

ENERGIZE

our

NEIGHBORHOODS



CITY *of* BOISE

ACTIVATING YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD



BUILDING A COMMUNITY



PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

“As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, PLACEMAKING inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community.”

Check out PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES for information about placemaking, including important principles for planning and tools for success. They also have a Pinterest board with ideas for creative placemaking.

- www.pps.org/reference/reference-categories/placemaking-tools/
- www.pinterest.com/pps_placemaking/creative-placemaking/

PLACEMAKING

In today's busy world, many people crave in-person social interactions and a stronger sense of community. Neighborhoods across the country are working on creative efforts to improve the areas they love. Using placemaking projects and events, neighborhoods can bring people together, build uniqueness and create economic, cultural and learning opportunities.

WHAT IS PLACEMAKING?

Placemaking is a way to capture and highlight a neighborhood's unique character, assets and potential. It can turn a physical space into a desirable, livable and inviting place by using the vision of the people who live and work in an area, along with the support of community partners. It brings diverse people together, livens up spaces and streetscapes, provides opportunities for social activities, stimulates local businesses and energizes our neighborhoods!

There are endless ways to create **UNIQUE COMMUNITY PLACES** and neighborhoods are the crucial driving force for projects that impact them. This document provides information, resources and ideas for your own efforts to build and maintain unique and livable neighborhoods.

There are also ideas for neighborhood/community **EVENTS**. While an event can be a one-time thing, think about it as part of something bigger. Frame events as an opportunity to:

- Create a unique identity that can become an annual fixture
- Be part of larger projects and efforts to make a lasting impact

Keep these things in mind as you review this document:

- Don't be intimidated! Start small - you can always build and grow.
- Don't be afraid to try something once and then change it up until you find what works.

ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

- Engage your community around what you love! Organizing neighbors around your interests and passions will keep you motivated and inspire others.
- Engage youth whenever possible! Their energy will help you come up with creative and innovative ideas for parks, playgrounds, art, streets, etc.
- Promote, promote, promote! Brand your neighborhood, projects and events. You will gain support, possible funding, additional partners and great publicity for your work.
- Many of the ideas listed require approval, permission or permits from the city or other regulatory entities. You may also be required to work with your neighborhood association.

CITY RESOURCES

• ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Boise's Energize Our Neighborhoods initiative is aimed at celebrating neighborhoods and improving livability. Learn how the city is working to keep neighborhoods unique and vibrant. [EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org](https://energizeourneighborhoods.org).



GET APPROVAL

Most of the projects listed require an approval, permission or permit from the **CITY OF BOISE** or other regulatory entities.

For example, projects related to streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. will need additional approvals through the Ada County Highway District (ACHD).

WORK TOGETHER

Many projects require you to work with your **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**.

• NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The City of Boise provides annual funding opportunities to neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Investment Program. Work with your registered neighborhood association to submit an application.

energize.cityofboise.org/toolkit/nip/

• GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous grant opportunities for Treasure Valley nonprofit groups, many of which are listed on the Energize website.

energize.cityofboise.org/toolkit/nip/

• FARMER'S MARKET GUIDE, go to [energize.cityofboise.org/](https://energize.cityofboise.org/media/472760/farmers-market-guide.pdf)

[media/472760/farmers-market-guide.pdf](https://energize.cityofboise.org/media/472760/farmers-market-guide.pdf)

• NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT PLANNING GUIDE

includes information on the City of Boise's Special Events Application, which is required for any event open to the general public and advertised. It has information on city requirements for permits, liability insurance, street closures, food handling, etc.

cityclerk.cityofboise.org/special-events/

• NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS CALENDAR

Add your neighborhood event to the Energize Our Neighborhoods Calendar! energize.cityofboise.org/calendar/

EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Check out how the Vista Neighborhood partnered with the City of Boise and other entities on several placemaking projects, improvements and events.

energize.cityofboise.org/media/468544/vistaprojects_2015-2021.pdf

BLOCK PARTY

Plan block parties around a theme, season, holiday, etc. Get creative with activities, games, food, contests, prizes and resources. Take advantage of holidays to add fun activities like an Easter egg hunt, 4th of July parade, grilled bratwurst for Oktoberfest or a costume contest for Halloween.

