



Citizen-led walking tours for community-based city-building

If you're tweeting...

#janeswalk | @janeswalk

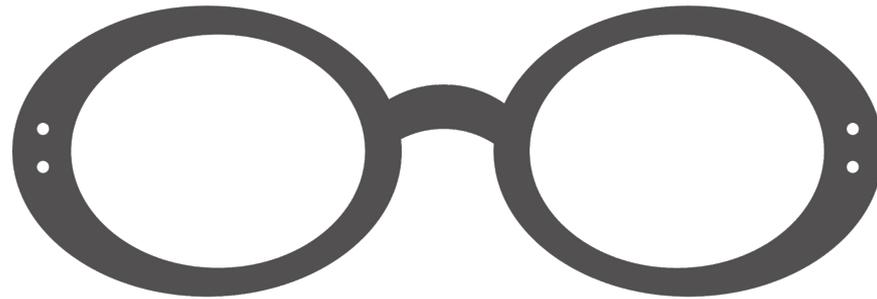
What is
Jane's
Walk?



Jane's Walk is a movement of free, citizen-led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs. The walks get people to tell stories about their communities, explore their cities, and connect with neighbours.



Story of a citizen activist





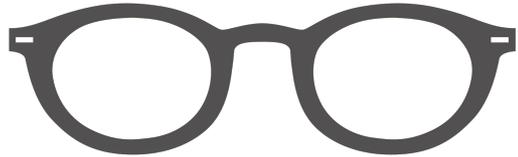
Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) was a writer and activist best known for her writings about cities. Her first book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), upended the ideas of modernist city planning and offered a new vision of diverse cities made for and by the people who live in them.

“Cities have the capability of providing something **for everybody**, only because, and only when, they are created **by everybody**.”

*The Death and Life of
Great American Cities, 1961*



Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Eyes on the Street

Pedestrian traffic throughout the day,
and the watchful eyes that come with it,
enhance the safety of city streets.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Social Capital

The everyday activities and interactions that occur in a neighborhood slowly build up a network of relationships between neighbors. This “social capital” provides a foundation for mutual trust, shared efforts, and resilience in times of trouble.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



The Generators of Diversity

Four factors in city planning and design help make the city diverse, safe, social, convenient, and economically vibrant:

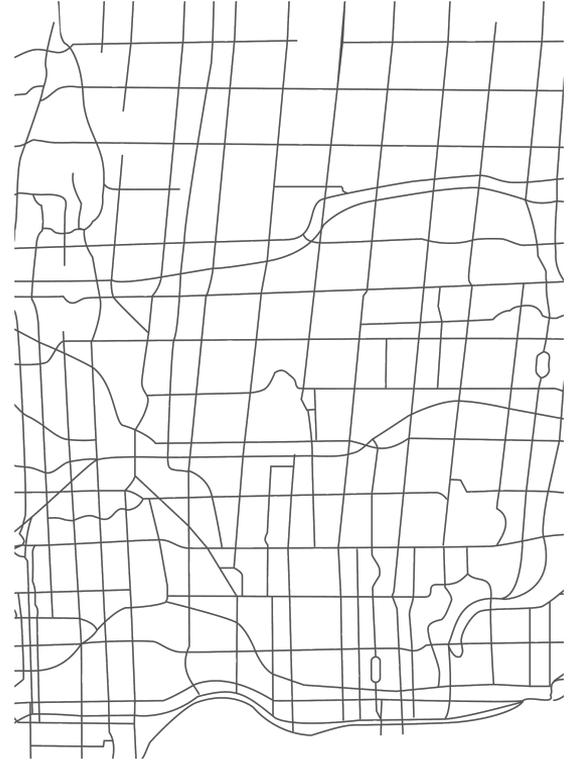
- **Mixed Uses:** A mixture of all kinds of residences, workplaces, and shops brings people out on the street at all times of day.
- **Aged Buildings:** Humdrum, rundown buildings provide inexpensive space for new businesses and other low- or no-profit enterprises.
- **Small Blocks:** A denser street network means more opportunities for retail and more chances for people to meet their neighbors.
- **Population Density:** Simply put, you need lots of people in a small area to provide enough use for a city's streets, parks, and enterprises.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Form Follows Function

Fashions and technologies come and go, but what always remains relevant are the countless ways that people use the city, how the city works as a whole, and whether or not our urban design and planning reflect and serve those functions.



Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Local economies

Economic growth, whether local, national or global, relies on the ability of urban economies to provide amply and diversely for themselves, rather than relying on imports.



Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Innovation

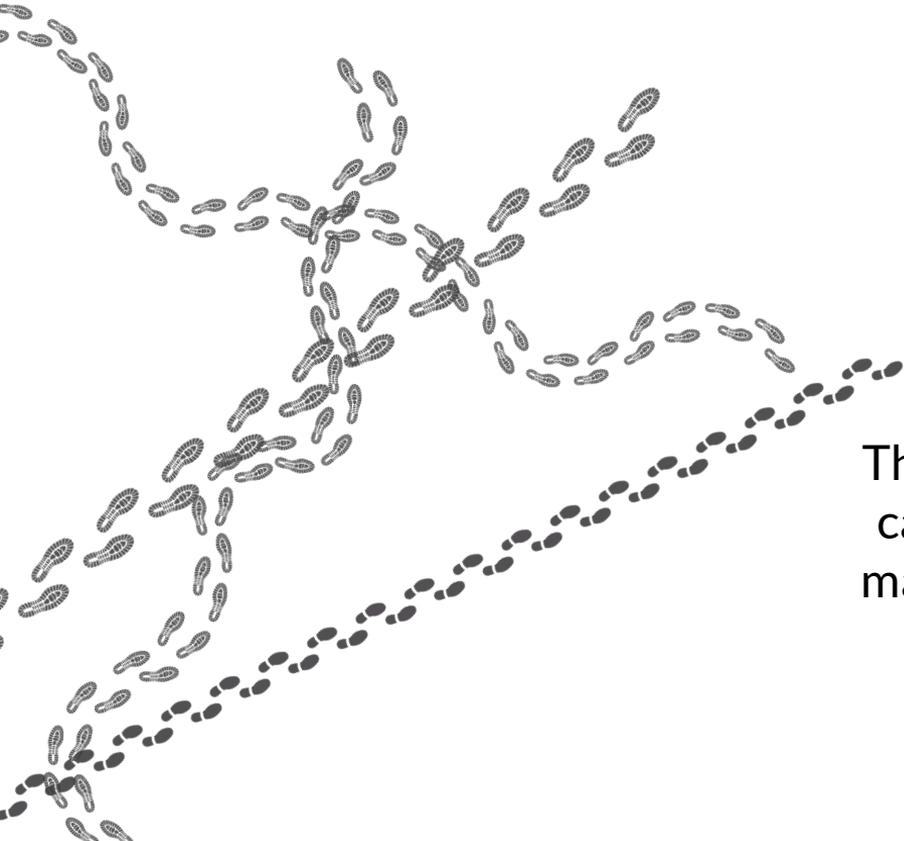
All new work is added to fragments of older work, like the first dressmaker to take up bra-making to improve the fit of her dresses. The greater the diversity of existing work in a local economy, the more opportunities to add new work and recombine old work in new ways.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Many Little Plans

The diversity of a good neighborhood can only be achieved when we allow many different people to pursue their own little plans, individually and collectively.



Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Gradual Money

Both diverse little plans and new kinds of work require diverse little source of money available on an ongoing basis. Unfortunately, both public and private sources often only provide money floods and money droughts instead.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas

Cities as Organized Complexity

Cities function like ecosystems. Everything is connected to everything else in intricate, particular ways that cannot be captured well by statistics or formulas. Only close observation and reasoning from the bottom up will do.

Jane Jacobs' Ten Big Ideas



Citizen Science

The people best equipped to understand urban complexity are “ordinary, interested citizens.” Without the assumptions that often come with professional training, everyday users of the city can learn more freely from what they see and experience firsthand.

Jane's Walk





Jane's Walk was founded in 2006 as a living, walking commemoration of Jane Jacobs and her legacy.

The first year, there were 27 walks in Toronto on the first weekend in May.

