

LIVING LAB

the Future of Kungsgatan

SENSITIZING KIT

Before the Living Labs started we gave the participant a sensitizing kit to get them in the mood. This included a presentation of us facilitating the labs and a folder with a map and some instructions. We encouraged the participants to take a stroll through Kungsgatan and mark out interesting things about their experience on the map. It could be something they saw, heard, felt, or smelled. We also included space for field notes where they could tell us a little bit more about anything that felt important to them. We then used the sensitizing kit as a foundation for Living Lab 1.



Oct 20th

LIVING LAB 1

Introduction:

- What to expect?
- The process of Living Labs.
- Inspiring pictures of cities changing through time, smart solutions

Agenda 2030

Smart Cities - Inclusive, Green, Smart



A Sense of Kungsgatan:

- Presentation of our strolls through Kungsgatan
- Introduction of the map - placing sense points

Bergsbron + Skvallertorget

- Beautiful View, Green Area, Shared Space
- Noisy, Ugly/Unused Area, Conflict Walking/Cars, Stressful



Nov 16th

MATILDA HALLGREN THE CITY PLANNER ABOUT:

Demographic of Kungsgatan Area

Cultural Environment

Plans for trams - timescale

Streets=Traffic?

Half of Kungsgatan doesn't need any development according to the municipality.

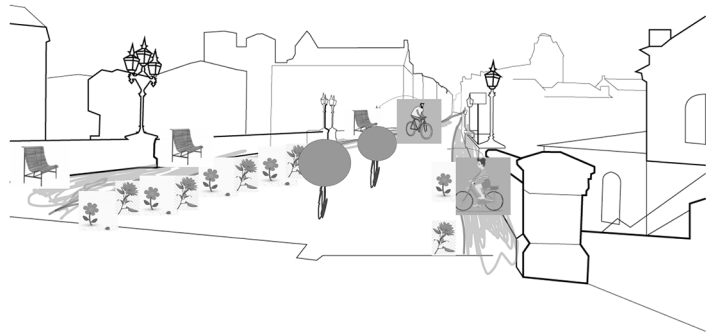
Dec 1th

LIVING LAB 4

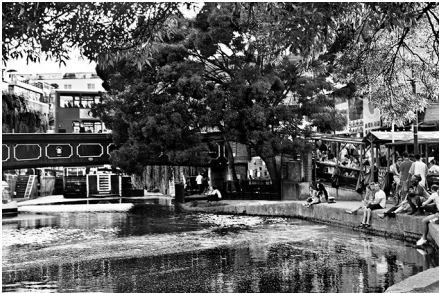
Build on and visualize highlights from previous sessions on and around the Bridge and Skvallertorget creating scenarios.

Highlights:

Utilize the Water, Connect with nature, Biodiversity, People need a Meeting Space, Make it easier for bikes to commute, Power to the Pedestrians, Less traffic, Trees, Tech as information channels, Tech to curate social activities, Different levels, Seating places, Markets, Water Activities



Nov 11th



LIVING LAB 2

Introduction to Miro
Self-Portraits

Our Favorite Streets around the world

Value Words » Word Cloud

- More green areas
- Trees in the street
- Inviting - bridge the difference between indoors/outdoors
- Variations in material, culture & epochs
- Movability for bikers and pedestrians
- Empowering
- A meeting place
- A place to rest and watch the activity



Nov 17th

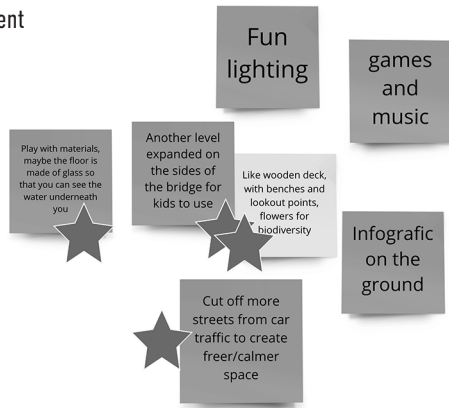
LIVING LAB 3

3 boards with value words to ideate around:

- Kids, The Bridge, Borderless
- Elderly, Smart Technology, Empowerment
- Creativity, Skvallertorget, Serendipity

Highlights:

- Connectivity
- Inclusive & democratic space
- Social gathering areas
- More green areas
- Utilizing the water
- Historical & Cultural Activities
- Fun & Engaging Activities
- No or Less Traffic
- Markets



Dec 8th

LIVING LAB 5

- Conclude
- Evaluate
- How to proceed?

LIVING LAB 1

Introduction:

- What to expect?
- The process of Living Labs
- Inspiring pictures of cities changing through time, smart solutions
- How much Kungsgatan has changed in few years
- Imagining new use for old things

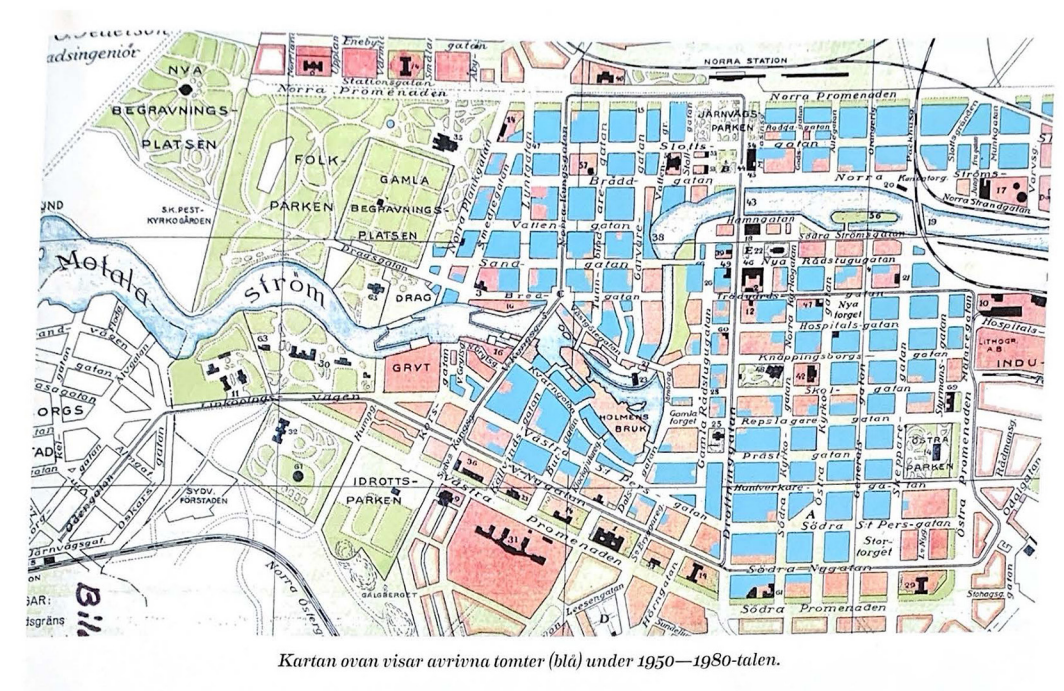
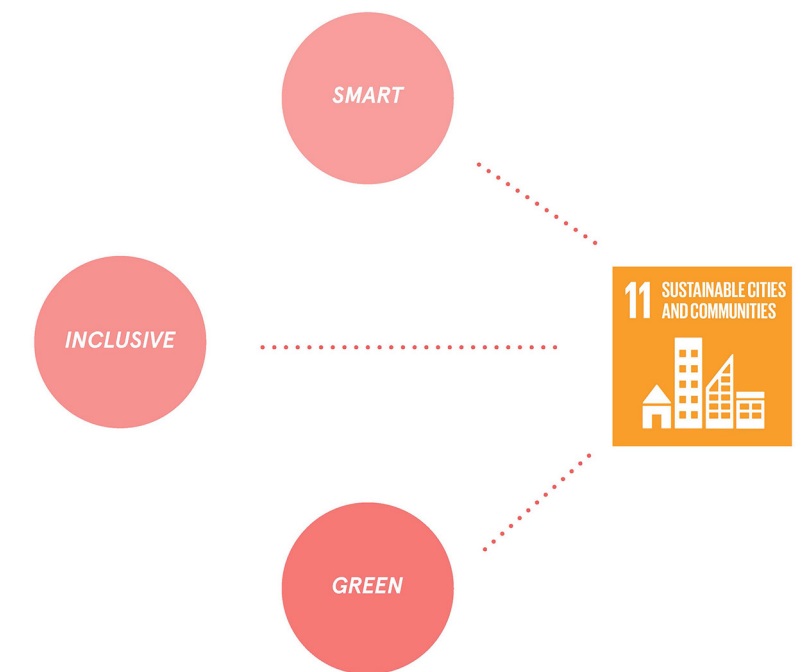
The introduction was made to help participants expand their mind, as well as get an understanding of what they could expect from the process of the Living Labs.

