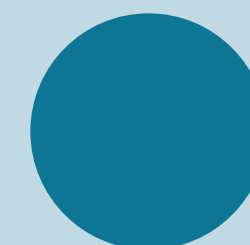BSR CULTURAL PEARLS

Input: Magdalena Kubecka

WORKSHOP 3

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY FOR SOCIAL RESILIENCE

BSR CULTURAL PEARLS
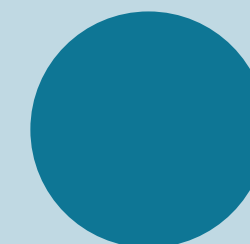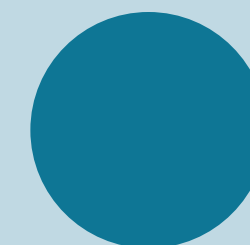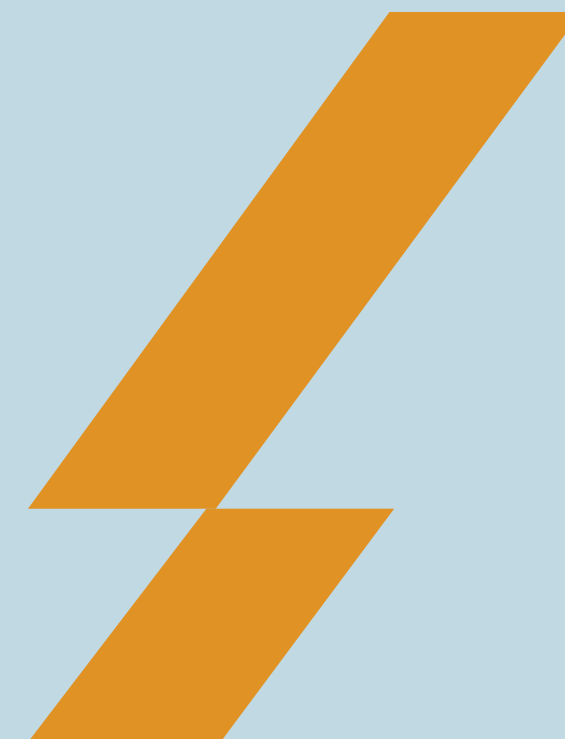
MAGDALENA KUBECKA

Quick Summary
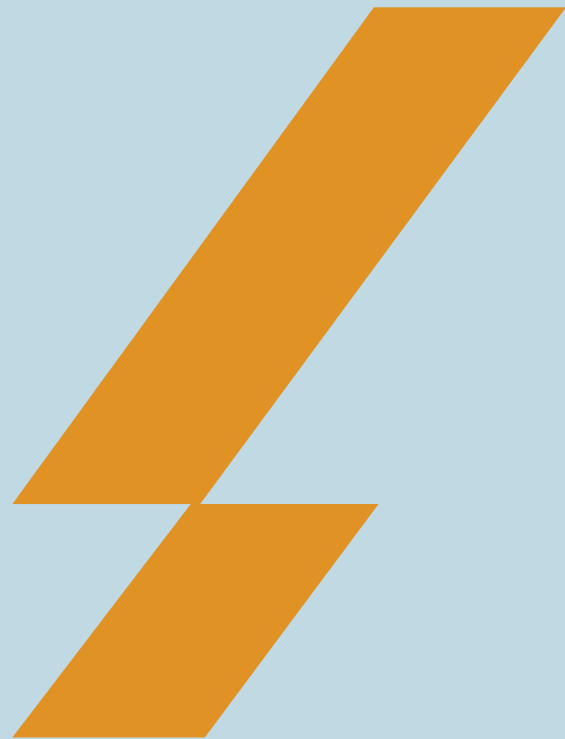
In this Workshop, Magdalena Kubecka, an expert of the „How the city works" initiative, introduces the different forms of diversity and puts them into the urban context. She also explains the idea of cities in general and gives definitions of important events in everyone's life.

Definition of Diversity

"Diversity [...] is understood – as all possible – visible and invisible, innate and acquired aspects in terms of which **people differ and are similar** to each other, e.g. gender, age, race, ethnicity, (in)disability, sexual orientation, religion, place of residence, language, marital status, education, work experience, lifestyle."- M. Rawluszko, 2007

So diversity is not only about differences, but also similarities, also about softer cultural aspects of diversity like gender, age, having children at the same school, etc.

