



PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT



WUCHANG | WUHAN | CHINA

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES IN A HERITAGE DISTRICT

DRAFT

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The methodology used in this report is based on the UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme City-wide public space inventory and assessment. UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative uses the City Prosperity Index which is a sampling methodology and there is a difference in the data reported. The data is also based on time and day of the survey and may vary due to weather condition and user perception.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The enthusiastic help and efforts from the data collectors in Wuchang District is acknowledged in the gathering of all the public space data presented in this report. Special thanks to the Wuhan Land Use and Spatial Planning Research Centre Team and Wuchang District Council for delivering data and other inputs.

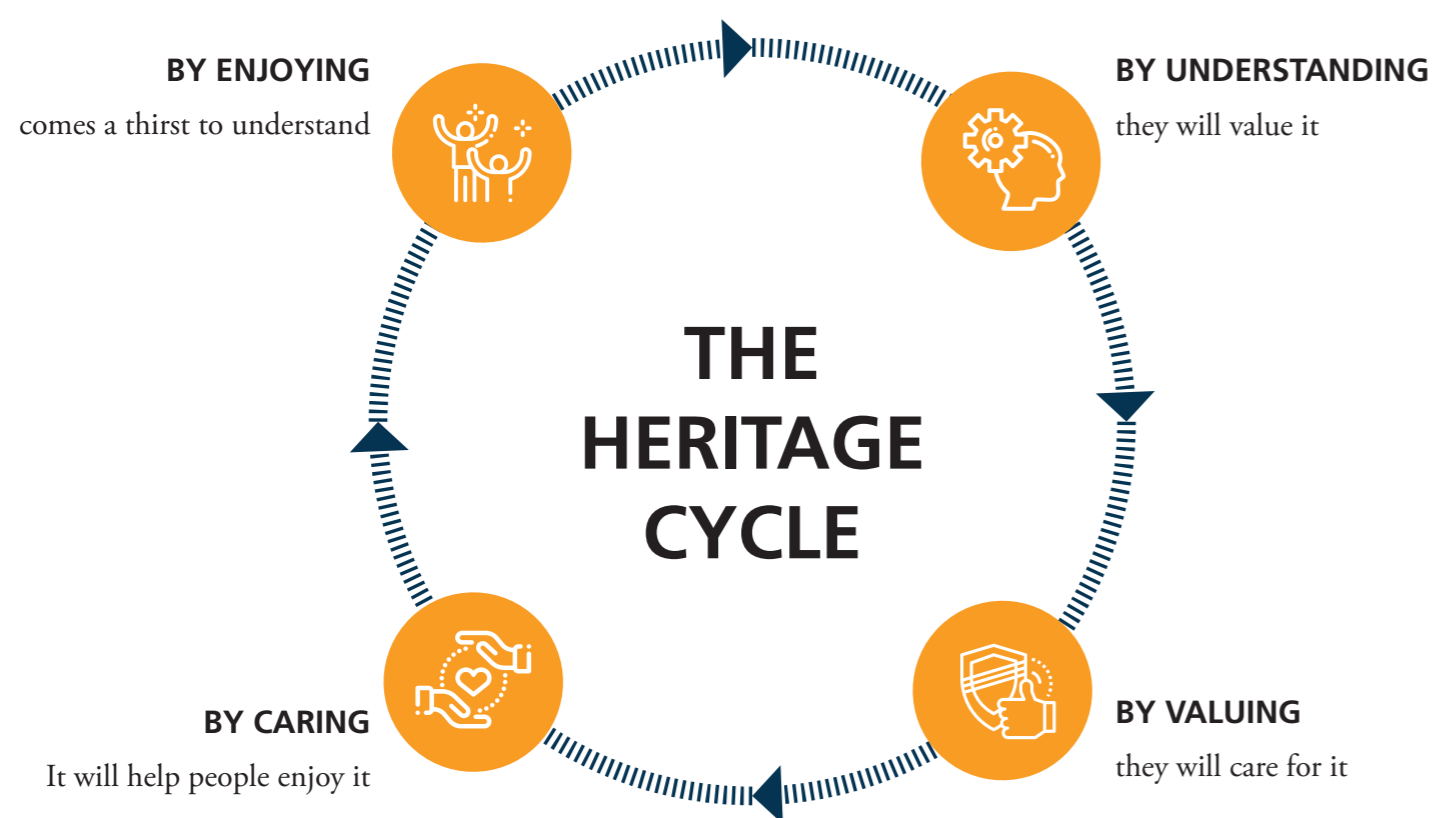
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CHINA · WUHAN WUCHANG DISTRICT

