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COMMUNITY-BASED ARTS PROJECTS

What is it?

Community-Based Arts Projects are fun meetings where people from the same neighborhood gather in small groups to talk about how they can make their community better. They share ideas about how to improve things like parks, schools, or local spaces, and everyone gets to have a say. The best part is, you get to work on projects together with your friends, family, and neighbors.

What's special?

These projects are special because everyone who lives in the area gets to be part of the decision-making. People know their own neighborhoods best, so they come up with clever and creative ways to solve problems. Even if the issues seem big, when people work together, they can think of great solutions that help everyone.

How does it work?

Small groups

People meet in groups of 15 or fewer to share their thoughts and discuss the challenges in their neighborhood.

Creative tools

Fun tools like model--making, drawing, or 3D thinking help people show their ideas in exciting ways.

Teamwork

Everyone helps find solutions and learns new skills while working together on projects that improve their local area.





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What is it?

Community workshops are open meetings where people are invited to debate a topic in small groups. They are meetings led by a person who facilitates the debate, helping to distribute the time of the interventions, to keep the attention of the discussion on the topic under discussion and to bring out the wisdom and knowledge of the communities.

What's special?

It's a method that allows people to explore and develop community development skills within their own communities. It also helps people gain a clearer understanding of the principles of community development and empowerment. It can also bring out invisible wisdom and create a collective vision for the future of the community.

How does it work?

People identify their social concerns and ambitions, including their positive and negative aspects.

They also discuss social justice and environmental sustainability related to these concerns.

They build a collective vision for the future of their community.





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DESIGN THINKING

What is it?

Design Thinking is a creative process where people come together to solve problems by imagining new and exciting ideas. It focuses on understanding what people need and using empathy—being able to imagine how others feel—to come up with solutions that make their lives better. It's all about listening, learning, and designing something cool that can help your community.

What's special?

Design Thinking is special because it helps people come up with really smart and creative ideas. Instead of just guessing what will work, it teaches people to explore the problem from different angles and to work closely with others to figure out the best solutions.

How does it work?

Listening and Learning

People meet to talk about what's needed in their neighborhood. They listen to everyone's ideas and find out what matters most.

Using Fun Tools

Design Thinking often includes activities like drawing, building models, and playing games to come up with fresh, fun ideas.

Creating Solutions

Groups work together to test new ideas that can solve problems and improve their community.





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PHOTOVOICE

What is it?

Photovoice is a project where people take pictures of their neighborhood to share their thoughts about what they love or want to change. It's a great way for kids, teens, and adults to show how they feel about their community by using photos instead of words.

What's special?

Photovoice helps people express their ideas in a fun and creative way. Instead of just talking, they can show what they mean through pictures, giving them a voice in how their community is improved.

How does it work?

Taking Photos

People are given cameras or phones to take pictures of their favorite or least favorite places in their neighborhood.

Sharing ideias

The photos are then shared These ideas help guide with others, and everyone talks about what they show make the neighborhood and how the community could be improved.

Making changes

decisions about how to a better place to live.







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AFFORDABLE SHADE OPTIONS

What is it?

Creating shade is important for outdoor play, especially in the summer. You can use trees, plants, or structures like pergolas to provide shady areas where kids can relax and stay cool. If you need a quick solution, you can use temporary options like tarps or fabric sails.

What's special?

These shade options help keep outdoor play spaces comfortable and safe from too much sun. By using trees or plants, you also add more greenery, making the space even more beautiful. For a quick fix, you can set up temporary shade structures that are easy to move.

How does it work?

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Plant trees or large shrubs around play areas to create natural shade.

Building Structure

Build simple structures like pergolas or tunnels for shade, using materials you can easily find at a hardware store.

Temporary Shade

Use shade sails, tarps, or even parachutes to create instant shade over play areas.

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AUTUMN LEAVES FOR PLAYING AND LEARNING

What is it?

Autumn is a magical time when leaves change color and fall from trees. You can use this time to explore science, art, and even stories by collecting and learning about the leaves. The colors-red, orange, yellow, and more-are all hiding under the green color of chlorophyll, which disappears as the weather cools down. By gathering leaves, you can discover how they change and even create fun art projects!

What's special?

