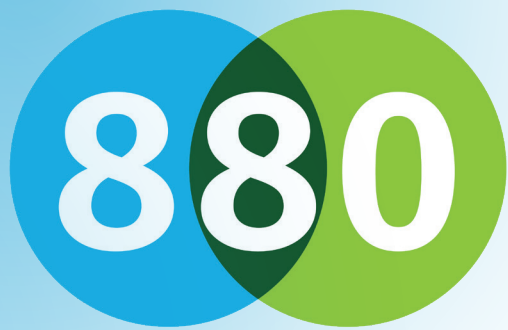




**cities**

**2021 Yearbook**

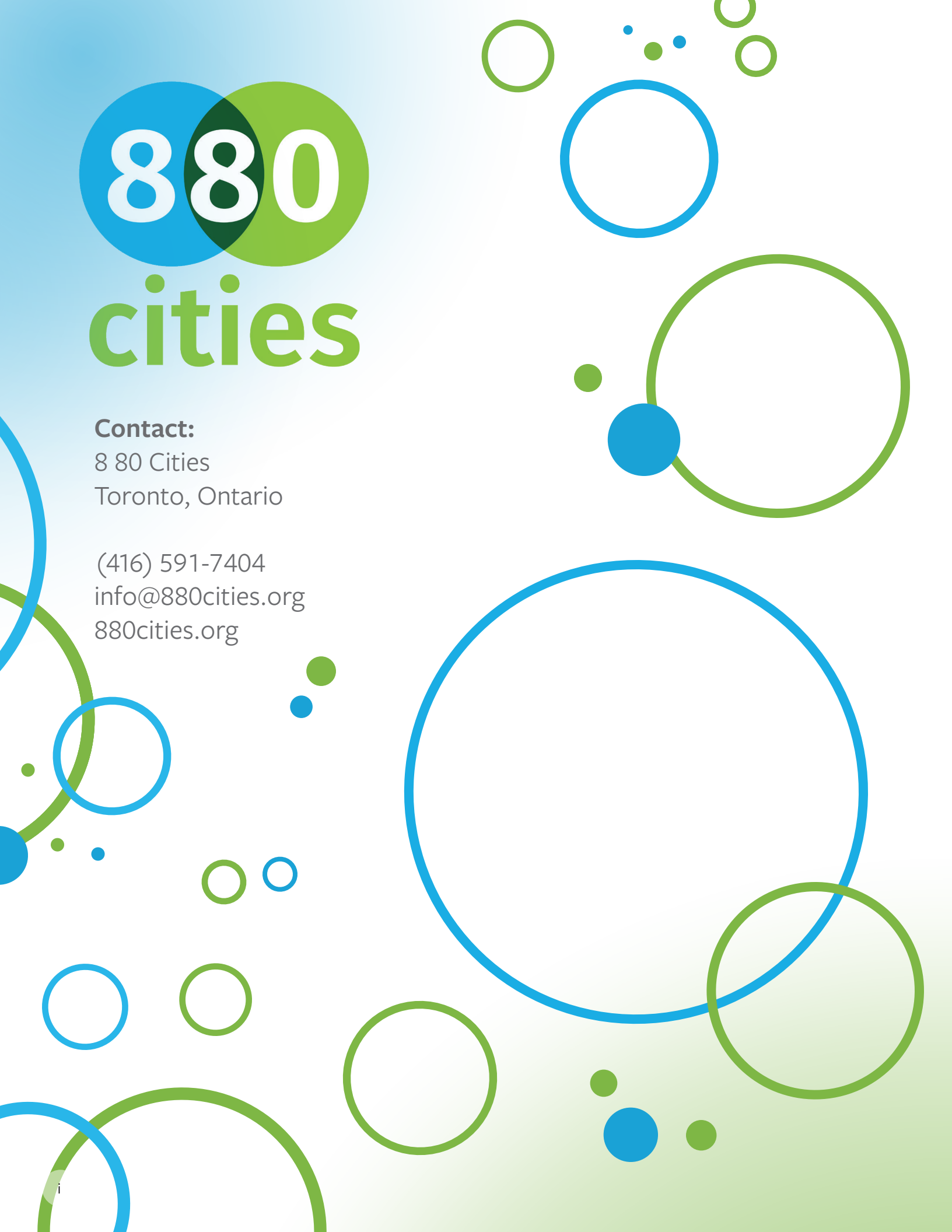


# cities

**Contact:**

8 80 Cities  
Toronto, Ontario

(416) 591-7404  
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880cities.org



# Reflecting on the Past Year

A Message from the Executive Director

With so many challenges this past year and so much unknown as we move to 2022, I want to take this time and space to express my deepest gratitude for all the people who helped us advance our mission to create healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable cities.

