

***In Between  
Fiction  
and Reality //  
Weaving  
Narratives of  
Care and  
Anticipation***

**Sadia Sharmin**

Master's Thesis 2024

Examiner: Marco Adelfio

Supervisors: Emilio Da Cruz Brandao and Jessica Lundin

Chalmers School of Architecture +  
Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering

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**Examiner**

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**CHALMERS**  
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*“The future is always in the making and the scope for action is greater than we think.”*

- Wangel & Fauré, 2021  
Beyond Efficiency

## Abstract

This thesis aims to explore the processes of translating community dialogues into spatial conjectures within the setting of Tynnered in Gothenburg city. The project particularly emphasizes community-engaged placemaking and placekeeping in the neighborhood to counterbalance broader top-down planning initiatives. Amid a neoliberal restructuring of the welfare state, Swedish cities are witnessing a rise in spatialized social disparities. While Gothenburg is considered one of Sweden's financially prosperous cities, it is also acknowledged as one of the most segregated urban areas. Despite various development initiatives aimed at addressing specific area vulnerabilities, the lack of authentic community engagement perpetuates a top-down approach, contradicting the prevailing discourse of "planning for all." This paradoxical situation hinders efforts to reduce systemic inequalities and envision more equitable futures. In the context of the dominant stigmatized representation of Million Programme areas and communities, the voices and experiences of residents in these areas are often sidelined. Furthermore, citizen participation in neighborhood-level planning is often reduced to mere formalities, perpetuating a systemic pattern of exclusion. Labelled as one of the risk areas in the city, Tynnered has been the focus of various development programs aimed at promoting sustainable change. This project tests the potential of merging community narratives with speculative thinking to envision other futures in the context of Tynnered, with specific attention to co-creating meaningful meeting places. While following a creative, participatory, and ethnographic research methodology, this project examines proactive local initiatives and uses storytelling and a ficto-critical approach to speculate future scenarios of spatial practices. By developing 'what if' narratives of small actions, the project evokes collective imagination and anticipation.

**Keywords:** Placemaking and Placekeeping, Community narrative, Speculative thinking, Ficto-critical approach, Storytelling, Spatial practice.

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## About the Author

**Sadia Sharmin** earned her Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 2015. With a passion for co-creation processes and "other ways of doing architecture," Sadia completed her research internship with the ASA program Scholarship in Berlin, Germany, in 2016. Since then, Sadia has been actively involved in community collaborations in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Notably, she dedicated herself to working with communities, especially children and youth groups, for seven years in *Karail Basti*, the largest informal settlement in Bangladesh.

Sadia adopts an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach to her work, incorporating participatory drawing, collective mapping, critical cartography, experimental architecture, storytelling, and the development of creative advocacy tools and visual narratives. In 2019, Sadia won the silver prize in the "Shelter For Soul" International Design & Installation Competition organized by the Korean Institute of Architects (KIA) in Seoul. In 2021, she was awarded the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) Cross Culture Fellowship, during which she initiated the "Letter to the City" project, aimed at fostering critical discussions on gender-equal city planning in Bangladesh. Also in 2021, when schools were shut down in remote villages of Bangladesh due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sadia collaborated with a rural community in Kishoreganj to co-create an alternative learning space for children.

Alongside her community-focused initiatives, Sadia served as a full-time lecturer at the department of architecture at the Military Institute of Science and Technology in Dhaka from 2017 to 2022. In 2022, she received the Swedish Institute Scholarship for Global Professionals (SISGP) for her master's studies in Sweden.



## Reading Instructions

This thesis booklet is divided into six chapters or parts, each addressing a distinct aspect of the research.

**Part I** discusses the broader background of the project, addressing research questions, the research timeframe, methodology, and relevant theories.

**Part II** details the research process and community engagement tools utilized.

**Part III** delves into the concepts of placemaking and placekeeping.

**Part IV** explores a specific case of grassroots placemaking and placekeeping in Tynnered, emphasizing the insights gained from this local practice.

**Part V** opens discussions on speculative narratives and collective imagination related to future placemaking and placekeeping initiatives in Tynnered.

**Part VI** offers conclusive remarks, highlighting the power of anticipation, the impact of small actions, and the reimagined role of architects in the co-creative changemaking process.



# *Behind the Scene*

The Beginning of 'Why'

## Narratives of Segregation

The spatial segregation witnessed in Sweden has its roots in racializing and discriminatory social processes and cultural practices (McEachrane, 2019; Pred, 2000, as cited in Turan and Ågren, 2022). These processes of spatialized social inequalities are increasing in Swedish cities, particularly in the context of a neoliberal re-engineering of the welfare state. According to urban studies scholars Thörn and Thörn (2017, p. 293), Swedish cities are described as belonging to the most segregated in Europe. Although the prevailing planning discourse in Sweden emphasizes planning “for all,” it paradoxically aligns with hierarchical portrayals of residential neighborhoods in public media, especially along the fault lines of ‘ethnicity/race.’ This results in the stigmatization of neighborhoods developed within the Million Homes Programme at the peripheries of the cities, as outlined in Backvall’s research (2019). This stigmatization process, rather than addressing the underlying root causes, unjustly attributes responsibility for social ills such as crime or poverty to the residents of these neighborhoods, enforcing further discrimination (Tahvilzadeh, 2021).

In his book ‘Alienation is my Nation’ (2007), social scientist Ove Sernhede discusses youth culture and social exclusion in Hammarkullen, a Million Homes Programme suburb of Gothenburg. While describing the evolving image of the suburb, he emphasizes that it is a portrayal crafted by individuals external to its residents:

*“Stereotypical conceptions about criminality, racial, cultural, and religious conflicts have produced moral panic, which not only contributes to the legitimization of the division between ‘us and them’ but also reinforces the experience of exclusion for people in these areas.”*

(Sernhede, 2002, as cited in Castell, 2010)

Within this stigmatized portrayal, the narratives and dialogues of individuals residing in these areas are frequently marginalized, exacerbating the exclusionary nature of these discourses. Furthermore, the processes of citizen participation in the design and planning of proposals at the neighborhood level are often reduced to perfunctory exercises, reinforcing a systemic pattern of exclusion.

Gothenburg, Sweden’s second-largest and economically prosperous city, is frequently singled out as one of the nation’s most segregated urban centers. Over the years, several development programs, strategies, and economic models have been tested addressing the vulnerable areas and their challenges within the city. Nonetheless, the authentic inclusion of community dialogues, narratives, and local knowledge often tends to be disregarded or reduced to mere checkbox exercises in the processes of effecting change. The absence of genuine, ground-level dialogues, and community engagement processes underscores a prevailing top-down mindset. This persists despite the predominant planning discourse advocating for “planning for All.” This paradoxical scenario, along with its associated challenges, serves to perpetuate systemic inequalities, ultimately jeopardizing the effectiveness of development initiatives and the collective ability to envision alternative, more equitable futures.

A recent article (Costa, 2022) on the city of Gothenburg's development initiatives addressing six vulnerable neighborhoods highlights concerns from residents living in those areas regarding the absence of grassroots consultation and a genuine understanding of the lived experiences of predominantly migrant communities.

For instance, Faduma Awil, who migrated from Somalia and now resides in Hjällbo, one of the Million Programme neighborhoods in the city, notes that:

*“We have 189 nationalities living in Hjällbo,” she also mentions, “The Swedes who come here come for work then go home again. The city has put a lot of money into different projects, but after two years we are back in the same spot again because the city comes up with what they think are the solutions. They don’t listen to the people in the area to ask, ‘What do you need? How can we improve your lives?’”*

(Costa, 2022)

Awil arrived in Hjällbo in 1993 at the age of seven. Over the years, she pursued a career as a social worker and later transitioned into a coaching role at the careers support center, Sammjobb. She emphasizes,

*“That’s the way you tackle a problem – togetherness – not coming in with your solution and what you think is good. You don’t know me. You cannot know what is good for me and my peers.”*

Swedish cities = “Belong[ing] to the most segregated in Europe”



“Planning for **ALL**”

VS.

Hierarchical portrayals  
of neighbourhoods

[ Million Programme areas ]

Stigmatizing places and people



Lack of on the ground dialogues

&

Citizen participation is reduced to

mere formalities

Figure 1: **Behind the Scene**

The larger context of segregation and the underlying top-down planning attitude highlight the lack of community dialogue in the planning processes. Most of the time, citizen participation is reduced to checkbox tasks.

## Zooming into Tynnered

Tynnered, situated in the southwestern part of Gothenburg, is one of the Million Programme areas. Its population stands at around 16,969, with 39.2% of residents born outside Sweden (Göteborgsbladet, 2023). The community boasts a diverse demographic, with origins spanning Iran, Iraq, Somalia, India, Syria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Poland, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Finland, and other countries. Notably, nearly 30.9% of Tynnered's inhabitants are under the age of 25, a substantially higher proportion compared to the city of Gothenburg's average.

For the past decade, Tynnered has endured the categorizations of being a “vulnerable” and “high-risk” community within Gothenburg. These designations carry adverse consequences, encompassing both social and economic dimensions. The Swedish Police Authority has identified specific areas in Tynnered as particularly susceptible, characterized by low levels of education, income, and comparatively frequent occurrences of criminal activity. Despite its diverse population, Tynnered grapples with enduring challenges, including the absence of community spaces, a scarcity of youth facilities, and limited cultural activities for an extended period.

### Destination Tynnered

Labeled as one of the risk areas within the city, Tynnered has garnered considerable attention over the years through several development programs aimed at facilitating sustainable transformation. One notable initiative is 'Destination Tynnered', established in 2021 by three key partners: Volvo Cars, Stena Fastigheter, and Framtiden. This collaborative effort is dedicated to addressing both current and future challenges within the area, with a primary focus on societal development. Key objectives include enhancing educational outcomes, providing support for youth leisure activities encompassing sports and culture, fostering job creation, and facilitating area-wide development initiatives. The collaboration among the partners is slated to continue its endeavors until 2030.

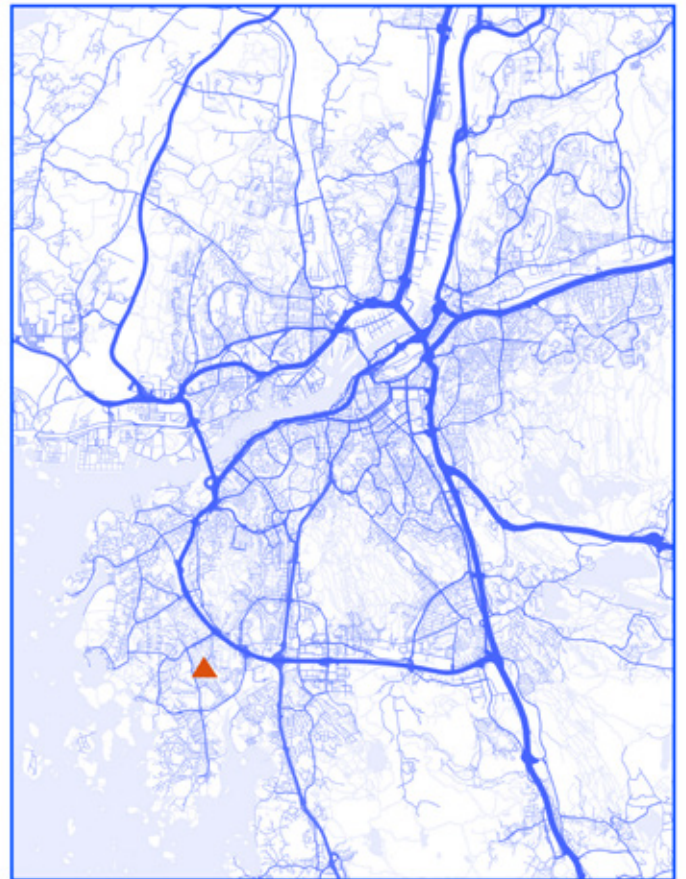


Figure 2: Location of Tynnered in Gothenburg

## Starting with Question(s)

Disregarding community knowledge and dialogues negatively impacts the success of development initiatives in vulnerable areas. As Tynnered undergoes transformation due to urban planning processes, this thesis focuses on the role of community narratives in shaping present and future changes. This project responds to the broader ongoing transformations in the area by translating diverse community dialogues into spatial conjectures, with particular attention to interventions relating to community meeting places within Tynnered in Gothenburg city. It seeks to explore community insights, narratives, knowledge, and local practices to speculate on alternative futures for the spatial, cultural, and social dynamics of the neighborhood within the context of wider urban planning processes and initiatives.

### *How can community narratives and speculative thinking be effectively integrated to envision other futures in the context of Tynnered, Gothenburg?*

- How can storytelling and speculative scenarios provoke imaginations and visualize diverse possibilities of spatial practices?
- How can long-term placekeeping engagements with community members generate meaningful places and collective values of care?
- How the collective knowledge produced from community dialogues, insights, and practices can contribute to neighbourhood and urban planning process?

## With Aspiration

The overarching goal of this thesis is to delve into the intricate processes of translating community dialogues into tangible spatial conjectures, with a focus on Tynnered in Gothenburg city. The emphasis is particularly placed on community-engaged and initiated placemaking and placekeeping within the neighborhood, aimed at counterbalancing broader top-down planning initiatives.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

#### **Explore, Document, Learn and Reflect:**

- Investigate, document, and reflect on community narratives and insights related to participatory placemaking and placekeeping in the neighborhood.

#### **Understanding Collaborations and Dynamics:**

- Understand the scope of collaborations and dynamics among various stakeholders active in the neighborhood.
- Visualize potential associations between different actors to activate and sustain placekeeping processes in the long term.

#### **Develop Future Spatial Scenarios:**

- Employ a ficto-critical approach to develop future spatial scenarios.
- Visualize interconnected spatial, cultural, and social activities to stimulate imaginations and explore possibilities.

#### **Enable and Nurture Community Building Processes:**

- Support and nurture community building processes.
- Engage in collective knowledge production through co-creating meeting places.

# Focusing the Lens

Tynnered, as a neighborhood, has been grappling with persistent challenges, including a lack of active community spaces, insufficient youth facilities, and a prolonged dearth of cultural activities. A recent community report (Dialog Tynnered, 2023) highlights that the majority of residents call for more active meeting places and vibrant social life in Tynnered (see Figure 3). Responding to this particular issue, the thesis delves into examining the interconnected **micro- and meso-level spatial speculations**, with a specific emphasis on community spaces, youth facilities, placemaking, and placekeeping processes within Tynnered, Gothenburg. The focus is centered on speculating potential interventions and collaborations through community dialogue, narratives, and insights.

This thesis does not engage in speculating on scenarios for broader urban or socio-economic transformation at the macro level.

It is important to note that urban design operates across multiple scales, from the individual block to neighborhoods and entire cities, with each scale influencing and informing decisions at others (Ardıçoğlu, 2022). Günay (1999) defines urban design as the creation of theories and practices that guide urban forms at macro, meso, and micro scales, while Heeling (2001) emphasizes that urban design can occur at any scale and is related to public spaces, buildings, and their surroundings.

## Micro Scale

The micro scale focuses on the details of our everyday environment, including materials, colors, textures, plant species, lighting elements, building facades, architectural details, and urban furniture. This scale shapes our spatial perception and completes the design ideas established at larger scales.

## Meso Scale

The meso scale serves as a bridge between the macro and micro scales, focusing on the spatial organization and relationships between different urban elements. In the meso scale, details such as open spaces, vegetation, landscaping, parking lots, pedestrian and bicycle networks, and building forms are addressed.

## Macro Scale

At the macro scale, the overall form of the city emerges from factors like land use, transportation, and urban units, encompassing the broader planning and organization of entire cities or urban regions (Ardıçoğlu, 2022).

In the context of Tynnered, this thesis focuses on exploring participatory and creative means of transforming public spaces into vibrant community places through placemaking and placekeeping strategies.

## Placemaking

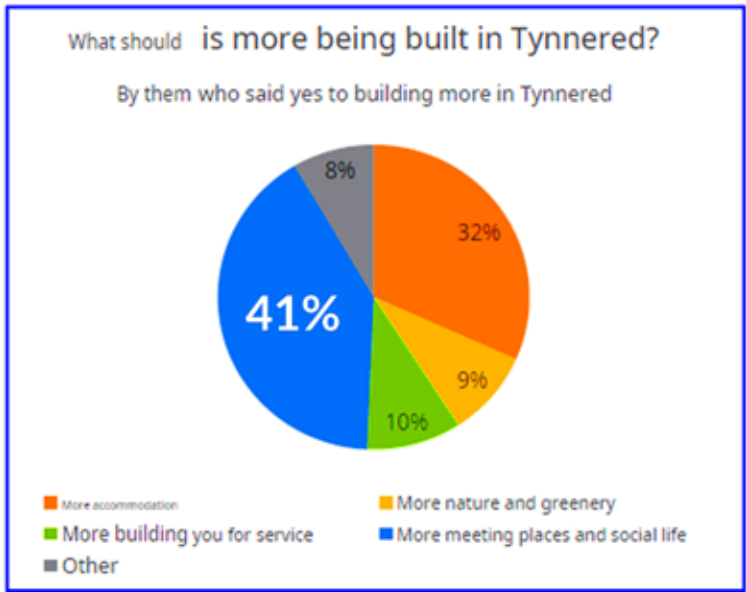
Placemaking isn't a new concept. While the term 'placemaking' gained popularity in the mid-1990s with Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a cross-disciplinary non-profit based in New York, its roots trace back to the 1960s. Prominent urban thinkers like Jane Jacobs and William H. Whyte championed ideas about designing cities around people. Jacobs emphasized community involvement in streets with her 'eyes on the street' concept, while Whyte outlined strategies for creating vibrant public spaces.

Drawing from the insights of these urban pioneers and others, PPS (2007) defines placemaking both as a concept and a practical approach to enhancing communities. It encourages collective efforts to reimagine and revitalize public spaces as vital community hubs. Centered on community participation, effective placemaking leverages local assets, inspiration, and potential to create high-quality public spaces that enhance community health, happiness, and well-being.

## Placekeeping

The concept of placekeeping pertains to the long-term management of public and private open spaces. It involves the ongoing care, maintenance, and enhancement of the outcomes of placemaking, ensuring they remain valued, sustainable, and of high quality within a specific local context. This definition does not imply that placemaking ends when placekeeping begins; rather, they are interconnected and evolving concepts (Dempsey & Smith, 2014).

[more discussion about placemaking and placekeeping is at part III]



When asked what the residents wish to see built, 41% want to see more meeting places and social life.

### Dialog Tynnered

Kunskap från boende om Tynnereds kvaliteter, utmaningar och utvecklingspotential

**Göteborgs Stad**

**DIALOG iTYNNERED!**

Ett dialogarbete av Stena Fastigheter, Bostadsbolaget och Familjebostäder.  
#DestinationTynnered

**H** Hyresgästföreningen

Figure 3: The community report (Dialog Tynnered, 2023) highlights that the majority of residents call for more active meeting places and vibrant social life in Tynnered.



# Setting Framework: Exploring Tools and Theories

The thesis adheres to a qualitative methodology, characterized by a transformative worldview, and incorporates participatory and creative processes. Employing a creative, participatory, and ethnographic research methodology, this project delves into proactive local initiatives. Utilizing storytelling and a ficto-critical approach, it endeavors to speculate on future scenarios of spatial practices.

The methodology includes a range of participatory action research tools, such as:

- **Interviews**
- **Observational mapping**
- **Creative workshops (of multiple formats )**
- **Thinking through drawing**
- **Fiction and Creating scenarios of 'What if'**
- **Visual storytelling**

The exploration and utilization of these tools are discussed in detail in the following section (Part II: Being Present).

While developing the theoretical framework, this thesis draws upon a network of interrelated concepts encompassing 'Other Ways of Doing Architecture' (Awan, Schneider, & Till, 2011) and references speculative thinking, critical spatial practice, feminist spatial practice, practicing otherwise, and a ficto-critical writing approach. These theories are pivotal as they establish a critical standpoint and perspective for this thesis while engaging with practical tools (as mentioned above) and approaches such as placemaking and placekeeping. They also inform and guide interdisciplinary approaches essential for working with communities and related stakeholders.

## **Speculative Thinking**

This thesis explores speculative thinking primarily within the context of reimagining the future of social meeting places in Tynnered, drawing heavily from grassroots insights and community dialogues. However, this approach to envisioning alternative futures is rooted in the broader concept of speculative thinking in design. This involves the creation of artifacts, scenarios, or systems that spark conversations about possible futures. In their book 'Speculative Everything: Design, Fiction, and Social Dreaming', authors Anthony Dunne and Fiona Raby advocate for designers to move beyond conventional problem-solving methods and instead explore diverse futures through speculative design.

Rather than focusing solely on pragmatic solutions, speculative design encourages designers to engage in imaginative and thought-provoking exercises that question assumptions and unlock new possibilities. Dunne and Raby (2013) underscore the significance of embracing ambiguity, uncertainty, and complexity in speculative design endeavors. By intentionally blurring the boundaries between reality and fiction, designers can foster an environment for critical reflection and exploration of societal values, beliefs, and aspirations.

## **Critical Spatial Practice**

This thesis aspires to stimulate discussions concerning collaborations and neighborhood planning processes beyond problem-solving projects. As discussed in 'Feminist Futures of Spatial Practice' by Schalk et al. (2017), in today's context of ecological, economic, and social crises, architectural and planning processes need to transcend a mere problem-solving attitude. Through the notion of 'critical spatial practice' (2006, 2011), Jane Rendell clarifies the critical dimension: "Projects that pose questions as the central tenet of the research, instead of, or in addition to, solving or resolving problems, tend to produce objects that critically rethink the parameters of the problem itself" (Rendell, 2004, p. 145). She also articulates the necessity for critical spatial practice in addressing the urgent socio-economic, political, and environmental challenges of our time by involving creativity and social critique, which manifest in the form of "everyday activities and creative practices" (Rendell, 2011, p. 24).

## **Feminist Spatial Practice**

While reflecting on future spatial practices in relation to redefining the architect's role in working with communities and diverse stakeholders, this thesis envisions practical actions and collective knowledge production in the neighborhood. This is highly inspired by discussions around feminist spatial practice. Schalk et al. (2017) emphasize that feminist spatial practice transcends mere questioning and opposition; it also involves envisioning, activating, and realizing alternative norms or ideals. For instance, it may manifest as 'embodied utopias' (Grosz, 2001) or take shape through the concept of 'practicing otherwise' (Petrescu, 2007).

## **Ficto-Critical Approach**

Centering on narratives, this thesis delves into the ficto-critical writing approach while engaging with community dialogues and insights (see part IV and V). This approach takes inspiration from the perspectives

outlined in the book 'Writing Architectures: Ficto-Critical Approaches,' which explores the fusion of fiction, experimental writing, and criticism within architectural contexts. Frichot and Stead (2020) emphasize that architects and fiction writers alike share a fundamental goal: the imaginative creation of new worlds. This parallels the notion that architectural concepts, like fictional narratives, are initially born from storytelling. Ficto-critical writing emerges as a potent tool for creative architectural practice, offering novel avenues for narrative exploration within and beyond the architectural discipline.

## An Ongoing Journey

To provide context for the timeframe, it's essential to highlight that the thesis work stems from continuous participatory action research initiated in Tynnered since June 2023. The timeline delineates this ongoing endeavor into three primary phases spanning from June 2023 to May 2024, while acknowledging the comprehensive scope of work divided into five phases (see Figure 4).

### Phase 1: Summer Space 2023 in Tynnered (June - August 2023)

The groundwork of this thesis was established in the summer of 2023 through active community engagement in Tynnered via participation in the Summer Space 2023 initiative. This initiative is facilitated by **First to Know** and supported by **Destination Tynnered**, as discussed earlier.

The Summer Space framework revolves around community-engaged participatory research conducted during the summer, in collaboration with a diverse group of students from both master's and high school levels. Master's students, representing diverse disciplines such as architecture, industrial ecology, business, and international administration, take on the role of coordinating tasks and mentoring high school students in community engagement activities and fieldwork.

The primary objectives of the Summer Space initiative are to grasp the intricacies of the neighborhood context and cultivate ideas stemming from community dialogues that contribute to neighborhood development. Through the Summer Space 2023 initiative, a comprehensive

network was established, engaging a varied range of stakeholders. Over the course of the research phase, spanning from June to August 2023, in-depth interviews were conducted with community members, residents, and other pertinent actors. Furthermore, several workshops and creative sessions were introduced and tested with community members. Critical conversations and narratives started to unfold during these period concerning inactive public spaces, issues of safety in certain areas, stigmatized attitude towards places and people, lack of cultural and social environment in the neighbourhood, lack of creative and engaging leisure activities for children and families, children and youth involvement in criminal activities, and need for meaningful, safe and inclusive meeting places for all age groups in the community. However, there has been also voices and hints of aspiration, insights, ideas, and ongoing practices from the community members, organizations, and related stakeholders to tackle these issues in long-term.

These narratives center on actions, continuous learning, and shared values for fostering care and effecting change. Significantly, as discussions with community members progressed, conversations regarding the future began to unfold, sparking discourse on placemaking, placekeeping, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders within Tynnered.

The insights garnered and ideas formulated were shared with the community members through a comprehensive presentation in August 2023.

The key takeaways from this phase are:

1. Cultivating a sense of trust and empathy among community members by introducing oneself (non-resident researcher), fostering an environment conducive to ongoing collaboration and meaningful conversations.
2. Gaining a nuanced understanding of the neighborhood context through direct, empirical experiences working daily from the community hub, free from bias often found in dominant media narratives.
3. Building a robust network comprising key individuals, residents, and relevant stakeholders to sustain and broaden dialogues, facilitating future collaborations.
4. Experimenting with interaction tools and organizing events tailored to engage diverse age groups within the community.
5. Identifying the need to work with children and youth in Tynnered.

### **Phase 2: Thesis Preparation + Creative Course with Children in Tynnered (September - December 2023)**

After the conclusion of the summer project, the preparation timeline for thesis development commenced in September 2023. During this period, the theoretical framework began to evolve, complemented by a series of interviews conducted in Tynnered to further explore neighborhood challenges and possibilities. With a heightened focus on structuring the thesis, a draft project plan was prepared based on insights gathered from fieldwork and theoretical studies.

In a deliberate effort to incorporate children's perspectives and experiences within the neighborhood, a creative course was initiated in September 2023. This initiative received support from Studieförbundet Bilda (Study Association Bilda) and Opalatorgetsbibliotek, the children's library in Tynnered. The course, which remains ongoing, aims to engage children and teenagers through creative exercises, drawings, and storytelling, facilitating the expression of their thoughts through visual storytelling.

This course significantly contributes to the thesis work by fostering engagement with local children and their parents. Furthermore, it serves as a platform for organizing creative workshops and brainstorming sessions with children, soliciting their ideas on neighborhood spaces. Additionally, the course helps to maintain a regular presence and engagement in Tynnered, further enhancing the research process.

### **Phase 3: Master's Thesis (January - May 2024)**

The official master's thesis timeline commenced in January 2024. This phase is characterized by extensive in-depth interviews, workshops, and crucial fieldwork activities conducted in Tynnered from January to May 2024. Additionally, it serves as a pivotal period for synthesizing community narratives, identifying potential interventions, and speculating on future developments. This phase is further elaborated upon in the following chapter.

The learnings gained during this phase are shared not only within academic circles but also with community members in Tynnered, fostering a cohesive and transparent exchange. It's essential to clarify that the master's thesis phase does not mark the conclusion of participatory research in Tynnered. Instead, it contributes to enhancing the content and scope of future collaborations within the neighborhood.

### **Phase 4: Summer Space 2024 in Tynnered (June - August 2024)**

While maintaining ongoing dialogue with residents in Tynnered, this phase aims to test community-engaged activities, events, and interventions that contribute to both placemaking and placekeeping. It also represents a crucial period for brainstorming and co-creating possibilities for long-term engagement. The objective of this phase is to exchange ideas with community members and relevant stakeholders while expanding the network.

### **Phase 5: To Be Continued [Speculating +Anticipating] (September - December 2024)**

This phase embodies the anticipation of a continued journey. At present, it signifies the intent to maintain the momentum of the ongoing learning process and collective knowledge production.

