THE WALKING NEIGHBOURHOOD
hosted by children
Presented in collaboration with
mammalian diving reflex
www.mammalian.ca

THE WALKING NEIGHBOURHOOD!
(Walks around the Valley, every weekend there are 73 licensed premises in the area. (Brisbane Times))

Welcome to THE WALKING NEIGHBOURHOOD!

A group of children aged 8-12 have collaborated with their families and a team of artists, to develop 14 curated walks across Fortitude Valley. Where, for decades parents have been warning their children of the perceived dangers of this inner urban neighbourhood. Generational fear has swept away all the children, leaving this place a strange adult factory. In the 8 weeks of walking the Valley the only saw a few babies and a handful of teenagers. Where are all the children?

The Walking Neighbourhood is about many things; it is about proving that there are ways for children to feel safe, while being out in public and developing a sense of themselves. This project is also about providing a way for families and communities to support children to become citizens. To use their full agency to access a basic human right of feeling safe to take a walk. Intersecting with so many other ideas and concerns for contemporary children, we hope you will continue these conversations out in your front yard, over the fence, down at the shops, in your local school, workplace, nightclub, lane way and café.

It’s time for all our neighbourhoods to get walking and to stop being worried about the things our TV’s tell us to worry about. Be sensible, ask for help when you need it, start communicating with the people around you, make friends and they stop being strangers, keep each other safe and walk instead of drive, catch a bus, car pool, vote, tell someone influential about the need for footpaths and road crossings and pool fences. Hang out with an 8 year old you know, knock on the door of the your neighbours and introduce yourself! Write letters to everyone on your street, have a street party, celebrate the fact we can take care of each other and don’t worry: bad things don’t actually happen that often.

More than 50,000 people go to the Valley every weekend there are 73 licensed premises in the area. (Brisbane Times)

What happens to A NEIGHBOURHOOD WITHOUT CHILDREN?

“There would be no cool inventions and all adults would be rich.” Kosha 8

“Boring, very, very boring. There would be factories. There would be no schools.” Chad 10

“Without kids people would become extinct and life would be boring.” Brad 11

“I think it wouldn’t be fun, cause you wouldn’t see anyone playing” Paige 10

“We’re better together” Sissy 10

“The block or cul-de-sac that a child lives on is their home. The more kids outside, the happier the residents, the safer the streets, the happier the residents, the safer the neighborhood, you know all is well.” Lenore Skenazy (Author of Free Range Kids)

How far does your sense of responsibility go?

WALK AROUND THE BLOCK – by Ontario Planners The block or cul-de-sac that a child lives on is their first real contact with the world outside their home. How that block functions will determine a young person’s interaction with neighbours and with the community that they live in.

LONDON PLAY Inspired by Colombia, streets are being closed for a few hours a week across London providing children and their community an opportunity to play outside and socialise in a safe space. Through the Street Play project the children are playing locally and going in and out of each other’s homes, which is a key contributor to better neighbourhood relations. www.londonplay.org.uk

THE WALKING NEIGHBOURHOOD METHODOLOGY

This project has been created over the last three years with Lenine Bourke (from Contact Inc) and Darren O’Donnell (from Mammalian Diving Reflex) and a range of artists, children, parents, teachers, government employees, funding bodies, venues, festivals and supportive people (children included). The project has had various elements delivered already and each part seems to have a different name from 600,000 years, The People in the Valley fell into disrepute

Without kids people would become extinct and life would be boring.” Brad 11

“I think it wouldn’t be fun, cause you wouldn’t see anyone playing” Paige 10

“This project is about independence” Sissy 10

As a resident of your community, are you responsible for what happens to the land around you?

“Creepy. Adults are too poppy and serious.” Mali 10

“Boring! There would be nobody playing and nothing to do. Kids have a right to be part of a community, they make things funner for adults” Sina 10

It’s time to get riding – by Bicycle Queensland Keeping children off the streets and out of public spaces, reduces the protective and security value of having more people out and about.

IT’S NOT THAT BAD!

(Online report via virtual tourist)

Went out to the Valley on Friday night, despite being warned by my parents to not, under any circumstances, go. Went out to a couple of clubs and had a fantastic time, and nothing bad happened at all. So the moral of the story? Go to the Valley, you’ve got nothing to lose except the awesome time you won’t have if you don’t go. And don’t, under any circumstances, tell your mother. Apr 22, 2008

“It’s not that bad” Paige 10

How WALK ABLE IS YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

WWW.WALKSCORE.COM

If you need out about bibliographies please go to www.wikipedia.org

WHAT HAPPENS TO VALLEY!

“Why would there be no kids then there would eventually be no adults and therefore all the trees would grow back.” Josh 10

“A NEIGHBOURHOOD WITHOUT CHILDREN?”

Contact Inc currently has an office on Hope St and is moving to Love St in September 2012. www.contact.org.au

Our friends from Mammalian Diving Reflex, live in the City of Toronto, which has been called a “city of neighbourhoods” because it has so many distinct and special neighbourhoods. www.mammalian.ca

WHAT HAPPENS TO VALLEY!

FREEDOM OF THE CITY: Contemporary Issues and Policy Influences on Children and Young People’s Use of Public Open Space in England by HELEN WOOLLEY

Parental fear is one reason why some children are not allowed to make use of open spaces. Research undertaken by Bamford’s revealed that 72% of the children involved in the study were aware of their parents’ fears, relating to social and neighbourhood issues, when they were playing outside (McNeil and Roberts, 1996). The social fears were dominated by that fear of strangers, dogs, bullying and antisocial behaviour. Children feared being abduct by a stranger, but the most common fear was being bullied by other children (Bamburk & Maxwell, 2001; Gaskin & Lister, 2003; programme.

THE WALKING NEIGHBOURHOOD LOVED BY CHILDREN

Turral Aboriginal Nation - Traditional Owners of Meanjin (Brisbane)

WWW.CONTACT.ORG.AU

WEB HISTORY LESSON ABOUT THE VALLEY

1969 Closure of the tram network
1970’s David Jones closed its Valley store
1970’s and 1980’s Valley fell into disrepute ** (note this is not how everyone saw the Valley)
1987 Chinatown Mall opened
1990’s Thriving music scene
1991 Brunswick Street pedestrian shopping mall established
2000 – 2005 High density residents complaints about neighbouring clubs/live music threatened the closure of local venues. Musicians and their fans revolted through the “Save the Music” campaign with 20,000 signatures.
2005 Establishment of Australia’s first “Special Entertainment Precinct”, designed to protect live music and new residents through planning restrictions.