



880

cities

2022 Yearbook



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NO SCAN FOR EASIER MOVIE NOC

2022 Year in Review

A Message from the Executive Director

A Year of Revival in Transforming Public Space

After a long pause during the pandemic restrictions, this year felt like a comeback year. We were back...like really back! And boy, did it feel good.

At 8 80 Cities, we believe in the power of public space to bring people together and to spark radical change for people and the planet. We transform public space as a catalyst for creating better cities for all people. But more importantly, we transform mindsets and narratives about who the city is for; who has the right to mobility; the right to public space; and the right to full participation in the city.

We often make the improbable happen. The term “first ever” appears a lot in our project descriptions. Venturing into uncharted territory is not for the faint of heart. It takes courage and perseverance to innovate. It takes compassion, vulnerability, and a commitment to something much bigger than us.

So thank you to all of the changemakers, partners, collaborators, artists, activists, activators, connectors, and good troublemakers who helped us along the way.

While we continue the work to recover from and respond to the impacts of the pandemic, we say goodbye to 2022 feeling revived. Take a look at the incredible projects and collaborations that our brilliant 8 80 Cities team has been able to bring to life.



With gratitude,

Amanda O'Rourke
Executive Director, 8 80 Cities

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We are guided by the simple but powerful idea that if everything we do in our cities is great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, then it will be better for all people.

Our Mission

To ignite action and challenge the status quo to create healthier, more equitable, and sustainable cities for all people.

Our Vision

Healthy, happy, and sustainable cities for people to grow up and grow old in; where all people have the right to safe and active mobility, welcoming and accessible public spaces, and inclusive city-building processes.



Right to Mobility

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

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.

5-Year Strategic Plan

Our Equity Framework

We view equity as a direction, not a destination. This equity driven Strategic Plan starts from the inside out, with initial and immediate term impacts and results anticipated at an internal level while we continue to aim for external impacts in the mid and longer terms. While our initiatives and priorities may change seasonally or annually, we commit to actualizing these action areas as our forever and founding priorities.

Make Equity a Priority

Establish organizational commitment towards equity by making it an explicit strategic priority, embedding it into all aspects of the Strategic Plan, as well as the mission, vision, and values.

Develop structures and practices that advance equity

Integrate into human resources, communications, performance management, planning and evaluation, and decision-making policies and protocols - at board and staff.

Eliminate all forms of discrimination within the organization

Work from the inside out to eliminate discrimination and oppression by implementing relevant staff and board development activities and accountability processes.

Explore, develop, and foster reciprocal partnerships that amplify the mission and vision

Work across multiple sectors and with networks and coalitions who are working on common vision with complementary missions and mandates. Prioritize meaningful and purposeful community engagement that seamlessly ties to the priorities and organization vision.

2022-2027 Strategic Goals

1 Advancing Equity

We will use our equity framework to prioritize, plan and deliver all projects, programs, and services.

2 Strengthen Relationships & Build Trust

We play a unique, supportive, and complementary role in "building back better" strategies for municipalities and the non-profit sector in the GTHA.

3 Spark New Ideas & Accelerate Action

We will spark new ideas, innovate, and demonstrate change to accelerate action to build stronger, resilient and sustainable communities in the GTHA and beyond.

4 Build a Resilient Funding Infrastructure

We will expand the adoption of the 8 80 Neighbourhood Diagnostic Tool and 8 80 Cities' programs and services to enable GTHA leaders to shape informed plans and actions for improving the equity and sustainability of their community.

Board of Directors

Gil Peñalosa

Founder & Chair of Board*

*(Chair of Board from January-June 2022)

Eti Greenberg
Director

Jared Kolb
Director

Sue Lantz
Director

Rafael Vargas
Director*

*(Interim Chair from July-December 2022)

Patricia Wood
Director

Jordana Wright
Director
(Outgoing)

Rabia Abrar
Director
(Outgoing)

Kate Mulligan
Director
(Outgoing)

Nithursan Elamuhilan
Director
(Incoming 2022/2023)

Yvonne Yeung
Director
(Incoming 2022/2023)

Nadha Hassen
Director
(Incoming 2022/2023)

8 80 Support

Bohdan Mamalyga
Student Intern

Janice Wong
Student Intern

Joshua Lee
Student Intern

Evgenia Georgareas
Student Intern

**Shameel
Mohammed**
Student Intern

Rosa Braico
Student Intern

Olivia Savona
Student Intern

Jonathan Chan
Student Intern

Sabrina Poinen
Volunteer

Thank You

to all other past staff and volunteers for your
support in 2022!