# An Ongoing Journey

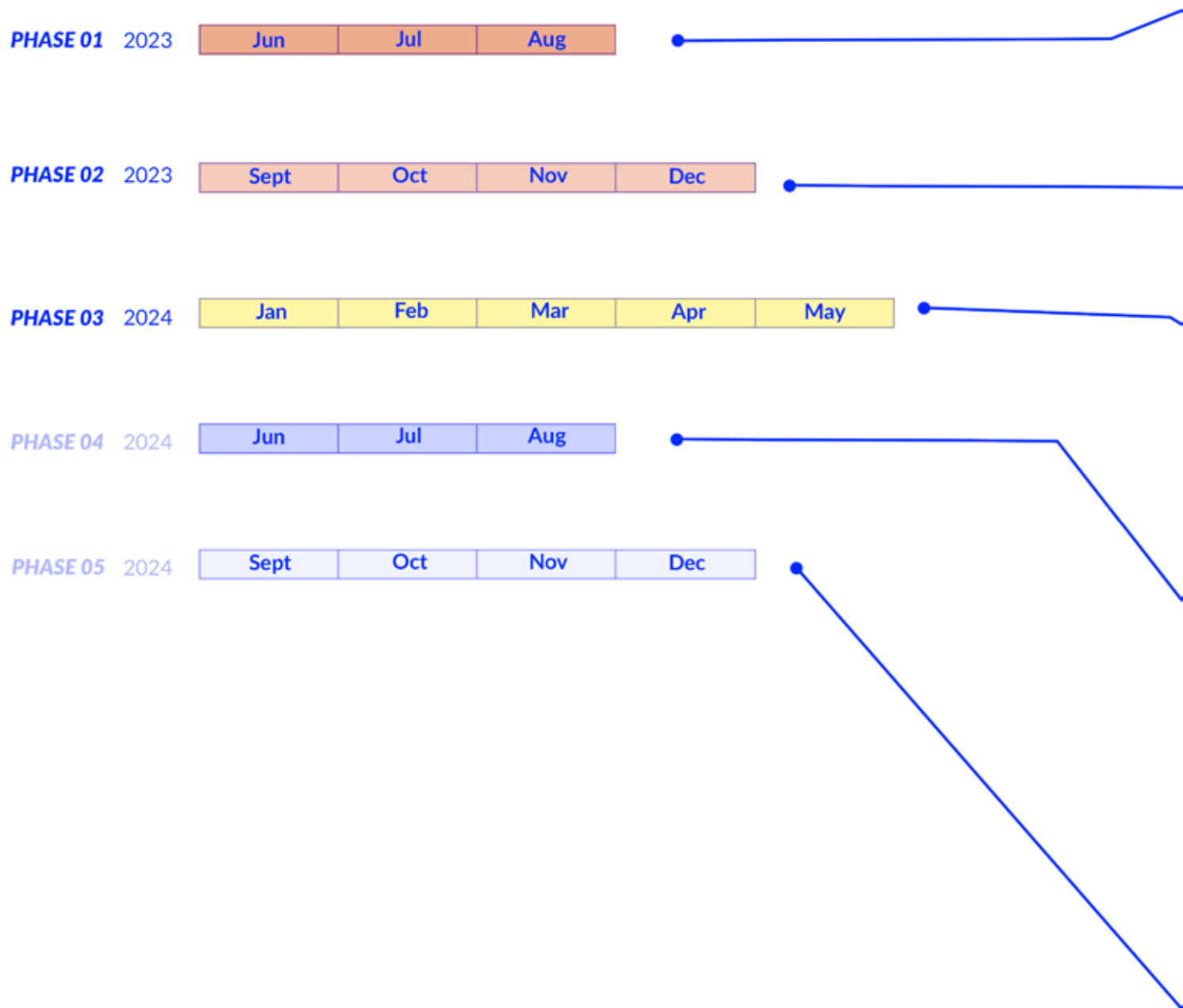
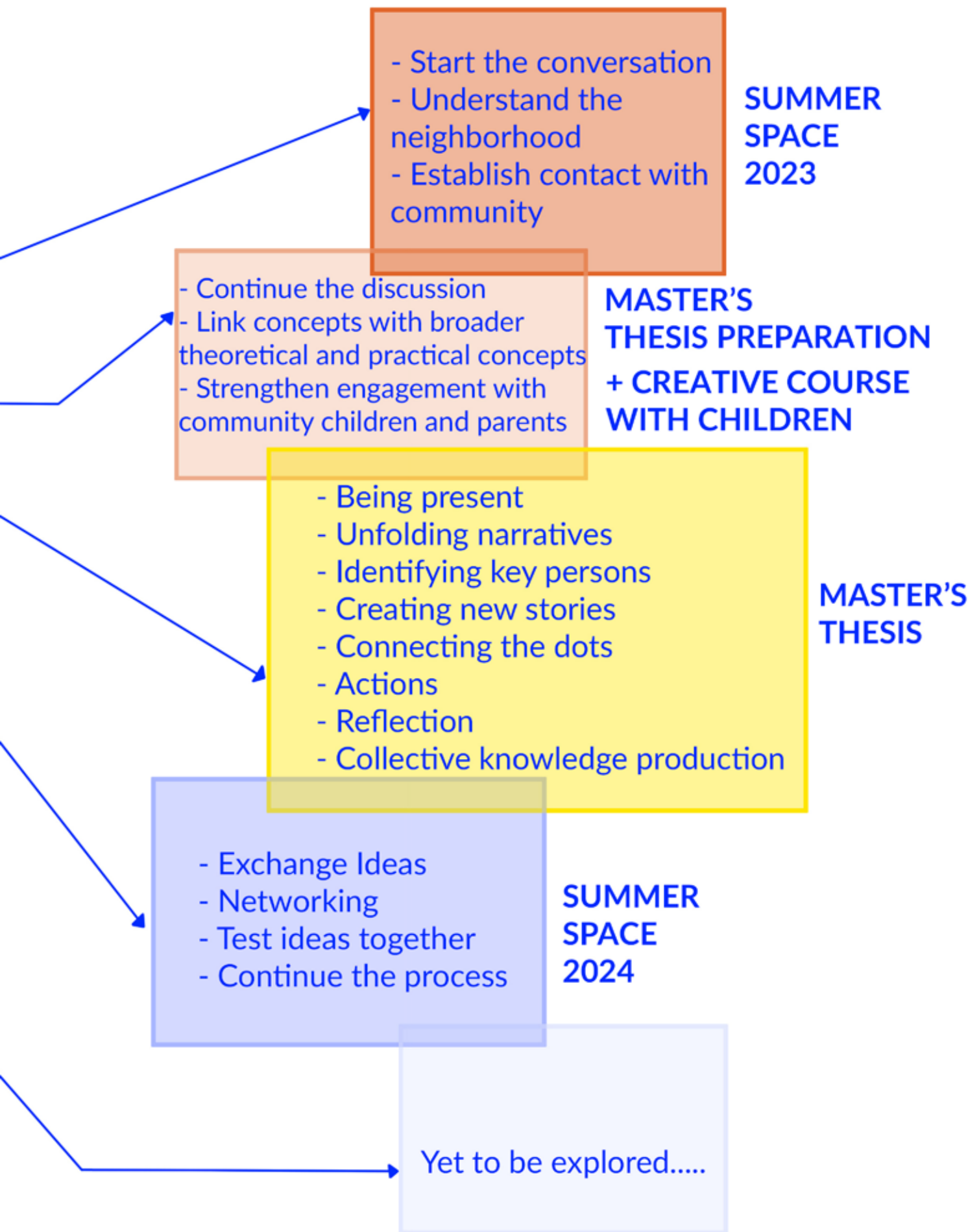


Figure 4: Thesis timeframe portrays an ongoing collaboration process in Tynnered.



# *Being Present*

Taking Time to Position, Understand and Respond

This chapter discusses the methodology and working process in Tynnered. Given that this thesis is a community-engaged participatory action research project, engaging with residents and stakeholders within the neighborhood has been a priority throughout the fieldwork. Working daily from the community hub in Tynnered has been proven effective not only for establishing contacts and organizing meetings but also for sharing ideas and receiving regular feedback. This approach emphasizes learning about the community directly from its members and understanding the context through the collected experiences from dialogues, observations, and workshops.

The participatory process can be described in three main phases (see figure 5):

1. Being Present
2. Connecting Stories
3. Anticipating

## Being Present

Being present is not merely about physical presence in the neighborhood and working from the community hub daily; it is an ongoing process of interconnected actions. This involves a continuous cycle of meeting people, introducing oneself, engaging in conversations, asking questions, listening, talking, enjoying fika together, walking in the neighborhood, participating in community events, organizing activities, encountering unexpected situations, unfolding stories, identifying key individuals, planning collaboratively, creating new narratives, and meeting more people. The process begins with meeting and engaging with community members, but it functions as a continuous loop where one action spontaneously leads to another (see figure 6).

The main takeaways from this approach of 'being present' are unfolding stories, identifying key persons, and creating new stories (see figure 7).

### *Unfolding Stories*

Here stories refer to the community knowledge and experiences that are not prominent in larger media representations. They also highlight grassroots initiatives and changemaking efforts in the area. Interacting with residents, community members, and organizations provides exposure to diverse narratives and insights. These stories help to understand the neighborhood dynamics through firsthand experiences, observations, and exchanges with people.

### *Identifying Key Persons*

Identifying key persons is crucial as they help extend the networking process to reach others. In community-engaged projects or research, the first step is to create entry points in the neighborhood. It is neither ethical nor feasible to claim to work with the entire community from the beginning. Building trust is a slow process. The initial task is to identify several individuals in the neighborhood who are open to conversations and have ideas to explore. They could be regular tenants, children, teenagers, school teachers, artists, youth workers, housing company employees, or others, including actors not residing in the neighborhood. They are usually proactive and facilitate initiating discussions and brainstorming ideas. Through their help, it is possible to reach out to other members of the community.

### *Creating New Stories*

After identifying and establishing contact with several key persons in the community, it becomes possible to brainstorm ideas together, generate future collaboration possibilities, expand the network, and thus create new stories and long-term engagements.

## Connecting Stories

Connecting stories naturally follows exposure to diverse narratives from community members. To achieve this, it is essential to establish ground rules or principles to identify common patterns and create cohesive dialogues from these diverse narratives.

As a mapping principle, this thesis focuses on stories of places, people, actions, care, and possibilities (see figure 8). Setting this principle helps to sort out narratives (see figure 9). For example, there are narratives about criminality, youth violence, and a lack of positive role models. On the other hand, there are stories about creative meeting places, the need to care for one's surroundings, meaningful after-school activities, and placekeeping processes. Focusing on these positive narratives (marked in blue in figure 9) also acts as a response to the negative aspects (marked in red in figure 9) while opening possibilities for action.

This mapping approach simultaneously helps to connect key persons and spaces in the area (see figure 10). These specific protagonists are highlighted because they are real characters from the neighborhood linked to interrelated spatial intervention projects and ideas (see figure 10).

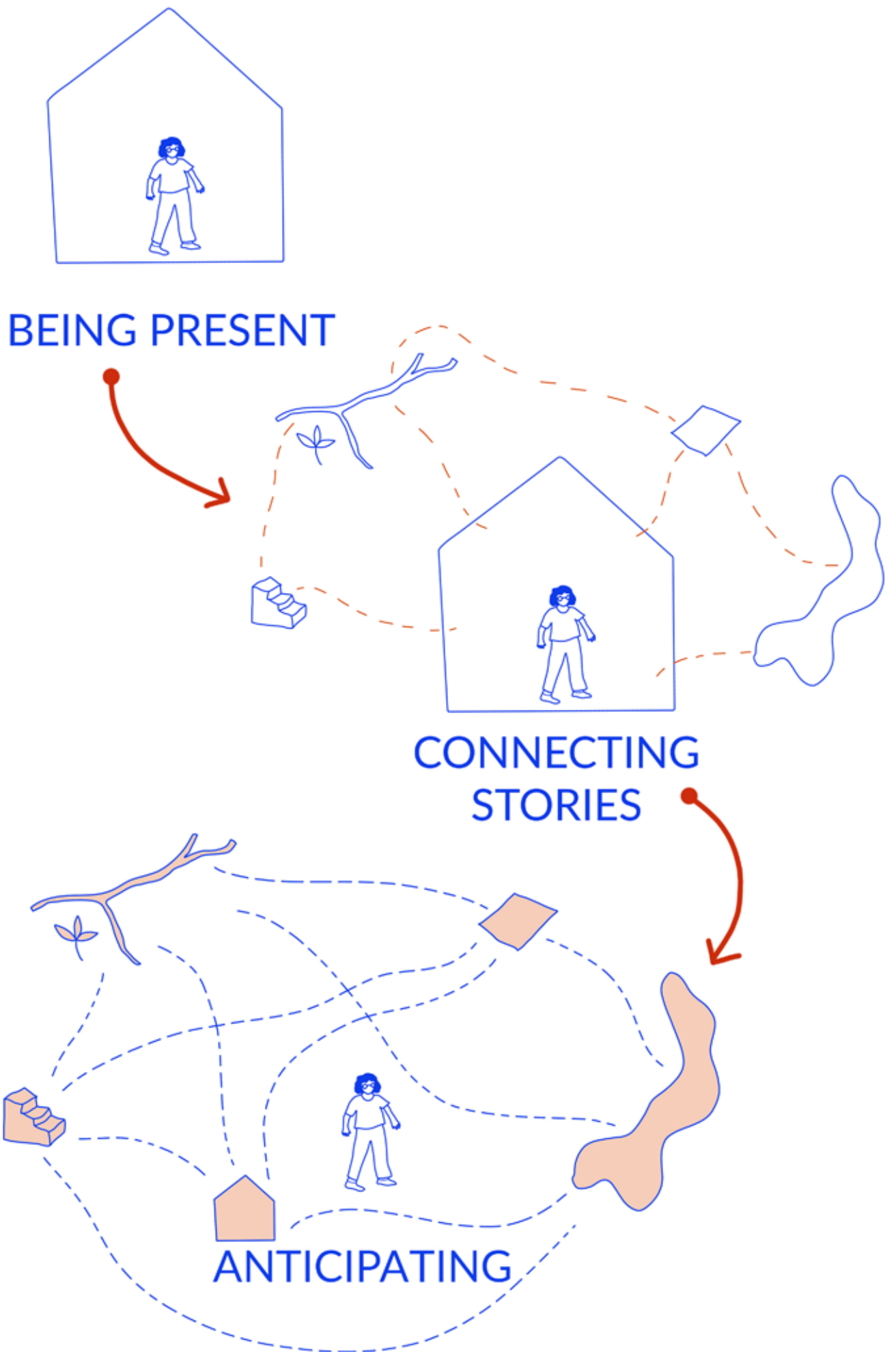


Figure 5: Methodology and working approach in Tynnered\_Three main phases of the participatory process.





Figure 6: BEING PRESENT\_A continuous process of interconnected actions.

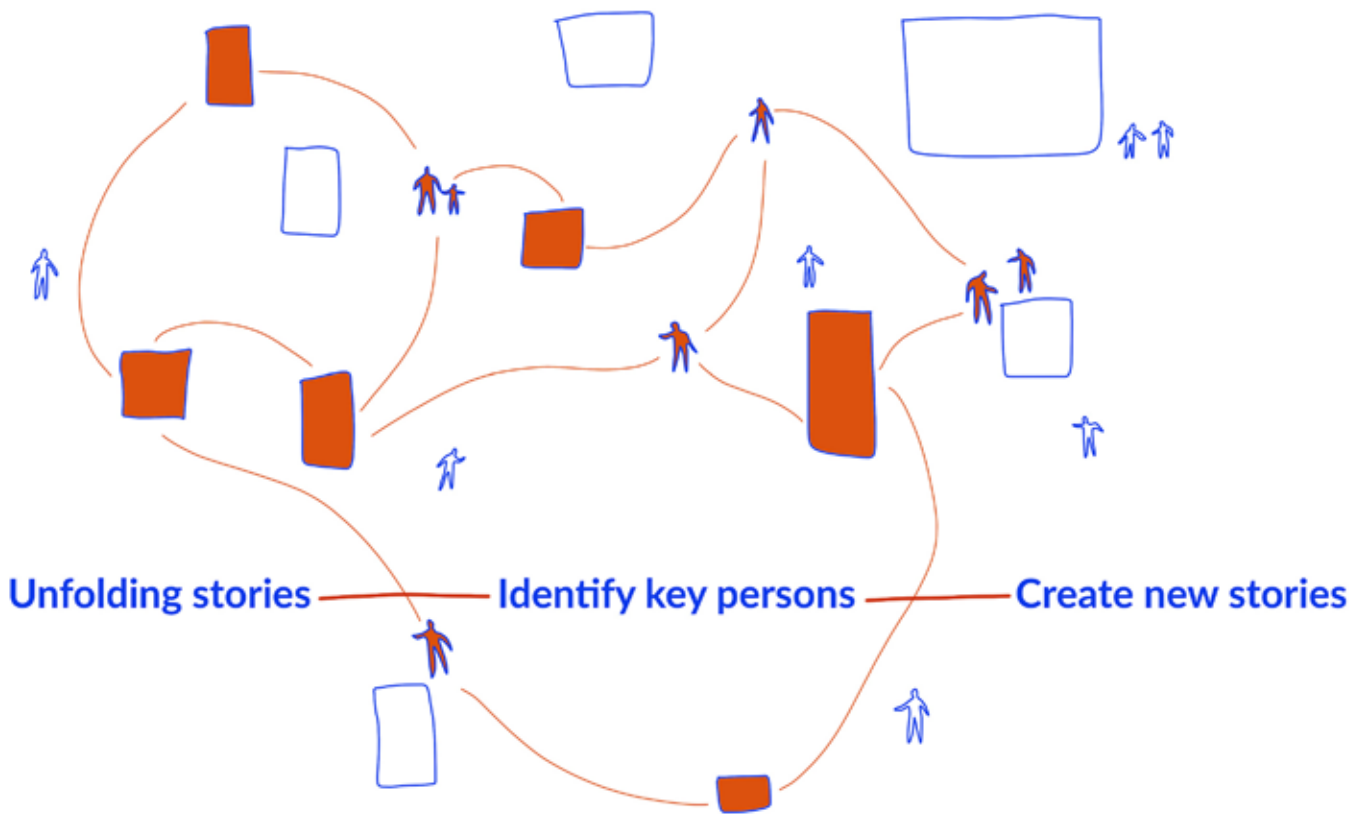


Figure 7: BEING PRESENT\_The main takeaways from this approach to move forward.



Figure 8: CONNECTING STORIES\_Working with narratives and mapping principle.

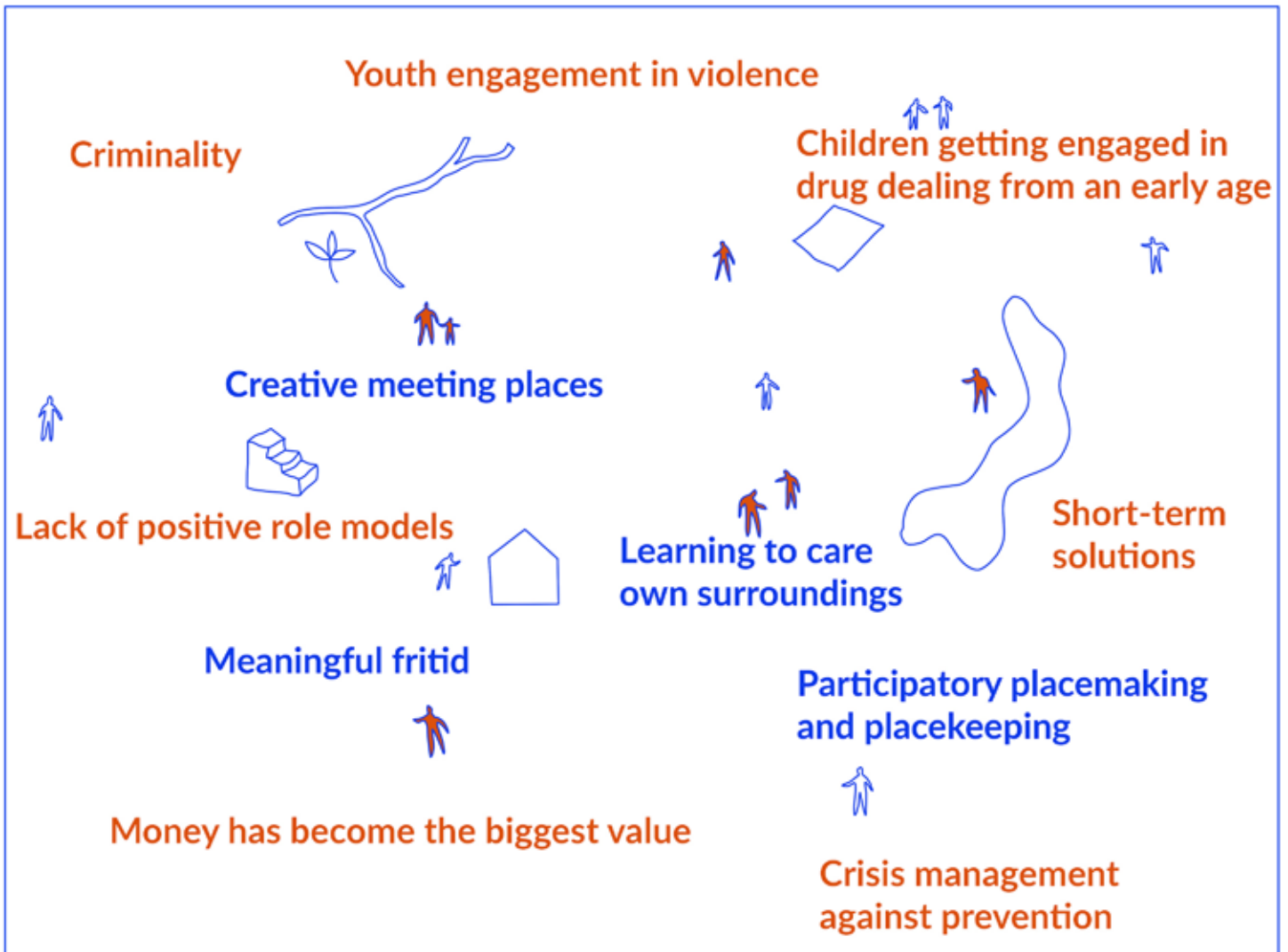


Figure 9: CONNECTING STORIES\_Mapping narratives, focusing and responding.

For instance, a garden project was initiated by a resident named Monika and her son Tristan four years ago. They want to expand its area and activities and advocate for the idea of 'bygglekplatsen' in the area to create a creative learning and playing environment for children.

The public square in Tynnered is currently used as a parking lot, but a local artist is interested in reclaiming the square with art-engaged initiatives.

The new park in the neighborhood has recently opened, and a school teacher has insights and knowledge to activate the park for children and families with recurring events.

Youth workers (fritid assistants) connect all the possible spatial interventions and activities with community teenagers.

The hub acts as a central point and can become an open studio for the community to discuss, exchange, and generate dialogues.

## Anticipating

Anticipation as an act fuels curiosity and motivation to take action to make a difference. It also enables individual and collective imagination about potential futures. As a process, anticipation evolves with the collective stories of people, places, and ideas within the neighborhood. In this thesis, this phase highlights future possibilities for change, collaborations, and actions centered around real locations and spaces in Tynnered (see figure 11).

The anticipation process leads to the creation of "what if" narratives that speculate on possible placemaking and placekeeping actions in Tynnered (discussed further in Chapter V).

Participatory methods, along with learnings from local practices, collectively stimulate the anticipation process.

## Mapping Actions

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the fieldwork for this project is shaped by exploring a range of participatory action research tools, such as:

- Interviews
- Observational mapping
- Creative workshops (of multiple formats )
- Thinking through drawing
- Fiction and Creating scenarios of 'What if'
- Visual storytelling

Interviews are predominantly conducted in an open-ended format and conversational style at the outset. As the process progresses, certain interviews become more focused on specific topics or selected ideas derived from previous discussions.

In addition to creative workshops with children, the creative course from September 2023 to May 2024 has proven effective in gathering children's perspectives on places and activities. Story workshops have been particularly useful for brainstorming specific ideas with key individuals and speculating on future possibilities through storyboarding.

Beyond workshops and interviews, participating in and organizing open public events have been effective in engaging with broader community groups and gathering diverse perspectives and feedback on shared ideas.

Figure 12 illustrates the key actions of community engagement mapped out during the master's thesis timeline (January to May 2024). Figure 13 presents the key actions of community engagement in Tynnered from June 2023 to May 2024.

Figure 14 highlights the role of participatory tools and research steps in translating community dialogues into new narratives of action and collaboration, thereby anticipating placemaking and placekeeping processes in Tynnered.

Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F provide detailed information and quantitative data about the fieldwork, including lists of conversations, interviews, discussions, and workshops from June 2023 to May 2024.

The majority of interviews and workshop sessions are conducted with residents and individuals working closely in Tynnered (Appendix B). Multiple discussion sessions and brainstorming workshops are held with the same key individuals or collaborators from the community (Appendix A).

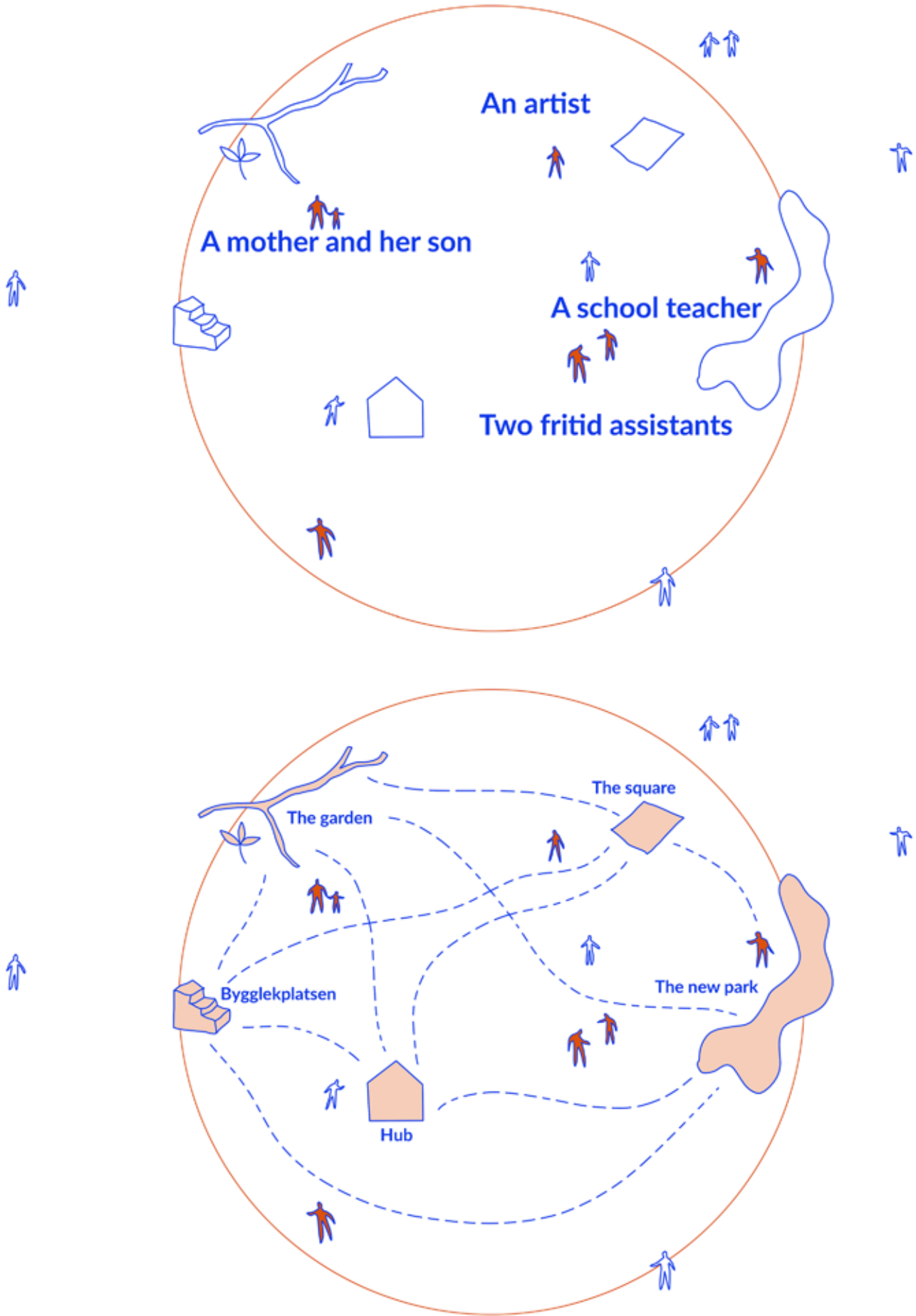


Figure 10: CONNECTING STORIES\_Connecting core protagonists and stories of spatial interventions in Tynnered.