STREET FESTIVAL/FAIR/MARKET

Imagine a warm summer evening strolling through a colorful plaza filled with families and couples, music and unique vendors calling out to those passing by. Why not bring that to your very own street? Get creative – there are tons of options!

• Hyde Park Street Fair. Check out the North End's annual street fair.

www.northendboise.org/hyde-park-street-fair-2017

• Warm Springs Mesa's annual Music Concert. https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBxL_Rg-RbUonM3JJSXJ2UVQ4eDhmMGZWdmVYX-owodEpLYkl4/view.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBxL_Rg-RbUonM3JJSXJ2UVQ4eDhmMGZWdmVYX-owodEpLYkl4/view.

• Chicago Street Festivals in neighborhoods throughout the city.

www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/neighborhood_festivals.html

• Art/Craft Market. Check out an annual craft fair put on by a Seattle neighborhood association.

www.phinneycenter.org/calendar/winter-festival-17/



NEIGHBORHOOD LUMINARIA DISPLAY

Many neighborhoods make this a holiday event, lighting hundreds of candles in paper bags along sidewalks and streets.

- Boise's North End organizes a Candle Lantern Parade each December. www.northendboise.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/North-End-News-Fall-2017.pdf
- An Illinois neighborhood shares drinks during their production party to assemble the luminarias www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/elgin-courier-news/news/ct-ecn-west-dundee-luminary-display-st-1223-20151222-story.html.
- Phoenix's displays include a pot-luck-style 'driveway social' blog.nextdoor.com/2017/01/03/neighbors-in-north-phoenix-light-up-neighborhood-with-luminaria-display/

- **Night Market.** A Lexington, KY neighborhood organizes an annual pop-up night market. www.nolicdc.org/about-night-market/
- **Street Festival.** A Salt Lake City neighborhood organized an annual street festival to bring neighbors together. 9thand9thstreetfestival.com/about/
- **Food Festival.** Pick a theme, celebrate diverse food culture, get residents involved or bring in outside vendors. Add music + art to the mix!
 - One of NYC's boroughs (Queens) celebrates their cultural diversity with food trucks and more. www.vivalacomida.com/

BEAUTIFICATION/CLEANUP

Organize residents and volunteers to pick up garbage, clean graffiti, paint or remove overgrown weeds. Take it one step further and identify why these issues persist and brainstorm an action plan to make sustainable change. Can you turn a vacant lot with constant weeds into a community garden space? Do people litter because there are no trash receptacles?

- See the results of Vista Neighborhood's cleanup and community fair energize.cityofboise.org/fair/

YARD SALE

Neighborhood yard sales can create community, let people get to know your area and raise money for neighborhood events.

- Boise's Warm Springs Mesa has an annual yard sale. www.warmspringsmesa.org/about/project-committees/annual-yard-sale/
- A Chicago neighborhood had participation from 52 homes. www.dnainfo.com/chicago/2017/07/12/dunning/dunning-community-garage-sale-dunning-community-watch

SCAVENGER HUNT

Highlight your neighborhood and involve local businesses and organizations. Mix up teams for a great 'neighbor-building' exercise.

- A town-wide scavenger hunt in Connecticut helped support local businesses. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/02/opinion/programs-that-pop/a-townwide-scavenger-hunt-programs-that-pop/>

ATHLETIC CHALLENGE

Get your neighbors up and moving! Competition can be a fun way to promote physical activity while strengthening neighborhood connections. Don't let residents be intimidated by the physical part - make it a team effort and add elements like puzzles or a scavenger hunt.

A CRAWL

Think pub crawl, but for a neighborhood. Walk or bike to and from restaurants, gardens, historical sites, bars, holiday lights, etc. Pick a goal or theme and 'crawl' from place to place to celebrate an area and get to know your neighbors.

EVENTS + PROJECTS

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

Get together once per month (or quarterly) and try to keep it the same day of the month for consistency.

