THE JUST CITY INDEX

Harvard Graduate School of Design

VALUES INDICATORS

Belonging
To feel accepted and comfortable in a setting despite age, gender, race, sexuality, or income

Empathy
Exercising the ability to recognize and understand the feeling and point of view of another

Inclusion
The acceptance of difference and the intention to involve diverse opinions, attitudes, and behaviors

Reconciliation
The process of finding a way to make two different ideas, facts, or points of view coexist or be true at the same time

Respect
A mutually earned and shared honoring of different voices, opinions, behaviors, and cultural expressions

Tolerance
The acceptance of difference

Trust
To promote a confidence earned through the demonstration of fulfilling commitments and promises made among people and institutions

Creative Innovation
Nurturing ingenuity in problem solving and intervention

Delight
Creating places, spaces, and processes that promote happiness and joy

Happiness
A state of well being that brings about joy, contentment, or ease

Hope
The possibility of fulfillment of a desire, aspiration, outcome, or happiness

Inspiration
The result of creative thinking and collaboration that has the potential to produce new and innovative outcomes

Diversity
An intentional state of mixed people, institutions, and cultural norms

Spontaneity
The potential to allow for the unplanned, where individuals or groups can freely self-create processes, interventions, or activities

Conflict
The acceptance of disagreement or opposition in pursuit of necessary change or improvement

Debate
Accepting and providing forums for the discussion of different voices and points of view in order to achieve greater inclusion in processes and decision-making

Protest
The act of objection or disapproval in the form of public demonstration

Voice
Allowing the articulation of different points of view and cultural norms to help shape decision-making

Community
A group of individuals or collective groups having shared or common interests

Cooperation
The process by which individuals or collective groups work together to do something

Participation
The active engagement of individuals and community members in matters, both formal and informal, affecting social and spatial wellbeing

Togetherness
A sense of solidarity within and across populations

Equality
The provision of equal or equivalent distribution, status, rights, power, and amenity

Equity
The distribution of material and non-material goods in a manner that brings the greatest benefit required to any particular community

Merit
A good quality, feature, process, or outcome that deserves to be praised and assigned worth or value

Transparency
The openness of process, rules, rights, and procedures through the sharing of knowledge and information

Authenticity
The recognition of physical and social characteristics that are genuine to a particular place or culture and promote this recognition within communities

Beauty
Everyone's right to well-made, well-designed environments

Character
Features or attributes used to separate distinguishable qualities of place

Pride
A respect and admiration arising from feeling good and confident about some act, space, place, or relationship

Spirituality
The presence of places and attitudes that support religious expression, practice, and beliefs

Vitality
An energetic, integrated community with opportunities for and support of cultural, civic, and economic involvement

Access
The convenient proximity to, quality of, or connectivity to basic needs, amenities, choices, and decisions

Connectivity
The physical and social networks that tie places and people together, providing contact and opportunity necessary for social wellbeing

Accountability
The acceptance of responsibility by individuals or collective groups to contribute to the creation and maintenance of just conditions for all

Agency
Enabling the confidence, rights, and status of individuals or groups to act on behalf of their own interests

Empowerment
To give formal authority or power to a person or collective group by promoting action or influence

Representation
A balance of a community's desires, representative of its diversity, are present in the decision making process

Adaptability
The ability to change or be changed in order to fit or work better in some situation or for some purpose

Durability
The ability of all social and spatial systems to remain strong and in good condition over a long period of time

Sustainability
The quality of not being harmful to the social or spatial wellbeing or depleting resources, and thereby supporting long-term social and spatial balance

Freedom
The ability to act or speak freely without threat of external restriction

Knowledge
The ability to gain information or awareness through education and/or experience

Ownership
The ability to have a stake in the property, process, outcome, and other assets

Healthiness
A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being that supports the absence of disease or infirmity

Prosperity
The condition of being successful or thriving in terms of social, economic, civic, cultural, and health indicators

Protection
The state of being kept from harm or loss in social or spatial conditions

Safety
An environment that minimizes physical and emotional vulnerability and threats to wellbeing

Security
Social and spatial conditions that support the freedom from danger, exclusion, and harm

ACCEPTANCE ASPIRATION CHOICE DEMOCRACY ENGAGEMENT FAIRNESS IDENTITY MOBILITY POWER RESILIENCE RIGHTS WELFARE

Would we design better places if we put the values of equality, inclusion or equity first? If a community articulated what it stood for, what it believed in, what it aspired to be - as a city; as a neighborhood - would it have a better chance of creating and sustaining a more healthy, vibrant place with positive economic, health, civic, cultural and environmental conditions? Imagine that the issues of race, income, education and unemployment inequality, and the resulting segregation, isolation and fear, could be addressed by planning and designing for greater access, agency, ownership, beauty, diversity or empowerment. Now imagine the Just City - the cities, neighborhoods and public spaces that thrive using a value-based aspiration for urban stabilization, revitalization and transformation. Imagine the Just City.