

Community Wellbeing

A Framework for the Design Professions

Community Wellbeing
Framework



DIALOG

 The Conference Board
of Canada

Much of the content in this guide comes from the report *Community Wellbeing: A Framework for the Design Professions* which presents the findings of a collaborative research project between The Conference Board of Canada and DIALOG to develop a framework for defining and evaluating the built environment's contributions to community wellbeing.

The full report is available at dialogdesign.ca/community-wellbeing

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Designing for **Community Wellbeing**

DIALOG is passionate about design and believes it can and should meaningfully improve the wellbeing of our communities. As such, we partnered with The Conference Board of Canada on a research initiative to develop a practical tool for guiding and evaluating project design decisions to enhance community wellbeing.

Wellbeing is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, and dynamic concept. Access to resources and exposure to challenges shapes the experience of wellbeing. Exposure to great challenges or suffering the loss of key resources results in imbalance and compromised wellbeing.

A framework can be used to capture different aspects of wellbeing within the context of a defined community and for tracking changes over time. It can also be used to inform the design of community characteristics that impact wellbeing, including those of the built environment.

The Community Wellbeing Framework is grounded in a definition that identifies the essential dimensions, or domains, of community wellbeing as the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfill their potential.

The Framework provides design professionals, project stakeholders and the communities they work with a holistic approach for design. It examines how the built environment can contribute to community wellbeing; facilitates decision making around design options; and enables a project to continue contributing, throughout its life, to the wellbeing of the community.

This document provides a quick reference for Framework's five domains, 18 indicators and 48 metrics; and shares a methodology for using it to guide project decisions. The full report is available at dialogdesign.ca/community-wellbeing.



DOMAINS



INDICATORS



METRICS

Community Wellbeing Framework User Guide

The following suggested steps for using the Framework are flexible and may vary depending on the nature, extent, and depth of the project.

1. DEFINE THE PROJECT

Projects may be as detailed as improving the mechanical systems of a workspace and as far-reaching as managing the urban growth of a city/region.

- **Project objective:** What is the purpose of the project?
- **Project area:** What is the area and nature of the project? Is there an area/neighbourhood that has influence on, and is influenced by, the project?
- **Project constituency:** Who may be impacted directly or indirectly by the project? What perspectives/disciplines are important to involve?
- **Project parameters:** Is there a budget/schedule/mandate that frames the project? Are there assumptions or externalities that further frame the project, such as plans, policies, standards, guidelines, or directives?

2. ENGAGE A COMMUNITY OF PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The idea of community wellbeing requires that communities are active participants in defining the conditions that are essential for them to flourish and fulfill their potential. Understanding who should be included in this conversation and hosting appropriate dialogue is an important first step. Stakeholders may include people who will be impacted by the project,

directly or indirectly, as well as a variety of voices that may be able to meaningfully contribute to the success of the project. In general, it will be important to elicit the participation of a wide variety of perspectives.

3. DETERMINE THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Applying the Framework's metrics requires the collection of information before, during, and after the project. Depending on the nature and location of the project, different levels of information may be readily available. Establishing the sources of data and the mechanisms for collection and documentation will assist in determining which metrics are used. When a data source is lacking, the project team should consider an appropriate proxy that is able to inform the corresponding indicator/metric. Accurate and accessible records of the information gathered should be kept for future reference and benchmarking.

4. CONSIDER PROJECT WITHIN FRAMEWORK CONTEXT

Early in the process the project team and community should broadly explore the project from the different wellbeing angles as defined by each of the five interrelated domains—hosting a conversation on the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions. This will prime users to better understand the definition of community wellbeing regarding their project and project process. It may also prompt a focus on specific design features or aspects of the project process that might be of relevance to the success of the project.

5. ESTABLISH A BASELINE

At the outset of the project a baseline condition should be established. This will allow different options or outcomes around community wellbeing to be benchmarked. Depending on the nature of the project, the baseline can be one of the following areas:

- **Project area:** The conditions of the site where the project takes place, which exist before the implementation of the project.
- **Comparable area:** A comparable best-in-class, or an agreed-upon reference point project type or situation that may be located elsewhere, which constitutes a reasonable reference to benchmark the evaluated project.

