Telosa

Building a World-Class City:
The Importance of Community Connections

Best practices from around the world

Telosa Community Foundation
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Excerpt

Case Study: Copenhagen, DK - Access to Effective Government and Services



Vision

Copenhagen's vision is often summarized as "Copenhagen - City of Cyclists" and "The Green Capital." These slogans reflect the city's aspirations to be a world-leading, sustainable metropolis that prioritizes the well-being of its residents and the environment.

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Goals

- Copenhagen has set ambitious goals to **optimize sustainable urban development, energy consumption and economic activity**.
- **Climate Neutrality**: Copenhagen has committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2025. The city is actively reducing its carbon emissions, investing in renewable energy, and implementing sustainable transportation options.
- Improved **Urban Mobility**: Copenhagen continues to enhance its public transportation system, expand cycling infrastructure, and reduce reliance on cars. The aim is to create a city where people can easily move around using sustainable modes of transportation.
- **Green and Resilient Infrastructure**: The city invests in green infrastructure, including flood prevention measures, green roofs, and sustainable urban development. These efforts help Copenhagen adapt to climate change and create a healthier urban environment.
- **Housing Affordability**: Copenhagen is working to ensure that housing remains affordable for a wide range of residents. This includes building new affordable housing and implementing rent control measures.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**: The city supports innovation hubs, research institutions, and startup incubators to foster a culture of innovation and economic growth.
- **Cultural and Creative Hub**: Copenhagen aims to remain a center for arts, culture, and creative industries. The city supports cultural events, museums, and creative spaces that contribute to its cultural vibrancy.
- **Social Welfare and Inclusion**: Copenhagen prioritizes social welfare programs, including healthcare, education, and social services, to create an inclusive and equitable society.
- **Copenhagen's Six Dimensions of a 'Smart' City**
  Whether developing new cities from scratch or rebuilding existing cities, the challenge is to ensure that the city becomes more livable, economically successful, and environmentally responsible. The following six dimensions can be used to measure how 'smart' a city is:
  - **Smart economy** (high productivity, entrepreneurship and ability to transform)
  - **Smart mobility** (strong ICT infrastructure and sustainable transport systems)
  - **Smart environment** (Sustainable resource management, pollution prevention, environmental protection)
  - **Smart people** (diversity, creativity and participation in public life)
  - **Smart living** (cultural facilities, housing quality, health and safety issues)
  - **Smart governance** (political strategies and perspectives, transparency and community participation in decision making)

Background

- Originally a Viking fishing village established in the 10th century

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- Copenhagen became the capital of Denmark in the early 15th century. From the 17th century, it became a regional center of power with its institutions, port and trade networks, and armed forces.
- By the beginning of the 20th century, Copenhagen had become a thriving industrial city.

Facts and Figures

- Copenhagen is the capital and most populous city of Denmark, with a population of around 650,000 in the municipality and 1.4 million in the urban area (2020).
- The City covers a land area of 69 square miles.
- Copenhagen's landmarks such as Tivoli Gardens, The Little Mermaid statue, the Amalienborg and Christiansborg palaces, Rosenborg Castle, Frederik's Church, Børsen and many museums, restaurants and nightclubs are significant tourist attractions.

Social Capital and Belonging

- **Urban Planning**: Copenhagen's urban planning emphasizes pedestrian-friendly streets, bike lanes, and public spaces. This design encourages face-to-face interactions, making it easier for residents to engage with each other.
- **Public Plazas and Squares**: Copenhagen's well-designed public plazas and squares act as meeting points and venues for community events. Residents gather for markets, festivals, and other activities, strengthening community bonds.
- **Compact Size**: Copenhagen's relatively compact size allows for a greater sense of interconnectedness among residents. People are more likely to encounter each other in everyday life, fostering a sense of familiarity and community.
- **Emphasis on Work-Life Balance**: Copenhagen's focus on work-life balance and flexible working hours allows residents to spend more time with their families and engage in community activities.
- **Local Engagement**: Residents often participate in neighborhood associations, community projects, and local initiatives. This involvement builds connections and a sense of ownership in their surroundings.
- **Strong Sense of Trust**: Denmark, including Copenhagen, consistently ranks high in global surveys measuring social trust. This high level of trust among residents contributes to a sense of community and cooperation.
- **Courtyards and Shared Spaces**: Many residential buildings in Copenhagen are designed with communal courtyards or shared gardens. These spaces encourage neighbors to interact, children to play together, and residents to engage in spontaneous conversations.
- **Cooperative Housing**: Cooperative housing complexes, known as "kolonihaver," are a part of Copenhagen's architectural landscape. These complexes provide private plots for gardening while also creating a sense of shared space and community among residents.

