, Class

The idea of the American town square has long ca
theorists, and cultural critics. Despite being lauded by thin
Arendt as a central pillar of American Democracy, the tow
America's urban history. My research this summer focused
thought. I first wanted to understand the evolution (or devo
essentially examining how it lost prominence in American
palace. I then wanted to understand if our modern public s
community centers, cafes, and modern plazas and squares,
maintained any remnants of the democratic ideal of the tow

To answer these questions, I began with an explora
squares in historical documents, with a particular interest i
Throughout this process, I came to understand how the tow
civic action, lauded by nineteenth century political thinker
thrived primarily because [illegible] time
communication, and the n[illegible]y of face-to-fac[illegible]ti
concentrate civic life in [illegible] effective or ineffe[illegible]

democratic action find a [illegible]ome in our m[illegible]
questions I undertook an [illegible]w, re[illegible]
Urban Placemaking in C[illegible]mporary America by Mic[illegible]
focused on "creative plac[illegible]king" in modern America[illegible]
the mid-twentieth century [illegible] an e[illegible]
individuals engage with available space in an urban co[illegible]

Creative, there exist communities in which grassroots initi[illegible]
some of the original spirit of the town square. This left me
that deliberately encourage the communal spirit once foun
conclusion that while space is not the only factor, and that
none is available, it can be a major positive force in fosteri
democratic participation and we ought to construct spaces
Recognizing this potential, my research advocates for inter
and maintenance of communal spaces. While the era of the
more important than ever that we strive to cultivate a demo