Diversity in urban contexts:

<u>Super-diversity</u>: refers to some current levels of population diversity that are significantly higher than before. It denotes increased diversity not only between immigrant and ethnic minority groups, but also within them. (Steven Vertovec, 2007)


<u>Hyper-diversity:</u> indicates diversity across classical divisions by ethnic and class status. Urban communities are characterized by diversity in terms of lifestyles and daily activities, health conditions, family status, sexual orientations, political and world views. (Fincher, Jacobs)

→ Diversity is a rule in the city, a standard rather than a marginal phenomenon.

Notion of a city or a neighborhood

<u>Spatial turn</u> is a movement that assumes that the space in which people live and act is not an objective fact, but a social one.

A city is not born as a result of an administrative decision and putting on a map but is formed by the activity of people.

Meaning   Place   Space

Space is a location, physical space and physical geography.
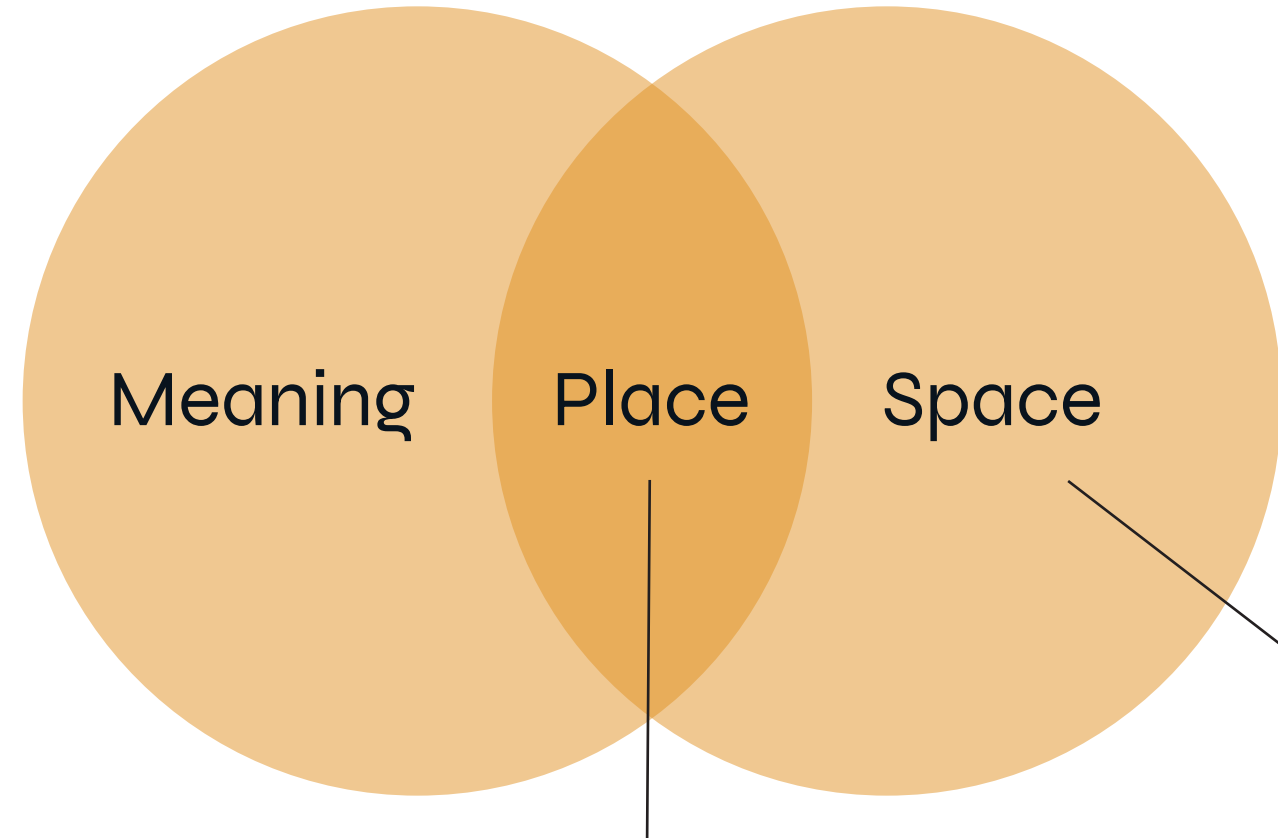
Place is what gives a space meaning, "personality" and a connection to a cultural or personal identity. It is the culturally ascribed meaning given to a space. It is the "vibe" that you can get from a certain space, and it exists for a reason. (The Cultural Courier)

Placemaking rules

COMMUNITY IS THE EXPERT

TRIANGULA-TION OF FUN-CTIONS

YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE

Making the community an expert in place-making processes is one of the most important rules.