Access to Effective Government and Services

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- **Social Safety Net**: Denmark's robust social programs contribute to a sense of security and inclusivity. Residents feel a collective responsibility for each other's well-being, fostering a strong sense of community.
- **Inclusive Public Policies**: The city's policies promote inclusivity, diversity, and gender equality. Such policies create an environment where all residents feel valued and part of the larger community. For example, Copenhagen has created a series of community centers that create new social contacts, new boundaries for social engagement, new roles, new ways to contribute, new ways to see their neighbors and new ways to collaborate with each other.
- **Public Transportation**: Efficient public transportation encourages people from various walks of life to share the same spaces, fostering a sense of unity.

High Quality Jobs and Economic Opportunity

- **Economic Prosperity:** The city strives to maintain a strong and innovative economy by attracting businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting research and development. (See Copenhagen MakerSpaces below.)
- The city is the **cultural, economic, and governmental center of Denmark**; it is one of the **major financial centers** of Northern Europe with the Copenhagen Stock Exchange.
- Copenhagen's economy has developed rapidly in the service sector, especially through initiatives in **information technology, pharmaceuticals, and clean technology**.
- Copenhagen is the **corporate headquarters** for leading companies including: Maersk, Novo Nordisk, Danske Bank, Carlsberg Group, Vestas Wind Systems, and others.
- **Mixed-Use Development**: The city's architectural design often incorporates mixed-use developments, where residential, commercial, and recreational spaces coexist.

Education and Life-Long Learning

- Education is one of the key priorities in the Danish welfare system. In fact, Danes enjoy free primary schools, upper secondary schools, and universities. As of 2022, the most common type of education completed in Denmark was vocational education and training programs. Close to 28 percent of the population between 15 and 69 years of age had completed this education.
- Copenhagen is home to the University of Copenhagen, the Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen Business School, and the IT University of Copenhagen. The University of Copenhagen, founded in 1479.
- The educational approach in Denmark avoids class rankings and formal tests; instead, children work in groups and are taught to challenge the established way of doing things.

Arts, Culture, and Recreation

- **Biking Culture**: Copenhagen's cycling culture encourages people to interact as they commute, creating a friendly atmosphere and a shared sense of identity among cyclists.

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- **Cultural Offerings**: Copenhagen offers a range of cultural events, festivals, and art exhibitions. These opportunities for shared experiences help bring people together and strengthen community bonds.
- **Cultural and Civic Centers**: Architecturally appealing cultural and civic centers serve as focal points for artistic, educational, and community-oriented events. These spaces contribute to a sense of shared cultural experiences.
- **Urban Green Spaces**: Copenhagen's numerous parks, gardens, and green areas provide residents with spaces to relax, socialize, and engage in outdoor activities

Design and Environmental Stewardship

- **Focus on Sustainability**: Copenhagen's commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly practices resonates with residents who share a common goal of environmental responsibility.
- **Public Spaces**: The city is known for its well-maintained parks, squares, and waterfront areas.
- The city of Copenhagen is one of the most sustainable and energy efficient cities in the world. According to its **Carbon Neutral by 2025 Plan**, it has the ambition of becoming the first carbon neutral capital by 2025.
- Some initiatives that have helped support this goal include Copenhagen's environment friendly modes of transport, sensitivity to climate change, sustainable urban redevelopment, and efficient energy use tactics.
- Throughout its efforts in encouraging a healthy sustainable lifestyle among its people, its planning process plays a more significant role than simply altering people's values.

