

International Superblock Meeting

Hosted by the City of Barcelona
22nd - 25th of March, 2023

S U P B A R
E R I C E L
L L A O N A



Agreement between Cities

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For a new model of public space

Humanity faces an unprecedented challenge: the simultaneous mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Surging global temperatures, droughts, rising sea levels, an increase in natural hazards, and a decline of biodiversity put further stress on cities. The impact on the health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations is of particular concern.

Cities continue to be the main source of pollution. They are responsible for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, yet occupy a mere 2% of the planet's surface area. At the same time, they are home to the majority of the world's population and are expected to become even more densely populated. Cities play a decisive role in the process of changing lifestyles, production and consumption models, and spatial distribution patterns.

To reduce emissions and make cities healthier, cities need transformative approaches capable of addressing multiple issues at the same time. Our cities must evolve to redirect flows, encourage new uses, introduce nature in a bolder way, foster proximity, and move us toward more sustainable types of transport and mobility. This requires new models for the use and design of public space. These actions are inspired by the mandates of the UN and the European Commission, as well as the evidence the scientific community has made available to us.

With varying degrees of similarity, all the cities gathered here face the same challenges and are committed to proactively addressing them. These cities are embracing experimentation, creativity, long-term thinking, and the responsibility of being leaders in the search for solutions, as is the case with the Barcelona Superblock project.

Cities do not exist in isolation but in networks of flows and exchange. It is therefore essential that cities work together and share knowledge and experiences.

In this spirit of cooperation, the cities gathered here acknowledge their commitment to transforming their public spaces according to the following principles:

- People are the main protagonists and must occupy a central place in urban design.
- Public transport and active mobility must be prioritised to increase efficiency and decrease emissions, where private vehicles are guests.
- There should be plenty of comfortable, attractive, non-privatised places for all residents to carry out a wide range of social and recreational functions.
- Vegetation and green and blue infrastructure play a critical role in improving the urban environment and the physical and psychological health of residents, as well in climate adaptation.
- Protected school zones and play areas should be widely implemented to ensure that children can safely and comfortably use streets and other public spaces throughout the city.

Through the transformation of public space, we can help our cities better adapt to climate change and become more resilient.

We are also committed to communicating our desires, plans, and projects, to transmitting our knowledge and experiences, to supporting each other in the changes we wish to implement, and to sharing the necessary methodologies and tools. Each of our cities brings its unique characteristics to the table, but we share a common vision of becoming healthier, more resilient, more welcoming, more equitable, and more sustainable.

