MOVE DETROIT
8 80 Cities Immersion Week 2015
Detroit has an incredible opportunity to become an 8 80 city.

Detroit may be facing financial challenges, but the city is rich in human capital. Local residents’ energy, creativity, and commitment to building a thriving city is Detroit’s greatest resource.

People want a more walkable and bikeable city with better public spaces.

There is a sense of urgency among Detroit residents to start creating a more people-friendly city. Many leaders have already begun taking action (ie. Jason Hall of Slow-Roll, and Ryan Myers-Johnson of Sidewalk Festival of Performing Arts, for example). Decision makers must work with and support community leaders in scaling up many of the inspiring initiatives already underway.

Don’t let political or financial challenges get in the way of creating people-friendly cities.

Decision makers need to become champions for creating vibrant parks and accessible transportation options for all residents. When it comes to sustainable mobility, there can be no half-measures. Detroit needs an accessible and connected network of wide sidewalks, better crosswalks, and protected bike lanes that are physically separated from traffic.

Pedestrians are the top priority

Just as birds were made to fly, people were made to walk. And every journey begins and ends with walking. Walking engages our senses and allows us to interact with our surroundings and each other. Creating a comfortable and enjoyable pedestrian environment is about more than mobility - it’s a basic human right.

Benchmark with the best.

A city is only as great as the people who choose to live there. Detroit must learn from the most livable cities in the world if it wants to attract and retain talented residents. That means taking inspiration from the most walkable, bikeable, people-friendly cities around the globe.

Build a minimum grid, and they will come.

To make cycling safe and accessible for all residents, we must lower speeds in residential areas, and build a minimum grid of separated bike lanes connect important destinations and all communities across the city.

Safety is the most important factor determining people’s mobility choices and park use.

People won’t walk, bike, or visit parks if they are made to feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Enhancing safety (real and perceived) for park users can be achieved with simple solutions such as improved lighting, installing more seating, or organizing community clean-ups.

Rebuilding Detroit is a collective effort.

An 8 80 city must be built for the community, and by the community. This can only be achieved through inclusive and meaningful community engagement that brings diverse stakeholders - elected officials, city staff, business owners, residents, non-profit organizations, schools and universities, etc. - together to address barriers and identify opportunities.
Presentations and Workshops

**MONDAY, JUNE 22**
Radio interview on *Detroit Today*

Meeting with Community Foundation

**TUESDAY, JUNE 23**
Walking Tour: Envisioning the Beltline Greenway
Detroit Greenways Coalition and Detroit Eastside Communities Collaborative

Presentation & Workshop: Great Street Design
8 80 Cities, Detroit Collaborative Design Centre, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

Presentation: We Are All City Builders: How to Create Vibrant, Inclusive and Innovative Cities for All
8 80 Cities, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**
Presentation: Strengthening Park Assets through Programming and Engagement
8 80 Cities, Belle Isle Conservancy, Chandler Park Conservancy, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

Workshop: Riverfront Parks Planning
8 80 Cities, Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit General Services Department, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25**
Presentation: Sustainable Mobility for a Vital Region
8 80 Cities, Grosse Point War Memorial, Jefferson East Inc.

Presentation: Downtown Design for People
8 80 Cities, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Jefferson East Inc.

Panel Presentation: Downtown for Everyone - Equity & Inclusiveness
8 80 Cities, International Downtown Association Midwest Urban District Forum

Presentation & Workshop: The Making of a Strong Neighborhood
8 80 Cities, Detroit Future Cities

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26**
Workshop: An Open Streets Event in Detroit
8 80 Cities, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.
WORKSHOP RESULTS
Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood

**KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- Install wayfinding signage along Riverside Dr. to draw pedestrian activity towards the park.
- Leverage and enhance access to the lake view points.
- Improve facilities for fishing in Mariners Park.
- Bring in affordable and healthy food truck options.
- Improve entry points at the end of each major street into Brush Ford Park.
- Keep the gate open at Lennox St.
- Install phones throughout the parks to enhance security.
- Install more seating (benches, chairs, etc.) along the trails.

**LEGEND**
The maps featured on the following pages were designed by local residents during a workshop activity. Groups identified existing opportunities and barriers in their neighborhood parks, and selected amenities they would like to add.

- **Red Circles:** Areas with problems/challenges
- **Green Circles:** Positive spaces/opportunities

**Community Wayfinding**
Walk [Your] City (left in Raleigh, NC) is a wayfinding project that directs residents to local destinations by showing them distance in walking minutes, rather than miles. The project has been implemented in dozens of cities around the world.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Enhance the public amenities in Hansen Park in the northwest corner of the mapped site with additional seating, lighting, and programming.
- Enforce 20mph speed limits on Lakewood St. to enhance pedestrian safety.
- Install a four-way stop at Lakewood and Scripps to calm traffic.
- Install traffic calming measures along Alter Road and Riverside Boulevard.
- Remove the boulders along the waterfront to enhance access.
- Install bike racks throughout the neighbourhood.
- Build a picnic area in Brush Ford Park.
- Build a restroom in Brush Ford Park.
- Enhance walking trails in Brush Ford Park to improve connectivity and accessibility.
- Build a gateway to Brush Ford Park at the foot of Newport St. to establish a sense of arrival.