Success/Failure Factors

- Copenhagen is recognized as one of the **most environmentally friendly cities** in the world.
- Copenhagen has focused on three key factors of Urban design to facilitate the transition to a green city: **Sensitivity to Climate Change, District Heating / Cooling, Preserving Green Space**.
- Copenhagen's approach to urban planning and architecture certainly contributes to the city's reputation for having a **strong sense of community**. These design elements encourage social interaction, enhance accessibility, and create spaces that facilitate connections among residents
- **Historical and Modern Integration**: The integration of historical architecture with modern design principles creates a sense of continuity and connection to the city's past, fostering a shared heritage and identity.

Copenhagen also has drawbacks:

- High housing and living costs.
- Even though Copenhagen's approach will yield tremendous benefits over the long-run, it has been capital intensive in the short-run. The crowding out effect means that trade-offs have been made in other areas to finance the long-run goals of environmental sustainability.

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Best Practices for Telosa

- **Human-Centered Urban Planning**: Copenhagen's urban planning prioritizes human well-being and encourages social interaction. Pedestrian-friendly streets, bike lanes, and public spaces create opportunities for people to gather, walk, and bike, leading to more frequent face-to-face interactions.
- **Inclusive Design**: Architectural design in Copenhagen often prioritizes accessibility and inclusivity, making public spaces and buildings welcoming to people of all abilities and backgrounds.
- **Sustainability**: Copenhagen aims to be one of the world's most sustainable cities. It envisions a future where the city's carbon emissions are minimized, energy is primarily sourced from renewable resources, and urban development is environmentally responsible.
- **Cycling Culture**: Known for its extensive network of bike lanes and a strong cycling culture, Copenhagen's vision includes making cycling the preferred mode of transportation for its residents. The city encourages cycling to reduce congestion and promote physical activity.
- **Green Spaces**: Copenhagen values its green spaces and aims to create a healthy urban environment with parks, recreational areas, and green roofs. The city seeks to improve air and water quality and protect biodiversity.
- **Social Inclusion**: Copenhagen emphasizes social inclusion and aims to create a city where everyone has access to education, healthcare, housing, and job opportunities, regardless of their background.

Overall, Copenhagen's approach to urban planning and architecture certainly contributes to the city's reputation for having a strong sense of community. These design elements encourage social interaction, enhance accessibility, and create spaces that facilitate connections among residents.

Case Study Appendix: Highlighting Copenhagen Makerspaces

- I. Vision/Goals of Makerspaces in Copenhagen
  - Formed by either local businesses or grassroots networks, each makerspace offers a different niche and community for diverse opportunities for citizens to experiment, design, build, collaborate, and strategize business operations.
- II. Background of Makerspaces in Copenhagen
  - Makerspace refers to shared workspaces that give the public or paying members access to machinery to develop DIY hobbies, small businesses, or collaborative projects.
  - Worldwide, the maker movement saw a popular increase in the 2010s. This movement was an offshoot of communities of artists, craftspeople, DIY-ers, and IT tinkerers.
  - Copenhagen has celebrated its maker movement since 2016 and has grown into eight distinct makerspace organizations and facilities.
  - There are eight makerspaces currently in operation in Copenhagen.