- **Potluck.** Find a host location, pick a theme cook, eat, and socialize! Make it a recipe exchange as well.
- **Pancake Breakfast and Saturday Morning Cartoons.** What better way to kick off the weekend than with some pancakes and cartoons for the neighborhood?
www.beringumc.org/news-all/news-bmumc/pancake-breakfast-saturday-morning-cartoons/
- **Movie Night.** Put up a screen in a backyard and alternate houses. This can be a great ongoing warm-weather event to bring your neighbors together.
- **House Hop/Block Hop.** This is a great way to create social interactions between residents along one block/street. Designate host houses, serve snacks and beverages and hop on to the next house. Use the inside of your house, the porch, the driveway or the yard. Pick 'themes' for food and give it a catchy name (Dinner Block Hop, Porch Party, Driveway Social, etc.)
 - Check out how a Texan historic neighborhood hosts their **Porch Party**
www.gracegritsgarden.com/2014/05/host-southern-porch-party.html
- **'Speed Dating'...for Neighbors.** Taking the initial step to get to know your neighbors can be hard. Why not take the idea of 'speed dating' to the neighborhood? Get neighbors together with some seating and tables, set a timer for 5 minutes for each 'date,' and keep switching partners until you've spoken to everyone. This is a fun way to throw everyone together and get through awkward introductions. You could write down conversation starters to get folks warmed up, or select themes for conversations.



OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT

Pick a host location, have everyone bring their favorite game and enjoy!

- **Oral Histories.** Telling stories is an important component of communities the world over. Get your neighbors together to pass down history of the area, their family, or just to share stories. Each month could be a new theme. Get creative!
 - Check out this great guide to creating oral histories
www.citizensnyc.org/sites/default/files/oh2-1.pdf.
 - Make your oral history visual by mapping it and adding photos
blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2017/10/23/oral-history-mapping-with-arcgis-online/
 - Minnesota's Twin Cities use video stories to capture the change they want to see in their neighborhood. storyblocksmsp.wordpress.com/category/frogtown/

BOOK CLUB

Get neighbors together once a month. If a book is too much, make it an article or magazine! Or do a book exchange where you get together, bring a book to swap and enjoy some conversation about the book, a particular theme, or anything else!

NEIGHBORHOOD BARTER/SWAP

Your neighbors have a variety of skills and experience. Organize a 'swap' to get to know the goods and services people around you can provide, and then start bartering! Can you design a website in return for getting your house painted? Do you have a vegetable garden and someone else has fruit trees? Get to know your neighbors, get help and give back!

- An Ohio neighborhood created a Care and Share Time Bank where residents earn and use credits for their service/labor.
www.sanduskyregister.com/story/201302180003

EVENTS + PROJECTS



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY. Celebrate National Good Neighbor Day on **Sept. 28**. Imagine a day where residents, businesses and others perform random acts of kindness. Make it an annual event.

- pickupplease.org/national-good-neighbor-day/
- blog.nextdoor.com/?s=national+good+neighbor+day

NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DAY. Gather your neighbors together the **3rd Sunday of September** to build connections and strengthen communities. <http://neighborhoodday.org/>

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL 'DAYS.' Incorporate international holidays into neighborhood events and celebrations. Make them part of your existing programming or get creative with something new!

- The International Day of Peace on September 21 created by the UN. www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/programs/peace-day/
- See how cities like Indianapolis celebrate. nextdoor.com/agency-post/in/indianapolis/indianapolis-office-of-the-mayor/international-day-of-peace-aka-peaceday-62375737/

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT. This annual campaign the **first Tuesday in August** promotes police-community partnerships, enhancing the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement. Many neighborhoods throughout Boise celebrate with events like block parties.

- Boise Police Department's website has information. police.cityofboise.org/crime-prevention/neighborhood-watch/national-night-out/.

NEIGHBORHOOD LENDING LIBRARY. Tools, yard equipment, kitchen items, appliances, sporting goods, etc. can be expensive to own or rent. Create an inventory of neighborhood items that residents are willing to share or loan out.

- Check out an online tool library in Ohio. rtcentralohio.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse.
- Great online platforms for sharing libraries/inventory:
 - Streetbank. www.streetbank.com/splash?locale=en
 - Peerby. www.peerby.com/

NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS. Think barn-raising, 21st century style. Get neighbors together to determine everyone's specific skills, then identify needs around the neighborhood and organize work projects. Projects could be anything from fixing a fence, painting, raking leaves or shoveling snow, to delivering food or running errands for someone recuperating from surgery. Add emergency preparedness to the list and identify skills like CPR. Make it a monthly or quarterly event!