Bringing people together and making a space a place with a lot of func-tions for diverse groups.

It is very important to work as a team.

Elements that bring us together and that we share beyond borders
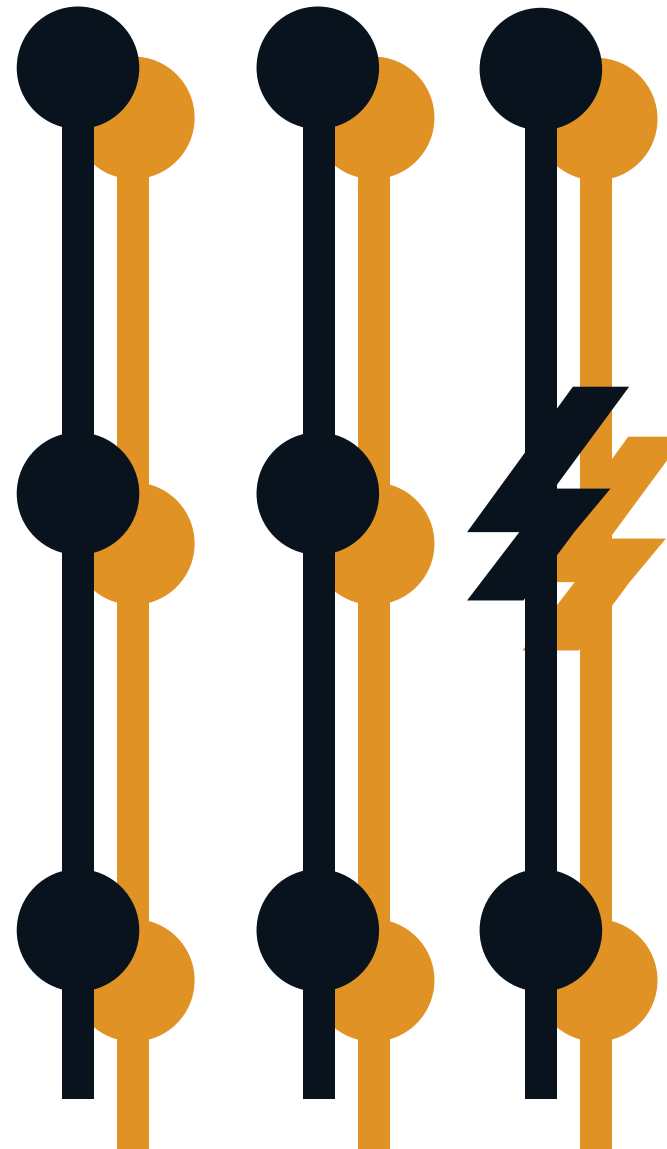
Life milestones:

A milestone is a significant event in your life. Often a milestone marks the start of a new chapter. For example, the day you graduated from high school.

Breaking point:

In human psychology, the breaking point is a moment of stress in which a person breaks down or a situation becomes critical. (Kimble 1996)

The Black Swan Theory

Unpredictable event, severe impact
→ we will experience those more and more in our cities.
→ diversity helps us to deal with those shocks (multiplying perspectives, diverse expertise).

We need to change the way we think about urban planning and development – moving from focusing exclusively on economic indicators to thinking about social justice as a central issue in a city. In the just city, processes related to values such as diversity, democracy and equity are key. The equity should become the basis when creating development indicators for cities.

Susan Fainstein

Example projects

GAP FILLER, NEW ZEALAND

„Community after the catastrophe":
Bottom-up projects, filling gaps by doing art, using humor, built places for people to gather, organized events for dancing (Dance-O-Mat), coin-operated ex-washing machine.
https://gapfiller.org.nz

PLAYGARDENS, POLAND

Families didn't have a green space close to their home, but there was some unused land, mainly used by people drinking alcohol. People wanted to do more than just building a normal, boring playground, so they worked on natural play gardens, that were inspired by the people. They worked with prototyping, very simple materials and co-designing. Everyone was involved in the process.
https://www.playgardens.co.uk

Example projects

PIMP MY CARROCA, BRAZIL

Waste collectors, 90% of the garbage passes through the hands of them, paint the "carrocas" of waste collectors → became popular, brought attention to them, showing their role.
https://pimpmycarroca.com

COMOBILITY, POLAND

Building mobility scenarios, to promote sustainable mobility, work with families who bring their kids to school. Problem: Not make them feel guilty bringing their kids by car or stress the younger generation (especially) in terms of climate change → "citizen scientists": children were included in research, artistic installation showing children process behind the scenes.
https://comobility.edu.pl/en/homepage/