



Project Overview

Applying the Inclusive Healthy Places Framework

Gehl makes cities for people

We believe that by applying a people-first approach to the planning and design of our cities, we can address some of our cities' most pressing challenges in **equity**, **health**, and **sustainability** and make cities vibrant places where all people are invited to engage and connect.



Our work bridges disciplines by nature

Social Science

As social scientists we investigate how behavior is influenced by the environment and how place contributes to quality of life.



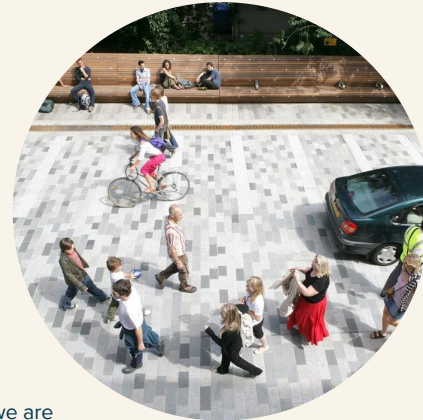
Systems Thinking

As system thinkers we study and identify behaviors and patterns over time, unraveling the complexity that drives urban change.



Urban Design

As designers we are concerned with how the built environment responds to people's needs.



Legacies of racism and disinvestment widen the health equity gap.

Living in certain zip codes can shorten life expectancy by up to 20 to 30 years. Our health may be adversely affected by neighborhood characteristics such as poor air and water quality, proximity to hazardous substances, substandard housing, and lack of access to nutritious foods and safe places to exercise or play.

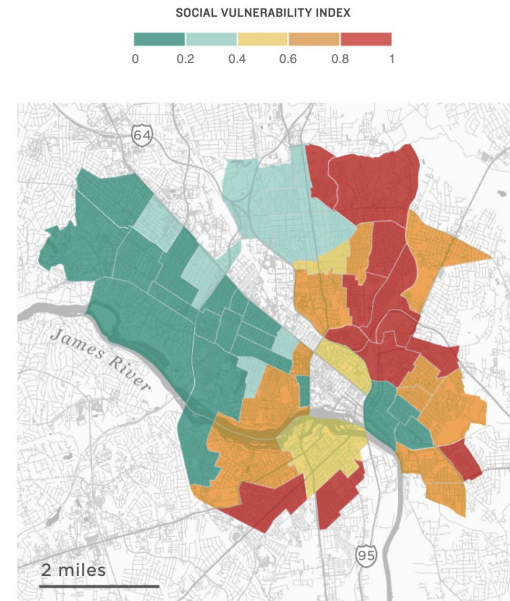
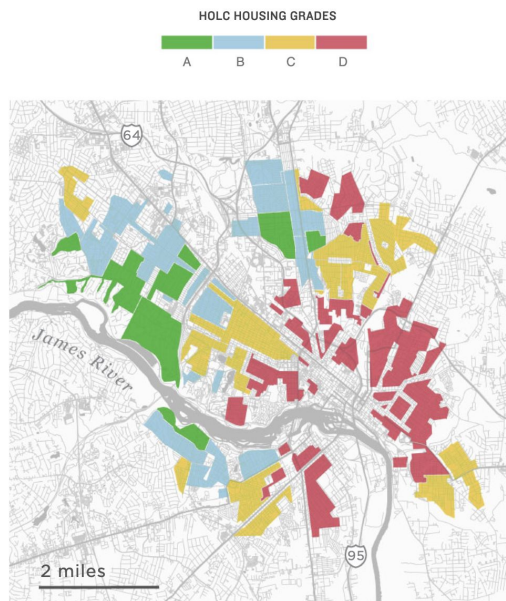
PUBLIC HEALTH

In U.S. Cities, The Health Effects Of Past Housing Discrimination Are Plain To See