Inspiring pictures were shown to help them understand to what extent they were encouraged to ideate and conceptualise. To help them think more freely and understand the LL sessions possibilities.

Agenda 2030 was introduced to inform participants of the existing policy, and what is expected in terms of sustainability from a political point of view. The meaning of the words inclusive, green and smart were explained and connected to the development of sustainable cities and communities. The three value words later followed us in all co-designing activities.

Looking back, the value that participants seemed most encouraged in incorporating was INCLUSIVITY.

SMART has not been easily involved.





LIVING LAB 1

A Sense of Kungsgatan:

- Presentation of our strolls through Kungsgatan
- Introduction of the map - placing sense points

We printed a large format map of Kungsgatan that we planned to use through out the Living Labs. When we later went remote we had a digital version of the map on a shared Miro board.

The first activity was for everyone to share their experiences of the strolls through Kungsgatan from the Sensitizing Kit.

We used positive, negative, and neutral sticker to place out the feelings, emotions, and reflections to the area where it was experienced. We called these value points.

We found that there was a higher density of value points in the areas of :

- Skvallertorget
- Bergsbron

Highlights:

- Beautiful View, Green Area, Shared Space
- Noisy, Ugly/Unused Area, Conflict Walking/Cars, Stressful

LIVING LAB 2

First time remote!

Introduction to Miro
Self-Portraits

Our Favorite Streets around the world

In this session we left Kungsgatan for a while and told each other about our favourite streets around the world. This was done in break out rooms in groups of 2-3 participant and one of us. In the break out rooms you were encouraged to show pictures of your street(s) and explain what you liked about it so much.

For this part we felt that we set a part too little time. The participants seemed to enjoy this activity and had a lot to say about their favourite streets.

When called back to the main room one person from each group tried to give a brief summary of what had been discussed in the break out rooms - what the streets had in common or what differed.

During the presentation we tried to pick out value words and created a word cloud. The word cloud was then used for next sessions activity.

Highlights:

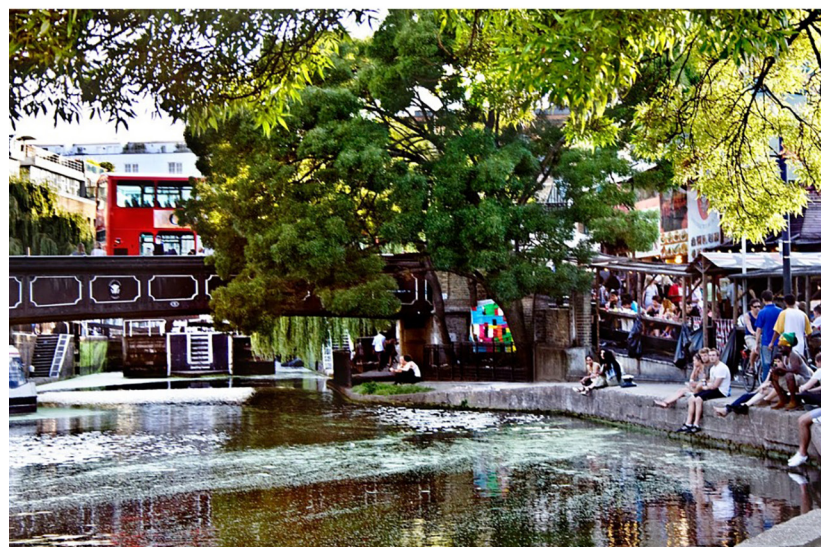
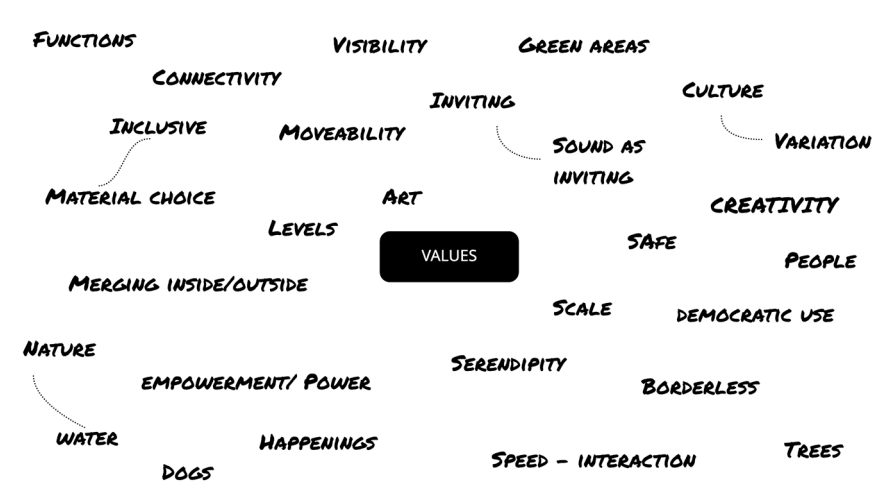
- More green areas
- Trees in the street
- Inviting - bridge the difference between indoors/outdoors
- Variations in material, culture & epochs
- Moveability for bikers and pedestrians
- Empowering
- A meeting place
- A place to rest and watch the activity

The value words connected to Agenda 2030:

