The AfterCovid.City Global Charter
Appendix

Case studies to inspire the implementation of the AfterCovid.City Charter in your city

Click on the case study's title to learn more!

Innovative public space

1. Leverage public space for innovation
[EXAMPLE] Social Innovation Hackathon for Creative Placemaking in Nang Loeng, Thailand

Thai universities and other local stakeholders worked with a UK facilitator to host a social innovation hackathon in Nang Loeng, Bangkok, with the aim of designing, testing and implementing innovative social impact solutions for the neighbourhood. Rather than focusing on technology-based solutions, participants used information and data sharing between different participants to develop problem and opportunity hypotheses and projects. The experience has enabled participants to design, foster debate and facilitate the exchange of creative solutions across disciplines.

2. Pop-up, test and hack public space
[EXAMPLE] Piazze Aperte in Milan, Italy

As part of the City of Milan's "Piano Quartieri" (Neighbourhood Plan), Piazze Aperte has been implementing easy-to-implement, low-cost and scalable spatial interventions in residential neighbourhoods since 2018. New squares and pedestrian zones are promoted through planters, bike racks, bike sharing stations and street art. Reclaimed spaces are equipped with chairs, benches, tables and recreational infrastructure such as ping-pong tables and hopscotches. The residents and the city are responsible for the participatory management and maintenance of the reclaimed spaces.

3. Make room for everyone to innovate
[EXAMPLE] Pop-up-to-Date in Antwerp, Belgium

The local government is the enabler and funder in this integrated multi-stakeholder approach that brings together creative organisations and owners of vacant properties in Antwerp's Oud Berchem district, which has transformed this run-down shopping area into a vibrant axis of creativity. During a two-month trial period, the partnered non-profit organisations benefit from reduced rents, tailored coaching and advice to support their business sustainability afterwards. The success rate of the programme is 70%, with 60% of the properties being rented long-term by the participants and 10% being sold to them.

Social public space

4.   Reduce loneliness
[EXAMPLE] Rent-free housing for students in a nursing home in Deventer, Netherlands

Six university students live rent-free with the 160 elderly residents of a nursing home as long as they do not become a burden to the elderly. In return for small, rent-free flats, the Humanitas nursing home requires the students to act as "good neighbours" for at least 30 hours a month, engaging in a variety of activities with the residents, which helps to avoid feelings of seclusion and other negative effects of ageing.

5.   Meet at the park
[EXAMPLE] Paley Park, a pocket park in New York City, USA

This popular privately owned public space, which opened in 1967, is heavily used due to its central location and design, which makes it easily accessible and visible to passers-by on the street. The design successfully prevents noise from spilling out onto the street and creates a sense of privacy, despite being located in Midtown's cultural district and surrounded by high-rise buildings. The entire park is slightly elevated from street level by several steps. The landscape architects opted for lightweight, movable mesh chairs and tables that give people the flexibility to choose where and how they want to organise themselves.

6.   Lead with community design
[EXAMPLE] A participatory budgeting experiment in Zurich, Switzerland

The "Quartieridee", launched in 2020 in the Zurich district of Wipkingen, is an experiment in testing new forms of participation in the design of public space. Through a participatory online platform, citizens propose projects for the neighbourhood and provide local representatives with information about the needs of the neighbourhood's residents. A public fund of CHF 40,000 (approx. EUR 39,000) was allocated to implement the eight proposals with the most votes on the participatory online platform, which include events, new infrastructure and tactical urbanism actions.

Agile public space

7.   Champion placemaking from the inside
[EXAMPLE] Innovatione Urbana Lab in Bologna, Italy

Bologna has allocated funds and resources to foster a culture of innovation in the city. This is done through the Civic Imagination Office, a city policy innovation lab for exploring, communicating and co-creating urban transformation, which reports to the Office of the Deputy Mayor. It helps oversee six District Labs, centres of collaboration and innovation where city officials build partnerships with other public agencies, non-profit organisations and residents to address local issues. Projects implemented include creative placemaking, participatory transport planning, a student housing observatory and an alternative delivery service.

8.   Increase bureaucratic agility and responsiveness
[EXAMPLE] La charte de l'occupation temporaire et transitoire in Paris, France

The City of Paris signed this charter in June 2021 to enable temporary and transient occupation of public space, together with 45 public and private partners, to support tactical urbanism projects in Paris and its metropolitan region. This is the culmination of a preliminary draft from 2019 that made it possible to test the removal of bureaucratic restrictions on the temporary occupation of public space. The Charter recognises the implementation of projects that fill brownfield or underused spaces as an essential urban design tool, as the projects have social benefits, serve experimentation and adapt to the needs and demands of citizens.

9.   Have one voice with many arms
[EXAMPLE] Off Campus NoLo in Milan, Italy

The City of Milan provided the administrative means to allocate vacant stalls in the North Loreto Municipal Market to a research laboratory, the Off Campus NoLo, in 2020. Run by the Politecnico di Milano University, it hosts an observatory on issues of neighbourhood regeneration and reactivation, educational labs and workshops, seminars and lectures open to the neighbourhood, exhibitions and displays, public events and an open neighbourhood archive. There is also a radio station where residents can participate and which broadcasts locally relevant information and entertainment programmes.