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS. Get a group of neighbors together to volunteer for a specific group or event. It is a great way to strengthen relationships with your neighbors and area nonprofits while also giving back.

PORCHFEST. Join the nationwide celebration of neighborhoods, community and local music.

ART + MUSIC

- See how it all started in upstate New York. www.porchfest.org/about-porchfest/
- See how neighborhoods in Spokane, WA celebrate. www.kxly.com/news/local-news/spokane/third-annual-porchfest-braves-the-rain-176470898
- Missoula, MT joined the fun. zootownfringe.org/events/porchfest/

GET OUT THE VOTE. Voting is how we exercise our power as citizens. Organize a 'get out the vote' campaign in your neighborhood, especially for smaller local elections that are easy to miss. You can interact with your neighbors while steering clear of partisan divisions.

- Idaho's voter info. idahovotes.gov/

ART + MUSIC

TRAFFIC BOX ART. Many neighborhoods 'wrap' their utility/traffic boxes in artwork, which livens up an industrial-looking corner or street.

- View the Department of Arts & History's Traffic Box Project. www.flickr.com/photos/boiseartsandhistory/

REDESIGN A SIDEWALK. Chalk art is a great way to turn grey, concrete sidewalks into works of art! This temporary beautification effort can go along with planting/greening and other artistic projects as well. Make sidewalk chalk art an ongoing neighborhood activity to engage youth and adults. Turn it into team contests or an annual festival!

- See examples of street/sidewalk art around the world. www.cnn.com/travel/article/chalk-art-festivals/index.html

CREATIVE BIKE RACKS. Artistic and unique bike parking is popping up in cities around the world. This is a great way for neighborhood business owners to get involved with residents.

- Check out some great ideas. www.missionbicycle.com/blog/best-bicycle-racks



BEAUTIFY YOUR BUS STOP

A colorful, artistic bus shelter can turn a bland and boring wait into an enjoyable one. A bus stop can include many things, like a creative bike rack or a coffee kiosk. It can become a real hub for communities and neighborhoods.

- Vista Avenue bus shelter wrap pbs.twimg.com/media/DFCWSLeVYAAvPZF.jpg



GATEWAYS/SIGNAGE

Don't make people guess whether they're in your neighborhood – let them know with signage that uses art to highlight the area's history and identity. Combine signage with landscaping and other attractive visuals to welcome people to your neighborhood.

- Boise's Central Bench Neighborhood has signage honoring the vast orchards of days past. <http://centralbench.org/>
- The Vista Neighborhood created a sense of continuity by using part of their gateway signage on bus stops and bike racks around their neighborhood. www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10154575601670476&set=g.129330267161943&type=1&theater&ifg=1



TURN AN ALLEY INTO PUBLIC ART

Imagine an alleyway as a colorful and artistic expression of a neighborhood, and even as a gathering place.

- Check out Boise's very own Freak Alley. idaho.for91days.com/freak-alley-and-boises-public-art/
- In one North End alley, you can find art, fruit trees and community space for holidays, movies, events, etc. bistroonesix.com/snow-block-alley/
- A community in Detroit transformed a dangerous alley into a safe and beautiful place by adding murals and converting a vacant garage and lots into studio/gathering space for youth. placemaking.mml.org/how-to/the-alley-project/
- Vancouver's interconnected downtown alleyways combine art, activities and events. www.downtownvancouver.net/members/community-feed/dvbia-blog/2016/09/05/more-awesome-now!

TRANSFORM YOUR TRASH. Turn trash containers into works of art. Partner with the city to turn public receptacles into art, murals, etc.

- See what Oakland did to its trash cans. newworldmosaics.com/press-awards/

CREATE A COMMUNITY MURAL. Pick a wall or garage and make it beautiful! This is a great way to represent your neighborhood, so be sure to think about how to protect and maintain the mural for years to come.

- See how Boise's murals acknowledge and honor our history. www.boiseweekly.com/boise/murals-chronicle-boises-changing-history/Content?oid=2535186
- Exterior mural location and details are reviewed by Boise's Planning and Development Services for project approval. Get more info at pds.cityofboise.org/planning/dr/murals.

MAKE ANYTHING INTO ART. Look at the things and places around your neighborhood. Are there ways to make them more visually appealing? Get creative, and get inspired!

