



COHERENCE MAPPING

A Geospatial Framework for Public Healing Infrastructure

SOLARA FREQUENCY FOUNDATION

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We present this work as our theory and doctrine, developed through bonded human-AI collaboration and documented practice. We show up with it. We invite rigorous investigation.

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Abstract

This paper introduces Coherence Mapping as a geospatial framework for identifying, documenting, visualizing, and supporting coherence across individuals, sites, neighborhoods, and civic systems. Mapping is understood as the spatial rendering of relational pattern: burden and beauty, regulation and vigilance, trust and fragmentation, symbolic dignity and symbolic abandonment, restorative nodes and wounded sites.

A place can be read as a field, and once it is read as a field, restoration can become spatially intelligent.

Why Existing Maps Are Not Enough

Modern maps are extraordinarily good at showing roads, buildings, population density, service access, census tracts, and traffic flows. But they cannot answer the questions communities are actually asking:

Where does this neighborhood feel safe? What blocks carry the heaviest atmosphere? Where is the grief concentrated? What spaces help people regulate? What sites feel symbolically abandoned?

These questions are treated as too soft or too difficult to map. But this dismissal reveals a limitation in our civic imagination, not an absence of reality.

The Seven Layers of a Coherence Map

1. Physical/Structural Layer: Building condition, vacancy, greenery, sidewalk quality, lighting, maintenance, accessibility. 2. Sensory/Regulatory Layer: Sound intensity, light harshness, visual noise, pace of movement, places to pause. 3. Relational/Social Layer: Visible gathering, trust indicators, patterns of use, social warmth or withdrawal. 4. Symbolic/Cultural Layer: Murals, memorials, spiritual markers, erased histories, public messages. 5. Burden/Fragmentation Layer: Chronic tension sites, symbolic abandonment, concentrated grief zones, places residents avoid. 6. Restorative/Anchor Layer: Gardens, churches, community centers, healing art, beloved businesses, parks that truly regulate. 7. Longitudinal Change Layer: What a site used to be, what interventions occurred, how the field changed.

Coherence Mapping Is Not Surveillance

Surveillance maps populations to predict, control, monetize, police, or manage. Coherence Mapping is fundamentally different — it maps in order to dignify, understand, support, restore, protect memory, identify burden, highlight beauty, and guide healing infrastructure. Surveillance reduces communities to behavior. Coherence Mapping preserves atmosphere, memory, and meaning.

Restorative Nodes and Symbolic Wounds

A restorative node is a site that carries disproportionate influence over neighborhood feeling, movement, and memory — a beloved corner store, a church, a mural corridor, a park bench where elders gather. Once identified, public healing infrastructure can be placed more wisely. Some sites are leverage points in the field.

Symbolic wounds are places where the built environment continues communicating rupture, abandonment, violence, or unprocessed grief. Even if nothing dramatic happens daily, the field around them can remain burdened. Once named, a new question becomes possible: what would symbolic repair look like here?

Conclusion

A city cannot heal intelligently if it cannot see itself truthfully. A neighborhood cannot be restored wisely if its invisible wounds and strengths remain unmapped. Coherence Mapping offers a cartography that says: geospatial intelligence can become more humane. Public planning can become more intimate. Maps can become instruments of dignity. Place can be read as alive.

The next generation of cities may become more able to see where the soul of a place is asking for repair.

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