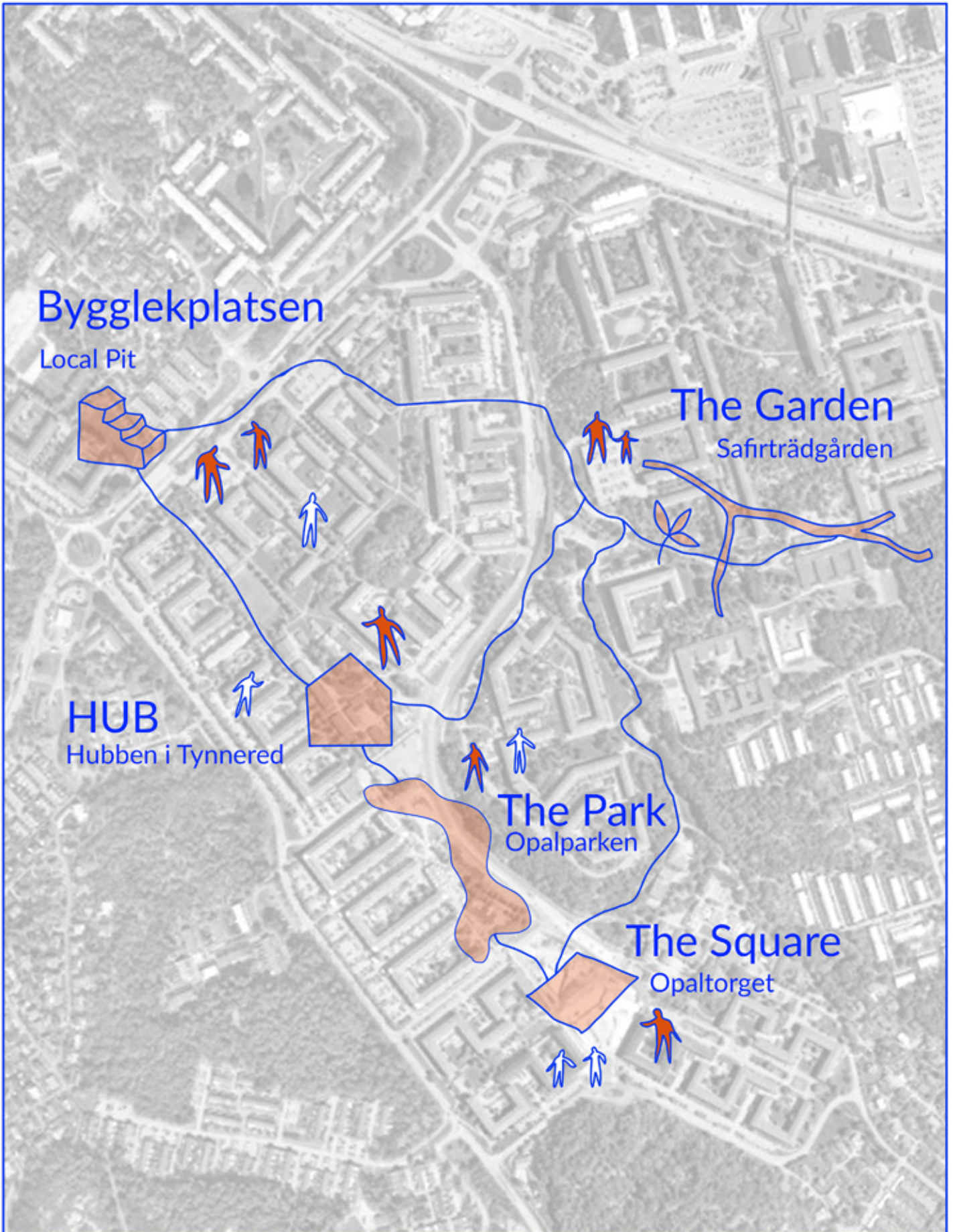


Figure 11: ANTICIPATING: Connecting stories of people, places, actions, ideas and possibilities.

| Week | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 3    | ●   | ●   |     |     | ●   |     |     |
| 4    | ●●  | ●●  | ●●● | ●   | ●●  |     |     |
| 5    | ●   | ●   | ●   | ●●  | ●●  |     |     |
| 6    | ●●  | ●   | ●   | ●●  | ●●  |     |     |
| 7    | ●   | ●   | ●   |     | ●●● | ●   |     |
| 8    |     | ●   | ●●  | ●   |     | ●   |     |
| 9    |     | ●   | ●   |     | ●   | ●   | ●   |
| 10   |     | ●   | ●   |     | ●   | ●   |     |
| 11   |     | ●   |     |     | ●   | ●   |     |
| 12   | ●   |     |     | ●●● |     | ●   |     |
| 13   |     | ●   | ●   | ●   |     |     |     |
| 14   |     |     |     | ●   |     | ●   |     |
| 15   |     |     | ●   |     |     | ●   |     |
| 16   | ●   | ●●  | ●●  |     |     | ●   | ●   |
| 17   | ●   |     |     |     |     | ●   | ●●  |
| 18   | ●   |     |     |     |     | ●   |     |
| 19   |     |     | ●   |     |     | ●   |     |
| 20   |     | ●   |     | ●   |     | ●   |     |
| 21   |     |     |     |     |     |     | ●   |
| 22   | ●   | ●   | ●   | ●   |     |     |     |
| 23   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

- Interview / Conversation
- Brainstorming Workshop with Stakeholders
- Creative Workshop with Children in Tynnered
- Visual Storytelling Course with Children at Opalstorgetsbibliotek
- Public Events/ Activity/ Presentation
- Discussion at Chalmers

Figure 12: The table shows key activity mapping of participatory action research in Tynnered during January- May 2024.

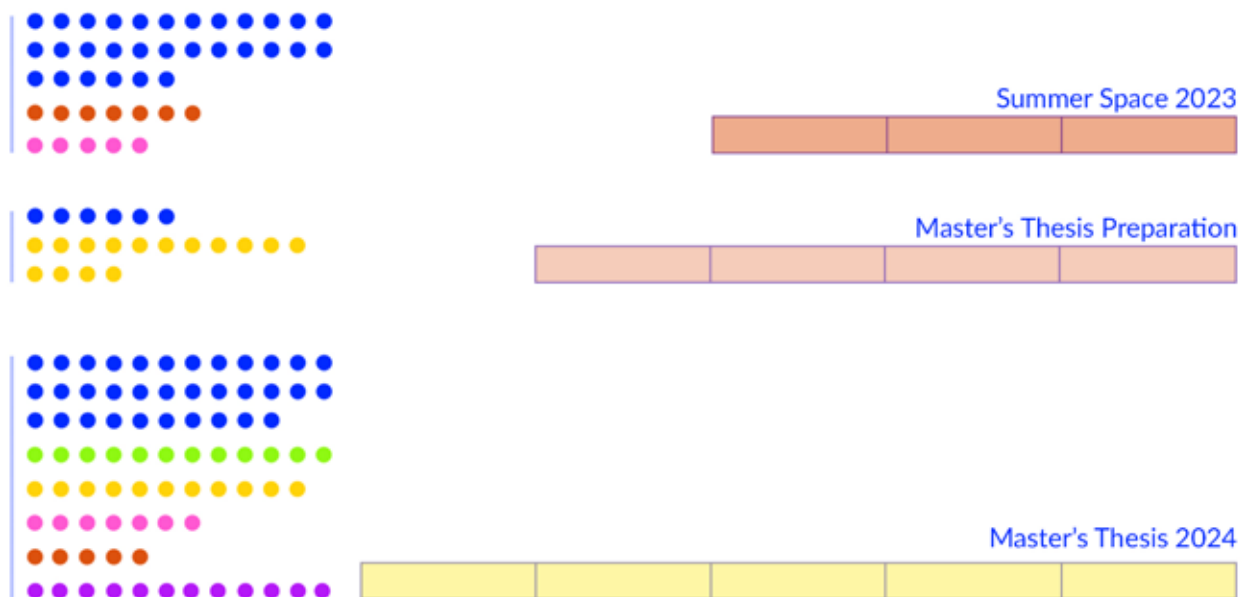


Figure 13: The diagram shows key activity mapping of the fieldwork contributing to participatory action research in Tynnered from June 2023 to May 2024. Three major phase of the research timeline includes summer space program, master's thesis preparation, and master's thesis work.

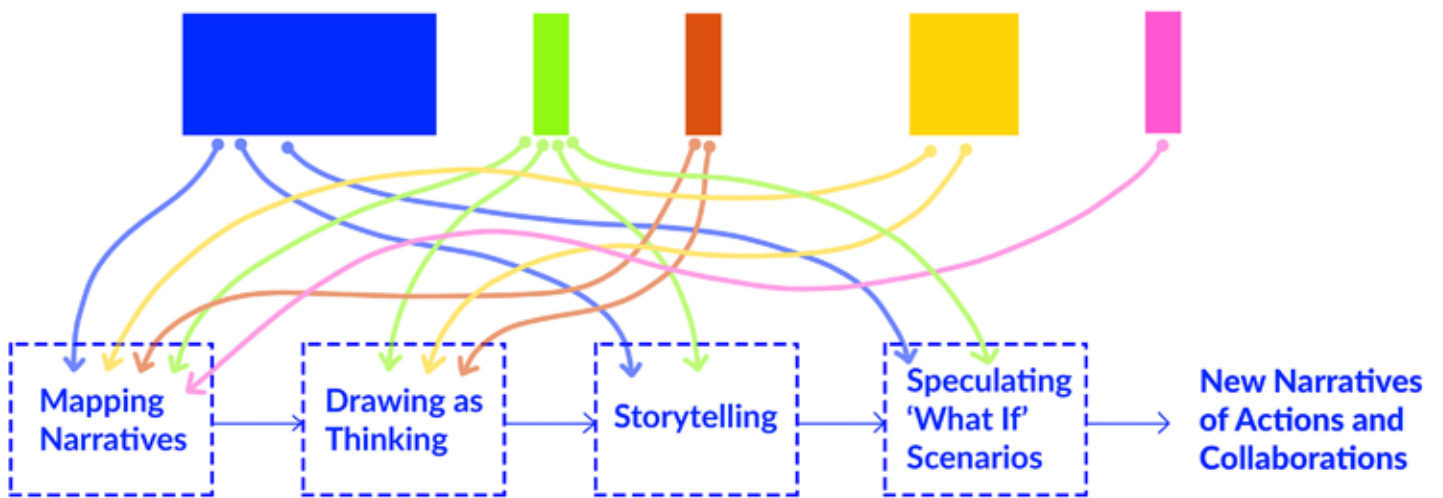
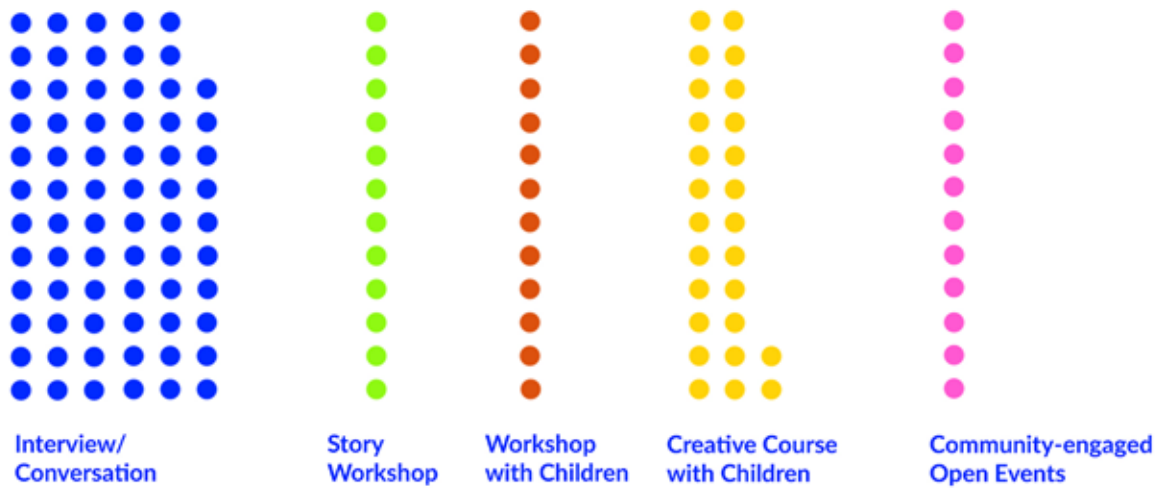


Figure 14: The diagram illustrates how participatory tools and research steps collaboratively shape the process of translating community dialogues into new narratives of action and collaboration regarding placemaking and placekeeping in Tynnered.



Figure 15: The collage shows glimpses from the fieldwork, capturing moments from creative workshops, brainstorming sessions, community-engaged public events, and a creative course for children in Tynnered.





Figure 16: A selection of posters from events, workshops, and the course conducted during the fieldwork in Tynnered, spanning from September 2023 to May 2024.

# *Place (Making + Keeping)*

What If We Built Our Communities Around Places?

*“Designing a dream city is easy; rebuilding a living one takes imagination.”*

- Jane Jacobs

### Placemaking

The concept of placemaking extends beyond the simple act of creating a physical place. Placemaking is the process of building communities around a place, as concisely articulated by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) based in New York. According to PPS (2007), placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the core of every community, serving as both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region. By reinforcing the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking denotes a collaborative process aimed at shaping our public environment to enhance communal benefits. Beyond advocating for improved urban design, placemaking encourages creative patterns of use, with a focus on the physical, cultural, and social characteristics that define a place and foster its ongoing evolution (“What Is Placemaking?”, 2007).

It is crucial to distinguish placemaking from place-branding. According to Bradley et al. (2021), placemaking is not primarily focused on the end result, but rather on the co-creative, democratic, and inclusive processes involved. A simplified yet flawed portrayal of placemaking often includes the installation of whimsical elements like upside-down hanging umbrellas, new plants, and funky colorful street furniture, intended to inject a lighter, quicker, and cheaper sense of coziness into a neglected setting. This incomplete practice of placemaking is often temporally linked to the end of a project, superficially considering users’ needs as a checkbox for public relations, or as a means to quickly return financial investment. Essentially, place-branding can deceptively masquerade as placemaking when city-makers and developers fail to carefully involve users, communities, and stakeholders from the onset of a project, thereby missing the opportunity to create collaboration on the social, organizational, and physical design and values.

As previously noted, physical elements like greenery and atmospheric props can contribute to transforming a space

into a meaningful place. However, without substantial and authentic engagement from citizens, this endeavor falls short of true placemaking. In principle, placemaking delves into and draws upon the essence and identity of a community, aiming to evoke a sense of personality, belonging, and representation (Bradley et al., 2021).

As emphasized by Project for Public Spaces (PPS), the rigid planning processes of the 20th century have become deeply institutionalized, that community stakeholders rarely have the chance to voice their own ideas and aspirations about the places they live in. Placemaking can break down these silos by demonstrating to planners, designers, and engineers the broader benefits of looking beyond their specific fields and agendas. When developers and planners actively involve grassroots participation, they can avoid many challenges. Issues such as underutilized parks and isolated or underperforming development projects can be addressed—or prevented entirely—by adopting a placemaking approach that considers a place as a whole rather than focusing solely on individual elements (“What Is Placemaking?”, 2007).

According to PPS, the key values of placemaking are:

| <i>Placemaking IS</i>            | <i>Placemaking IS NOT</i>        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Community-driven                 | Top-down                         |
| Visionary                        | Reactionary                      |
| Function before form             | Design-driven                    |
| Adaptable                        | A blanket solution or quick fix  |
| Inclusive                        | Exclusionary                     |
| Focused on creating destinations | Car-centric                      |
| Context-specific                 | One-size-fits-all                |
| Dynamic                          | Static                           |
| Trans-disciplinary               | Discipline-driven                |
| Transformative                   | One-dimensional                  |
| Flexible                         | Dependent on regulatory controls |
| Collaborative                    | A cost/benefit analysis          |
| Sociable                         | Project-focused                  |

## Placekeeping

The concept of placekeeping pertains to the long-term management of public and private open spaces (Dempsey, Smith, & Burton, 2014). As discussed in the book "Place-Keeping: Open Space Management in Practice," while large amounts of capital are spent on creating public spaces, little thought is given to, and insufficient resources are made available for, the long-term maintenance and management of public spaces, or placekeeping (Dempsey, Smith, & Burton, 2014). In the absence of placekeeping, public spaces risk deteriorating, leading to the potential emergence of antisocial behavior and residents feeling unsafe, thus opting for alternative spaces. Consequently, the economic and social expenses associated with restoring such spaces can be substantial when placekeeping is neglected.

The term "placekeeping," introduced by Wild et al. (2008), pertains to the ongoing care and improvement of well-established places. This involves preserving and enriching their attributes and benefits through sustained management efforts (Dempsey & Burton, 2012). Many elements of a place require time to reach their full potential: mature trees, for instance, offer enhanced biodiversity benefits such as habitats, food sources, and shelter. Additionally, a sense of community and attachment to a place tend to strengthen over time with regular daily use and special events. Consequently, placekeeping entails long-term and adaptable management aimed at preserving and enhancing the social, environmental, and economic quality and benefits of a place both presently and in the future. The specific circumstances in which placekeeping occurs can vary significantly. This diversity in context results in different uses and users for each place with unique requirements. For instance, a children's playground, a riverside walk, and a recreational green space will each possess distinct characteristics, purposes, and users. Placekeeping in practice will thus entail adapting to the local context, considering the scale and location of the site. (Dempsey & Smith, 2014).

When conceptualizing placekeeping, it proves beneficial to view it alongside placemaking as part of a dynamic and continuous process (Dempsey & Smith, 2014). Placekeeping involves the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the outcomes of placemaking, ensuring

they remain valued, sustainable, and of high quality within a specific local context. This definition does not imply that placemaking ends when placekeeping begins; rather, they are interconnected and evolving concepts. This highlights the challenge of separating the process from the outcome when considering the dimensions of placekeeping. For instance, maintenance can be viewed as both an ongoing process, such as regular cleaning provided by stakeholders, and a tangible outcome, such as the removal of graffiti or the repair of vandalized play equipment (Carmona et al., 2008). Similarly, community engagement can be seen as an ongoing process involving participation in various programs and events, or it can result in a tangible decision, such as choosing not to install a mobile phone mast (Dempsey et al., 2012; Bovaird and Löffler, 2002; Dempsey & Smith, 2014).

Placekeeping is a dynamic process that fosters inclusivity and active participation, empowering local residents and stakeholders to shape the development and decision-making processes that directly influence their neighborhoods. Simultaneously, the utilization of creative and artistic tools, processes, and initiatives plays a crucial role in connecting, inspiring, and engaging community members and associated stakeholders, thereby fueling the cultivation of creative placekeeping initiatives within a neighborhood or locality.

In their recent book, 'Co-Creative Placekeeping in Los Angeles: Artists and Communities Working Together,' the authors delve into the endeavors of socially engaged art (SEA) practitioners in Los Angeles to promote equitable placekeeping. This emerging concept encapsulates the proactive engagement of marginalized community members in guiding their neighborhood's development, enhancing local resources, fostering social and cultural activities, and asserting a collective identity. Through their collaborative efforts, SEA artists play a pivotal role in supporting these communities and amplifying their initiatives (Shannon, Sloane & Bray, 2023).

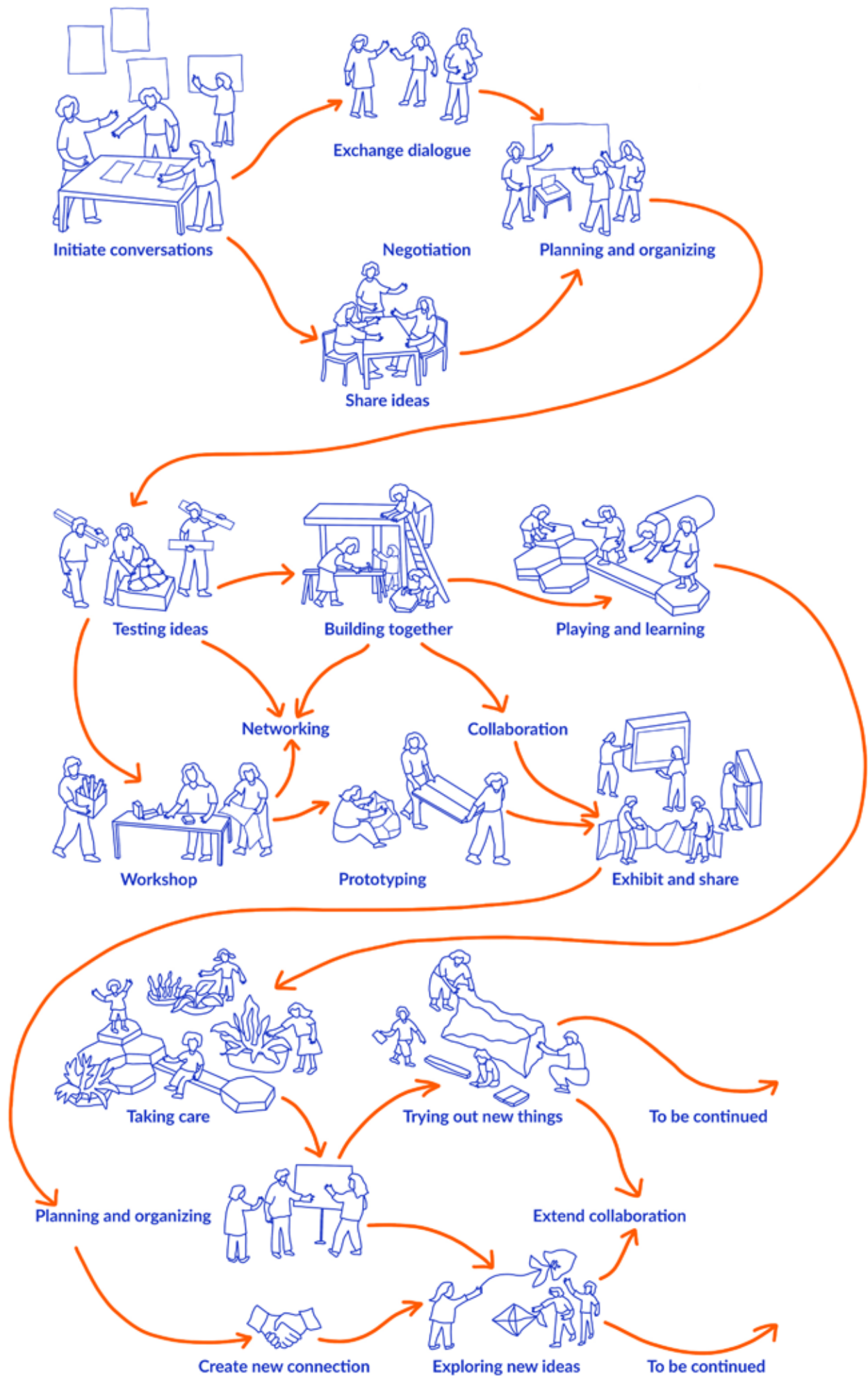


Figure 17: This conceptual diagram highlights the dynamic and iterative process of placemaking and placekeeping. The two interconnected and overlapping concepts undergo a continuous cycle of trial and error.

# *A Slow Garden*

Learning from and with Safirträdgården

*“The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.”*

- Sarah Ban Breathnach

This chapter explores a grassroots placemaking initiative that exemplifies local practices and knowledge regarding placemaking and placekeeping in Tynnered. It begins with Monika, a resident of Tynnered for 17 years, as the central figure. Four years ago, Monika, accompanied by her then 5-year-old son Tristan, took the initiative to clean up a neglected neighborhood street. This seemingly small action sparked a chain reaction of community involvement, ultimately leading to the creation of a communal meeting place called **Safirträdgården**. Their journey serves as a compelling testament to the transformative power of collective action and care.

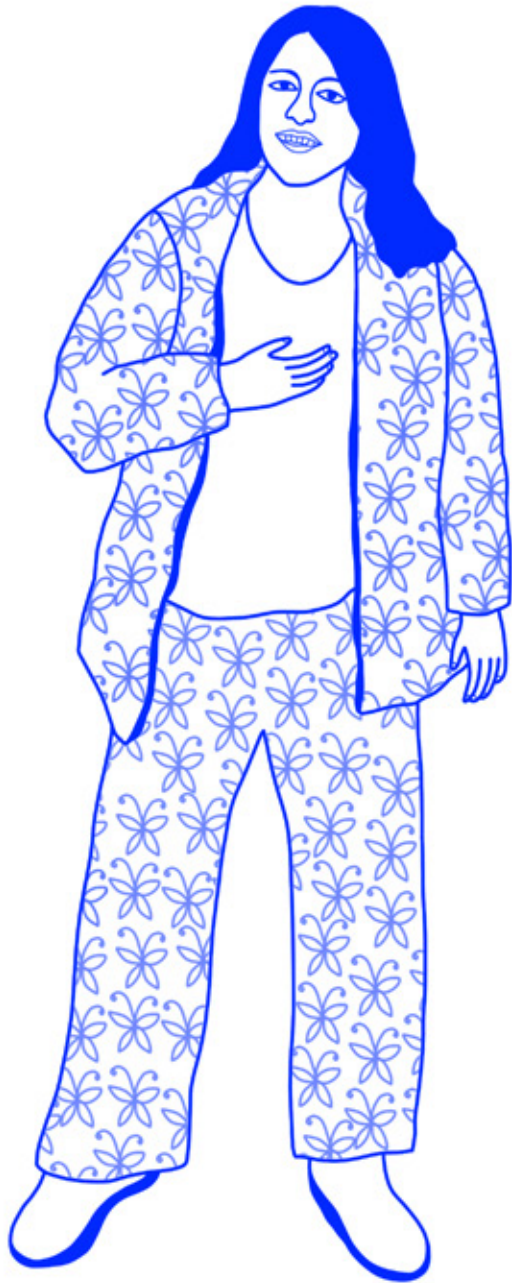
This chapter tests ethnographic narrative style, crafted from interviews and conversations with the protagonists, Monika and Tristan. Through these narratives, the chapter vividly portrays real events and memories. The narratives transition between sections, at times to provide explanatory context when necessary.