Inclusive: borderless, democratic use, moveability, culture, empowerment

Green: more green areas, trees and a closer connection to nature

Smart: connectivity, safe, moveability



LIVING LAB 2



Dong

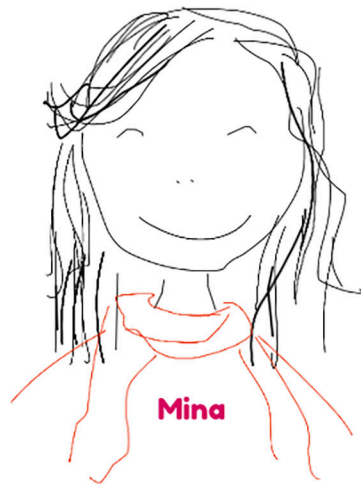


Johan



Rasmus

Natalie



Mina



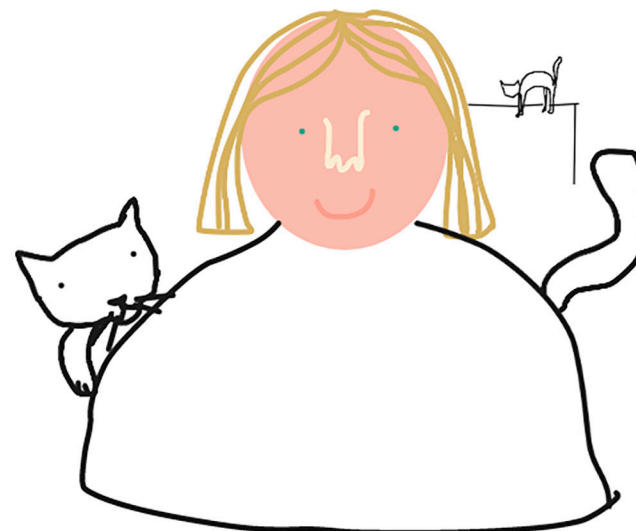
Desirée



Thomas



MALIN



Marilén + I silva / R. Ralracan



Louise



SOLITH

MATILDA HALLGREN

THE CITY PLANNER ABOUT:

We got in contact with Matilda Hallgren, who is a city planner at the municipality to involve her in the Living Lab project. Our intention was to get information of the plans already existing for Kungsgatan, as well as creating a connection between the Living lab participants and a professional working with city development in Norrköping.

Matilda held a presentation online for the Living Lab group informing us about traffic plans, demographics and important buildings from a cultural heritage perspective.

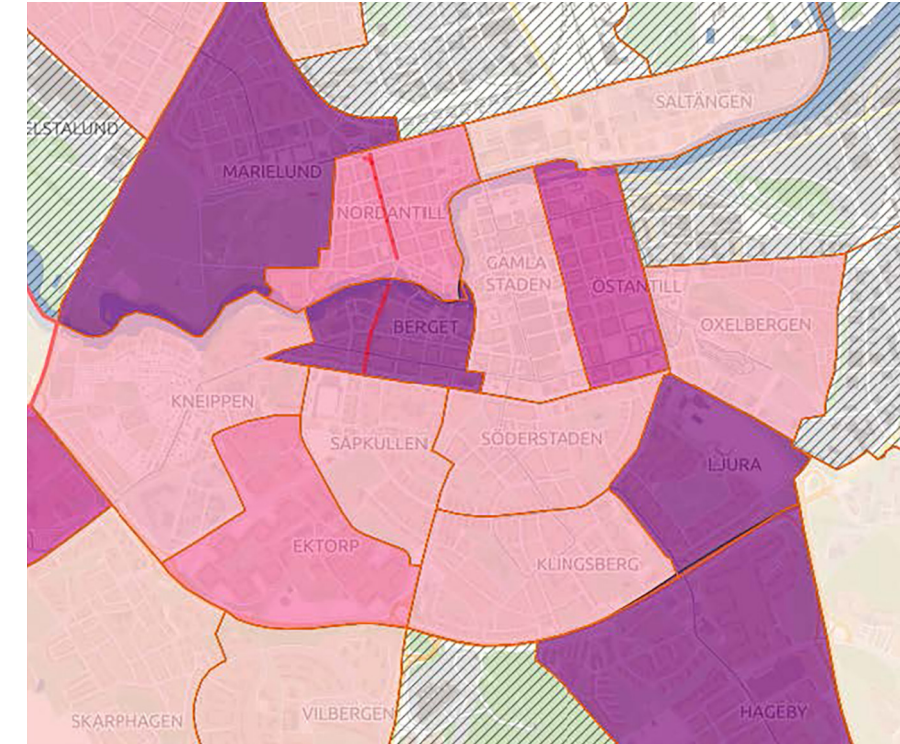
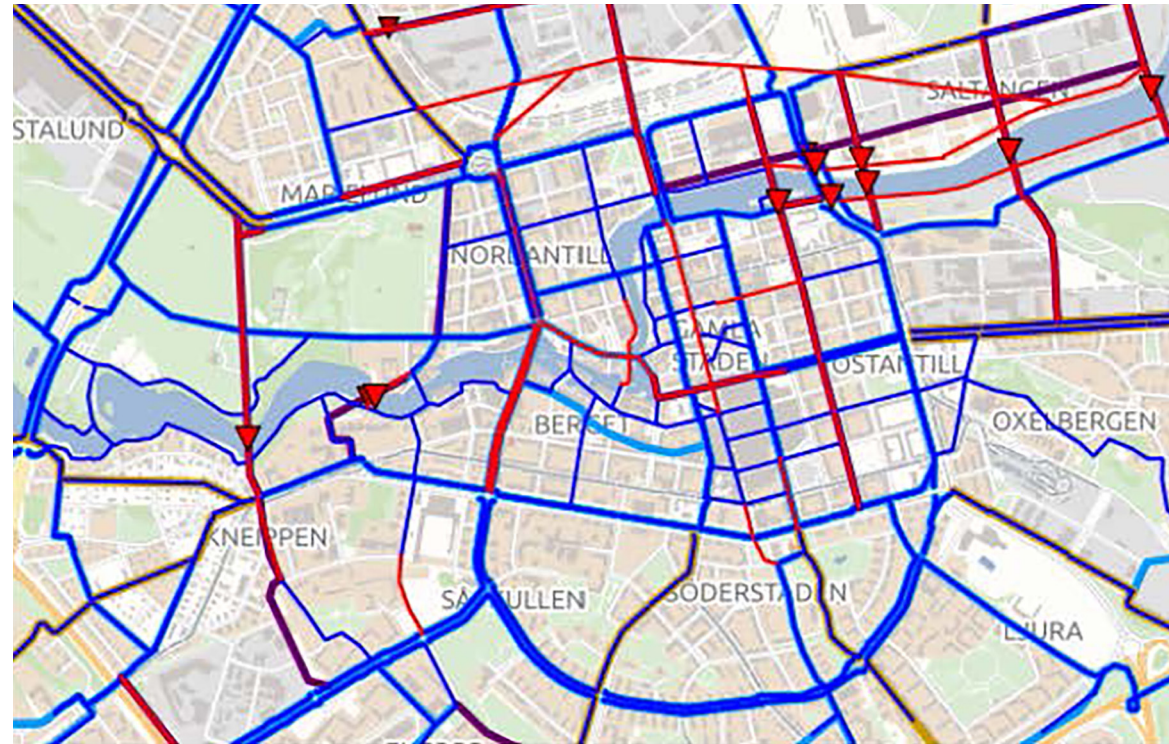
The main takeaways from this meeting were getting an understanding for the timescale in city development, and how much traffic matters has come to steer city planning. It seemed to us that traffic matters were prioritized above all else.

Highlights:

- Demographic of Kungsgatan Area
- Cultural Environment
- Plans for trams - timescale

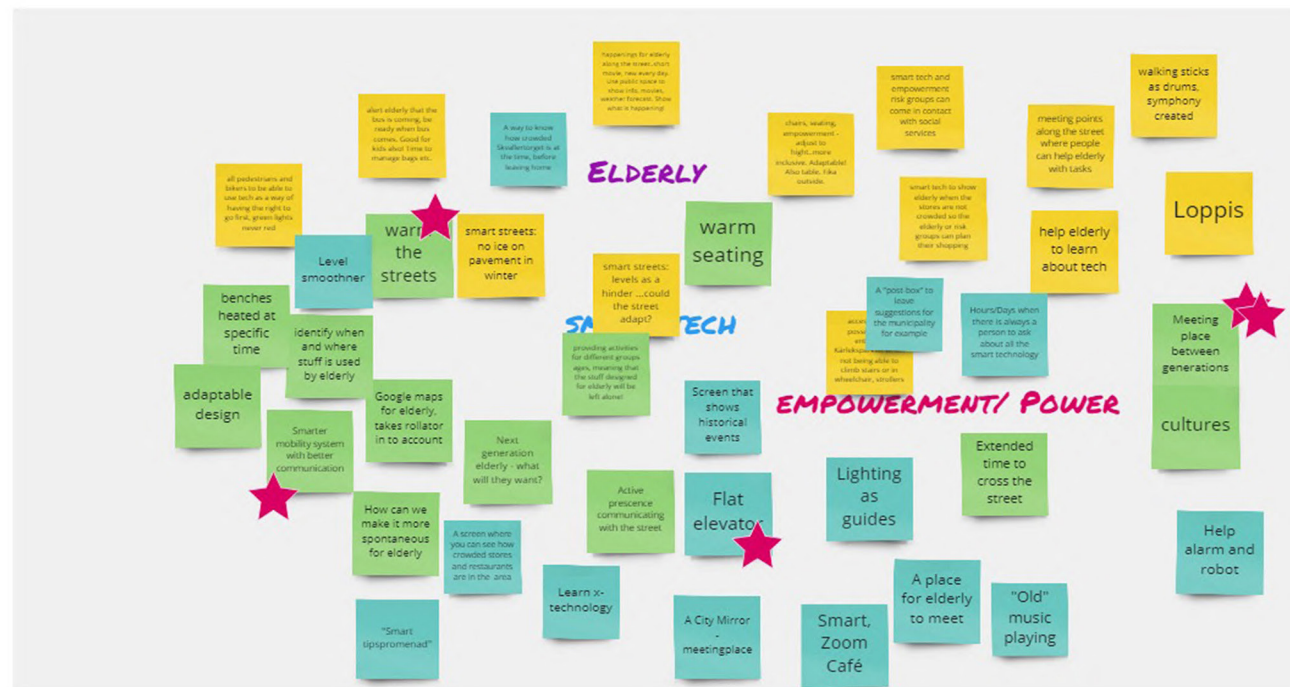
Streets=Traffic?

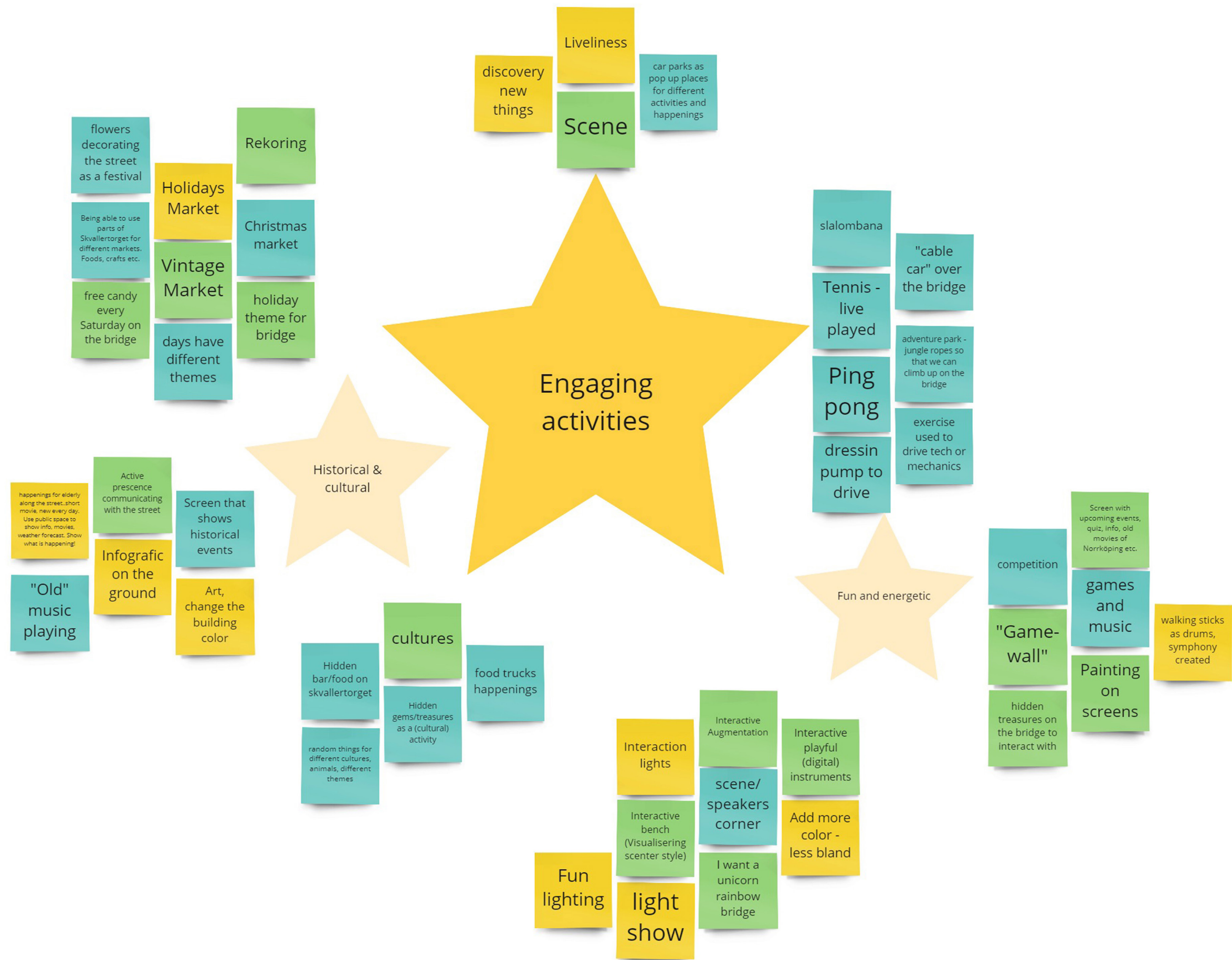
Half of Kungsgatan doesn't need any development according to the municipality.



Based on the word cloud that was created in the previous session, we designed three thematic boards on Miro to guide the ideation activity. On each board we had three value words which created an area of focus for this ideation session. The participants used these boards on Miro to share and discuss their ideas. There were three rounds of ideation for each board and everyone had the chance to work with all three boards. At the end of this session, we presented a summary of each board to the whole group and the participants had the chance to reflect on each other's ideas.

- Engaging activities
 - Historical and cultural
 - Fun and engaging
- Transportation and traffic
- Connecting with nature and utilizing the water
- Inclusive and democratic shared space
- Interesting questions to think about

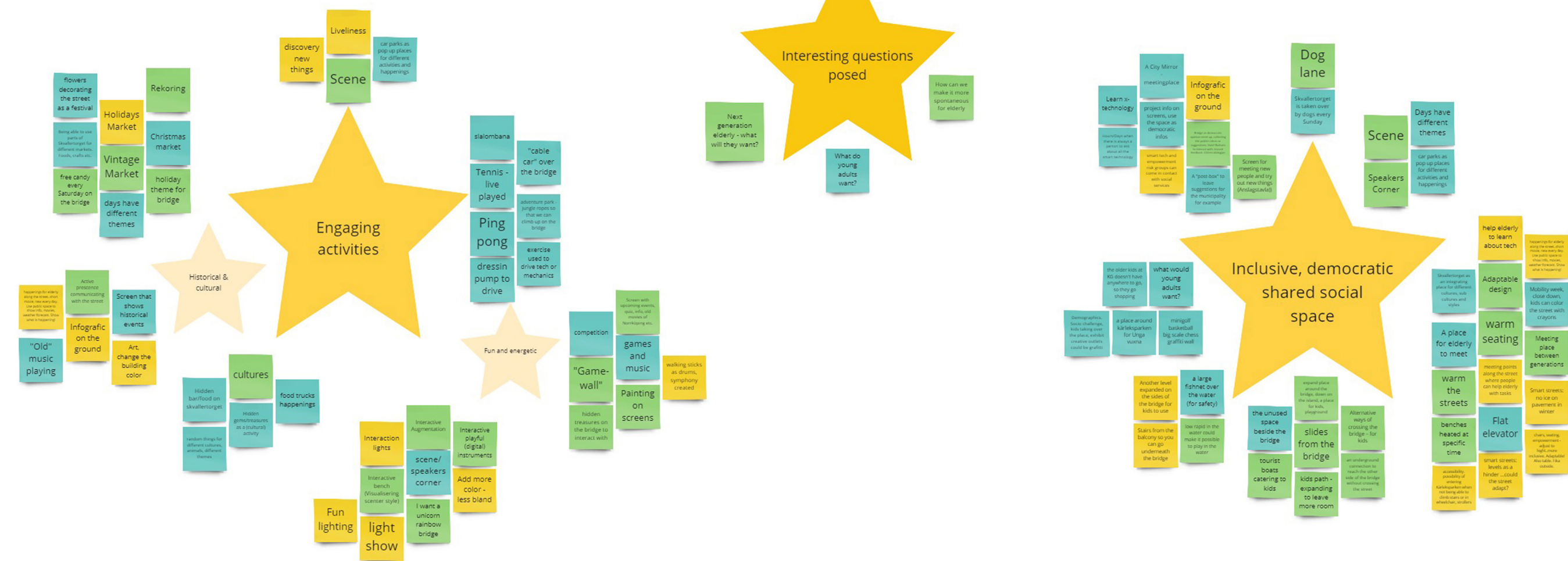


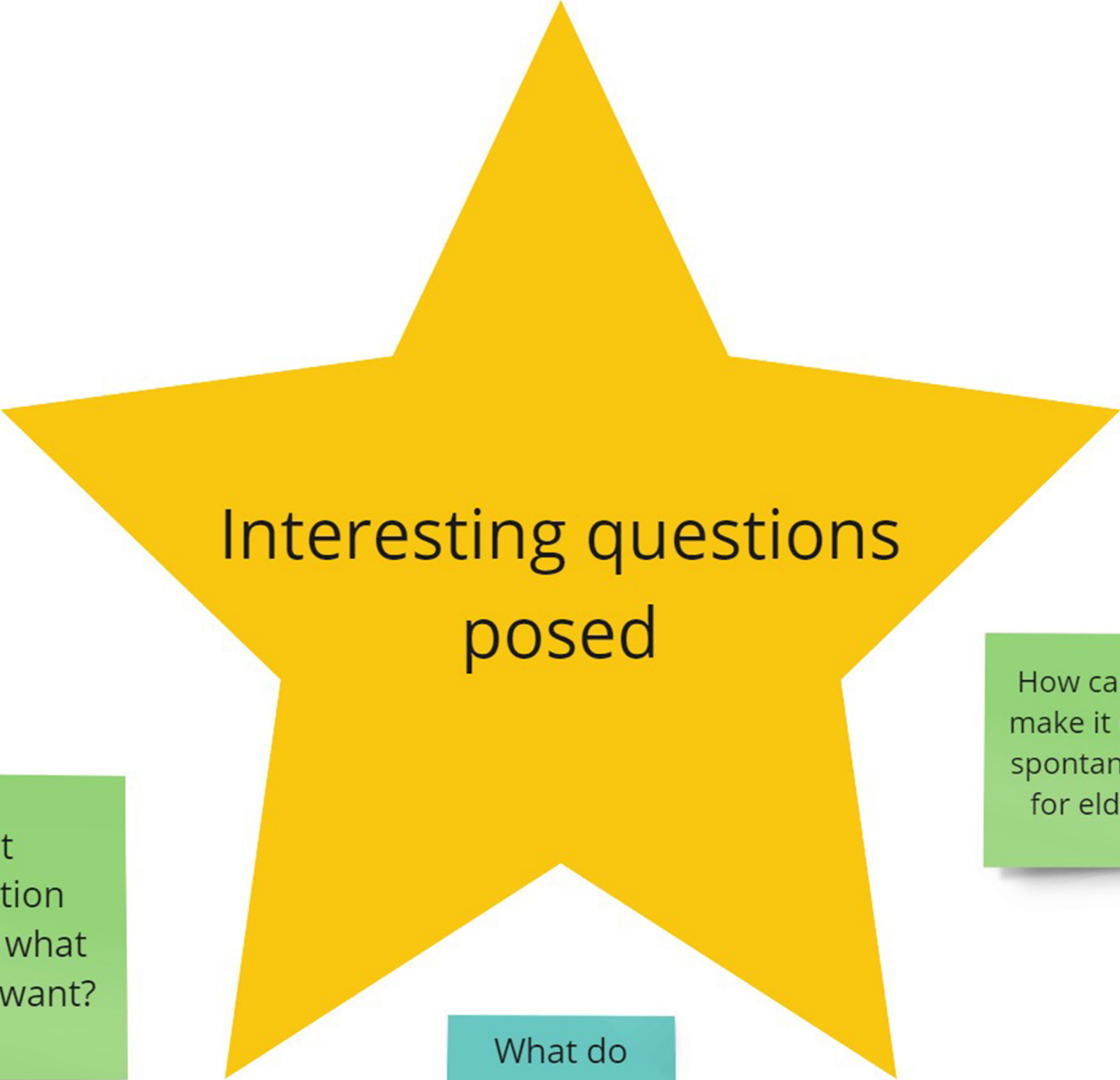












Interesting questions posed

Next
generation
elderly - what
will they want?

What do
young
adults
want?

How can we
make it more
spontaneous
for elderly



LIVING LAB 4

From the results of Living Lab 3, where our participants ideated and came up with numerous ideas, our aim for Living Lab 4 was to let the participants dig deeper and explore how their ideas could be implemented, combined, placed and further developed. Since we at an early stage had to go into a remote setting, because of Covid-19, many of our more “hands on” and crafty approaches to the processes had to be adapted to fit the online forum. However, for this Living Lab we felt the participants had become “warmed up” enough and was feeling more relaxed, both as a group as to the online tools we had been using, to start being more visual. We, the designers, decided to try and use pictures from Kungsgatan for the participants to sketch on top of. The decisions on what pictures to use came from a discussion amongst us, the designers, on what locations on Kungsgatan had been reoccurring and most frequently mentioned through out all of the Labs. Skvalleretorget and the bridge were the locations we then developed outlined pictures on.

As a “homework” between Living Lab 3 and 4 we asked the participants (and we ourselves also took part) to look at all the ideas created in Living Lab 3 and by using a point system of rewarding a maximum of three stars, rank the ideas liked the most. We did this in order to know which of all the ideas created to bring forward for future work.

Living Lab 4 was then carried out using zoom and Miro. By dividing the participants into two groups and using break out rooms in Zoom, they were to build on the ideas, the ones receiving the most points, by sketching on top of the outlined images in any way they felt fit. We had prepared the images and added the ideas, as sticky notes, together with the values of Agenda 2030 for the participants to use in any way they wished to. We, as designers, made the decision on not taking an active participatory part in this since we felt the participants were capable and would benefit from being the drivers. We took the part of supporting and facilitating.

We ended the session with a group presentation and discussion on what each of the groups had come up with.

Highlights from the visualized scenarios:

Utilize the Water, connect with nature, Biodiversity, People need a Meeting Space, make it easier for bikes to commute, Power to the Pedestrians, less traffic, Trees, Tech as information channel, Tech to curate social activities, Different levels, Seating places, Markets, Water Activities

Tech is an enabler for low-tech events

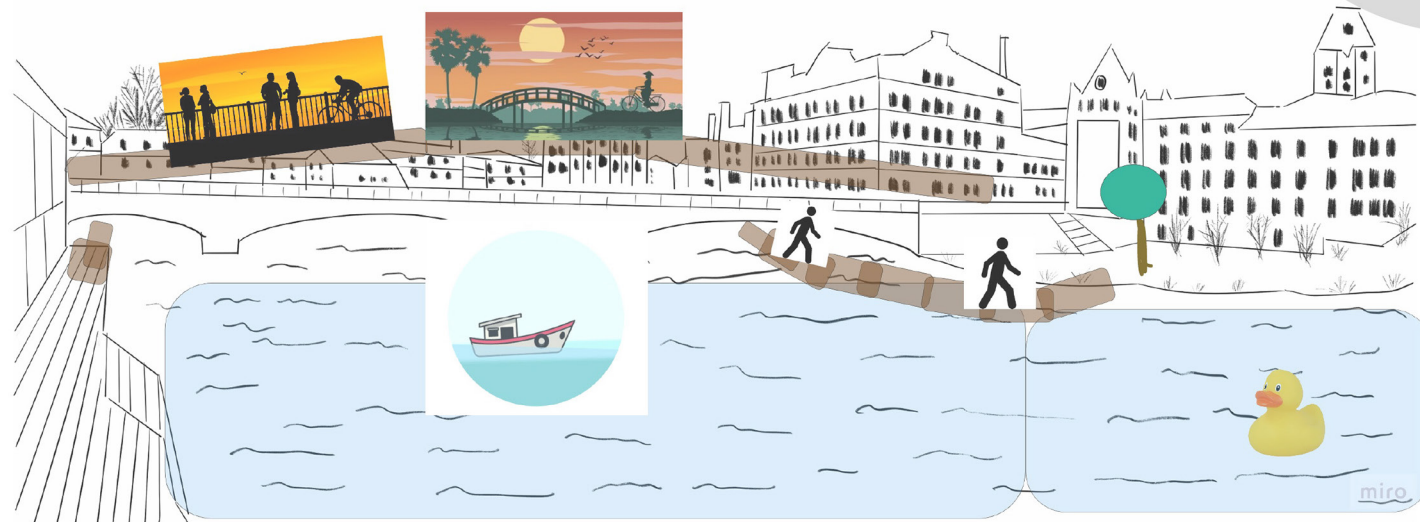
Market stalls

Stage

the wall as a screen, for film, etc

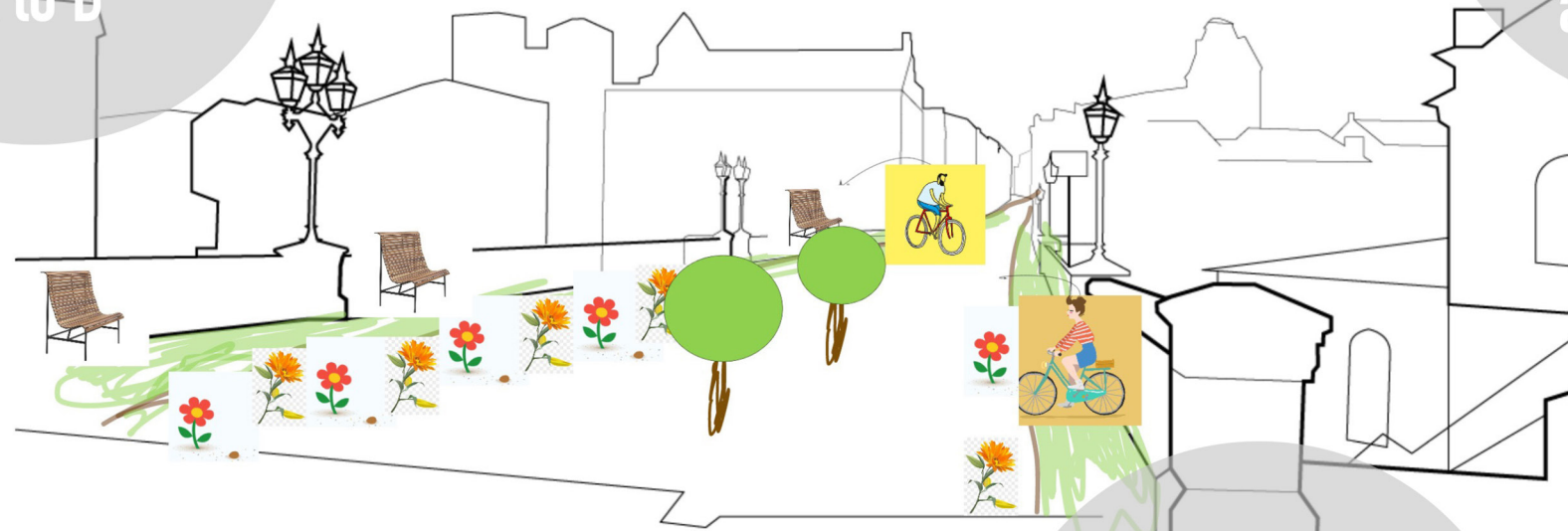
Sign for quiz walks and democratic feedback

