

# SHARED WALKS



# CARD SET MANUAL

**Shared Walks** is an initiative that creates encounters by walking in public space. It connects people to walk together, initiates social interactions, and creates possibilities for the appropriation of space and participation in segregated societies. The Card Set is a toolkit prepared by *Shared Walks* to open this method for use of different organizations and individuals around the world. It can easily be adapted to different cities, contexts, purposes and target groups. Hosts, who want to organize Shared Walks, can follow the below steps to create an activity for their target groups, who will be the participants of walks.



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# Steps for Implementation

- 1 Get the Card Set** - download the files from the website ([www.sharedwalks.com](http://www.sharedwalks.com)), print and prepare the elements of the set.



**Basic elements - download, print and cut:**

**Card Set:** 30 types of walks, 2 blank cards (ideally print double-sided on 270/300 gram. A4 coated paper, cut each card, trim 45° on corners)

**Manual:** Introduction on how to use the card set (A5 booklet, ideally print double-sided on A4, fold in half)

**Maps:** Map for the region of your activity (create on the website, ideally print on A4, half the number of expected participants)

**Extra elements - to be provided by the host:**

**Cardboards:** Any type of cardboards for each pair to put under their map to take notes easily

**Markers:** Colour markers or pens for participants to write on maps during their walks

**Papers:** Paper set for participants to locate their inputs on the map (only necessary if you decide to share the outcomes on physical or online map).

- 2 Decide on your purposes and participants** - be sure about why you do what you do and for whom in your specific context.



*What are your purposes?* Civil society organizations, state institutions and private companies working on local issues can use the card set to host a Shared Walks activity for non-profit purposes such as community building, neighbourhood mapping, local participation, awareness raising, social inclusion, non-formal learning, knowledge sharing, team building, networking, socio-spatial research and improvement of quality of urban life. It is also suitable for individual use to create playful gatherings in your own communities.

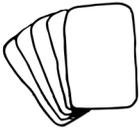
*Who are your participants?* Considering purposes and target groups of your organization, you can decide to focus on a certain age or interest group or open the activity to the participation of the general public. It is also possible to organize a closed activity for a group of invited people or employees of your organization. After deciding on your target groups, try to identify their needs in order to consider possible modifications to the activity. *Who is affected by the issues you deal with? What might be their needs? How can they be reached?* Please also estimate an approximate number of participants you expect in order to prepare enough material.

### 3 Prepare communication materials - announce the activity early enough to your potential participants and show an effort to ensure participation.



You can organize Shared Walks by announcing the activity to the general public, or to a specific group of people, either through an open call or by exclusive invitation. Consider these before you prepare announcement materials (online and/or printed): *What kind of media channels are suitable to reach target groups? What kind of language is more suitable to create interest? What types of visibility material are more suitable to reach potential participants of walks?* Prepare all material and try to communicate with the target groups timely.

### 4 Select themes and types of walks - out of the Card Set relevant to your (organization's) aims.



*Shared Walks* Card Set includes 30 different walks related to 6 thematic areas. Themes provide the basic structure and highlight the main issues that walks deals with. There are 5 different walks under each theme, which have primary relation to that subject. If they are all relevant to your purposes, we advise you to use the entire Card Set for an activity. You can also choose to focus on some specific themes and walks. Feel free to mix and combine different walks, even add new ones for yourself by writing on empty cards. See details of themes, and qualities and challenges of walks in this manual on pages 5-10.

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|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
|   | Senses Alive       | ≈ | Cultural Traces  |
| ○ | Fiction/Nonfiction | △ | Invisible Spaces |
| ✕ | Personal Limits    | ◎ | Comfort Zones    |

### 5 Prepare the setting - including all the material you need on-site, in time before the participants show up.



Decide on the area to walk, identify an easily accessible starting point approximately in the middle and think of a setting that is most suitable to welcome your participants. You can prepare a banner to be recognized at the starting point. We use a big umbrella with *Shared Walks* written on it, easily recognizable also with reference to the logo. You can also prepare one of your preference.