*[On a bright Sunday morning in March 2020, Monika and her five-year-old son Tristan set out on their usual neighborhood stroll. Their footsteps tapped lightly against the pavement as they wandered through the familiar streets, soaking in the sights and sounds around them. For little Tristan, each walk was an adventure waiting to unfold, a chance to discover new wonders alongside his ever-curious mother. Monika, with her fondness for gardening, often paused to admire the greenery that lined their path. Tristan shared the same love for gardens and greens as his mother. Since Monika made tiny gardens as a hobby, they often collected mosses, grasses, plants, and stones from the surroundings to decorate miniature landscape pots at home.*

*As spring tiptoed closer, they scattered flower seeds wherever they went, eagerly anticipating the vibrant blooms that would soon grace their neighborhood and add splashes of color to the urban landscape. But amidst their enthusiasm for all things botanical, a nagging concern lingered—the state of their neighborhood road, Briljantgatan, in front of their apartment—a road in need of tender care. As they strolled, they couldn’t help but notice the poor state of the road beneath their feet. Piles of discarded trash littered the sidewalk, a stark contrast to the vibrant environment that Monika and Tristan wanted to create.*

*Tristan furrowed his brow in concern, his innocent eyes reflecting the dismay that Monika felt in her heart. “**Mama, how will our flowers grow amidst all this mess?**” he pondered, his voice filled with worry.*

*Monika’s mind raced with thoughts, echoing Tristan’s concerns. Every day, hundreds of men, women, and children crossed the street on their way home, school, work, and grocery shopping. But this was surely not a nice experience to walk here. Both sides of the street were full of trash, cigarette butts, and plastics. Even after the road repair job from the city, all the fragmented asphalt blocks were scattered all around in the grass areas on both sides of the street. How could such a vital route of their neighborhood be left in such disrepair? And who bore the responsibility for its upkeep?*



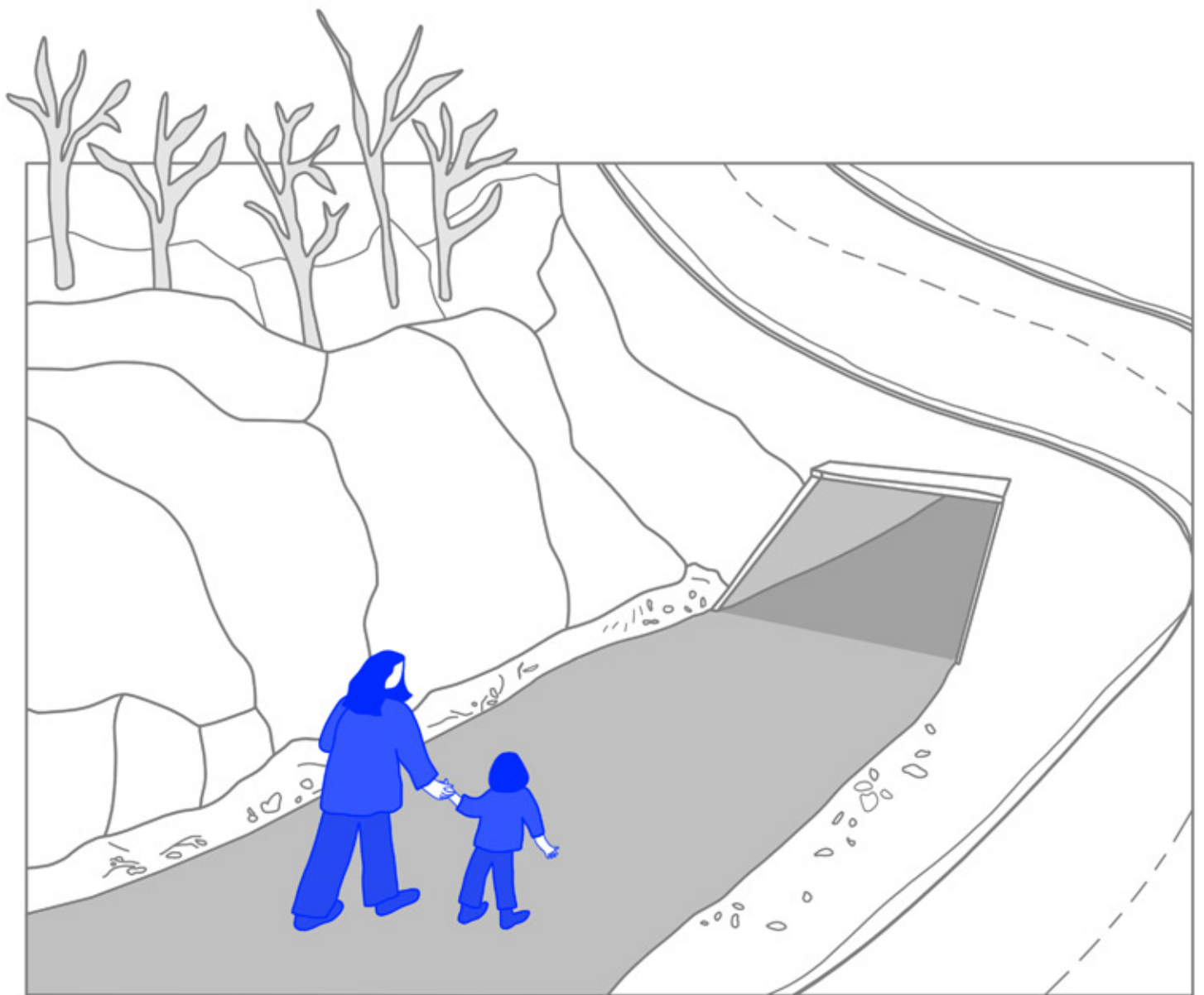
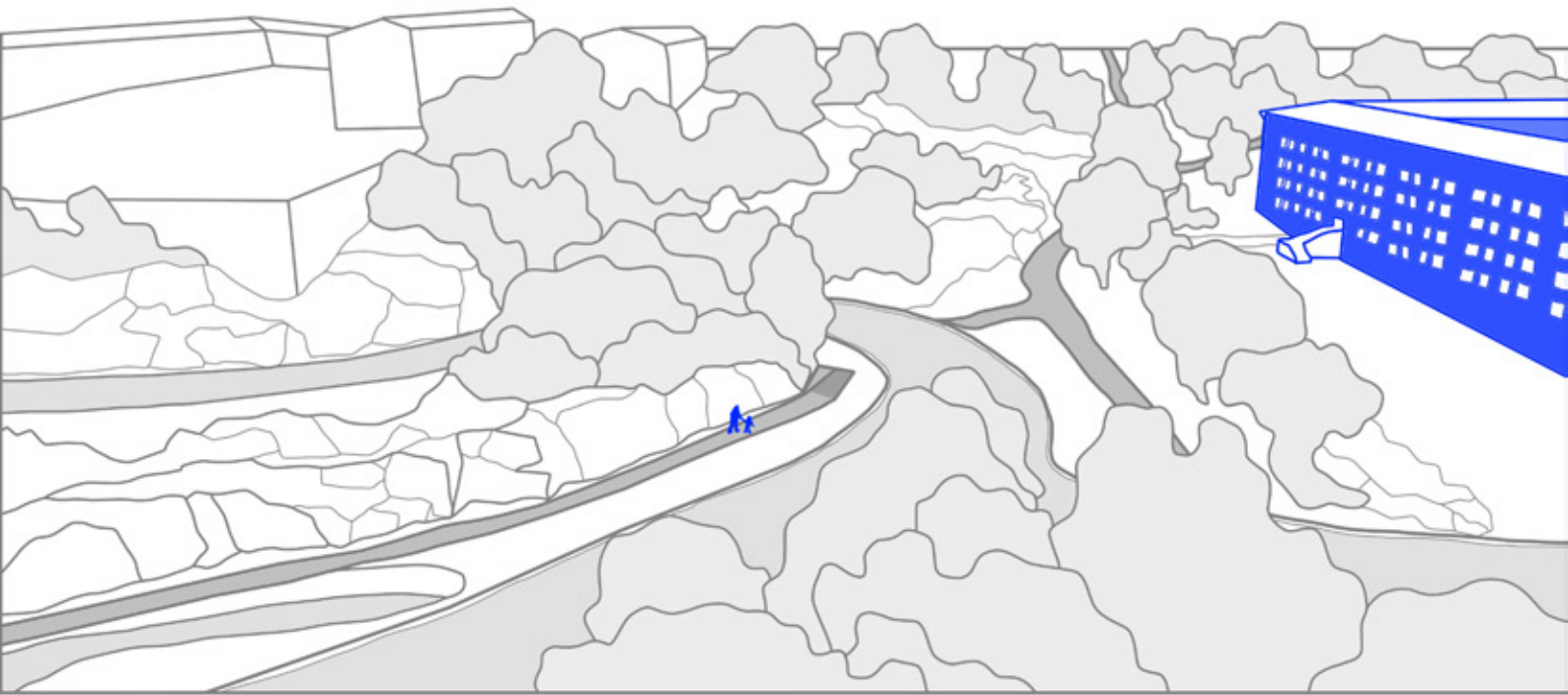
*“It is important to be creative and have an open mind.”*

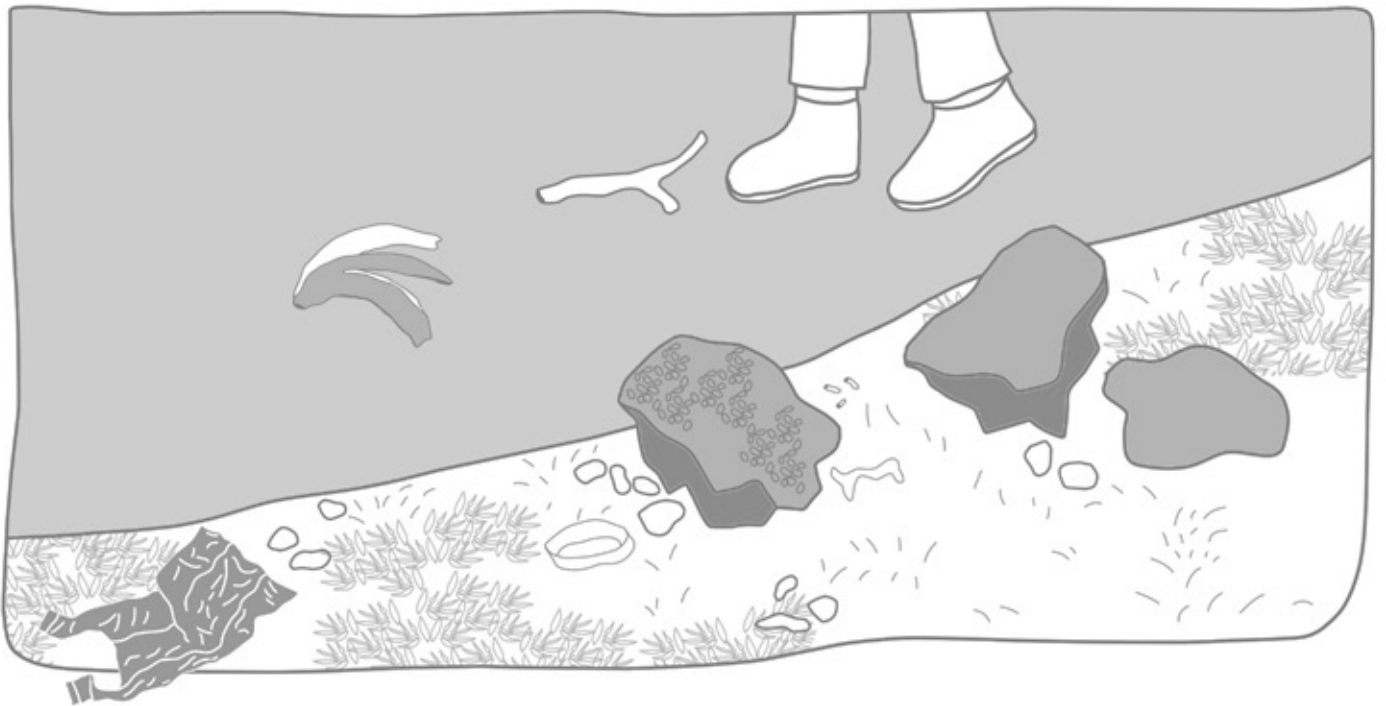
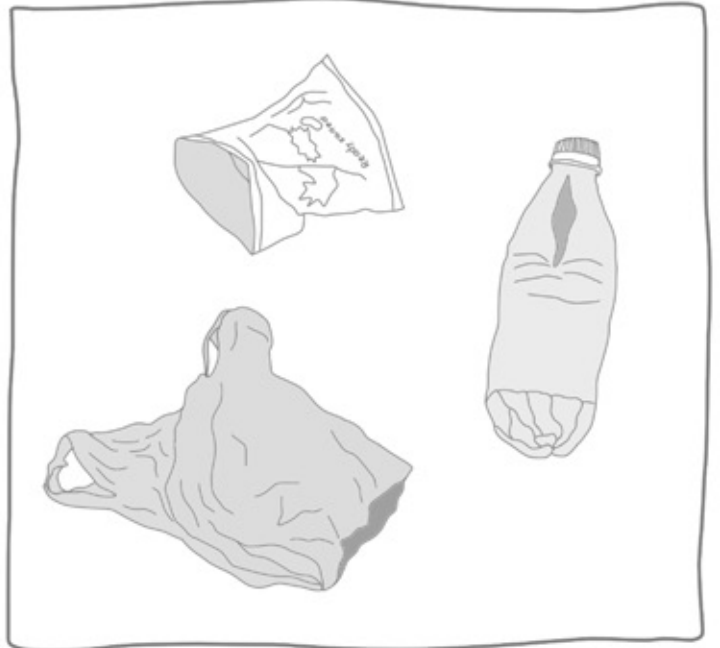
- Monika Tildevik



*In that moment, a seed of determination took root within Monika's heart, nourished by Tristan's unwavering optimism. “**Shall we clean it up, Mama?**” he asked, his eyes shining with hope. And without hesitation, Monika nodded firmly. “**Yes, my dear, let's do it,**” she replied, her voice steady with determination. Armed with garbage bags and a worn-out stroller, they set to work, their mission clear. Tristan's laughter bubbled forth as he darted about, each piece of litter a triumph in his eyes. And as the sun dipped low on the horizon, their efforts bore fruit—the once-dingy street now gleamed with newfound cleanliness, a testament to their shared resolve.]*







Mom, there are trash all over the grass, how would our flower seeds come out?

Yeah, let's clean up!

Should we clean up?





And so, **Safirträdgården** was born—a testament to the power of taking action and the simple joys of making a difference, one step at a time.

The walkway area at Brilljantgatan in Tynnered (Figure: A) was previously perceived as unsafe and trashy. Many chose a detour instead of going through the dark underpass. Today, the place has become Safirträdgården - a beautiful and safe meeting place, full of vegetation and creativity. All thanks to the passionate Monika and her nine-year-old son Tristan.

It all started in the beginning of 2020. Monika and Tristan were just going to pick up the trash by the walkway and the tunnel to make the place a little nicer. Over time, the project grew bigger and bigger. After planting flowers and edible plants, assembling a bench and making an insect hotel, they named the place Safirträdgården, drawing inspiration from the street name where their house is located—Safirgatan. The area that so many avoided passing was slowly but surely transformed into a social meeting place.

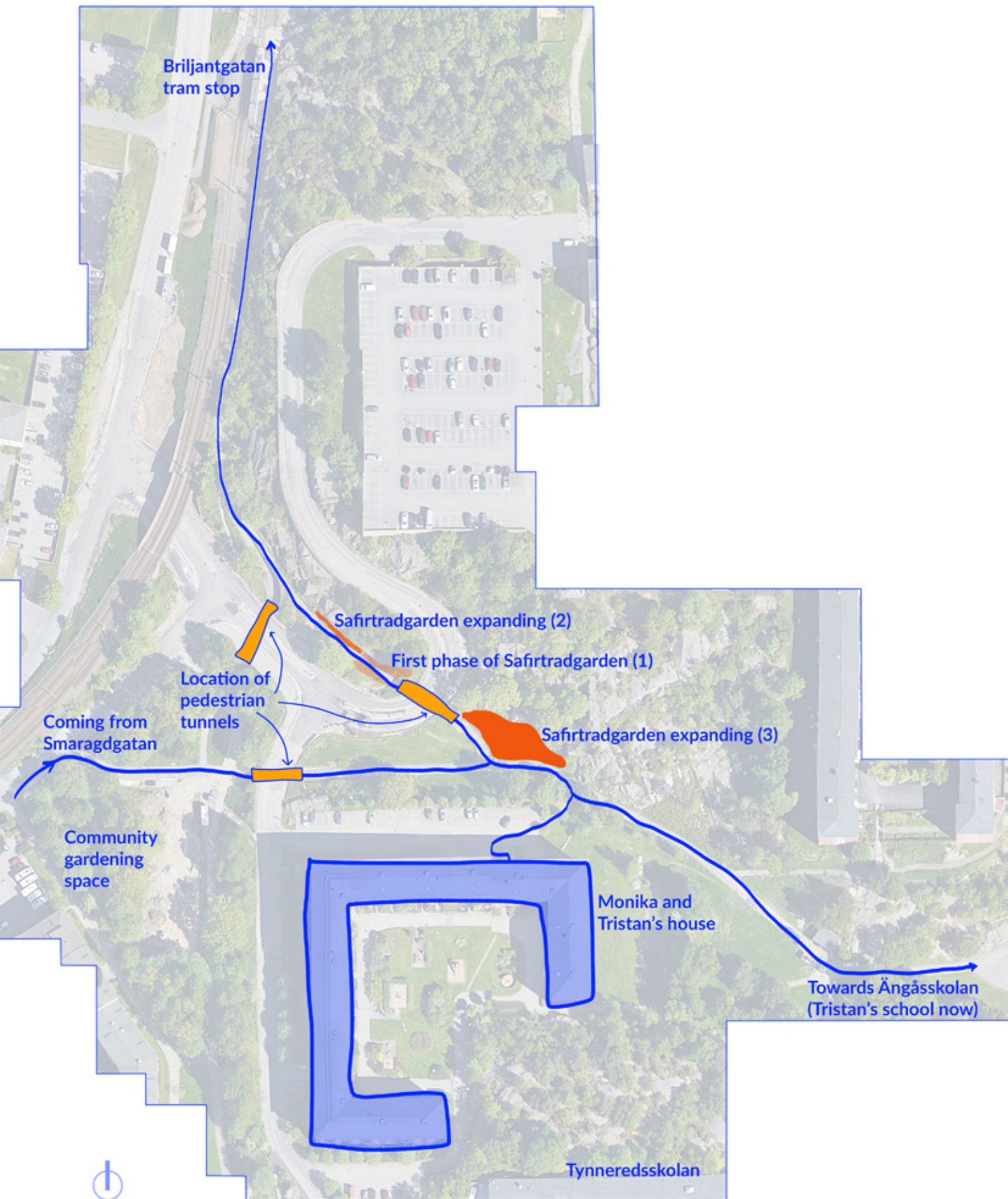


Figure 18: Map showing location of Safirträdgården in Tynnered.

Safirträdgården is filled with colorful, playful, and creative arrangements. On the ground, Monika regularly paints patterns, information, and signs with street chalk so that children can read, think, jump, play, and interact in various ways. The wastebasket from the city has been transformed into the figure "Scrap-Safira" as a motivation booster to encourage people to throw away waste in the right place. If people look carefully among the trees and berry plantations, they will find teddy bears, garlands, and other ornaments. While curating the garden, Monika tries to use characters, contents, and symbols that children can resonate with. At Safirträdgården, children can find characters in the trees like Pippi Longstocking, her monkey Mr. Nilsson, and her horse Lilla Gubben. Depending on the season, the curation changes with various themes. Monika has experimented with Cinderella and Frozen themes previously during the winter season, which children loved.

While experimenting with her own ideas, Monika also takes time to listen to ideas and thoughts from the children and plans activities in collaboration with other actors in the neighborhood. One such activity was moving and identifying meeting places in the area with children through Minecraft inspiration. The activity was conducted in collaboration with the children's library in Tynnered in the spring of 2024.

Monika works completely voluntarily at Safirträdgården. A lot of time is spent watering flowers, cutting grass, and maintaining order. In the summer of 2023, she received a little help from Bostadsbolaget's young summer workers. This allowed Monika to have more time to organize free events for children. Monika believes in experimentation and invests time and creative energy in brainstorming interesting ideas to test in the garden. As she says:

*"It is important to be creative and have an open mind. I come up with different themes depending on the season. Tristan and I decorated for Christmas. The trees with Christmas balls and glitter, for example. -I shop for stuff second-hand or I make things from things I have at home. It happens that I also receive gifts and donations."*

Organizing regular events with engaging activities for both children and parents is also crucial to maintaining an active and vibrant atmosphere. Monika emphasizes the significance of such events by stating:

*"Since 2020, I have organized around 50 events for children. I try to hold one event a month - everything from painting on rocks to disco in the underpass. We also had planting day, masquerades and gym. Sometimes I hold events in collaboration with the Toy Library, Culture School and Frölunda Library."*

During discussions about the purpose of her work at Safirträdgården, Monika emphasizes the importance of having creative meeting places within areas like Tynnered. She highlights that such spaces are crucial for individuals of all age groups, especially children. Monika advocates for involving children from an early age in caring for their surroundings, believing that the learning process should be enjoyable and hands-on. At the end of the day, the community's appreciation serves as an added incentive to continue the work, as Monika aptly puts it:

*"I received positive responses from people in the area, which made me want to continue. Once, when I was walking past, I saw that three families from the area had settled down on the benches and on the grass in the Safirträdgården. They sat talking and laughing together. Then I felt that I had succeeded in creating something very nice.....I am really passionate about this. All the loving play and warmth that I get back make it worth all the time and energy."*

Safirträdgården exemplifies tools and methods for activating and maintaining neighborhood spaces. It underscores the significance of small actions, demonstrating that consistent care and vision can lead to meaningful change. This process of change is gradual and requires patience, especially in a culture that often seeks instant results. Recognizing the value of this slower pace, known as “placekeeping,” is essential. Placekeeping involves ongoing efforts to sustain community engagement through maintenance and activities, requiring both patience and determination.

Monika, the driving force behind Safirträdgården, approaches the garden with a spirit of experimentation, testing ideas through trial and error. The garden serves as a reflection of the iterative process, mirroring the ever-changing seasons. Its dynamic nature captivates and engages people, particularly children who eagerly anticipate new themes and appearances.

Safirträdgården demonstrates that everyone can contribute within their means. Initiating action is key, as positive changes naturally attract interest and participation. To ensure long-term success, it's vital to get support from other stakeholders in the neighborhood, including housing companies, non-profit organizations, schools, and the municipality. Their support and collaboration are crucial for sustaining the project's momentum.

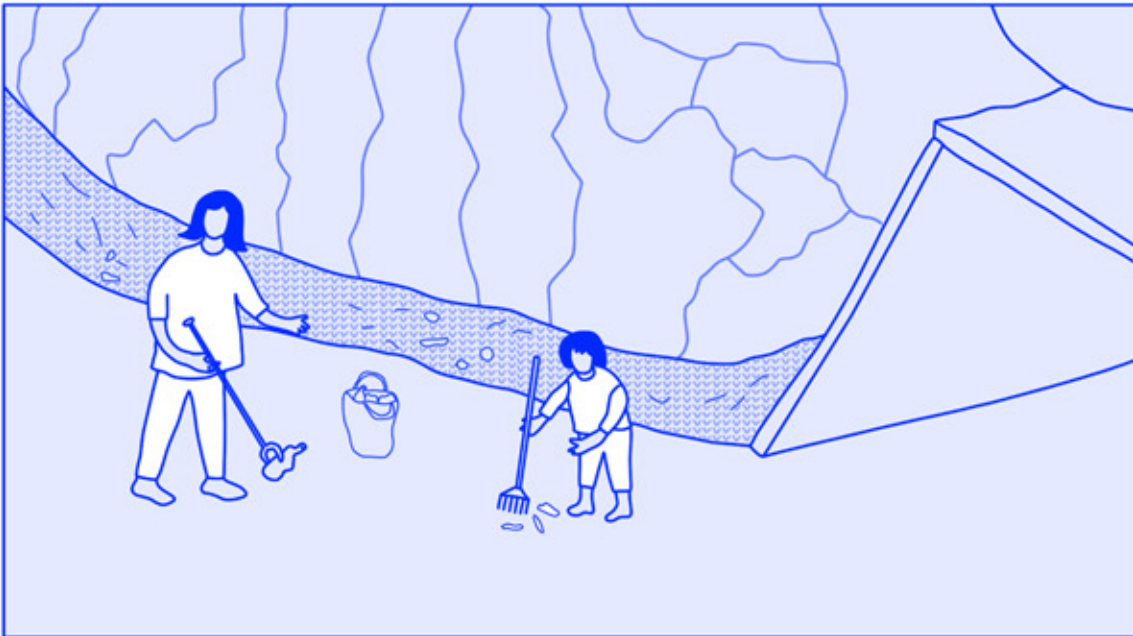
The insights gained from Safirträdgården are invaluable and can be applied to other areas within the neighborhood, fostering further community development and enhancement.

The narrative of local initiatives, exemplified by endeavors like Safirträdgården, holds significant value in informing both city-makers and citizens about the distinction between place-branding and placemaking. Too often, city planners and developers overlook the importance of engaging users, communities, and stakeholders from the onset of a project, leading to a disconnect between proposed interventions and community needs.

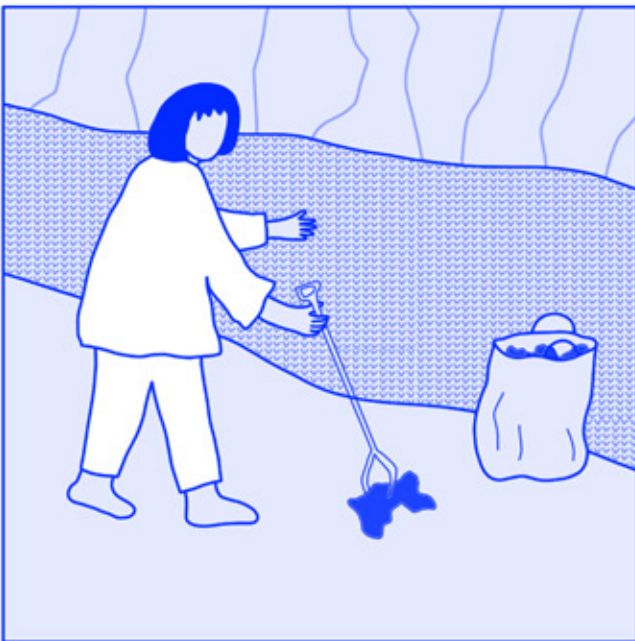
Grassroots initiatives such as Safirträdgården are pivotal in empowering local residents to take ownership of their environments and actively contribute to community development. By prioritizing the voices and priorities of residents, grassroots placemaking initiatives ensure that interventions are not only relevant but also effective in addressing the specific challenges and opportunities of each community. Embracing this bottom-up approach fosters a sense of ownership and investment among residents, laying the groundwork for sustainable, community-driven development efforts.

In supporting these grassroots endeavors, cities can foster collaboration and dialogue between residents, city-makers, and developers, ultimately leading to more inclusive, responsive, and impactful urban development outcomes.

The following storyboard portrays the **slow** process of Safirträdgården by visualizing a few key moments. These moments vividly convey why Safirträdgården is not just a garden, but a vibrant work in progress, continually growing and evolving. The accompanying texts within the storyboard contextualize the ethnographic narratives of Monika and Tristan's actions.



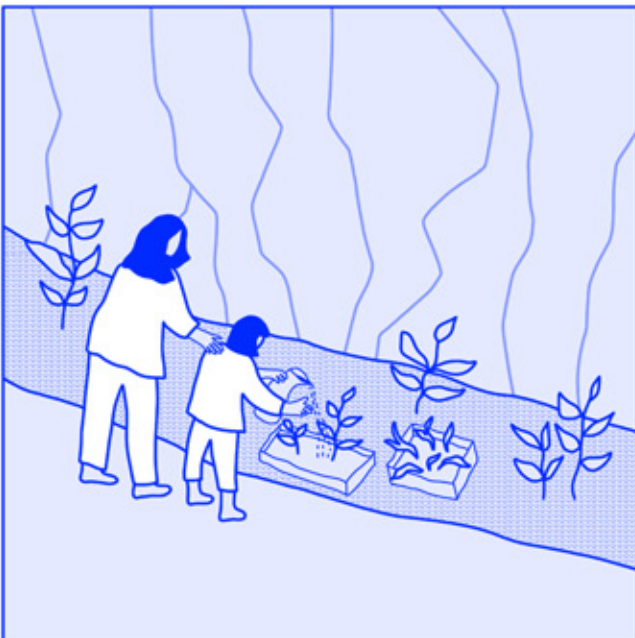
It all starts with cleaning the pathway where we walk everyday.



The cleaning prepare the space for planting.



We planted seeds weeks ago and now that come out with a smile! Its amazing!!



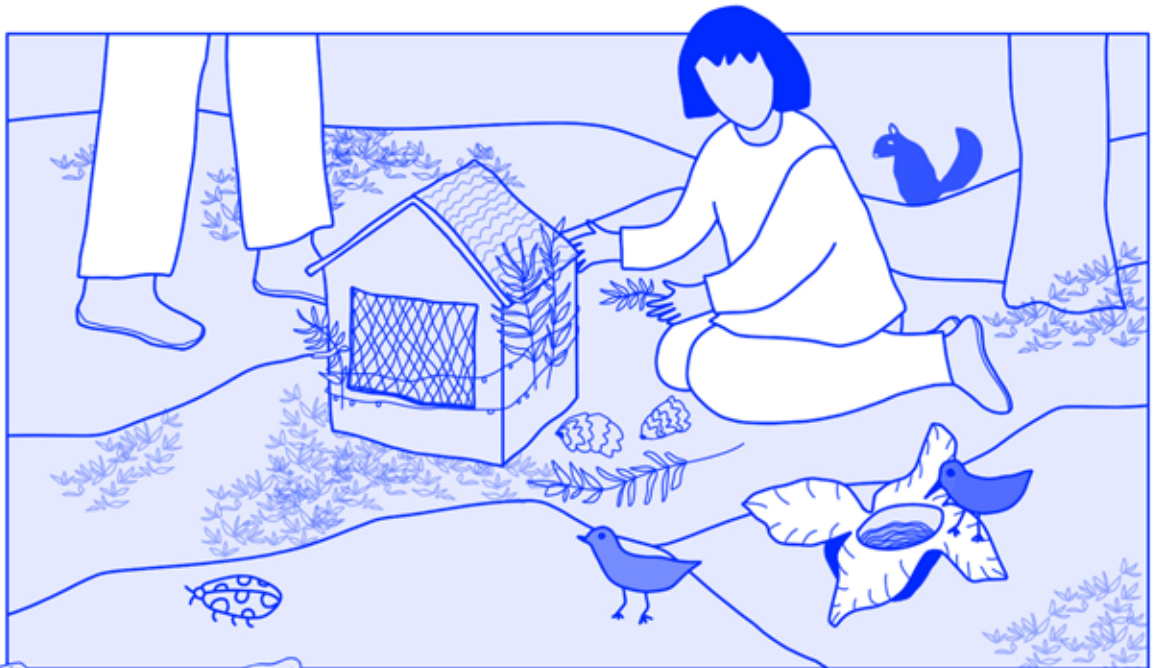
Let's just take care of the tiny plants now!

As the season transitions into spring, Safirträdgården becomes adorned with the vibrant colors of new life. Snowdrops (snödroppar), winter aconite (vintergäck), hyacinths (hyacinter), and crocus (krokus) signal the awakening of nature within the garden.

And it is the perfect time to transplant seedlings of spinach and tomatoes in the garden planter boxes!



See more birds and butterflies are coming!