Creative Traffic Calming
Slowing traffic can create healthier, safer, and more connected communities. Creating safer routes to the parks in Jefferson Chalmers is an effective way to increase park usage. There are many creative ways to calm local traffic, including street murals (far left in Portland) and colorful crosswalks (left in Miami).
Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- The City should buy the parcel of land just west of Mariners Park.
- Install more seating along the waterfront.
- Program the waterfront with yoga classes.
- Organize music and dance classes in Brush Ford Park.
- Host bird watching classes in Brush Ford Park.
- Install floating docks along the creek.
- Bring in food trucks near the entrance of Lakewood East Park.
- Limit vehicle access to Lakewood East Park by closing the road nearer the park entry.
- Repurpose the parking lot at the end of Riverside Blvd for pedestrian use.
- Build a trail system around the perimeter of Lakewood East Park.
- The access gateway at Lennox is a problem.

Site Revitalization
The temporary and experimental activation of an under-utilized parcel of land brings new life and vitality to a neighborhood. The parking lot on Riverside Boulevard could be converted into a community garden (far left in Vancouver, BC) or a community market (left in Brooklyn, NY).
Lighting is needed along trails of Henderson Park to improve safety at night.

Program a farmers market in the northern section of Henderson Park.

Install more signage along Jefferson Ave. to draw people into the parks.

Install traffic calming along Jefferson Ave., particularly near Owen Park.

The marina is difficult to access. There needs to be improved awareness and programming for residents.

All waterfront property should be accessible and open to pedestrians. Building a promenade would improve this.

More eyes on the street (cafe, programming) needed in Memorial Park.

**Common Themes**
Common themes that emerged among all groups that participated in this activity include: traffic calming; improve maintenance; improve safety; increase awareness of activities; create new programming to draw people in.
Village/Gold Coast Neighborhood

**KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- Design and program the neighborhood parks attract diverse users:
  - Owen Park to be youth-friendly
  - Henderson Park to be themed on healthy lifestyles
  - Memorial Annex Park to celebrate nature
  - North of Henderson Park to be teen-friendly
- Improve connections to the Dequindre Cut.
- Create access points that link to other green spaces.
- More wayfinding signage to improve connections between parks.
- Install curb cuts and safe crosswalks.
- More promotion and awareness about programming and activities in the rec centre.
- More activities in the public spaces - foursquare, pickleball, shuffle board, bocci.
- Better maintenance in parks to create a welcoming environment

**Themed Parks: Malmö, Sweden**

In the mid-1990s, the City of Malmö began building themed playgrounds with custom designs. There are now a total of twenty themed playgrounds in the city catering to all age groups.

The imaginative themes include music, fairytales, space, farm, and forests.
Public Space Hearts & Road Blocks

Everyone has things they love, and things they would like to improve about the parks and public spaces in their community. On two occasions, 8 80 Cities asked Detroit residents, “What do you love about the parks and public spaces in Detroit? Why do you visit these spaces, and what keeps you coming back?” We also asked residents, “What deters you from visiting parks and public spaces? What would make you visit these sites more often?”

Residents were asked to record as many responses to these questions as possible. The results reveal consistent themes that could help community leaders and public space managers build on existing successes and address current challenges in Detroit’s park system.

See Appendix A for a complete list of the Public Space Hearts and Public Space Road Blocks.

131 Road Blocks

“WHAT DETROITERS SAID:
Need more connectivity by biking and walking
Not enough organized activities
We need bathrooms for the public
Limited hours of operation/access :( 
Transportation/connection between neighborhoods
Not enough activities for teens
Most city parks are not well maintained
Lack of safety

117 Hearts

“WHAT DETROITERS SAID:
Quiet, peaceful green place to relax and reflect
Watching wildlife
Diversity of neighborhoods
I love the urban gardens that Detroit has
Proximity to water
Safe and fun community space
Chance to decompress
Free community activities

117 Hearts

“WHAT DETROITERS SAID:
Quiet, peaceful green place to relax and reflect
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I love the urban gardens that Detroit has
Proximity to water
Safe and fun community space
Chance to decompress
Free community activities
This workshop activity produced 117 ideas from local residents at two separate events. The first event was the Strengthening Park Assets Through Programming workshop at Belle Isle Casino on June 23, 2015. The second event took place during the Bringing Back the People workshop, hosted as part of the Detroit Future City Ideas for Innovation Series on June 24, 2015.

