Shaping Space for Civic Life

Using Data to Promote Social Cohesion

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November 13, 2019
Translating research into practice

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Addressing interconnected 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
Public space as a tool for fostering equity
Why Civic Life Matters
Assembly Research Process

+4 Years of 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

Photo courtesy of Caples Jefferson Architects
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
Litter and depleted civic trust

-10%  → COMMUNITY PRIDE
-5%  → TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPACES
-4%  → BELIEF THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER
-4%  → TRUST POLICE TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT
-4%  → TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT
“Front porch” improvements

METHOD
Each ACES respondent was randomly assigned just one photo and asked to imagine it was their local library and respond to questions.

PHOTO 1
LIBRARY WITHOUT ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

PHOTO 2
LIBRARY WITH SMALL-SCALE ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

I would feel extremely welcome attending an event at the library

49%

59%

+10%
extremely welcome
Community events and civic life

- +19% believe they have an impact on their community
- +22% regularly attend local events
- +28% believe local leaders represent their interest
Download today!
centerforactivecotinedesign.org/assembly
• Optimizes community-scale impacts of the design and operations of the public realm

• Currently in pilot phase with 9 communities across North America

• Will be available for public use in 2020!

• Visit fitwel.org for more details