



Community-Led Initiatives

# By the People, For the People

Cities around the world champion the active involvement of citizens in urban design and rejuvenation projects. In this photo essay, **Martha Isaacs** and **Yuting Xu** examine successful community-led urban rejuvenation initiatives worldwide, and find out how residents have been proactively working with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), governments, planners and architects to co-create their neighbourhoods and public spaces.



## From Slum to Neighbourhood

Since the 2000s, residents in Kambi Moto, a village northeast of Nairobi, have worked closely with local trusts, NGOs and architects to upgrade their living environment in phases. Self-financed with community saving plans, the project involves residents in designing the new neighbourhood to preserve local culture, negotiating with the City Council for support, and reconstructing their own houses. Besides enjoying a safer neighbourhood with basic services and secure tenure, Kambi Moto residents also share their experiences with similar neighbourhoods to replicate the process.



## Playing Well Together

The Adventure Playground @ Canberra is Singapore's first community playground that was conceptualised, designed and built with residents, under the Housing & Development Board's Build-A-Playground (BAP) initiative. Over 2,000 residents contributed to the theme, name, play components, colour scheme and floor design for the treehouse and *kelong* [Malay for 'fishing jetty'] inspired play space, which reflects Sembawang's heritage. BAP has been extended to four other housing towns, to give residents the opportunity to co-create communal spaces for better quality of life.



## From Urban Scar to Popular Cycling Path

The shores of the once abandoned and polluted Mapocho River in Santiago, Chile, were reclaimed by bicycle advocates, NGOs and community members, and transformed into a cycling hotspot. Since 2011, annual cycling events have been organised by the community attracting over 30,000 people in 2015. The community's enthusiasm eventually attracted government funding for new cycling infrastructure along the river, due to be completed in 2019.





## Participatory Planning for a Community Park

The masterplanning process for Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh, North Carolina, has involved thousands of local residents in co-designing their community space and sharing their visions for the park through frequent community meetings, online forum discussions and walking tours with architects and planners. Currently in the planning phase, the private-public partnership project aims to achieve social inclusivity, with regular outdoor festivals and movie screenings, encouraging close interactions among residents and building a sense of place.