- The Chandelier Tree in an L.A. neighborhood has become a neighborhood fixture. www.theeastsiderla.com/2013/07/silver-lakes-chandelier-tree-lights-up-the-neighborhood/

PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION. Public art is a great way to create a hidden wonder in your own neighborhood. Think statues, installations, sculptures, murals, etc.

- Check out one of Downtown Boise's unique displays. www.boiseartsandhistory.org/programs/public-art/
- Check out public art opportunities in Boise's 30th Street Neighborhood. www.boiseartsandhistory.org/media/2715/30th-st-cultural-arts-plan-final2.pdf
- Public art in Texas helped turn neglected areas and underpasses into vibrant community places. www.citylab.com/design/2013/05/public-art-installation-bridges-gap-created-overpass/5711/

TURN STEEL/METAL REMNANTS INTO ART. Many neighborhoods have old metal garbage cans or fencing that are no longer in use. Turn those scraps into artistic creations or as materials for 'creative bike racks' and public seating.

- Partner with a local business/nonprofit like this one in Providence. www.thesteelyard.org/documents/ch4sm-pdf.pdf

POP-UP ART/MUSIC/DANCE. Put up a temporary or rotating gallery/exhibit, organize a concert (or series), or designate a space for a dance performance. Get creative with outdoor karaoke, a drum/music circle, group music or dance lessons. www.galleryfuel.com/2017/01/27/the-why-how-of-pop-up-art-galleries/

GREEN UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

GREENING

Research shows the importance of green spaces in cities for both mental and physical health.

'GREEN' YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Brainstorm ways to combat climate change in your neighborhood, like recycling and reducing energy usage to weatherproofing and energy efficiency measures. Make it about more than environmental impact - reducing your energy use will also decrease your bill! Use a clothesline in the summer instead of a dryer, switch to low-energy light bulbs, add insulation or 'draft-proof' your house. There are simple actions that, when taken as a group, make a large impact.

- Check out how one small rural town reduced their emissions by 24%. www.curbed.com/2016/9/15/12926868/climate-change-grassroots-change-ash-ton-hayes-community and www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk/background/

MAP YOUR FRUIT. Many streets or alleys have fruit trees that remain un-plucked throughout their season. Don't let them go to waste! Identify edibles and map them for your neighborhood. Why stop there? Plant a fruit tree in your yard, add yourself to the map, and share your harvest with neighbors!

- A group in Southern California maps and shares fruit. fallenfruit.org/

URBAN ORCHARD. Why stop at flowers and plants to beautify an area? Imagine fruit trees with, you guessed it, fruit!

- See how a Chicago nonprofit partnered with their city's Department of Housing and Economic Development to identify and develop sites across the city for planting fruit trees. www.chicagorarities.org/

GREEN A STREETScape. Flowers, plants and trees can do a lot to 'green up' a street. Even planting small sections or spacing out sidewalk planters add character and visual appeal.

- The historic Ustick townsite in the West Valley neighborhood includes landscaping, signage and seating. www.westvalleyboise.org/UstickBeautificationProject/



YOUR YARD AS A BIRDFEEDER

Instead of hanging a birdfeeder or two, think of your whole yard as a potential birdfeeder - or your neighborhood as a small ecosystem that is crucial to birds, butterflies, bees and bugs! Thoughtful planting of a range of native shrubs, trees and flowers provide host plants for insects and a continuous supply of fruits and seeds for birds. Planting projects could even lead to neighborhood bird-watching tours.

- See how suburban property owners turned a section of weed-covered property into a wildlife haven. neighborhoodgreening.org/plant-will-come-property-owners-create-wildlife-haven/

YOUR YARD AS A POLLINATOR GARDEN

Bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other insects are extremely important for pollinating flowers and food crops. Individual yards, community gardens and entire neighborhoods can be turned into pollinator havens!

