BITU Communa Bruxelles

A mission to conquest the city as a common - by Makers & Temporary Users

Final result of the workshop (by Zoé Strauss)

> « To say that the city is a common is to suggest that the city is a shared resource — open to, shared with, and belonging to many types of people. » [1] *The Common City - Paul Chatterton*

The physical places we live give us a sense of place, sustain us and provide wellbeing and shelter.

However, something is deeply amiss.
Place making has been subject to abstract and alienated planning systems, scarred by bureaucracy, corporate greed and concentrated land ownership.

Urban economies have increasingly become locked-in to fast money, volatile inward investment, domination by big brands, zero hours contracts and low pay and poor skills.

And to confound this, urban democracy and governance are intensely unequal and hierarchical.

In the west, city governments are rarely governed beyond an established party political elite while city or metro mayors have done little to radically decentralize power to neighborhoods.

We live in deeply uncommon times. The common city points to a fundamental shift in the way that place making, urban economies and democracy are undertaken.
These come in many guises: novel forms of citizen led housing, community ownership, localized and solidarity economies, collaborative production, local currencies and civic finance.

Moreover, radically new ways of doing democracy are being activated through experiments in popular assemblies, participatory budgets, citizens forums, distributed networks, coproduction, co-operatives, as well as civil disobedience and direct action that call attention to injustices.

The Common City Manifesto

The « Common City Manifest » [2] is one of the four part of « A Manifesto for Real Change » [3]. The other three are « The Car Free City Manifesto » [4], « The Post Carbon City Manifesto » [5] and « The Bio City Manifesto » [6].

> 1. The fourth pillar, the common city, requires shifting as many urban resources and assets as possible into common ownership.
> 2. Municipalities need to recover full control over city planning, and implement a pro-citizen, socially just approach to all urban development.
> 3. Mechanisms are required to facilitate broad and meaningful citizen input into, scrutiny over, and management of, major city decisions especially around the allocation of resources and land.
> 4. Vacant and derelict land, especially in corporate land banks, needs reallocating to community owned

organisations.
5. Shifts in taxation from income to land is required to break up historically high levels of unequal land ownership.
6. The role of the local state becomes enabler and facilitator of community and citizen led initiatives that can unlock inclusion, ecological restoration and local wealth building.
7. Commonly owned institutions, worker owned co-operatives and complementary money systems are required to capture and recirculate value and build community wealth.
8. The mass release and use of data is required to empower communities to engage with, and steer, local development.
9. New measures and metrics based on happiness, wellbeing and sustainability are required that can shift priorities away from business as usual economic growth.
10. Learning and research programmes and paid work release will facilitate broad engagement with community based activities.
11. Citizen movements that undertake civil disobedience and direct action will play a vital role in highlighting shortcomings of established legal and democratic processes and priority areas for action.

Objectives of temporary use - Communa

Reanimate spaces

Initiate the reconquest of spaces, revitalize abandoned or unoccupied sites, move a space.

Value

Questioning an urban space, modifying its image and its appropriation by valuing its potential, improving it and generating a dynamic in its occupation.

Prototype

Testing, questioning and experimenting with practices on a site to prefigure its future layout.

Adjust

Encourage the appropriation of a relatively recent place and its activation in the within a neighborhood by involving its inhabitants in order to adjust, finalize urban transformations.

Communicate

Transitory experience as a communication tool to arouse curiosity and make the territory known to as many people as possible; inform and initiate consultation and dialogue with the inhabitants and users of a complex or an entire neighborhood. Create a point of reference to encourage discussion and participation of the inhabitants, helping them to understand the issues urban

Progress of workshop - 24 March 2022

Steps

1. ICEBREAKER (15')
2. EXERCICE presentation & source for CITY AS A COMMON (10') "A MISSION (TAGLINE) FORMAKERS & TEMPORARY USERS TO CONQUEST THE CITY AS A COMMON "
3. Theater for presentation CITY AS A COMMON (2 groups) (5'+35')
   Theater%201.mp4   Theater%202.mp4
4. CREATE YOUR DEFINITION "TEMPORY USE / COMMON CITY MANIFESTO " (2 groups) (35')
   IN THE VISION OF "CITY AS A COMMON", TEMPORARY USE IS A WAY TO/CREATES/BRINGS ….

   Pause (20')

5. SELECTION: From these 2 definitions: please highlight main words - with the support of the audience (15')
6. BRAINSTORMING (10') ALL ACTIONS COMING TO YOUR MINDS TO TARGET THIS OBJECTIVE
7. CATEGORIES (10')
8. CHOOSE 5 ACTIONS WORDS TO CREATE THE PERFECT TAGLINE FOR CONQUEST OF THE CITY (15') (ex: hackerspace - learn/make/share)
9. Feedback & Celebration

Galerie photo

1)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org

2)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org/common-city-manifesto.html

3)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org/manifesto.html

4)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org/car-free-manifesto.html

5)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org/post-carbon-manifesto.html

6)

https://www.unlockingsustainablecities.org/bio-city-manifesto.html

From:
http://wiki.11h22.be/ -

Permanent link:
http://wiki.11h22.be/doku.php?id=bitu_communa_bruxelles

Last update: **2022/04/12 13:37**