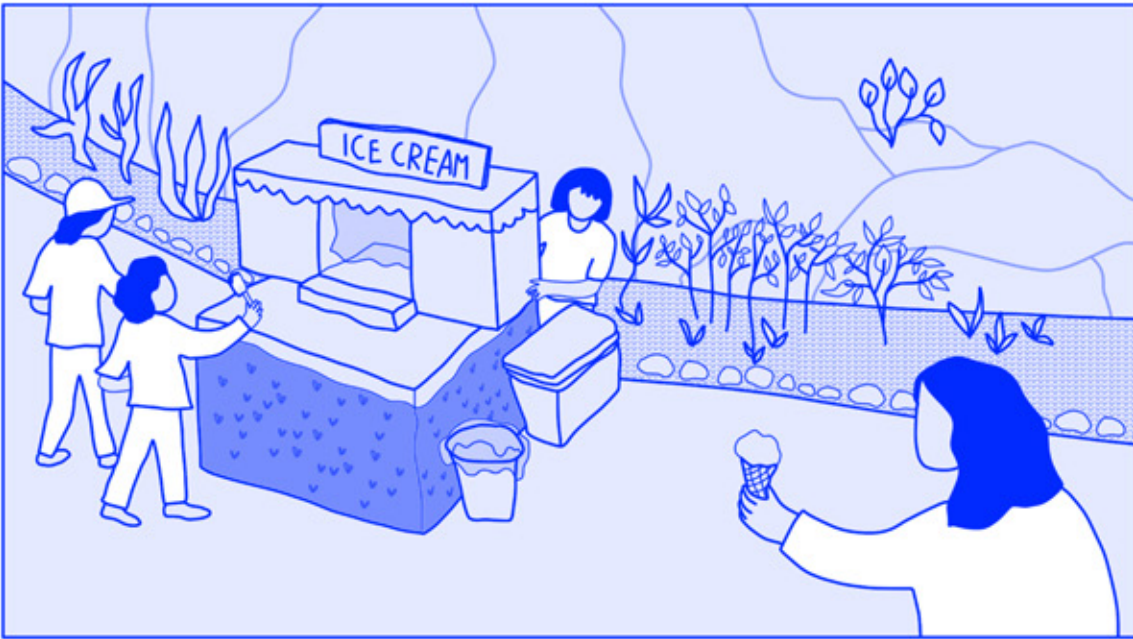


Creating insect hotels, tiny birdhouses, and bird baths... the garden should be a fun place for all!

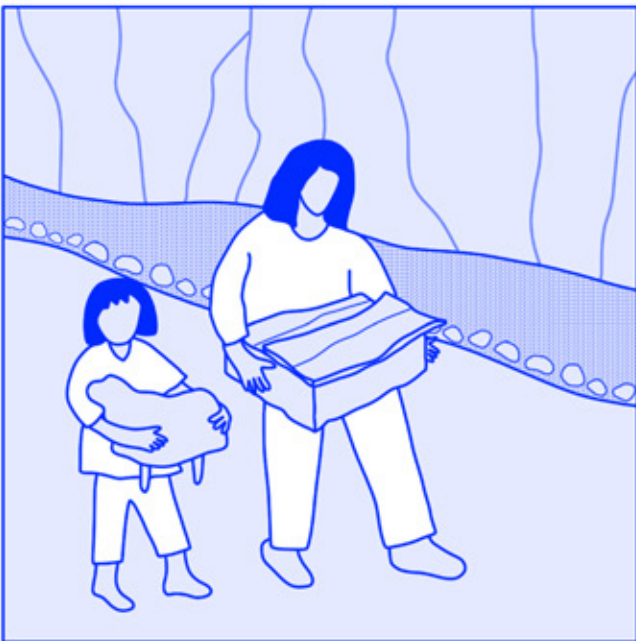


Creating more shelters for birds and insects. Passing this street feels so nice nowadays while listening to the birds singing!

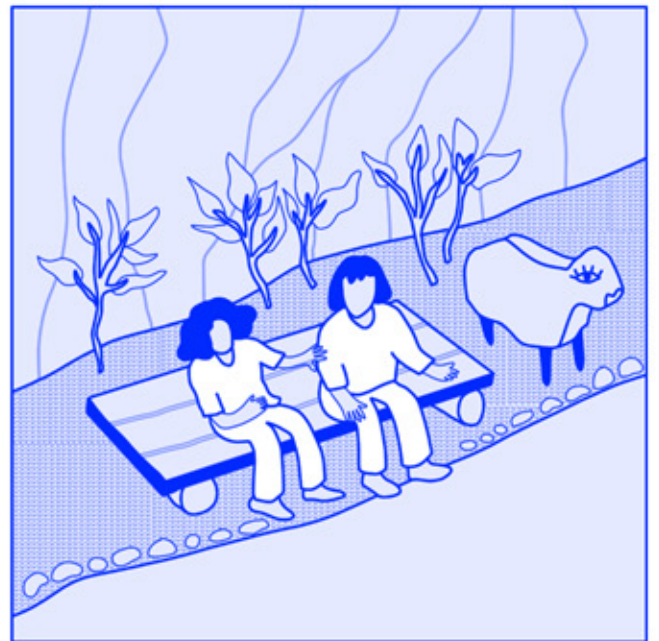




Organizing a cozy event- building a tiny ice cream shop with cardboard, and children are coming to the garden!



Always recycle the collected waste to create something new.



Just made a bench! People can now sit and rest in the garden :)



Reaching out is important!

Do not hesitate to contact the municipality if you need support.



Just made a shelf with free books and toys! The street can also be a playspace when you continue hosting small events with children and parents.

Yes!! It takes some time, but finally the city responds... You have managed to get a trash bin for the garden! It's an old one, but no worries; color it nicely and name it Scrap Safira- a character that becomes happy when you feed it with trash. Now, there will be no more littering in the street!



Cleaning together with other kids in the neighborhood. The cleaning event turns into a fun game for children, like trash hunting! At the end of the cleaning, everybody enjoys some yummy snacks and music in the garden.

Beyond the fun, the children learn to take care of their surroundings and feel proud of their contribution.



It is a continuous process of planning, dreaming, manifesting...



Expanding the garden to the other side of the tunnel!



Neighbors and friends contribute plants, artwork, and unique stones they discover!

Jamie, a friend, creates a fabric artwork for the garden; Kent generously donates a planter box filled with seedlings; Anneli, a resident of Tynnered, regularly adds intriguing stones and objects to the garden that she finds during her neighborhood strolls.



Curate the place with elements that children recognize.

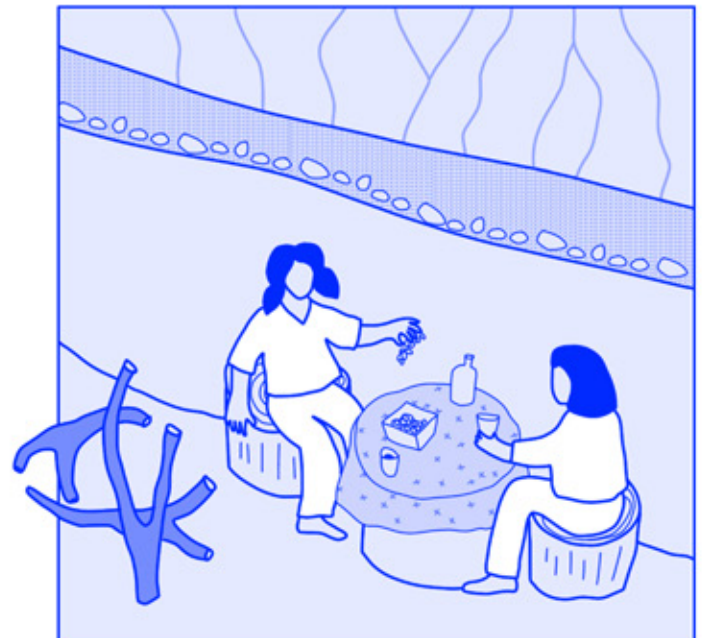


Curate together!

Utilizing the shelter of the tunnel and organizing more events, fika, engagement with children and families. Reaching out more people to collaborate and create memories.



Continue experimenting! Keep exploring ideas and sources of inspiration, such as creating a picnic spot with the tree trunks found in the forest.



## Learnings from and with Safirträdgården

To effectively engage in participatory placemaking, it is essential to draw insights from grassroots initiatives like Safirträdgården, a community space dedicated to fostering creativity, social cohesion, and environmental stewardship. Within Safirträdgården lie valuable lessons and insights that can inform the development of impactful spatial interventions in Tynnered and beyond.

**Persistence in Action:** One of the key learnings from Safirträdgården is the necessity of taking action, even if it is on a small scale. Regular engagement and proactive efforts are essential for maintaining the vitality and functionality of community spaces.

**Everyday Care:** In line with the ethos of sustained action, Safirträdgården emphasizes the importance of everyday caring and maintenance practices. These routines contribute to the upkeep and preservation of the space, ensuring its longevity and usability.

**Cultivation of Patience:** A key lesson learned from Safirträdgården is the virtue of patience in witnessing transformative change. Recognizing that meaningful transformations take time, the community and related stakeholders are encouraged to exercise patience and perseverance in their endeavors.

**Dynamic Adaptation:** Safirträdgården operates on the premise that communal spaces are living entities that evolve with the changing seasons. Embracing an iterative process, the space welcomes repeated occurrences while promoting continual evolution and adaptation.

**Fostering Creativity and Open-mindedness:** Creativity and open-mindedness are fundamental to the ethos of Safirträdgården. By encouraging innovative thinking and embracing diverse perspectives, the space cultivates an environment conducive to exploration and experimentation.

**Knowledge Sharing for Community Well-being:** Safirträdgården serves as a platform for sharing vital information related to mental health, physical well-being, and community safety. By facilitating dialogue and resource dissemination, the space contributes to the holistic well-being of its participants.

**Diverse Programming:** The varied events and activities hosted at Safirträdgården cater to diverse interests and age groups, ranging from spring cleaning and crafting sessions to outdoor games and educational walks.

This multifaceted approach ensures inclusivity and engagement within the community.

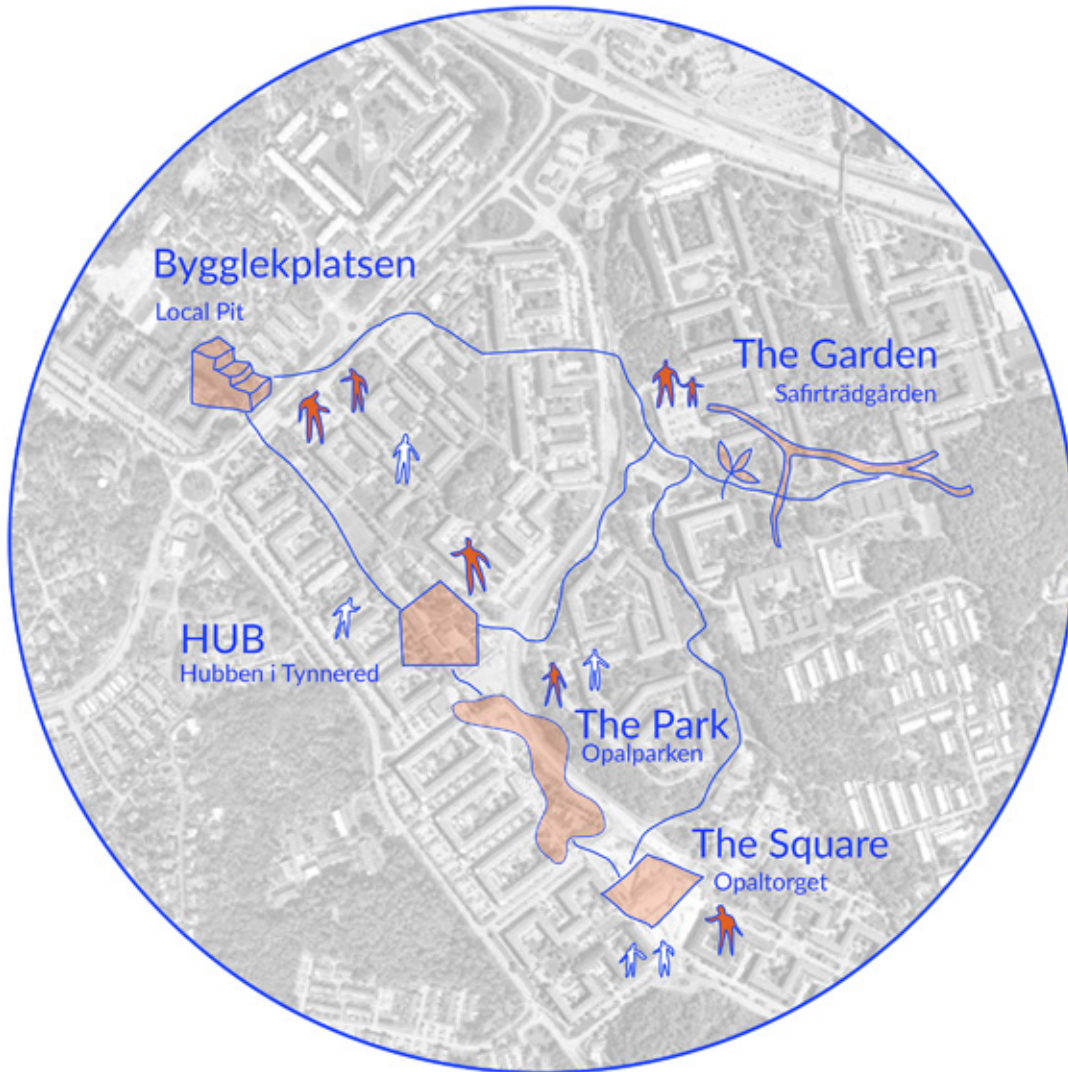
**Focus on Youth Engagement:** Safirträdgården primarily targets children and their caregivers, recognizing the formative role of early experiences in shaping lifelong attitudes towards community engagement and environmental stewardship.

**Promoting Playful Environmentalism:** Central to Safirträdgården's ethos is the promotion of playful and creative approaches to environmental care. By infusing fun and excitement into stewardship activities, the space instills a sense of ownership and responsibility among participants.

**Engaging Local Actors:** The success of initiatives like Safirträdgården relies on active participation and support from local stakeholders. Collaboration with community organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies is essential for sustaining and expanding such endeavors.

**Identifying Initiators and Facilitators:** Key actors involved in the initiation and management of community spaces like Safirträdgården encompass a diverse range of individuals and organizations, including community leaders, volunteers, local businesses, and municipal authorities. Effective coordination and leadership are critical for ensuring the continued success of these initiatives.

The learnings from local practices such as Safirträdgården inspire further speculation on actions, collaborations, and interventions in Tynnered to activate public spaces and create meaningful meeting places. As part of the thesis fieldwork, a series of brainstorming workshops are conducted with residents and community members to cultivate collective insights, ideas, and aspirations regarding the development of creative and meaningful meeting places in the area. These workshops yield valuable insights, particularly through the exploration of 'what if' scenarios, which spark speculation and brainstorming about potential actions and collaborations within the neighborhood. Thought-provoking 'what if' questions open up opportunities for dialogue and discussions on spatial interventions, leading to the formulation of new anticipatory narratives.



**What if** Safirträdgården keep expanding with the support and care of others?

**What if** we organize a Koja building workshop with friends?

**What if** we have a drawing exhibition in the tunnel?

**What if** we do a collective mural painting on the way to our school?

**What if** we create a picnic spot at the garden?

**What if** we have a summer program in Tynnered to create bygglekplatsen?

**What if** the children take control in shaping their play areas?

**What if** we develop multipurpose spaces that strengthen community bonds?

**What if** we offer creative and meaningful summer job opportunities for local youth?

**What if** we build a tiny coffee stall at the new park?

**What if** we have pop-up art events at the park?

**What if** we have weekly flea market at the square?

# *What If*

In Between Fiction and Reality

*“The future does not exist in the present but anticipation does. The form the future takes in the present is anticipation.”*

*(Miller, 2018, p. 27)*

This chapter delves into speculative narratives surrounding potential events, actions, and collaborations related to participatory placemaking and placekeeping in Tynnered. These narratives represent moments that contribute to the formation of collective memories and knowledge. The narratives are expressed through the integration of sketches and texts derived from dialogues with community members and collective brainstorming sessions conducted during fieldwork in Tynnered. The texts are presented in an empirical format, describing events as if they have already occurred. Therefore, the narratives are written in the past tense, despite essentially referring to situations involving future events.

Narratives play a significant role in prompting and guiding change processes (Future Narratives, n.d.). A narrative encompasses a significant recounting of events with inherent meaning. In the context of structuralist literature theory, narratives are defined by a temporally organized sequence of actions in which an event changes the situation. A narrative can be expressed in the form of written word, visual means, or any other form of communication. From a sociological perspective, narratives serve as shared images, capable of conveying and reinforcing collective values, emotions, and norms. The practice of sharing stories is a core element of human culture that shapes societal beliefs and identities. Individuals collectively adhere to these societal constructs, often conceptualized as shared fictions, such as moral principles, legal frameworks, or cultural traditions (ibid).

The speculative narratives also serve to connect and enrich the concept of Futures Literacy (FL), which is the ability that enables people to better understand why and how we utilize the ‘future’ to prepare, plan, and engage with the complexity and novelty of our societies (UNESCO).

Futures Literacy relies on an individual’s capacity to both anticipate and imagine (Häggström & Schmidt, 2021). Furthermore, building on the insights of Liveley, Slocombe, and Spiers (2021), who argue that leveraging narrative perceptions is essential to fully realize the emancipatory potential of Futures Literacy, this section explores fictional narratives depicting fragmented future scenarios in Tynnered, connecting real-life individuals and the potential for participatory placemaking.





A bird cage became a hanging garden!



A house for our friend sammy :)



Making a tiny garden with collected plants.



Children were excited to take their mini landscape pots at home.

16 June 2024

Today, I attended Monika's creative workshop at Safirträdgården, and it was a perfect sunny day to learn about tiny gardens. We spent the day immersed in nature, collecting earth, mosses, grasses, and tiny plants, feeling like we were on a treasure hunt. The children were thrilled to discover each piece of nature's puzzle.

After gathering our materials, we dove into creating miniature landscapes in pots, cups, and plates. Watching the children's imaginations soar as they arranged each element was incredible. We discussed how moss could become a fairy's cozy bed and how stones could transform into mountains in a distant land.

As we worked, laughter filled the air, and the children's faces lit up with joy. We adorned our creations with tiny trinkets and told stories about the worlds we were crafting, feeling like we were painting with nature itself.

Beyond the fun, there was a lesson in responsibility. We emphasized the importance of caring for our creations—watering the plants and ensuring they received enough sunlight. It was a gentle reminder of the stewardship that comes with creativity.

Overall, it was a day brimming with wonder and imagination. I'm grateful to be part of these workshops, where we not only learn about gardening but also explore the endless possibilities of our imaginations.



At the end of workshop, the table was full of tiny worlds and craft materials.



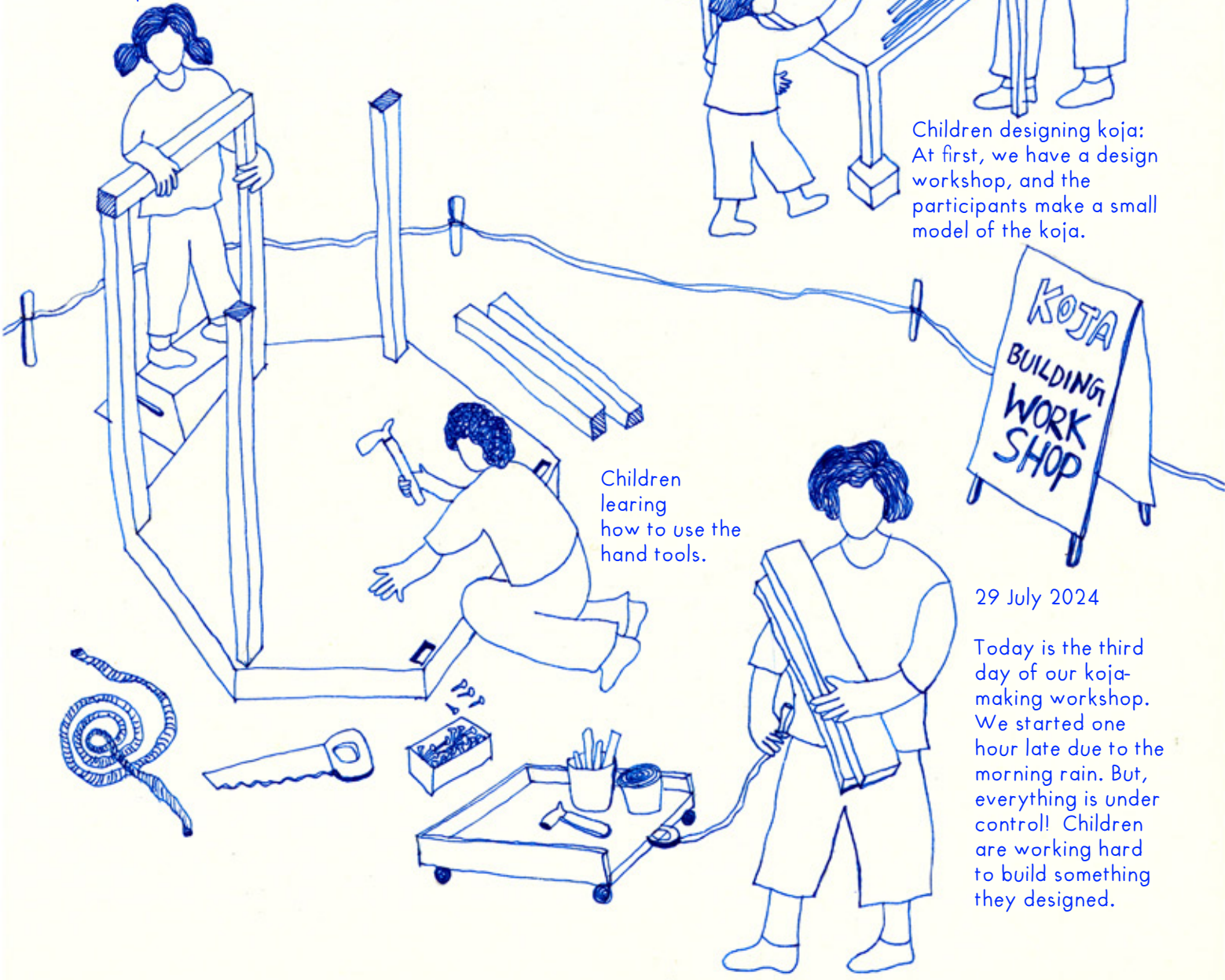
Making koja in the forest is fun, but building a koja that can be placed in Safirträdgården would be very exciting! And what if the children can build, shape, decorate, and transform the koja as they wish?

20 June 2024

Today, Monika, Tristan, and I had a spontaneous meeting to discuss organizing a self-building workshop for children and making koja with friends. Our friend, Andrea, can help us coordinate the workshops. She is an architecture student and passionate about self-building. We are also exploring the possibilities of collaborating with a school in Tynnered. We know it will take time for planning and communication. Let's hope we find friends to collaborate with!



Children designing koja: At first, we have a design workshop, and the participants make a small model of the koja.



Children learning how to use the hand tools.

29 July 2024

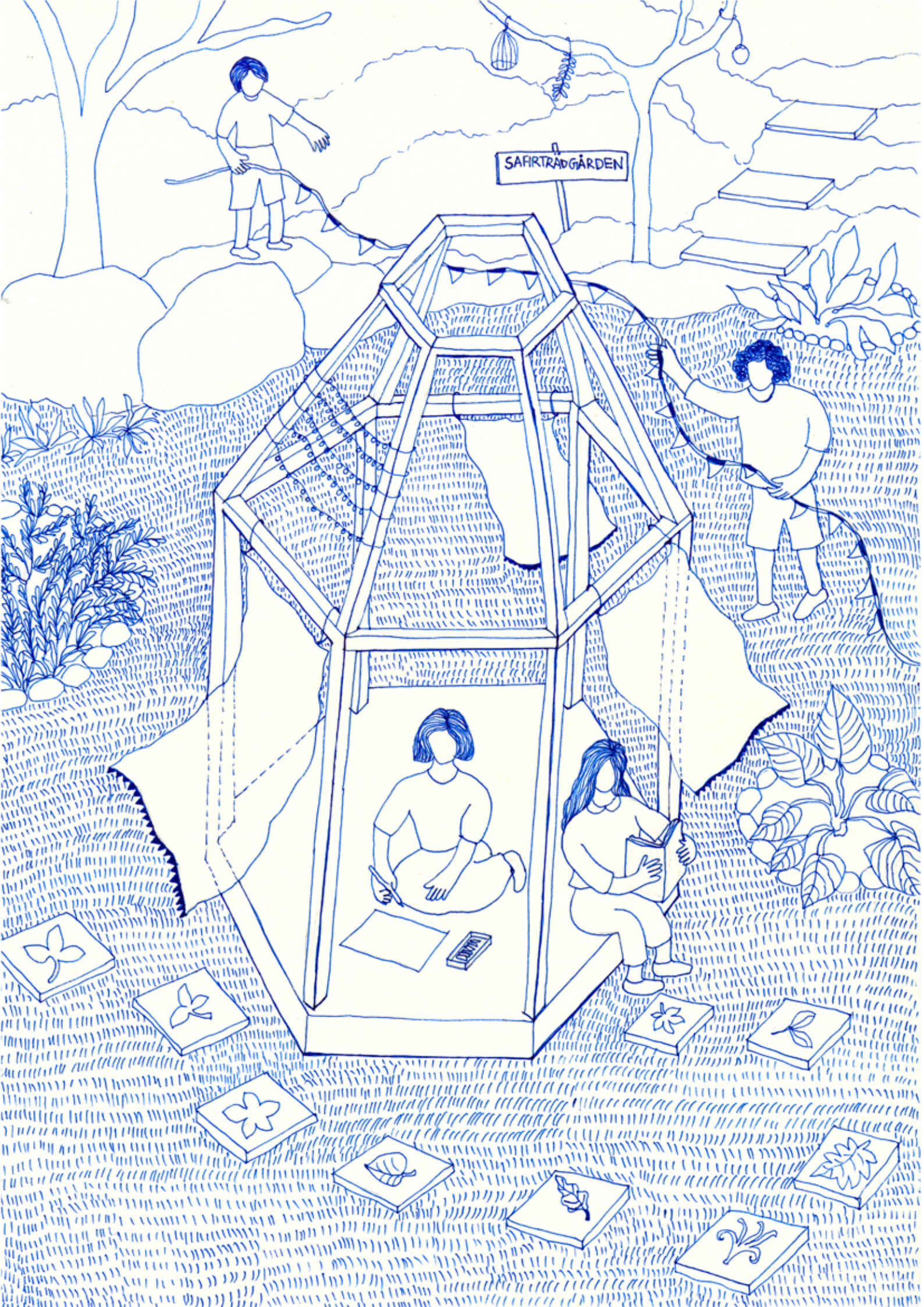
Today is the third day of our koja-making workshop. We started one hour late due to the morning rain. But, everything is under control! Children are working hard to build something they designed.



17 August 2024

It is sunny and warm outside today. The collective koja is now at Safirträdgården, and it's such a joy to see! The children are beaming with pride as they work together to build it. Not only do they play in the koja, but they also take great delight in decorating it in countless ways.

They've come up with a wonderful idea- they want the koja to be like the seasons, changing its look with each passing one, for various occasions. Some days, it transforms into a vibrant playhouse, alive with laughter and imagination. Other days, it becomes a cozy shelter, perfect for quiet drawing sessions or storytime readings. It's incredible to witness their creativity and how they've truly made the koja their own.



SAFRTRADGÅRDEN

Children are organizing a drawing exhibition and a Christmas card exchange event in the koja! They also want to add some lights to decorate the koja for Christmas Eve!



New look for the koja after the fabric curtains!  
One side of the koja is now slowly getting covered with green creeper plants. The koja seems to have a living curtain!



Today, the koja transformed into a puppet show stage!  
Students from Ängåsskolan put on a puppet show, with the children crafting the puppets themselves.  
We draped three large tablecloths over the koja, leaving only one opening for the audience. Performers were hidden inside, putting on the show behind the fabrics.



Unfortunately, my phone battery died during the performance, so I couldn't capture many photos. But I will definitely remember the day with memories of our laughter and the joy of storytelling.



14 September 2024

What if we turn the tunnels in Tynnered into cool places? Let's try some ideas at the tunnel at Safirträdgården!

It's Saturday again! We're having our weekly drawing session at the children's library in Tynnered - Opaltrögets bibliotek. Everyone is welcome to join the session. Mostly we have participants of age group 6-15.

Today, we have eight participants working in two groups.

Since last week, we've been brainstorming ideas about inactive places in the neighborhood and drawing our thoughts.



27 March 2025

We hosted a successful Spring Exhibition at the Safirträdgården tunnel. Anneli, an artist who resides in Tynnered, took charge of the curation.