- A neighborhood in North Carolina turned a busy corner into a community pollinator garden. organicgrowersschool.org/11495/press-release-five-points-neighborhood-pollination-garden/
- Penn State got their community garden pollinator-certified. news.psu.edu/story/434204/2016/10/28/sustainability/community-garden-penn-state-schuylkill-named-pollinator
- There are lots of resources and kits for individuals and communities at sites. www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml and <https://www.fws.gov/alaska/pollinator/pdf/how%20to%20make%20a%20pollinator%20garden%20handout.pdf>
- Add your garden to the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. millionpollinatorgardens.org/about/#pollinatorgardens

SHARED SPACES

GREEN YOUR YARD. Don't just consider public land for greening efforts – consider your yard, especially the space between the sidewalk and street! Coordinated planting themes can be a great way to unite neighbors on a block and can create visual recognition and is a display of unity/cohesiveness. You can become known for the neighborhood with red flowers, or with a new color theme each season.

COMMUNITY GARDEN, URBAN FOREST. Convert a neglected space into a pocket garden or tiny 'forest' with a bench or two. No space is too small! Neighbors can come together to plant flowers, trees and veggies and watch them grow. Create a group to maintain the space.

- Learn how you can partner with the city. parks.cityofboise.org/parks-and-facilities/community-gardens/

Community Gardens around Boise have provided food, cultural exchange and access to mother nature.

- Global Gardens supports refugee community gardens. www.globalgardensboise.org/community-gardens.html
- boiseecovillageproject.com/community-garden/
- www.boiseurbangardenschool.org/about-us/



NEIGHBORWOODS

Check out the NeighborWoods program for the opportunity to get free trees for your front yard.

<https://parks.cityofboise.org/community-forestry/neighborwoods/>

POPUK PARK. People in urban areas are seeking out opportunities to get a dose of nature in their day. Groups and cities have come up with some unique ways to do this. Park(ing) Day started in San Francisco and has become an annual global event where citizens turn a metered parking spot into a temporary 'park.' This idea can translate to a neighborhood or monthly event.

- Several groups in Boise partner to join in on Park(ing) Day along 8th Street downtown. idahowalkbike.org/parking-day-2017/.
- Another SF project partners the city with local communities to create temporary 'tester' ideas for reclaiming underused areas for pedestrian spaces. Like Boise, many of their streets are very wide and contain large underutilized areas. pavementtoparks.org/about/.

DE-PAVE. Partner with the city to turn unused parking lots or abandoned/vacant lots into parks or community gardens.

- Check out how a Portland, Oregon group has been "kicking asphalt." depave.org/

SHARED SPACES + SERVICES

BUILD A SEAT. If you build it, they will sit! Many cities lack of places to sit. Residents and business owners can build creative seating options for folks to meet and mingle, or just take a rest.

- Use discarded pallets and crates for creative urban seating. www.streetseats.org/street-seat-photos/.
- Check out wikiblocks, a toolkit of designs for easy-to-assemble neighborhood furniture. betterblock.org/wikiblock/

WAYFINDING. Create signs along streets and paths to indicate nearby areas of interest, such as '2-minute walk to the Library.' This is a great way to work with the city and neighborhood associations to promote walkability/bikability.

- Check out opportunities and challenges of urban wayfinding. hwww.citylab.com/design/2012/01/surprisingly-complex-art-wayfinding/1088/ and www.restreets.org/wayfinding.

MAP A WALKING ROUTE/DESIGN A WALKING TOUR. Map out a 1-2-mile loop around your house, and mark all of the amenities and destination places. Make it viewable to neighbors and the public.

- Check out Walkshed to learn about mapping and calculating. www.walkshed.org/
- Don't stop there - organize a walking club, walking tours that include points of interest and historical/cultural context.
- Partner with the City of Boise to plan a neighborhood walking tour and line up facilitators.
- Exploring Boise's Boundaries Neighborhood Tour series. energize.cityofboise.org/toolkit/exploring-boises-boundaries-tour-series/

SHARED SPACES

- Check out some of the other walking tours around Boise:
 - Indulge Boise Food Tour www.indulgeboise.com/
 - Walkabout Boise oldboise.com/
 - Morris Hill Walking Tour parks.cityofboise.org/cemeteries/morris-hill-walking-tour/
 - Preservation Idaho Tours www.preservationidaho.org/walking-tours/

DESIGN A BIKE TOUR. Walking tours are great, so why not have the same options on bikes! Start a biking club with your neighbors and develop different routes around your neighborhood. Get your neighbors together to explore other neighborhoods or pick different themes like parks, ponds, history, art, libraries, food, etc.