6. ESTABLISH TARGETS

Some project leaders/managers/participants may choose to establish targets for all or individual indicators/metrics. While the targets may vary in definition and scope and may evolve as the project unfolds, establishing them early in the process will enable the project team to focus a conversation and advise the development of options. Targets can be informed by benchmarked areas/projects or by industry standards.

7. COMMUNICATE

Building the capacity of participants to meaningfully participate—sharing and communicating the Framework and the project's nuances—will often be an important factor in the success of the Framework. Communications will be critical from the outset and throughout the life of the project. The project team

should consider creating a communications plan for the effective engagement and collaboration of design professionals, decision-makers, stakeholders, and community members throughout the life of the project.

8. EMPLOY THE METRICS

Once the contribution of the project to each of the community wellbeing domains has been generally considered, the project team can begin to apply the indicators and metrics within each domain to the project as it unfolds. Different designs and decisions should be informed by how they perform relative to the benchmark and/or the target. As the metrics are deployed, consider their interdependence and the potential for additional, project-specific metrics necessary to inform decision-making.

9. DOCUMENT OUTCOMES

Upon project completion, the process and the outcomes for each indicator/metric should be recorded alongside the information source (e.g., plans, drawings, interviews, surveys). This record will be significant during the life of the project, as different aspects are implemented, monitored, and improved upon. The record will also be significant for future projects that may use this one as a benchmark. Establishing a mechanism for ongoing monitoring and reporting will assist with the successful implementation of the project goals and targets.

Community Wellbeing Framework Version 1.0

This Framework is designed to serve as a tool and resource for initiating conversations and making decisions that will positively impact community wellbeing. The tables that follow describe the Framework's five domains, 18 indicators and 48 respective metrics. Feedback on version 1.0 of the Framework will be collected to inform revisions, and subsequent versions of the Framework with updated metrics will be made available to the public.



Social Domain

Welcoming Support Systems Socialization

The social domain comprises the social conditions that enable individuals and their communities to setting for human activity, ranging from large-scale civic surroundings to personal places, and is also the result of social processes. These systems create important contexts in which health is shaped. Design features of built environments may connect and strengthen communities and enhance community health and wellbeing through their impact on social engagement, social support, and community safety.

1. Welcoming

Do people feel welcomed, safe, and engaged, 24/7, regardless of background or physical ability?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Are all people able to live, work, and play in the neighbourhood, 24/7, safely? Is anyone disenfranchised (e.g., low-income families)?

Building/site scale: Are all people able to enter the site and navigate the building, without physical, social, or physiological barriers, 24/7? Is anyone alienated (e.g., skateboarding teenagers)?

Interior/exterior space: Can all people make use of the space, with ease and enjoyment, and independently (without aid, or permissions)?

METRICS

1A Project design, siting, and orientation provide direct physical and visual connections to the public realm

- 1: Frontages along public streets/spaces are physically and/or visually permeable to support a welcoming environment (e.g., predominance of doors and windows facing public areas, while still respecting other objectives such as thermal performance)
-

1B Public/common areas and points of entry are located along main pedestrian routes and designed as special civic spaces

1C Lighting design and placement is human-scaled, circadian, assists wayfinding along public/common areas, supports a sense of safety, and is sympathetic to the surrounding environment

1D Project has worked with stakeholders to identify context-specific safety challenges and mitigation strategies, and employed best practice CPTED principles and other tools

1E In addition to meeting AODA (or equivalent) standards, project has worked with stakeholders to identify project-specific vulnerable and/or challenged users and designed accordingly

1F Project is designed to accommodate the needs of people of all ages, including children and seniors (8 80 cities concept)

1G Project has worked with partners and stakeholders to identify and make welcome all context-specific individuals and/or populations

2. Support Systems

Do people have access to support facilities and services, daily and during moments of need?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Do people have access to the services and amenities that support living/working in the neighbourhood: healthy food, active lifestyles, open space, recreation, health services, schooling, places of social gathering, shelter, means of transport? Does the community have spaces to gather during moments of crisis?

