

LIVING LAB

the Future of Kungsgatan

INTRO

We who have carried out this project are a group of five master students coming from different parts of the world as well as from different design backgrounds. During the fall, this project has investigated and explored what needs and desires that exist in relation to Kungsgatan together with local residents of Norrköping. This project is part of a design course, but also part of the bigger research project "Sustainability means Inclusivity". This research project is ongoing and will continue now in the spring with developing prototypes of a technological nature that are meant to be placed on Kungsgatan. When it comes to our part of this bigger project, our role has been to establish a citizen dialogue where we have tried to dig deeper into what needs and desires that truly are present amongst locals when they think about their urban environment on and around Kungsgatan.

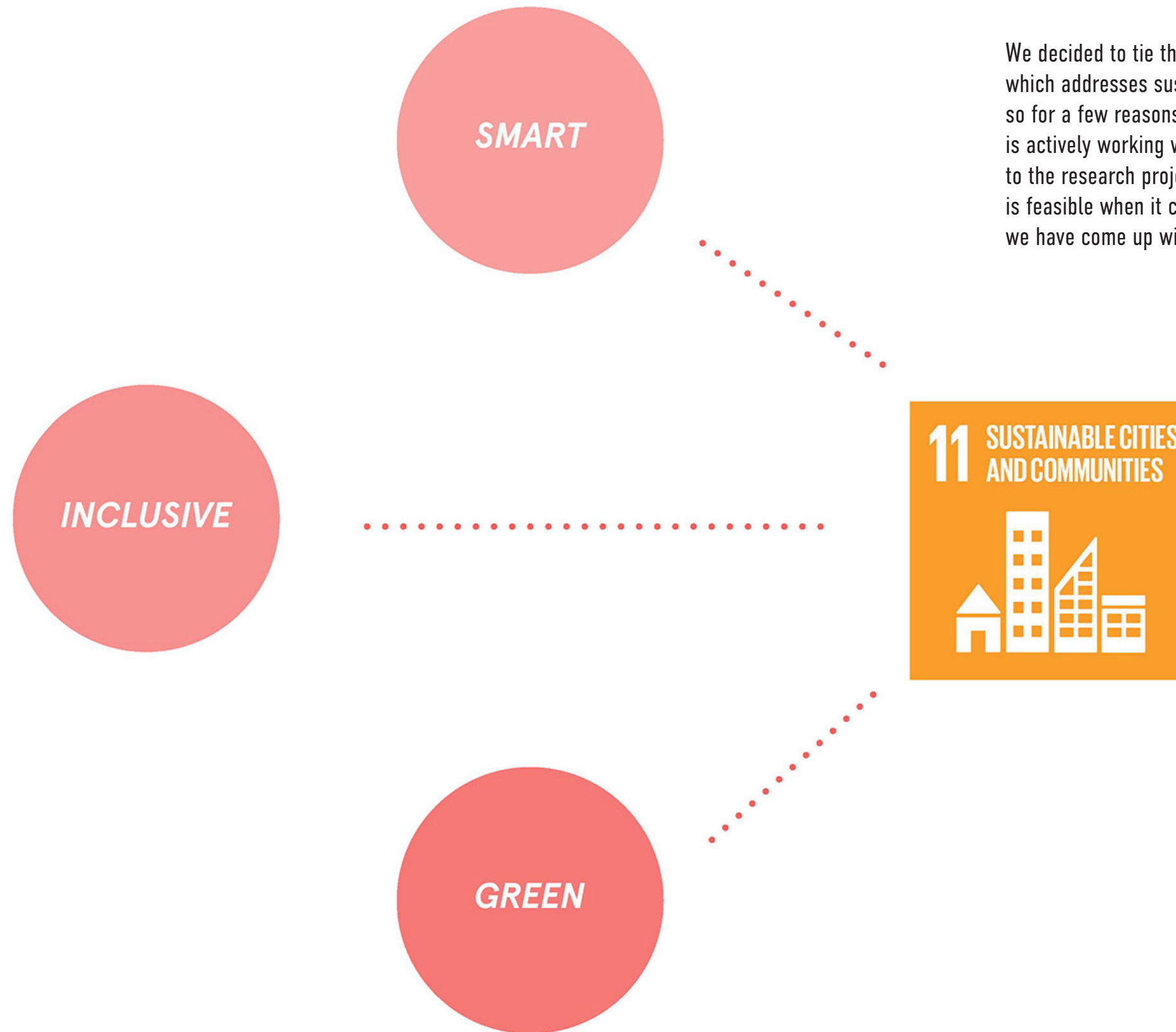
This discovery mission, as one might call it, has been carried out in the form of a Living Lab. So, what is a Living Lab? A way of describing a Living Lab is by saying that it is an innovative approach, where all stakeholders of whatever it is you are designing for (it can be a new product, a service or as in this case an urban environment) are represented. The point with trying to involve a lot of different people, is to find out what people desire at heart. And it is important to point out here that these stakeholders, or participants as we refer to them, take part as experts, experts on being who they are, experts on their own experiences. They are not a cohesive group nor are they representative of what all of Norrköpings locals would like to see in the future(s). But they give us a hint on what actually matters. Instead of us designers deciding beforehand what it is they should want and simply having them test it out, we start the Living Lab with an open mind and a hope of finding the hidden, the core values so to speak.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 meant we had to go from meeting each other in person to having everything online. This has of course been challenging, both for us and the participants, so it is with an extra sense of pride we present our findings and insights.