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- III. How Makerspaces Contributed to a Thriving Community
    - Access to Tools
        - Tools vary between locations.
        - Urban communities tend to include emerging technologies and digital fabrication, such as 3D printing.
        - Rural communities tend to have woodworking, metalworking, and textiles.
        - Most have a diverse collection to meet the existing culture of the community.
    - Instruction
        - Training members on how to use the equipment is generally required.
        - They offer optional guidance on completing individual projects and classes about specific fabrication techniques, such as table building.
        - The space often forms clubs focusing on particular fabrication categories.
- A. Social Capital and Belonging
    - Citizens join makerspaces often as an opportunity to fulfill an individual project but then stay for the community through events hosted by the makerspace.
    - Collaborative workshops or classes
        - E.g. Build a modular synth at the Copenhagen Music Maker Space
    - Clubs or casual socialization events
        - E.g. Laser cutter meeting at Labitat
    - Team building and competitive events
        - E.g. Trifolium hosts events targeted at commonly targeted tasks. This includes construction duels and crafts for tailor-made tasks for members or company events.
    - The strong support networks are formed through casual means of sharing space while also establishing formal support networks and networking opportunities that allow members to connect with more experienced makers with questions or proposing collaborations.
        - E.g. Network Copenhagen with Republikken Learning workshop and networking opportunities for new entrepreneurs, social media strategy, sales strategy, personal and professional development, funding, and post-COVID-19 business strategy
    - The variety in payment plans for memberships at makerspace allows for affordable access to the diverse socioeconomic group. Most makerspaces have daily, monthly, and hourly fees for using the space and attending events.
        - E.g. Copenhagen Fablab is free to everyone and does not require membership.
    - The large number of makerspaces available means more spaces are within walking distance for more of the community.

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        - E.g. Trifolium offers a Mobile Production Unit fully equipped with manufacturing tools that can temporarily be driven to the location of the member's choice.
- B. Access to Effective Government and Services
    - Most all makerspaces, except those that offer exclusively shared office workspaces, provide formal or informal vocational training through education on proper tool use for skilled trades.
- C. High-quality Jobs and Economic Opportunities
    - The manufacturing process becomes accessible to the layperson by providing both training and access to various machines and tools in the following sectors:
        - Woodworking
        - Metal working
        - 3D printing
        - CNC and laser printing
        - Automation equipment (ex. robotic arms)
        - Electronics
        - Textile
        - Photo studio
    - Knowledge sharing between different startups and entrepreneurs provides opportunity for infusing innovation with economic opportunity.
        - E.g. Univate Islands Brygge provides a shared working space specifically for startups and entrepreneurs working in the IT industry. The commonality allows collaboration to introduce new ideas in a rapidly changing field.
- D. Education and Lifelong Learning
    - Education within makerspaces is based more on skills rather than ideas, which fosters a problem-solving framework in members.
    - Makerspaces can meet people where they are, with novices and experts welcome, due to the wide variety of entrance points with tools and classes.
- E. Arts, Culture, and Recreational Opportunities
    - Makerspaces often host festivals, beyond members, that are open for the entire city to enjoy.
        - E.g. The Copenhagen Music Maker Space hosted the Nordic Music Arts and Crafts Festival.
        - E.g. Labitat hosts Hacks on the Harbour, a maker festival with electronic design programming.
        - E.g. Maker hosted the Copenhagen Maker Faire
    - Copenhagen Music Maker Space, a communal workshop to build and modify musical instruments.
- F. Design and Environmental Stewardship
    - By making their own products, members are less likely to purchase material for single-use. This can also foster care for materials made by oneself, which combats throw-away culture.

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    - Free repair events open to the public can double as social events and address the barrier of profitability associated with the electronics repair sector.
        - E.g. None of the eight makerspaces currently advertise repair cafe events, but the University of Copenhagen has been hosting repair events at Studenterhuset.
    - Makerspaces are inherently linked to a circular economy seen in several European cities.
    - Members at makerspaces can be commissioned to produce urban art with blue-green infrastructure principles.
        - E.g. BetaStudio, now known as Trifolium, helped establish a pilot program creating geodesic domes on wood platforms surrounded by trees in the urban environments outside of Copenhagen.
- IV. Success/Failure Factors
    - The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected makerspace membership worldwide. In a time when many facilities were starting up, lockdown prevented these communities from meeting in their communal locations. Many were unprepared for a sudden decrease in membership and volunteers and had to temporarily or permanently close facilities.
    - Most US cities have no more than two makerspaces outside schools and libraries. The fact that Copenhagen can support eight makerspaces is a testament to the demand for and dedication of the maker movement. The several commercial businesses and non-profits showcase that the industry can diversify, sustain itself, and add value to a thriving city community.

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