Re-imagining Urban Childhoods

[ CONCEPT NOTE ]

Collective thinking on ‘Child Friendly Cities’

NIUA supports Child Friendly Cities
BvLF and CFSC(NIUA) are jointly organizing an international conference, ‘Re-imagining Urban Childhoods’ to gain insights from experts on various aspects of child friendly cities.

Thriving and happy children are indicators of a healthy and sustainable society with high levels of well-being. Children form an understanding of their environment through everyday discoveries and encounters in the park, at school, during a stroll in a neighbourhood street or imagining and inventing games and stories every day. Thus, built environment plays a crucial role in shaping children’s narratives of the city, and their understanding and experience of urban spaces.

Growing up in the cities is as complex as it is exciting, with multitudes of stimuli scattered in these everyday experiences of children. While there are plenty of opportunities, the urban environment is also wrought with threats that impact the overall growth and development of a child. A well-planned and sensitively designed built environment can be a powerful force to facilitate positive and holistic development of children and pave way for delivering their rights to live safely, access education, and enjoy everyday freedoms. While this is being acknowledged by a number of cities, the momentum has to be built to enable a paradigm shift towards an urban development agenda that takes into account the needs of children that comprise approximately one third of the residents of any Indian city.

This Conference is being organized by the Child Friendly Smart Cities initiative of National Institute of Urban Affairs with the twin objectives of disseminating the knowledge gathered over four years as well as providing a platform for urban local bodies, urban planners and policy makers to learn from successful city level plans and projects that have been responsive to needs of children from across the world. It also aims to contemplate on the everyday experiences for children in cities and the innovative ways in which these can be enhanced to make growing up fun.
Key objectives of the conference

01
To share the insights and learning from the experience and understanding of CFSC initiative and deliberate on ways this knowledge can be taken forward by city agencies.

02
To learn from impactful good practices incorporated by ULBs and urban professionals in design and planning of live, learn, play environments for children in cities.

03
To take lessons from ideas and projects shared by various international experts and explore their replicability and adaptability in the Indian context in terms of concrete steps, ideas and innovative solutions going forward.

04
To take forward this dialogue towards finding synergies between diverse sectors and mediums; shaping a new collective of urban professionals and amplifying the voice for child friendly cities.
The presentations and deliberations are designed in the form of three technical sessions spread over a day.

**SESSION 01**

**Counting children to make them ‘COUNT’**

Data-Driven Urban Planning

Session 1 It is understood globally that data is a key vehicle for driving policy decisions. The work undertaken through CFSC initiative clearly highlights the lack of disaggregated data for children within the urban sector in India; consequently, making children unheard and underrepresented, more so infants and toddlers, girls and children with disabilities. Data is useful only if it informs policy and planning decisions. The deliberations in this session will focus on the need for better baselining and mapping of children focused data as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

**SESSION 02**

**Designing for children**

Design of spaces where children live, play, learn and move

Session 2 It is now better understood that built environment is critical in safeguarding the basic rights of children such as education, nutrition, and overall health. National and international best practices demonstrate that when children are kept at the centre of built environment design helps shape live, learn and play environments that foster overall development of all age groups and abilities. This session seeks to extract ‘big ideas’ to better equip policy makers, urban designers and architects in manifesting the rights and needs of children by ensuring access to basic services and children responsive design of urban built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

**SESSION 03**

**Innovative Ideas for inclusion**

Innovative ideas and strategies for including needs of children through urban design, planning and management

Session 3 In order to make impactful changes it is critical to make space for children’s voice within urban planning and policy domain in order to improve everyday life of all children. The child friendly urban development prerogative in India has reached a stage where a lot of progress and innovation has been made. This session focuses on the best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed to the overall health and well being of children in cities. By making children an integral part in the making of cities, and learning from the innovative cross sectoral initiatives which can be replicated and scaled up, Indian cities can ensure quality of life for all.
The conference brings together eminent urban thinkers, planners and designers, practitioners and city administrators to speak about the strategies that have been at the core of planning of cities that are children centric and are globally acknowledged as liveable and inclusive cities. How did these cities manage this change? How were national and city level policies instrumental in driving development in this direction? The discussions will focus on the transformative strategies and planning frameworks as well as innovative design and smart solutions adopted by cities and neighbourhoods to achieve the status of being ‘child-friendly’.

