



PUBLIC REALM

Learning Journeys

About

The program seeks to expose delegates from Charlotte, Saint Paul, and West Palm Beach to real-life projects and best practices in the design and management of public spaces in different places, and facilitate collaboration and mutual support among the participating delegations. We will learn from practitioners and experts bringing a variety of perspectives on what it takes to make public places more attractive, safe, and accessible for everyone. Participating delegations will explore successes, challenges, and lessons learned in communities across the country and consider ways to develop and adapt some of these strategies to their own context. **The Learning Journeys program is designed to inspire communities to adopt effective and inclusive approaches to public life; enable greater depth on key implementation issues and expose participants to a variety of approaches; and create working relationships within and across delegations that will live on beyond the program.**

Scope

The program is largely centered around American cities that might serve as models for participating cities within a set of common considerations such as regulatory frameworks, political leadership, social and cultural history, and market dynamics. The engagement formats include: delegation coaching, expert interviews, collaborative workshops, brainstorming and mapping sessions, traditional webinars, and more. The mechanics of these engagements are designed to be flexible to allow for innovation and adaptation as our needs, interests, and goals change throughout the duration of the program.

Timeline

The re-engagement phase ran from October to November, 2020. The first phase of the core engagement will span from December 2020 to March 2021, followed by a brief recalibration break to collectively reassess various aspects of the program – pace, content, delivery formats, and any other elements that may need adjustments. The second phase of the core engagement will be heavily based on the feedback and insights from participants during the one-month recalibration phase (March 2021). After a total of 9 months of virtual programming, we will consider the possibility of conducting a final in-person convening sometime in late 2021. The feasibility of conducting the final convening in person will depend on a few factors –the first and most important one being the state of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key Goals

Collaborative problem solving

Combine a diverse range of skills, experiences, and perspectives and engage participants across delegations in conversations and activities around common challenges and goals for their communities.

Local coordination and strategy

Facilitate relationship-building and collaboration among participants of each delegation to organize around a specific goal for their community and support the initiative on different fronts.

Establish a network

Create a foundation for long-lasting connections across professional and geographic boundaries to work towards equity and resiliency in our public spaces. The network will introduce a new generation of thought leaders that will create new knowledge and contribute to existing narratives around public spaces.

Adaptable strategies

Introduce participants to a wide variety of approaches and strategies to design, manage, and support their public spaces centering equity and resiliency.

Implementable ideas

Help participants identify specific projects or initiatives to advance their community's goals in the public realm, including specific actions, involved parties, and necessary resources.