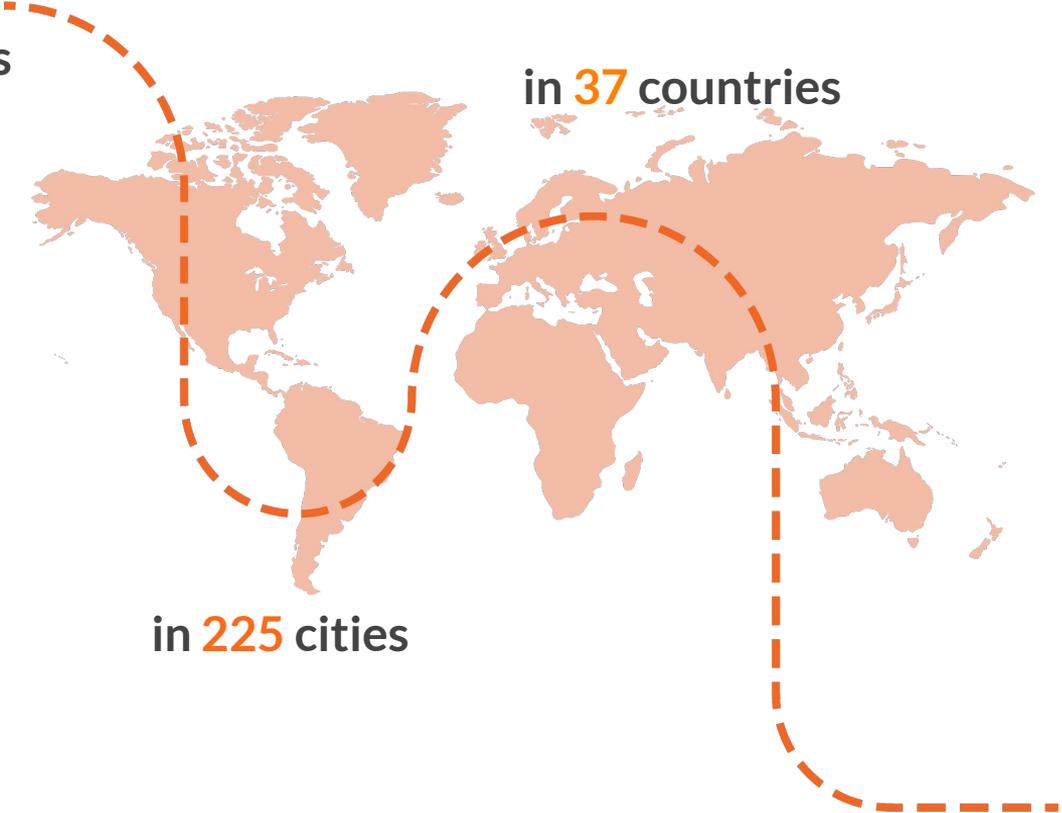
Eleven years later in 2017, there were...

1,695
Jane's Walks

in **37** countries

in **225** cities

across **6**
continents!



Every year on the first weekend in May, tens of thousands of people all over the world take part in Jane's Walk.

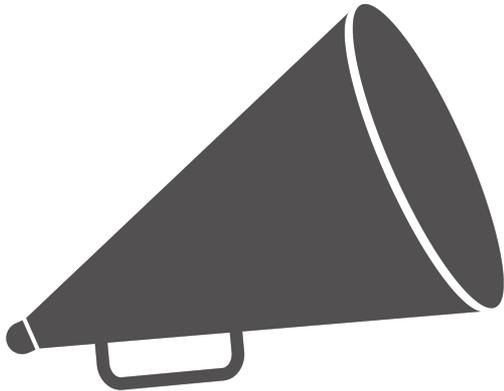


Jane's Walks...

