

Case studies

Ideas for creating places
that feel safer for women,
girls and gender diverse
people

Draft for consultation



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.

NSW is Aboriginal land, so throughout this document Aboriginal peoples are referred to specifically, rather than First Nations, or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal peoples take a holistic view of land, water and culture and see them as one, not in isolation to each other. If we care for Country, it will care for us.

Cover image: [reVITALise program 2023](#), Woman and children in Bedford St. Tunnel viewing '1000 Kisses' by Kieran Butler

Credit: Transport for NSW



High school students participating in a co-design workshop in the Moore Park precinct along a pathway connecting to the tram station, as part of the [Safer Cities program](#)
Credit: Transport for NSW

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Introduction

The Safer Cities program is investing \$30 million over two years to help improve perceptions of safety in cities and towns across NSW, particularly for women, girls and gender diverse people.

Research shows that women, girls and gender diverse people are less likely to spend time in public places, streets and transport hubs compared to men as they can feel unsafe¹. However, there are a number of ways to address women, girls and gender diverse people's negative perceptions of safety in public places.

This document is a collection of illustrative examples from around the world demonstrating how people's perceptions of safety in public spaces and transport hubs are being considered in different ways, across NSW, Australia as well as globally.

From place-based design interventions through to activations and program design and policy, there are some great projects that show what can be done to make public spaces and transport journeys feel safer for women, girls and gender diverse people.

¹ Transport for NSW 2023, [Safer Cities Survey Report](#).

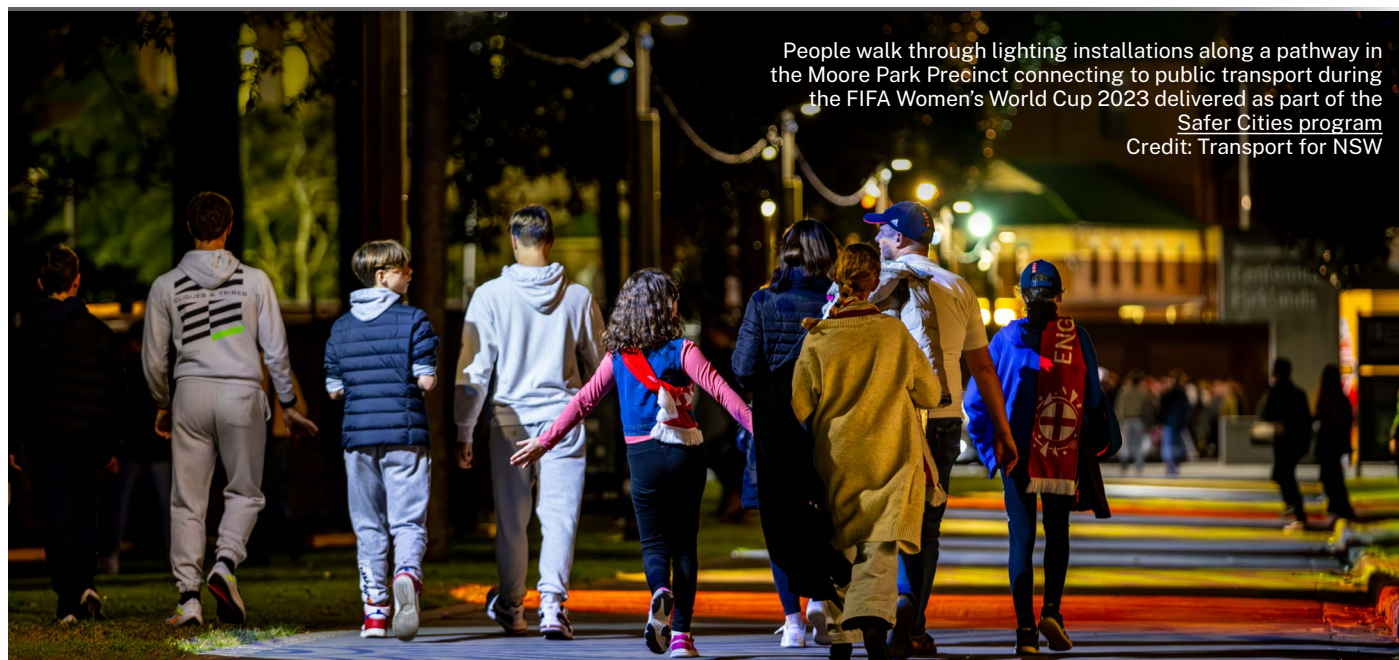
Overview

The examples are arranged according to the following themes:

1. Proactive engagement and co-design with women, girls and gender diverse people
2. Mobility and perceived safety as a right
3. Walkable public spaces to support access to needs and opportunities
4. Activation helps create inviting places and promotes public life
5. Smart city technology is an enabler, offering new possibilities to address safety concerns

We have also included a reading list on page 18 with more resources to help inform designing public spaces and cities for women, girls and gender diverse people.

