

## The Critical Planning Salons

Q: How can we continue this discussion?

**A:** **Reuben De Leon** Graduate Student

Members of *Critical Planning* have initiated a forum to discuss many themes within the planning discipline. In a diverse and multidisciplinary department, the monthly *Salons* provide an avenue for planning students from different backgrounds and perspectives to come together to share ideas and discuss important issues facing the profession. From the *Salons*, it has become apparent how much impact the power of the spoken word has on understanding the contemporary issues that planners face in society. And, the *Salons* indicate the passion that UCLA urban planning students have for improving the quality of life of individuals, as well as demonstrating the intelligence to put their ideas into practice.

As the UCLA Urban Planning Department celebrates its 30th anniversary, the *Salons reflect* on many of the difficult questions in society that have challenged this department and the profession. These Critical Planning *Salons* are an invitation to UCLA planning students and their friends to partake in the discussions, to contribute to the oral tradition of this department, and to learn from each other.

*REUBEN DE LEON is a UCLA graduate student in Urban Planning. Reuben has been involved in community development and cultural planning for several years, and he is particularly interested in the impact of cultural organizations in communities of color.*