Lanrick Bennett

Our Team



Amanda O'Rourke
Executive Director



Camila Uriona
Administration &
Communications Manager



Deborah McKeon
Manager of Finance



Jiya Benni
Project Manager



Jayne Armstrong
Project Manager



Shannon Lawrence
Project Manager



Brandon Miles
Project Coordinator



Laura Smith
Project Coordinator

2022

Partners & Clients

A

AARP Liveable Communities
Alta Planning Canada
Alzheimer's Society of Peel
Anishinabeg Outreach

B

Balsam Foundation
Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds
Bike Brampton

C

Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative
Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
Canadian Urban Institute
City of Brampton
City of Hamilton
City of Helsingborg
City of Kingston
City of Kitchener
City of Markham
City of Mississauga
Community Foundations of Canada
Cycle TO

D

Downtown Brampton Business Improvement Association

E

EarthScape Play

F

Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario

H

Healthy Places by Design
Housing for Health

I

ICLEI

J

Jay Pitter

M

Movium
Muslims in Public Space

O

Open Streets TO

P

Park People
Parks and Recreation Ontario

S

Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen

Q

Queen's University

R

Real Play City Challenge
Roots Community Services

S

Sullivan Renaissance
Swedish Lund University

T

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
Toronto Metropolitan University
Town of Caledon
Town of Springwater
Town of Whitecourt

Q

University of Alberta
University of Toronto
University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
University of Waterloo

W

Weston Consulting
WoodGreen Community Services
World Urban Parks

February

- Healthy Communities Initiative Mobilizer Session
- Parks and Recreation Ontario Conference
- Toronto Metropolitan University - Public Health & Healthy, Equitable, and Sustainable Cities

March

- Piloting School Streets Webinar

April

- Ontario Bike Summit: Ontario School Streets Pilot
- University of Toronto School of Planning: Reimagining Toronto's Streets
- ULI's Curtner Urban Leadership Program: Placemaking Panel

May

- City of Toronto & Jay Pitter Placemaking: Cultural Districts and Intergenerational Placemaking Panel
- Global Designing Cities Initiative: Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator
- Swedish Lund University - Tankeskedjan Movium, Helsingborg: Playful City for All Ages

June

- ULI Shaw Symposium for Urban Community Issues: Multigenerational Housing and Neighbourhoods

August

- Metropolitan Planning Council, We Will Chicago: Global Voices, Local Action

September

- Gether OPPI PALA Conference
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference

October

- Sullivan Renaissance Roundtable: Creating Inclusive & Accessible Parks

November

- School Streets Summary Report Webinar
- Sullivan Renaissance Seminar: Winter Placemaking in your Town
- World Urban Parks Congress: Children, Play, and Nature Keynote Panel

December

- Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Webinar
- COP 15 Panel: Health and Well-Being in Cities - Acting for access to green and blue spaces (GBF Target 12)

2022

Conferences & Webinars

2022

By the Numbers



Whitecourt, AB



Brampton, ON



Caledon, ON



Bolton, ON



Kitchener, ON



Hamilton, ON



Mississauga, ON



Monterrey, MEX



Sioux Falls, SD



Helsingborg, SWE

Where We've Been



State of Massachusetts
Albany, NY
State of Wisconsin

Bangor, ME
Helena, MT
State of Oregon

12
Cities we
worked in
virtually

Edmonton, AB
Worcester, MA
Kingston, ON

Billings, MT
State of North Dakota
State of South Dakota

Our Work

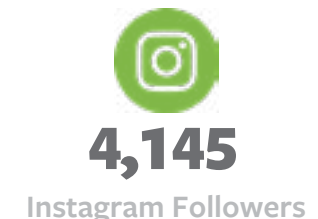
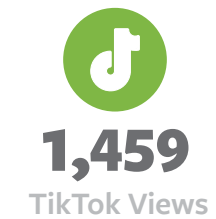


11 + **41+** + **4** + **25+**
projects completed virtual engagements publications written workshops initiated

Our Influence



Social Media



880 cities

Canadian Projects

BRAMPTON | CALEDON VILLAGE
WHITECOURT | MIDHURST | KITCHENER
MARKHAM | ELMVALE | TORONTO | LONDON
MINESING | BOLTON | HAMILTON | KINGSTON
MISSISSAUGA | KITCHENER



Activate Downtown Brampton

Location: Brampton, Ontario

Client: City of Brampton, Brampton Downtown BIA

A collaborative project between 8 80 Cities, The City of Brampton, and the Downtown Brampton Business Improvement Area and funded by the Government of Canada through the Main Street Community Activator program, Activate Downtown Brampton was a series of [interactive installations and activations](#) that took place in downtown Brampton's laneways and public gathering spaces from May to October 2022.