This document should be read in conjunction with other resources in the [Great Places Toolkit](#), the [NSW Public Spaces Charter](#) and the [Movement and Place Framework](#).



People walk through lighting installations along a pathway in the Moore Park Precinct connecting to public transport during the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 delivered as part of the [Safer Cities program](#)
Credit: Transport for NSW

1. Proactive engagement and co-design

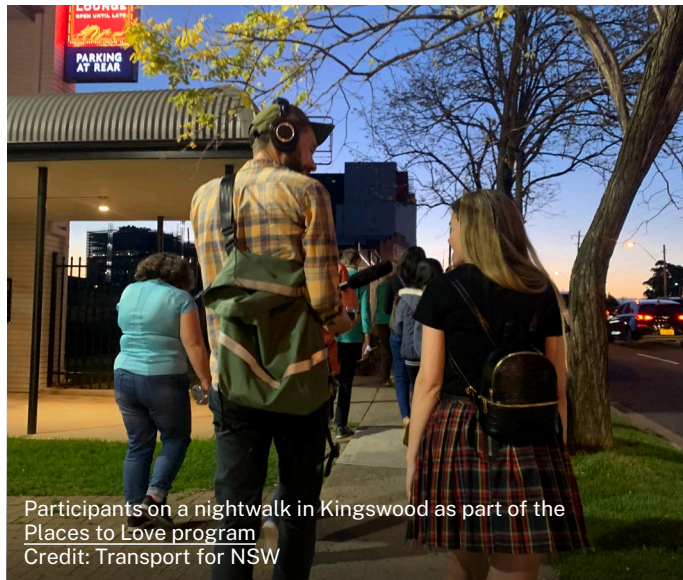
The Live, Work, Play Grid

Penrith City Council in partnership with NSW Government, Kingswood, Australia (2021)

Penrith City Council and the NSW Government partnered to deliver the Live, Work, Play Grid, a 1.2km walking trail along streets and open spaces adjacent to Kingswood station. The project is part of the [Places to Love](#), a collaborative program between NSW Government and councils to trial demonstration projects that improve walkable access to, and the quality of, local public spaces, particularly in streets and transport hub precincts. The project began in 2020 and focused on testing low-cost, high impact interventions, short-term treatments and semi-permanent changes to promote walkability, activation and sense of pride and safety in the heart of Kingswood.

The project encouraged residents, students and workers to walk the trail and discover the temporary elements and activations along the way. The project aimed to improve the area's safety and walkability by upgrading places where the community can linger, play, interact and gather. In November 2020, Council held a Women's Night Walk to capture local women's experience of navigating public space in Kingswood at night. Key themes identified during the walk informed the concept design.

The project was delivered in 2021. The public space improvements included playful wayfinding, creative lighting, new seating, tree planters embellished by a local artist, garden planters painted by the community, a handball court and a badminton net. The infrastructure improvements were accompanied by three-week activation program that offered 20 free events, including art workshops, community gardening sessions, urban nature tours, picnics, movie nights, and night walks with women. The temporary trial informed permanent changes to the public space.



Participants on a nightwalk in Kingswood as part of the [Places to Love](#) program
Credit: Transport for NSW



Public space and street improvements in Kingswood delivered as part of the [Places to Love](#) program
Credit: Penrith City Council

Read more: Shaping places together

Co-design is a critical to shaping safer cities and towns for women, girls and gender-diverse people. It is a collaborative process of engagement wherein government, community, designers and stakeholders work together to identify challenges and create solutions that address the needs and aspirations of all involved. You can read more about co-design in [draft Shaping places together: Ideas for co-designing places](#).

#UrbanGirlsMovement workshop series

Elin Andersdotter Fabre, Global Utmaning, Stockholm, Sweden (2019)

The #UrbanGirlsMovement workshop series was a year-long engagement that enabled local women and girls to contribute solutions to public space challenges in Fittja, in the Botkyrka municipality of Stockholm. Through this workshop series, women and girls were brought together to develop innovative solutions for public spaces in their neighbourhoods, and share their visions for a more inclusive and equal city. A key goal of the workshops was for the participants to develop an understanding of the project and the concept of feminist urban development. Participants were introduced to gender perspectives in urban planning and were given inspiration from initiatives in Sweden and around the world. Participants also took part in the Girls' Urban Walk, a city walk where they assessed the different public and semi-public spaces around Fittja.

