

ACCEPTANCE

ASPIRATION

CHOICE

DEMOCRACY

ENGAGEMENT

FAIRNESS

IDENTITY

MOBILITY

POWER

RESILIENCE

RIGHTS

WELFARE

THE JUST CITY INDEX

Harvard Graduate School of Design

Belonging

To feel accepted and comfortable in a setting despite age, gender, race, sexuality, or income

Empathy

Exercising the ability to recognize and understand the feeling and point of view of another

Inclusion

The acceptance of difference and the intention to involve diverse opinions, attitudes, and behaviors

Reconciliation

The process of finding a way to make two different ideas, facts, or points of view coexist or be true at the same time

Respect

A mutually earned and shared honoring of different voices, opinions, behaviors, and cultural expressions

Tolerance

The acceptance of difference

Trust

To promote a confidence earned through the demonstration of fulfilling commitments and promises made among people and institutions

Creative Innovation

Nurturing ingenuity in problem solving and intervention

Delight

Creating places, spaces, and processes that promote happiness and joy

Happiness

A state of well being that brings about joy, contentment, or ease

Hope

The possibility of fulfillment of a desire, aspiration, outcome, or happiness

Inspiration

The result of creative thinking and collaboration that has the potential to produce new and innovative outcomes

Diversity

An intentional state of mixed people, institutions, and cultural norms

Spontaneity

The potential to allow for the unplanned, where individuals or groups can freely self-create processes, interventions, or activities

Conflict

The acceptance of disagreement or opposition in pursuit of necessary change or improvement

Debate

Accepting and providing forums for the discussion of different voices and points of view in order to achieve greater inclusion in processes and decision-making

Protest

The act of objection or disapproval in the form of public demonstration

Voice

Allowing the articulation of different points of view and cultural norms to help shape decision-making

Community

A group of individuals or collective groups having shared or common interests

Cooperation

The process by which individuals or collective groups work together to do something

Participation

The active engagement of individuals and community members in matters, both formal and informal, affecting social and spatial wellbeing

Togetherness

A sense of solidarity within and across populations

Equality

The provision of equal or equivalent distribution, status, rights, power, and amenity

Equity

The distribution of material and non-material goods in a manner that brings the greatest benefit required to any particular community

Merit

A good quality, feature, process, or outcome that deserves to be praised and assigned worth or value

Transparency

The openness of process, rules, rights, and procedures through the sharing of knowledge and information

Authenticity

The recognition of physical and social characteristics that are genuine to a particular place or culture and promote this recognition within communities

Beauty

Everyone's right to well-made, well-designed environments

Character

Features or attributes used to separate distinguishable qualities of place

Pride

A respect and admiration arising from feeling good and confident about some act, space, place, or relationship

Spirituality

The presence of places and attitudes that support religious expression, practice, and beliefs

Vitality

An energetic, integrated community with opportunities for and support of cultural, civic, and economic involvement

Access

The convenient proximity to, quality of, or connectivity to basic needs, amenities, choices, and decisions

Connectivity

The physical and social networks that tie places and people together, providing contact and opportunity necessary for social wellbeing

Accountability

The acceptance of responsibility by individuals or collective groups to contribute to the creation and maintenance of just conditions for all

Agency

Enabling the confidence, rights, and status of individuals or groups to act on behalf of their own interests

Empowerment

To give formal authority or power to a person or collective group by promoting action or influence

Representation

A balance of a community's desires, representative of its diversity, are present in the decision making process

Adaptability

The ability to change or be changed in order to fit or work better in some situation or for some purpose

Durability

The ability of all social and spatial systems to remain strong and in good condition over a long period of time

Sustainability

The quality of not being harmful to the social or spatial wellbeing or depleting resources, and thereby supporting long-term social and spatial balance

Freedom

The ability to act or speak freely without threat of external restriction

Knowledge

The ability to gain information or awareness through education and/or experience

Ownership

The ability to have a stake in the property, process, outcome, and other assets

Healthiness

A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being that supports the absence of disease or infirmity

Prosperity

The condition of being successful or thriving in terms of social, economic, civic, cultural, and health indicators

Protection

The state of being kept from harm or loss in social or spatial conditions

Safety

An environment that minimizes physical and emotional vulnerability and threats to wellbeing

Security

Social and spatial conditions that support the freedom from danger, exclusion, and harm

Would we design better places if we put the values of equality, inclusion or equity first? If a community articulated what it stood for, what it believed in, what it aspired to be - as a city, as a neighborhood - would it have a better chance of creating and sustaining a more healthy, vibrant place with positive economic, health, civic, cultural and environmental conditions? Imagine that the issues of race, income, education and unemployment inequality, and the resulting segregation, isolation and fear, could be addressed by planning and designing for greater access, agency, ownership, beauty, diversity or empowerment. Now imagine the Just City - the cities, neighborhoods and public spaces that thrive using a value-based aspiration for urban stabilization, revitalization and transformation. Imagine the Just City.

The Just City Lab investigates the definition of urban justice and the Just City, and it examines how design and planning contribute to the conditions of justice and injustice in cities, neighborhoods and the public realm. The Lab has been developing and testing a set of core principles, values and metrics to assess and evaluate design's role in achieving urban justice. The Lab also researches design practices that exemplify the achievement of the Just City and its values.

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