

Demonstrator project status update

July 2020



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2 Compilation of TOOLS and LESSONS to note

Appendix 1 - Interesting tools and lessons from the LD processes

Color indicators:

- REFERENCE
- TOOL
- LESSON

1/10 Šnipiskės - Vilnius - Lithuania



As this is student based project, they are working with the student groups and for each half of the year they have creative workshops with students who are mapping the area and, working with the locals, propose a solution for the area. During the pandemic they have switched to online work-shops and have actually succeeded.

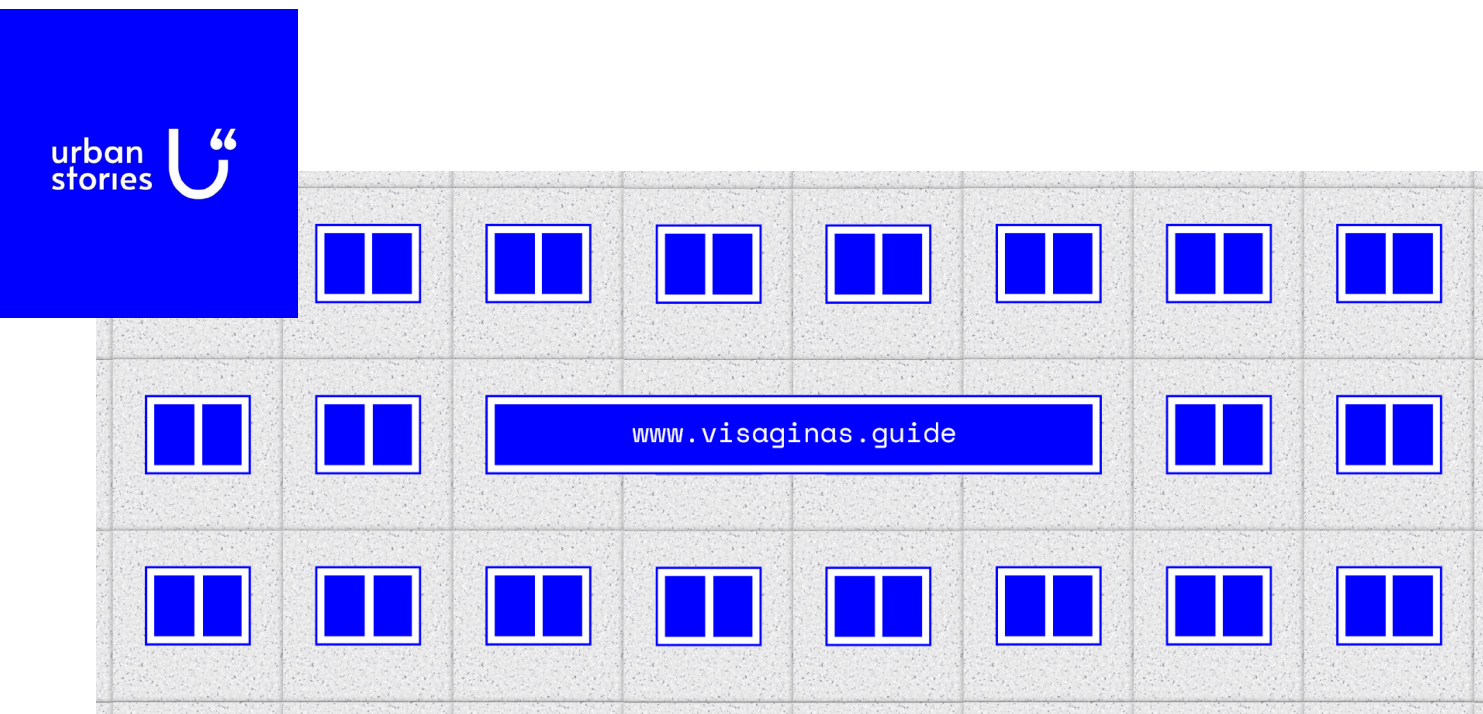
They were promoting walking routes in the neighbourhood as this was also a demand from the locals - a strong demand from the senior people, to get involved in different kind of activities, a place to meet and getting together. They really have a challenge of *place*, because they looked through what the municipality can do in the neighbourhood and what they can offer at this moment to work on. They mostly offer working on the green spaces, which are in the neighbourhood.