Building/site scale: Do people have access to the services and amenities that support inhabiting the building/site: quiet/private areas, places of social gathering, access to healthy food, exercise, and open spaces, clean air and water...? Do people have spaces to gather during moments of crisis?

Interior/exterior space: Do people have access to the services and amenities that support inhabiting a space: sunlight and circadian lighting, clean air and water, noise mitigation, 24/7 safety? Do people have safe spaces/passage during moments of crisis?

METRICS

2A Project is within walking distance of health-related support services

2B Project is within walking distance of healthy food options

2C Project provides quiet space for individual repose

1: Project provides a minimum of 0.11 m² per full-time occupant of interior quiet space

2: Project provides access to exterior/outdoor quiet space(s) for individual repose or concentration

3. Socialization

Do people have indoor and outdoor spaces to engage socially at formal and informal levels?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Are people in the community, especially the vulnerable, able to enjoy welcoming spaces of social gathering (indoors/outdoors)? Are these at the “heart” of the community?

Building/site scale: Building/site scale: Are people within the building/site able to enjoy welcoming spaces of social gathering (indoors/outdoors)? Are these at the “heart” of the building/site?

Interior/exterior space: Interior/exterior space: Are people within the space able to engage socially, in a manner that is relaxed and natural? Are these opportunities central to the enjoyment of the space?

METRICS

3A Project provides indoor social gathering space

- 1: Project provides a minimum of 0.4 m² per full-time occupant of interior space for social gathering
 - 2: Project uses lobby of ground floor as a social connection point (e.g., provides comfortable seating for groups)
-

3B Project provides access to outdoor social gathering space

3C Project has worked with stakeholders to identify and accommodate context-specific spaces for social gathering(s)



Environment

Delight and Enjoyment

Natural Systems

Mobility

Resilience

The wellbeing of the environment and of natural systems is intricately linked to the wellbeing of people—one is unattainable without the other. Design should seek to sustain and enhance the healthy functioning of natural systems that sustain clean air and water, flourishing ecosystems and biodiversity, and controllable climatic conditions. Project designs should also seek to create the conditions that promote healthy behaviours in users, such as the conservation of natural heritage and capital, the reduction of carbon and GHG footprints, the enjoyment of active lifestyles with access to natural settings, and to future-proof the wellbeing of communities by building resilience, mitigation, and adaptation capabilities.

1. Delight and Enjoyment

Can people enjoy high-quality, beautiful spaces (interior/ exterior) with abandon?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Is it a neighbourhood that invests in the quality and beauty of the public realm? Does it celebrate and care for its natural and cultural heritage?

Building/site scale: Is it a building/site that invests in the quality and beauty of its spaces? Does it celebrate and care for its natural and cultural heritage?

Interior/exterior space: Is it a space that invests in quality and beauty? Does it celebrate and care for its natural and cultural heritage? Are there views to settings of natural and cultural heritage?

METRICS

1A Project maximizes physical and visual connections to nature from public/common areas and from spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day

- 1: Project provides physical and visual connections to nature from public/common areas
 - 2: Project provides physical and visual connections to nature from spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day
-

1B Project maximizes use of natural lighting and ventilation for public/ common areas and spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day

- 1: Project provides more than three hours of natural daylight/ sunlight for spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day
 - 2: Project includes operable windows that provide access to outdoor air and daylight in spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day. Where operable, windows are installed; sequences or strategies to turn off mechanical cooling to conserve energy
-

1C A biophilia plan is developed and implemented for the project, maximizing human-nature interactions for public/common areas and spaces where people typically spend more than four hours per day

1D Project is designed to evoke a sense of awe and encourage people to linger

- 1: Public/common areas and primary circulation routes incorporate opportunities for active programming, retail, people-watching, public art, and/or significant views
 - 2: Public/common areas and primary circulation routes incorporate furnishings for informal use, including seating
 - 3: Public/common areas and circulation routes are generous in their dimensions, including horizontal space for informal use, and an ample floor-to-ceiling height
-

