it will be co created with the entire UEP community. So you know, in the next, this will be this is our first sort of inaugural introduction episode. In the coming weeks, there will be some episodes that, that I helped make, and that some other students have made. But the goal is that anyone related to the UEP community can and hopefully will contribute episodes. So that includes current students, alumni, faculty members, and even Tufts students who maybe aren't in UEP directly, but take a course in UEP, or are in one of sort of the adjacent departments. Because exactly, it's like, who is telling the story. And you and I have, you know, the the interest in the the passion to like, be in the background, trying to keep this thing going. But ultimately, we don't want it to be the Lily Linke podcast or the Ella Brady podcast, because it's not really about us. It's about uep.

**EB:** And we need it to continue on.

**LL:** Exactly that to hopefully, it doesn't die after one semester. Yeah, please participate, we beg of you. So some of the things that, you know, we're just too, you know, for people who might hear that and be like, Okay, so what does that look like? You know, some of the episodes that we have coming up, there's an interview with an alum who's 10 years out, sort of charting their career paths. So far, we have a two episode series that was produced by two students who were undergrads, they just graduated, they would have been your year, who took Julian management's developing Sustainable Communities course, and felt inspired by that to produce a podcast in response. But I also imagine, you know, for our, our many clubs, like people of planning or the Student Planning Association, you know, they could do an episode about what's going on in their clubs and why they felt compelled to create them, particularly, you know, pop, which is a relatively new club. I think, you know, one of the field projects, teams could make an episode about their field project, you know, folks could totally make it who are working on their masters, you know, could make a an episode sort of translating topic of their thesis into into a podcast. So I mean, I in terms of topic, I think the sky is the limit. And so I hope people will, you know, feel

will feel like Welcome to to whatever sort of topic they might be interested in exploring and sharing through this medium. It's all it's all kosher.

**EB:** All new, any conversation. There's a lot of good combinations that happened between maybe groups of students, or something that a conversation you're having between yourself in a professor. Those things would make for a great podcast episodes. So yeah, we're willing to hear anything you want to do and to support the work. So, we will have a system for how we put together that episodes and the producing aspect can maybe be intimidating and whatever help you need to produce it. That's what we're here for.

**LL:** Yeah, exactly. So Ella, you know, by the time this episode actually comes out, I will be sort of backing away. But, you know, Ella will be here, as you know, someone who can guide you through the process, who can help you with any technical element that you have questions with. And to really make it as, as easy and accessible as possible, this shouldn't be some big and it doesn't have to be some big complicated, scary project. It really can be quite simple. I think that's what's sort of the beautiful thing about a podcast is, there are certainly podcasts that are really complicated and ornate and made over, you know, like, if people have listened to, you know, podcast, like cereal, or s town, or some of those, like big sweeping documentary style ones, like, those were made over the course of years, hundreds of interviews, like a whole team of producers doing research, and, you know, writing beautiful scores, and, you know, getting all this what is the term like, you know, audio, pulling speech, historical speeches, that kind of thing? And, yeah, sure, a podcast can be that, but it can also be two people sitting in a room talking into an iPhone, and like, you know, slap a song in the background if you want, but you also

don't have to, it really can be that simple. And it's up to the person who's producing it to decide what they think is best to get get the story across. So yeah, do you have anything else you want to add about? Just kind of like, what we're envisioning for this, and what you'd want people to know.

**EB:** I think everything you said is true, and great. And I think we're just looking to supplement the UEP community with things that or episodes that bring us together or connect the dots on a few things. So it can be even goes as simple as turning some of our speaker series into podcast episodes. And just having a page to go to to look for sort of supplemental resources and things where you can hear the voices of other students. And we, yeah, we just want to connect people, it's been a, it's been a tough year. And I know that there's a whole whole year of first year students who are doing a lot of this work virtually. So it's nice, it's always nice to hear a voice or connect something to someone in the program. So I think that's part of the work as well.