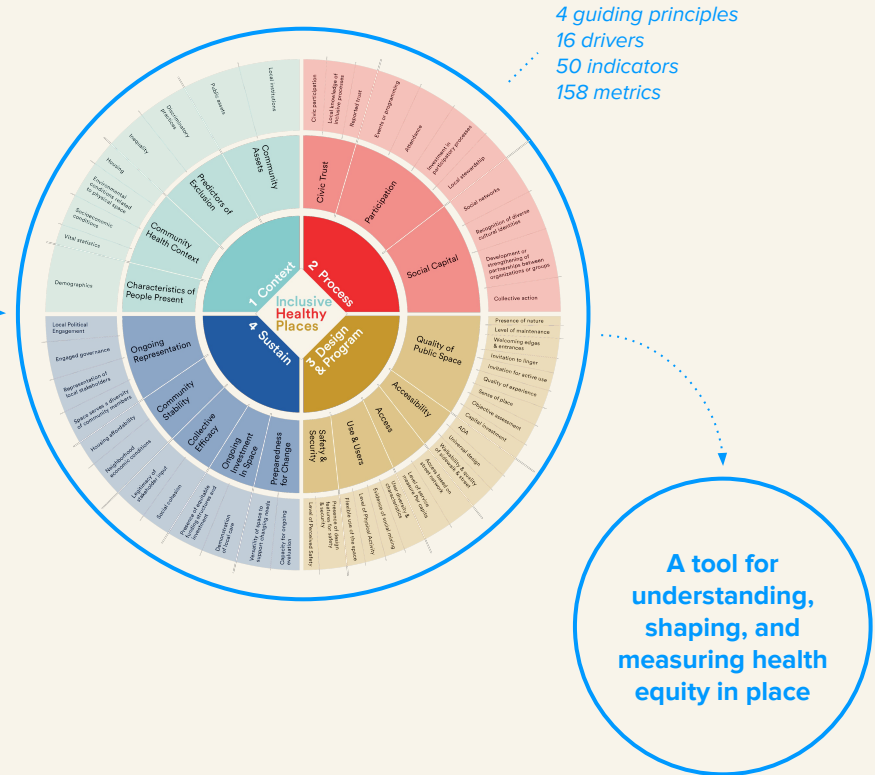
November 19, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

The Legacy Of Redlining In Richmond, Va.

In the 1930s, the Home Owners' Loan Corp. graded the mortgage security of neighborhoods, and predominantly Black or minority neighborhoods were more likely to receive "C" or "D" grades, which indicated a declining or hazardous area. The effects of these discriminatory practices are still apparent today when looking at the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, a measure of a community's capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from human and natural disasters.



To bridge the health equity gap in public spaces, Gehl and RWJF developed the **Inclusive Healthy Places Framework** — a data-driven tool for communities, planners, designers, and policymakers that **describes the factors that should be considered in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of public spaces.**



The Inclusive Healthy Places Framework

4 Guiding Principles

Overarching principles to shaping and assessing inclusive, healthy places

16 Drivers

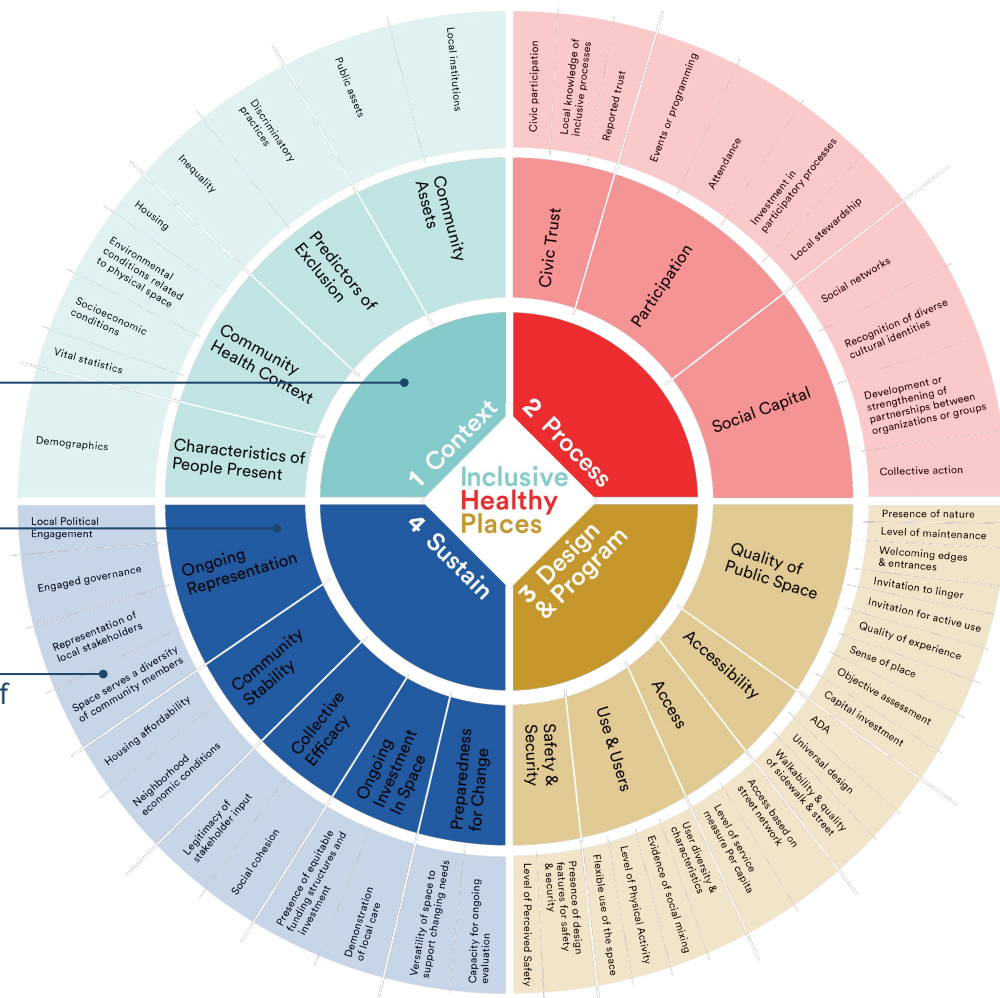
Thematic policy & practice areas within each principle that create pathways to health equity