METRICS

1E Quality design and beauty is a characteristic of the project recognized by users/stakeholders

1F Project design delivers high indoor air quality, including supply of high-quality outdoor air, to occupants

- 1: Project incorporates best practices around air quality from industry organizations, whose guidelines are evidence-based and recommended by professionals (e.g., meet minimum ASHRAE standards)
 - 2: Project air quality and air filtration system meets evidence-based standards (ASHRAE, CSA Group, WELL)
 - 3: Project implements control measure to minimize/optimize the consumption of energy due to outdoor air treatment (i.e., the system has sequences to recover waste energy and to reduce energy consumption when spaces are not occupied)
-

1G Project maximizes and allows for personalization of thermal comfort among occupants

- 1: Efforts have been made to address building thermal loads by exceeding minimum guidelines for building thermal properties (e.g., local building codes, ASHRAE, passive house)
 - 2: Occupancy types have been aligned and grouped to optimize thermal comfort
 - 3: Where feasible, project design incorporates options for individual thermal comfort devices that allow occupants to adjust temperatures to suit their thermal preferences
 - 4: For exterior spaces, project design incorporates features to support the comfort of pedestrians exposed to weather conditions, including heat, cold, wind, and shade
-

2. Natural Systems

Does the project have a positive impact on the functioning of local and global natural systems?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood function contribute positively to the reduction of GHGs and to the functioning of the local ecosystem? Does it have a net positive impact on the accounting of quality water, air, pollutants, and natural capital?

Building/site scale: Does the building/site construction and operations contribute positively to the reduction of GHGs and to the functioning of the local ecosystem? Does it have a net positive impact on the accounting of quality water, air, pollutants, and natural capital?

Interior/exterior space: Does the space construction and operations contribute positively to the reduction of GHGs and to the functioning of the local ecosystem? Does it have a net positive impact on the accounting of quality water, air, pollutants, and natural capital?

METRICS

2A Project enhances the ecological function and biodiversity of the site

- 1: Opportunities for planting trees and naturalized landscapes are maximized
 - 2: Attention is paid to providing environments that support pollinator species
 - 3: Project takes appropriate mitigation measures for ecological conservation (e.g., where projects have natural habitat components, project implementation includes appropriate environmental expertise to include adequate design and implementation of conservation measures)
-

2B Project is GHG-neutral (or negative)

- 1: Project develops and implements a sustainability action plan that demonstrates commitment to reach GHG neutral goals (e.g., use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources, and waste production)
-

2C Project implements measures to promote water conservation and provides high-quality water treatment for use on-site

- 1: Project evaluates water usage onsite, and has implemented measures to reduce water use (i.e., plumbing fixture type, grey water collection, on-site water treatment)
 - 2: Project incorporates best practices around water quality from industry organizations, whose guidelines are evidence-based and recommended by professionals (e.g., meet ASHRAE standards)
 - 3: Project design makes high-quality drinking water easily accessible to occupants
-

2D Project employs noise reduction materials and measures to reduce ambient noise levels (50 decibels for large public spaces; 40 decibels for general spaces; 30 decibels for quiet spaces)

- 1: An acoustic plan is developed that identifies loud and quiet zones, and noisy equipment in the space
 - 2: Project employs noise reduction materials and measures to reduce ambient noise levels
-

3. Mobility

Does the project facilitate the uptake of active transportation, active lifestyles, and reduced car dependency?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood encourage people to lead active lifestyles and to undertake daily travel by walking, cycling, and transit?

Building/site scale: Does the building/site encourage physical activity, and prioritize access/circulation by active modes and transit?

Interior/exterior space: Does the space encourage physical activity?