The students this year created some intrusions in a form of a creative tile, which is a recreation of some of the history of the neighbourhood. They are glass covered tiles with scenery inside. They also created other activities on ZOOM with the locals, focusing, for example, on decorating stones, decorating bird houses, hoping, that after the pandemic these smaller actions will be supplemented by more people participating. They will continue monitoring this process as each half year they have new students, and sometimes students are reinforcing the ideas created by the previous students.

They are now moving in several directions: A) local heroes – small gardens created by elderly ladies. They want to illuminate this phenomena and people, who take care of the neighbourhood. They are currently getting in touch with the ladies. They are going to make an excursion lead by these ladies. Some professional gardeners are involved as well. They will create a route, which will be active after the project finishes and suggestions by biologists with plants to grow, which are utilitarian, perhaps edibles, fragrant herbs etc. They are in procurement process to involve this biologist, who will take over this process. B) They will launch a game URBINGO, orientational game, which they as *laimikis*. It have launched elsewhere in Vilnius. This is how they will be able to highlight student projects and other actions. It is a card game with map, also looking at local architecture and landscape. C) The last thing, the most challenging, which is initiated by an architect in their team – to work with the parking spaces. He wants to extend the functions in the neighbourhood as it is very mono-functional. He wants to change the function of one of the parking lots and this has become an object of conflict in the area. They are currently also trying to convince the municipality to leave more space for natural meadows. They achieved some agreements on that. Interestingly, a lot of locals are actually very much into lawning, creating perfect fields of grass.

2/10 Visaginas - Utena - Lithuania

Urban Stories - Visaginas



Visaginas demonstrator project is very active at this moment. The problem is, that they run different projects at the same time with different sources of funding.

They run photo walks with architects and locals. They have started also Visaginas architecture guide <http://visaginas.guide> and collect all urban activities on their Facebook page - Urban stories <https://www.facebook.com/urbanstoriesvsg>.

They have already collected quite a big amount of material from people, who came to Visaginas as first settlers, people who came there to build Visaginas. This follows the idea, that a place is not only built by architects and builders, but also locals who live their everyday lives here. Oksana has collected a lot of material from talks with these pioneers.

3/10 Gaarden - Kiel - Germany

GaardenEckenEntdecken



<https://www.gaardeneckenentdecken.de>

Forced by COVID-19 restrictions, they did their online activities on *Instagram* and *Facebook* in April and May, but the feedback was not as expected, however it has been good to get some attention on the project and get some followers. They started to go back outside in June. They were outside for 3 weeks, (Wednesdays / Thursdays / Fridays) doing interviews. They were there with pens and wooden planks, still continuing to collect visions. They had a vision tree, a construction they built around a tree, which stayed there for the 3 weeks, so people could see it and react to it. It was good to get more visions/ wishes, but it also developed into a meeting point for some people every week. It was not intended as such, but since most meeting points in Gaarden were closed as such, due to COVID. There was a group, who came every week, so it was hard to involve new people. They had started the walks earlier in the year, where private people could organize their own walks. Now they won't continue that anymore as not so many new people were coming to the walks, just the same ones as always. Now they have a little break and in August they will start the designing phase. As the closure of the visioning phase, they want to use poetry slam, where the slammers will use all the visions and wishes. They are planning to have the slam at mid-end of August and kick-off the designing phase then. The messages from people were usually the same, they want a cleaner Gaarden, "people being more connected", and the wishes are all pretty similar.

Learning – it is important to differentiate between visions and wishes.

Learning- it is important to differentiate if one is designing for a project or designing for Gaarden, of course, it is always ultimately design for Gaarden, but the designing phase looks at project design.



The process of collecting material for the mural.

They have planned 2 projects in Nowy Port, one is currently ongoing and the other one is starting in October. These are the 2 going on from the 6, which started the contest process. They are still in contact with one of the OPEN CCI contestants and they want to do a different, smaller project with them as they are organising an *Open House* <https://www.openhouseworldwide.org> festival in Nowy Port this year, so they want to join their forces and be visible also during this festival.