AGENDA 2030

We decided to tie the project to Agenda 2030, mainly Goal11 which addresses sustainable cities and communities. We did so for a few reasons, one being that Norrköping municipality is actively working with the goals, another because it is tied to the research project and we also feel a ten year timespan is feasible when it comes to implementing the kind of ideas we have come up with together with the participants.



ACTIVITIES

An outtake from the Living Lab process where we pin point some of the highlights and guide you to understand the main takeaways.

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



Bike superhighways

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.

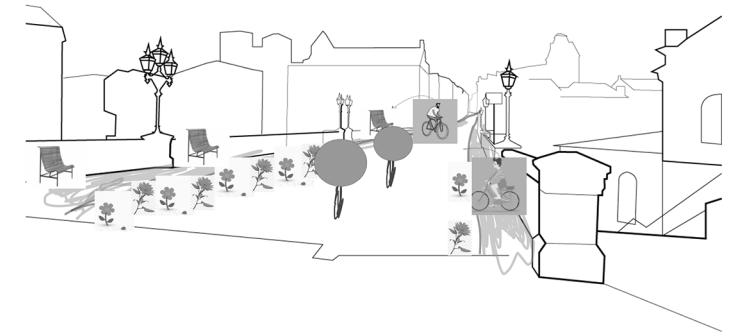
Dec 1th

LIVING LAB 4

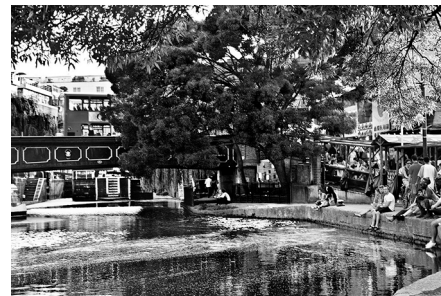
Build on and visualize highlights from previous sessions on and around the Bridge and Skvallertorget creating scenarios.

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

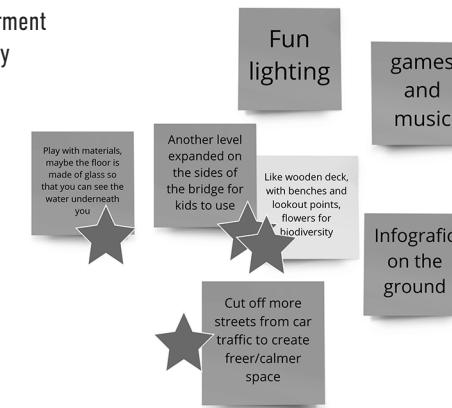
LIVING LAB 3

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?



A SENSE OF KUNGSGATAN

The absolute first thing we did with the Living lab participants was to ask them to take a stroll down Kungsgatan, and get back to us with their impressions. We separated positive, negative and neutral input with color coding.

The outcome resulted in a lot of interesting thoughts on the streets potential and its positive aspects, where the view of the beautiful buildings and the running water were prominent features.

But we also learnt that they all shared concerns for the traffic situation and the noise and cramped space that it causes. Participants mentioned for example often feeling unsafe and distressed, especially around the bridge and the square. We also discussed the feeling of uncertainty that the shared road crossings cause, and that it was sometimes unclear which space was for bikers and which were for pedestrians.

Participants also noticed areas around Kungsgatan that seemed left unused, and speculated about how they could be changed. One example is the area outside of Visualisation center, right between the bridge and the water.