METRICS

3A Project provides ample opportunities for people to lead active lifestyles

- 1: Project provides exercise facilities (interior and exterior) or is located within walking distance of dedicated exercise facilities (interior and exterior)
 - 2: Project provides showers, lockers, and changing facilities (minimum 1 m² per full-time occupant)
 - 3: Project provides integrated vertical circulation system that encourages everyday stair use between floors for occupants
 - 4: Project maximizes the accessibility, aesthetics, and visibility of staircases
-

3B Project prioritizes and celebrates active modes of transportation and connections to transit, rather than single-occupancy vehicles

- 1: Project enables and prioritizes active modes of travel to the project area, with access within walking distance to a cycling path and a transit stop
 - 2: Project provides secure, covered bicycle storage, adjacent to public areas, entrances, and primary circulation corridors
 - 3: Project enables and prioritizes active modes of travel within the project area, including walking/cycling paths and vertical circulation)
 - 4: Project considers a mix of land uses—includes a minimum of three different uses (residential, retail, office, industrial, institutional, hospitality, park, or recreation), with no single use comprising more than two-thirds of the total gross floor area (GFA)
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4. Resilience

Does the project implement a plan for operational continuity and the management of and adaptation to identified hazards (e.g., climate change, extreme weather, demographic shifts, economic fluctuations)?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Are people in the community able to adapt to significant changes in their modes of sustenance, social support systems, and daily routines? Do people have access to community networks and facilities in times of need? Does the neighbourhood foster community cohesion? Is climate adaptation planned for?

Building/site scale: Are the critical functions that support people who live/work in the building/site able to continue operating through a catastrophic event? Is the building/site able to adapt to evolving needs, demographics, technology, and economic and climatic conditions?

Interior/exterior space: Are the critical functions that support people who live/work in the space able to continue operating through a catastrophic event? Is the space and supporting systems able to adapt to evolving needs, demographics, technology, and economic and climatic conditions?

METRICS

4A Project identifies risks and implements a resilience plan

- 1: Project identifies operational continuity requirements
 - 2: Project identifies potential hazards (shocks and stresses)
 - 3: Project identifies vulnerable systems/population
 - 4: Project identifies and implements resilience goals and strategies for mitigation and adaptation
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4B Project develops and implements a climate adaptation plan



Economic Domain

Affordability

Complete Community

Life-Cycle Value

Local Economy

A built environment's influence on health and community wellbeing begins in the home and extends to where people work (and how they get between the two). Basic physical, social, and emotional needs are likely to be met when people can afford to choose well-designed, quality housing in a convenient geographic setting that accommodates safe living conditions and access to healthy lifestyle options, amenities, and active transportation between home, work, shops, and services. When such choices are not affordable, people live in communities where homes are further away from basic amenities and services, and where public transport is less reliable and long commuting distances in cars is necessary. The built environment can contribute to more socially and economically equitable and sustainable communities, through its impact on density (e.g., concentration of buildings and population in an area), availability of public spaces and places, and opportunity for different uses within the same neighbourhood.

1. Affordability

Can people of different income levels afford a high quality of life?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood offer people economically accessible opportunities to satisfy everyday life needs, including shelter, food, recreation, education, health care, mobility, and education?

Building/site scale: Can people of different income levels enjoy the building/site? Are barriers related to income minimized?

Interior/exterior space: Does the enjoyment of the space depend on undue costs?

METRICS

1A The project benefits, and can be enjoyed by, people of all income levels within the community

- 1: Low-income people (as defined by statistics Canada) within the community can access the project and benefit from its function

Use statistics Canada's census tract level data on income distribution as baseline information for guiding project design and/or evaluating project design options so as to maximize project accessibility and enable low income people to benefit from project. Data point to be used:

- Income distribution (total income groups in 2015 for the population aged 15 years and over in private households)
- 2: A minimum of 20 per cent of the project's core function (e.g., housing, office space) is available at affordable rates, as defined by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
 - 3: Project enables access to universally affordable or free recreation space, facilities, or programs within project boundaries or in community
 - 4: Project promotes use of active transport and reduces car dependency

Use Statistics Canada's census tract level data on main mode of commuting and commuting destinations among people (employed labour force living in private households) living in the community as baseline information against which project impact on use of active transport can be compared and evaluated. Data points to be used:

- Main mode of commuting for the employed labour force aged 15 years and over in private households with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address (based on 25 per cent of census sample data)
 - Commuting destination for the employed labour force aged 15 years and over in private households with a usual place of work (based on 25 per cent of census sample data)
-

2. Complete Community

Can people realize the activities of everyday life within walking distance?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Can people realize the activities of everyday life within walking distance? Is walking and cycling prioritized in the neighbourhood?