Autumn leaves provide a hands on way to learn about nature. Instead of just reading, you can go outside and experience the beauty of the season. By collecting and identifying leaves, you'll understand how and why they change color. Plus, it's a fun activity to share with friends, and you can make cool art using the leaves.

How does it work?

Nature Walks

Go outside and collect different colored leaves with your friends. Try to find as many shades as possible!

Color Wheel

Arrange the leaves in a circle to explore how the colors change and mix. You can even try mixing paints to see how colors like red and yellow make orange.

Reading Time

After the walk, read books like *Leaf Man* or *Why Do Leaves Change Color?* to learn more about the magic behind autumn leaves.

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ENBANKMENT SLIDES

What is it?

Embankment slides are slides built into hills, making them fun and safe for everyone to use. But, to keep the hill stable and prevent erosion, it's important to plant grass, shrubs, or other strong plants on the slope. You can also add stones to create a path so the plants and mulch don't wear away too quickly.

What's special?

The combination of the slide and plants makes the embankment both fun and environmentally friendly. The plants help prevent soil from washing away and add beauty to the area. Plus, using natural materials like stones and plants helps create a fun and sustainable play space.

Hoe does it work?

Planting Shrubs and Grass

Choose tough plants like evergreen grasses or low shrubs to grow on the embankment. These will keep the soil in place all year round.

Stone Paths

Add stones along the sides of the embankment to protect the plants and create a natural path to the top of the slide.

Climbing Steps

Build steps away from the slide to stop erosion, giving everyone an easy way to climb up.

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GRASS LABYRINTHS

What is it?

A grass labyrinth is a fun maze made from ornamental grasses. It creates a space where kids can run, play hide and seek, or just relax in a peaceful area. The soft grasses move in the wind and offer a calming, sensory experience all year round.

What's special?

Grass labyrinths are unique because they're natural play spaces that grow and change with the seasons. They offer a quiet place for conversations, games, or reflection, while also being beautiful and soothing to walk through.

How does it work?

Planting the Grasses

You can plant different types of grasses in patterns to create a maze. The grasses should be tall enough to create paths but not so tall that they block the view of adults.

Creating Paths

Space the grasses so kids can easily walk or run through the paths.

YearRound Play

The grasses change with the seasons, offering a fun and sensory play space all year long.

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GROWING GOURDS FOR BIRD CAGES

What is it?

You can grow gourds in your garden and turn them into birdhouses! With just one seed, you can grow a long vine full of gourds. Once the gourds dry out, they can be turned into little bird cages, inviting birds to nest in your outdoor space.

What's special?

This activity is great for learning about plants and birds. Kids get to watch the gourds grow, help harvest them, and then turn them into homes for birds. It's a fun way to connect with nature and invite wildlife into your garden.

How does it work?

Planting Gourds

Plant gourd seeds in the spring and watch the vine grow all summer long.

Harvesting and Drying

In the fall, pick the gourds and let them dry out.

Making Birdhouses

Once dried, hollow out the gourds and hang them as birdhouses. Kids will love watching birds make their homes in them.

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NATURALIZING WIRE FENCES

What is it?

Wire fences can be made beautiful by planting vines that grow up and cover the fence. This is a great way to make outdoor spaces look greener while still keeping the fence for safety. You can use climbing vines that stay green all year or even grow food producing vines like beans or peas.

What's special?

Naturalizing fences with vines is a simple way to add more greenery to outdoor spaces. It turns a plain fence into something alive and beautiful. Plus, some vines can produce food, so you can make your space greener and grow something you can eat!

How does it work?

Choosing Vines

Pick vines that are strong and grow quickly, like evergreen vines or annual food producing ones.

Climbing Up

The vines will wrap around the wire fence and create a green wall of plants.

Caring for the Vines

Water the plants regularly and trim them to keep them healthy and growing.

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TREE COOKIES FOR PLAYING AND LEARNING

What is it?

Tree cookies are slices of logs that can be used as fun stepping stones, building blocks, or natural play surfaces. They allow kids to jump, balance, and even create their own outdoor games. You can place them in a playground or use them as "loose parts" for building and exploring.

What's special?

Tree cookies are a simple way to make outdoor play more interesting and interactive. You can use them in so many ways—jumping, balancing, building paths, or stacking them up. Plus, they help kids connect with nature by using real pieces of trees in their play.

How does it work?