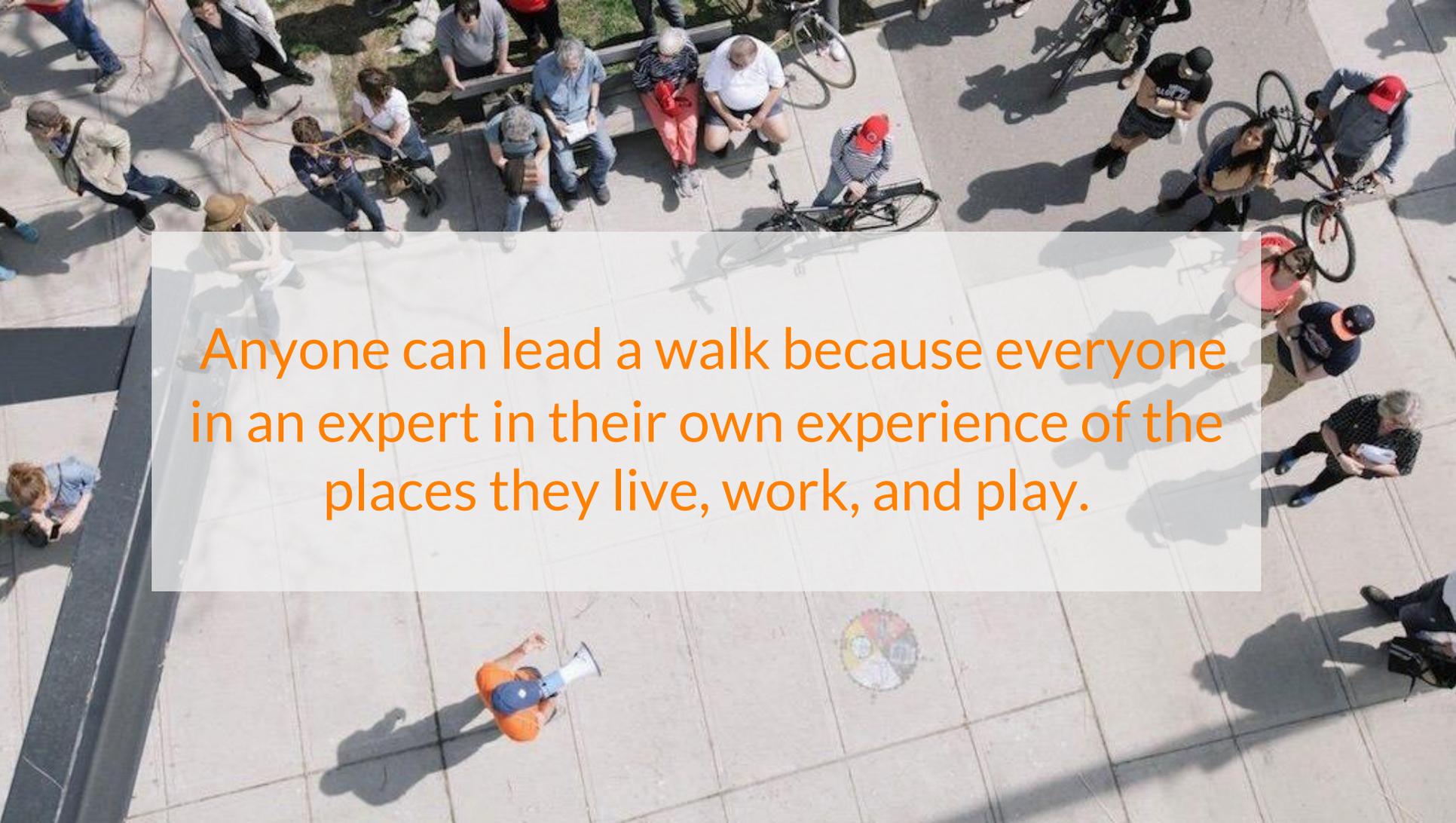
- Connect people to the places they live, work, and play
- Convene deep dialogues that highlight unexpected voices and diverse perspectives
- Hold space for people to exercise their power as active, engaged members of their communities
- Dismantle the walls created by distance, difference, and apathy
- Foster civic leadership



Get Involved



Lead a Jane's Walk!

An aerial photograph of a public square or park area. In the center, a group of people is gathered around a low wooden bench. Some are sitting, while others stand. A person in a red cap is kneeling on the ground near a bicycle. To the right, several people are standing with their bicycles. In the foreground, a person in an orange shirt and blue vest is holding a megaphone, facing the group. The ground is paved with large, light-colored tiles. A circular logo is visible on the pavement near the person with the megaphone. The scene is brightly lit, casting long shadows.

Anyone can lead a walk because everyone
in an expert in their own experience of the
places they live, work, and play.



Your city. Your story.

A Jane's Walk is a walking conversation that can be about anything. It holds space for the perspectives of anyone who has a story to tell.

- Heritage, history, and architecture
- Diaspora communities and immigration
- Housing affordability and economic displacement
- Transportation and mobility
- Food, food access, and food security
- Public art and performance
- Public space
- Accessibility
- Inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Social justice
- Politics and policy
- Community development
- Neighbourhood quirks and characters
- Anything!