PICOLA (Public Informed Citizen Online Assembly)

PICOLA provides a multimedia environment for enabling online structured dialogue. It contains a registration process, interactive displays of multimedia information, text-based asynchronous forums, audio-based synchronous discussions (with video-based moderator windows), windows for Netcasting (of Expert Panels), and polling/survey capabilities. PICOLA models Jim Fishkin’s protocols for deliberative polling® and is designed to augment events such as “Campus Conversations.”

We are running a very informal ‘beta test’ of this software in conjunction with the Campus Conversation on Public Art Policy. Starting the evening of April 11th and running through 4pm on Monday, April 16th, participants in this deliberative poll can continue the discussion online. The beta test of the software will in no way affect the social science results of the actual face-to-face Campus Conversation. Participation is completely voluntary.

Information on how to access PICOLA and log-in to the forum is included in this separate document.

http://caae.phil.cmu.edu/picola/public_art/
Once you arrive at the site, you will see the ‘menu items” (Tabs) used for navigating PICOLA. Each Tab takes you to the main feature areas of the program: Readings (Library), Forum (Asynchronous), Discussion (Synchronous), Expert Panel, and Survey. There is also a link to a Registration site (for those who wish to join a convenience sample or just the online forum).

The Library section contains pdf files of the primary background materials as well as documents pertaining to current campus policy. Links to other campuses and their Public Art collections can also be found in this section. The Expert Panel section simply lists the participants in the panel session. Future versions of this may contain streaming video of the actual panel/audience exchange.
Forum (Asynchronous Bboard)

Below is a screen shot of the Forum. You will need to log-in when you arrive. The asynchronous forum allows users to participate in discussions and start up discussions at any time. To Post to the Topics Forums, select Forum and select a conversation (or start a new one).
Alumni synchronous discussion

For off-site Alumni who have pre-registered, we will be using a ‘real-time’ synchronous discussion feature called “Breeze” (now Adobe Connect). You can link to this from the section in PICOLA called “Discussion.”

Your ID and Passwords have already been loaded into the system. Please be sure to write them down here as well: ID____________ Password____________

Synchronous, ‘real-time’ discussions are available begin at the following times: 7pm on Monday, April 9th and Thursday, April 12th; 1pm on Saturday, April 14th. Be sure to arrive at your discussion group at least 5 minutes before the designated time. (Once you enter the Discussion, you will ‘appear’ in a list of attendees.)

If off-site Alumni have any questions or problems relating to Breeze, feel free to call our ‘help line’ at 207/423-7737.
Survey Feature

A sample of the survey questions used in the face-to-face event is available for participating off-site Alumni. Please use the same ID and PSW that you used for the Discussion Forum. We recommend taking the Pre-Survey questionnaire after having read the background materials (see Library) and at least an hour before joining your discussion group. Try to complete the post-deliberation survey within a day of your discussion.

Thank you for participating in PICOLA.