Building upon the data collected, participants identified challenges and opportunities, their vision for the future, and possible changes that could be implemented in Fittja. Participants took part in a two-day workshop where they visualised their ideas using Block by Block, a method for civic dialogue and co-creation developed by UN-Habitat. Participants developed solutions digitally using the computer game Minecraft. Through several more workshops and activities, the participants, along with architects and the municipality of Botkyrka, designed a temporary pop-up to test some of the elements from the project. The pop-up #UrbanGirlsCube was built on Fittja Square in August 2019. The purpose of the pop-up installation was to see how the local community would react to the solutions that emerged from the project, and show how the results can be incorporated in the urban planning process.

The outcomes and lessons learned from the process were published on the Her City platform with the ambition to share the values of increasingly involving women and girls in urban development processes. Together with experts and stakeholders in urban development, the Her City toolbox was created to help incorporate a cost-efficient process within cities and communities. The toolbox follows a unique process containing nine building blocks as a digital guideline on how to co-plan cities from a girl's perspective.



A group of girls participating in a workshop as part of the #UrbanGirlsMovement workshop series
Credit: Global Utmaning

Bredäng Park

Nivå Landskapsarkitektur, Stockholm, Sweden (2020)

Landscape architects Nivå Landskapsarkitektur worked with a focus group of girls from Bredäng in Stockholm to design a park for spontaneous dance, play and free sports. The project came about in response to the location being occupied by a football field primarily utilised by boys and men for structured activities.

The focus group highlighted the value of creating a welcoming environment where friends and family of all generations can get together. Through a series of workshops, the girls created a concept for a park that would encourage spontaneous physical exercise.

According to current research, the majority of Swedish children and young people do not engage enough in daily physical activity. This is particularly true for teenage girls, highlighting the need to create more inclusive opportunities for physical activity that appeal to a wider cross-section of society.



Aerial image of Bredäng Park
Credit: Robin Hayes



Community engaging in the park
Credit: Niva Landskapsarkitektur

Beyond the Studio: Activation for Women's Visibility, Inclusion and Safety through Public Art Project

Women's Health East, Lilydale, Australia (2019)

The Beyond the Studio project invited women from the Yarra Ranges in Victoria to take photographs of spaces in their community that they felt would benefit from public art displays. The aim of the project was to support inclusion and safety for women in public spaces, and to showcase the achievements and talents of women artists in the community.

The objectives of the project included increased opportunities for the acknowledgment, recognition, and the value of Yarra Ranges women artists, strengthening the Yarra Ranges community to recognise the achievements and talents of women in their community, building the Yarra Ranges community's awareness of the role public open spaces play in promoting gender equality and improving women's sense of safety and supporting the Yarra Ranges local government to engage more local women artists to enhance public open spaces through their artwork.

The women who participated in the project highlighted the importance of spaces being 'inviting' and 'welcoming', which would encourage more people to use the space and improve levels of safety. One way in which spaces can be made more welcoming and inviting is through public art displays. Six concept images were produced through the project. These were showcased on the Women's Health East website and promoted through a two-week social media campaign.

The project helped to build the Yarra Ranges community's awareness of the role public open spaces play in promoting gender equality and improving women's sense of safety. Project participants spoke about how art in a public space creates positive energy and encourages community connection, because community members can stop, observe the artwork and generate conversations with others. Art created by women featuring women also demonstrates the importance of women's voices in public spaces.



Before photograph for the Beyond the Studio project
Before photograph by: Marilyn H



After visualisation for the Beyond the Studio project
Artwork by: Lucy Hawkins
Artwork photographer: Suzanne Phoenix



BIKE-CURIOUS website cover image
Credit: Ste Murray

BIKE-CURIOUS

WestCycle, Perth, Australia (2023)

The BIKE-CURIOUS program responds to low participation rates in Western Australia of women and girls aged 15-20 in bike riding of all kinds. The program runs workshops for women and girls to share their thoughts about riding, explore their experiences, and support each other to take action to change things for themselves and their friends. The pilot program was implemented across Perth in partnership with WestCycle and Solidaria in May 2023. The program aims to improve participants' understanding of their own perceptions towards bike riding using creative processes to generate insights and co-design behaviour change strategies. The program also aimed improve their skills, knowledge, and confidence so they ride more frequently.

2. Mobility and perceived safety as a right



TramLab workshop, November 2019
Credit: TramLab

TramLab: Toolkit for Gender-Sensitive Placemaking

La Trobe University, RMIT University and Monash University's XYX Lab, Victoria, Australia (2020)

Sexual harassment and assault affect many women and girls in their journeys to, on and around public transport. This often causes women and girls to change their own behaviour to protect their safety, including changing the routes they take and self-restricting their mobility. The TramLab: Toolkit for Gender-Sensitive Placemaking project aims to change this by helping to make journeys on public transport safer.

The project team conducted research into safety for women and girls on and around public transport. They reviewed existing international literature, policy and initiatives, gathered and analysed reporting data from Victorian public transport providers, and conducted interviews with women users and key stakeholders. A series of workshops were held to explore the perspective of service providers, how solutions are co-designed with women and girls, and designing for gender processes.