Fixed Tree Cookies

Larger tree cookies can be set into the ground to make stepping stones or paths.

They're strong enough to jump and balance on.

Loose Tree Cookies

Smaller tree cookies can be used for stacking, building, or creating different games. Kids can move them around and make their own play areas.

Creative Projects

You can sand the tree cookies to make them smooth, and even paint or decorate them for extra fun.

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TIME BANK

What is it?

A Time Bank is a way for people to trade their time and skills instead of using money. For every hour someone helps their neighbor, they earn an hour of help in return. Everyone's time is valued equally, no matter what they do.

What's special?

Time Banks are great because they encourage people to help each other out. Whether it's babysitting, teaching a skill, or helping with chores, everyone can earn and give time. It's a way for neighbors to get closer and support each other.

How does it work?

Trading Skills

People help each other by offering services like tutoring, babysitting, or gardening, and they earn time credits in return.

Helping the Community

Anyone in the neighborhood can ask for help or offer their skills, and the Time Bank makes sure that everyone's time is equally appreciated.







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BREAD HOUSES

What is it?

Bread houses are a way for people to work together to make bread collectively. It's an inclusive activity because it can bring together different people, including those of different nationalities, races, ethnicities, religions, motor and cognitive abilities or ages.

What's special?

While making bread, people talk about common problems and try to find solutions together.

How does it work?

Kneading together People get together to make bread and share ideas

Creative fun Drawing and modeling activities with flour and stories.



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COMMUNITY CURRENCIES

What is it?

Community currencies can be created in physical or virtual form and are managed by a community with the aim of promoting the local economy. The aim is not to replace the official currency or to seek accumulation by facilitating exchanges that would be difficult to make through direct exchange.

What's special?

Community currencies are the result of a community building and decision-making process, strengthening the civic autonomy of individuals and communities. They increase access to goods and services and strengthen mutual trust.

How does it work?

It works on the basis of democratic management and mutual trust.

Its use is voluntary.

They are mainly intended to broaden exchanges between people with products of different use value.



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SOLIDARITY MARKETS AHD FAIRS

What is it?

In these special markets, people can trade things like food, crafts, and services without using money. It's a great way to help people connect and support each other.

What's special?

It promotes sharing, caring, and trading in the community, helping people feel closer and more helpful to one another.

Como é que funciona?

Setting up a Market

The community sets up a place to trade goods and services.

Trading and Sharing

People bring what they have and trade with others. building friendships and trust.

Building relationships

The market is not just about exchanges; It also has to do with The construction of friendships and mutual aid.







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GREEN CERAMIC WALL

What is it?

A ceramic green wall is made up of ceramic pots to hold soil, plants and a bio photovoltaic system. The pots are 3D printed, which means they are very flexible and can be adapted to various sizes, climates or social needs.

What's special?

The ceramic green wall can be designed and adapted for different spaces, needs and weather conditions. It can also be used as a vertical vegetable garden. It produces energy and helps keep buildings better protected from extreme cold and heat.

How does it work?

The green ceramic wall captures the energy produced by the bacteria that live near the roots of plants.

The energy produced is used to activate the irrigation system, making it self-sufficient.

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GROW TILES

What is it?

A Grow Tile is a special tile that helps plants grow in the middle of cities where there isn't much room for gardens. The tile can be placed on the ground or on walls, and it's designed to let plants thrive with less care. Grow Tiles help make cities greener by turning small spaces into places where plants can live.

What's special?

What's really cool about Grow Tiles is that they can be used almost anywhere, even in tight city spaces. They help the environment by keeping the city cooler, improving the air quality, and sometimes even growing food. The design of the tiles can be changed to fit the local weather and needs, making them really flexible.

How does it work?

Deciding Where to Place it:

Neighbors walk around the area and pick the best places for the Grow Tiles

Choosing Plants

kind of plants they want to grow—flowers,

Creating a green space

People can decide what Once the Grow Tiles are set up, everyone helps take care of the plants, and soon there vegetables, or even herbs. will be little green spaces all around the city.





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MOBILE VEGETABLE GARDEN

What is it?

A Mobile Vegetable Garden is a fun, movable garden that can grow anywhere! It's a special garden on wheels where people can grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The garden can be moved around the neighborhood to wherever there's space or sunlight, and people can take care of it together.