We've forged new relationships and collaborations, we've strengthened and deepened our work with longstanding partners, we've even launched brand new programs. We've said goodbye to staff members who've left a strong legacy, we've welcomed new team members with new perspectives, new experiences, and awesome new ideas. Our board and staff team have navigated yet another year of challenges and uncertainty with compassion, empathy, and trust in each other.

I love this work. I love the people I get to work with every day. I love the extended community of advocates and supporters who are both cheering us on and challenging us to do better.

The "8 80" City is not a dream. It is a provocation to the status quo, and a starting point to ignite change. It is a way to look at our cities through the eyes of children and elders, with the goal of creating better cities for all. It is a concept that we hope continues to open hearts and move minds so that we can reimagine and rebuild our streets, our public spaces, and our city-building processes with people at the center. I will always believe the 8 80 City is possible.

We enter a new year bolstered by the strength of our supporters, collaborators, and community champions and motivated by all the things we have been able to accomplish together.

With gratitude,

Amanda O'Rourke, Executive Director



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## **We Believe**

**Whether you're  
8 or 80 years  
old, cities  
should work for  
everyone.**

## **Our Mission**

8 80 Cities improves the quality of life for people in cities by bringing citizens together to enhance mobility and public space so that together we can create more vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities.

## **Our Vision**

We exist to create safe and happy cities that prioritize people's well-being. We believe that if everything we do in our public spaces is great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, then it will be great for all people.



## Right to Mobility

**In an 8 80 community every resident has the right to safe, accessible, and comfortable sidewalks, bike lanes and public transit systems.**

---

The movement of people in a city is an essential aspect of modern life. Too often, urban transportation is planned with only a few types of users in mind. Sustainable transportation, which includes all forms of human powered movement, has been proven to be a successful model for healthier, safer and environmentally friendly neighbourhoods. An 8 80 friendly community is one where streets are well designed for safe walking and biking, and where public transportation is affordable, reliable and accessible.



## Right to Public Space

**In an 8 80 community every resident has the right to accessible, high quality, and dynamic parks and public spaces.**

---

Public spaces are where cities come alive. When well-designed and supported, they allow individuals and groups to take ownership of their local spaces, creatively programming them to fit the needs of the communities they serve. Parks and green space are a critical means for urban residents to interact and connect with nature. They can be therapeutic to the sick, an adventure to the young and are a natural oasis for all. Parks and public spaces are not ‘nice to haves’ but are necessary components of any inclusive and healthy 8 80 community.



## Right to Participate

**In an 8 80 community every resident has the right to participate in city building processes.**

---

Everyone has a voice that deserves to be heard in city building initiatives. Too often, the voices of the most vulnerable, i.e. children, older adults, and lower income and racialized residents, are dismissed or altogether absent from civic initiatives. 8 80 neighbourhoods are ones where all residents actively participate in shaping and utilizing their urban environment. When all residents collaborate in city building, the resulting community systems and built environment are inherently inclusive.

# Board of Directors

**Gil Peñalosa**

Founder & Chair of Board

**Rabia Abrar**

Director

**Jared Kolb**

Director

**Sue Lantz**

Director

**Jordana Wright**

Director

**Kate Mulligan**

Director

**Eti Greenberg**

Director

**Patricia Burke Wood**

Director

**Rafael Vargas**

Director

## 8 80 Support

**Sabrina Machry**

Intern

**Sabrina Poinen**

Summer Intern

**Gloria Gao**

Winter Intern

**Alexandra Simpson**

Summer Student

**Demetra Barbacuta**

Summer Student

**Katelyn Ling**

Summer Student

**Brook Fleming**

Summer Student

**Mateo Higgins**

Cleaning Support

## Thank You

to all other past staff for your support in 2021!