**LL:** Yeah, absolutely. I mean, as I mentioned, at the very beginning, this, this whole idea started, I think about exactly a year ago. So like the winter of 2020, before, pre COVID, and pre quarantine. And, you know, all the complications of COVID are kind of the reason that it's taken as long as it has to really get the its feet planted, but at the same time, like, I think it's never been more needed to have something like this. Yeah, I really think there is something so different about hearing someone's voice talk about a topic than than just reading their words, it is a very different experience and provides a different level of intimacy. And yeah, if you know, you might not have an hour to go to a colloquium. But if we can condense it into a 20 minute episode that kind of gives you the highlights that you can listen to, on your own time. That's also just another way for people to be able to get everything out of their time that up. Because we all have crazy schedules, and you just can't do everything. You know, like now that I'm at the end of my tough journey. Like, you know, there's so many things I didn't get to do just because there's only so many hours in the day, you know, like there are all kinds of events that I wish I'd had time to go to or classes I wish I could have fit into my schedule. So getting to still kind of be a part of you up and be learning from what's going on there, even as I move on into my professional career

I'm really excited about about that.

So yeah, for alumni too, who want to know what's going on? I hope that this can be a good resource for them.

Ever top students that don't know?

Yeah. And prospective students who were like I'm thinking about applying, but I don't really know. You know, I want or I just want to know more about it.

Yeah,

**LL:** I have a rent kind of rent. Well, not that random. But I have a question. What podcasts Have you been listening to lately that you really like?

**EB:** Okay.

**LL:** No judgement.

**EB:** My favorite podcast? Is the podcast reply all. Yeah. That's my favorite podcast. I've been listening since I started listening to podcasts. And I love tech and the internet. And like I was talking about, I really like weird internet stories. I honestly listen to 99%

as any good You mean, the real answer is that I listened to sort of a lot of the mainstream podcasts. And then I really like listening to, like, amateur podcasts that my friends make. Because it makes it makes me laugh to hear their voices, and sometimes they're really good. So I have a friend who's made an amateur podcast, listening to a lot of that. But yeah, I mean, I listen to the daily every day, I'm not gonna lie. Listen to that this morning. It's been a little bit. I feel Oh, I also was in California love Oh, when I was doing my road trip, if anybody has listened to that. But I've been having a hard time listening to like my niche, weird podcasts in the wake of the coup. Yeah. So I've been trying to keep my eye on the on the news. But anything like the New York Times did like, like, like, the rabbit hole series. And you have all this sort of like, ah, like it and then Kara Swisher has like a lot of tech. Yeah, I hate tech. But I love the world of tech. I'm obsessed with hating it. I want to have no technology. I'm horrible at texting, I want to throw my computer. But I can't get over like fights about Google and what happens when people go down?

**LL:** So okay, we need to make a whole other episode about that. Because I I don't listen to a ton of tech podcast, but I am similar to you, in the sense that I I hate tech, I would love to go back to the days of my Nokia brick. I am not, you know, I have gained a lot of like, like I'm a you know, I'm like a Microsoft. And like Google suite whiz, because I have to be like, you have to be good at making spreadsheets and all that but like, outside of that I my fiance makes fun of me all the time, because I do like, I don't know any of the shortcuts I like do everything in the like, least efficient way. So yeah, we should have a whole other episode about being young people who like hate technology would also need it. Technology right now. Yeah, exactly.

**EB:** What are your podcasts?

**LL:** Yeah, I listened to the daily I listened to 99% of visible in the past year and a half I've been really into the war on cars. Because, you know, my thesis podcast was about pedestrian, you know, walkability and race relations. And so I started listening to the war on cars kind of as part of that. Although they are not very good about talking about the aspect of race and class and sort of the more sociological components of transportation. I mean, I think that's a real weak spot in the conversation generally, which is why I did my thesis, but yeah, they don't. They don't really address that. In my opinion. From a storytelling perspective, like less urban planning related, I think one of the best podcasts ever. She hasn't produced any episodes and maybe a year or more, but there is a podcast called strangers that it's just this woman. I honestly don't even know how she finds these stories, but she just interviews people with really interesting life stories, and just like tells their stories. And she's also very she has a few episodes about her own life. And she's just like very transparent about her own like, struggles and experiences. So great if you want to cry. Great. One of my go to crying podcasts that in story core is like a it will wreck you.