What's special?

This garden is special because it's flexible—it can be placed in different spots based on where the plants will grow best. It also teaches people, especially kids, how to grow their own food and learn about nature, even if they don't have much space at home.

How does it work?

Costumizing the garden

People can set up the garden in public or private spaces and decide how to arrange the plants.

Moving the garden

Since it's on wheels, the garden can be moved around depending on the season, sun, or rain.

Growing Together

Neighbors help water and care for the plants, learning how to grow food and create a green space.







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MULTI-USE WOOD STRUCTURE

What is it?

The Multi-Use Wood Structure is a wooden pavilion that can be used for all sorts of activities in public spaces. It can be a cozy spot to hang out, a place to have community events, or even a small market. The structure can be built anywhere, and it gives people a safe, sheltered place to gather.

What's special?

This structure is unique because it's adaptable - it can be used for many different things depending on what the community needs. It's also eco-friendly and can be built in different shapes and sizes, making it a great addition to public spaces.

How does it work?

Building Together

Neighbors work together to design and build the wooden structure, deciding what it will be used for.

Hosting Events

The pavilion can be used for markets, meetings, or just a place to relax with friends

Changing the Space

Because the structure is adaptable, it can be adjusted to fit whatever the community needs at the time.





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Green Walls

What is it?

A Green Wall is like a giant, living wall filled with plants. Instead of just having trees or gardens on the ground, a Green Wall lets plants grow vertically. These walls of greenery help make cities cleaner, cooler, and guieter, while also adding a beautiful splash of nature to urban spaces.

What's special?

Green Walls are super cool because they make cities healthier without taking up much space. In areas where there isn't room for big gardens, a Green Wall can be built on a building, fence, or other tall structures. Plus, they provide homes for birds and insects and help keep the air fresh.

How does it work?

Choosing a spot

The community decides where the Green Wall will ao-like on the side of a building or in a public area.

Picking Plants

Neighbors help choose which types on the wall.

Taking care

Everyone can take turns watering and looking after of plants will grow best the plants, making sure the wall stays green and healthy.







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RENATURALIZATION OF BROWNFIELDS

What is it?

Renaturalization of Brownfields means turning abandoned and unused city spaces into beautiful green parks or gardens. These spaces may have been forgotten, but they can be brought back to life with plants, trees, and flowers, making them enjoyable places for people to visit.

What's special?

This project is special because it takes old, rundown areas and makes them healthy and green again. Not only does it bring nature back to the city, but it also provides people with a peaceful place to relax, play, or enjoy outdoor activities.

How does it work?

Cleaning Up the Space People come together to clean up the abandoned

clean up the abandoned area, getting rid of trash and pollution.

Planting Together

Neighbors help plant trees, flowers, and bushes to make the space green again.

Enjoying the New Park

Once it's finished, the area becomes a beautiful park where people can walk, play, and enjoy nature.





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TASTY GARDEN OF LEARNING

What is it?

The Tasty Garden of Learning is a special garden at a school or kindergarten where kids, teachers, and parents work together to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs. It's like an outdoor classroom where kids can learn by working in the garden.

What's special?

The garden is a hands-on way for kids to learn about nature, healthy living, and teamwork. By working together, children can see how plants grow, learn about the environment, and even taste the food they help grow.

How does it work?

Planting and Learning

Kids, parents, and teachers all work together to plant seeds and care for the garden.

Experiencing nature:

As the plants grow, kids learn about different types of vegetables and fruits, and how to take care of them.

Eating What You Grow

Once the plants are ready, everyone can enjoy the fresh food, learning how fun and tasty healthy eating can be.



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WATERCOURSE RESTORATION

What is it?

Watercourse Restoration is all about fixing rivers and streams that have been damaged by pollution or city-building. The goal is to make these waterways healthy again, so they can bring more nature and beauty to cities.

What's special?

This project brings back the natural beauty of rivers, making them cleaner and healthier. It also creates nice places for people to enjoy, like parks and walking paths, while helping wildlife and plants thrive.

How does it work?

Cleaning the River

The community helps clean up the water and restore the riverbanks, removing pollution and planting trees and bushes.

Bringing Nature Back

As the river becomes cleaner, it attracts more birds, fish, and plants, making it a beautiful place to visit.







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