**David Simor**

**Rosanna Tudo**

**Liliana Diaz**

**Alycia Doering**



# Our Team



**Amanda O'Rourke**  
Executive Director



**Lanrick Bennett Jr.**  
Managing Director



**Camila Uriona**  
Administration &  
Communications Manager



**Jiya Benni**  
Project Manager



**Jayne Armstrong**  
Project Manager



**Brandon Miles**  
Project Coordinator



**Deborah McKeon**  
Accountant

# 2021

## Partners & Clients

### A

AARP Liveable Communities

### B

Balsam Foundation

Bronte Village Business Improvement Area

### C

Canadian CED Network

Canadian Institutes for Health Research

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

Canadian Urban Institute

City of Copenhagen

City of Toronto

Cycling Without Age

### E

Equitable Cities

### G

GAME

Gehl Architects

Green Communities Canada

Government of Canada

### I

ICLEI

### J

Jay Pitter Placemaking

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

### M

Ministry of Ontario

Mobycon

### O

Ontario Active School Travel

### P

Park People

### S

Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen

### U

University of Alberta

University of Waterloo

University of Winnipeg

### V

Vivre en Ville

### W

WoodGreen Senior's Active Living Centres

World Urban Parks

WRI India

## January

Winter Friendly Cities: Addressing Social Isolation in Winter Healthy Cities – Ryerson Public Health

Winter Recreation and Park Strategies – Hosted by CPRA and APRA

Getting Creative With Our Streets- Safe Streets Summit

## February

Healthy and Sustainable Cities- Borderless World Volunteers @ McGill University

Transforming Streets into Places - Ontario Good Roads Association Conference

Mobility 101: Simple Ideas To Improve The Ways We Get Places During a Pandemic- Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative

Parks and Public Spaces in the time of COVID- The Nature of Cities Festival

## March

Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Convening 1- Canadian Institutes for Health Research

## April

Shift Into Gear- A Bicycling Advocacy Resource- PlayCore

## May

Getting to Yes and! How Municipalities can work with community partners- Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative

## June

Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table

June Outdoors- AARP Parks Guide Interview

Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Convening 2- Canadian Institutes for Health Research

Building Resilient Mobility Systems – Walk Bike Places Conference

Together Event- Rexdale Hub

Planning for Pedestrians- Dutch Transport Magazine

## July

Age Inclusive Cities- 5th European Metropolitan Talks Webinar

Play Talk: Play as Recovery Strategy – The Bentway

## August

Socially Connected Communities- Solutions for Social Isolation Part 1 – Tamarack

AARP Rural Lab

## September

Equitable Cities Workshop- Carleton University

Building Community Engagement- Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative

Socially Connected Communities Solutions for Social Isolation Part 2- Tamarack

Car Free Day Virtual Event- UK

AARP Livable Communities Workshop- Engaging Older Adults

A New Vision for Danforth- Ontario BIA Conference

Ontario School Streets Pilot Monthly Meetup feat. Sir James Douglas School Streets, Victoria BC

## October

Open Streets Roundtable

Shared Micromobility- NABSA Keynote Panel

Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Workshop- Canadian Institutes for Health Research

Ontario School Streets Pilot Monthly Meetup feat. Kingston School Streets

## November

Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Workshop- Bringing it All Home – CIHR

School Streets: Testing Car-free Zones for Ontario Schools - OTC School Zone Safety Symposium

Ontario School Streets Pilot Monthly Meetup

## December

Young People and Parks: A call to Action @ World Congress – World Urban Parks

Municipal World Podcast- Homelessness in Parks

Ontario School Streets Pilot Monthly Meetup feat. Montreal School Streets Vittoria-Gasteiz, Spain, Whistler, BC, Canada, Winnipeg, Canada, Worcester, USA