One project will educate the community about taking care of their environment. They have 5 workshops, concerning different materials (recyclable materials). They will co-edit two issues of a local newspaper, that will take place in October and December, when they will present the results of the projects. It is called "5 colors". The name of 5 colors is taken from 5 colours of garbage bins used in Gdańsk for waste segregation. The idea comes from local issue of garbage getting out of control – identified in the mapping. To keep the focus around simple, everyday matters and combine it discussion on the state of our surrounding (taking care) and with artistic "footprint" in the public space of Nowy Port (mural, lamps, etc will be exhibited around). Yellow (plastic): Making bags from advertising banners; Black/grey (mixed): Ceramic mural "Good day"; Green (glass): Lanterns out of bottles and scrap wood; Brown (bio waste): Creative composters and vegetable/flower beds; Blue (paper): eco-Postcards and collages – "GLUEING" COMMON LOCAL STORIES.

Then there is another theme - "Climate of Nowy Port". This engages young architects and artists from international Mentor&Student Research Lab, created with participation of residents of the district. The outcome is a practical guide for designing local spaces. There will be 3 walks from different user perspectives (child and mother, sport, urban explorer). An exhibition in public space consisting of art, education material about city planning, VR exercise. Interactive discussion around a map – discussing concrete places and changes suggested with using the guidebook. Prototyping and zero waste workshop – co-creating temporary space made of recycled materials These are workshops concerning the environmental care within the district. They are doing workshops with children currently. They are making a ceramics mural, that will be placed near the Mewka gallery. They use parts of the city as a form for the mural elements.



The ceramics workshop with children.

During the lockdown they had some online workshops about digital history and creating digital archive for Nowy Port and they want to use those materials in an exhibition, in one of the shopping windows in the district.

The other initial projects were not possible to do, because one of them was organised by the local school and joined with the international children's day, so that already passed (1st of June). The project about the gates to the courtyards is not happening as the actors are not available. They have been trying to mentor the artists working with this project to change it into something else, but they were not willing to.

The most important thing for them now is to make sure those events do not lose their goals. Sometimes they tend to more concentrate on the events rather than the long term goals of changing the views of the participants.

They are planning to do a series of short conversations during the finale of the 5 color workshops. The main concern is "what has changed". Asking questions like: "what has this impacted?"

5/10 Stare Przedmieście - Gdańsk - Poland

Postponed to next year. They will try to align another project to take place in Stare Przedmieście.

7/10 Daugavgrīva fortress - Bolderāja - Rīga - Latvia



Posters for the 4 week-ends of Festival Komēta 2020 <https://festivalskometa.lv/lv/>

This year they are planning 4 weekend events, 3 weekends no entrance fee and one weekend with an entrance fee. They are currently finalizing the program and looking for ways how to include local community in these event. **We are looking for ways how to communicate with the locals. Posters might not be enough to reach the community to attend.** Events are planned on Saturdays, but on Sundays the cafe will remain open. They are working now on questionnaires for baristas, designed to talk to people who live there. They want to find out their opinion about the event. They will have volunteers with the sole task to work at the entrance and count the people and try to engage in conversations in general with the visitors, especially the locals. They want to find out what people's opinions about the fortress are and what they would like the festival to do there. They still have to work on the questions and tasks, that will be in the cafe for example.

They also want to engage with the different groups on Facebook (conversations in comment section), where they could give this information about the cafes for example , they think this will be a very honest way to get some kind of response from the locals. **We expect, that they will engage in conversations in the comment section. It is a place where we can get honest feedback about what we are doing.**