### 6 Randomly pair-up participants in groups of two - they should ideally walk with someone they do not know.



Walking in pairs fosters communication and creates a sense of intimacy through direct interaction. It creates space for random closeness, taking participants out of their routines. There may be questions from participants, you can explain this intention briefly. To match the participants randomly, you can use a method of your choice, like number matching etc.

**7** Each pair selects a walk randomly from the Card Set - they put back the card so that every pair has the same set of possibilities.



Each pair of participants ideally select one type of walk from an inverted card set, without seeing the walks. The intention is to keep the idea of random selection so that each pair is challenged by a walk that may normally not be of their first preference. Still, you can keep an extra set of cards to display all possible types of walks before they walk. This may be a good way of giving an outlook to satisfy the curiosity of participants and then letting them select randomly from a turned down set.

**8** Provide an empty map of the area - on a cardboard with a colour marker so that each pair can take notes of their walk.



Prepare an empty map of the area where you plan to organize the Shared Walks. You can create your specific map on the website ([www.sharedwalks.com](http://www.sharedwalks.com)) and print it. Each pair walks with a map at hand, so print half the number of expected participants.

**9** Pairs take a walk - by getting a challenge from the walk they have selected, always deciding on the route to walk by themselves.



Ideal duration of walking is one hour. If you have limited time due to some constraints, the walks should be at least half an hour. Pairs start and end at the starting point. Hosts do not accompany the walks. Participants walk in pairs and come back while you wait for them at the starting point. Announce these information to your participants and be open to questions before they go out walking.

**10** Pairs prepare outcomes of their walks - and leave them to the host - you can share them in printed or online maps (if selected neighbourhood mapping).



You can organize Shared Walks only for the process itself and the experience of participants, but it is also possible to get some additional, concrete outcomes. It is a tool for knowledge production, so you may decide to combine it with interviews or group discussions, and make use of their feedback in different contexts. Additionally, you can use it for neighbourhood mapping, sharing the participant input in collective maps - either physically printed on-site or on the website ([www.sharedwalks.com](http://www.sharedwalks.com)). Decide which one is more useful for your purposes before you start and prepare accordingly. It is also important to inform your participants and get their permission if you plan to share their input publicly.

# Senses Alive



Do we always keep our senses alive in the city, on the streets, while walking? How can we activate different senses? Can we find out something new if we focus on one of our senses? How do we perceive different dimensions of our body and its relation to the outside world? The complex mechanism of senses and perceptions accumulate knowledge about our environment and city through praxis. In the flow of daily life, we do not acknowledge and question the role of our senses in experiencing, recognizing, and recalling the world. The walks about senses challenge and shift the accustomed patterns of one's perception. Focusing on our bodies, especially on only one sense, has the potential to increase the intensity of perception. The walks enable new perspectives on the environment, neighbourhood, city, and create a space for new experiences.

## Qualities

- Initiate unexpected bodily experiences
- Make aware of the potentials and limits of own senses
- Change perception of the environment through senses

## Challenges

- Hard to grasp and verbalise the personal experience
- Should be adapted for people with disabilities
- Possible dangers of limiting sight in a city (blind walk omitted)



# Fiction/Nonfiction



What is the distance between real and imagined, fiction and nonfiction, past and present? How does imagination shape our world, our identities, our places? Can imagination lead to new realities? By combining different layers of past and present, dreams and realities, personal memories and social histories we are capable of creating new images of the world. The walks about fiction and nonfiction open space for remembrance and imagination and propose narrative interventions in public space. Walking a playful way and experimenting borders between real and imagined, proposes an experience of collective imagination and narration while creating awareness on diverse realities.

## Qualities

- Initiate imagination and creative thinking
- Binary look at places triggers plural realities
- Create alternative space through narratives

## Challenges

- Some people may have difficulties with creative openness
- Possibility of conflicting discourses and narratives
- Possibility of locals being offended by creative labelling



# Personal Limits



Are we aware of the physical, psychological and social limits of ourselves? How do we define our identities? How can we challenge our perception of the self in society? How do we interact with others out of our comfort zones? We actively live in a society, transforming it and being transformed by it through interactions. We are usually not aware of the reciprocal relationship between society and our identities, and the impact of social space on ourselves. The walks related to personal limits propose playful ventures and physical interventions in public space, that challenge the limits of our bodies in relation to other people in society. Including the most visible and challenging types of walks, this theme deals with creating awareness of the personal limits of ourselves, our walking partners, passers-by, observers, and inhabitants in the city.