What else am I listening to lately? Oh, I used to listen to a lot of hidden brain talks about like kind of the neurological science like the neuro psychology of why we do the things that we do. This American Life obviously is a classic. Talking headways is a great transportation podcast. Oh, damn, to burski. Do you know Dan to burski? He has. He has three original podcasts that are on gimlet last year. I think it was last year, she put out a podcast called running from cops about the show cops. And like the effect it's had on American policing. And since then, cops has been pulled from that not like solely because of him. Although I do think that that didn't hurt.

Yeah. It's amazing and very, very disturbing. But um, yeah, I could go on and on because there's so many good podcasts. A steer parral I don't know if you ever do.

Yeah, I really I love I love.

So good. So good.

I love to like if I'm ever doing like, a really tedious like, chore like cleaning the bathtub or like folding laundry. I love listening to Astaire parral because it's so intense. Like you get so engaged with it, like

the last days that I was on campus this fall, I was a TA and I campus is not like a place where you want to spend a lot of time during the global pandemic, I had to do some tasks and I like I don't really like I don't know, if I'm gonna see anyone that I know are really zoned in and they listen to podcasts. And I just started like, walking around. And I was like, I need to kill more time I got to finish this podcast. So 10 there's a couple in there was called Oh, God.

It's a very good one. Yeah, highly recommend. And I think it's also just like, for anyone who's like, What the hell are they talking about? Basically, she's a relationship therapist who records these sessions with clients. And obviously they they keep their identities private, and they don't reveal like, identifying information about like, where they live, or like, you know, what their jobs are that kind of thing. But yeah, I mean, I've been amazed by how much I feel like, I, I feel like I gained therapeutic value from hearing other people, even if their experiences are not anything like my life. I think that human beings have enough in common that like, I've definitely had episodes that like I realized things about myself and my behavior based off of someone else. You know what they've said, I'm like, Oh, shit, I do that to

a whole other conversation about like therapy, but like, it's so private, so private, so stigmatized, and it's like, it's so interesting to realize that a lot of people must be in therapy session talking about similar similar trajectory. Yeah,

I mean, we all just keep making the same mistakes over and over again. But if we make them in private, then no one gets, you know, like, I think if people were more open about like, their own mental health difficulties, it would probably save other people. A lot of pain. Because, yeah, it's like, how can we learn from each other? None of us are sharing what we're going through. But yeah, that's a whole, we can do another episode about therapy. Yeah.

I mean, I really like.

Have you read Adrian Marie Brown?

Yeah,

I think she's one of the most amazing human beings that's ever existed. And everything she does is just like pure gold. But, you know, in emergent strategy, she talks about fractals. And the idea that like, the these, like big ideological battles that we're waging, you know, in politics, like, those battles are also inside of us. And like, we need to address that internally in order to then be able to, like, bring that the reality we want to see into the world. So like, we think about racism, it's like, you need if you want to fight racism in the world, you also need to fight racism in yourself. And so I think in that way, I would absolutely make the case that therapy is a part of the process of being a better, like advocate for social justice in the world that we want to see. But unfortunately, it is still not just stigmatized, you know, socially, but also by our healthcare system, so that it's not considered an essential thing, and you have to pay a ridiculous amount of money for it. And so, I mean, that's a whole other serious issue and conversation, but

we'll do one on therapy, and then one on the healthcare system, and then just put them all together.