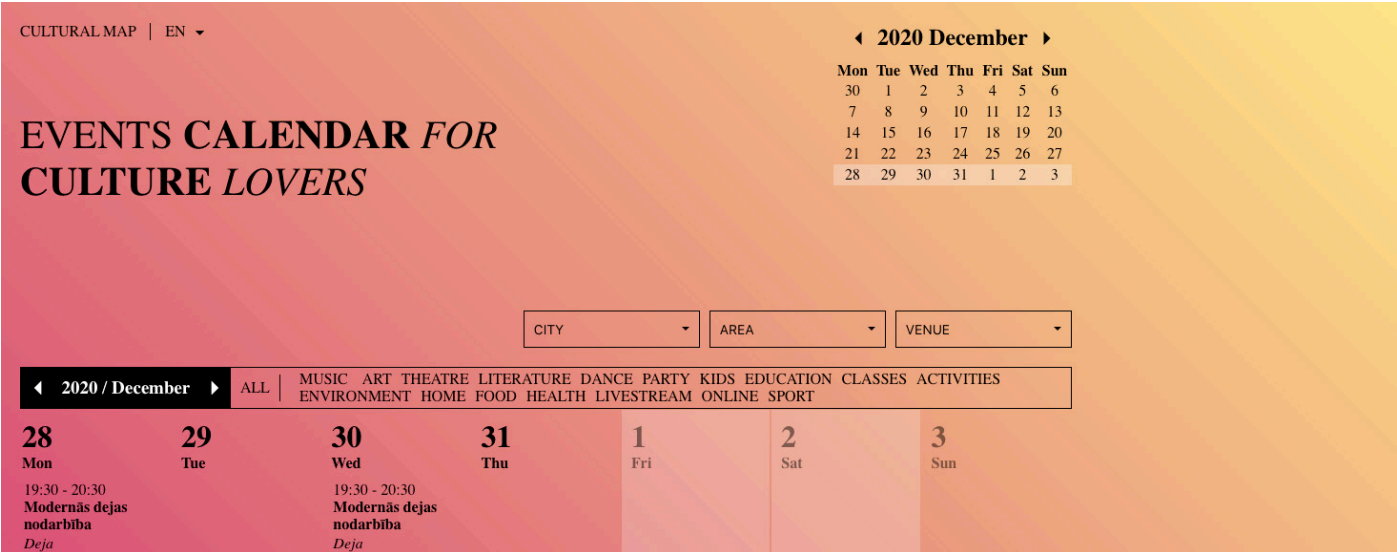
Trevor: Are you creating a group from the involved locals?

For now we haven't started this process of engaging with the online communities, we think it will be more open. In the entrance we will have to take note of who is entering because of Covid restrictions, but it would be a win win situation to add in an optional question next to where they need to sign. We are thinking of options how to engage more, maybe when you by coffee, you also get a slip of paper, which you can fill in. We are also now looking for a bartender/ barista, who is from Bolderāja, so he is more involved. He will have to know latvian/ russian and english.

Trevor: We once used beer mats to ask questions, and another one was the menu, which was a map of the area and you ask them to put on comments of different things. There is also a suggestion to layer findings and photos through the 4 week-ends on a wall so others can follow the data collected.

For now we are each thinking about how to use this information in the future, but for now we are super focused on actually having these events and engaging with the people coming here. There are some plans. In February it was decided, that the owner of the fortress of Daugavgrīva should be eliminated as an organization. With COVID, these discussions are postponed, but this data we are collecting is there to analyze and understand the needs of local communities. In this case perhaps COVID gives this project an advantage as it gives time to gather more information and formulate a stance and makes it possible to be more involved in the decision-making.

8/10 Sarkandaugava - Rīga - Latvia



Culture calendar <http://kulturaskalendars.lv>

Recently they had had the online citizen's forum. It was really challenging to take the next step from the forum to actually creating these working groups, to actually decide at what time and where they will meet. They have managed to do it with environmental and crafts group. During the working process in the environmental group, they decided to create walks with locals around Sarkandaugava and these walks are becoming very popular. They had a very good feedback, people wanted more walks, themed around architecture, history and also have some walks in other neighbourhoods. In each walk, there are around 25 people, ½ of the people are from previous walks and ½ are new participants. Now it is like a tradition – **Sarkandaugava Monday walks**. They are having great time with the crafts group and they are working on attracting more people in this group.

