What constitutes “aridity in the desert” for you in Arizona’s current political, cultural or economic climate?

**ARIDITY:** Sleep-induced anxiety, heat causes us to shut down, exhaustion

*History:* labor camps, children walking on railroads, in mines

**ARIDITY:** Politics, access to education, many segments/populations in Arizona prevented from

*History:* Arizona has not values education for ALL historically

**ARIDITY:** Isolation, connection

*History:* Desert by Lilian Fisher

**ARIDITY:** Religion (replacement of indigenous ideas/Catholicism and missions), lack of empathy, segregation of wealth, predator or prey (zero sum survival in desert)

*History:* Arizona has been primarily a poor state

**ARIDITY:** Lack of knowledge and understanding.

People live in similar community where everyone is alike, especially in suburbs and exurbs.

We are old yet young in our awareness.

*History:* No Asian Diaspora, sharecropping, segregation of South Mountain; 1964 first black person allowed to purchase land in Tempe

**ARIDITY:** Definitely car culture

Lack of spontaneous unplanned interactions with people who are different

Lack of density

Decrease in brick-and-mortar businesses

Poor city planning and unanticipated growth

*History:* we are a young city, relatively speaking
ARIDITY: The ease of isolation here allows one to not participate or communicate with neighbors or strangers, therefore fostering “closed minds.”

Closed minds remain.

Closed minds, isolation

History: Limited experiences = Fear

ARIDITY: Caliche

ARIDITY: Prejudice and fear, unfamiliarity, judging prematurely

Individualistic ideologies based in cowboy era, “claim your space” mentality

History: Arizona is not a port state, a place where immigrants from foreign countries landed (except he native Mexicans from the pre-US days) fostered a more “white environment.”

ARIDITY: Segregation in schools, neighborhoods, religions

Separation of wealth, concrete walls, everyone wants space

Neighbor or invader

“Other” as contamination

History: Resend bill passing, banning cultural studies

ARIDITY: Distance and heat keeps people physically separated, not bumping into each other, not forced to figure out how to live together—lack of common spaces, lack of street corner gatherings.

Against the law of attraction

History: The availability of cheap and large plots of land and it being a non-pedestrian/ car/non-public transit city.

History of seniors and retirement stunts growth

Seniors and retirees set in old ways

ARIDITY: Poverty and education; lack of access

History: racial injustice/ racism; Arizona Rangers preventing access
Arizona policing has prevented access and tolerance to non-white cultures.

**ARIDITY:** Separation and division, not knowing and living with others causes fear; individualism and lack of common shared spaces

Fear = obstacle to growth, tolerance, acceptance

Negative attitudes toward diversity of any kind

**History:** Data point: “58.9% of victims of hate crimes were targeted because of race/ethnicity/ancestry.

A history of systemic prevention of minority home ownership and redlining

**ARIDITY:** Tolerance = Civility; Difference = Fear

**ARIDITY:** Lack of empathy, lack of awareness, unwillingness to recognize ignorance, discomfort with discomfort

**ARIDITY:** Reaching past the silos/bubbles to build trust/relationships and foster vulnerability

Stepping out of comfort zone builds trust/relationships but knowing how to step out is difficult

**ARIDITY:** Tolerance and non-threatening difference, civility

**ARIDITY:** Unable to connect to the rest of the country

Being left out of the conversation until something goes wrong

**ARIDITY:** Suppression of language, discomfort, melting pot

**ARIDITY:** AZ is a transient state.

Identity and water: Zero sum equation not replenished (pure or polluted)

History: developers have historically not had a lot of power because of population booms

Unable to connect

**ARIDITY:** The obstacle of urgency; change takes time, community and persistence.
Change also requires self-reflection.

AZ cities are relatively new and full of recent transplants.

**History:** Human history in Arizona extends back 10k years.

**ARIDITY:** Neighborhoods and areas of town are political “clusters”

Crime categories

**ARIDITY:** Connecting with diverse people and being well-informed

**History:** Knowledge requires inclusive education. Education that does not erase e indigenous history of the southwest.

Mexican history in AZ is centuries and days old.