Project Highlights

In the weekend, we found that after the physical transformation of Vivian Lane, the number of people hanging out in Vivian Lane increased by **242%** and the number of people moving through Vivian Lane increased by **136%**.

Before the transformation, **60%** of people surveyed rated the socialness of the space to be 'excellent' or 'good'. After the transformation, this was **82%**.

We hosted eight weeks of programming in Vivian Lane with **29 events** including 3 pop-up night markets, 6 art-based events, 6 health and wellness events, 1 day of family-friendly activities with 30 local vendors and 40 volunteers engaged.



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TRANSFORMED-VIVIAN-LANE-UNVEILING
#ACTIVATEDTOWNTOWNBRAMPTON



The 8 80 Neighbourhood Diagnostic

A Common Vision Project

Location: Whitecourt, Alberta

Client: CPRA

Partners: University of Waterloo, University of Alberta

We worked in partnership with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), the University of Alberta, and the University of Waterloo to evaluate how the downtown neighbourhood of Whitecourt, Alberta, was performing in relation to safety, walkability, and mobility. Using a specific set of 8 80 spatial audit tools, this study led to the creation of a comprehensive case study in neighbourhood walkability through the eyes of an 8 and 80 year old, along with a neighbourhood toolkit to allow communities of all shapes and sizes the ability to assess and measure how 8 80 friendly their communities are.

Project Highlights

Over **2,000 data points** have been collected and analyzed for the assessment of Whitecourt's public spaces and surrounding environment.

One comprehensive case study was created showcasing the town's assets and measurements safety, and physical and social activity in the downtown Whitecourt.

One neighbourhood toolkit was produced with step-by-step instructions communities can follow to diagnose their own neighbourhoods.



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8-80-NEIGHBOURHOOD-DIAGNOSTIC
#COMMONVISIONPROJECT #NEIGHBOURHOOD





Illuminate Caledon

Location: Caledon Township, Ontario

Client: Town of Caledon

8 80 Cities and the Town of Caledon have come together to host a series of pop-up engagements in coordination with diverse community partners. The engagements focus on creating space for conversation, dialogue, and idea generation on equitable and culturally responsive placemaking opportunities.



Project Highlights

Engagement boards have been translated into **three different languages** for diverse outreach.

Over **10 pop-up engagements** were coordinated with various community groups.

Residents of Caledon wanted **more diverse uses** of parks and public spaces that reflect their culture



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⊕ SOCIALINCLUSION ⊕ PUBLICSPACE ⊕ CIVICENGAGEMENT



Kitchener Pop-Up Park

Location: Kitchener, Ontario

Client: City of Kitchener

Partners: University of Waterloo

8 80 Cities and the City of Kitchener came together to launch the first-ever pop-up park in downtown Kitchener to build excitement and engage diverse communities in reimagining parks and public spaces from an equity lens. The pop-up park was a real-time demonstration and test of ideas generated by residents through the Places and Spaces engagement conducted by the City of Kitchener's Parks and Recreation Department. The pop-up park demonstrated that quick action can be taken to show residents and equity deserving community groups that the City is listening and taking action. It also demonstrates the value of pedestrian focused spaces, especially when designed in collaboration with community. The pop-up park was strategic and measured placemaking activations.

Project Highlights

During the activation, there were **150% more children** (aged 5-14) in the site during evening hours (5-7 pm).

As a result of creating play for all ages, abilities and play styles, there was **748% increase in physical activity**.

70% of survey respondents said they played during the pop-up park, and of the respondents who played, 60% of folks fell between the ages of 30 – 49.

88% of people who identified as a part of the LGBTQ2S+ community, said that they saw their interests reflected in the space.



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CITY-OF-KITCHENER-BUILDS-POP-UP-PARK

⊕ POPUPPARK ⊕ TACTICALURBANISM ⊕ SAFESTREETS



Ontario Community Changemakers

YEAR 2

Location: Toronto, Ontario, Ontario-Wide

Client: Balsam Foundation

Partners: Park People

Funded by Balsam Foundation, Ontario Community Changemakers is a fellowship and micro-grant program for young civic innovators with bold ideas to activate public space, enhance civic engagement and foster social inclusion, and is now in its second year.