The 3rd thing is that they are trying to organise a wall mosaic together with locals. Somethink similar to <https://www.facebook.com/spmlublin/>

They have also worked on the creation of **Culture Calendar**, where cultural organisations of Riga can place their events. <http://kulturaskalendars.lv> They are inviting also other cities to participate in their calendar as they are willing to include multiple cities in their calendar through their filter. They have done this for this project, but they are making it so that other venues and neighborhoods can participate. It is suggested to perhaps broaden the understanding of such calendar beyond “culture lovers” as it is branded currently, but ask oneself how does include nature lovers, bike lovers, food lovers? How can it be more like a community noticeboard? How can it be more about practical things in the neighbourhood, that need sorting out, like bottle collecting station etc. Would it be more inclusive to say “Lovers of the x neighbourhood”? Trevor mentions, that in European scale there has been a movement to try to create these massive platforms for happenings through city, but somehow broke down as it usually becomes less diverse as less people have time to enter the information etc., so somehow smaller interest groups on Facebook have been on the rise. There is also a comment, that it is indeed interesting to see all events in one place because on Facebook they are scattered and some are more sponsored than others. There is also sometimes a sense, that neighbourhood culture is second hand culture to the events, that are happening in the city centre. There is suggestions to broaden the tags to reflect more of what we understand by culture. Perhaps one word could be “green”, this could mean food also, one word could be “play”, which could be a fishing, swimming thing, perhaps then a word for “walks”, “exploring”, then also “activism”, where can on be active? Perhaps also “heritage”, and of course also “arts”. This is interesting from the cultural planning perspective because this really triggers the understanding of what people perceive what culture has to offer.

Natalia reflects, that they have been trying to do that in Gdansk for years also with the focus on the areas in the city, but it did not work out. There is actually a cultural planner, but it is not very popular. There is currently a commercial version of it. <https://kultura.trojmiasto.pl> and it is very basic, but it is popular. They tried to replace it with <https://zukowo.planerkulturalny.pl/>, but unsuccessfully. Lea shares an example of cultural calendar in Kiel <https://www.wasgehtinkiel.de>

They will apply for extra funding in order to print the second issue of the newspaper. They had applied already, but did not get funding this time around.

10/10 Kaliningrad - Kaliningrad - Russia



Art

International competition
«Tower Kronprinz: Second
Advent»

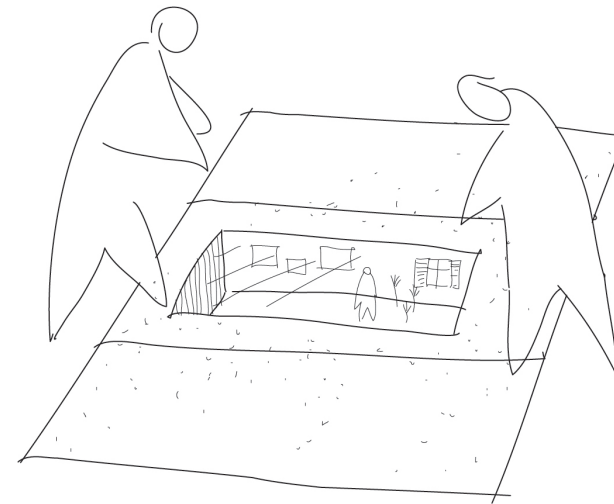
Local project info site: <http://kronprinz-kaliningrad.ru>

They are in process of joining the project again. They are hoping to enter the project legally again in the end of August. Currently they are in mapping and raising awareness stage, which is very important for them. There was a study of history, the area, flow of the people in the area. Based on the report on history (pre-war history) and they are willing to do the next study on Soviet period. This history is not written for this area. There is no cemetery and a church, which indicates something.

They are now trying to commission a theatre walk in the area, based on the historical findings. They had a preliminary walk with the historian, who did the report, with an actor and a poet. The idea is to create a walk/ performance starting in Kronprintz, within the district, the yards, places people rarely visit, unless they live there. And people who live there are hardly aware of the historical background. There is still a ban for public gatherings in Kaliningrad, at the same time they are joining a group of museums to launch a festival in October, where each museum would present a program linked to their collections. They are thinking of launching the walk in the framework of this festival in October. Small groups of 5 people, it would start with a short introduction by the historian. Then they would walk with a guided audio downloaded, in some places there would be performative actions taking place. Then they would return to the tower.