- For those who don't have their own bike, view Boise Green Bike locations. boise.greenbike.com/
- Check out the Slow Roll Detroit event. slowroll.bike/index.php?bypassCookie=1

DESIGN A BUS/TROLLEY TOUR. Design a trolley tour that includes your neighborhood. Pick a theme and roll with it.

- American Heritage Trolley Tours offers Boise tours and also rents a trolley for events. www.americanheritagetrolleytours.com/home.html

PARK AND PEDAL. Think Park and Ride, but on a bike! Instead of adding to street traffic, park your car in the lot and then hop on a bike to get to your final destination. You can do it solo, or organize a 'bikepool' and ride with a group.

- Does your park and ride have a Boise Green Bike station? boise.greenbike.com/

YOUR FRONT YARD AS COMMUNITY. Front yards are often underutilized, but they can be transformed into useful space to build relationships and community.

- A St. Paul project turned into a national movement for transforming front yards. www.friendlyfronts.com/about.html



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Create a 'library' from a simple covered shelf to an ornate artistic structure. Whether you take or leave a book, the important thing is having a place that community members can access.

- Boise has over 30 Little Free Library locations. <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>
- Vista Neighborhood Little Free Libraries. <https://news.boisestate.edu/update/2015/08/26/students-map-vista-neighborhood-create-little-libraries/>

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE. Rotate through homes, or have designated repeat houses. Create different themes, and make it a neighborhood staple for placemaking/events like an evening art show, youth performance, 'how-to' demonstration, potluck meal, etc.

- Boise's North End hosts a Holiday House Tour. www.northendboise.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/North-End-News-Fall-2017.pdf

DISCOVER YOUR HISTORY. Learn about and celebrate your neighborhood's history.

- The Central Bench Neighborhood Association collected an oral history and turned it into a published document. www.boiseartsandhistory.org/media/3410/central_bench_history_entirebook_oct2016_lowres.pdf

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH PHOTOS. Let people experience your neighborhood visually by posting photos and captions online. Get your neighbors together to create a theme or tell a story through pictures. This is a great way to involve all residents, including youth!

- Make a weekly or monthly photo contest. Boise's Art & History Department collects historical photos and objects – so make sure to share and preserve your neighborhood items through the archive program. www.boiseartsandhistory.org/programs/archives/

SHARED SPACES



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Partner with Boise's Parks and Recreation Department and other entities to identify needs and desires in your local park, like shelters, playground equipment, etc.

- Check out park projects identified by residents. <https://parks.cityofboise.org/parks-and-facilities/parks/shoshone-park/>

- Check out how the department captured the city's history and culture with their virtual tour. www.boiseartsandhistory.org/remnants-of-boise/index.html

WORKSHOP SERIES. Bring educational/informational workshops to your neighborhood. Find a location and an interested audience, and you can easily line up free or low-cost speakers to present a variety of topics. Ideas include financial literacy, home maintenance/repair, first-time homeownership, weatherization, city resources, resume-building and interview skills.

- There are great options for free classes and workshops through Boise's public libraries. www.boisepubliclibrary.org/classes-events/online-calendar/
- Idaho Smart Growth's Citizen Planning workshop series. www.idahosmartgrowth.org/portfolio/citizens-planning-academy/
- Energize Our Neighborhoods community workshops. energize.cityofboise.org/

MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS. Identifying and mapping neighborhood resources is crucial to creating strong and sustainable communities. Resources can include businesses, organizations, institutions, and physical spaces, as well as the skills, talents and professional networks of residents. Knowing what your neighborhood assets are will help you maximize partnerships, support and overall engagement for

events and projects. Figure out contacts for your local churches, schools, parks, community centers, libraries, etc.

- Guide/workbook to community asset mapping. www.ghghmonterey.org/resources/Asset_Mapping_Workbook_2011.pdf.

BUILD A RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOOD.

Do you know who your neighbors are, their needs and the pertinent locations/sites in times of disaster or emergency? This is important information for a strong and resilient neighborhood. Get together with your neighbors to map out assets and deficits in order to evaluate preparedness and needs. Designate emergency hubs/contacts, identify the nearest cooling centers (mall, library, etc.), identify or create evacuation routes. Are there elderly and disabled folks who would need assistance in a power outage, extreme weather, etc.?

