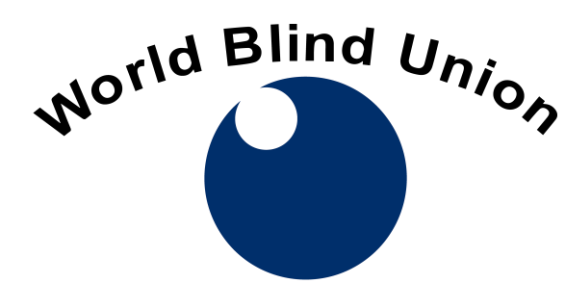


**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Universally Accessible Public Spaces for All: Learnings from The Journal of Public Space

WBU Presenters:

- **Benjamin Dard**, Senior Advisor for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development
- **Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius**, Program Officer for Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development



The Global State of Accessibility: a crisis on the horizon

- Cities and Territories Under Demographic Pressure
- Millions of Lives at Risk
- Inaccessible infrastructure is widening the gap of inequality
- Closing the gap: Future proofing with universal design

POLICY BRIEF

LOCALIZATION to solve the ACCESSIBILITY CRISIS

Recommendations to States Parties
for immediate action

2020

Today, more than half of all persons with disabilities and older persons live in cities with:

- Inaccessible transportation and public spaces
- Inaccessible digital infrastructure
- A lack of access to adequate housing, employment, health and education (UNDESA-2019)



2050

- 70% of the world's population will live in cities while 60% of urban settlements remain to be built (UN Habitat)
- Over 2 billion persons with disabilities and older persons will be living in urban communities by 2050 (UCLG)

The Journal of Public Space

- 2022 Special Issue on “Universally Accessible Public Spaces for All”
- Delivering on *Abu Dhabi Declared Actions* with City Space Architecture in cooperation with UN-Habitat.
- Evidencing progress and learnings to make public spaces inclusive and accessible – in line with SDG 11, CRPD and New Urban Agenda.
- 19 articles, case studies, editorials, viewpoints from cities and local governments, academia, institutes, OPDs, NGOs, professionals
- Launched across World Urban Forum 11

The Journal of Public Space is the first, international, multi-lingual, academic, open access journal entirely dedicated to public space. It speaks different languages in order to embrace diversity, inconvenient dialogues and stories, from multidisciplinary fields and all scales, especially from those that usually do not have a voice, overcoming the Western-oriented approach that has dominated the current discourse. The Journal of Public Space is a peer-reviewed, open access, accessible and inclusive, providing a platform for emerging and consolidated researchers; it is intended to disseminate research, showcase best practices and inform policy-making about the more and more important issues related to public spaces in our changing and diverse societies.



SCAN ME
to access the
issue online

ISSN 2206-9658



<http://www.journalpublicspace.org>

The Journal of Public Space

2022 | Vol. 7 n. 2

SPECIAL ISSUE
Universally Accessible
Public Spaces for All

Editors Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, Luisa Bravo
Guest Editor Victor S. Pineda

Founder



Partners



in cooperation with



JPS Special issue rationale

- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) are rarely involved in academic & knowledge production spaces.
- OPD engagement is key to collect evidence on experiences, expertise, and practices to inform urban policy, strategies and actions responding to realities.
- There is a need to raise awareness on what accessibility is and how to approach planning and design from a human rights lens.
- Misconception of accessibility despite instruments & global frameworks (e.g., SDG 11.7) – often mistaken for proximity.

Journal
of Urban
Space

Volume 2

ISSUE
Accessible
Spaces for All

Edited by
Luhlin Lagrelius, Luisa Bravo
& Daniel Pineda

Partners:

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



School of Architecture
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Contents, scope & areas



Case studies (7)



Articles (8)



Viewpoints (2)



Editorials (2)

Key issues & themes discussed

Accessibility policies & standards
Age-Friendly Cities
Awareness, training, education
Community engagement
COVID-19 measures
DRR, Resilience & safe evacuation
Intergenerational use
Mental health & urban design
Navigation & wayfinding
Right to play (arts & playgrounds)
Streets & parks
Safety & shared spaces
Participation & inclusive design
Placemaking
Mobility & transport
Integration of Universal Design in urban planning & design

Cities & geographic focus

Banjarmasin
Barcelona
Bulawayo
Dutch Metropolitan Area
Gothenburg
Hong Kong
Los Angeles
Nairobi
New Mexico
Oslo
Quito
Solo
Sydney
Ulan Baatar
Varanasi
Victoria

What we learnt from our authors

- 1. Call to action on public spaces:** Calling for protection and promotion of open public spaces in our cities as they serve as the nexus of our everyday lives. Universally accessible public spaces are key to inclusion, participation, health & wellbeing, social interaction and to fight stigma.
- 2. Data & evidence gap:** Lacking data and evidence on accessibility and disability inclusion in urban areas – despite SDG 11, NUA and legal frameworks. Therefore, increasing need to share practices, learnings, and experiences.
- 3. Gaps in inclusive urban practices:** Lack of common understanding amongst urban stakeholders of what accessibility is and what inclusion means in practice. We are looking at diverse groups in cities, and accessibility is for everyone.
- 4. Implementation gap:** There are standards and policies – but implementation is lacking. There is a need for articulating actions on accessibility and often LRGs and stakeholders find it difficult to articulate commitments and actions. Hence, people, policy & practice needs to go together.
- 5. Participatory & inclusive design:** Representative organizations should be involved as key partners in urban practices, including research and data collection initiatives. Their expertise and first-hand knowledge are key to shape critical & inclusive policies, programs and practices.
- 6. COVID-19 revealed accessibility gaps:** Evidenced that accessibility is not integrated across systems, practices, and services - impacting persons with disabilities and intersecting groups disproportionately. This deepened inequalities and maintained discrimination and barriers to equal education, health, housing, and livelihoods.
- 7. Shifting perspectives in academia:** Findings suggested the need to broaden the academic discourse and promote a rights-based approach to disability and accessibility and to mainstream this across disciplines.
- 8. Accessibility as core development principle:** Accessibility is often not seen as a core pillar and component of sustainable urban development, or overall sustainability and resilience objectives. Accessibility and universal design must be seen as integral parts of solutions to urbanisation challenges.