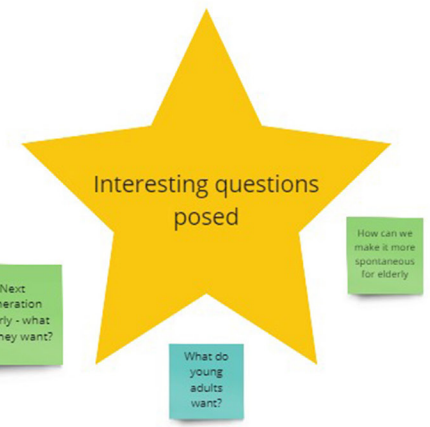
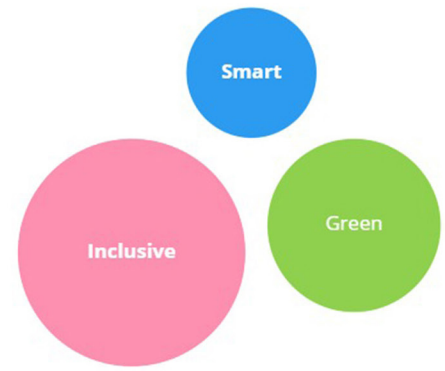
Overall we noticed that most of the thoughts and concerns were connected to the bridge and the square, which is why we further on in the process decided to put some extra effort into those areas.

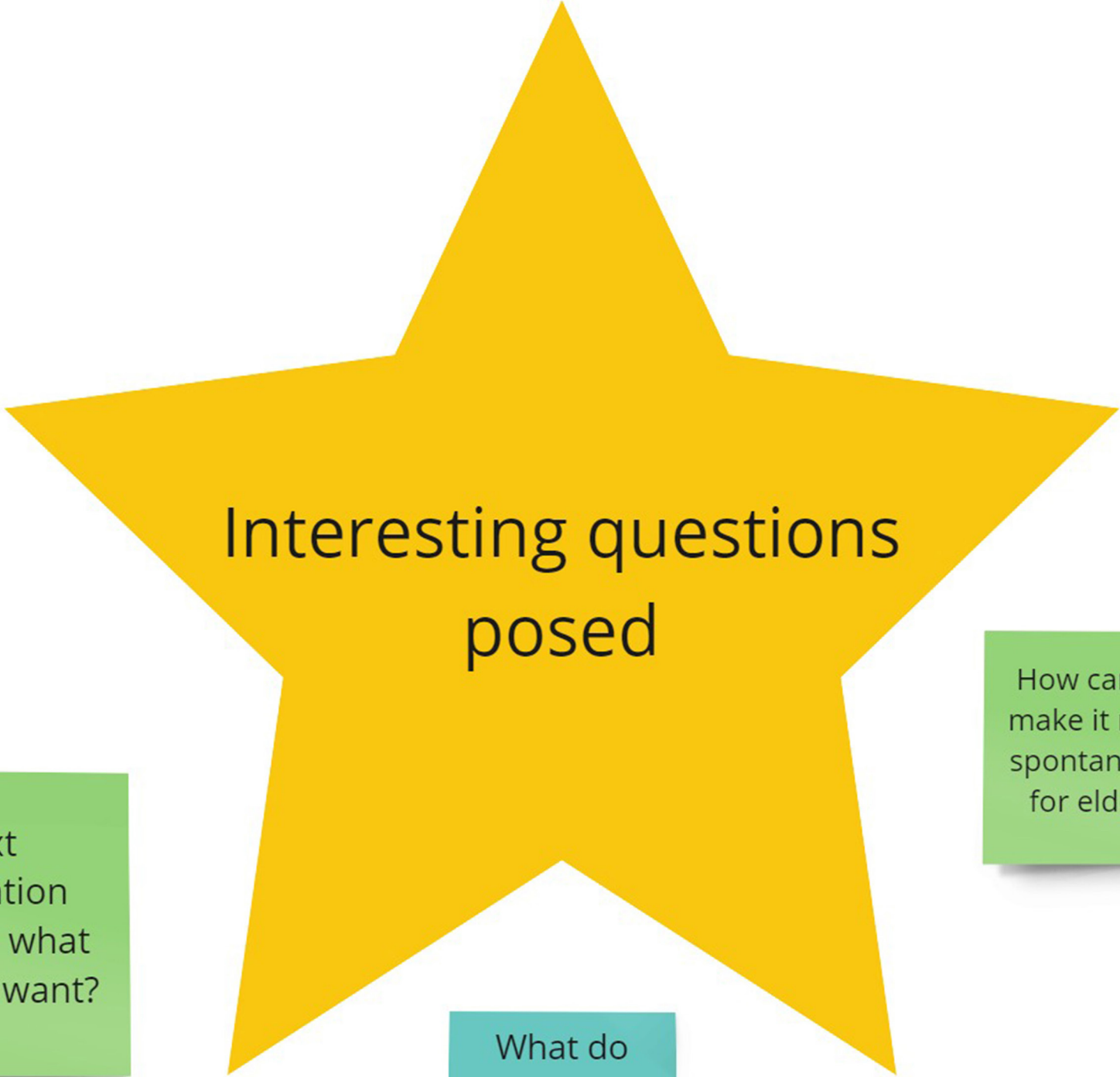


FAVOURITE STREET

Johan, one of the participants, presents the activity called Favourite street, and what values that activity brought forward. His word of choice to summarise the outcomes is variation. Which can be seen as a variation of architecture and style, activities, biodiversity, diversity and so on.

