



SAPL Block Week 2020

Co-Create **DOWNTOWN CALGARY**

1000 little things

University of Calgary - School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

in cooperation with urbanista

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Co-creating Downtown Calgary - Block Week Program 2020

Intro

The field of actors and stakeholders shaping the urban environment is very complex. It generally involves a broad spectrum of different types of organizations (economic, civic, public or governmental). Often those actors operate in their own sector leading to limited opportunities for real collaboration with other stakeholders. In fast moving processes these conditions make it difficult to develop collective solutions for an interdisciplinary topic like a Downtown. Often a missing link for collaboration hinders unfolding the full potential. If physical proximity is no longer required maybe new opportunities to co-create can be discovered.

Current circumstances with COVID-19 show, that digital solutions supporting collaborative planning processes are important moving forward - especially so for Downtown Calgary.

What is it about?

In the Fall term 2020 at the University of Calgary SAPL students will work together with relevant stakeholders and experts on the future of Downtown Calgary as the economic heart of the city and its central identity character. Based on preparatory work by NEXTCalgary research we will develop co-created strategies. Due to COVID-19 the Block Week this year will turn for the first time into a virtual lab. We will bring different local stakeholders, external international experts, and students together to collaboratively develop a future vision and crowdsource ideas.

What is the methodology and outcome?

During the Block Week participants will have the opportunity to interact with local stakeholders and experts in various formats. In order to co-create sustainable solutions for Downtown Calgary small workshops and events will take place (keynotes, presentations, workshops, discussions etc.). The discussions and workshops will be clustered around three sub-themes: Transformation & Placemaking (Day 2), Public Space & Mobility (Day 3), Funding & PublicPrivate-Partnerships (Day 4).

The virtual lab during the Block Week in October 2020 aims to...

- ... bring different actors of city making processes together to produce debates, share knowledge and identify key issues for the urban development in Downtown Calgary
- ... generate innovative ideas and solutions for future urban challenges of Downtown Calgary with a participatory approach
- ... address students as well as relevant stakeholders and experts working in the broad field of urbanism, architecture, city development
- ... create a platform and common space for further collaboration in the future

Why should I participate?

The virtual lab will provide relevant keynotes from experts and practitioners around the world. Participants will learn about the complexity of urban processes and benefit from a rich and applied experience with urban development, strategic scenario projects, urban vision processes, participatory procedures as well as skills experimenting with new digital, open source tools.

We are looking forward to having you join the virtual lab during the Block Week 2020!