Anneli curated the selected drawings that children created throughout my drawing course at Opalörgetsbibliotek. The tunnel became a gathering place today for children, parents, and passersby. The children were proudly showing their drawings to their parents.

Thanks to Neva, who works at Studieförbundet Bilda, for providing us with street crayons. The children had a blast doodling on the street during the event.

I was initially concerned when clouds rolled in, but then I realized we were sheltered under the tunnel! So, no worries :) Fortunately, the clouds dispersed quickly, and we all enjoyed a lovely time. We also indulged in tasty fika prepared by two of Monika's neighbors.





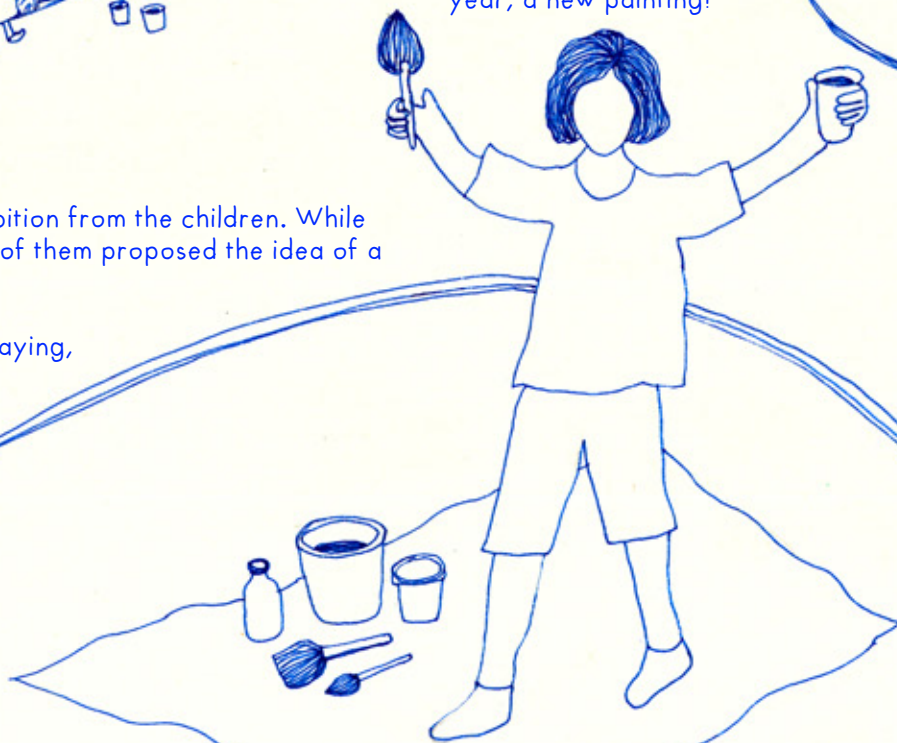
We want to have an annual mural painting day! Next year, a new painting!

We had an inspiring idea at the tunnel exhibition from the children. While doodling on the streets with crayons, some of them proposed the idea of a large doodle on a wall!

Tristan responded to the idea instantly by saying, "Why not do a mural on the electricity house wall on our way to school? There are often unpleasant writings and signs on the walls of that house. It would be great to have one of our nice drawings there!"

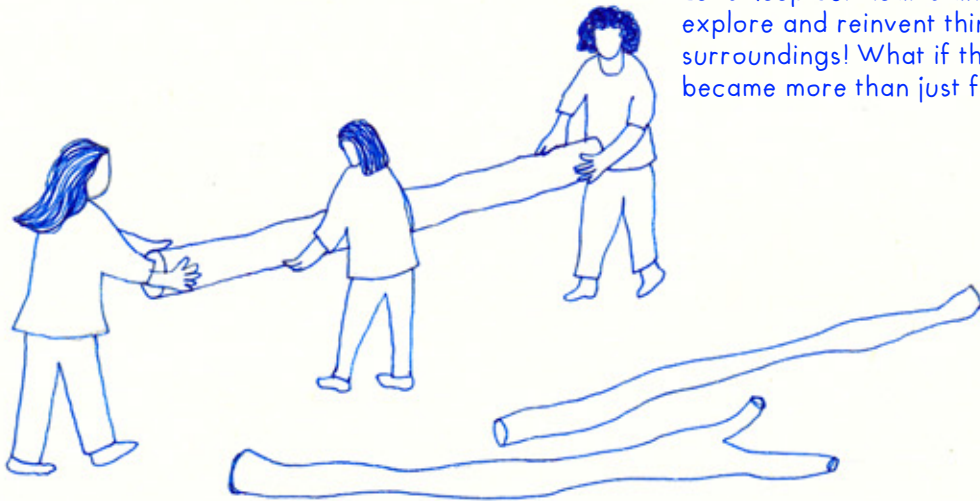
24 May 2025

It is a cloudy day, but luckily, no sign of rain. Today is day 5 of our collective mural drawing. We've created a large collage using the drawings done by the children, which serve as the foundation for the mural. Now, children can improvise in many parts as they draw. The progress is good, but we are out of blue color, which we need to organize by tomorrow. Groups of students from Ängåsskolan, Tynneredsskolan, and Communityskolan are actively participating. Leisure leaders Iñigo and Rodrigo have been great supports in engaging with youths interested in mural painting. Anneli and her artist friend Gilberto are assisting in coordinating the painting process. We are planning a barbecue event next Friday to celebrate together. We believe, the mural would be a joyful landmark for the children and the community.



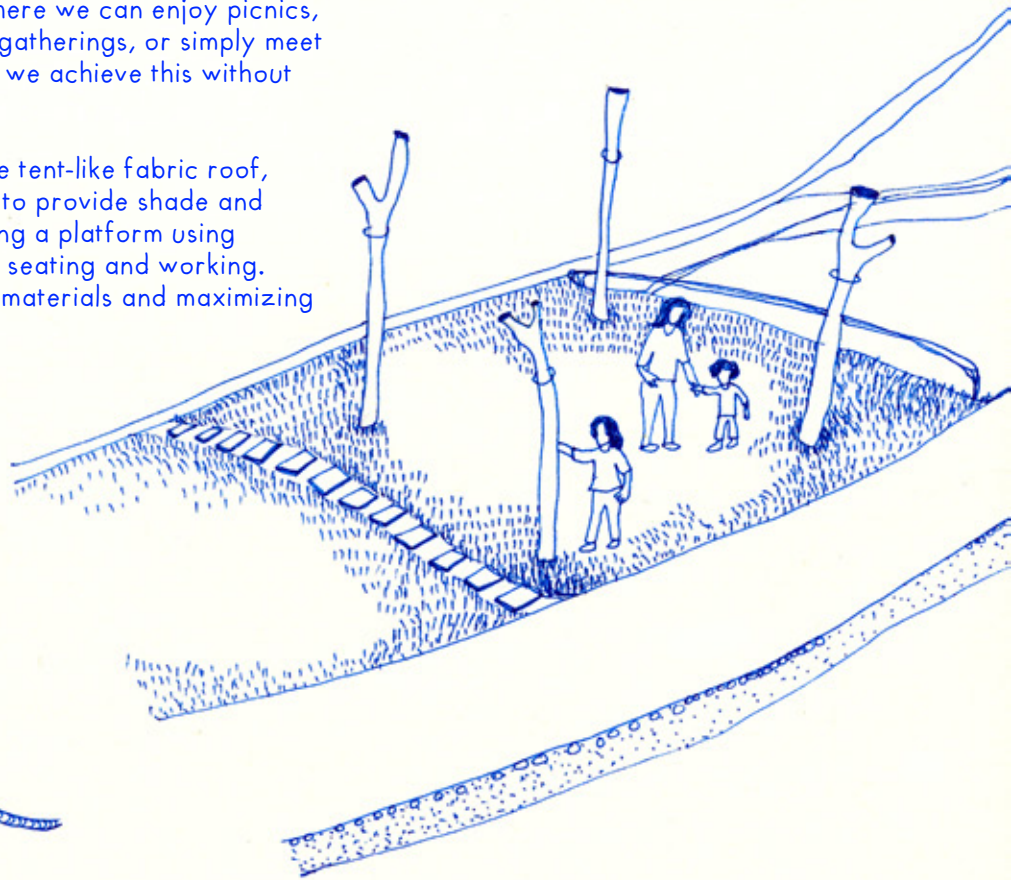


Let's keep our hearts and eyes open to explore and reinvent things in our familiar surroundings! What if these old tree logs became more than just furniture or walls?



We've been brainstorming ideas for a creative spot at Safirträdgården - a adaptable space where we can enjoy picnics, craft workshops, knitting sessions, fika gatherings, or simply meet and hang out with friends. But how can we achieve this without constructing a traditional building?

Our concept revolves around a movable tent-like fabric roof, supported by 3 or 4 poles or tree logs, to provide shade and shelter. Additionally, we envision crafting a platform using recycled wooden pallets as a space for seating and working. We want to emphasize on repurposing materials and maximizing flexibility.

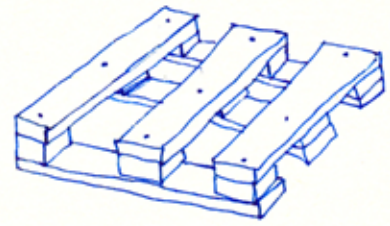
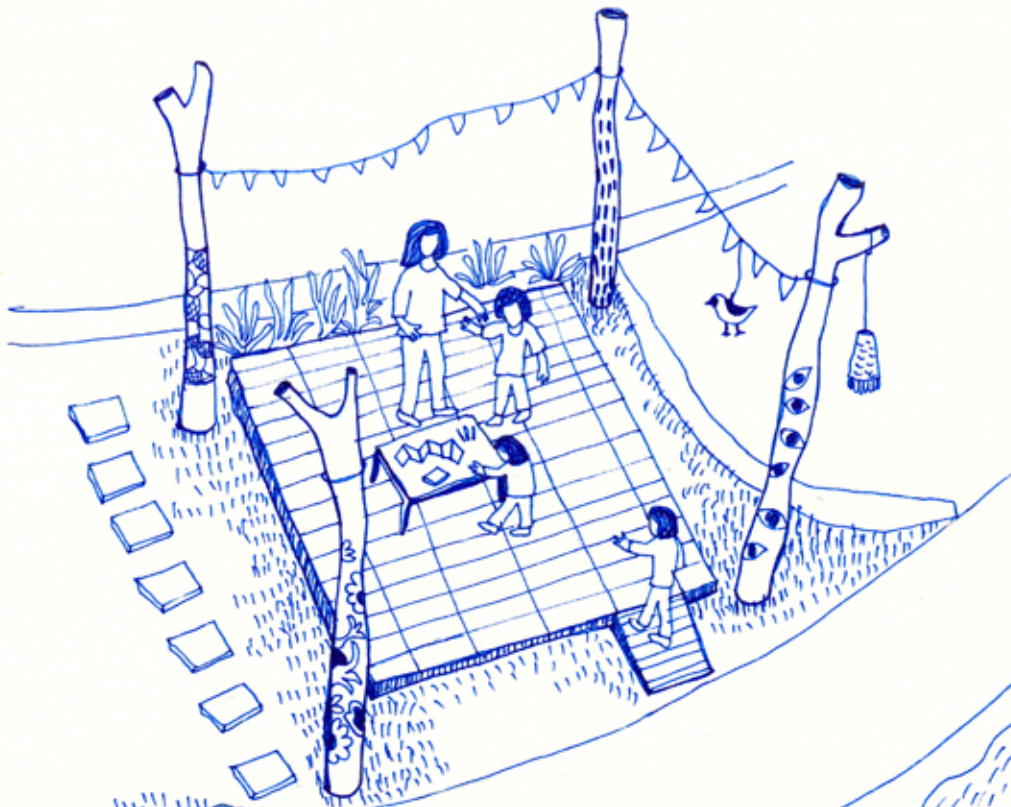


The tree logs become art installations adorned with the knitting and yarn art created by the knitting group in Tynnered. They resemble colorful sculptures, inspiring many children and teenagers to learn knitting!

The stitching group in Tynnered is growing! We have a wonderful collaboration with friends who enjoy stitching and working with textiles. A group of six participants has created a beautiful textile shamianah (a flat tent) for the creative spot at Safirträdgården. The patterns on the tent reflect natural and diverse cultural motifs.



We had been meeting at the community hub in Tynnered for stitching with friends every Tuesday afternoon while working on the tent. The sessions became increasingly popular among many residents. We are thrilled that Studieförbundet Bilda will support running a stitching course at the hub! This will be a fun course, not only for learning but also for making friends.

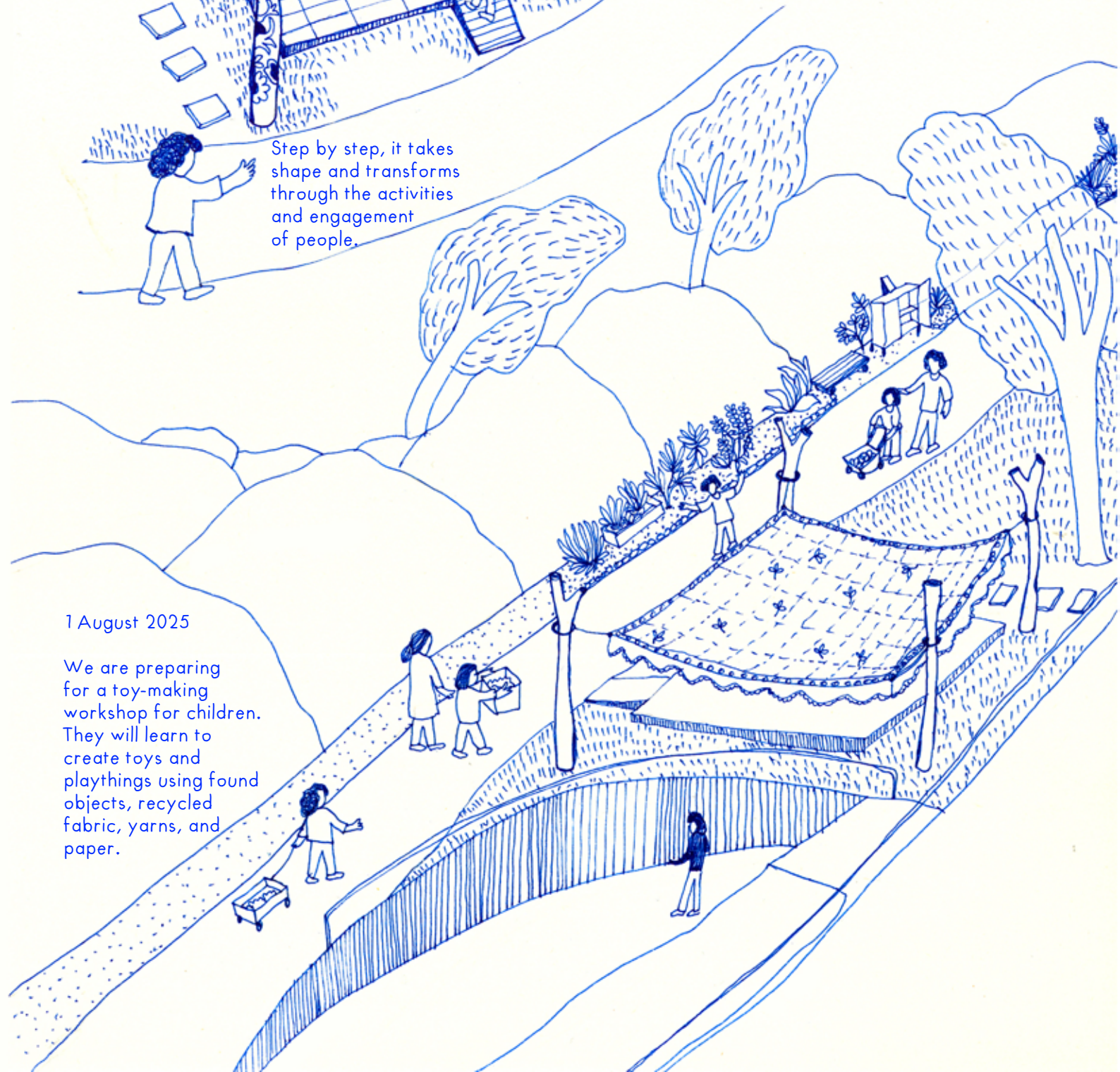


We are using old wooden pallets to create a platform for sitting and working.

Step by step, it takes shape and transforms through the activities and engagement of people.

1 August 2025

We are preparing for a toy-making workshop for children. They will learn to create toys and playthings using found objects, recycled fabric, yarns, and paper.





The toy-making workshops are inspiring us with so many ideas to explore and build. However, there is not enough space at Safirträdgården, and we also need more tools and a small storage area. Playing with handmade toys is super fun, and learning while playing is even better.

What if we had a bygglekplatsen in Tynnered where children could shape their own play areas? They could learn about tools and explore their imaginations while building tiny play structures. Bygglekplatsen wouldn't just be for children; it could also become a vibrant community space.

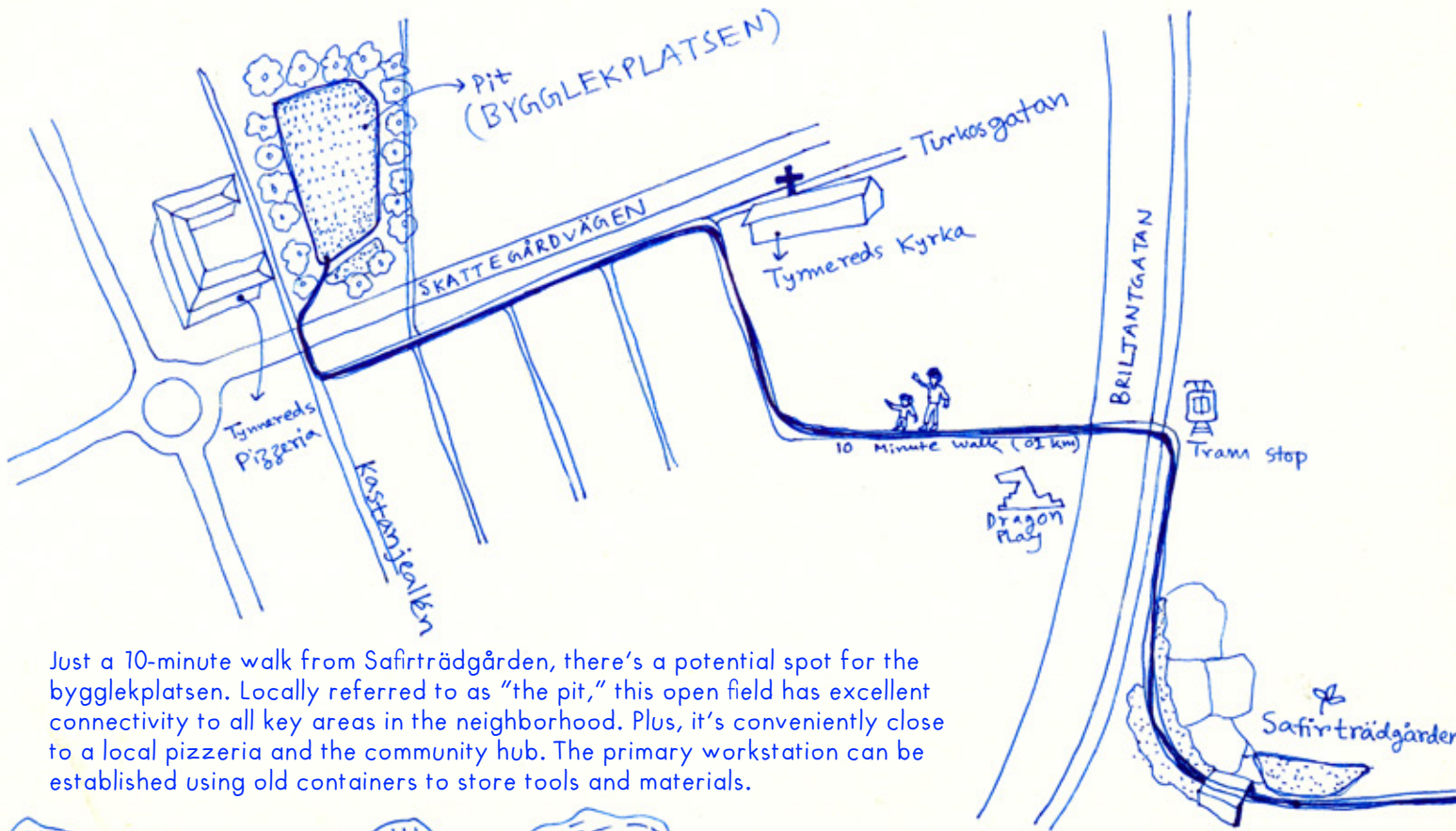
20 October 2025

Today marked another engaging 'breakfast meeting' event at Opalkyrka in Tynnered. These gatherings, held every two months, serve as vital forums for organizations working in Tynnered to come together, discuss neighborhood issues, and provide updates on ongoing initiatives. Residents are encouraged to join and share their feedback, making these meetings truly inclusive.

Today, one of the key topics of discussion was the exciting prospect of a summer project: Bygglekplatsen in Tynnered. This initiative, which could be integrated into the broader Destination Tynnered program, has the potential to not only enrich the community but also create valuable summer job opportunities for local youths.



Furthermore, participants proposed the idea of sustaining the initiative beyond the summer months. This could evolve into a meaningful after-school activity for the children of Tynnered, providing them with ongoing opportunities for learning while playing.



Just a 10-minute walk from Safirträdgården, there's a potential spot for the bygglekplatsen. Locally referred to as "the pit," this open field has excellent connectivity to all key areas in the neighborhood. Plus, it's conveniently close to a local pizzeria and the community hub. The primary workstation can be established using old containers to store tools and materials.



19 April 2026

It was a rainy morning, but the sun showed up by noon. Today, we continued the mural painting on the container with a group of children. Most of the children are excited to use the tools and make models by themselves.

Youth workers and parents are there to help the children in bringing their ideas to life.



One step at a time! It is an iterative process of learning, playing, and building.



Children are taking control in shaping their play areas.

Tristan, Violet, and Radhmehr are working on a tiny hut.

Hodan is making a bird shelter today!

Huzaifa and Hassan are building a tree house.



Artist Gilberto built a dome with the children.

Bygglekplatsen is becoming greener and greener with the children's gardening project.

Cooking together

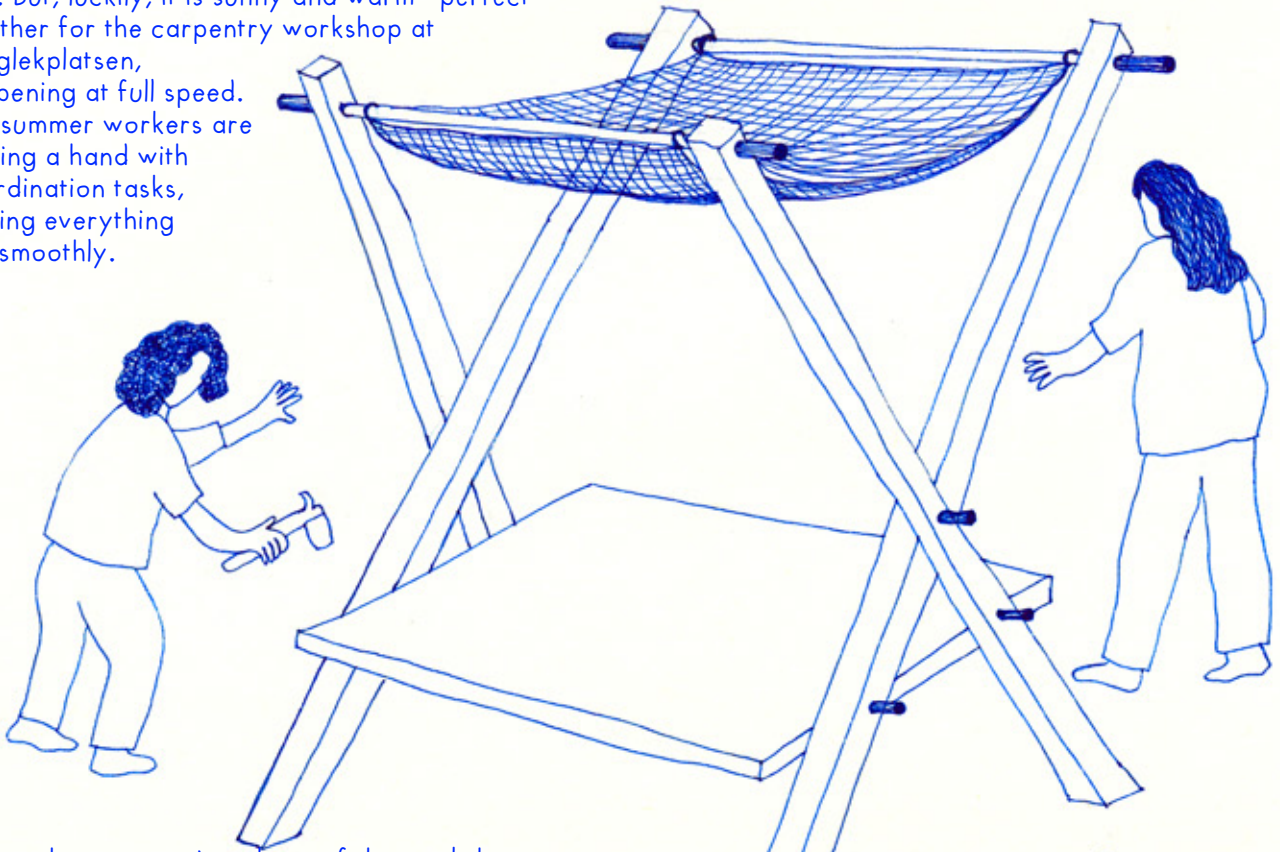
Tasting tomatoes and spinach grown at Bygglekplatsen gardens.

Last week, a lot of parents joined with their children in the organic dye workshop at Bygglekplatsen. The children were super happy to dye their own t-shirts.

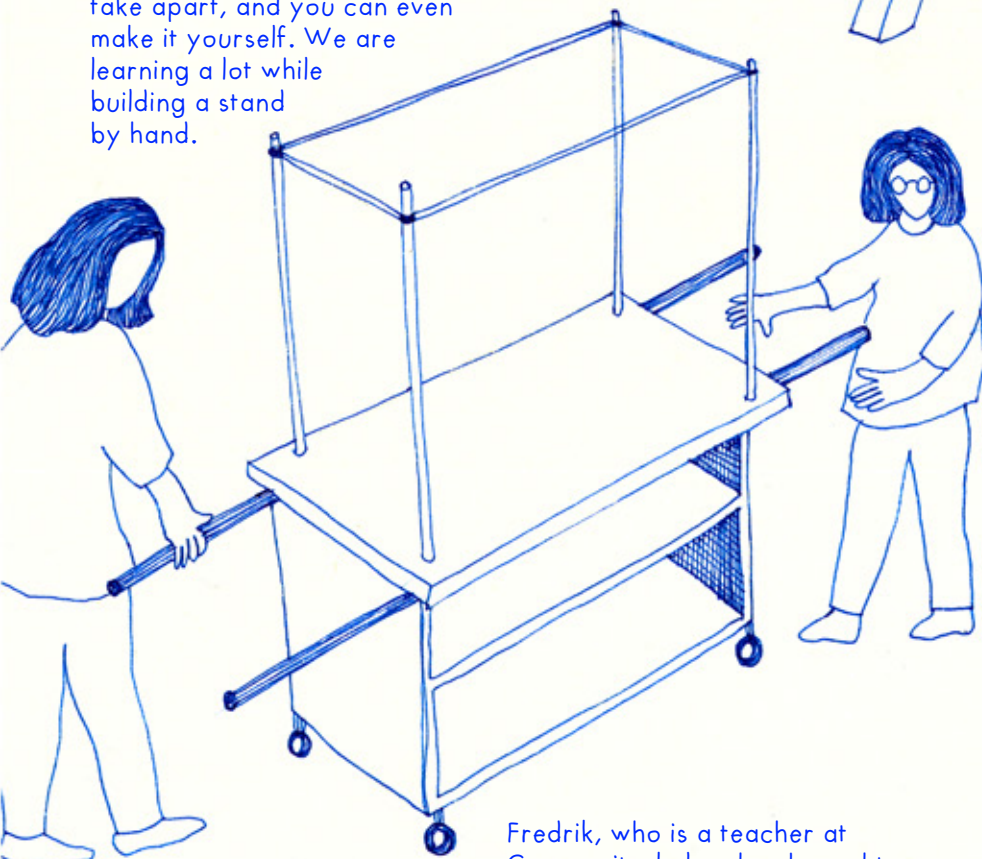
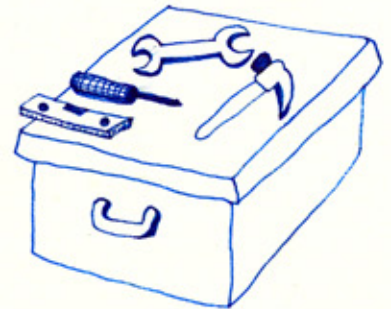
I am excited about next week's workshop now. Monika will have a face painting session.

