



**REAL PLAY CITY  
CHALLENGE**

# OPEN CALL

**LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES,  
GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES**

**DEADLINE: September 4th, 2022**

[www.realplaycitychallenge.org](http://www.realplaycitychallenge.org)



# WHAT IS THE REAL PLAY CITY CHALLENGE ?

The Real Play City Challenge **awards inspiring cities and urban practitioners** that have successfully used **placemaking to create environments** that give people **time, space and opportunities to play.**



## THIS YEAR'S THEME: LOCAL COMMUNITIES, GLOBAL CHALLENGES

After a hugely successful launch in 2019, we are back in 2022 to help cities overcome pressing global challenges in their local communities and neighbourhoods through playful placemaking. Whether a community or city is

- experiencing the effects of conflict and displacement...
- facing the challenges of adapting to climate change...
- or struggling to create places that cater to diverse and varied needs from the local community.

The Real Play Coalition is looking to shine a light on all the great examples around the world that inspire and show the way to a better, more resilient, playful public realm with people of all sizes and shapes at its heart.

**WHY?** And why do we do it? We believe that cities should provide a playful backdrop for children and communities, thereby reclaiming and integrating play into everyday life.

After all, play is an essential right that nurtures children's happiness and wellbeing. It is proven to equip them with social and emotional skills, build their resilience and creativity, and helps them thrive.

The Real Play City Challenge is an **international competition organised** by the **Real Play Coalition** (Arup, Ingka Group [IKEA], LEGO Foundation, National Geographic, and UNICEF) and **PlacemakingX** (represented by STIPO and Huasipichanga).



# 2022 THEMES



## PLACES WHERE PLAY HEALS PEOPLE

A playful public realm is the place where people meet, communities heal and develop a shared sense of purpose. When life is challenging it is especially important that people have access to spaces for play. This could be cities destroyed by war or other catastrophes. Or where people need to seek refuge in unfamiliar crowded cities and temporary settlements. Or even places where people who were once friendly neighbours suddenly stand on the other side of conflict.

We look for inspiration and good examples that show how playful placemaking initiatives are making a difference in cities affected by conflict, migration or disaster.

## PLACES WHERE PLAY SUPPORTS CLIMATE ACTION

Cities worldwide also need to adjust their public spaces to beat heat stress, prevent flooding, improve biodiversity or harvest rainwater for dry seasons. These investments create a great opportunity to both educate and create places for play. Compelling, engaging and generationally relevant tools for thinking differently about our public realm are needed more than ever.

We like to award placemaking initiatives that add nature-based play, or advocate for climate action whilst reclaiming play in cities, benefiting the people and the planet.

## PLACES WHERE PLAY UNITES US ALL

People do not bring discomfort or disability to a public space, they find it there when they are faced with obstacles to their participation through a lack of inclusive, sensitive design. The public realm should provide safe and healthy recreation opportunities for all citizens - regardless of age, wealth, gender, sexual orientation, physical or psychological challenges, culture or spiritual beliefs. Good neighbourhoods provide playful public spaces for both specific groups and for all to join and meet alike.

We look for inspiring and stimulating examples that show the way forward in providing opportunities for inclusive play in our cities and neighbourhoods,

For all details regarding the challenge please visit our website.



# WE NEED YOU!



This year we are welcoming applications from two categories:

**Cities:** Local governments and municipalities through city decision-makers, mayors, public servants, local authorities, and public city-wide organisations.

**Urban Practitioners:** Organizations and individuals working in the urban arena such as urban planners, designers, architects, developers, public space activists, social innovators, schools, sociologists, artists, cultural managers, community organisations, and any citizens that have implemented a playful placemaking initiative.

## WHAT DO I WIN?

The Real Play City Challenge is a great opportunity to expand your horizon, get noticed and increase the impact of your work.

- A training session with one of the RPCC partners to accelerate or scale up your project
- A global audience in activities linked to the Real Play City Challenge
- Your project shared as a case study in a globally-disseminated publication to inspire other local actors;
- Part of a global network of thought leaders to establish new partnerships and join forces to advocate for play.



## HOW DO I APPLY?

To participate in the Real Play City Challenge, you submit your application at the Real Play City Challenge website. Here you also find all the relevant info.

**The deadline is September 4, 2022, 23.59, Central European time.**

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