- TRAFFIC
- ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES
- CONNECTING WITH NATURE
- INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC SPACE





Interesting questions posed

Next generation elderly - what will they want?

What do young adults want?

How can we make it more spontaneous for elderly

GOING FROM WORDS TO VISUALS

Before we designers went on with concluding all the input, we asked the participants to transform their words and thoughts into visuals. We acknowledge that "visual thinking" differs and that this was a necessary step for aligning our interpretations and with their desires.



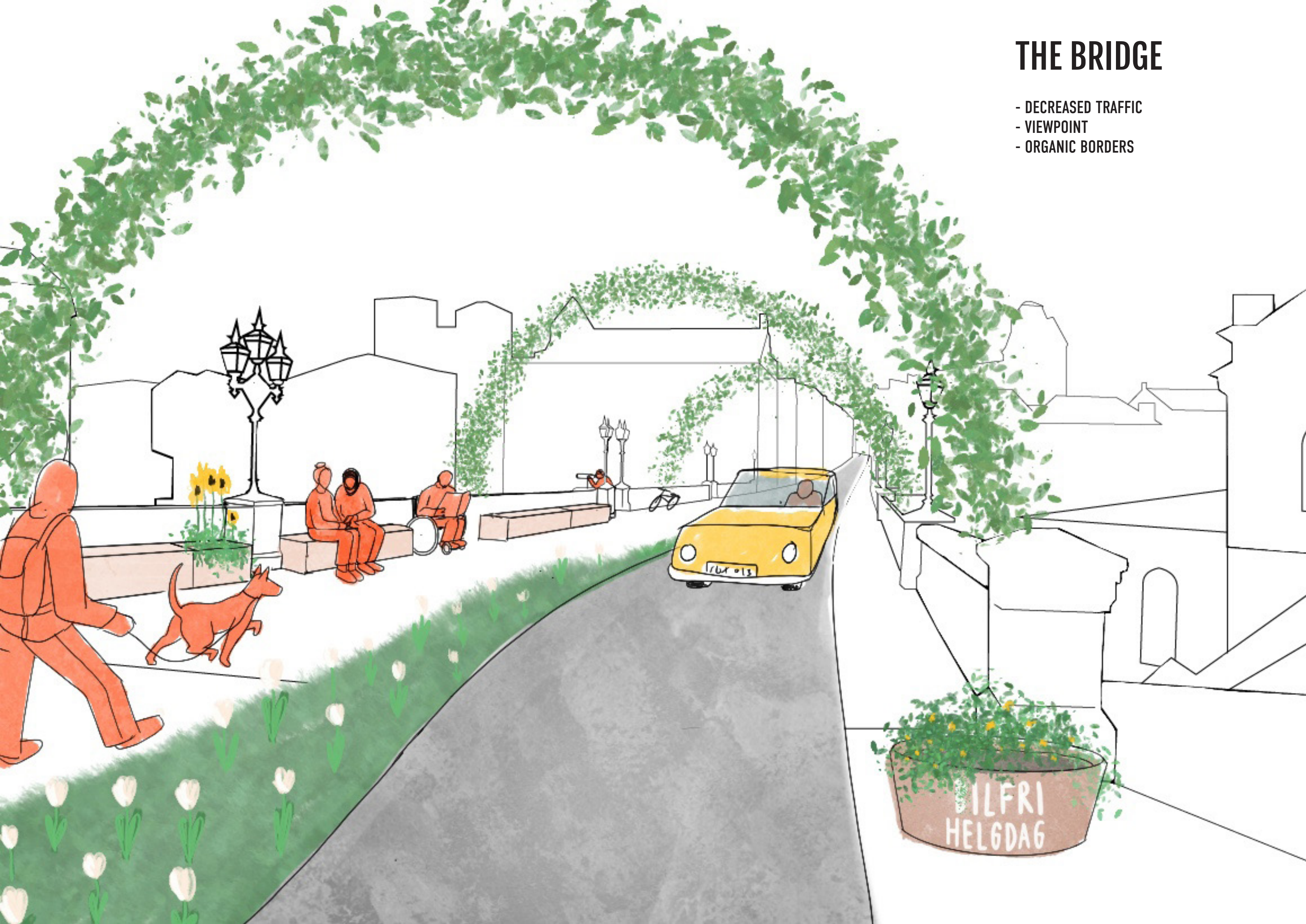
VISUALIZATIONS

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

All scenarios are just suggestions based on the values expressed by the participants and should not be interpreted as finished designs nor do they need to be placed in exactly the spots we have chosen to illustrate.

THE BRIDGE

- DECREASED TRAFFIC
- VIEWPOINT
- ORGANIC BORDERS



THE BRIDGE

We learned that decreasing the traffic on Kungsgatan was of utmost importance for the participants. This was especially important on Skvallertorget and Bergsbron where it would allow the street to be used more freely and be a place for citizens' spontaneity.

If you remember the sense points from the map, there were both positive and negative values on Bergsbron.

The bridge holds one of, if not the very best, view of Norrköpings industrial landscape. But as it is today, it's way too noisy and stressful to spend any longer amounts of time there and is therefore mainly used for transit.

In this scenario the traffic is limited but not completely ruled out. Cars are restricted to one lane, allowing more space for pedestrians and bikers. The flowerbeds and pots work both as decoration and organic borders, separating car traffic from bikers and pedestrians.

A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

- DECREASED TRAFFIC
- RECLAIM THE SPACE
- COMMUNITY & ACTIVITIES
- CAR-FREE WEEKENDS



A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

If traffic was limited, Skvallertorget could be reclaimed and used as squares are used traditionally. The square could be a space for community and spending time, rather than today's use as transit.

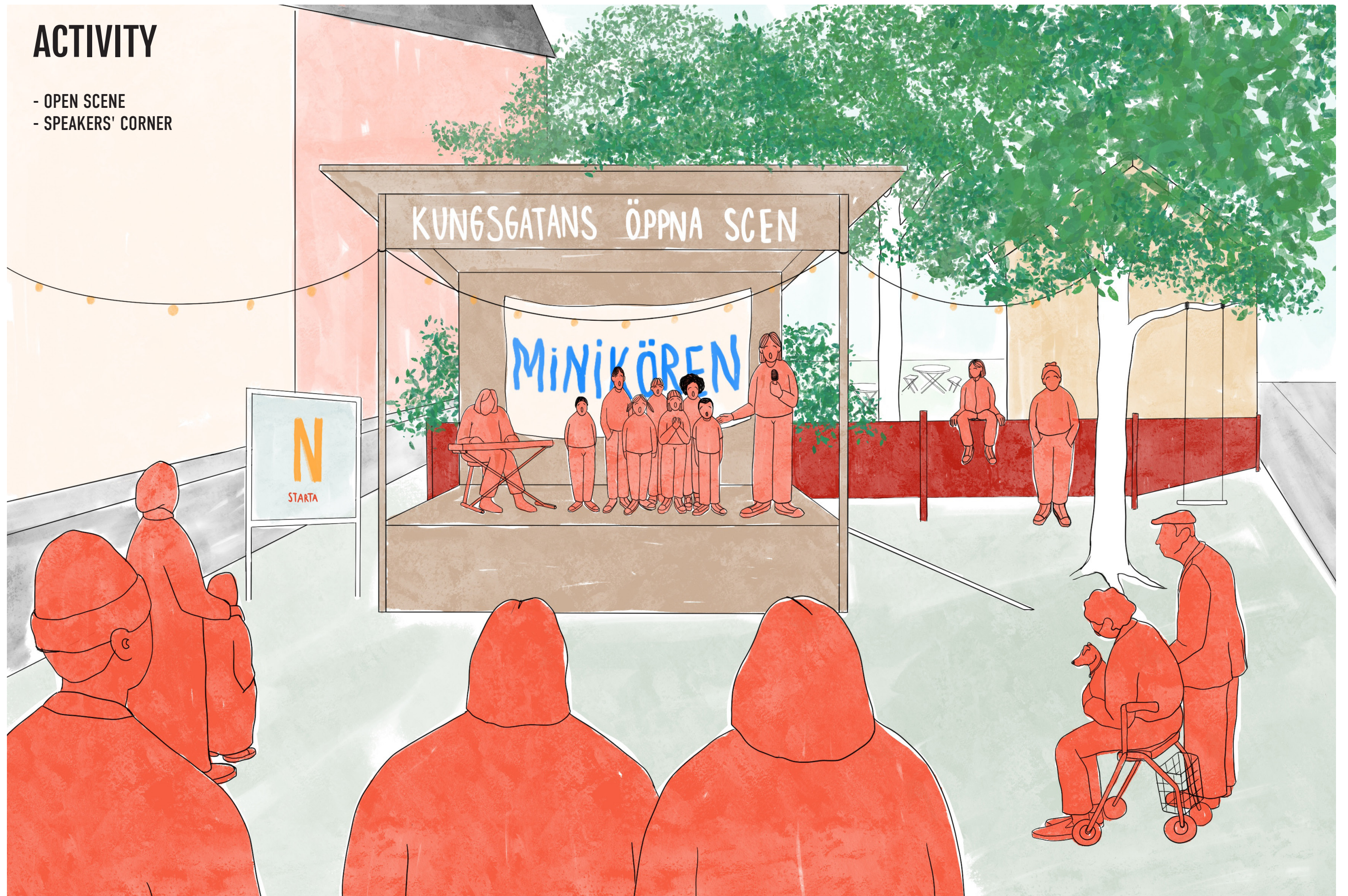
There could be market stalls, food trucks and resting spots. Cafés and restaurants could move out on the square and bridge the difference between in- and outdoors.

Less traffic would also mean more space for greenery and activities. Like here where two men seem to be playing

Perhaps this part of Kungsgatan is completely car-free during weekends. This would make activities like, say, football tournaments possible to take place.

ACTIVITY

- OPEN SCENE
- SPEAKERS' CORNER



ACTIVITY

One idea that emerged was to place an open scene here that can be used for spontaneous as well as planned performances. In this scenario it seems like the choir Minikören has entered the scene, but it could as well have been an impro theater, a troubadour or maybe just a guy with something really important to share with us.

This scene is a symbol for democracy, a place wher anyone can be heard.



2021 JAN.31
SUNDAY



22°

PARTLY CLOUDY



ACTIVITIES



MAP



NEWS TODAY



VIEWPOINT



MEETING POINT



FEEDBACK



ASSISTANCE



QUIZ



INTERACTIVE SCREENS

- INFORMATION & GUIDANCE
- COMMUNITY & ACTIVITIES
- ACTIVE CITIZENS



2021 JAN.31
SUNDAY



22°

JANUARY

- SUN 31
- MON 1
- TUE 3
- WED 4
- THU 5



CITIZEN DIALOGUE

Position: Kungsgatan 10 Time: 13:00-15:00
The events take the form of a question and answer session. It's your chance to ask Norrköping politicians questions, make comments and tell them how Norrköping policies affect you. You can also share your ideas on the future of Norrköping.



CAR-FREE

Position: Kungsgatan Time: 08:00-17:00
A carfree is an activity that relies primarily on public transport, walking, or cycling for transport within the urban area. Districts where motorized vehicles are prohibited are referred to as carfree zones.



FOOTBALL NIGHT

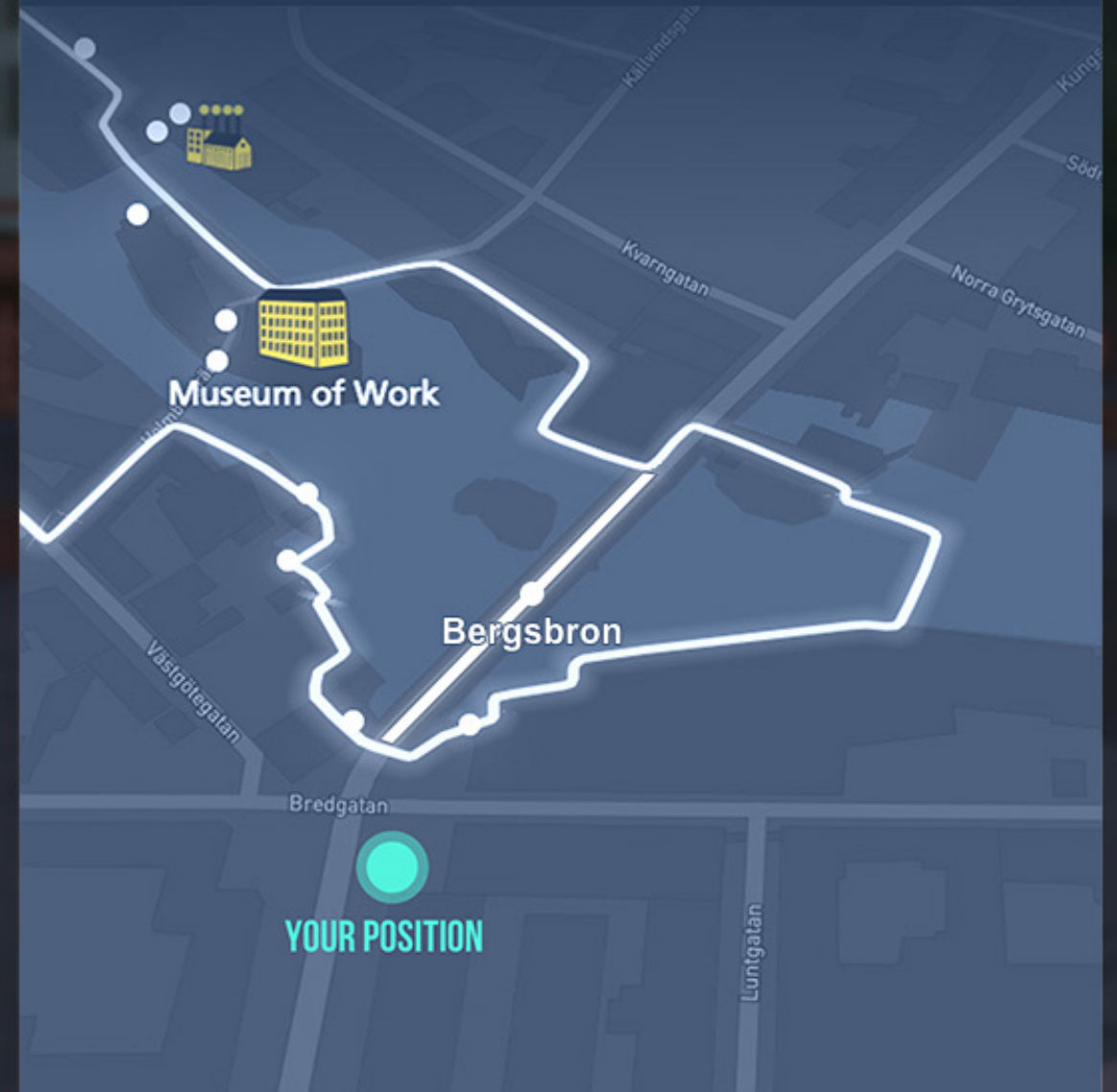
Position: Skvallertorget Time: 20:00-22:00
You can participate in the football night with your friends. The winning team has a chance to win exquisite prizes. Waiting for your participation.



