

Pre-conference workshop

Title

Learning by doing: inclusive, healthy placemaking

Date

26 September 2017 (9:00am-12:30pm)

Names, titles and organizational affiliations of the organizers:

Gehl Institute, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

Shin-pei Tsay, Executive Director, Gehl Institute

Julia Day, Associate, Gehl

With local host José António Bandeirinha, Professor of Architecture, University of Coimbra
and Andreia Margarido, Architecture Department, University of Coimbra

Background

Gehl Institute, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is developing a research and evaluation framework for inclusive healthy placemaking. While placemaking – the creation of public spaces - occurs all over the world, it often fails to achieve greater equity and health in spite of intentions and even funding. The purpose of the inclusive healthy placemaking project is to better understand the inputs, community supports, and other requirements as well as the roles that stakeholders should play when collaborating on public spaces to support healthy communities. This workshop will lead participants through a hands-on learning experience to test the initial findings including terms, process, and indicators for inclusive healthy placemaking.

Objectives

- Gather expert insight on how the inclusive healthy placemaking definition and framework could be improved and made more useful to practitioners and researchers;
- Explore the overlapping and complementary aspects between design/urban planning and public health research and practices, particularly related to equity;
- Inspire participants to apply these early learnings to their own practices and research.

Description of the Workshop

We will introduce the working definition of inclusive healthy placemaking as well as the research and practice evaluation framework, two products that resulted from multi-method research which included literature review of design, planning, placemaking, equity, and social inclusion, as well as qualitative interviews with placemakers from around the world.

From there, we will walk from the university to visit Praça da República and Garden of Sereia to test our assumptions. We will receive an overview about the space from a local practitioner. We will then conduct an exercise based emerging indicators in our framework for inclusion, health, and placemaking.

We will then walk via Avendia sá da Bandeira to return to the university, where we will have a facilitated conversation and another exercise that applies our collective knowledge on how we can best evaluate community supports and other external factors that underpin a healthy and inclusive place.

By the end of the workshop, participants will have had the opportunity to view a public space in a wholly new way. They will walk away with a common understanding of the elements and indicators of inclusive healthy placemaking and the pathways to changing practice.

Format

Participants will visit a public space within walking distance of the conference site and go through two exercises that will make the framework come to life. To contextualize the space, we will receive a quick overview of the space from a local practitioner. We will then work through a specific exercise tailored to the site and based on the Gehl's human-centered approaches to understanding people and space to test our assumptions and solicit feedback about the evaluation framework. This will be accompanied by discussion/reflection, followed by another exercise that involves applying our collective knowledge on how we can best evaluate community supports and other factors that underpin a thriving place.

Target audience

This workshop can accommodate 25 participants and is suited for public health and design and planning researchers and practitioners interested in the role the public realm plays in supporting health outcomes, particularly with a focus on social justice and equity.

Duration

The workshop is 3.5 hours and is scheduled for the morning of September 26, 2017.

Proposed timing at a glance

- 09:00 Welcome and introduction to inclusive healthy placemaking
- 09:30 Questions and discussion
- 09:45 Walk to Praça da República and Garden of Sereia
- 10:00 Introduction to Praça da República and Garden of Sereia
- 10:15 Conduct first exercise (in pairs)
- 10:45 Return to workshop site / refreshment break
- 11:10 Group reflection about site visit and exercise
- 11:30 Presentation about policy, financing required to sustain Praca da Republica/Garden of Sereia
- 11:50 Small group exercise about synergies in policies
- 12:15 Report back and discussion
- 12:30 Close

Venue

Information will be sent to the registered participants by email.

Registration fee

Free of charge. The registration to the International Conference on Urban Health is mandatory to be enabled to attend the pre-conference.

Sponsors

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation