

Child Friendly Cities & Communities Network Meeting

Statement of Purpose - CFCC Network

We've come together as a network because we can image a world where children are supported and empowered to be active citizens, and individually and collectively, we can make a difference. In our network, we will discover new ways to lead our colleagues and our communities to become child friendly and share with each other examples of good practice.

Date: Thursday 19 November 2020

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Location: Online Zoom

Meeting Chairs: Amy Carson, Moreland City Council & Amy Forward, City of Greater Dandenong

Meeting theme: What can adults learn from children?

Be TV! Video

Amy Treyvaud, City of Ballarat

BeTV is part of the Be Kind Be Creative initiative – a City of Ballarat cultural response to COVID-19. BeTV is a 6 part YouTube series with a target audience of children aged 4-10 and families. It was designed as a distraction to assist parents with children at home in lockdown and also as a means of keeping children and families connected to community. It has a strong focus on indigenous content.

The segment shown answered the question what can adults learn from children?

<https://www.creativeballarat.com.au/betv>

Listening to Children in Child Safety

Samantha Neville, Port Phillip City Council & Sharon Rooney, Melbourne City Council
(Slide package attached)

- Sam and Sharon talked about how the cultural belief within organisation that children have a strong and active voice helps towards being child safe and what children and young people have said about what helps them looking at some recent studies;
 - Protective Participation: The Voices of young people on safety, Dr Tim Moore,
 - Trust is a must: what does it take to be child friendly and child safe, South Australia.
- Children felt safe and opened up when they are going through the process if they felt that adults were listening, they knew adults would act on their behalf this gave them confidence in speaking to adults.
- when we listen to the small stuff and respond appropriately children feel comfortable to broaden the discussion and bring up more things, this also gives children the skills and knowledge to protect themselves and their peers.
- Children have been invisible throughout COVID, they are not attending regular events or school etc and things will have been missed.



- Something to think about: Have we got what we need for children to feel safe and share what they have been through this year? Are practitioners feeling confident to listen and respond?
- Important children's privacy is upheld, different to keeping a secret this needs to be explained to children. To uphold their privacy, make sure they don't become lunchroom gossip, only discuss the needs of the children with those that need to know.
- It is important that children have access to child safe policies and procedures not just adults, one idea is to have child friendly posters outlining your policy and procedures around organisation.
- You can't have children's engagement without child safety they go hand in hand.

Children Transforming Spatial Design

Sherryn Prinzi, Banyule City Council & Vivian Romero, CQ University

(Slide package attached)

- Sherryn and Vivian discussed the importance of moving from tokenism in co-design work to providing intentional opportunities for children and young people to engage and participate.
- Creativity in co-design can be challenging and uncompromising.
- Often there are challenges with time pressures although adequate time and space is needed for authentic co-design with children and young people.
- Can use tactile representations i.e. playdough, lego.
- Children are active citizens and we need to promote a culture of participation.
- With co-design, need to work through an iterative process and not be afraid of outcomes.
- Children think beyond the problems.

Some thoughts from group discussion and chat

- Use of play is important - not using 'adult' methods i.e. surveys.
- Photography was a successful method - meaningful for children! Engaging with children through talk and talk in designing a community space.
- I've done walking tour to inform a masterscape. The data we received was amazing - things as an adult we never saw.
- Children challenging the status quo- through a playground consultation, a child challenged us to think about why we could not install a trampoline in the play space. He even drew a design. It made us scramble to think about our preconceived ideas about what can be included in a play space.
- Through COVID (home schooling) - engaging with children in designing a playspace through a Powerpoint presentation.
- we need to look further as to what words and images created represent for children. It's like trying to get back in our 'child's mind'.



CFCC Advisory Group Update

- Kate Beveridge, CFCC Chair called for nominations for 2021 Advisory Group.
- Benefits of being an CFCC Advisory Group member discussed. The CFCC Advisory Group meets two weeks after each meeting, members share the planning and chairing of CFCC meetings. There is also an annual CFCC Advisory Group Planning Day in February.
- If you have examples of how your organisation is supporting children as active citizens, please complete a case study for our website (template attached).
- The CFCC website has a range of useful resources and can be accessed here: <https://www.vlga.org.au/advocacy/child-friendly-cities-and-communities-cfcc>

Acknowledged and congratulated Rebecca Munro from Pakenham Library, who have recently endorsed and signed the charter, great to have them onboard as an organisation that is not Local Government (a certificate has been sent directly this would usually be presented in a network meeting).

Feedback and Close

- Participants completed a short survey on today's network meeting.
- Thanks to all for attending the CFCC Network meeting.

We hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and we look forward to meeting again in 2021.