The toolkit is one of four designed by the TramLab team to help improve public transport safety for women and girls. The other toolkits are focused on communication campaigns for raising awareness around gender issues, data collection and analysis with a gender lens, and training for all involved in public transport to understand the issues.

Women Who Walk®

City of Melbourne and Victoria Walks, Melbourne, Australia (2019)

Victoria Walks and the City of Melbourne worked together to address the safety concerns of female residents following some highly publicised attacks in parks. They devised the Women Who Walk event concept to test whether city parks could be more welcoming and accessible for female residents and workers.

According to Victoria Walks, walking is Australia's most popular recreational activity, and women make up 62% of the 8.7 million Australians aged over 15 who choose to walk for health and fitness². In Victoria, however, more than half of women are not active enough, and one in 10 women do no activity at all in a typical week.

The Women Who Walk program is a series of facilitated social walking events that connect women and encourage them to make greater use of local parks and trails. The events were held at Carlton's Princes Park from October to December 2019, and they were scheduled in the evening in order to be accessible to both working and non-working women, and support those who feared walking alone at night.

The Women Who Walk program aims to break barriers that prevent many women from walking as much as they would like to. The principle behind the program is that streets and spaces populated with women are safer and more appealing.

2 Victoria Walks, 2019, Women Who Walk – Princes Park project



A group of women participating in the Women Who Walk® program
Credit: Women Who Walk®

3. Walkable public spaces support active transport choices

Female Friendly Sport and Recreation Participation and Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2031

Moorabool Shire Council, Ballan, Australia (2021)

Moorabool Shire Council's Female Friendly Sport and Recreation Participation and Infrastructure Strategy aims to create, facilitate and recognise the importance of women and girls' involvement in physical activity, and to celebrate and promote their intersectional lived experience achievements.

The sport and recreation needs of people, including women and girls, change across the course of their lifetime. VicHealth identified five distinct 'life stages', which have common themes and unique attributes that influence physical activity behaviour. These stages include youth, young adults, parents, adults without children and retirees³. The strategy took a 'whole of life' approach in its delivery, to ensure that all life stages are considered within its recommendations and actions. Data was gathered by surveying the community and working with local sports organisations to understand how women and girls can be better engaged. By supporting, empowering and encouraging more women and girls to be involved in all aspects of physical activity, the strategy aims to positively influence equality for all.

3 VicHealth, 2017, Victorians' physical activity across life stages: Insights to engage Victorians in physical activity at different life stages



Meet Me @ Miller Street

Gilgandra Shire Council and Transport for NSW, Gilgandra, Australia (2020)

Centred around the concept of ‘Endless Possibilities’ of its spaces, community, visitors and infrastructure, Gilgandra Shire Council’s Meet Me @ Miller Street project temporarily converted an underutilised laneway and car parking area into a vibrant and connected shared zone, with greenery, lighting, murals, public art installations, seating and outdoor dining. The purpose of the project was to test the activation of the space as a temporary shared zone, while also improving lighting and creating vibrancy that connected the laneway to Miller Street businesses. The council engaged regional artists to bring this vision to life.

Council introduced traffic calming measures, including speedbumps and a reduced speed zone. The improved public space created a new safe pedestrian connection, bridging a missing link between Windmill Walk, along the Castlereagh River, and the main street. Gilgandra Shire Council delivered this project with support of Transport for NSW under the [Streets as Shared Spaces program](#).



A group of women walking along Miller Street, [Streets as Shared Spaces program](#)
Credit: Amber Creative

Monaro Lanes

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and Transport for NSW, Queanbeyan, Australia (2022)

The Monaro Lanes Project transformed two pedestrian laneways that connect to Queanbeyan’s high street. The project aimed to bring vibrancy to the space, through historical and cultural theming, distinctive lighting, and an open-air art gallery. The project improved the safety and comfort of the laneways and has significantly increased usage both during the day and at night. The community was surveyed on the improvements made to the laneways and 82% of community members surveyed agreed the improvements were of a high quality.

The Council plans to further activate the laneways through coffee carts and hole-in-the wall style hospitality, live music, and an evolving program of new art in the gallery. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council delivered this project with the support of Transport for NSW under the [Your High Street program](#).



“The laneway used to be dark [and] felt quite unsafe. Now it feels very pleasant to walk through even at night.”

Community member on Monaro Lanes project

[Your High Street Funded Grant program](#), No Name Lane Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Yanni Pounartzis and Hilary Wardhaugh
Credit: Transport for NSW

Read more: NSW Guide to Walkable Public Space

Walkable public spaces provide a free and accessible way to enjoy and travel through our neighbourhoods, town centres and cities. They connect people with each other and help us lead healthy lifestyles, physically and mentally. The [NSW Guide to Walkable Public Space](#) identifies 10 characteristics of walkable open spaces, streets and public facilities.