Cultural public space

10. **Return to and recognise indigenous & endogenous knowledge**
[EXAMPLE] Puhinui Stream Regeneration in Auckland, New Zealand

This pilot project, a collaboration between Kāinga Ora, the University of Auckland and the Auckland Council Group, aims to restore Puhinui Stream, the last remaining natural asset in Manukau, an area of high climate risk, and connect green spaces and neighbourhoods along its banks. To assess the development options, the overall whole-of-life costs and benefits are measured in relation to environmental, social, economic and Te Ao Māori value systems. The knowledge gained in this pilot project will be incorporated into future climate-friendly solutions in Auckland.

11. **Create more space for culture**
[EXAMPLE] Reimagining public Wi-Fi in Boston, USA

An empty courtyard in front of the central branch of the Somerville Public Library (Boston Metro Area) was transformed into an outdoor tactical workspace equipped with Wi-Fi in January 2021. Four workstations separated by pallets were set up, each with electrical outlets, chairs, a table, an umbrella and a heater. Even though it only lasted three days, this pop-up shows that citizens would sit and stay in public places even in winter if the design is comfortable. The pilot project was a collaboration between the library, volunteer groups and non-profit organisations.

12. **Hold spaces for free fun**
[EXAMPLE] All-ages street playground in New York City, USA

"Restorative Ground" is 80 feet of pop-coloured and rubberised street furniture combining ramps, steps, nets, tabletops and railings: an inclusive play space for neurodiverse populations of all ages and abilities. The design was proposed by the WIP Collaborative platform, taking into account their research findings that highlight the importance of a range of spatial qualities (e.g. high and low stimulation, tactile materials and textures, and distinct experiential zones) for cultural reawakening after months of social isolation at three potential sites in Hudson Square.

Green public space

13. **Champion and stand for SDGs**
[EXAMPLE] Area of 2030 Agenda in
Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona City Council has a 2030
Agenda Officer and Office within its
Technical Planning Office, as well as an
Interdepartmental Commission and Advisory
Board to align city policies with the SDGs,
measure and analyse the city's development
in relation to the SDGs, and promote the
interdepartmental cooperation needed
to move forward in achieving the SDGs.
On its website, the Council explains how it
implements programmes and plans related
to each SDG and how it measures each goal.

14. **Reclaim spaces for nature**
[EXAMPLE] Water squares in Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

Heavy rainfall in Rotterdam is a cause of
concern for the municipality of Rotterdam,
as many parts of the city are flooded every
year. The municipality has opted for a
strategy where new water storage systems
have been placed on the surface to make
them visible to residents, while serving
practical purposes by making public spaces
better and greener. The Benthemplein, an
area at high risk of flooding, is home to the
world's first water square in a previously
disused square, which can retain almost 2
million litres of water and can be used as
an amphitheatre, basketball and volleyball
court or skateboard track in dry weather.

15. **Embrace experimentation and
regenerative systems**
[EXAMPLE] The UN's Ecosystem
Restoration Playbook

The UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration
(2021-2030) is a call to protect and restore
ecosystems around the world, for the
benefit of people and nature. It aims to
stop the destruction of ecosystems and
restore them to achieve global goals.
This handbook offers practical advice for
ecosystem restoration in different contexts,
including cities and communities, e.g. by
promoting biodiversity in public green
spaces, encouraging and participating in
sustainability activities and creating micro-
ecosystems and composting systems.

Connected public space

16. Move away from the private car
[EXAMPLE] Recreational cycle rides in Mexico City, Mexico

"Muévete en Bici" is a community cycling and events programme led by the city's Office of Mobility. It has taken place every Sunday in Mexico City since 2007 and aims to make active mobility more attractive and fun for citizens. A total of 15 government agencies collaborate on each ride to monitor it, stop traffic and provide services to participants. Participants can cycle, run, skate or walk along the 50-kilometre route between 8am and 2pm. Public transport allows bikes during this time to facilitate arrival at the route. Accompanying activities for the weekly ride include an urban cycling school and free fitness and wellness events in selected public spaces along the route.

17. Integrate new ways to move
[EXAMPLE] PARK(ing) Day, a global experiment to change vehicle space

Every year, people around the world temporarily use street parking spaces and transform them into small parks and places for art, play and activism. What started as a guerrilla art project and act of design activism in a single car park has evolved into a global movement that has inspired the creation of COVID-era "Parklets" and "Streeteries". This global experiment in reprogramming vehicle space for social exchange, artistic expression and play offers a manual with tips for planning an activation in any city and a map of existing projects worldwide.

18. Revive disused infrastructure
[WHAT] Pedestrian and bicycle corridor in Helsinki, Finland

Baana is a 1.3 km corridor opened in 2012 as a temporary route to allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel quickly through Helsinki's city centre and connect the Western Harbour with Kamppi and Töölö Bay. It was built on the remains of the 19th century railway line that fragmented the urban fabric and was closed down in 2008. The transformation of the disused infrastructure began as a participatory process involving local residents, university students and city departments, culminating in an open call for participation. The track is linked to facilities for basketball, table tennis and petanque and its success has led the city to plan similar Baana tracks throughout the city.

The
AfterCovid.City
Global Charter

placemaking
europe

PLACEMAKING X

Want to support this Charter?

● **Share** with your network
● **Engage** your community leaders
● **Put forward** to your city government
● **Tag us** on social media, we are excited to re-share your posts too!

Instagram   **@aftercovidcity**
Facebook   **@PlacemakingEurope**
Twitter   **@aftercovidcity**

Use the hashtags **#aftercovidcity #placemaking #publicspace4recovery**

Or Email us at **hey@aftercovid.city** We can't wait to connect.