Yeah. I mean, it's great. Like, I, I've been on MassHealth for the past two years, because I've been in grad school, and I haven't been making money. And I didn't realize this when I went on MassHealth. But I've been able to go to therapy for the past two years, for free. I have not paid a penny, nothing. Literally nothing, which I'm like, I start my job in February, which is great. I'm excited, you know, I want to be employed. But also I'm like, Fuck, I probably won't be able to do that anymore. Like, I'll have health insurance through my employer. But I feel pretty freakin confident that I mean, I'm not going to be able to go to therapy for free anymore. So yeah,

that's been like a huge I truly

the past two years, like, just between being in grad school, the like, political climate, and just like my own personal stuff, like if I hadn't had that resource through myself, I genuinely do not know, like, where I would be right now. And there's no, there's no world in which I could have afforded paying like, $100 a week for therapy. Like, that's just yeah.

That never would have happened.

And I think like, yeah, I'm, I'm a personal care assistant. In the state of mass, so I'm, like, affiliated with MassHealth through that, because one of the students that I work with, is on MassHealth. And it's just, it's just like, I mean, like, there's, there's just there's ups and downs all the time for people with disabilities like, yeah, for many pros and cons. And then there's, like, all these questions about vaccine rollout and how those things happen, but it's just like, the disparities of like, the like, if you're, if you're a home health care worker in the home, if you are registered through the state, you are not in a long term care facility, so you can't get the vaccine. And it's just it's, I mean, we could go on about Oh, yeah, but it's just, it's, it's interesting.

What is being a personal care assistant, involve,

um, it? Ah, so it's a home health care worker. So I've been with my student for five years. So I've been in Massachusetts, and it's sort of like basic needs, like taking them to the bathroom and feeding and recently, it's In more of the apps, home school stuff, which is really, really hard for people with disabilities, yeah, he needs a lot of like one on one time with the professor was in the classroom, and it's really hard to keep attention if you're working off an iPad. And for people with disabilities, especially students, to keep their learning on track is has been pretty, pretty hard. And it's you, you would think that, that families would need more support from their personal care assistance or home health aides or whoever they have in the house. But it's been really hard to get support for that. Yeah. So yeah, it's just another part of the infrastructure that is failing us.

How did you get involved with that? Like, what made you want to or like, how did you even think of that as something to

do? So I am right now in my hometown, the first server outside of Chicago, Evanston. And I got a job when I was 14, through the mayor's summer youth employment affair, and I was late to it. And I went to a special recreation, and I had no idea what it was. And then I ended up in school. with students with disabilities, when I was 14, I was like, one on one aid. And so I've been an aid, either in a classroom or for one on one support. Since I was 14, and then I went to school, and I've been a PCA for the past five years.

That's awesome.

It's, it's an interesting vantage point for me, because I have all the privileges of being a student. And then I also have this other role as in home support. And it's just, it provides a really sort of interesting duality when I'm asked these like planning and policy questions when you, I mean, I'm not the only person that thinks that, like we forget people with disabilities at every point, when we're asked about it. But then sometimes I can get lost in like the planning policy, like, quote, unquote, greater picture of things. And it's, I appreciate the ability to be thinking about things on a really, really small one on one scale. It gives me I think, yeah, and I'm also really lucky because this family has provided me with family when I am on a different coast. Yeah, that's awesome.

Yeah, speaking of like, communications, and storytelling and urban planning, for me, and something that I've been doing in the past couple years, is I've gotten really engaged with, like the disability community on YouTube. Because there's a huge there's a whole world of folks with disabilities, you know, creating content on YouTube, but just about their lives and their daily experiences. And there's one in particularly a guy named Shane birkhoff, who has spinal muscular atrophy, and which is a degenerative disease that really limits his his mobility, and he uses an electronic wheelchair, and he is a published author. And so he does a lot of traveling to talk to groups about his book. And so there's a lot of videos about just like the experience of being in different cities, trying to get around on planes, trains, and automobiles. And, you know, I found that to be so illuminating. Just seeing, like, you said, that kind of like, what was the phrase you use was a one on one or like the, the,