Building/site scale: Can people conveniently arrive at the building/site and access food and services, by walking, cycling, or transit?

Interior/exterior space: Do people have the amenities and services they need to inhabit the space, with comfortable access? Is the adjacency to other spaces complementary to everyday life?

METRICS

2A Project enables a balanced lifestyle, connecting people to places to work, live, play, study, take transit, and make quotidian purchases, within walking distance

- 1: People have the option of using active transportation for commuting
-

2B Project enables a density of population (residents and jobs per hectare) that supports the intended density of services and amenities, within walking distance Use Statistics Canada's census tract level data on total population and population density as baseline information for guiding project design and/or evaluating project design options so as to support a community's intended population density (residents plus jobs per hectare). Data points to be used:

- Total population
 - Population density per square kilometre
- 1: Project supports a minimum of 50 residents and jobs per hectare in low density neighbourhoods and between 140 and 200 residents and jobs per hectare when near transit
 - 2: Project is within 10 km of an urban centre or employment centre
-

2C Project contributes to a net increase in population density Use Statistics Canada's census tract level data on total population, population density, and commuting destination for employed population as baseline information for guiding project design and/ or evaluating project design options so as to contribute to an increase in population density (residents plus jobs per hectare). Data points to be used:

- Total population
 - Population density per square kilometre
 - Commuting destination (commute within census subdivision [CSD] of residence) for the employed labour force aged
 - 15 years and over in private households with a usual place of work (based on 25 per cent census sample data)
-

3. Life-Cycle Value

Does the project account for full-life cycle costing and value generation, and the costs to the environment and community?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the return on investment (ROI) for the development/design of the neighbourhood account for ongoing maintenance and operation and for the economic burden to society and the environment?

Building/site scale: Does the ROI for the development/design of the building/site account for ongoing maintenance and operation and for the economic burden to society and the environment?

Interior/exterior space: Does the ROI for the development/design of the space account for ongoing maintenance and operation and for the economic burden to society and the environment?

METRICS

3A Life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA) conducted as part of the project's business case (including maintenance and operation) with results confirming acceptable long-term costs and benefits

- 1: Project uses a life-cycle assessment (LCA) tool to measure the life-cycle environmental impact of the building elements to achieve the lowest LCC (in present-value dollars) from among alternative designs
 - 2: Project identifies the full-life cycle costs and develops options to pay for these costs over the long term
-

4. Local Economy

Does the project support a healthy local economy and specifically, a knowledge economy?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood foster opportunities for local employment and for the development of a knowledge economy?

Building/site scale: Does the building/site and/or its construction support a local economy and the development of a knowledge economy?

Interior/exterior space: Does the space and/or its construction support a local economy and the development of a knowledge economy?

METRICS

- 4A** Project results in a net long-term amplification (of size, strength, and diversity) of the local economy and the readiness of a knowledge economy
- 1: Project contributes to a net increase in employment density (jobs per hectare)
 - 2: Project incorporates non-standard work spaces such as homeoccupation, live-work units, co-work spaces, shared facilities, and/or a “coffice” (work-friendly coffee shop); Internet access (Wi-Fi) is provided throughout project to facilitate connectivity
 - 3: Project fosters local entrepreneurialism by providing a range of ownership, rental, and sublet options
 - 4: Project includes commercial/retail units on the ground floor of mixed-use and multi-unit buildings (expressed as a percentage of all units)
 - 5: Project supports innovation and productivity by contributing to an infrastructure that maximizes density and clustering of related economic activities
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Cultural Domain

Cultural Vitality
Sense of Belonging
Play
Learning

Individually and collectively, we depend on forming bonds of understanding and identity, expressing ourselves creatively and freely, and nurturing a sense of belonging, delight, and play. Various forms of human expression help to fully define our lives and our wellbeing. By participating in leisure and cultural activities, whether arts, culture, or recreation, we contribute to our wellbeing as individuals, to our communities, and to society as a whole. Participating in cultural activities (e.g., going to a museum, art gallery, film, or concert) on a regular basis increases longevity and that culture is a separate variable. Built project design can help to support cultural activity, create opportunity for cultural programming, or promote recreational activities by providing spaces for cultural interpretation, activity, art, and recreation, thereby providing individuals and communities with opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing.

