



Holon City Overview

Living Systems Framework

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holoncity.org

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Introduction

Our world is undergoing profound and accelerating change. New tools are needed to empower people's ability to participate in creating sustainable neighborhoods and economies and to become better stewards of their lives, communities, and the environment.

Holon City is a platform that uses a convergent multidisciplinary approach to develop tools that generate and communicate a framework for solving social challenges. The result will be an interoperable, modular proof of concept for a unified schema, governance DAO, and open architecture to support tools that engage users through living systems thinking and gamification.

Holon City is an advanced community DAO that leverages gamification, living systems theory, and information theory to link knowledge across fields of science and culture. This allows for innovative approaches to social, economic, and environmental development to emerge.

The platform will evolve as engaged participants earn points by creating a real impact in their neighborhood. They will act as co-creators, bringing members together for campaigns on shared missions and values.

Key Concepts

Holons

A “holon” refers to a system that is simultaneously a whole and a part. Holons have several key characteristics:

- They can function independently but also form part of a larger system.
- They naturally create distributed systems.
- Each holon performs a simple, singular task.
- They process information from external sources to achieve their goals
- Their collective actions can produce emergent phenomena greater than each individual holon.

Holonic City Management

Cities can be managed as holonic systems, improving governance and innovation. Holons combine organizational and individual elements, allowing complex structures to be created and managed. This approach enables:

- Improved decisionmaking by decentralizing authority.
- Greater public participation in government.
- Increased creativity through collaborations.

Living Systems

Cities can be viewed as living systems, composed of diverse, interconnected components that sustain the city and its inhabitants. Adopting a living systems approach recognizes these interconnections and manages the city holistically. This fosters integrated, sustainable urban planning and development.

Developing the Platform

Key aspects in developing the Holon City platform:

Governance

- Holonic governance based on self-organizing, interdependent units
- Multistakeholder participation in decision-making
- Transparent processes enabled by blockchain

Engagement

- Gamification to engage users and promote collaboration
- Sensemaking to understand complex urban challenges

- Citizen-centric design that meets real community needs

Technology

- Open standards and architecture for flexibility
- Data schemas to enable interoperability
- Integration of smart city and edge computing technologies

Knowledge

- Developing a comprehensive ontology of urban systems
- Bringing systems thinking and predictive analytics to management
- Learning from nature's complex adaptive systems

Implementing in Neighborhoods

Potential pilot neighborhoods that have deep cultural history, like Harlem, that can be showcased and augmented with digital tools. Communities that are 'rich' in cultural resources will be able to monetize those resources. Goals include:

- Promoting tourism and economic development
- Revitalizing communities through collaborative projects
- Exploring past, present, and future through interactive narratives
- Building knowledge and community through experiential learning

Holon City aims to showcase the vibrant culture of urban communities while prototyping a new model of holistic, participatory city management. The platform will evolve organically as people use it to connect, learn, and jointly address civic challenges.

Steps for Effectiveness:

- Get community input and participation in the early stages of development. Hold design workshops, focus groups, and community meetings to understand needs and get diverse perspectives. Incorporate this input directly into the platform design.
- Start with small pilot projects before scaling up. Test the platform in a limited area or with a specific use case first to refine the concept and technology. Learn from early successes and failures.
- Focus more on solving specific problems vs. general innovation. Identify the top 12 pressing issues facing a neighborhood and design targeted solutions. This can demonstrate direct value.

- Provide more opportunities for ongoing participation. Create ways for residents to continuously engage with the platform, not just one-off challenges. This could include forums, events, social features, etc.
- Develop strong partnerships with local organizations. Collaborate with community groups, nonprofits, schools, and businesses to leverage their expertise and increase adoption.
- Create a robust data governance framework. Ensure ethical practices around data transparency, privacy, security, and use are especially important for historically marginalized groups.
- Incorporate philanthropic funding models. Seek grants and donations to supplement revenue approaches like ads or usage fees. This can increase accessibility.
- Highlight community assets. Positive marketing showcasing existing cultural richness, history, diversity, arts, etc. can attract interest and combat negative perceptions.
- Develop inclusive digital literacy programs. Ensure residents have the skills and access needed to fully utilize and benefit from the platform.
- Measure holistic outcomes beyond economics. Track progress on health, environment, social cohesion, education, and other dimensions of development.
- Start small, soliciting community input, piloting projects, solving specific problems, building partnerships, ensuring ethical data practices, securing diverse funding, highlighting assets, boosting digital literacy, and measuring multidimensional outcomes can help increase the effectiveness of the Holon City program. A thoughtful, collaborative approach is key.

AI Art and Print on Demand

Here are some ways that AI art, print-on-demand, and 3D printing could potentially enhance local economies and shift means of production using a holonic model:

- Enable local artists and creators to design products and sell them globally. By using AI to generate unique art and designs, and print-on-demand services to produce them, individuals can become microentrepreneurs.
- Allow for customization and personalization for consumers. Print-on-demand and 3D printing enable products to be tailored to individuals rather than mass production.

- Develop decentralized manufacturing hubs providing printing services. Local shops can offer printing and design services, networking with many small producers.
- Create digital models and products once, then print locally on demand. This shifts production to information instead of physical goods that must be shipped.
- Provide skills training and digital design jobs. New opportunities would arise for operating printers, designing digital files, marketing products, etc.
- Enable rapid prototyping and innovation through iterative local production. Products can be tweaked and reprinted quickly in response to feedback.
- Establish community-invested print shops. Residents collectively invest in equipment to share access and resources.
- Develop sustainable practices by using local materials, and reducing inventories and waste.
- Foster engaged "prosumers" who both design and consume goods, blurring lines between producers and consumers.
- Facilitate collective governance of manufacturing infrastructure through smart contracts and DAOs.

The key is to leverage the distributed, customizable nature of these technologies within a holonic framework that empowers local ownership, creativity, and collaboration. This can shift production away from centralized mass manufacturing toward resilient community-oriented models.

Summary - Key Points

Holon City is a platform that uses living systems thinking, gamification, and information theory to link knowledge and enable innovative solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges.

- It is based on the concept of "holons" systems that are simultaneously wholes and parts. This allows for distributed, decentralized management.
- Key aspects in developing the platform include holonic governance, citizen engagement through gamification, open and interoperable technologies, and applying insights from systems thinking and predictive analytics.

- Potential pilot neighborhoods are culturally vibrant urban communities like Harlem. The goals are to promote tourism and economic development, revitalize communities through collaboration, explore narratives about the past/present/future, and foster learning.
- Holon City aims to showcase the culture of communities while prototyping a new model of participatory, holistic city management that evolves organically through civic engagement.