4. Activation helps create inviting places and promotes public life

Swing Time

Höweler + Yoon Architecture, Boston, USA (2014)

Swing Time was an interactive playscape composed of 20 illuminated ring-shaped swings, which was installed to activate a temporary park near the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. While Swing Time was not specifically designed for young women and girls, the activation highlighted that they lack playful, comfortable, aesthetically appealing spaces for sitting and socialising. The activation appealed to young women and girls because the swings were adult-sized, free and accessible with no pressure to move fast, and the lights were soft and colourful, providing a sense of safety in the public space.

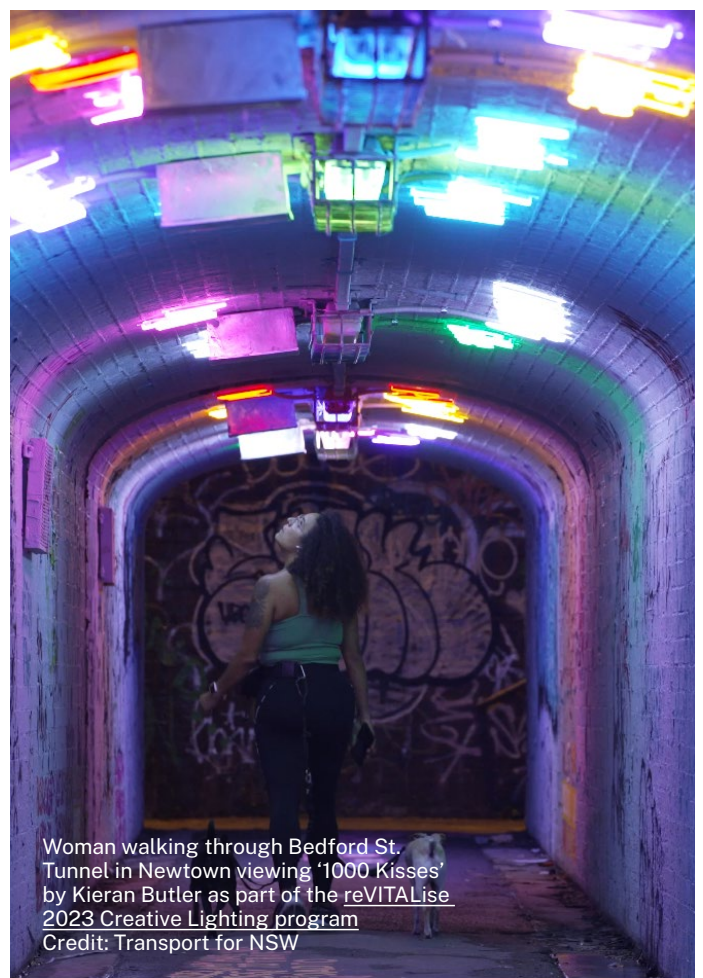


Women sitting on illuminated swings
Credit: Höweler + Yoon Architecture
Photography by John Horner

Read more: NSW Guides to Public Space Activation

Activating a public space can help make it feel welcoming to a diverse range of people, and open to a variety of uses. Quality and appropriately activated public spaces are key to quality of life for communities across NSW. The [NSW Guide to Public Space Activation](#) and the [NSW Guide to Preparing a Public Space Activation Framework](#) are guides that can be used to support the preparation, delivery, and evaluation of activated public spaces and the benefits these can provide. The guides can help councils, place managers, communities and government agencies take a place-based approach to public space activation. They include case studies, options for governance and management, and models of funding and enabling infrastructure.

Tunnel crossings for pedestrians act as important linkages between neighbourhoods but can sometimes make people feel unsafe. The following examples reimagine how these linkages can become inviting thoroughfares for all.



reVITALise 2023 Creative Lighting

Transport for NSW, Sydney, Australia (2023)

The reVITALise program is a series of state-wide collaborative and community-driven projects to trial creative interventions that support best-practice placemaking and attachment to place. The program is also part of Transport for NSW's Safer Cities program. The reVITALise program included a trial transformation of three pedestrian tunnels in Sydney's Inner West and at the Central Station colonnade with rainbow lighting during Sydney WorldPride Festival 2023.

An onsite survey was conducted to capture the perceptions of people walking through the three tunnels. According to the findings of the survey over 90% survey respondents agreed that the art installation improved their experience in the tunnels. There was also a 24% increase of female pedestrians across all three tunnels.

The program received widespread support from the local community. Feedback also indicated that less maintenance was required in the three tunnels while the installation was in place. More information on the key findings of the trial and its evaluation can be found [here](#).