Kungsgatan development could put Norrköping on the map



Transportation
can be more
than getting from
A to B

Bringing back
nature to the city
can provide
multi layered
advantages



The bridge can
be a landmark

Moveable trees
– ideas creating
conversations

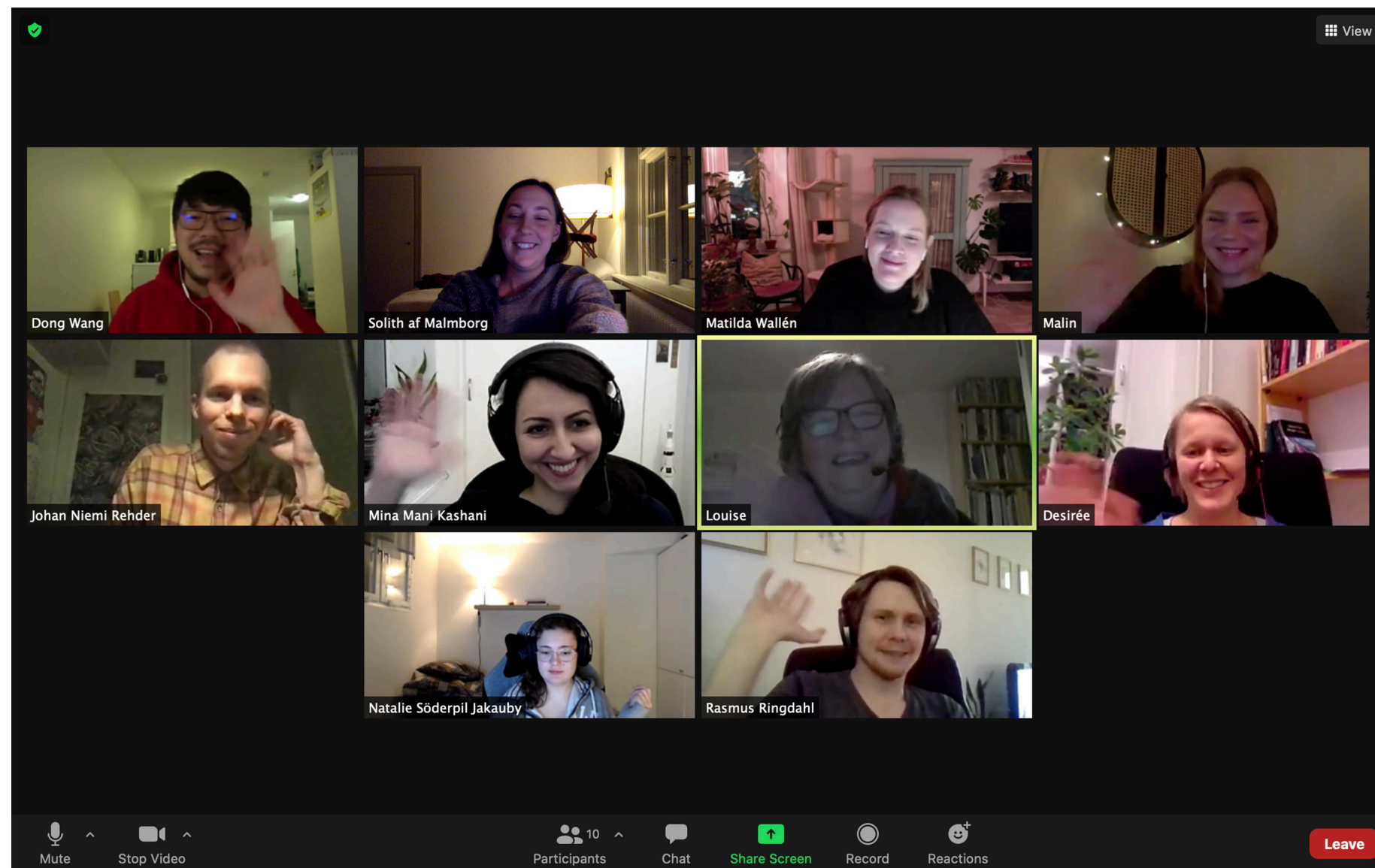
Trees on the bridge



Signs –
what they are
and what role
they could play

miro

LIVING LAB 5



In the fifth Living Lab, we presented the Living Lab timeline to the participants and asked for their feedback. In this session we shared a summary of the Living Lab activities and a brief description of our interpretations. This gave us the chance to verify our understandings one more time and ask for their opinion. A few discussions arose in this meeting:

- The focus on the Skvallertorget and the bridge may draw the attention away from the aspects that were raised about the rest of the street. The participants wanted to highlight that there is room for improvement in other parts of the Kungsgatan too.
- Paying attention to young adults and their needs was highlighted. The participants discussed that the gymnasiums on Kungsgatan do not have any schoolyard space and this should be taken into consideration.
- Increasing the attractions on Kungsgatan may raise the cost of living in the area and might eventually have a negative impact on the neighbourhood's inclusivity (gentrification).

CONCLUSION

The Living Lab process during the autumn of 2020 brought forward a diverse range of thoughts and opinions on how to shape the future of Kungsgatan. The lust for a new and improved street was obvious among the participants, and their visions, desires and hopes abundant. Participants were eager to see the potential of the street, rather than its flaws, mainly focusing on ideas for improving or altering existing features. However, a few but significant aspects were brought forward as key problems, all linked to the traffic situation. The following three were the most prominent:

Noise: causing the street to be an uncomfortable transit rather than a pleasurable space to stroll or engage in activities.

Cramped space: causing unease and distress as pedestrians, bikers and cars try to fit into the narrow space, especially on the bridge.

Ambiguity in traffic: the street crossings at the square causes distress and insecurity when not understanding the procedure of how or when to pass.

These key problems laid ground as we continued the work with exploring desired futures for Kungsgatan. The following bullet point list aims to summarise the main takeaways from the Living Lab's work. We see them as the main objectives for Kungsgatan's desired futures, as brought forward by the group. Please note that there is no priority to the bullet list's order.

- To decrease traffic on Kungsgatan is of utmost importance. Only then can the street be used more freely and be a place for citizens spontaneity. Only then can the street be as inclusive as we hope for, allowing pedestrians of all ages, disabled people and pets to take on the street.
- To reclaim the square (Skvallertorget) as a square. Make room for people and their activities rather than traffic. Make the square a space for community and spending time, rather than today's use as transit.
- To recognise the street for its cultural capital. Kungsgatan holds one of, if not the, best view of Norrköpings industrial landscape and its cultural heritage as you cross Bergsbron. This view could become a continuous source for pleasure if only made more accessible. The bridge could become a tourist attraction on its own.
- To reconnect with nature. To enable connection with the water to a greater extent, both in physical and intellectual terms. Physically by allowing to get closer to the water; sensing it. Intellectually by experiencing what creatures inhabit the stream and its surroundings.

Also, to implement more natural features and biodiversity to the urban space. Organic borders rather than concrete obstacles. Bee hotels and urban gardening made available.

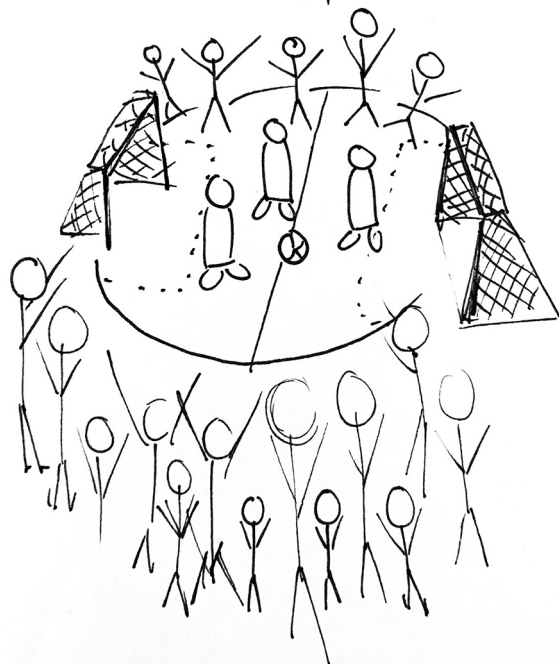
- To be involved and interactive. To ease communication between citizens and officials is one desire. Allowing citizens to use the urban space and engage with it is another. This could be implemented in high- or low-tech ways, for example by interactive screens or simply by leaving unused, unclaimed space for people to invent their own purpose.
- To allow for information and education to happen in the urban space. Smart screens or traditional signs can tell us about history, biodiversity or general information about our city; – “quiz walks” can improve citizens health by their sense of context as well as by physical exercise.
- To have space for serendipity. A speaker's corner or a stage creates a natural space for spontaneous as well as planned performances, allowing the people of Kungsgatan to claim their space.
- To enable space for all. Elderly are often disregarded in the urban space. The dominant norm can exclude some people and cultures. A desired future is a future where all people meet and can share the same activity.
- Young adults were brought forward as a group not having enough space in Kungsgatan today. There are a large number of gymnasium's at Kungsgatan, yet there is no designated school yard.
- To change gradually. Whatever implementations Kungsgatan faces in the future it is desired that it is done gradually to allow for citizens to adapt.

VISUALIZATIONS

The following illustrations aim to visualize the core values of the Living Lab's desired futures.

