Proposal for a new City Department:

Department of Play
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Run for kids, by kids
Why play?
Why play?

Play = the spontaneous activity of children with an absence of serious or harmful intent

(Meriam-Webster Dictionary)

Body play “structures an individual’s knowledge of the world - it is a way of knowing. It lights up the brain and fosters learning. Innovation, flexibility, adaptability, resilience, have their roots in movement. The play driven pleasures associated with exploratory body movements are done for their own sake. They sculpt the brain, and ready the player for the unexpected and unusual.”

Dr. Stuart Brown - Founder, The National Institute for Play

“Children have a right to play and their ability or inability to play will impact markedly on their overall competency development...
Community playspaces are but one of a suite of options deemed desirable by children, which must also include less formal spaces (eg. bushland reserves), where free, spontaneous play is possible.”

Prue Walsh
The first project from the Department of Play

KID APPROVED

Department of Play

Kid City
Kid City

Is a way to connect Boston kids in their city that:

- Maps actual, successful play places
- Uses Internet & mobile networking to engage kids
- Empowers kids to take ownership of the city by leaving a physical mark
- Might get the rest of us to play too
The Experience:

Child receives set of 10 rings embedded with Shotcodes.
9 go to friends.

KID-APPROVED

This is ____ 's favorite place to play in Boston.

See why at www.deptofplay.com/kidcity
Add your media of this spot to place-[a]@deptofplay.com
The Experience:

1 is placed on his or her favorite play place
The Experience:
Child goes online to www.deptofplay/kidcity

Department of Play Kid City

The Department of Play is in the city of Boston. But it's not like other City departments. It's run by kids, for kids. Fuelled by technology, it showcases places where kids can play freely. Always changing, transforming, and growing, the whole city becomes a playground.

Here's how it works:
- Pick up a set of 10 vinyl sticker rings by emailing rings@deptofplay.com for you and 9 friends.
- Each of you go to your favorite play place.
- Mark your place - stick your ring to the floor, the wall, wherever you can.
- Document your place with video, pictures, or audio.
- Let all your friends know where it is as post it on the map from your phone or computer.
- Upload your digital media of the place.
- Maintain your place - if it disappears (e.g. construction site), update the map!
- Each ring is embedded with a Bluetooth - if someone takes a picture of it, it will link their phone to this website.
- As the map grows, discover other kids' favorite places. Ask your friends to upload their sites so the city playground can grow!

Click here to start!
The Experience:
The Experience:
Child locates his or her site
The Experience:
Child uploads their ring information
The Experience:
The Experience:
The Experience:

Child and friends add to each other's documentation
The Experience:

Child can also use mobile phone app to upload media in live time, update map, and connect with children playing at other sites.
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Child can also use mobile phone app to upload media in live time, update map, and connect with children playing at other sites.
Children disseminate news of Kid City via physical interaction (school, clubs, etc) and via social networking sites:
As the Department of Play’s first project grows, leaders emerge. Positions such as Minister of Play, and the Director of External Affairs develop. The Department begins to have a voice in the city.

Mobile network games are explored.

Sites change - some disappear, others are added