

## New report: Public spaces that put residents first thrived during pandemic



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Knight impact study examined seven public spaces to identify what made them successful; offers recommendations for improving inclusion and sustainability

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Dear Stephen,

Parks and other public spaces have been essential in helping many of us get through the pandemic. Today, we're releasing a report that takes a systematic look at what makes public spaces successful.

The key is community engagement. Putting residents first in design and programming at neighborhood parks, city-wide destinations and nature oases led to more equitable, inclusive public spaces that thrived during the pandemic. Emphasizing community engagement at every stage increased usage, attachment and trust, especially for people of color. And it had ripple effects, strengthening communities beyond the sites.



Read [Adaptive Public Space: Places for People in the Pandemic and Beyond](#)

Commissioned by Knight and conducted by Gehl, the report evaluates seven landmark public spaces in four cities: Philadelphia, Detroit, San Jose and Akron.

The findings are invaluable for local governments that are set to receive federal dollars from Washington's massive COVID-relief and infrastructure bills, because they show how to invest in public spaces to make cities more resilient, equitable and inclusive.

Read our [blog post](#) and [press release](#).

We invite you to share this report with your friends and colleagues, and encourage them to let the findings help inform their decision-making on public spaces.

See you at a public space,

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