

Life-size lessons for York Central.

How can cities engage with children and young people as equal citizens and allow them to fully inhabit and engage with their city, and to shape its future?



Statement: Young people have a right to be more than equal citizens in the places in which they will develop as individuals.

(Adults live in places – young people come from and are formed by places).



Realism?

Architects - Whitby, Bird and Partners won a design competition to build millennium bridge.

A similar competition for young people did not deliver a bridge leading to large amounts of frustration.



Cities?

Who needs to listen?

Individuals and organisations in authority in the city

Cultural shift - adult population at large - lever for city-wide change

What matters?

Tangible York Centralscape

Intangible sense and use of place - 'Yorkness'



Inhabit and Engage?

‘young people are highly articulate about political issues, but a very strong sense amongst respondents was that they felt marginalised or excluded from political decision-making or debates’ (Harris, 2007 Fremantle)



Fremantle Esplanade Youth Plaza, Australia

Inhabit and Engage?

‘Young people use public spaces just as much as anyone else, if not more. And yet, too often young people, or young adults between the ages of 12 to 25, are not included in the process of Placemaking and end up "loitering" in other spaces’

(Cheryl Millard, Youth Housing Service, Perth, Western Australia)



Inhabit and Engage?

“Are young people citizens-to-be – in need of education to be able to fulfil their role as citizens where education is defined by different possibilities and positions depending on, for example – class, gender and ethnicity.’ (Yucal-Davis 1997)



Lotus Gardens, Mumbai - United Nations Program for Sustainable Cities and Minecraft creator Mojang

Needs

‘Loiter’ Counselling/Well-being spaces

Play Youth-friendly spaces

Connections All ages

Perform Self-stewardship

Safety Respect

Freedom to Adapt Shelter

Self Organisation Opportunities for creativity

Wi-fi Equitable access

Lights Continuance

Respect for the future today

(Project for Public Spaces)



Springboard (funded by Leeds Charity Foundation) - featuring Liam Kritikal Powers

How?

**Let young people experience
York Central now.**

**Be Creative - appropriate
cultural forms!**

Go after dark?

Think differently?

Listen



Go to young people?

**Make it a park with buildings
from the beginning**

Food!