Project Highlights

20 young people selected as the second cohort of the Ontario Community Changemakers program representing diverse backgrounds, lived experiences and geographies.

57% of the applications were from racialized applicants, 57% were from applicants who identified as women and 19% were from rural or small towns.

Changemaker Avery Greaves was **featured in local newspaper** and changemaker Tennesha Joseph was **featured in Spacing Magazine**.



Ontario
Community
Changemakers

SUPPORTED BY

BALSAM FOUNDATION

park people
amis des parcs

//ONTARIOCOMMUNITYCHANGEMAKERS.ORG

#SOCIALINCLUSION #PUBLICSPACE #CIVICENGAGEMENT



Ontario School Streets Pilot

Location: Mississauga, Markham, Hamilton, Kingston, Ontario

Client: Green Communities Canada

Partners: City of Mississauga, City of Hamilton, City of Markham, York Region District School Board, City of Kingston, Ontario Active School Travel, Government of Ontario, Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation

Funded by Green Communities Canada through the Ontario Active School Travel program, Ontario School Streets Pilot was an initiative that tested the implementation of School Streets programs in four Ontario communities – Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga and Kingston - during the 2021-22 school year.

Project Highlights

Markham, Mississauga, Hamilton and Kingston all saw an increase in active school travel during the School Street pilots with the rate of increase ranging from a **+4% to over 20%** in Mississauga.

8 80 Cities presented the Ontario School Streets Pilot at **two webinars** and one conference in 2022.

School Streets encourage walking and cycling. In Mississauga, the rate of Active School Travel School Streets improve air quality in front of schools during the closure periods. In Mississauga, **65% of pre-pilot air pollution was removed** at Hillside Public School and 42% at Brian W. Fleming Public School. In Markham, 42% of pre-pilot air pollution was removed at John McCrae Public School.



SUPPORTED BY

Ontario Active
School Travel

Green
Communities

Ontario

MISSISSAUGA

Hamilton

MARKHAM

KCAT

//880CITIES.ORG/SCHOOL-STREETS

#SCHOOLSTREETS #RIGHTTOMOBIITY



Caledon's Active Transportation Master Plan

Location: Caledon, Ontario

Client: Town of Caledon, Alta + Planning and Design

8 80 Cities was brought on board the Active Transportation Master Planning process to lead community engagement as a subconsultant to Alta + Planning and Design. 8 80 Cities has been busy talking to folks across Caledon about their vision for a walkable, bikeable and accessible town.



Project Highlights

Three phases of engagement have been scheduled over the course of the project!

Over **131 survey respondents** have been captured so far in the community engagement initiative.

58% of older adults (60+) surveyed indicated that better pedestrian connections to destinations like shops and services would make them feel safer and more comfortable.



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CALEDON # ACTIVETRANSPORTATION # HAVEYOURSAY



The Lending Library Project

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Client: Government of Canada

Partners: WoodGreen, New Horizons for Seniors Program

The objective of the Lending Library Project is to support flexible and autonomous social and physical activities in seniors and to invest in the capacity of WoodGreen's Senior Active Living Centres and their ability to serve the diverse needs of their clientele.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 8 80 Cities and WoodGreen decided to implement a Lending Library program to allow seniors to be physically active while also addressing seniors' desire for autonomy, outdoor recreation and socialization. The Lending Library provides high-risk seniors, those hesitant to return to in-person programming and those searching for autonomy in their recreation, the



Project Highlights

80 seniors trained on the uses of the lending library equipment.

6 Ball and Band exercise classes were held during Fall Prevention Month.

Over **40 new Nordic poles** purchased to outfit the lending library.

The Lending Library Project

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LENDINGLIBRARY # SENIORSACTIVATION



Our Springwater

Location: Springwater County, Ontario
Client: Township of Springwater, Weston Consulting

OUR SPRINGWATER: Imagine a place for everyone is a dynamic and evolving community engagement process that will continue to co-create with community members for the design, layout and programming of the future Community Hub that will be located at 1132 Snow Valley Road. As Springwater grows, the Hub will be a destination that will provide residents and organizations with a space to grow, evolve and thrive. Through both programming and design, the Hub will be a place where the history of Springwater's agriculture, forestry, Indigeneity, sporting prowess and socio-economic diversity is tangible.

In true 8 80 Cities style, we brought fun and dynamic community engagement practices to Springwater that informed the Community Hub's vision and Master Plan.



Project Highlights

Over **600 survey responses** captured from community engagement roll-out!

42% of all survey respondents called Midhurst home.