Scenario 1

FOOTBALL SQUARE TOURNAMENT



A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

This is an illustration of Skvallertorget where the car traffic is limited but not completely ruled out. Cars are restricted to one lane, allowing more space for pedestrians and bikers. A curved road could slow the pace down further.

This would allow Skvallertorget to be used as squares are used traditionally, reclaiming its purpose. More greenery and more room for activities like games and markets. The outdoor seating of cafes could move even further out, fading out the difference between in- and outdoors. The environment might shift from day-to-day with different food trucks and sellers inhabiting the space.

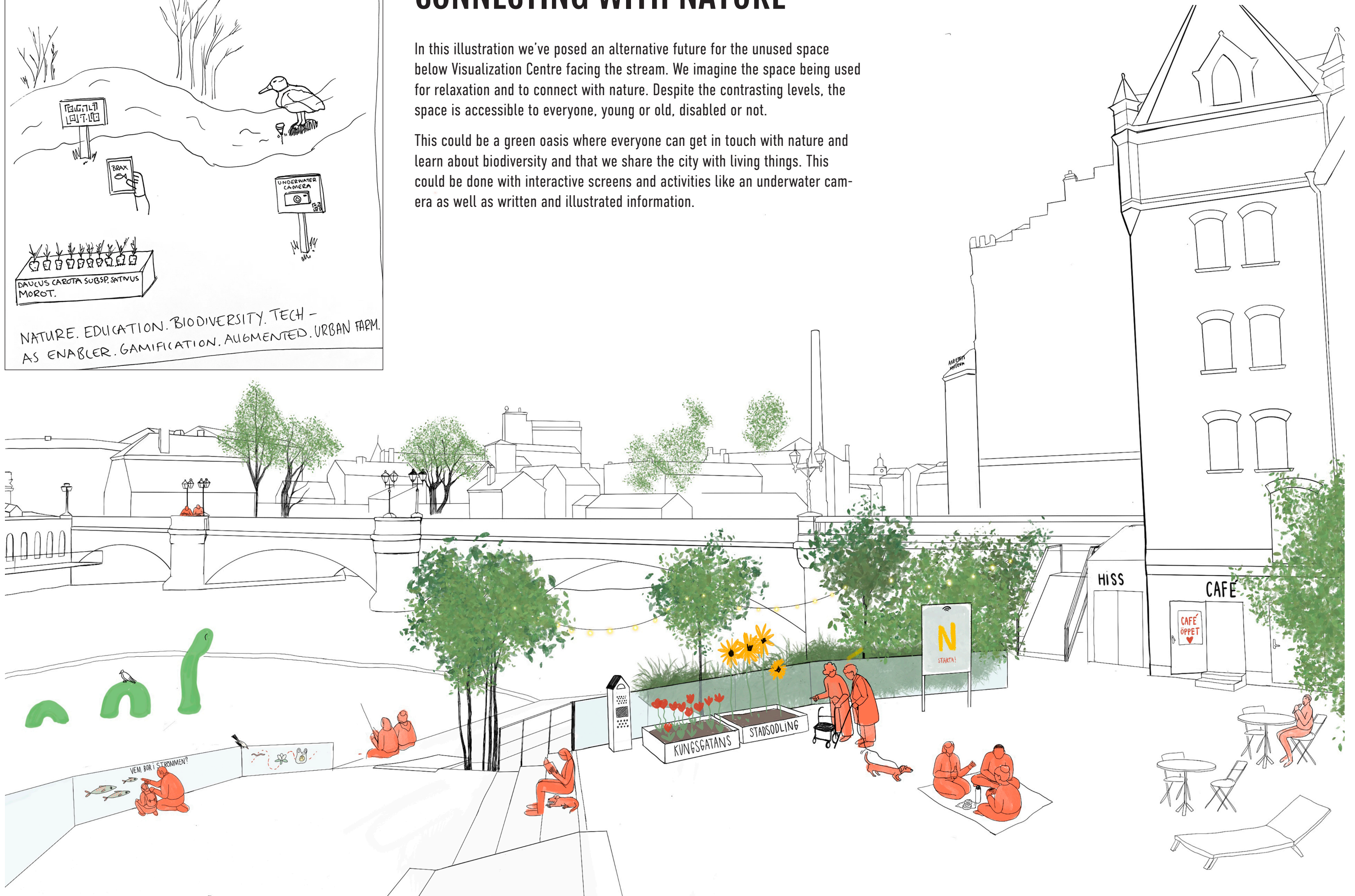
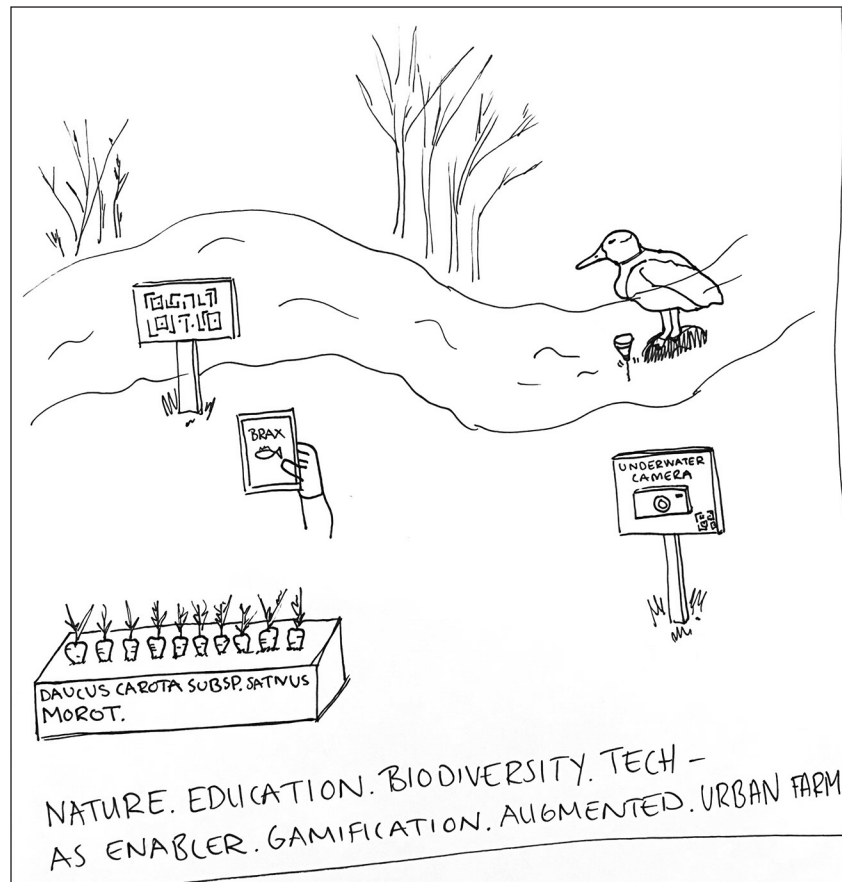
In this desired future, the traffic is shut off completely during weekends allowing for activities like football and games to take place at the square.



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

In this illustration we've posed an alternative future for the unused space below Visualization Centre facing the stream. We imagine the space being used for relaxation and to connect with nature. Despite the contrasting levels, the space is accessible to everyone, young or old, disabled or not.

This could be a green oasis where everyone can get in touch with nature and learn about biodiversity and that we share the city with living things. This could be done with interactive screens and activities like an underwater camera as well as written and illustrated information.



KUNGSGATAN BY NIGHT

We also wanted to give some thought to Kungsgatan by night. Lighting plays a big part in making the area feel safe and inclusive as well as framing and decorating the city, making it inviting.