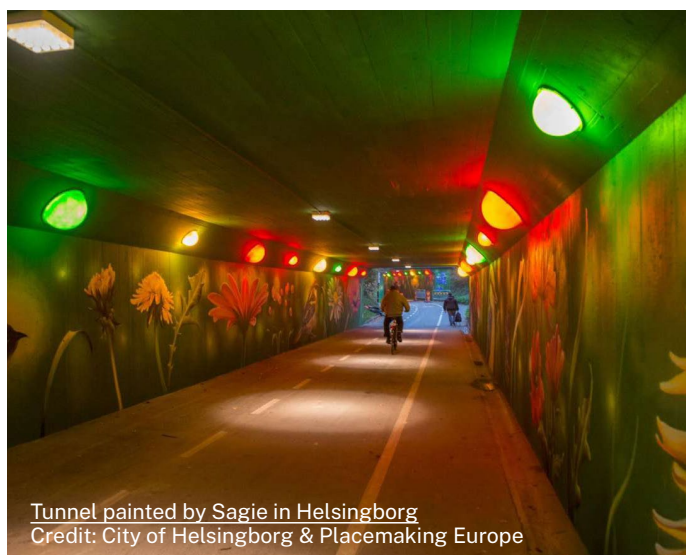
Tunnel Tool

City of Helsingborg and Placemaking Europe, Helsingborg, Sweden (2022)

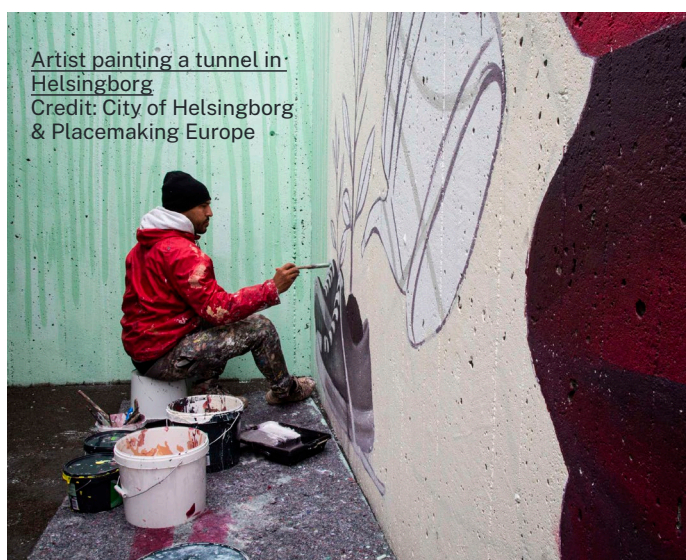
As part of an overarching strategy in Sweden to create safe school roads for children by separating pedestrians from vehicles, many tunnels were built to eliminate the need for children to cross the street. Tunnel crossings for pedestrians and cyclists act as important links between neighbourhoods, but community members reported that they did not feel safe using the tunnels.

To respond to this issue, the City of Helsingborg first used a digital map of the city where residents could share information about places where they felt unsafe. Using data from the map, tunnels were identified and selected for safety interventions, including improvements to lighting and the addition of public art. Through a series of workshops, artists worked in collaboration with local primary school children to identify ideas and themes for the public artwork in the tunnel. The Tunnel Tool recognises that while tunnels may not be places that people linger and stay, they are still important to the experiences of people moving in and around their neighbourhood. The initiative has not only created more vibrant journeys for people, but also invited the community to engage with the local artists that painted the tunnels.

The key learnings and strategies that City Helsingborg Municipality gathered through this project were used to develop the Tunnel Tool with Placemaking Europe. The Tunnel Tool steps out the process that City of Helsingborg undertook in order to improve the tunnels in their municipality. The Tool identifies the key steps and case studies for the implementation of the Tool including the process and cost of engaging artists.



Tunnel painted by Sagie in Helsingborg
Credit: City of Helsingborg & Placemaking Europe



Artist painting a tunnel in Helsingborg
Credit: City of Helsingborg & Placemaking Europe



Tunnel with rainbow lighting
Credit: Maroondah City Council

Larissa Underpass

Maroondah City Council, Ringwood, Australia (2013)

Larissa Underpass, located in Ringwood, Victoria, was a dark, unwelcoming pedestrian underpass that was successfully converted into an activated, appealing environment through the installation of a creative lighting system.

The lighting system was designed to prevent vandalism and provide a safe route for pedestrians to travel to Larissa Park. The Larissa Underpass encouraged pedestrians to stroll through while enjoying a variety of pre-programmed colour sequences illuminating the tunnel with light and colour.

LED lighting was used with innovative daylight and motion sensors to ensure energy efficiency.

5. Smart technology offers new possibilities to address safety concerns



Railway Serviceway Liverpool, Places to Love program
Credit: Transport for NSW

Smart City Innovation Challenges

Transport for NSW, Sydney, Australia

With the rapid pace of technological change, it is important for governments to find new ways to procure and test leading edge solutions. Smart City Innovation Challenges provide funding to participants to develop new technology and data solutions that help solve problems facing State Government agencies. A statement is released for each challenge, with an open invitation to submit a proposal. Successful proposals are supported with up to \$1 million in funding to deliver the concept, with the potential for further opportunities to scale up the solution.