2021 JAN.31
SUNDAY



22°



INTERACTIVE SCREENS

When analyzing all the materials created throughout the Labs we could see traces pointing at needs and wishes that could in a broader sense be connected to communication. Things such as a more direct link between the people in power and the citizens, the idea of taking part in game like activities such as quiz walks and a general feeling of wanting to know when and what is happening: this relates to wanting to take part in activities as well as getting the feeling that “the city is alive”.

A way of communicating all these things could be by using interactive screens. In our vision they are meant to work as a source for information, guidance, and as an educational tool. If done right they should be accessible and approachable for everyone regardless of age or ability. We envision there would be a couple of screens placed around the city. This would tie different parts of the city together and also create a channel for organizations who wish to advertise their activities... here we are thinking about organizations such as Night football that could make use of the square to hold mini tournaments on car-free nights... just to mention one. We also feel this could encourage people to walk around and engage more in the urban space in new ways.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

- BIODIVERSITY
- EDUCATION
- RELAXATION



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, socializing and connecting with nature. Despite the contrasting levels, the space should be accessible to everyone.

The elderly couple looking at the urban gardening, which is a way of bringing nature into the city landscape as well as creating biodiversity which is important.

The mother and the child looking at the screen to see what is happening at other locations in the city, perhaps they are thinking about attending an activity happening at the square.

The parent with the child looking at what kind of fishes living in the stream. This could be a fun leisure activity or a way of tying the value of education and making use of the nearby schools, perhaps the schools on Kungsgatan could even have science projects here.

The sea monster could be pure decorative and fun, a tourist attraction or perhaps it could even be interactive and tied to the screens

This could be a green oasis in the middle of the city, where everyone can get in touch with nature and learn about biodiversity and that we share the city with other living things.

We imagine this learning could happen through the use of interactive screens and activities as well as written and illustrated information. As you can see in this illustration, a parent and a child are exploring what kind of fish that lives in the stream.

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 more inviting.



FEEDBACK

KATHERINE HARRISON, LECTURER & RESEARCHER – LiU

MAGNUS SANDBERG, GENERAL & STRATEGIC TRAFFIC PLANNER – NORRKÖPING MUNICIPALITY

MATILDA HALLGREN, PLANNING ARCHITECT – NORRKÖPING MUNICIPALITY

DANIELLA AMAN, CITY DEVELOPER – NORRKÖPING MUNICIPALITY

KARIN MILLES, CITY ARCHITECT – NORRKÖPING MUNICIPALITY

JONAS LÖWGREN, PROFESSOR & RESEARCHER – LiU

OPEN DISCUSSION



FEEDBACK & DISCUSSION

A Chance to meet and share thoughts on the material that we have brought forward.

Katherine Harrison – Lecturer & researcher, LiU

– Inclusivity and the importance of the project (Could not attend)

Daniella Aman – City Developer, Norrköping Municipality

– Sista supen, planning and exploitation (Could not attend, answered by email)

Q: The Living lab has brought forward a desire to reclaim Skvalletorget as a square; meaning allowing for more activities and interactions to happen there, or nearby. You are involved in the developing of a new area around Sista supen. Are there any of the values or ideas brought forward in the Living lab that you think will be found, or can be implemented, in that area?

