

The Doowopolis Manifesto - Summary / Abstract

OUR GOAL:

- To build the world's first community-owned, artist-inspired, retro-venting, future-imagining, pop-culture-vibing, fantasy-forward, family-friendly (and fun!) decentralized borderless resort community.

or quite simply...

A worldwide network of 21st-century (and beyond!) Doo Wop Motels that span both the physical & virtual worlds, inspired by the story of Wildwood, New Jersey!

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- The Wildwoods were once home to the "largest collection of mid-20th century commercial resort architecture anywhere in the world" and a bastion of American working/middle-class prosperity!
- Wildwood's "Doo Wop" development of the 1950s & 60s was largely driven by independent, individual builders & entrepreneurs with small pockets and big dreams
- The motels built in the resort became known as "Doo Wop" motels as a nod to the musical culture of the time & place, and were often inspired by pop-culture themes of the era - from the Space Age, to Tiki & Hawaiiana, to Cars & Travel, and popular Music, Movies, and TV shows of the period.
- The decline of the Wildwoods (and of Doo Wop) by the 1980s seemed to follow the decline of working & middle class wages and political influence over the same period, following the end of the U.S. Dollar gold standard in 1971, when President Richard Nixon announced that dollars could no longer be converted to gold at a fixed value - marking the end of "sound money" in America
- The "Doo Wop" revival movement of the late 1990s (and efforts to create a "Doo Wop Historic District" in the Wildwoods) wasn't just about "preservation" for preservation's sake, but rather, was about revitalizing an entire resort community around the spirit of its past - embracing the value of art, architecture, design, and history in community-building, but also returning the power to individual small business owners & entrepreneurs in the process
- In the 2000s, Doo Wop became a battleground of "central planners":
 1. Those who wanted to "centrally plan" architectural & zoning regulations at the local level to preserve Doo Wop motels in the Wildwoods
 2. Those who wanted to "centrally plan" monetary policy at the federal level to inflate a real estate bubble, protect debtors and "too big to fail" banks, and ultimately, hand-pick winners & losers, at the expense of hard-working savers and legitimate small business owners & entrepreneurs

- The first group of "central planners" (the *community* planners) were met with fierce resistance by local property owners & developers who wanted to retain their right to sell for hefty profits into the rapidly inflating real-estate bubble the *monetary* central planners had created
- The second group of "central planners" (the *monetary* planners) went mostly unnoticed and were left free to debase the U.S. currency as working/middle-class savers saw large percentages of their earned wealth confiscated - and their opportunity to buy & restore once-profitable businesses eliminated
- Preservation goals ultimately failed in the Wildwoods, as a majority of historic Doo Wop motels were demolished in favor of a building boom of investment condos sold at inflated prices with "low interest rate, no-money-down" loans that would in many cases eventually default, but where lenders (and in some cases, the buyers & borrowers themselves) were bailed out with taxpayer money, in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis - free beach house, anyone?!

THE LESSONS?

- Central planning of either/any kind leads to poor outcomes for average middle-class citizens, and ultimately led to poor outcomes for Doo Wop in the Wildwoods:
 - Central *community* planning = restricting the freedoms of property owners to develop, improve, or sell their properties as they see fit (value of your property is determined by the decisions of central planners)
 - Central *monetary* planning = restricting the freedoms of workers, savers, and independent entrepreneurs to accumulate, preserve, and invest capital as they see fit (value of your labor & life savings is determined by the decisions of central planners)
- A majority of Doo Wop Motels in the Wildwoods were demolished not because of "progress" or "free market capitalism" (or just because of the lack of local zoning restrictions) but rather, because of centrally-planned, market-distorting policies of "money printing", "low interest rates", and "asset price inflation" and the lack of a sound monetary standard to ensure a truly free & fair market
- The value of real estate was fundamentally altered beyond its traditional "price-to-income" fundamentals, which in the Wildwoods made it impossible for new small-business entrepreneurs to acquire motel properties for the purpose of operating them as profitable businesses
- A handful of un-elected federal bureaucrats made decisions that changed the viability of an entire local industry in favor of a different industry, and de-valued the hard-earned savings of would-be entrepreneurs relative to the businesses they wanted to invest in to improve their own communities
- Instead of genuine "free market" forces determining whether restored/upgraded Doo Wop Motels (and the larger tourism industry) would be more viable than residential "investment condos" built in their place, the decision was instead made (or at least heavily influenced) by a centralized bureaucracy that altered the economics in favor of one industry over the other, similar to "Soviet Central Planning" in the 20th century U.S.S.R.

"A centrally planned economy or a command economy is one where the price and allocation of resources, goods and services is determined by the government rather than autonomous agents as it is in a free market economy."

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Decentralization (of both money and politics) is the future - and the best way to return the "spirit of Doo Wop" to both Wildwood, and anywhere else in the world that wants it!
- Emerging trends & technologies like blockchain, cryptocurrency, decentralized autonomous organizations (or "DAOs") and augmented/virtual/mixed reality, will enable this kind of decentralized future in the coming years and decades
- The "separation of money and state", as often cited by cryptocurrency proponents, will become key to ensuring such traditionally "American" values & ideals as freedom, liberty, justice, opportunity, and self-determination can be preserved and upheld in an increasingly digital and globally-connected age
- The future of "borders" will be less about physical geography and more about culture & values, and the communities we build around them - both "IRL" and virtually (and that includes those who seek traditional American values, which seem increasingly pushed to the margins these days)
- These changes will have a profound impact on the future of community development all around the world, and we want the "Doo Wop" community to be at the forefront! (because we sincerely believe in its values!)

CONCLUSION:

- We think the "spirit of Doo Wop" is ripe to be restored & re-invented for the 2020s & beyond:
 - A community that dreams of a better, brighter tomorrow for *everyone* involved
 - A place that celebrates (and leverages) creativity, ingenuity, and some good-old-fashioned (and good-natured) fun!
 - Resorts & experiences inspired by the pop-culture themes of both yesterday & today (what's old is new again, and what's new is often just a different spin on what's old)
 - Decentralized economics that give everyone a chance to own a stake (literally) in the future
 - Decentralized governance & membership that gives everyone a chance to input, influence, and help imagine what the future looks like
- **\$DOOWOP**

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