

Cabbage Field Translator Notes for Faro Convention Meeting, Vilnius 2017-11-15/16

Who?

“[Žemųjų Šančių Bendruomenė](#)” is the the Lower Šančiai Community Association and grew out of a need to nurture civil society at community level by developing agency among residents. Established in 2015 it focuses on culture, community education and development especially for citizens who experience barriers to participation.

Vision for Cabbage Field

To protect, restore, renew and programme the 19th century winter cellars as a sustainable public space using a ‘self-build’ methodology for permanent and temporary buildings and a community culture practice that nurtures the agency of civil society.

Values

Person-up i.e. artists, activists, leaders, etc.

Agency (Voice + Power) + Institution champions = Real participation

Cultural rights is a standard related to access + participation + production

Democracy as a practise of engagement of civil society in dialogue and action, through shared responsibilities based on capacities.

Goals

To reclaim this publically-owned territory, known as the *Cabbage Field*, and its three 19th century winter cellar buildings. The Association seeks to improve the quality of the social and cultural infrastructure by converting the abandoned *Cabbage Field* territory through protection, renovation, temporary construction and adaptation to community and cultural vision.

Challenges

Design a due diligence process that responds to the recent Kaunas Municipality offer to the Association to take responsibility for the Cellars.

Lack of public space in Lower Šančiai due to complex process including gentrification.

Changing the negative perception of the district.

Inter-generational poverty, addiction and social exclusion.

Institutional unfreezing

<p>2013 <u>Friendly Zone #3</u></p> <p>Show your culture and identity?</p>	
<p>2014 <u>Friendly Zone #5</u></p> <p>A group of '10 (re)searchers' from chose together a parcel of public land to inhabit it which had 3 sets of 19th century winter cellars</p>	
<p>2015 <u>Friendly Zone #6</u></p> <p>Clear....clean</p> <p>Establishment of a Community Association</p> <p>Cultural led programming</p>	
<p>2016 <u>Friendly Zone #7</u></p> <p>-Archivision School to identify signposts for sustainable actions</p> <p>-Cultural led programming</p>	
<p>2017</p> <p>-Mobilising community resident and the Sanciai Parade 'Chair'</p>	

Description of 2018 implemented

Lower Šančiai Community will manage five placemaking projects that are scaled for experimentation in a district of 20,000 inhabitants. These projects are linked to the proposals of the 2016 [Archivision School](#) involving 20 student architects and residents who together developed architectural visions for the Cabbage Field territory and its three surviving 19th century winter cellars. The School grappled with how to work with history, people, place and nature as potencies to communicate with the wider neighbourhood, the city and beyond. In June 2016 it mapped out 3 proposals that identify the placemaking interventions and these were exhibited in the Kaunas Municipality in November 2016.



These plans are the springboard for the following five Placemaking interventions

Placemaking #1 School for CEE Creative Placemakers

A 10-day School will seek applications from 15 leaders, activists and artists from across Central and Eastern Europe. It will be a peer led and supported by practitioners with **practices, ideas and experiences (pie)** to include Gediminas Urbonas (MIT), Elena Madison (PPS), Nomeda Urbonienė (NUST) and Prosper Wanner (Faro Convention Network).



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Placemaking #2 Winter Cellars as cultural heritage

A prototype restoration through placemaking will inject new ideas and revitalise plans for the historical winter cellars. The interior interior and exterior can sustain the changing nature of community and cultural activities. **This prototyping process is focused not only on the physical buildings but its intangible culture that has to constantly change, shift, realign an integrate into contemporary life. The living past of these winter cellars becomes a platform to forge (also virtually e.g. minecraft) sites of peace (and war), of tolerance (and hate) of diversity (and sameness).**



Placemaking # 3 Dream Bus as communication platform

A community culture bus donated to ZSB by the local Kautra Bus Company in 2017 will programme a placemaking platform to be devised by young people without parents. It will be a platform to come together, identify, represent and amplify the living stories, myths, heroes and antagonisms of the Cabbage Field. The idea of transporting city inhabitants and tourists to experience workshops, spectacles, tours, performances and poetry slams is central.



Placemaking #4 Cabbage Field Flora and Fauna

Follow-up of mapping and inventory work completed in 2016 of the flora and fauna we will establish an experimental station for aquacponics in permaculture. Specifically it will look at sustainable food production involving young people with disabilities and observation of spaces of transition for wild plants that have been coded as threatening, labeled "weeds" or "invasive" but are also opportunists.



Placemaking #5 Temporary Buildings as Community Asset

Two existing temporary spaces will be upgraded as new community facilities. These will serve as a community and cultural infrastructure on the Cabbage Field that will be available for usage by the community for a period of 10 years. The methodology here is adapted from self-build initiatives for refugees, migrants and vulnerable young people pioneered by the Amsterdam Municipality for social housing and social enterprise start-ups i.e. temporary buildings on public lands for fixed periods.