it was a good phrase,

whatever, but thinking about it, like at the scale of one of this one individual, and just the amount of time and effort that goes into figuring out how they're going to get from one place to another and getting to see them do that in many different cities all over the world and see who's doing it better. And if and if they are doing it better. What is it that they're doing, I think has been so valuable,

is walkability and I know your podcast is about walkability and walkability And accessibility like sort of the intersection is so interesting. And I worked for the city of Chicago last summer. And there was I worked with someone who was in a wheelchair and he made a web app for people with disabilities to record report hazards for pathways. And it was just an It was really hard to maintain such a feat to put together and not be not helpful unless every hazard reported on the pathway. And it's just it and the onus was on it. And so it was just preposterous to me. But that's the infrastructure to support. Like, everything is interconnected, all the things that we're talking about are interconnected. And then walkability is on a path. And so just because one area or one late, accessible, let alone we're only talking about, like wheelchair access, right? Yeah.

Yeah. And all it takes is one curb. One, you know, blockade, it can be one thing, and it will just completely derail that person's day. And their ability to do to just carry out the business of their daily lives. Yeah, I mean, I've noticed and also, you know, this was something I thought about in my podcasts like, walkability is obviously an extremely ablest term, and like, I've seen people, you know, in the, in the transportation space, like, they'll often say, like, you know, walk roll, or, you know, they'll use sort of like a list of terms, but I feel like I'm still struggling to find like, I would love to have one word that is like, sort of inherently more all encompassing.

I mean, I guess mobility is kind of,

like mobility of eyes like transit. Yeah.

Yeah, it's I feel like that's something we have. Oh, no,

I hate my internet.

I'm on the good one, too.

Yeah, we need a better term but um yeah, so I totally lost my train of thought. But um yeah,

I think I think all this is just like, further examples of how new forms of media whether it's podcasts, YouTube, or social media are providing a platform for people who haven't been in my frozen again.

See, my batteries, okay. Technical difficulties, technical difficulties, technical difficulties. Was technical difficulties, technical difficulties, technical difficulties. Oh,

Um,

so I think what I was in the middle of saying was

all of these things that we're talking about are examples of how new forms of media, whether it's podcasts, YouTube, social media, are creating platforms for people that have been historically left out of the planning and policymaking process to be included, and to share those, like, firsthand experiences, of how these choices that we make are impacting people in their day to day lives.

Yeah,

absolutely. So I think, yeah, in addition to, you know, having episodes that are, you know, maybe a little bit more explicitly academic in scope, I think it would also be really great for anyone who is interested to include episodes that are maybe a little bit more personal or just about their, like, own experience.

And so, yeah,

I think those things are just as valuable as podcasts that are more, you know, data driven, and, and telling, you know, those like big stories that weave together, all these different narratives are important. But I think also the the story of, of one person's individual experience is so important, and not something that we, I think, talk about a lot in our work in this field.

mean as a community, like we want to hear stories of the people that we're working with and connecting with, so like nobody's personal, like variances. Everybody personal experience is worthy of being here puckered up everybody's personal experiences worthy of being heard. And we would love to create a space where people feel that they can share and connect more. Yeah.

Sweet. Well, I think we addressed all of the questions that we listed. But are obviously we could there are so many things we could talk. So maybe we will make another episode. But for this first one at least, is there anything that you want to address or mentioned?

I'm really excited about Yeah, that's awesome. Yeah, I mean, I

think, um, you know, honestly, just based off of today, I feel like we could easily pump out like, at least one more episode, kind of like, addressing some of these topics that we've talked about today. Particularly, I think, getting into like the disability conversation. I would love to do

an episode on that. Yeah.

Okay. And maybe we can like, bring in, we should probably bring in someone who actually has a

class on universal design, and Christine green urban design class and charity seekers. So maybe I can reach out and see if someone I also had

Oh, now you're freezing.