1. Cultural Vitality

Do people have access to cultural, recreational, and art facilities?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood offer a variety of locations (indoor/outdoor) for the commemoration, production, expression, and enjoyment of cultural programming, art, and heritage? Is this central to the neighbourhood's placemaking and identity?

Building/site scale: Does the building/site offer places for the commemoration, production, expression, and enjoyment of cultural programming, art, and heritage? Is this central to the building/site's placemaking and identity?

Interior/exterior space: Does the space express and celebrate the cultural heritage and vitality, and the creative spirit of the people who inhabit it and of the context within which it resides? Is this central to the sense of place?

METRICS

1A Project incorporates visual arts, public art, and/or opportunities for art programming

1: 1 per cent of project budget allocated for art and/or art programming (space)

1B Project commemorates natural and cultural heritage

1: Project recognizes and commemorates natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, including Indigenous heritage, through the design, the incorporation of interpretative elements and art, and conservation of significant heritage attributes

1C Project enables easy access to cultural destinations

1: Project is within walking distance of arts, cultural, leisure, and recreational facilities

2. Sense of Belonging

Do people feel included in their communities, connected to their social networks, and engaged in civic and community life, regardless of their background?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Are Indigenous voices heard and celebrated? Do people, regardless of background or abilities, share a sense of collective ownership and stewardship for the neighbourhood? Do they actively participate in the creation and operations, of public spaces? Do newcomers integrate with ease?

Building/site scale: Do the people who inhabit the building/site share a sense of collective ownership and stewardship? Do they actively participate in the life of the building/site? Is wayfinding intuitive and inviting for newcomers?

Interior/exterior space: Is there a collective sense of stewardship for the function and appeal of the space? Do newcomers integrate with ease?

METRICS

2A Project enables a personal sense of ownership and expression by users

- 1: Project provides spaces to support a sense of belonging (e.g., outdoor common spaces, spaces that encourage lingering, adequate all-weather seating in public spaces, mixed use space)

2B Project identifies and commemorates significant cultural heritage attributes of the site and surroundings, including those of Indigenous peoples

- 1: Project has worked with stakeholders to identify significant cultural heritage attributes and the appropriate means of commemoration (e.g., interpretative art or signage, heritage conservation, culturally specific space, designs, and/or programming)
 - 2: Project commemorates Indigenous heritage, and reflects the spirit and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
-

3. Play

Do people have quality spaces to relax in and engage creatively?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood offer (indoor/outdoor) opportunities for people to play, exercise, engage creatively, and frolic with leisure and abandon as well as peaceful spaces for introspection?

Building/site scale: Does the building site offer opportunities for people to engage creatively, and for individual repose and contemplation?

Interior/exterior space: Is the space conducive to creative expression and interactions, as well as fostering moments of quiet introspection?

METRICS

3A Project provides access to spaces for spontaneous, informal, creative enjoyment

- 1: Project provides spaces for informal social gathering and recreation, located alongside main pedestrian routes
 - 2: Social and personal spaces are designed and furnished to be manipulated by users and to elicit active participation
-

4. Learning

Do people of all ages have opportunities to learn and develop? Are the rationales/designs/initiatives that enhance community wellbeing overt?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Does the neighbourhood offer opportunities for people of all ages to learn and develop? Is the rationale for enhancing community wellbeing communicated (explicitly/implicitly) throughout the neighbourhood?

Building/site scale: Does the building/site “teach by example,” demonstrating best practices and leadership (e.g., on aspects of community wellbeing) and communicate the rationale?