**STRENGTHENING PARK ASSETS WORKSHOP: JUNE 23, 2015**

Skateboard park
I'd like to see chess and checker boards painted on the concrete
Scenary
Fresh air
Romanowski Orchard!!
Biking to the parks
Watching wildlife
Tons of people
Trees!
Big families
Gardens and plants
Quiet, peaceful green place to relax and reflect
By the river watching the boats go by
Free!
Music concerts
Nature and natural habitat
Nature
The best part I like about the park is the swing cause we can be our self while swinging
Beautiful grounds and trees
Learn more about my neighbors
Parks dissolving borders
Takes away from hustle and bustle

I'd like to see bikadome track for bike training
Love to see a bike trail into parks
Natural areas. Trees, flowers, conservatories, and greenhouses just being outside
Free art, free music. Cultural event spaces are free
I like to have fun and enjoy myself at the park
Riverfront - walking and biking can lead a very active life
Basketball
Nature (view)
The fact that it's there
I like that some parks have basketball courts. Also nature, and interacting with other people my age
I like the slides and swings
Diverse groups of people spending time outside
Originality
Trees and shaded space
Family playgrounds from picnics
Meeting places
Riverfront access
Shade spots
More physical activities - walking, jogging, biking, etc.
Open field
Play frisbee with my dog :)
Sports areas
It's a relaxation area somewhere everyone can hang out at
Being in the city of Detroit
It's somewhere kids can go
Parks are good for the community
Our parks on the waterfronts
The river - passive/active recreation
The view of the water
Public Space Hearts

Great places to play
Pools
Free community events
Wildlife and nature
Positive people
Relaxation
Pleasant place to play and relax
Family events
Need butterfly house!
Nature and relaxation
Shade
Hills for sitting, running, tumbling, sledding
Water fountains - drinking and decorative
Green space
Water, green space, active lifestyle, walking
Trees
Open space
Wildlife
I also like when my family is with me at the park
Waterfront
Grass at good low height, trees that are trimmed
Just to meet new people
I like playing basketball
Nature/water
Opportunity to relax and also to exercise
Where people from all walks of life mix and share space
Being able to experience nature
I like that we have parks on the beautiful river, right up to the water
Nice open water (need to build promenade)
Walking tracks

BRINGING BACK THE PEOPLE WORKSHOP: JUNE 24, 2015
Playing frisbee!
Safe parks
Communing with nature
Belle Isle – that it’s an Island Park
Open space with new playground equipment
Peaceful atmosphere
Community
Views
Some parks are large and have benches
Invested neighbors
Belle Isle water
Good and cool and artistic features (benches, tables, unique play structures)
Being around people I might not otherwise get a chance to interact with
Eyes on the street = safety
Diversity of neighborhoods
The trees!
I love the urban gardens that Detroit has
Proximity to water
They are green
Parks have playstructures
The river
Fun people
Activity
Shade and trees (mature)
Trees and bike/walking paths
Lots of activity
Public Space Road Blocks

STRENGTHENING PARK ASSETS WORKSHOP: JUNE 23, 2015

We need bathrooms for the public
Tall grass
Graffiti on/or around play areas
Over-flowing trash cans
No clean restrooms
Not safe
Close too early
Goose poop!!
Gates that are never open
Restrooms that are always locked
Vandelism
Rude noisey folks and activities
Noisy boats and boating folk
Not free or too expensive
Broken drinking fountains
Have too much trash
Not enough activities for teens
Bad guys
Fix a new gate in front of eastword park
So much grass that's not really best for environment
When they don't feel safe and clean
Lack of bathrooms
Not enough discipline over users (trash left behind)
Lack of safety
Need at least one bike rack in every park
The adults take over the basketball court
Lack of cleanliness - overflowing trash cans
Cars driving on the grass
Planning and programming activities should be made easily and readily

Accessed by visitors
Canada geese and bird invasion. Animal feces
Waterfront not well developed
Not enough dog-friendly parks
Sometimes it don't be anything to do at the park
The smells at the parks
Not enough parks for little kids.
Need more parks for seniors
Not enough organized activities
No frequent monitoring
Locked bathrooms
Need more connectivity by biking and walking
Not enough comfortable places to sit and spend an afternoon
Public Space Road Blocks

Not feeling safe
Tall grass
Trash
Limit vehicle access to Angel Park
Broken playscapes
Overgrown grass
Trash
Things I dislike is that people leave their trash around and never clean it up
Comfort stations
Negative community engagement
Some play areas need repairs
Solid recreational items on the ground
Trash
Not enough toilets
Vehicles parking on the grass
Animal litter
Maintenance
Stop people from driving into Eastwood Park
Three month Gran Prix
Toilets with doors that don’t lock or close
Follow through. Consistency. Accountability
Not accessible enough
At times too much police presence
Need more connectivity
No porta potties to use the bathroom
Garbage pick up and recycling
More community activities
No dog park area
Too far to go
Dog areas
More litter barrels or cans