In 2022-2023, a challenge was run focused on creating safer public spaces for women and girls, and asked the question 'How might we use technology to help make public spaces feel safer and more comfortable for women and girls?' Applicants could suggest solutions to address women and girls' safety anywhere in NSW. The University of Newcastle was successful and has progressed to the proof-of-concept stage. The solution from the University of Newcastle will deliver a multimedia, interactive, art-based display, co-designed with women, to encourage behaviour change and collect insightful data on perceptions of safety.

Transport for NSW delivered this project under the [Smart Places Acceleration program](#).

Data after Dark

Transport for NSW and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, Sydney, Australia

It is important for urban economies to thrive, night and day. To support this ambition, we need to know how our night-time areas are performing over time and how they compare to each other.

Data after Dark is an initiative that will develop a standard model to assess economic performance across Greater Sydney, supporting decision-making on interventions to improve economic activity and enabling a Greater Sydney wide view of activity and performance.

It will develop agreed metrics to measure the health of the night-time economy, drawing on economic data. The insights generated will help place makers to improve and assess economic performance of night-time areas and the impact of policy interventions and investments.

Data after Dark will support a vibrant, safe and diverse nightlife that enhances NSW's standing as a global destination, by providing a comprehensive, consistent and shared understanding of the performance of Greater Sydney's 24-hour economy.

Transport for NSW is supporting this project with the delivery partner Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, under the [Smart Places Acceleration program](#).



Moore Park Precinct lighting installations during the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup, as part of the [Safer Cities program](#)
Credit: Transport for NSW

Social Spaces

City of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia (2021)

The Social Spaces project is part of the City of Melbourne's Emerging Technology Testbed. This pilot project uses data to inform urban design. The City of Melbourne sought to understand how public spaces could better accommodate the requirements of emerging communities and the designs that help urban street furniture succeed using technology and data. One question they wanted to explore was how public space use was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementing a design that directly addresses local user demands can significantly increase the value of a communal space. This pilot exemplified a commitment to data-driven design by providing a practical example of what can be accomplished through open dialogue between the community and government.

This project investigated how data could be used to inform and construct public spaces that complemented how people use various parts of the city, such as meeting and connecting with family and friends.

After extensive research and public consultation with the community, a 'social spaces chair' was installed in the Lygon Street neighbourhood. The chair was fitted with sensors to collect data and understand how people would use the chair and site, how much time they would spend using the chair and what modes of transport they used to visit the area. In the same place, an existing metal bench with a standard bench design was fitted with the same sensing technology. This provides insights on varied uses of public space and the appeal of various furniture designs at different times of the day and during different seasons.

A real-time dashboard was made available online, allowing the community to interact with the technology. The outcome highlighted in the data obtained since February 1, 2023 reveals that the social spaces chair has been utilised six times more frequently than the typical bench, demonstrating that the design of public street furniture may encourage people to stay and improve their experience in public places.



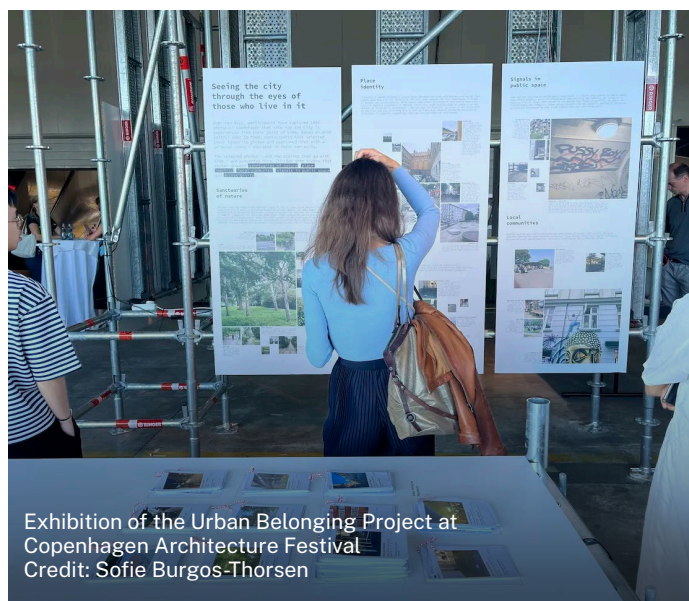
The Urban Belonging Project

Tantlab, Gehl, Service Design Lab Aalborg University, Visual Methodologies Collective, Center for Digital Welfare and Public Data Lab (2022)

To design a more socially sustainable city from the point of view of those who live in it, a collective of planners, and scholars in Copenhagen initiated the Urban Belonging project, with the ambition of mapping lived experiences of under-represented communities in the city.