Interior/exterior space: Does the space capitalize on opportunities to build capacity with inhabitants (e.g., on aspects of community wellbeing)?

METRICS

4A Project offers opportunities for people of all ages to learn and develop

- 1: Project provides space to support learning activities, collaboration, and public engagement
 - 2: Project is within walking distance of a school, post-secondary institution, continuing education facilities, and/or a public library
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4B Project communicates contributions to community wellbeing

- 1: Design/planning process builds capacity with stakeholders on how to meaningfully improve the wellbeing of communities and the environment
 - 2: A communication strategy was developed and implemented to raise awareness of the project's wellbeing design features
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Political Domain

Sense Of Ownership and
Stewardship
Collaboration
Integration

The built environment represents an important policy domain, namely that related to people's need to have opportunities to contribute to their own wellbeing. This is central to the process of being able to flourish and fulfill one's potential. Through collaborative and related processes, the design professions can provide meaningful opportunities for individuals and communities to contribute to their wellbeing.

1. Sense of Ownership and Stewardship

Can people understand, control, manage, interact with, and transform their environment? Are they personally invested in its function/success?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Do parts/aspects/operations of the neighbourhood incite a positive sense of collective ownership? Do people volunteer time/resources to the success of the community as a whole? Do people take care of public/private features of the neighbourhood (e.g. front yards)?

Building/site scale: Do parts/aspects/operations of the building/site invite a shared sense of ownership? Do people volunteer time/resources to the success of the building/site?

Interior/exterior space: Do parts/aspects/operations of the space invite a shared sense of ownership? Do people volunteer time/resources to the success of the space? Do people have control over their personal space, including climate and indoor environment?

METRICS

1A Project design allows users to control their environment

- 1: Project enables users to tailor and adapt spaces and environment to individual needs and preferences, including as relevant the character, arrangement, furnishing, planting, lighting, ventilation, and temperature
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1B Project users participate in the stewardship of the project

- 1: Design process empowered user groups to influence the outcomes
 - 2: Project, or areas within the project (e.g., front yards, community gardens, community halls), are managed by individuals and/or community groups
 - 3: Project offers opportunities for volunteerism and/or stewardship
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1C Project users are engaged in defining and monitoring community wellbeing indicators

- 1: Project creation, implementation, and operation include mechanisms to engage community members in defining, designing for, and monitoring the community wellbeing indicators
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2. Collaboration

Do decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public at large have opportunities to meaningfully collaborate with the project team from the outset and throughout the implementation/life of the project?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Are clear engagement expectations established with different stakeholder groups (e.g., IAP2 spectrum)? Are there opportunities for meaningful engagement? Are ongoing governance mechanisms understood and supported?

Building/site scale: Are clear engagement expectations established with different stakeholder groups (e.g., IAP2 spectrum)? Are there opportunities for meaningful engagement during the design process? Are ongoing governance mechanisms understood and supported?

Interior/exterior space: Are the people who participate in the design or enjoyment of the space able to engage in meaningful dialogue about the crafting and life of the space?

METRICS

2A Project process includes clear and effective mechanisms for engaging with a broad spectrum of professional disciplines and stakeholders, from the outset (along IAP2 spectrum)

2B Project outcomes establish mechanisms and spaces for ongoing collaboration with, and among, stakeholders

3. Integration

Is a diversity of perspectives, stakeholders, community, and disciplines meaningfully integrated from the outset and throughout the implementation/life of the project?

Neighbourhood/region scale: Is a diversity of professional disciplines, stakeholders, and constituents meaningfully engaged from early in the process? Do they continue to be involved as new initiatives are undertaken in the neighbourhood?

Building/site scale: Is a diversity of professional disciplines, stakeholders, and constituents meaningfully engaged from early in the process? Do they continue to be involved as through the operation and evolution of the building/site?

Interior/exterior space: Is a diversity of professional disciplines, stakeholders, and constituents meaningfully engaged from early in the process? Do they continue to be involved as through the operation and evolution of the space?

METRICS

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- 3A** Project effectively integrates a diversity of professional perspectives from project inception throughout the life of the project
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