

# FAIR[e] CITY

*A neighbourhood is the basis of human civilization. At best, they function as villages in which residents look out for one another and share a public life. If you want to change the world, or simply improve your life: sit down with the neighbors and make dreams come true together.<sup>1</sup>*

Parisian banlieue communities are relatively young and dynamic. But their environment offers resources nor opportunities to improve social position, resulting in exclusion from larger society.<sup>2</sup>

Cities have strong- and weak networks ties. Social relationships in the banlieue mostly fall in the first category: everyone knows everyone, the network protects like a cocoon. But weak networks appear to be a source of strength and innovation in the larger society: people 'network' to strangers through a series of connections, opportunities are widely available.<sup>3</sup>

A sustainable and resilient urban environment in the banlieue needs involved people and fair opportunities to make dreams happen.

We suggest working on two key factors:

- making great neighbourhoods
- offering broader networks

**We propose an incremental occupation. By developing a strategy that takes an informal, open source approach to occupation, enterprise and the building of collective identity.<sup>4</sup>**

**Creating 'Hubs' & Skills-based Markets:** adaptive, flexible entrepreneurial networks and strategic spatial and DIY<sup>5</sup> interventions help to grow fertile communities. The (young) people can create 'hubs'<sup>6</sup> of activity and use their power & energy to realise actual places or internetplatforms for meeting people outside their neighbourhood. Crowd-sourcing can be used for (social) enterprises and make exactly those places people are passionate about. Social networks become tools to start thinking differently about regeneration/renewal of the environment.

**Open source placemaking** creates diversity and provides resilience and a unique draw for places. It inspires to reuse vacant plots and self-build, casual occupation. With an active network of involved (social) entrepreneurs and trading systems, skill-based markets will establish. Promoting a non-currency based market, the exchange of skills, services and goods for mutual benefit becomes a stimulus for self-organization, research and development and co-operative management. Let's regard Saint Denis as a great market place!

1. *Project for Public Spaces (PPS)*

2. *Lapeyronnie, Le Ghetto Urbain*

3. *Lapeyronnie, Le Ghetto Urbain*

4. *David Barrie's explains in his essay on 'Open source' placemaking how to gain value in taking an interactive approach to the design and development of our cities*

5. *Do It Yourself*

6. *Inspiring hubs in other places are The People's Supermarket, London, and Leeds Creative Timebank. Those examples create value by establishing places for association by local people.*

BIENVENUE

(CREATIVE TIME BANK



girls playing or spending time outside is a good indicator for safe and nice places

free wifi



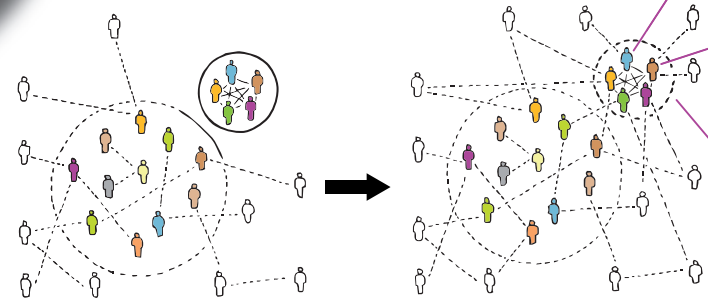
Community garden



urban farmers working community gardens on vacant plots



local food



NOW: weak and strong network ties don't relate

FAIR[e] CITY: broadening the network ties and keeping them strong



Children planting flowers and making pocket parks throughout the neighbourhood



Making use of the uniqueness of the place by offering good access to the waterfronts and making nice places to stay.

