

Seeking Better Quality of Community Life: A Park City Approach

Metropolis Learning Hub Chengdu Webinar



Background and Objectives

Cities are the most complex systems created by humans. And one of the characteristics of a complex system is the non-possibility of predicting its evolution. We need to consider cities as complex systems and imagine new ways to generate adaptable solutions. This is how I came to propose the living city instead of the smart city. - Carlos Moreno, Sorbonne professor

A community is a fundamental social unit of a metropolis. It is where people build their social networks, access basic healthcare, education and elderly service. Public space in a community, including community service centers, parks, playgrounds, and neighborhood spaces in urban areas, play a vital role. In this regard, we are witnessing that local governments all over the world are looking for solutions so that citizens have at their disposal all the necessary services to live in a metropolitan space but with the facilities and the quality of life of a small city or town. These solutions must include the participation of the society in order to create public policies that actually respond to the needs of the community.

Although this trend was born several years ago, today many policy-makers are seeking to create more pollution-efficient neighborhoods and public spaces that are more adapted to the needs of their inhabitants, both economically and socially.

This is the concept of the fifteen-minute city¹, a concept that allows within a small radius of their homes, residents will create stronger communities that allow residents to feel more involved in the businesses and services in their area.

To create quality community spaces that are better suited to the needs of citizens, the city of Chengdu released *Guidelines for the Planning of Park Communities* in 2020, to guide municipal departments, city managers, and private sectors in community projects. Community spaces in urban areas are presented in a variety of forms. The success of a particular community space lies not solely in the hands of the urban designer or planner, it relies also on the people adopting, using and managing the space – people make places, more than places make people.

This webinar will bring together speakers from cities, city networks, research institutions and international organizations around the world to gather their thoughts, ideas, and showcase their successful experiences on the role that community space is playing in metropolitan life, and how cities are bringing government services, green infrastructures, sports venues, recreational activities, urban parks to communities located in different parts of metropolitan area and connecting people with urban settings.

Through case studies, Chengdu will share its community regeneration projects that have been successfully implemented in the urban center, sub-urban center and suburbs, and present how these projects managed to engage citizens before, during and after the design process. We will hear from a diverse range of perspectives, acknowledging that the situation is contextual and different in each part of the world.

Target public:

Local Governments officials (urban planning offices; environment officers)

Practitioners and experts

City Managers

Urban planning students or researchers

Speakers

- Mr. Octavi De La Vaga, Secretary General of Metropolis
- Mr. Jiang Bin, Director General of Chengdu Foreign Affairs Office
- Mr. Liu Hongtao, Associate Professor, Director of the World Heritage International Research

¹ The fifteen minutes city concept: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15-minute_city

Center, Southwest Jiaotong University (TBC)

- Mr. Scott Ching Nan Ma, Director of Urban Design & Master Planning at AECOM
- Representative of Chengdu Yulin Sub-district Micro Community Renewal Project Team
- Representative of Chengdu Fuqing Sports Space Project Team
- Representative of Xiaoshi Village Community Project Team of Chengdu Pengzhou District

Draft Session Notes

Moderation: Mr. Yang Shaoping Director of International Communication and Cooperation Center of Chengdu Radio and Television Station

Institutional Welcome and Introduction of Speakers by MC

Welcome Remarks

- Mr. Octavi De La Vaga, Secretary General of Metropolis
- Mr. Jiang Bin, Director General of Chengdu Foreign Affairs Office

Keynote Speech

- Mr. Scott Ching Nan Ma, Director of Urban Design & Master Planning at AECOM

In this session, keynote speakers are expected to give a theoretical background of urban community planning, implementation, and project management. E.g. the definitions of community in different local contexts around the world; different approaches to create quality community space; what are the good indicators of successful community or neighborhood projects; how to increase citizen participation in community space design and planning, etc.

Case studies

- Ms. Yang Jinhui, Community Secretary of East Yulin Road Community, Chengdu Wuhou District-
- Dr. Feletcia Adeeb, the Forum of Expertise Manager, Ramallah Municipality
- Mr. Qu Ke, Project Manager of Chengdu Chenghua Investment Group
- Sajeda ALNsour, Project Manager, Improving Living Conditions in Amman, Amman Greater Municipality
- Mr. Yue Fufei, Community Secretary of Jincheng Community (Xiaoshi Village), Pengzhou City, Chengdu

Q&A and Closing