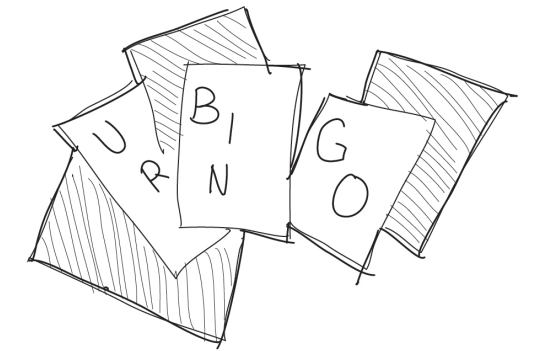
The mappings they have done are of tenants, transport and mobility, local residents and history. At this moment they are not sure if they can make these reports public, as there is a gay club in the Kronprintz and one of the tenants has drawn a skull on the map, where the club is. This indicated a potential conflict. They would like to work more on the macro level, make interviews with policy makers, so that would be another mapping exercise. In October they are planning to start with the performative walk around the area and then another mapping stage. And then invite art residencies in the Spring.

APPENDIX 1 - Interesting tools and lessons from the LD processes



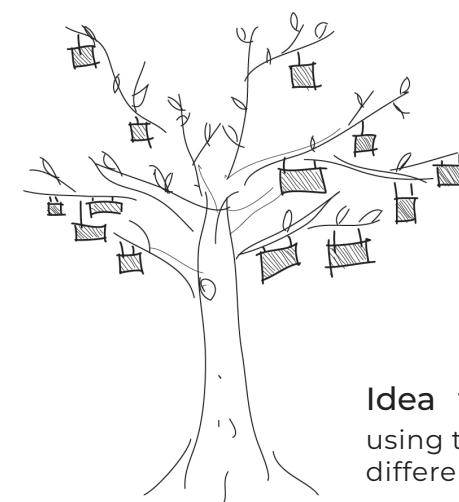
Glass tile with a story In Šnipiskės, Vilnius, a glass tile was created by students, embedded in the existing pavement, it tells an important story about the neighborhood. It is a little model house with glass on top, a little wonderland to explore.

Urbingo! A game, that invites people to explore their neighborhoods. This is a way to introduce different urban interventions from within the project, tying them all in one storyline.



Mosaic Creating a mosaic in the space can be a great tool as it is part negotiation, part creative, part technical, time consuming and participatory process. One needs to decide where it will be, what will it entail, what will it be made from, what tiles can we use, leftover materials from the neighbourhood? Negotiations with city authorities about the wall it will be placed and and gathering people to collectively work on it repeatedly!

Curated walks. Walks are a great tool, but interestingly, giving away power for citizens to create their own walks can be eye-opening. What is the walk of the local gallerist, the librarian, the little boy, the teenager? It becomes very personal in this way.

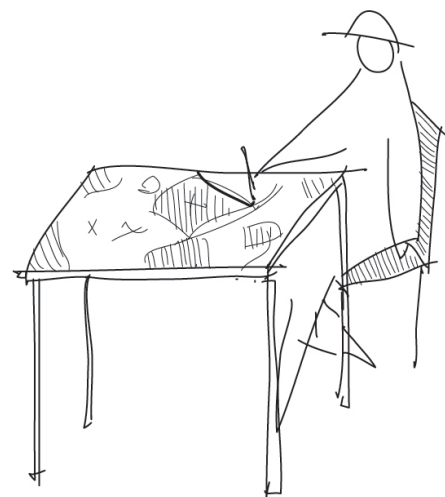


Idea tree. In Gaarden, they have been using trees around the city to communicate different visions for the area.

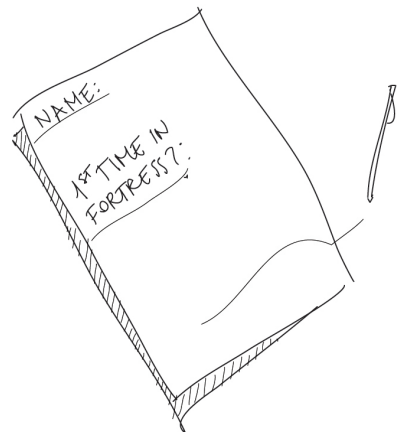




Social researchers/ bartenders
Festival Komēta proposes to have trained people as part of their staff, whose job is to engage in conversations with people, if they are interested to find out more about their thoughts on the festival and the fortress.