# 2021 Conferences & Webinars

# 2021

## By the Numbers

3

Cities we worked in in person



Whitecourt, AB



Toronto, ON



Oakville, ON

Hamilton, ON  
Mississauga, ON  
Markham, ON  
Waterloo, ON

Winnipeg, MB  
Edmonton, AB  
Birmingham, AL  
Burlington, NY

14

Cities we worked in virtually

Wisconsin  
York County, NY  
Eufaula, OK  
Montgomery, AL

Charleston, SC  
Delaware County, OH

## What We've Done

12

projects completed

+

1

virtual study session

+

10

reports written

+

15

workshops initiated

## Our Work

22

Blog Posts

12

Newsletter  
Issues

## Our Influence

85%

NEW  
Web Visitors

48,905

Website  
Sessions

41%



33%



33%



Website Visitors  
by Country

## Social Media

10,047

Newsletter Subscribers

6,200

Facebook Followers

12,000

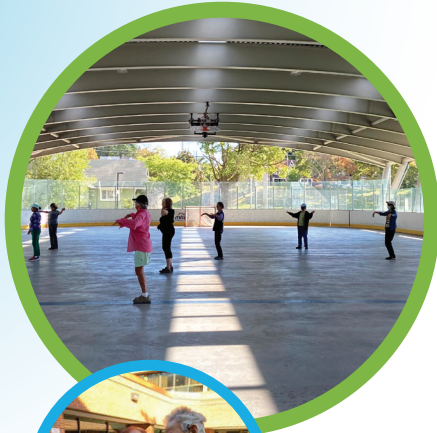
Twitter Followers

3,700

Instagram Followers

2,000

LinkedIn Followers





# **CANADIAN PROJECTS**

## Bronte Forward

Location: **Oakville, Ontario**

Client: **Bronte Village Business Improvement Area**

**800**  
Survey  
Responses

**100**  
Workshop  
Participants

**1**  
Strategy Report

8 80 Cities led a community visioning strategy in the Bronte Village business district with support from the Bronte Village Business Improvement Area. The vision is the culmination of in-depth community engagement that set the foundation for an upcoming strategic planning exercise. 8 80 Cities' role was to engage residents and stakeholders about the growth that Bronte is experiencing, collect doable pilot project ideas and to capture a community vision. This process included:

- Developing project name and visual branding, including project branding guidelines, project posters, postcards, and QR code tiles.
- Facilitating five focus groups and ten one-on-one interviews focused on underrepresented populations and key target demographics such as community housing residents, recent immigrants, older adults, and youth.
- Conducting two stakeholder workshops for 100 participants.
- Hosting an online and paper form survey with 800 responses.



3

Mobilization  
Sessions  
Delivered

289

Projects funded  
during  
Round 1

# Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI)

**Location:** Canada-Wide

**Client:** Government of Canada

**Partners:**

Canadian Urban Institute, Park People, Vivre en Ville, MaRS, Canadian CED Network, ICLEI, Network for the Advancement of Black Communities, the National Association of Friendship Centres, Jay Pitter Placemaking

8 80 Cities has been supporting Canadian Urban Institute in the Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI), a \$31 million investment from the Government of Canada to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19.

As part of this, in 2021, 8 80 Cities led three mobilization sessions focused on mobility, how municipalities can work with community partners and building community engagement. 8 80 Cities also led a small group session on how to put community engagement in practice. The 8 80 Cities team has also been coaching applicants that were funded through the initiative.

CANADIAN PROJECTS

 CANADA HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Funded by  
Canada

COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA

Canadian  
Urban  
Institute

# Whitecourt Neighbourhood Diagnostic

**50+**  
Hours of  
Observational  
Study

**2**  
Travel Periods

**Location:** Whitecourt, AB

**Client:** Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

**Partners:** University of Alberta, University of Waterloo

The Whitecourt Neighbourhood Diagnostic was launched in early 2021 in partnership with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association of Canada (CPRA), the University of Waterloo, and the University of Alberta, with funding provided by the Government of Canada. This project helped catalyze 8 80 Cities new and upcoming diagnostic services that are currently under development and in beta testing, while further providing a scope of analysis for the University of Alberta's research on creating healthier places by design for aging populations.

Over the course of two sessions held during the summer and winter of 2021, the 8 80 team flew out to Whitecourt, Alberta to analyze and assess the quality of public spaces, mobility habits, and civic participation levels of the town and its residents. This was enacted through beta testing 8 80's carefully crafted Diagnostic Tools which included forms of intercept surveys, mobility and spatial audits, and public life studies. Since the completion of both sessional audits, the 8 80 team has been working on extracting information that can be used in the new year to assist with the CPRA and the University of Alberta's research on the healthy living of aging populations, while additionally helping prepare the way for 8 80 Cities official launch of the Diagnostic service to the public.

9

Speakers

4

Days

15

Workshop  
Participants

# Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Workshop

**Location:** Canada-Wide

**Client:** Canadian Institute of  
Health Research

**Partners:** City of Copenhagen,  
Gehl Architects, Mobycon,  
Equitable Cities, WRI India,  
Cycling Without Age, GAME,  
Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen

In 2021, 880 Cities planned and hosted city leaders from Edmonton, Waterloo and Winnipeg for a four-day virtual workshop series comprising of engaging lectures and workshops on creating healthy cities called 'Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Virtual Workshop'. Over the course of the workshop, the multidisciplinary teams, comprising of Healthy Cities researchers, elected officials, and public health, transportation and planning staff heard from experts from Denmark, Netherlands, India, and the United States and gained an understanding of the high-level policies and on-the-ground implementation practices that go into creating healthy cities with a focus on public spaces and mobility. On the last day, we hosted a workshop where participants develop action plans for adapting their learnings from the previous sessions to the specific contexts of their home cities.

