



REALISING JUST CITIES
LESSONS, IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES
15 OCTOBER 2019 – SHEFFIELD – UK

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

#UrbanGirlsMovement

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GLOBAL
UTMANING



REALISING JUST CITIES



REINVENT - the Centre for City Dynamics

An arena where researchers meet politicians, civil society and private actors to collaborate on sustainable development in suburban areas.



sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/research/centres--research-networks/reinvent



Research Projects

- Reinventing the Suburb in Fragmented Landscapes
- A City for Everyone? A Study about Young Women's Lives in a Transforming Suburb

#UrbanGirlsMovement

- Launched by the sustainability think tank Global Utmaning in 2017.
- Led by Elin Andersdotter Fabre, financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency (Vinnova).
- Some of the partners: Mistra Urban Futures, Block By Block Foundation, MethodKit, Plan International, Sida and UN-Habitat.
- A movement to map global good practices of participatory feminist urban development.



urbangirlsmovement.org
globalutmaning.se
Facebook: Global utmaning
Twitter: Global_Ut
Insta: global_utmaning

#UrbanGirlsMovement

- Aim: to improve the living conditions for girls and young women in rapidly growing and vulnerable urban areas through participatory public space planning and design.
- Objective: to elaborate new methods for urban development, with a focus on integrating feminist (and intersectional) perspectives into the process.



“If we plan a city for girls, it will work for everyone!”

Fittja - a Suburban Area in Greater Stockholm



- Built in the early 1970s - Million Dwellings programme.
- Defined by the police as an "especially vulnerable area".
- Significant urban development is taking place in the area.



#UrbanGirlsMovement in Fittja

- One-year participatory feminist urban development initiative using innovative methods, such as Minecraft design.
- Local girls and young women from Fittja and nearby aged 15-25 were recruited.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration to improve public space in the area – e.g. NGOs, city planners, architects and land owners.
- Transdisciplinary research network.



Method: Six Collaborative Innovation Labs

Lab 1
Context
September 26
2018

Lab 2:
Challenges
October 24
2018

Lab 3:
Possibilities
November 21
2018

Lab 4:
Solutions
March 27
2019

Lab 5:
Plans
April 30
2019

Lab 6:
Recommendations
June 4
2019



Mid-Term Exhibition

ÖVERBLICK | JÄMSTÄLLD STADSUTVECKLING I FITTJA



Både tjejer och de andra deltagarna i projektet vill att Fittja centrum ska vara en plats att mötas på. Centrum ska var välkommande och tryggt. För att skapa en inkluderande känsla satsar alla förslagen på mer belysning, grönska, ytor att hänga på och bredare tillgång till kultur. Förslagen sträcker sig från dansgolv till bullerplank, från växthus till saccosäckar och skyltar till läshörnor. Fittja ska vara en plats för alla.

FITTJA =
HOME <3



“Pink Street shows you the way, but is also a destination in itself. Pink Street encourages walking. Along the street are welcoming and innovative spaces for public use (e.g. arts stage, seating space, graffiti walls...).”



#UrbanGirlsCube



KUB-HÄNG
#URBANGIRLSMOVEMENT!

LIVE PODD: EDUORTEN
BASKETTÄVLING!
MINI CAFÉ
PILKASTNING
FOTBOLL!

Unga
FITTJA

**TAKE
OVER
TAKE
OVER
TAKE
OVER**

17 AUGUSTI
FITTJA TORG
KL. 15-18!

BOTEKYRKA
KOMMUN



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Some Interview Quotes

”Media creates an image of what it looks like here and people who have never been to Fittja then get that image, and unconsciously speak of that image and then see everything here as something extremely unsafe and super weird, although it doesn’t look weird from our perspective.” - *Queen 21*

”It’s good that they ask us who know all the places, that have more knowledge of what is needed and what is available than someone who doesn’t live here”. - *Belle 16*

”What makes me don’t want to hang out in Fittja centre is that you don’t see any other girls doing that, so I don’t feel represented. Why should I go there if only guys are there? But it is not that they make me feel unsafe, it’s more that I don’t want to hang there as I see no reason to do that. It’s not because the guys are there”. - *Nova 18*



Some Quotes from the Participant Observations

”There is nothing here for us to do, and nowhere to hang.”

”We want to create a place that distinguishes Fittja in a postive manner.”

”A local radio activity here gives a sense of this place”

”We use wooden materials because if the kids fall, concrete is not a good idea.”

”Entertainment is also important in life”



Some more Quotes from the Observations

"... and the last thing we did was a terrace on the roof of the mall. It's very grey in Fittja, a lot of concrete, so we just wanted to make it more green."

"It can also attract people from other places to visit Fittja. Stuff that are in the city should also be in the suburb. Stuff like rooftop places are needed."

"Some of you might have heard people jokingly say that the national anthem of Fittja is the sound of police helicopters. Well, we designed this to remind those helicopters and the media that this is our home".



Recommendations

1. Include young women in public space development.
2. Explore the linkages between public space design by inclusive multi-stakeholder teams and sustainability.



Conclusion

Participatory feminist urban development is a useful tool for the creation of sustainable and just cities!

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs (1962) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

A short film about #UrbanGirlsMovement: https://youtu.be/IK_90ICgS2Y



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Further Conclusions and Recommendations

#UrbanGirlsToolbox launch on UN World Cities Day.





@MistraUrbanFut
#JustCities2019

Thank You!

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