50 Indicators

Quantitative or qualitative measures that reveal status of and progress toward achieving goals related to drivers

158 Metrics

Units of measurement that support the indicators



COPENHAGEN / FOLKETS PARK

Modeling Inclusion in 'The People's Park'

How does this
project model
the Inclusive
Healthy Places
framework?



A space for all, not just a few

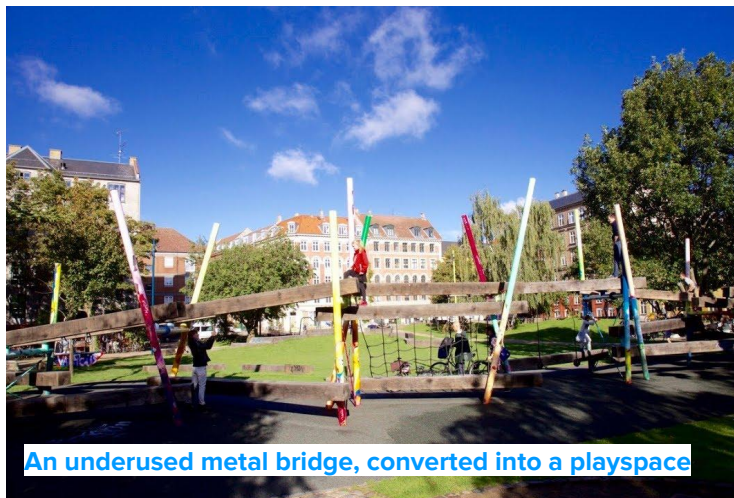
Today, the park attracts a cross-section of immigrants, young Danish families, and the unhoused. Thanks to a thorough engagement process, the park bucks design-as-usual to more effectively meet the needs of its diverse users.



A neighborhood hotspot for picnics and play



A nod to the area's activist history



An underused metal bridge, converted into a playspace



A strategic mix of bright and dim lighting

CONTEXT / FOLKETS PARK IN FOCUS

Recognize community context by studying existing conditions and lived experiences.

- Mapped the **diverse demographic groups** who used or lived near the park — from Middle Eastern and West African migrants, to young Danish families increasingly drawn to the area
- Acknowledged and learned from **past design failures** — namely, a flood-prone feature, and city attempts to lead with a security- and enforcement-centric approach that led to community mistrust



I came into the project noticing a great deal of mistrust in the community. The locals were used to municipal decisions being force-fed to them.

KENNETH BALFELT / ARTIST AND LEAD URBAN DESIGNER

Support inclusion in the processes that shape places by promoting civic trust, participation, and social capital.

- **Engaged communities throughout the project** — not just at the beginning or end — advertising engagement opportunities through local and social media, and community networks
- Brought **diverse users together in the same room** for engagement — holding space to surface and resolve conflicts and prejudices, while proving the potential for coexistence in the park itself
- Used a **mix of engagement types** to solicit different types of learning: in-depth interviews to understand needs; large-group feedback sessions; testing and co-creation of furniture, etc.



You have a chance in the process to show people that they can be in the same space, that they have the same goals, and not just talk about two groups — people and marginalized people.