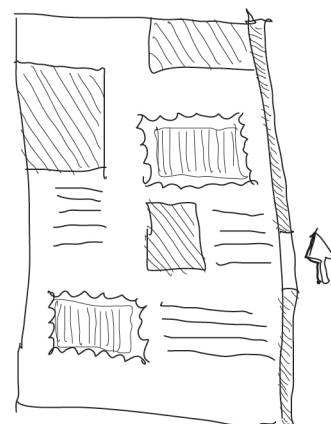


Map on a table. One interactive way to gather data (mapping) in an event or social setting would be to have paper maps on the table tops and pens ready. People could doodle on the table while hanging out with friends, this perhaps creates also a situation where visioning and mapping can happen within a small community/ family/ friends. These maps could be removable.



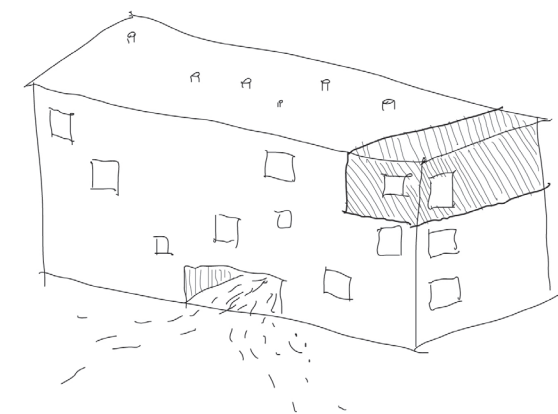
Sign in with extra questions. Another method proposed by festival Komēta organisers. Since COVID restrictions asks them to sign-every visitor, they now have a chance to ask more questions to the visitors!

Digital archive! During the pandemic it seemed very appropriate to start looking in and back, sorting out our belonging and collecting different stories and material in a digital archive! This has been done a large scale, libraries, universities and galleries opening up their archives, but there can also be an archive of people's stories!



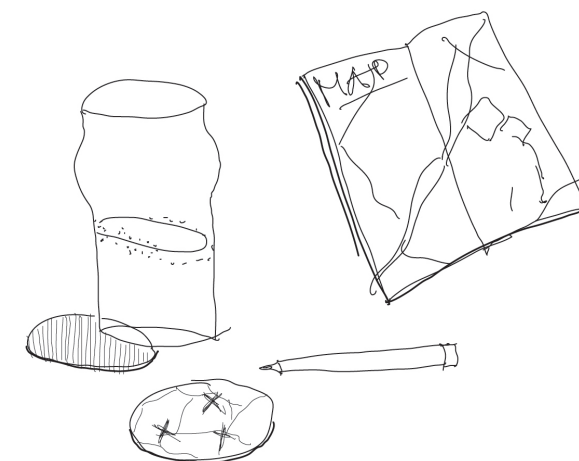
Walking tours. Many demonstrators somehow are drifting in this form of intervention and mapping. Interestingly we all still live within walls we do not even know the first thing about. This curiosity is perhaps why some places, like Sarkandau-gava, manage to engage people in almost 3 hour long walks! They start off without a clear route and decide as a group where they will explore next.

Open house festival. <https://www.openhouse-worldwide.org/home-fest> this festival, popular also in Gdansk, opens up areas, buildings, apartments to public during certain period of time. A great way to tell a story about an area, introducing different kinds of living and showing potentials of places!



Visioning poetry slam. In Gaarden, an interesting idea is to create a finale event for the visioning phase with a poetry slam evening, where slammers will use the ideas and visions for Gaarden to create poetry.

Mapping on beer mats. An idea has been suggested, that also beer mats have been used to collect ideas and opinions on topics, as well as Menu cards have been used to show maps and directions for people to mark certain things on the map!



Compiled and created by Līva Kreislere



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