Date: March 1, 2019 | Venue: Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

INAUGURAL SESSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session duration</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am-9:50am</td>
<td>Welcome and overview of CFSC initiative</td>
<td>Jagan Shah</td>
<td>Director, NIUA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50am-10:00am</td>
<td>Setting the context</td>
<td>Rushda Majeed</td>
<td>Country Representative, BvLF</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>Special Address</td>
<td>Darell Hammond</td>
<td>Senior advisor, Urban 95, BvLF and Founder of KaBOOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am-11:00am</td>
<td>Key-note address and launch of CFSC knowledge products</td>
<td>Durga Shanker Mishra</td>
<td>Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs</td>
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<td>11:00am-11:30am</td>
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TECHNICAL SESSION 01
Counting children to make them ‘COUNT’
Data Driven Urban Planning

It is understood globally that data is a key vehicle for driving policy decisions. The work undertaken through CFSC initiative clearly highlights the lack of disaggregated data for children within the urban sector in India; consequently, making children unheard and underrepresented, more so infants and toddlers, girls and children with disabilities. Data is useful only if it informs policy and planning decisions. The deliberations in this session will focus on the need for better baselining and mapping of children focused data as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

Session duration
11:30am- 1:00pm

Key discussion themes of session:
Rethinking the crucial role of ‘DATA’ to create baselines and assess gaps in provisions and infrastructure, thus facilitating informed decision making and urban planning.

11:30am-11:45am
Alka Singh
Head - Policy & Advocacy, Save the Children, India

11:45am-12:00pm
Sudeshna Chatterjee
CEO, Actions for Children’s Environment (ACE), Delhi
Board member, International Play Association

12:00pm-12:15pm
Siddhartha Benninger
Urban Development Planner, CDSA, Pune (iNagrik)

12:15pm-1:00pm
Interactive Session with panelists and discussants
Discussants: Ramesh Negi, Chairperson, DCPCR
Varsha Joshi, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD)

1:00pm- 2:00pm
LUNCH
**Technical Session 02**

**Designing for children**

Design of spaces where children live, play, learn and move

It is now better understood that built environment is critical in safeguarding the basic rights of children such as education, nutrition, and overall health. National and international best practices demonstrate that when children are kept at the centre of built environment design helps shape live, learn and play environments that foster overall development of all age groups and abilities. This session seeks to extract ‘big ideas’ to better equip policy makers, urban designers and architects in manifesting the rights and needs of children by ensuring access to basic services and children responsive design of urban built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Key discussion themes of session:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Best practices related to the design of live, learn, play and mobility in cities taking into account specific needs of children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm - 2:15pm</td>
<td>Simon Battisti</td>
<td>GSD Alumnus and Tirana-based Architect, Albania</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Sukanya Krishnamurthy</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Urban Architecture at the Faculty of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 2:45pm</td>
<td>Kabir Vajpeyi</td>
<td>Principal Architect, VINYĀS - Centre for Architectural Research, Design, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Policy, Delhi (Developed BaLA Guidelines)</td>
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<td>2:45pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Aadish Nargunde and Kamran Naseem</td>
<td>Child Friendly Smart City Centre, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA)</td>
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<td>3:00pm - 3:45pm</td>
<td>Interactive Session with panelists and discussants</td>
<td>Discussants: Akshay Kaul, Landscape architect, Akshay Kaul and Associates, Delhi Urvi Desai, CEPT, Ahmedabad</td>
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Innovative ideas and strategies for including needs of children through urban design, planning and management

In order to make impactful changes it is critical to make space for children’s voice within urban planning and policy domain in order to improve everyday life of all children. The child friendly urban development prerogative in India has reached a stage where a lot of progress and innovation has been made. This session focuses on the best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed to the overall health and well being of children in cities. By making children an integral part in the making of cities, and learning from the innovative cross sectoral initiatives which can be replicated and scaled up, Indian cities can ensure quality of life for all.