16 June 2026

It was forecasted to rain today in my weather app. But, luckily, it is sunny and warm - perfect weather for the carpentry workshop at Bygglekplatsen, happening at full speed. The summer workers are lending a hand with coordination tasks, making everything run smoothly.



During the preparation phase of the workshop, we were inspired by Tomioka Stand, designed by a Japanese architecture team. It is a movable food stand made to bring life to city areas. It's easy for anyone to put together or take apart, and you can even make it yourself. We are learning a lot while building a stand by hand.



Fredrik, who is a teacher at Communityskolan, has brought a group of his students to the workshop. They are also building mobile carts that can be used as tiny shops.

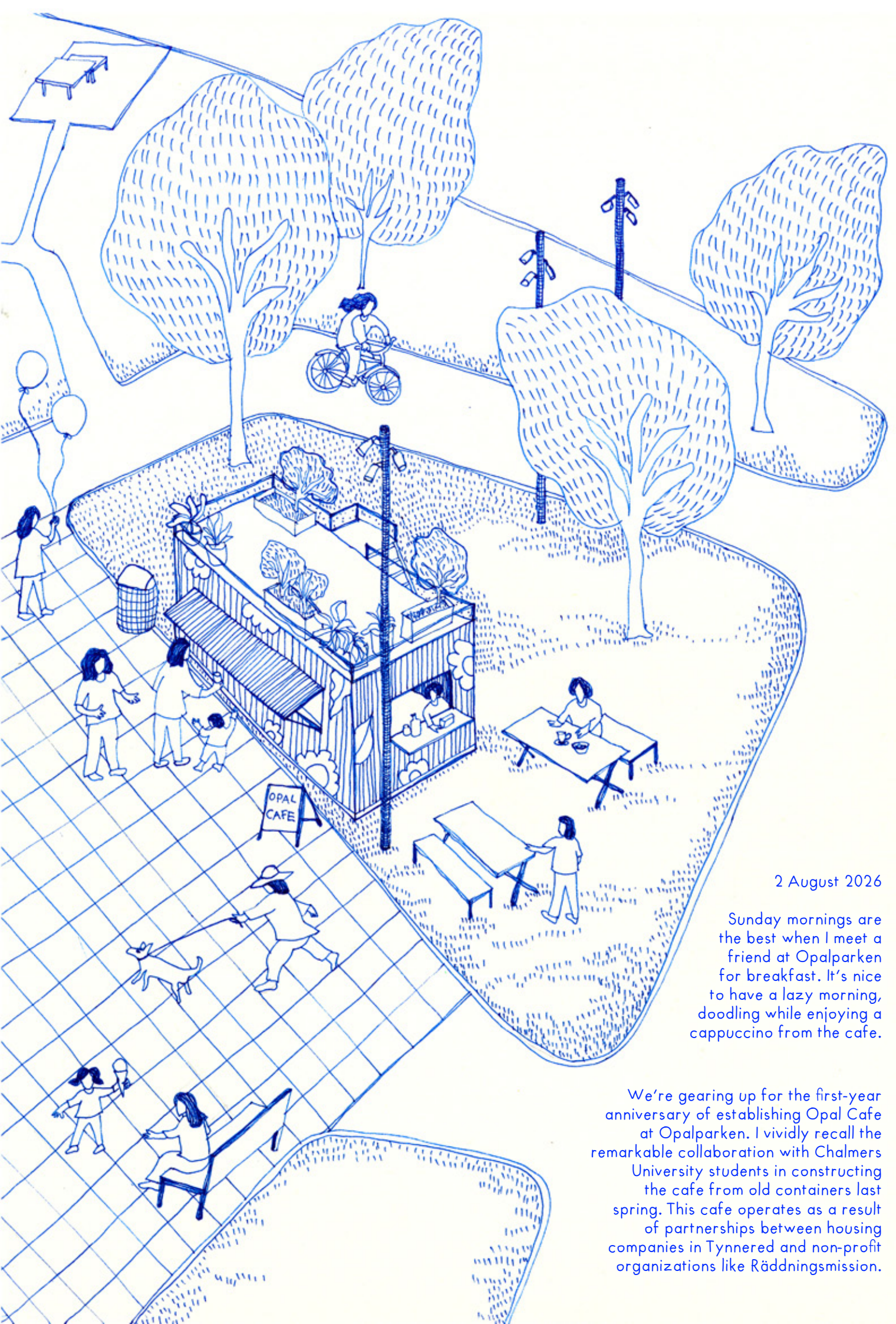


25 July 2026

Today, I was helping my artist friend, Anneli, showcase her drawings at Opalorget's bustling flea market. The mobile stalls we made during the carpentry workshops at Bygglekplatsen are now coming in handy. We may actually need to build more.

Opalorget in Tynnered is no longer a boring parking lot these days. We often host pop-up play and spontaneous exhibitions for children. Every Saturday and Sunday, the square comes alive with food stalls and a variety of second-hand items for sale. Local vendors proudly display their fresh fruits and vegetables, while skilled artisans sell homemade delicacies. Additionally, every second Sunday, Opalorget transforms into a vibrant hub for Gothenburg designers and artists, showcasing their unique creations such as printed shirts, hand-crafted jewelry, and stylish accessories. Visitors can also enjoy captivating artistic performances, making each visit to Opalorget a delightful experience.





2 August 2026

Sunday mornings are the best when I meet a friend at Opalparken for breakfast. It's nice to have a lazy morning, doodling while enjoying a cappuccino from the cafe.

We're gearing up for the first-year anniversary of establishing Opal Cafe at Opalparken. I vividly recall the remarkable collaboration with Chalmers University students in constructing the cafe from old containers last spring. This cafe operates as a result of partnerships between housing companies in Tynnered and non-profit organizations like Räddningsmission.

# *The Ripple Effect of Small Actions*

Weaving Narratives of Care and Anticipation

Architecture, the arts, and other spatial practices have consistently played a foremost role in socio-spatial struggles, where issues of equal access to spaces and resources, as well as matters of representation and self-expression, are significant concerns within our urban environments, communities, and everyday lives (Schalk et al., 2017).

At the onset of the book 'Feminist Futures of Spatial Practice', the introduction raises a fundamental and critical query, as articulated by Schalk et al. (2017, p. 13):

*“Can we act, each of us, from within our everyday practices, as part of larger socio-political entities, in here and now, and affect the future?”*

This question, especially when confronted by young architects and students, may initially evoke a sense of intimidation, given the realization that our spatial practices are deeply entrenched within an enduring patriarchal framework, making the prospect of envisioning alternative scenarios tremendously arduous and, in some contexts, 'seemingly' impossible. Moreover, if we solely focus on the power and agency of an isolated entity against prevailing forces, the imagination of an alternative world becomes even more daunting.

Nonetheless, the allure of this inquiry lies primarily in the subtle hint of anticipation —yes, we can. Anticipation is a primal force that moves us to action. Like desire, anticipation does not express a lack but a promise: not yet, but soon (Runting, 2017, p. 267).

This thesis emphasizes the power of anticipation, which motivates individuals to take action to effect meaningful change. Local practices of placemaking and placekeeping, such as Safirträdgården in Tynnered, exemplify how actions driven by values of care and anticipation foster community-building processes. The collective values of care connect individuals, encouraging them to think and act together. This togetherness is crucial because, as Solis (2014) articulates, “Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

Anticipation also leads to planning, dreaming, and manifesting future steps. In the context of placemaking and placekeeping in Tynnered, engagement with

community members underscores the necessity of involving children and youth in long-term initiatives. Stories collected and anticipated can be shared in creative formats such as storybooks, zines, and short films, reaching larger groups of children, youth, residents, and other stakeholders, sparking conversations and actions (see Figure 23).

The interconnected placemaking interventions in Tynnered (Figures 19, 20, 21, 22) can be developed through a co-creative process. This thesis project generates 'what if' narratives through a participatory process that highlights the collective imagination of actions and interventions by community members in Tynnered. These new narratives emphasize the significance of small steps and how a network of consistent small actions can create a ripple effect of transformations.

The role of architects in this transformation process extends beyond designing buildings and specific interventions or merely solving problems. It includes actively participating in the process of initiating change. When community narratives and speculative thinking merge, it becomes possible to realize ideas at various scales and formats. From one individual to several key actors to multiple stakeholders, the network expands, connecting resident groups, housing companies, schools, libraries, tenant associations, churches, NGOs, and other actors working in the neighborhood, weaving together ideas and collective values of care. Architects can act as active agents in this weaving process, where the scope of contributions is diverse (Figure 24). With an open and empathetic positioning, the architect plays a valuable role in nurturing values of care and the process of collective knowledge production.

The working methodology of this thesis highlights that collaborating with community members and utilizing spatial practices can initiate new conversations and imaginations. However, it is crucial to recognize the need for long-term engagement to build trust and meaningful relationships within both professional and communal spheres.



**Figure 19: The visualization portrays a potential mural painting event with children at Tynnered.**  
[The collage uses mural painting done by Syrian children at Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.]



**Figure 20: The visualization portrays potential bygglekplatsen at Tynnered.**  
[The collage uses multiple image references from Bygglekplatsen at Biskopsgården in Gothenburg.]



**Figure 21: The visualization portrays a potential flea market at Opalorget in Tynnered.**  
[The collage uses image reference of tomioka stand, a food stall designed by note architects in Japan.]



**Figure 22: The visualization portrays a potential cafe at Opalparken in Tynnered.**  
[The collage uses image reference of Pop-Up Container Cafe designed by NAPP Architects and Wooden Pavilion Workshop directed by architects Sebastian Erazo and Stefano Pugliese at the faculty of fine arts and design (Izmir University of Economics, Turkey).]

## Long-term Engagement Creative Collaboration with Children and Youth

We aim to create a long-term course designed for children and teenagers that focuses on architecture, placemaking, building communities, and caring for their environment. This course offers a meaningful and creative after-school activity that encourages young people to express themselves and understand their responsibility in shaping the future.

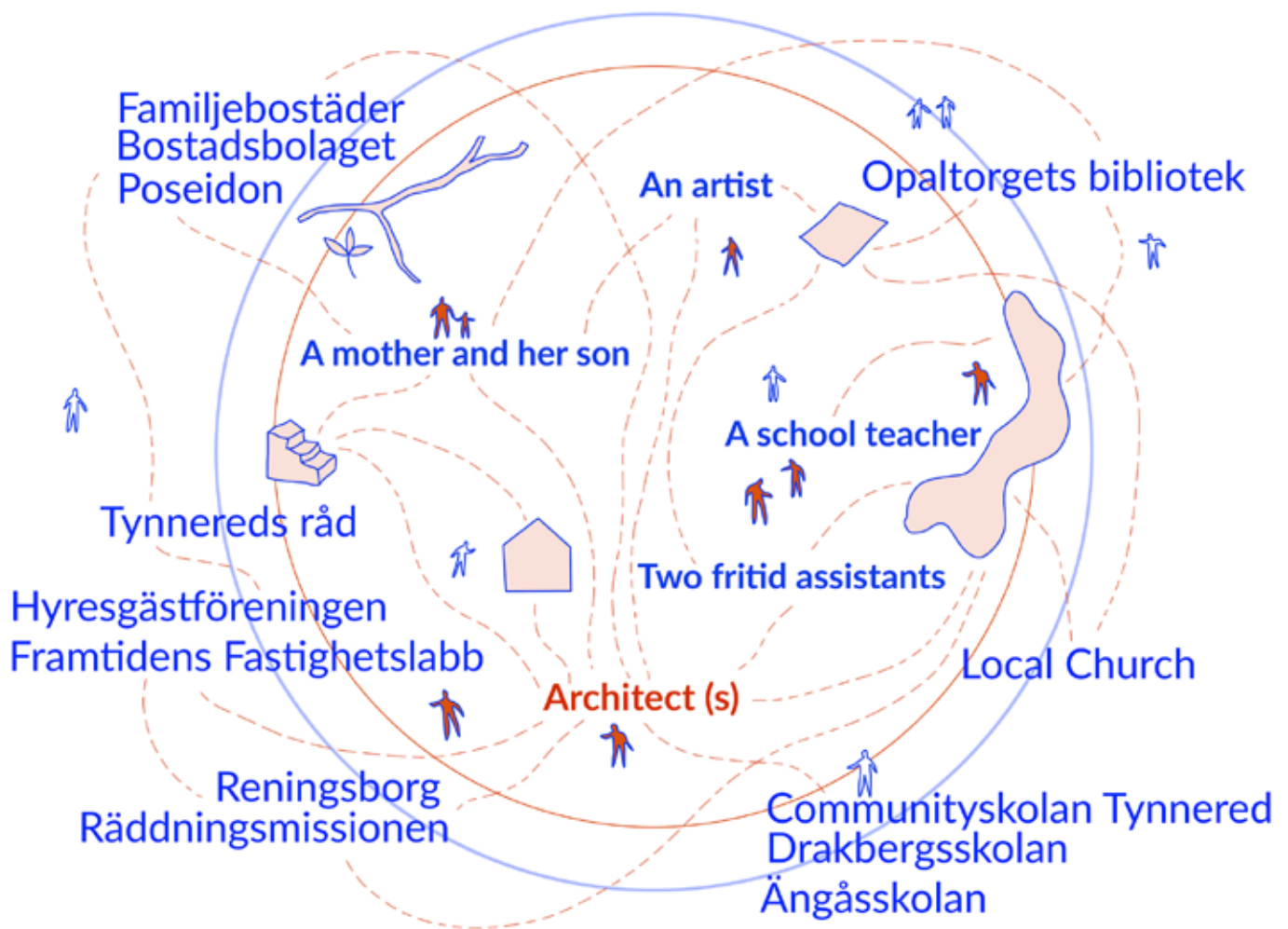


## Working with Narratives Developing Creative Advocacy Tools

We aim to share collective narratives, insights, dreams, and ideas through storybooks, zines, and films that serve as creative advocacy tools, sparking critical conversations and inspiring future actions.



Figure 23: Anticipating future steps of collaboration and actions in Tynnered. The ideas are developed through the discussion with the community members.



**Figure 24: EXPANDING NETWORK - Connecting ideas and creating collaboration opportunities with resident groups, housing companies, schools, libraries, tenant associations, churches, NGOs, and other actors working in the neighborhood.**

*Architects are indeed part of this changemaking process, not as outside experts or problem-solvers, but as agents enabling collective vision and imagination. As architects, if we are open and humble enough to rethink our way of practice, we realize that our role involves fostering community engagement—a slow process necessitating collective dialogues, long-term engagement, diverse tools, and consistent small actions.*

In conclusion, it is crucial that we resist the dominant hegemonic narratives and power structure by rejecting passive complacency and the expectation of a future revolution. The urgency for change exists in the present, demanding our immediate action and active participation as mentioned by Schalk et al. (2017, p. 14) “We do not want to defer this necessary task to an indefinite future nor to sit back and ‘wait for the revolution.’ We are concerned with exploring and shaping feminist futures in the here and now.” By recognizing the significance of even the smallest steps, we possess the capacity to construct new narratives that lay the foundation for feminist and other transformative futures. To effect meaningful transformation, it is vital that we embody qualities such as perseverance, critical thinking, creativity, introspection, and a collaborative mindset, as we wholeheartedly embrace ‘practicing otherwise’ (Petrescu, 2007).



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# *Appendix*

## Appendix A : Conversation, Interview, Discussion From September 2023 to May 2024

| SL | DATE       | NAME  | DETAILS (Representing organization)   |
|----|------------|---|---|
| 1  | 6/9/2023   | Per Östling   | First to Know   |
| 2  | 25/9/2023  | Per Östling   | First to Know   |
| 3  | 3/10/2023  | Landscape architect Constantin Milea, landscape architect Linda (from Radar Arkitektur & Planering AB), Pontus Berger from Volvo cars, Per Östling (First to Know), Iñigo (fritidsassistent/youth worker, Tynnered) | Exploateringsförvaltningen (The exploitation administration) department                 |
| 4  | 4/10/2023  | Iñigo Perez Mugica  | Fritidsassistent/Leisure Assistant, Team Tynnered Social Administration Gothenburg City |
| 5  | 11/10/2023 | Sebastian Rundlöf   | Youth worker/mentor in Tynnered during summer 2023                                      |
| 6  | 13/10/2023 | Per Östling   | First to Know   |
| 7  | 16/01/2024 | Leo Li  | Sustainability Manager EMEA, Autodesk   |
| 8  | 19/01/2024 | Neva Duranovic Sabo   | Business Developer Society Study Association Bilda                                      |
| 9  | 22/01/2024 | Annette Bawel   | Principal of Drakbergsskolan, Tynnered  |
| 10 | 22/01/2024 | Iñigo Perez Mugica  | Fritidsassistent/Leisure Assistant, Team Tynnered Social Administration Gothenburg City |
| 11 | 23/01/2024 | Anneli Rosvall  | Artist and Resident in Tynnered   |
| 12 | 23/01/2024 | Amrita Mukherjee  | Resident in Tynnered  |
| 13 | 24/01/2024 | Mikael Bergqvist  | Plan coordinator The exploitation administration The City of Gothenburg                 |
| 14 | 24/01/2024 | Erik Thorstensson   | Founder at Strawbees  |
| 15 | 25/01/2024 | Camilla Näslund   | Development Manager Tynnered Familjebostäder  |
| 16 | 26/01/2024 | Neva Duranovic Sabo   | Business Developer Society Study Association Bilda                                      |
| 17 | 29/01/2024 | Ida Jansson and Jennifer Yee  | Social worker Social inclusion and Migration Räddningsmissionen                         |
| 18 | 30/01/2024 | Breakfast Meeting Tynnered  | Different groups, people and Destination Tynnered                                       |
| 19 | 01/02/2024 | Monika Tildevik   | Mother, Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered                           |
| 20 | 02/02/2024 | Elisabeth Valinder  | Operations manager - Children, young people and family Reningsborg                      |
| 21 | 02/02/2024 | Faisa   | Mother and resident in Tynnered ( member of Mothers in Tynnered)                        |
| 22 | 05/02/2024 | Andrea Kretz Ottander   | Architecture student  |
| 23 | 06/02/2024 | Anneli Rosvall  | Artist and Resident in Tynnered   |
| 24 | 08/02/2024 | Saleh Abdul-Rahman  | Resident in Tynnered and Architecture student   |
| 25 | 09/02/2024 | Monika Tildevik   | Mother, Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered                           |
| 26 | 12/02/2024 | Fredrik Lovhall   | Resident and Teacher at Communityskolan Tynnered  |
| 27 | 14/02/2024 | Monika Tildevik and Tristan   | Mother and Son (Safirträdgården in Tynnered )   |
| 28 | 16/02/2024 | Vilma Z Weilöv  | Librarian, creative workshop and communication Opalorget Barn Bibliotek                 |
| 29 | 16/02/2024 | Per Östling   | First to Know   |

## Appendix A : Conversation, Interview, Discussion From September 2023 to May 2024

| NOTES  |
|--|
| Discussing Tynnered Program- Gothenburg City   |
| Project plan discussion  |
| Meeting on design sharing- Viaduct - Tynnered  |
| Discussion on lack of meeting places for youth   |
| Summer job for youth, need to work long-term   |
| Project plan discussion  |
| Using Autodesk Forma for participatory workshops in Tynnered   |
| Working in Tynnered- creating storytelling course  |
| Creative learning, learning by doing - the need for youth meeting places   |
| Graffiti idea with the youth - challenges to work with the youth   |
| Talk- Walk together in Tynnered- Got to know about Safirträdgården<br>Worked on project proposal write-up together |
| Future in Tynnered for her child, loneliness, depression, isolation  |
| Community land trust<br>Customer VS. Citizen   |
| Children creative play and Bygglekplatsen, effects of group learning   |
| Report about Tynnered - Opalparken activation- connection to Opalorget   |
| Working with people - children and creative  |
| Getting contact of Faisa, Planning Eid celebration with mothers in Tynnered group                                  |
| Networking and updating  |
| Storytelling starts, Visiting the garden together, Walk in Tynnered  |
| Emotional and Inspiring  |
| Mothers' group - need for place- sisterhood  |
| Storybrainstorming session - discussing the report   |
| Storybrainstorming session, discussing the report and meeting artist collective                                    |
| Personal experience of living in the neighborhood, getting more contacts   |
| Storybrainstorming session - discussing the report   |
| Opalparken Activation- Tynnereds Rådet   |
| Brainstorming session - Tristan's future plans and ideas- possible collaborations                                  |
| The future role of library in the community  |
| How to collaborate- Different models of collaboration- value creation  |

## Appendix A : Conversation, Interview, Discussion From September 2023 to May 2024

| SL | DATE        | NAME                                  | DETAILS (Representing organization)                           |
|----|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 30 | 16/02/2024  | Monika Tildevik and Tristan           | Mother and Son (Safirträdgården in Tynnered )                 |
| 31 | 21/02/2024  | Camilla Näslund and Team              | Development Manager Tynnered<br>Familjebostäder               |
| 32 | 21/02/2024  | Monika Tildevik                       | Mother, Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered |
| 33 | 22/02/2024  | Anneli Rosvall                        | Artist and Resident in Tynnered                               |
| 34 | 27/02/2024  | Magnus Johansson                      | Senior researcher at RISE Research Institutes of Sweden       |
| 35 | 28/02/2024  | Mariam                                | Student and Resident in Tynnered                              |
| 36 | 08/03/2024  | Andrea Kretz Ottander                 | Architecture student  |
| 37 | 15/03/2024  | Per Östling                           | First to Know   |
| 38 | 18/03/2024  | Monika Tildevik                       | Mother and resident (Safirträdgården in Tynnered )            |
| 39 | 21/03/2024  | Neva Duranovic Sabo                   | Business Developer Society<br>Study Association Bilda         |
| 40 | 21/03/2024  | Anneli Rosvall and Gilberto           | Artists   |
| 41 | 26/03/2024  | Anna and Karin                        | Bygglekplatsen staff  |
| 42 | 27/03/2024  | Monika Tildevik                       | Mother, Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered |
| 43 | 28/03/2024  | Neva Duranovic Sabo                   | Business Developer Society<br>Study Association Bilda         |
| 44 | 15/04/2024  | Leila Natsheh and Neva Duranovic Sabo | Creative Director of Kotte                                    |
| 45 | 17/04/2024  | Camilla Näslund and Anna Eriksson     | Development Manager Tynnered<br>Familjebostäder               |
| 46 | 17 /04/2024 | Sahar Armandi                         | Process manager<br>School as Arena                            |
| 47 | 21 /04/2024 | Leila Natsheh                         | Creative Director of Kotte                                    |
| 48 | 28/04/2024  | Monika Tildevik                       | Mother, Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered |
| 49 | 28/04/2024  | Leila Natsheh                         | Creative Director of Kotte                                    |
| 50 | 16/05/2024  | Camilla Näslund and Anna Eriksson     | Development Manager Tynnered<br>Familjebostäder               |
| 51 | 16/05/2024  | Monika Tildevik and Anneli Rosvall    | Residents of Tynnered   |
| 52 | 30/05/2024  | Breakfast Meeting Tynnered            | Different groups, people and Destination Tynnered             |

## Appendix A : Conversation, Interview, Discussion From September 2023 to May 2024

| NOTES   |
|---|
| Storybrainstorming session  |
| Present work progress and Planning workshop for the gardening project with the tenants  |
| Brainstorming on specific scenes to show the starting process and speculating future plans  |
| Brainstorming session- Opalorget  |
| Community-engaged research, Slow architecture, collaboration with real estate companies, broader problem of million programme areas, conservative state |
| Teenage perspective on Fritid and meeting places  |
| Brainstorming workshop-based initiative to continue the dialogue in Tynnered  |
| Summer 2024- Small interventions- Gothenburg as a holistic eco-system   |
| Speculating future steps of the garden - visualization workshop   |
| Bygglekplatsen idea- how to reach out stakeholders  |
| Discussion on summer program, bygglekplatsen in Tynnered  |
| Experience and knowledge sharing, site visit  |
| Street Drawing event  |
| Project discussion- creative collaboration with children  |
| Future collaboration - workshop with children   |
| Workshop planning for Tynnered's Day and Spatial intervention idea sharing  |
| Working with children and youth   |
| Discussing project plans and applications   |
| Discussion on What If Stories- Coloring book  |
| Discussion on Project plan  |
| Workshop planning for Tynnered's Day  |
| Future collaboration in Summer 2024, Community art event at Opalparken  |
| Sharing Thesis work, Networking and updating  |

## Appendix B : List of Interviewees [From January 2024 to May 2024]

| SL | NAME                  | DETAILS  |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1  | Anneli Rosvall        | Artist and Resident in Tynnered  |
| 2  | Amrita Mukherjee      | Resident in Tynnered   |
| 3  | Monika Tildevik       | Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered<br>Member of Tynnereds Rådet                           |
| 4  | Faisa                 | Resident in Tynnered ( Member of Mothers in Tynnered)  |
| 5  | Saleh Abdul-Rahman    | Resident and Architecture Student at Chalmers  |
| 6  | Fredrik Lovhall       | Resident and Teacher at Communityskolan Tynnered<br>Member of Tynnereds Rådet                                |
| 7  | Tristan               | Resident and Initiator of Safirträdgården in Tynnered  |
| 8  | Mariam                | Student and Resident in Tynnered   |
| 9  | Per Östling           | Advisor and Facilitator (First to Know)  |
| 10 | Iñigo Perez Mugica    | Leisure Assistant, Team Tynnered<br>Social Administration, Gothenburg City                                   |
| 11 | Sebastian Rundlöf     | Youth Worker in Tynnered During Summer 2023  |
| 12 | Neva Duranovic Sabo   | Business Developer Society<br>Study Association Bilda  |
| 13 | Annette Bawel         | Principal of Drakbergsskolan, Tynnered   |
| 14 | Camilla Näslund       | Development Manager Tynnered<br>Familjebostäder  |
| 15 | Ida Jansson           | Social Worker in Tynnered<br>Social Inclusion and Migration, Räddningsmissionen                              |
| 16 | Jennifer Yee          | Social Worker in Tynnered<br>Social Inclusion and Migration, Räddningsmissionen                              |
| 17 | Elisabeth Valinder    | Operations Manager - Children, Young People and Family<br>Reningsborg  |
| 18 | Vilma Z Weilöv        | Librarian, Creative Workshop and Communication<br>Opaltorget Barn Bibliotek (Children's Library in Tynnered) |
| 19 | Anna Eriksson         | Community Activity Organizer<br>Social Administration SouthWest, Gothenburg City                             |
| 20 | Sahar Armandi         | Process Manager, School as Arena<br>The Social Administration South West, Gothenburg City                    |
| 21 | Leo Li                | Sustainability Manager EMEA, Autodesk  |
| 22 | Mikael Bergqvist      | Plan coordinator<br>The Exploitation Administration, Gothenburg City   |
| 23 | Erik Thorstensson     | Founder at Strawbees   |
| 24 | Andrea Kretz Ottander | Architecture Student at Chalmers   |
| 25 | Magnus Johansson      | Senior Researcher at RISE Research Institutes of Sweden  |
| 26 | Gilberto              | Artist (Expert in Temporary Structures)  |
| 27 | Anna                  | Byggleplatsen Staff and Youth Worker in Biskopsgården  |
| 28 | Karin                 | Byggleplatsen Staff and Youth Worker in Biskopsgården  |
| 29 | Leila Natsheh         | Creative Director of Kotte   |

People Living (and Working) in Tynnered

People Working with Community Related Issues in Tynnered

Other Expert



## Appendix C : List of Interviewees During Summer Space 2023 [From June 2023 to August 2023]

| SL | INTERVIEWEE          | REPRESENTING ORGANIZATION                       |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 1  | Camilla Näslund      | Familjebostäder                                 |
| 2  | Karin Jaxmark        | Familjebostäder                                 |
| 3  | Helene Persson       | Familjebostäder                                 |
| 4  | Anna Hultsbo         | Familjebostäder                                 |
| 5  | Gabriel Gevriye Kurt | Familjebostäder + Resident in Tynnered          |
| 6  | Pontus Berger        | Volvo Cars                                      |
| 7  | Stefan Bengtsson     | Chalmers University of Technology               |
| 8  | Lasse Fryk           | Dialog Mellan-Rum                               |
| 9  | Annette Bawel        | Drakbergsskolan                                 |
| 10 | Mikael Bergqvist     | Göteborg Stad (Exploaterings Förvaltningen)     |
| 11 | Zlate Musli          | Göteborg Stad (Invånarguider)                   |
| 12 | Sahar Armandi        | Göteborg Stad (Skola som arena)                 |
| 13 | Josef Aksöz          | Göteborg Stadsmission (Framtids' Hubben)        |
| 14 | Yasmine Elmi         | Göteborg Stadsmission (Framtids' Hubben)        |
| 15 | Linda Wäppling       | PE Teknik och Arkitektur AB                     |
| 16 | Tony Rahm            | Bostadsbolaget                                  |
| 17 | Sebastian Rundlöf    | Bostadsbolaget                                  |
| 18 | Mirko Ivanovic       | Bostadsbolaget (Handslag Biskopsgården)         |
| 19 | David Olsson         | Volvo Group (Handslag Biskopsgården)            |
| 20 | Neva Duranovic Sabo  | Study Association Bilda                         |
| 21 | Katarina Gustafsson  | Hälsoteket                                      |
| 22 | Helene Melin         | 1200 Kvadratmeter                               |
| 23 | Faisa                | Mammorna i Tynnered + Resident in Tynnered      |
| 24 | Mariama Cham         | Former Tyrolen Youth Leader                     |
| 25 | Ida Jansson          | Räddningsmissionen                              |
| 26 | Jennifer Yee         | Räddningsmissionen                              |
| 27 | Elisabeth Valinder   | Reningsborg                                     |
| 28 | Ibrahim Maruvge      | Tynnered FC                                     |
| 29 | Henrik Källén        | Proletären FF                                   |
| 30 | Ali Abdul-Majid      | Proletären FF, RF SISU + Resident in Tynnered   |
| 31 | Fredrik Lövhall      | Communityskolan Tynnered + Resident in Tynnered |
| 32 | Linnéa Skoldqvist    | Resident in Tynnered                            |
| 33 | Anneli Rosvall       | Artist + Resident in Tynnered                   |
| 34 | Amrita Mukherjee     | Resident in Tynnered                            |
| 35 | Ramona Abdallah      | Resident in Tynnered                            |

## Appendix D: Some Summarized Conversations and Interviews During Summer Space 2023



### Conversation with Jennifer and Ida from Räddningsmissionen

28 June 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Jennifer and Ida are from Räddningsmissionen and work with the people and children on various issues like study help, social supermarket, non-profit community school, information sharing with immigrant parents and much more. According to Jennifer and Ida, due to language barrier, most of the immigrant parents do not get enough information about Tynnered and the Swedish society in general. They shared their proactive approach to reach out to the mothers in the neighbourhood.