Copenhagen

B



CANADIAN PROJECTS

## Ontario Community Changemakers (OCC)

**Location:** Ontario-Wide

**Funder:** The Balsam Foundation

**Funder:** Park People

In 2021, 8 80 Cities launched Ontario Community Changemakers, a mini-grant program designed for Ontario residents aged 19-35 with innovative ideas to activate public space, enhance civic engagement, and/or foster social inclusion. 8 80 Cities picked 20 Changemakers from the 100 applications that we received. To kick off the 2021-2022 edition, 8 80 Cities hosted a 2-day virtual studio with presentations and sessions by the team at 8 80 Cities as well as various speakers such as Gil Penalosa, Ange Loft, Paul Taylor, Ryan Lo, Daniel Rotsztain, Diane Roussin and alumni from the Emerging City Champions program. 8 80 Cities also created different technical modules on topics such as project planning, budgeting, community engagement, communications etc. Since the Virtual Studio, 8 80 Cities has been hosting monthly meetups where the Changemakers can come together to share their progress with each other.

**\$5000**  
for Each  
Changemaker

**20**  
Changemakers

**9**  
Speakers



Ontario  
Community  
Changemakers

**3**  
Cities Supported

**5**  
Evaluation & Engagement Plans Created

**9**  
Workshops & Meetups

# Ontario School Streets Pilot

**Location: Ontario-Wide**

**Funder: Ontario Active School Travel, Ministry of Ontario**

**Partners: Green Communities Canada**

Ontario School Streets Pilot is a project in partnership with Green Communities Canada, through funding from Ontario Active School Travel to pilot School Streets programs in three Ontario communities – Hamilton, Markham and Mississauga – during the 2021-22 school year.

In 2021, 8 80 Cities hosted individual scoping workshops with the three teams to develop their evaluation and engagement plans. The evaluation plans detailed out the team’s vision, objectives and KPIs for their School Streets project while the engagement plans included key messages the teams can use in their communication and strategies to engage

with priority groups in their communities. 8 80 Cities has also been hosting monthly meetups where the teams can come together to share their progress with each other. Together with Green Communities Canada, 8 80 Cities also showcased this project at the 2021 FCM Sustainable Conference and presented at the Ontario Traffic Council School Zone Safety Symposium.



CANADIAN PROJECTS



# New Horizons for Seniors (NHFS)

100+  
Seniors Movin'  
& Goovin'

30  
Interviews  
Conducted

9  
Speakers

**Location:** Across Eastern Ontario

**Funder:** Government of Canada

**Funder:** WoodGreen Senior's Active Living Centres

The New Horizons for Seniors Program is a federal grant that provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and their communities. The objective of the New Horizons for Seniors Program is to support the social participation and inclusion of seniors by providing financial assistance for new and existing community projects and programs for seniors.

Through the New Horizons for Seniors Grant, we have developed the Seniors' Outdoor Activation Toolkit to equip and inspire seniors' agencies and service providers to safely expand their programming to outdoor settings, thereby increasing opportunities for seniors across the GTHA to participate in social and recreational programs safely.

31

City Routes Assessed

9,824

Survey Respondents Evaluated

3

Reports Completed

# City of Toronto Quiet Streets

Location: Toronto, ON

Client: City of Toronto

Partners: City of Toronto

In the Spring of 2020, the City of Toronto launched the Quiet Streets program as part of their ActiveTO initiative created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Quiet Streets were introduced across 65 kilometers in 31 locations to make it safer and easier for people to maintain a physical distance while walking and cycling on local streets. This program was designed to enable trips to essential businesses as well as recreational access to the outdoors in the earliest days of the pandemic when COVID-19 was little understood and the standards of physical distancing and masking up were not yet established.