Designing a flexible place that invites all, not a few

- Created **multipurpose furniture** that could meet diverse user needs — such as a set of blocks that could accommodate both sunbathing and play
- **Questioned design conventions** to achieve a space that was accommodating to all; for example, unhoused users reported feeling more vulnerable to theft and assault in brightly lit areas, which are often thought of as conducive to safety in urban design circles — in response, the park includes some dimly lit and dark spaces at night

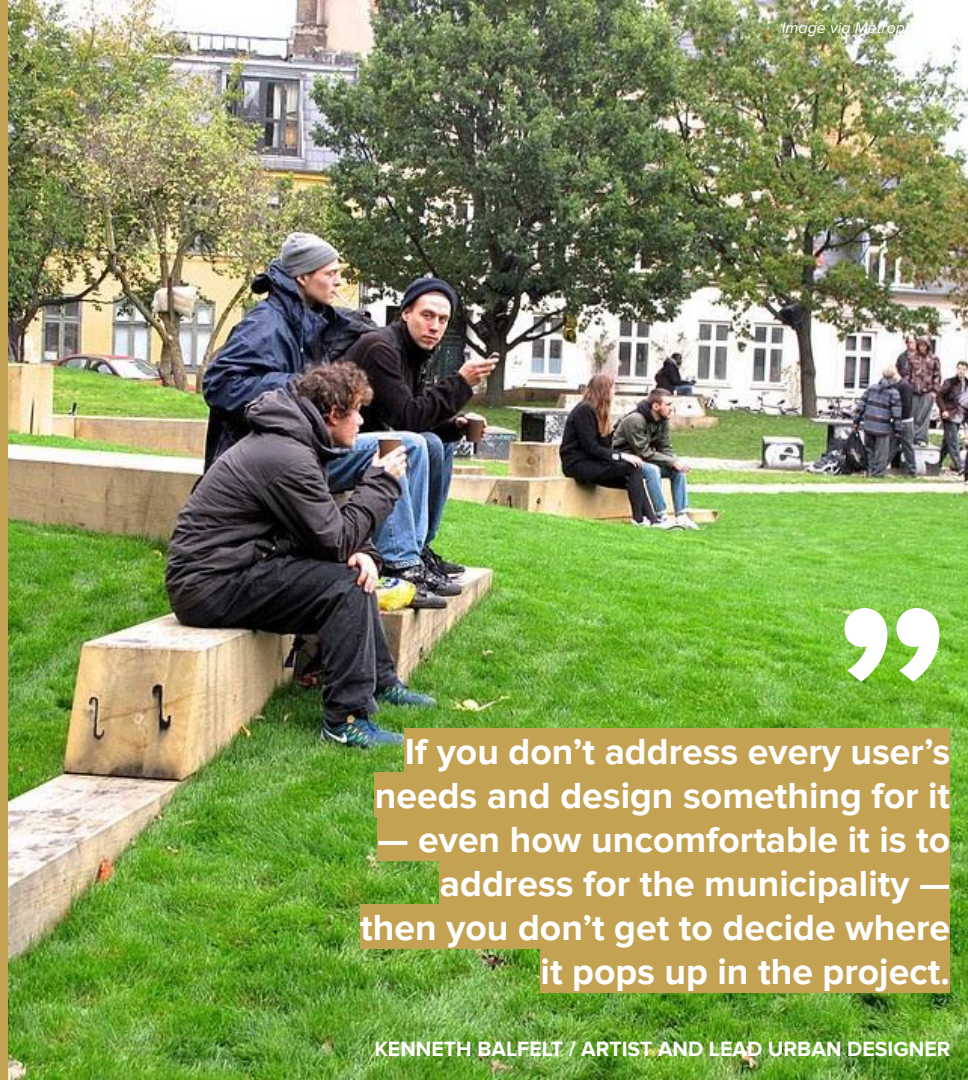


Image via Marip

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If you don't address every user's needs and design something for it — even how uncomfortable it is to address for the municipality — then you don't get to decide where it pops up in the project.

Tracking the users and uses of the park as a success measure, and adapting as needed

- Users reflect the demographics of the neighborhood - allowing for more civic and social mixing among otherwise divergent groups



” I was actually passing by yesterday. It was a warm day and I saw the tripod full of playing children and parents in small talk, and on the other end, the African migrants. The park has a more varied audience and the different groups can coexist side by side.

To put the framework into action, Gehl is working with a cohort of four U.S. partners over two years.

Gehl is guiding the cohort to apply the framework in pilot projects, understand impact, and develop case studies to guide communities and practitioners.

THE PARTNERS



American Planning Association



NEW JERSEY
COMMUNITY
CAPITAL



NRPA National Recreation
and Park Association

AMERICAN PLANNING
ASSOCIATION (APA)

**Shifting a national
network away
from planning as
usual**

LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT
CORPORATION (LISC)

**Working with
locals to shape
safer, healthier
places**

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY
CAPITAL (NJCC)

**Steering a
cross-sector
community
development
planning process**

NATIONAL RECREATION & PARKS
ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

**Reshaping how
park systems
engage local
residents**