A district-wide public space and heritage assessment

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The Heritage Cycle developed by English Heritage. © English Heritage

UNESCO DEFINES:

Tangible cultural heritage as being;

- a) monuments which are the architectural works, sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features which are of unique value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- b) groups of buildings, which because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding value from the point of view of history, art or science;
- c) sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites, which are outstanding from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

Intangible cultural heritage: those daily-doings/habits/practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills and ideas as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that communities or individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. They majorly manifest as:

- a. oral traditions and expressions, including language being a driver of the intangible cultural heritage;
- b. performing arts;
- c. social practices, rituals and festive events;
- d. knowledge and practices regarding nature and also the world;
- e. traditional workmanship.

Natural heritage as being;

- a) natural features consisting of physical and biological formations which are of outstanding value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;
- b) geological and physiographical formations and briefly diagrammatical areas, which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding value from the point of view of science or conservation;
- c) natural sites or concisely delineated natural areas of outstanding value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION 1972,

Natural heritage refers to;

Natural features consisting of physical, geological and biological formations or groups of such formations, and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and natural sites which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty. It includes nature parks and reserves, zoos, aquaria and botanical gardens.

- Global Agenda
- City-wide Public Space Inventory and Assessment
- Wuhan Landuse and Spatial Planning Research Centre (WLSP)
- UN-Habitat's Public Space Programme and WLSP





BACKGROUND

GLOBAL AGENDA

Public spaces, including natural and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) are resources that need to be protected and properly managed to promote sustainable development, uphold local identity and to pass on heritage to the future generations. Public spaces are significantly involved in the social, economic, environmental and cultural development of a city or neighborhood. They reflect the distinct historic and cultural diversity through preserving the rich heritage of a city. Promoting heritage in public spaces enables continuity of use and significance, while providing a platform for new public spaces. The geographical, historical, cultural and social aspects play an essential role of society's identification with public spaces. For public spaces to become places of identity, they then have to be integrated within heritage planning, this inclusion must then occur in a way that acknowledges their dynamism as potential areas of passage and movement.

Culture and public space are therefore, two innovative and complementary issues in the development of cities, urban areas and towns and tend to foster humanized urban environment that reflect the communities' identities. Heritage can be used as a key tool in addressing interventions proposed for urban improvement. Urban planning can serve as a tool for regeneration of historic urban areas and promote adaptive re-use. Over the last 20 years across all major cities in China, local governments led by investors, developers, architects and artists in a collaborative effort, to renovate selected historic city blocks and turn them into 'creative spaces' (Chuangyi Kongjian). Among the most well-known examples are Xintiandi and Tianzifang in Shanghai, Nanluogu alley in Beijing and Pingjiang road in Suzhou. These are urban spaces revived for enticing activities of consuming not only material goods but also the imputed historical and cultural meanings in these sites. (Yu 2017)

At the global level, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the

PROGRAMME FOCUS AREAS

The Global Public Space Programme launched in 2011, aims to improve the quality of public spaces worldwide. The programme is organized around these main areas:



THE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

UN-Habitat provides guidance to local governments in developing city-wide strategies that provide the foundation for taking a strategic action-oriented approach to public space development and management and can help local governments map the current state of public spaces and set goals to improve them. This work can be translated into annual public space action plans which provide more detailed information on proposed projects as well as monitoring framework. UN-Habitat brings together a broad global network of partners working on the issue of public space, and UN-Habitat has agreements and ongoing activities with various organizations. These partners are brought together annually at either the World Urban Forum and/ or the Future of Places Conference.



CIVIL SOCIETY AND PARTNERS

UN-Habitat selects each year, a number of public space upgrading projects through an annual call for expression of interest. The spaces are geographically distributed all over the world, but with a main focus on countries in the global south. The upgrading of the public spaces is done



TECHNOLOGY

UN-Habitat supports national governments in mainstreaming public space in NUP as well as local governments in developing their own public space frameworks, policies and implementation strategies. The intention is to influence cities to recognize the importance of localized city-wide public space policies, to deepen the understanding of local governments' role and responsibilities in public space development, and to maximize public space areas at a city level. This is considered as a guiding strategy for local governments in which public space is a central axis.



POLICIES

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