Ah, Hi, can you hear me? Yeah. I worked in the mayor's office of people with disabilities when I was in Chicago last summer. And there's two people that run the office and the Commissioner of the mayor's office and people with disabilities is the first step Commissioner. And there's is if we have any interest, we could bring someone in.

Yeah, that's awesome. Yeah. And I when I was at the Boston mayor's office last summer, I did also some work with their commission. I helped plan this event that included, it was about transportation, and we worked with some people from an organization that I'm forgetting the name of right now, but they came out and did some demonstrations about like the challenges of getting up on curbs, in wheelchairs. And, yeah, so there are some folks there.

We could just like you, we could reach out and see who bites Yeah. Yeah,

I think that'd be great. Yeah, I'm thinking about you about like, yeah, just realizing that like, so my, my aunt is deaf, and she has had a very successful career. And it's a very successful person, but I, you know, I, she works in the deaf community doing, I forget exactly the name of the organization she worked out, but basically, they they do closed captioning for movies. And so growing up with her, she was a big part of my life they live close by, and she took me to a lot of events. And so I think it's just been like, from from the time I was born, I've always had an awareness of the fact that like, the world is experienced differently by people with disabilities, and that they're not prioritized. And so that's just always been a part of my understanding of the way the world works. And I guess for some reason, I didn't really think about that until now that like, for, you know, for people who maybe didn't grow up with anyone in their immediate sphere that had a disability, you might manage to make it through the first couple decades of your life and just not actually have to think about it.

And we make it so that you don't have to think about it, you know, yeah. So, yeah, that's super important. And I mean, close. captioning is also like, words that we have, like a transcript of our podcast. Yes. But also, it's really cool that she works in, in that I always want to know about the inner workings of

accessibility.

Yeah, she, um, yeah, she was she like, Brian. She was like, the CEO of that company. Of course. I can't remember the name. But um, yeah, I mean, I think she grew up my family's all like in the entertainment industry. And so growing up around that, I'm sure for her was really frustrating, like not being able to experience a lot of the media. And, yeah, she she actually went deaf as a child, so she was born hearing. And she went deaf, when she was like seven or eight, because she had some like, terrible, like rheumatic. This is like the 40s. Like 50s. Like she had some terrible rheumatic fever. And the medication they gave her made her go deaf. Which is like, so insane.

Yeah, anyways, but cool. Yeah,

I think that would be awesome to do an episode about that. And it's also just been something I've been thinking about a lot lately because I've, I've been reading this book. It's like an edited collection of essays that came out just a few months ago, by Alice Wong called Disability Visibility, which is part of a larger Disability Visibility Project that she's been working on for many years of like, trying to, like, get more disabled voices in the media. And it's, it's a great collection of essays that like, really explores, there's like dozens of essays in there. And almost all of them are people sort of living at the intersection of disability and like other marginalized identities, so being like, disabled and trans, disabled and incarcerated, disabled and Muslim. Yeah, there's

just all these

there's so many things I'm like, wow, I never thought about how, what that would be, you know, like how these two things would would intersect. So I highly recommend it.

That's awesome. I'm so I'm super jazzed about this. Like, I think that anything to talk about more is important because we always tack it on. Yeah. Yeah.

Sweet.

Well, for the sake of this episode, I guess we should record some kind of sign off. I don't know what I honestly haven't thought about. Cuz, you know, some, some podcasts. It's like they have like, you know, they have like a signature sign off or they like say the same thing, every time or whatever. And I have

We could we could just do something for the first. Yes. Yeah.

Hi. Um,

let me think about

everyone.

Yeah, like, you know, like, I'm really like, and I'm celebrating for the UE podcast coming out, you know,

we can keep it simple.

I think that's great.

So

I'm Lily Linke.

Oh and of course, at that moment, my computer freeze. Okay.

Okay, I'll say I'm Lily Linke you say, and I'm Ella Brady, and I'll say and this has been the YUI podcast. Okay, great.

I'm Lily Linke.

And this has been the UE podcast. Thanks for listening.

Gorgeous.