No concession stands
Would like to see bathrooms renovated
Not clean sometimes
Limited hours of operation/access :(
Toilets don’t work
Exclusivity
Most city parks are not well maintained
Stop signs on the way to parks to slow traffic
Lack of basketball courts
Brown fields blocking public access
No lawn up-keep

BRINGING BACK THE PEOPLE WORKSHOP: JUNE 24, 2015
People using alcohol and drugs
Lack of maintenance
Trash
Long grass and weeds
Broken benches or no benches
Need a park
Programming
Crime rate
Safety
Safety hazards
Trash!
Limited access
Do not go to Detroit parks. Safety issue
Early closing time
Safety
Access to parks. Busy roads!
Many not kept up. They fall into blight and not useable
No equipment. Basketball hoops gone
Public Space Road Blocks

Not maintained equipment and landscaping
Nothing to do
Proximity to healthy food so I can go to parks from work
Lack of maintenance
No people
Lack of lighting
Transportation/connection between neighborhoods
Too much space for cars!
Missing swings!
Gang graffiti/activity
Accessibility (biking to riverwalk is ok)
Sketchy looking areas/people in parks
Parks and vacant lots redeveloped for citizen use for safe activities
No restrooms or drinking fountains
Broken or out-dated equipment
Parks can't just be green spaces. We need incentives to visit them.
Extend hours
No trees
Bathrooms
Poor maintenance
Crime rate
Maintenance
Connectivity (safe to walk to)
Not enough foliage
Parking
Crime danger
Grass too high
Need more common areas to socialize around
Public lighting
OPEN STREETS DETROIT WORKSHOP
Open Streets programs, also known as Ciclovías, among other names, are mass recreational programs that encourage physical activity and community building by temporarily closing streets to cars and opening them to walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation.

Streets become ‘paved parks’, presenting recreational opportunities to people regardless of their age, gender, ability, or background. Open Streets programs have the potential to foster civic pride and integration by bringing together people from all corners of the city. While the first South American ciclovías were launched in the 1960s, the past five years have seen a marked proliferation of Open Streets programs throughout North America.
Open Streets Detroit: PLANNING WORKSHOP

For their final event of the Detroit Immersion Week, Jefferson East Inc. and 8 80 Cities hosted a workshop on Open Streets in Detroit. On June 26, 2015 approximately 20 local residents came together to learn about Open Streets programs from Gil Penalosa, Founder of 8 80 Cities and designer of the Ciclovia program in Bogota, Columbia which draws over 1 million people each week. Emily Munroe, Executive Director of 8 80 Cities, also presented on the logistics of organizing and planning an Open Streets program, based on the experience of Open Streets Toronto, which premiered in 2014.

After the presentations, the participants worked in groups to design an Open Streets program in Detroit. The groups were instructed to answer the following questions:

a) Where should the route be?
b) What programming should be offered?
c) Who should be involved in organizing?

The results of these workshops are presented in the following two pages.

PROPOSED ROUTES*
1. Michigan Ave. (Downtown > Dearborn)
2. Jefferson Ave. (Downtown > Gross Pointe)
3. Grand Boulevard Loop > Riverwalk
4. Woodward Ave. (Detroit > Windsor)

*Routes are mapped on the following page

KEY PARTNERS:
Groups were asked to identify key people, organizations, and institutions that should be involved in the organizing and planning stages of Open Streets.

The stakeholders and potential partners for an Open Streets Detroit program are:

- Police Department
- State of Michigan
- City of Detroit (Public Works, Mayor’s office)
- Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Slow Roll, Tour de Troit, and G. Mob
- Community Development Advocates (CDAD)
- Community+Public Arts Detroit
- Eastern Market
- Museums and churches along the route
- Regional Transit Authority
- 8 80 Cities
- Jefferson East Inc.
- The People!

PROGRAMMING:
Groups discussed the need for an Open Streets route to weave together the diverse neighborhoods and connect cultural nodes throughout the city (ie. Downtown, Clay Town, East Dearborn, Mexican town, etc.). Another common theme was the opportunity for Open Streets to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Specific programming ideas included:

- Satellite Eastern Market
- Free bike share rentals
- Yoga
- Dance (African, hustle, ballet, break, zumba, modern)
- Sidewalk chalk
- Dogwalking
- Public art
- Horseback riding
- Music
- Tai chi
- Outdoor church services
Open Streets Detroit: ROUTES IDEAS

1. Michigan Avenue
2. Jefferson Avenue
3. Grand Boulevard
4. International Crossing

Proposed Pilot Routes