Shaping Space for Civic Life

Introducing the Assembly: Civic Design Guidelines

Joanna Frank
Center for Active Design
March 21, 2019
The Center for Active Design fosters healthy and engaged communities
Translating research into practical implementable strategies to inform design and development practice
Working to support holistic health outcomes

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Why Civic Life Matters
Why Civic Life Matters
Assembly Process

+4  Years of Desk Research

+200  Studies
Original Research
+ Field Research

+50  Cities Surveyed + Featured Projects

+70  Expert Advisors
Defining Civic Life

Civic trust and appreciation

Participation in public life

Stewardship of the public realm

Informed local voting
Guidelines

1. Enhance Community Connections
2. Prioritize Maintenance
3. Incorporate Nature
4. Celebrate Community Identity
5. Make Public Spaces Welcoming
6. Make Public Spaces Comfortable
7. Make Space for Activity
8. Foster Local Democracy
Bike lanes are connected to civic life

+6% increase in civic trust

+5% increase in participation

+4% increase in stewardship

+4% increase in local voting
Well-lit parks and civic life

CIVIC TRUST +5%

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE +4%

WELCOME TO GREENWOOD PARK

STEWARDSHIP +5%

INFORMED LOCAL VOTING +4%
Detroit RiverFront Conservancy

DETROIT, MI

Courtesy of the Detroit RiverFront Community
Litter and depleted civic trust

-10% → COMMUNITY PRIDE
-5% → TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPACES
-5% → BELIEF THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER
-4% → TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT
Maintenance of public greenery is essential
Mayor’s Fix-It Team

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Photo Courtesy of Fix-It Team; © Tim Ho
Thank You!
centerforactivedesign.org/assembly