The Urban Belonging Project sought to develop new ways of citizen involvement that prioritised diverse and marginalised experiences in planning. By working with local organisations, the project invited participants from diverse communities, such as LGBT+, deaf, people experiencing homelessness, migrants, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities, among others to capture their experiences of belonging in Copenhagen using participatory geographical information systems (GIS) and a new open source photovoice application created for the project. Over the course of three months, they went on more than 100 walks around the city, shot over 1400 images, made over 200 maps, and developed them in workshops.

Participants surveyed and photographed areas in Copenhagen that affected their sense of belonging. Smartphones were provided to participants who did not have one to ensure equitable participation. They were also prompted to annotate their photos and respond to those of other participants. Participants collaborated in workshops to analyse and interpret the data, resulting in a collection of photos, maps, and visualisations about Copenhagen that defined the meaning of 'belonging' for different underrepresented groups, as well as their positive and negative lived experiences, showcasing a unique perspective of the city.



Exhibition of the Urban Belonging Project at Copenhagen Architecture Festival
Credit: Sofie Burgos-Thorsen



Exhibition of the Urban Belonging Project at Copenhagen Architecture Festival
Credit: Sofie Burgos-Thorsen

Read more: NSW Smart Public Spaces Guide & NSW Smart Places Playbook

Technology contributes to great public spaces. The [NSW Smart Public Spaces Guide](#) introduces the role of technology in delivering better public space outcomes for communities. The Guide is designed to spark ideas and encourage readers to harness innovative new approaches to delivering quality public spaces for communities. The Guide showcases the ways you can use connected technologies to enhance the quality of public spaces and measure quality outcomes. The [NSW Smart Places Playbook](#) provides more information on the steps needed to harness the power of data and smart technologies to deliver more resilient places and includes links to technical guidelines, policies and standards.

YourGround Victoria

Monash University XYX Lab and CrowdSpot, Victoria, Australia (2021)

YourGround is an online mapping platform that was developed to improve knowledge of safety in public space for women and gender-diverse people. Women and gender-diverse people were surveyed and asked to map their perceptions of safety when participating in exercise and recreation in Victoria's open spaces. An online spatial tool was used to crowd source data.

The purpose of the project was to understand and develop an evidence-base of the reasons that encourage or discourage women and gender-diverse people from using public spaces for wellbeing, leisure and recreation. Almost 6,000 submissions were received, with the findings showing that gender and other identity factors, such as age, ethnicity, religion and economic status, impact on a person's experiences. The data from the project supports local governments to develop strategies to improve perceptions of safety for women and gender-diverse people while using public spaces.

YourGround was developed for NSW under the Safer Cities program in partnership with the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner. YourGround NSW ran from November 2023 to February 2024.



YourGround Victoria webpage
Credit: Monash University XYX Lab



YourGround Victoria campaign
Credit: Monash University XYX Lab



Free To Be Sydney mapping tool
Credit: Plan International Australia

Free to Be

Plan International, Sydney, Australia (2018)

Free to Be was a crowd-mapping website implemented in a range of cities around the world, where young women and girls could identify and share the location of public spaces that made them feel safe or unsafe. It was designed in collaboration with CrowdSpot, Monash University XYX Lab and young women within the host cities.

The Free to Be tool involved an interactive map of the city and a survey, where young women and girls were encouraged to drop 'pins' on the map indicating how they feel in that location, and provide comments about their experiences.

The tool was implemented in Sydney from April to May 2018. The design and promotion of the tool was undertaken in collaboration with a group of young women from Sydney, who were also asked to reflect on the findings afterward. Over 2,000 pins were dropped on the Sydney map, of which 75% were stories of bad experiences. The Free to Be tool has also been implemented in Delhi, Kampala, Lima, Madrid and Melbourne.

Reading list ideas

Check out other resources that you can read and refer to for your work in creating safer places for women, girls and gender diverse people

[Healthy Streets Design Check](#)

Healthy Streets, 2023

[Her City – A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls](#)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Global Utmaning, 2021

[Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines and Implementation Toolkit](#)

ACT Government, 2021

[Safety in Public Space: Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People](#)

Greater London Authority (GLA), 2022

[Creating Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces for Women](#)

Women's Health East, 2019

[Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative](#)

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 2019

TUMI (Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (German: Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung), BMZ and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with the several partners. TUMI understands that women face different challenges when it comes to mobility, whether it is inclusion, safety, accessibility or entering the workforce in the transport sector and has hence created five principles to empower women in transport..



Cumberland City Council pathway upgrades between two train stations, [Places to Love program](#)
Credit: Transport for NSW

Case studies: Creating safer cities and towns for women, girls and gender diverse people

Draft for consultation

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