Between 2020-2021, 8 80 Cities had the opportunity to consult and work with the City of Toronto on the roll-out of its newly created initiative. With funding support from the City, 8 80 Cities was able to partake in creating a series of assessment reports that analyzed the sentiment of the program among the city's resident. In the summer of 2020, a survey conducted by 8 80 Cities was rolled out city-wide and managed to collect the responses of over 9000 survey respondents within the city. These assessments were then evaluated and came together to create a final report that was released to the public in the late winter of 2021 highlighting on the findings of the Quiet Streets program. Together with Green Communities Canada, 8 80 Cities also showcased this project at the 2021 FCM Sustainable Conference and presented at the Ontario Traffic Council School Zone Safety Symposium.



COVID-19 QUIET STREET



CANADIAN PROJECTS



# **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

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# Winter Placemaking Guide

**Location:** United States

**Client:** AARP Liveable Communities

The Winter Placemaking Guide provides ideas and tools to implement winter placemaking in communities of all sizes. The guide inspires communities big, small and rural to adopt a winter lens in all planning work in order to make age-friendly, equitable and fun places year-round.

The Guide frames winter in an asset-based lens where communities of all sizes have the means and capacity to embrace the season through winter placemaking. By touting the socio-economic benefits of embracing the joys of winter in parks and public spaces, the Guide provides concrete steps for adopting winter placemaking locally. The Guide references dozens of examples from communities across North America that have used winter placemaking to make a warmer, brighter, safer, and more inclusive winter for all.

**58**  
Examples of Winter Placemaking Communities

**4**  
Pillars of Winter Placemaking Defined

**4**  
Pillars of Winter Placekeeping Defined

6  
Homelessness  
Issues  
Addressed

10  
Subject Matter  
Experts  
Interviewed

6  
Inclusive  
Approaches  
Identified

# Addressing Homelessness in Parks

Location: **United States**

Client: **AARP Liveable Communities**

Through a partnership with AARP Liveable Communities, 880 Cities sought to address homelessness in parks by delineating equitable and inclusive solutions that could respond to the emerging trends of increased homelessness in parks across the United States and Canada. 880 Cities conducted a series of interviews with scholars, on-the-ground personnel, frontline workers, and experienced professionals on the subject matter to gather together different perspectives and approaches in addressing homelessness, thereby allowing the 880 team to have a holistic understanding of the problems at hand and a new way forth.

These efforts sought to answer key questions on how to properly approach and engage with homelessness in parks in an inclusive, equitable, and respectful manner that retracted from the typical ways that park management teams have used in the past. This led to the Addressing Homelessness in Parks Guide for policy-makers, government officials, civic leaders, and homeless advocates in the hopes of offering tangible solutions, engaging conversations, and stronger inclusive practices.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



880 cities  
**Addressing Homelessness in Parks:**  
AN INCLUSIVE PRACTICES GUIDE

## Liveable Communities Technical Assistance Program (LC-TAPS)

12

Communities Engaged

1

Winter Policy Audit Conducted

1

Pop-Up Lending Library Established

**Location:** United States (Various Cities)

**Partners:** AARP Liveable Communities

Through the AARP Liveable Communities - Technical Advisors Program (LC -TAP), a program of AARP Liveable Communities that provides direct assistance to AARP State Offices, we have partnered with dozens of communities throughout the United States to host workshops and conduct research on creating healthier parks and public spaces for people of all ages. The workshops are focused on a topic of interest as identified by the AARP State Office and local partner.

72%

of Champs  
have Secured  
Additional  
Funding

100+

Projects Catalyzed in  
Urban Space across  
the U.S.A.

# Emerging City Champions



Location: **United States (Various Cities)**

Client: **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

Emerging City Champions was a fellowship and micro-grant program for young civic innovators living within one of the Knight Foundations chosen cities within the United States. This fellowship program brought together bright mindsets from across the country that were ready to share their bold ideas in order to enhance the public spaces, mobility access, and civic engagement opportunities within their communities. Since it's inception, 8 80 Cities has viewed this program as something that has been much more about the Champs rather than the project ideas themselves. Good ideas have come and gone, but good leaders have been harder to come by.

Through the Knight Foundations grant, we saw this program as a unique opportunity to invest in the human beings behind the ideas first and foremost. The seed funding that was provided allowed these champs to bring their project ideas to fruition and instill urban change within their communities. This program has underscored the power of investing in our young and emerging civic leaders through community driven solutions that support public life in public spaces. These champions of public spaces have become important cornerstones in creating the healthy and equitable cities we greatly need today.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



Emerging City  
Champions



What if  
everything we  
did in our cities...



...was great for  
an 8 year old and  
an 80 year old?



**880**  
cities

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