Would there for example be possible to open up a space for urban gardening or a common stage?

A: Most of the area around Sista Supen is privately owned, might be too little space to implement a stage. They are trying to make the area more open, and more connected to Kärleksparken; which they aspire to make more inclusive.

Karin Milles – City Architect, Norrköping Municipality

(Could not attend, answered by email)

Q: The living lab participants brought forward serendipity (happy chance) as an important value in the public space. They mentioned being able to explore paths with unknown destination, or having a chance to shape and claim an undefined space.

In an article we read you said (translated quote): “I think that there must be room even for the slightly skewed and unplanned, that which is not always so well thought out and beautiful. A city where every surface is programmed, how fun will it be?”

Our question to you is therefor: Is there a way to plan for the unplanned? Can we encourage serendipity somehow in the public space? And in that case, do you see a way for serendipity to fit into the futures of Kungsgatan? In which way might that be?

A: Would welcome more initiatives for spontaneity at Kungsgatan, but knows that there are many obstacles regarding legislation etc.. One thing that is under discussion is to place stages in different parts of the city, that anyone can use. The difficulty is finding spots where it does not interfere with traffic or safety, while at the same time not intruding too much on residents living nearby.



Magnus Sandberg – General and strategic Traffic Planner, Norrköping Municipality

Q: The most prominent desire brought forward by the Living Lab this fall, was a decreased amount of traffic at Kungsgatan, that in turn could allow for more activities and hang out.

In cities around the world we have seen initiatives to cut off traffic during on a street for a set time, for example a weekend, and only allow for pedestrians or bikers.

Is this something that you would say could be initiated in Norrköping as well? Cutting off Skvallertorget to play football for a night, for example.

Or are there other ways that you can see would change Kungsgatan to a less traffic weighted street?

A: The ideas about car free days are under discussion. So is the planning of a new tram line at Kungsgatan, that would potentially lead to less need for cars.

Reducing the traffic or completely closing down the street might be a sensitive issue, but our vision at traffic planning is to reduce the car traffic and to create more space for bicycles, pedestrians and even trams. We have a lot of people traveling by cars through Kungsgatan only to access close-by areas. We are considering different options that allow people to access different areas without driving through Kungsgatan.

We need to work with both "whips and carrots" in the sense that we should be making it easier to choose alternative options for transport and at the same time consider making it less attractive to take the car.

Matilda Hallgren – Planning Architect, Norrköping Municipality

Q: Young adults were brought forward as a group not having enough space at Kungsgatan today. There are a large number of gymnasiums at Kungsgatan, yet there is no designated school yard.

Do you see a potential space for young adults at or near Kungsgatan? Is this an issue that Stadsbyggnadskontoret are aware of or are addressing?

A: The municipality has some goals and regulations for younger kids with the focus on pre-schools, but we are not responsible for gymnasiums' schoolyards. Usually the schools are private properties, and the school yard is on a private owned land. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the outdoor environment. However, having room for free social activities and places to hang out are important. We consider that these young adults can use the public places beside other citizens. Different public spaces such as Kärleksparken can be used for the social activities.

In this presentation I found interesting ideas for creating more green public space and utilizing the water in the area beside the bridge. Working with water has this advantage that you do not



need to be limited by the land and you can consider using floating surfaces for public spaces.

I also liked the idea of warm seats. I think warming up the streets during the winter can be a good way to control the flow of the people.

Jonas Löwgren – Professor & Researcher, LiU

Q: What is the plan for the continuation of the lab in regards to the students taking over developing technological gadgets for Kungsgatan? How and in what way will our insights from the Living Lab influence the students' tech-developments.

A: The city of Norrköping and the university is investing on smart city technology and Kungsgatan is considered as a test bed for these smart technologies. The aim of this Living Lab was to investigate desirable futures of Kungsgatan from the citizens point of view.

These notions of the desirable futures that have been created in this Living Lab can direct the technology for developing desirable services, applications, and products. These results can provide a meaningful direction for the development of smart city technology in a meaningful way.

Sometimes we implement and develop technology just because we have the gadgets and the funding, this Living Lab starts in the other end. The Living Lab investigates what the desirable futures entail and then we connect the dots by using a method called back casting, which is working backwards to implement technology in a way that creates value for the citizens, based on what they have expressed to be desirable.

Comments or questions, open floor

- Inclusivity and gentrification is a concern when making an area more attractive

- Gradual change - how much can we push for new habits and ways? Especially relating to traffic and the use of cars need to be limited by the land and you can consider using floating surfaces for public spaces.