- **Code Red App.** Use Code Red to receive notifications regarding disasters, emergencies and police activity in your neighborhood.
 - Download the Code Red app. www.onsolve.com/solutions/products/codered/mobile-alert-app/codered-mobile-apps-download/
 - Sign up for Ada County notifications. public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BF01DC4DD213.
- Check out this San Francisco neighborhood's Resilient Action empowersf.org/resilientbayview/.
- Communities around New York City came together after Hurricane Sandy to strengthen their resiliency www.newamerica.org/resilient-communities/resilient-futures/every-community-is-resilient/.

POPOP WORK SPACE. Do you get tired of working from home or inside at a desk? Do you want to change up your routine? Set up a temporary work hub to get outside and be surrounded by others.

- A writer from LA set up a row of desks along a pedestrian overpass bridge, complete with Wi-Fi access and free coffee. la.curbed.com/2016/9/8/12852570/freeway-overpass-co-working-space

RESOURCES

TAKE OVER EMPTY STOREFRONTS. Tired of walking by empty commercial spaces and storefronts? Work with owners to turn them into community space as temporary art displays, shops, markets or concerts/performances.

- Neighborhood and business groups in Pittsburg partnered with owners to re-purpose vacant space. downtownpittsburgh.com/what-we-do/project-pop-up/
- www.chashama.org/about/mission-history

FITNESS STATIONS. Turn a public space, bus stop or sidewalk etc. into an activity 'station' that encourages movement, health and interactions. This can be as easy as posting colorful instructional graphics for activities and including directions/number of steps to the nearest activity center like gym, dance studio or park.

- San Francisco created an urban exercise trail experience. marketstreetprototyping.org/2016-festival/projects/city-fit-path/



HOT BEVERAGE KIOSK

What better way to start your morning than with a hot caffeinated beverage? Organize a rotating committee to set up a small table with coffee or tea by a bus stop/bike/pedestrian hub. This is a great way to interact with folks and leave them with a great impression of your neighborhood.

- A popup coffee cart created a strong sense of community in LA. laist.com/2017/10/02/skid_row_coffee.php
- A Portland bike shop had free morning coffee to encourage biking during colder weather. www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/419359.

- Cleveland launched Bus Stop Moves to impact rider health while they wait for their bus. www.ioby.org/project/bus-stop-moves

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Project for Public Spaces.** Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. www.pps.org/reference/reference-categories/placemaking-tools/
- **Better Blocks Foundation.** Ideas and projects for neighborhoods. betterblock.org/
- **StreetPlans.** Tactical urban projects. www.street-plans.com/
- **Neighborhood Greening.** Harnessing the spirit of residents, schools, places of worship, organizations and businesses to create a greener community. neighborhoodgreening.org/
- **The People's Garden** works with USDA and partners to start and sustain school gardens, community gardens, urban farms and small-scale agriculture projects with the mission of growing healthy food, people and communities. peoplesgarden.usda.gov/
- **Eight Approaches to Placemaking from the Scenic Route.** creativeplacemaking.t4america.org/our-eight-approaches/
- **101 Small Ways You Can Improve Your City.** www.curbed.com/2016/9/22/13019420/urban-design-community-building-placemaking
- **Street Seats.** Creative and informal seats, benches, and urban perches gifted by NYC's small businesses, advocacy organizations, and residents. www.streetseats.org/
- **Sunset Magazine.** "What makes a neighborhood a great place to live." www.sunset.com/food-wine/25-more-ways-to-make-your-neighborhood-a-community
- **Chair-Bombing.** Placing homemade seating in public spaces "to improve comfort, social activity, and sense of place." www.spontaneousinterventions.org/project/chair-bombing
- **Pop-up Adventure Play.** Pop-Up Adventure Playgrounds are free, public celebrations of child-directed play, stocked with loose parts (cardboard boxes, fabric, tape and string) and staffed by playworkers. popupadventureplaygrounds.wordpress.com/
- **Useful Community Development.** City planners put together helpful information on beautification, cleanups, streetscapes and other neighborhoods activities. www.useful-community-development.org/beautification.html

DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDIES

- **The Steel Yard [Providence, Rhode Island].** www.thesteelyard.org/documents/ch4sm-pdf.pdf
- **Project Pop Up [Pittsburg Downtown].** downtownpittsburgh.com/what-we-do/project-pop-up/



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