100 pizzas eaten at the Anten Mills Movie Night and community engagement pop-up!



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#OURSPRINGWATER #COMMUNITYHUB



Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

Location: Canada-Wide

Client: Government of Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, Canadian Urban Institute

Partners: ICLEI, Vivre En Ville, Canadian CED Network, National Association of Friendship Centres, Jay Pitter, Network for Advancement of Black Communities, Park People

The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative is a \$60 million investment from the Government of Canada to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19, and provides funding to a broad range of organizations for projects that help communities create safe and vibrant public spaces, improve mobility options, and provide innovative digital solutions. Since the initiative started, we have offered technical support for participating teams from different cities in mobility and other areas.

Project Highlights

8 80 Cities hosted **one mobilizer session** on winter placemaking, and three small group discussions on communications and Open Streets.

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative **launched the Placemaking Community website** - Placemaking Canada | Canada's Placemaking Community.

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative has funded **over 1000 pandemic-responsive placemaking projects to date** with people experiencing low income or living in poverty, persons with disabilities, and newcomers being amongst the most served communities in the Initiative.



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#HEALTHYCOMMUNITIES





International Projects

HELENA | BISMARCK | WORCESTER
SIOUX FALLS | BOSTON
ALBANY | MADISON | PORTLAND



AARP Liveable Communities Technical Assistance Program (LC-TAPS)

Location: Various States, U.S.A.

Client: AARP Liveable Communities

880 Cities has been working with AARP state offices in the U.S. to host virtual and in-person workshops on good practices for Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages in partnership with the American Association of Retired Persons.

Project Highlights

We've worked with **8 new community** partners from across the United States

We **traveled to Sioux Falls** to trial winter placemaking in their downtown

We worked with **both** North and South Dakota



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LIVEABLECOMMUNITIES

TECHNICALADVISORY





Resources

2022

8 80 Toolkits | 8 80 Reports

8 80 Resources

What we published in 2022

Ontario School Streets Pilot Summary Report

Over the past year, 8 80 Cities and Green Communities Canada led a group of four city teams aiming to pilot School Streets in Ontario through the Ontario School Streets Pilot (OSSP) project. The School Streets Pilot Summary Report summarizes our findings from the pilot School Streets in Mississauga, Markham, Hamilton and Kingston along with recommendations for future School Streets.

For more information on this report, please visit:
https://www.880cities.org/portfolio_page/school-streets



The 8 80 Neighbourhood Diagnostic: A Case Study on Whitecourt, AB

The 8 80 Neighbourhood Diagnostic: A Common Vision Project in Whitecourt, AB was made possible by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, with support from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the University of Waterloo, and the University of Alberta's Housing for Health team. This report summarizes the findings from a multi-seasonal study of Whitecourt, Alberta's urban core in relation to the accessibility and age-friendliness of the towns public spaces.

For more information on this report, please visit:
https://www.880cities.org/portfolio_page/8-80-neighbourhood-diagnostic-whitecourt-ab/



8 80 Resources

8 80 Diagnostic: A Neighbourhood Toolkit

This Neighbourhood Toolkit provides a set of useful tools to evaluate how neighbourhood public spaces are performing for people of all ages.

For more information on this toolkit, please visit:
https://www.880cities.org/portfolio_page/8-80-neighbourhood-diagnostic-whitecourt-ab/



Seniors' Outdoor Activation Toolkit

The Seniors' Outdoor Activation Toolkit tells the story of a partnership between WoodGreen Community Services, 8 80 Cities and over 100 seniors who saw the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to flip the standard for seniors programming in parks and public spaces. The Toolkit proves that Toronto's parks and public spaces have the capacity to become safe, accessible, fun and programmable spaces for seniors.

For more information on this toolkit, please visit:
https://www.880cities.org/portfolio_page/seniors-outdoor-activation-toolkit/



We are...
guided by the simple
but powerful idea
that if everything
we do in our cities is
great for an 8 year
old and an 80 year
old, then it will be
better for all people.

Looking Ahead...

Building a Better Future for All



While 2022 was another challenging year for us all, our perseverance, strength, and human-kindness have helped us push through the toughest of it all. As we look ahead into 2023, we seek to move away from the COVID-19 pandemic with some important lessons learned and a chance to establish new beginnings. We look forward to growing the fire with the amazing people we already know, while we seek to spark a flame and foster new and exciting relationships with the ones we will meet on our journey ahead. Join us as we work together to ignite action and challenge the status quo in order to create healthier, more equitable, and sustainable cities for all people.

- The 8 80 Cities Team



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