## Qualities

- Extraordinary look at own identity in society
- Learn more about hidden beliefs and limits of oneself
- Provoke actions, reactions and interactions

## Challenges

- Hardship in getting out of personal comfort zones
- Risk of crossing personal and legal borders
- Possible imbalance in pairs in terms of openness and flexibility

**11**

**Walk Hand  
in Hand**



**12**

**Open Door  
Walk**



**13**

**Speed  
Walk**



**14**

**Chase  
Walk**



**15**

**Joined  
Walk**



# Cultural Traces



How do we see different social behaviours in a city? What are the traces of different cultures on streets? Do we recognize different ways of spatial appropriation? Are we aware of the scope of diversity in our city? The walks about cultural traces aim to create awareness on the diversity of urban life including but not limited to creative expressions, subcultures, ethnicities, languages, ways of living and exchange in public spaces. By collecting traces and images of diversity and commons, the walks encourage a deeper look at the environment, questioning the roots and possible stories behind. Cultural traces can be perceived and interpreted in various ways in different cities and geographies, so hosts are especially invited to add and diversify types of walks to use in own activity.

- Qualities**
- Get to know physical environment and people around better
  - Focus on an element enables a deeper understanding
  - Create awareness of diversity and commons in cities

- Challenges**
- Very dependent on the possibilities of the built environment
  - Lack of specific elements in the walking area
  - Possible irrelevance to the organization's focuses  
(can add new cards of your preference)

<b>16</b> Wall Walk 9↓	<b>17</b> Balcony Walk 7↓	<b>18</b> Language Walk 8↓
<b>19</b> Object Walk 6↓	<b>20</b> Vendor Walk 02	•

# Invisible Spaces



How do we perceive places, by physical and social qualities? What are the concepts that we recognize in urban space? What is invisible but noticed through experience in specific places? Not all human practices are possible in public spaces, nor they can become visible to everyone. Physical spaces accumulate social experience and knowledge at different levels. The walks related to invisible spaces encourage the questioning, discovery and reflection on the symbolic dimensions of physical spaces and its materialized artefacts. By initiating talks on concepts related to current social issues and interpreting spaces from different points of view, they propose to imagine new spaces for the public good.

## Qualities

- Enable imagination, exploration and discovery in urban environment
- Initiate conversations on values between the walking partners
- Possibility of creating functional outcomes

## Challenges

- Maybe abstract and difficult to imagine for some participants
- Potential of creating conflict in ideas on some social issues
- Maybe hard to communicate due to different perceptions of given concepts

**21**

**Power  
Walk**

**21**

**22**

**Insecurity  
Walk**

**22**

**23**

**Conflict  
Walk**

**23**

**24**

**Encounter  
Walk**

**24**

**25**

**Shelter  
Walk**

**25**





# Comfort Zones

Where do we find comfort - at home, in the woods, on the streets? How can we feel comfortable in the city while sharing it with others? Where do we find comfort in public space, in commercially assigned areas, green parks, crowded squares, silent streets? What are the different definitions of comfort in relation to the diverse needs of city-dwellers? Humans are social beings that tend to group and live in certain closed environments and relations in cities, filtering mainly familiar spaces and interactions, finding comfort in social and spatial acquaintance. The walks about comfort zones try to raise awareness on our understanding and habits of finding comfort in people and places by exploring and discovering public spaces. They encourage purposeful use of spaces, trying to redefine the comfort zones out of our private spaces into public spaces where one can also find comfort with others.

## Qualities

- Easy to understand and identify places of comfort
- Motivate for participation
- Promote the use of public space

## Challenges

- Changing perceptions of comfort
- May not be many places of comfort in some areas
- High urbanization and cars

<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Rest Walk</p> <p><b>92</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Green Walk</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Surveillance Walk</p> <p><b>82</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Comfort Walk</p> <p><b>62</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Open Walk</p> <p><b>03</b></p>	<p>•</p>