*"I was inviting myself in their (mothers) meetings at Kastanjeträffen Tynnered and asking if I can help with anything. It takes time to make connection and build trust with people. We started talking and listening to their real needs rather than providing our preconceived support." - Jennifer*

They mentioned the lack of activities for children, parents and families together. There is also increasing need for places for meeting and activities where kids and parents come and do activities. They suggested hubben in Tynnered to be more active through year-round programs and not only in summer. It was also mentioned to plan, communicate and coordinate activities well ahead before summer. For example, coordinating Summer 2024 plans from now on and considering hubben (Tynnered) to be a centre point of activities with families.

We need more proactive persons like Gabriel in the community. He speaks five languages and people trust him in the neighbourhood. He helps people by sharing necessary information.

You need to talk not only to the young people but also the parents. We need to talk about values and bring more awareness about guiding children.

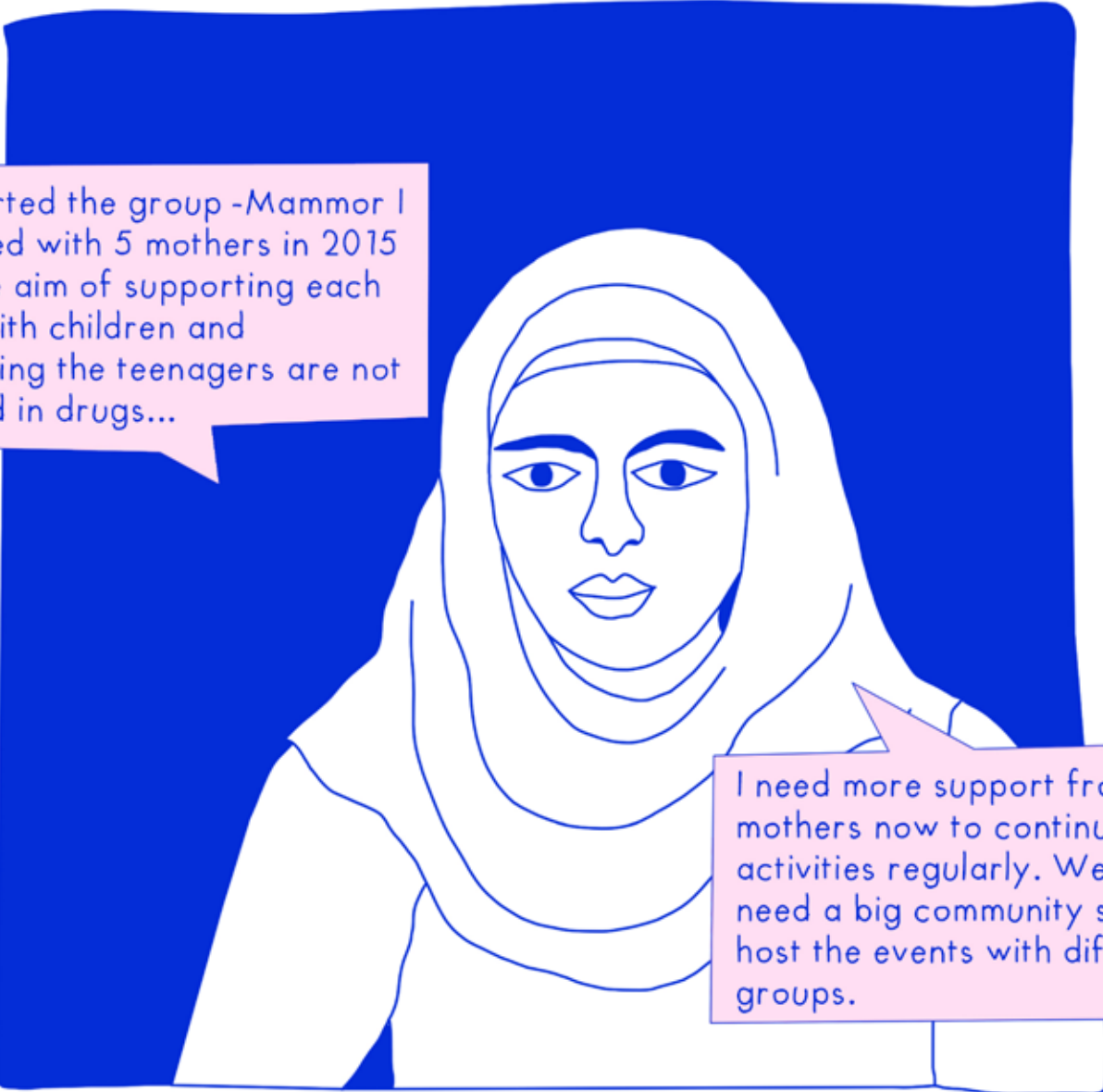
How do we engage parents in creating safe environment in neighbourhood ?



**Conversation with Gabriel and Neva**  
26 June 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Gabriel moved from his home village at the Syrian borders with Turkey to Istanbul at the age of 9. After training as a goldsmith, he opened his own shop there. Due to safety concerns as a Christian Orthodox in Turkey, he later moved to Sweden in 1979 and settled in Tynnered, Gothenburg. Gabriel has worked in various organizations but lost his job during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, he works with Familjebostäder and is known for speaking 5 languages and helping the community by sharing important information.

According to Gabriel, Tynnered was generally a safe neighborhood, but around 2015-2016, there was tension due to increased involvement of young people in drugs and gang activities, with some incidents of shootings nearby. However, he mentioned that the situation has improved significantly, and he now feels safe again. Gabriel believes that the community could benefit from offering school and preschool sports activities to engage with youth and parents. He also suggests providing information in public areas in languages other than Swedish to ensure everyone can access it. Additionally, he recommends creating a family hub for awareness-raising sessions with parents to improve communication with their children, touching on various subjects like educating social values. To spread information, he suggests collaborating with Familjebostäder and Stena to reach people in the community.



We started the group -Mammor I Tynnered with 5 mothers in 2015 with the aim of supporting each other with children and monitoring the teenagers are not involved in drugs...

I need more support from other mothers now to continue the activities regularly. We also need a big community space to host the events with different groups.

### Conversation with Faisa from Mammor I Tynnered

29 June 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Faisa is a founding member of Mothers in Tynnered, a group formed eight years ago with five mothers to support each other with children. They started to use Kastanjeträffen as a meeting space. The group aims to engage with youth to prevent them from getting involved in crime, offering activities like open gym on weekends during the summer. They also check on the teenagers during the evening time by taking neighbourhood walks. Through their efforts, the group has formed partnerships, such as with Räddningsmissionen, for activities like homework help and providing information on general rights, social services, and the education system in Sweden. Faisa stressed the importance of having proactive and motivated mothers in the community to continue supporting these activities and maintain a strong sense of community.

Generally, I think Tynnered has beautiful nature and boring buildings. It needs more colour and art like murals or sculptures... and I've been wondering if there are enough engaging activities for teenagers in the neighbourhood. Most of them seem to head to Frölunda Torg for that...



### **Conversation with Ramona** 07 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

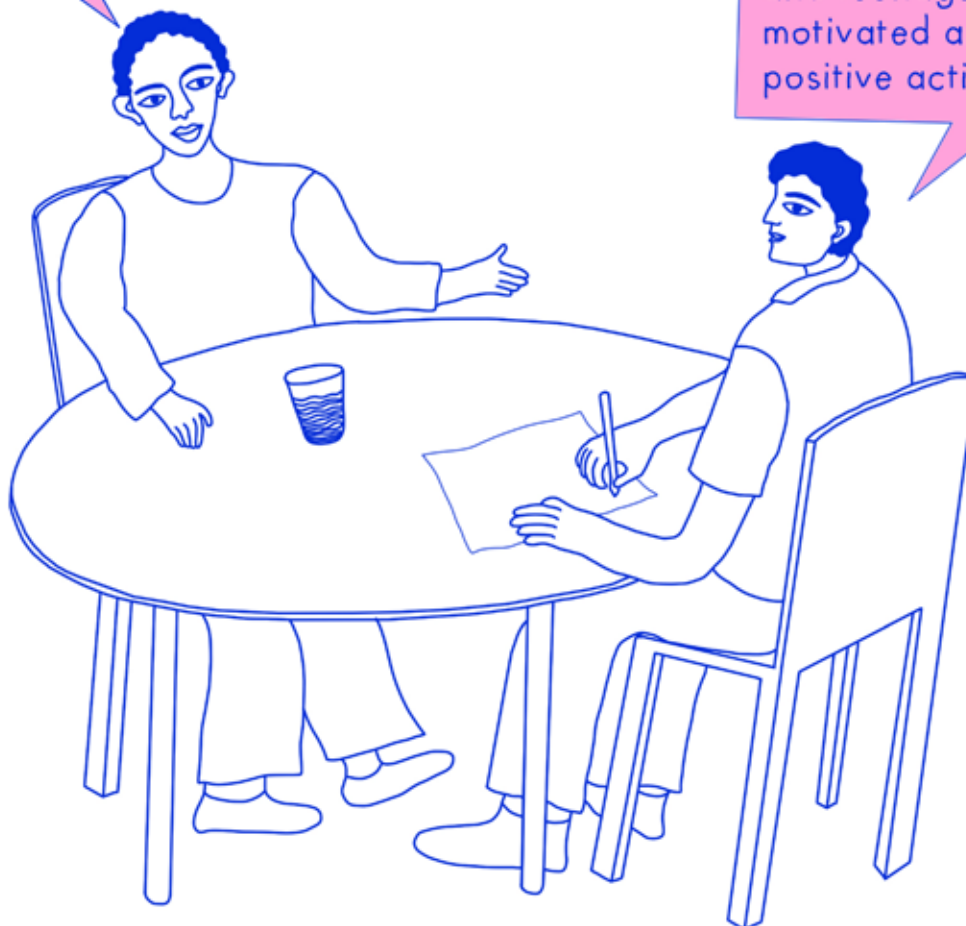
Ramona came to Sweden in 2020 for her studies and lived in different parts of Gothenburg. She moved to Tynnered in January 2023, as she wanted to live in a place near beaches. Comparing to other areas, she finds Tynnered more quiet and peaceful; it has less traffic and beautiful nature. She also observes people using public spaces and parks here. The diversity of people in the neighbourhood makes her feel more safe and comfortable.

However, Ramona feels the need for more colour and artworks in the neighbourhood to enhance the spatial quality. She also emphasized on having more engaging activities and places in Tynnered for teenagers, so that they don't get involved in negative activities.

During the conversation, Ramona also touched upon issues like stigma around immigrants, colourism and systematic discrimination. She mentioned we need to change our attitudes to strengthen a sense of community.

I believe, we must have a safe space (like after school leisure center) in neighbourhood for teenagers where they can go and be around youth leaders. It is also important to give them some kinds of work or responsibilities. Because, responsibilities bring purpose.

From your experience, how can we encourage children and teenagers to be more motivated and active in positive activities?



### Conversation with Ali

21 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Ali is 19 years old. He works with Prolataren FF as a youth leader during the summers. His employer in Prolataren identified his aspiration towards wanting to become a leader and recommended him to work with RF Sisu as an educator with a focus on leadership. Ali involved himself in leadership related activities since he was 13 years old and his employer in Prolataren FF considers Ali to be a good role model for the kids whom he trains. Growing up in Tynnered, he saw his friends being involved in bad activities and decided to stay away from them by keeping him busy by practicing various sports.

Ali stated that, *“Sports saved me to get myself out of bad circles and activities”*.

Ali believes in the concept of ‘Freedom with Responsibilities’. As a youth leader he gives his pupils freedom, but in return he wants them to be responsible enough. He stresses the importance of a leader’s responsibility and behaviour not only during the working time but also during their regular life, because kids look up to them.

In addition to providing the youth with a safe space, Ali mentions Tyrolen, which used to be a fritidsgård for the youth in Tynnered and says that it feels like the area has almost had its standards lowered after Tyrolen was closed. The tensions and conflicts between the youth in Tynnered and Frolunda hinders the youth from using the Ungdomens hus 1200 square meters in Frolunda.



### Conversation with Anneli Rosvall

24 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Anneli is a (36 year old) Swedish artist from Kyna, moved to Gothenburg 10 years ago. In the beginning she lived in Hisingen and then moved to Topasgatan in Tynnered 4 years ago. Before moving to Tynnered, a lot of people told her that it is a dangerous place. However, she thinks people do not talk about how the crime rates in some central areas of Gothenburg (like Avenyn) are even higher than the suburb neighborhoods like Tynnered, Bergsjön, Angered, etc. She thinks that this is due to underlying layers of racism and stigma towards immigrant communities that live in Sweden. She witnessed a shooting that happened just outside of her window several years ago and that feeling of insecurity stuck with her for a while. However, she does feel safe in the area currently. Because of this sense of safety, she goes for a lot of walks in the natural spots that Tynnered offers, patches of forests that are scattered everywhere. While reflecting on the public spaces around, she mentioned that Frölunda has more shopping opportunities to offer in comparison to Tynnered, but she expressed discomfort about the public square there. She said-

*"It is like an open naked space with a lot of gray buildings and it feels like walking into an open brick wall."*

She believes that opening a cultural place in Tynnered will bring the community together even further, by making children art exhibitions as well as incorporating more artworks in certain parts of the streets and buildings. Another way of bringing the people together is to make a place for both parents and children to meet and socialize. A place like this can be seen in Positivparken, located a few meters away from Frölunda Torg. One final comment is that she would gladly take part in generating, attending and, to a certain extent, coordinating art activities for children and all of the other members of the community, as long as she does this work accompanied with people that can help her.



### Conversation with Anna and Christian from Familjebostäder in Tynnered

05 July 2023 at Familjebostäder office, Tynnered

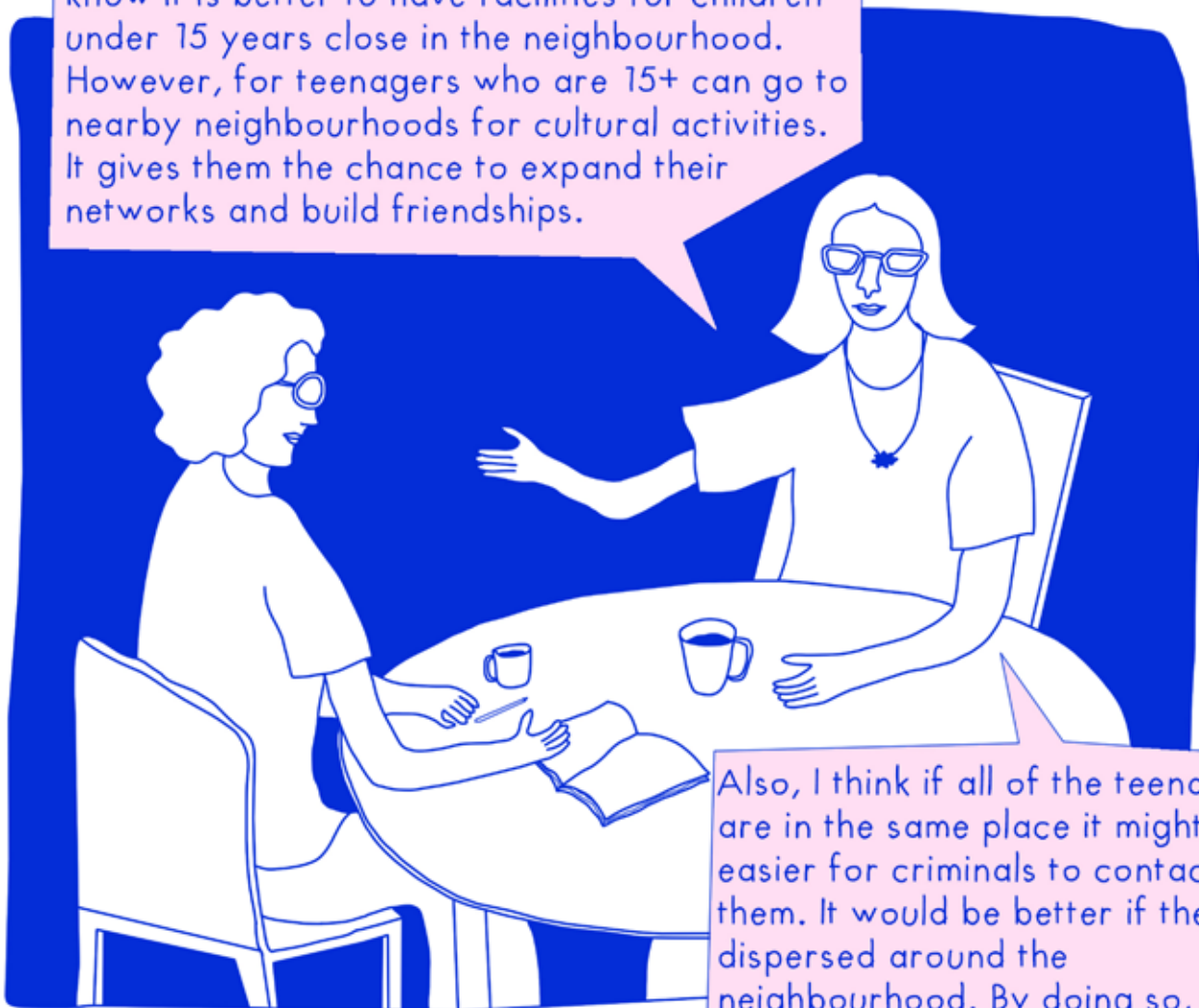
Anna and Christian work for Familjebostäder in Tynnered. Anna's role involves providing information to tenants through the App, banners, and newsletters. The App functions as a communication platform for important activities, leisure events, and error reporting, thus enabling proactive and continuous dialogues with the tenants. They educate and inform tenants on apartment maintenance, as most tenants are responsible, but some may need guidance in this area.

They expressed concern about low tenant participation in informative meetings, citing an example where only 2 tenants attended the yearly survey results presentation. They suggested a simple tip to attract more people to activities: offering Fika during the events.

Familjebostäder aims to improve tenant safety by addressing past concerns. Based on surveys, tenants felt unsafe in the basement/attic. To counter this, windows were added to the storage areas. They are now implementing safety measures throughout the entire building to enhance the sense of security. They pointed out a drawback that several organizations conducting activities in Tynnered had their facilities located outside the community. They emphasized on having self-sufficient groups, clubs and organizations in the neighbourhood. They said that in the yearly survey, many tenants expressed that they don't know their neighbours. So, they came up with "Hello Campaign", where once a day everybody is obligated to leave their car in a particular place and wherever they go, they say 'hi' to whomever they meet.



It is challenging to decide an appropriate location of youth centre in Tynnered. We know it is better to have facilities for children under 15 years close in the neighbourhood. However, for teenagers who are 15+ can go to nearby neighbourhoods for cultural activities. It gives them the chance to expand their networks and build friendships.



Also, I think if all of the teenagers are in the same place it might be easier for criminals to contact them. It would be better if they are dispersed around the neighbourhood. By doing so, the youth get to explore more areas instead of staying just in Tynnered.

### **Conversation with Helene Melin from Youth house 1200 square meters in Frölunda**

25 July 2023 at Youth house 1200 square meters, Frölunda

Helen is a project leader at Youth house 1200 square meters (Ungdomenshus 1200 Kvadrat). She utilizes the 'Skola som arena' concept, initiated mostly by sports clubs in the area to support children with school work and invite them to engage in the activities beyond academics at Ungdomenshus.

She says, after Vättnedalsskolan is renovated, it will have a youth centre within the school which will be aimed for children between the age of 10 to 15 years. She says Ungdomenshus aims to cater to youth from both Frölunda and Tynnered, but not many from Tynnered attend.

To create job experience for the youth, they initiated 'Ung Helg,' where high school teens work at Ungdomenshus and earn money through activities like assisting in elderly centers. They also have 'Free jobs' during summer, with plans to expand to autumn. This involvement in social work helps steer youth away from negative influences. The attractive incentives have attracted more youth leaders, further supporting Ungdomenshus's goals. She acknowledges the tension between youth in Tynnered and Frölunda but advocates for continuing the exchange of activities between the areas. She emphasizes the importance of dispersing the youth across different locations to promote education and awareness about other areas.

She suggests that having a local place for activities is appropriate for children up to the age of 15. However, once they reach 15 years old, it becomes important for them to explore other areas to gain more exposure.



From my experience this summer, I think it would be good to have working with one group of youth for at least 2.5 months. The time is very crucial here to work together, so that I can motivate and inspire them in a positive way. With limited time and changing teams, it becomes very challenging.

It is really effective with youth when you talk from real-life experiences. Always speak from the heart when trying to connect with youth, as they can easily detect anything fake from miles away.

For leadership, having a diverse group of individuals with expertise in various talents and activities like sports, education, training, etc. is necessary to cater to the wide range of interests present in the area among teenagers.

### **Conversation with Sebastian from Bostadsbolaget** 27 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Sebastian is the leader for the summer workers at Bostadsbolaget. His role involves providing local youth with practical job experience. Together with his summer workers, they engage in activities and games with the youth in the area. Bostadsbolaget has hired 175 youths for summer jobs who reside in the area and in the vicinity. His main goal is to serve and connect with the youth and community positively.

He observed that the youth in the area are generally enthusiastic about sports and in good physical fitness; most of them have excellent social skills. However, there are also some teenagers who are influenced in a negative manner following elder youth groups in the neighbourhood active in criminal activities. These group of children usually have less guidance and control from the family. he observed these teens are less motivated, have lack of respect and attention for the work and it needs more time and strategy to engage them in activities.

From his previous leadership experience, Sebastian finds it comfortable to work with youth groups and he believes it is important to understand their individual needs. According to him, the key is to establish a connection where they feel heard and seen. He emphasizes the importance of patience in building trust. If given the chance to work with one summer group throughout the entire summer, he believes he could have influenced them more. One of his dreams is to have a space like Hubben, with a budget, where he could build meaningful relationships with the youth. Sebastian has a special ability to connect with young people who are struggling with depression or anxiety because he has personally experienced similar challenges in his life. Moreover, he has childhood experience of living in suburbs and he knows a lot of inside stories and facts concerning these areas. He advises focusing on assisting those who genuinely need support and preventing them from getting involved with negative influences or wrong company, acknowledging that "we cannot focus on everyone at the same time".

Gothenburg is a segregated city; people don't go outside their neighbourhood if they don't have to. For many youths, it is not easy to commute and go beyond their areas for free time activities. For the majority of the youth in Tynnered, Tyrolen was not just a place for activities; it was a safe haven, a "place to be" where they felt secure and comfortable.



### **Conversation with Mariama** 27 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Mariama was born and raised in Tynnered. At the age of 19, she started to work as a youth leader in Tyrolen and she served as a full-time youth leader there for nine years (2009- 2019).

Mariama shared her experience of working with youth groups in Tyrolen and doing a range of activities, including dance classes, music and video making. Due to the high popularity of hip-hop among the youth in the area, a group called "4 Elements" was formed in Tyrolen, with a focus on the four elements of hip-hop.

She said that the youth at Tyrolen were informed by the leaders about the importance of respecting both the facility and others presence. Safety and respecting cultures were deeply rooted values at Tyrolen. Establishing a strong connection with the parents of the youth attending Tyrolen was also a priority.

She highlights that the youth lack a leisure place to gather, causing them to hang around in various places randomly. Although they have 1200 Kvadrat, only a certain group went there, and Mellangården has an age limit. Many teenagers in Tynnered cannot travel far in search of a recreational space due to their responsibilities at home (taking care of siblings) and it is challenging for them to find suitable safe places to spend their free time.

Currently working as a youth leader in Hisingen, she believes in reciprocating the connection she receives from the youth. Building a good understanding allows her to easily connect with them in her work.



### Conversation with Zlate Musli, Project manager for Hisingen's Invånarguider

26 July 2023 at Hubben, Tynnered

Zlate Musli works as a project leader for Invånarguider (resident guides), focusing on strengthening democracy and society. Specifically, she operates within the demotratique service of Gothenburg city.

During the conversation, Zlate shared the experience about invånarguider initiative in Gothenburg. She says that before the 2014 elections, an initiative was taken to boost voter to participate in voting in some places in Gothenburg which had low voter turnout. They launched a project which involved hiring individuals from the local area to provide essential information on democracy-related matters, such as voting procedures and locations. The implementation of this project resulted in a significant increase in voter turnout, showcasing its effectiveness in encouraging civic participation. She said, in 2020, they applied the same concept to Biskopsgården, called invånaguiden, aiming to enhance participation and trust within the entire area. The group's task was to provide information about COVID restrictions and attentively listen to the needs of the people. This project also yielded positive results, as Biskopsgården had one of the lowest COVID cases in Gothenburg.

She says that the invånarguider's assignments are customized based on the specific information needed by the people in the area. The project's success post-2021 led to securing additional funding for expansion to other regions. The main objective is to connect Gothenburg city authority with residents in low trust and participation areas, fostering greater trust and participation towards the city administration. One of her goals is to make invånarguider a full-time regular job and expand the concept in Tynnered, Backa, and other areas of Gothenburg.

## Appendix E: Recorded Interviews and Conversations During January to April 2024

| Hours     | Minutes     | Seconds     | Dates       |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1         | 33          | 34          | 17 April    |
| 1         | 44          | 29          | 26 March    |
|           | 33          | 26          | 18 March    |
|           | 1           | 51          | 18 March    |
|           | 4           | 25          | 18 March    |
|           | 39          | 50          | 18 March    |
|           | 49          | 55          | 28 February |
| 1         | 22          | 9           | 27 February |
|           | 26          | 37          | 22 February |
|           | 24          | 22          | 22 February |
|           | 7           | 24          | 22 February |
|           | 20          | 44          | 22 February |
|           | 12          | 49          | 21 February |
|           | 11          | 57          | 21 February |
|           | 41          | 8           | 21 February |
|           | 20          | 4           | 21 February |
|           | 40          | 23          | 16 February |
|           | 45          | 49          | 16 February |
|           | 31          | 25          | 16 February |
|           | 32          | 55          | 14 February |
| 1         | 26          | 19          | 14 February |
|           | 10          | 6           | 12 February |
|           | 51          | 17          | 12 February |
|           | 15          | 45          | 12 February |
|           | 36          | 10          | 9 February  |
|           | 29          | 23          | 9 February  |
|           | 3           | 1           | 9 February  |
|           | 36          | 14          | 9 February  |
|           | 31          | 52          | 9 February  |
|           | 43          | 25          | 9 February  |
|           | 31          | 28          | 8 February  |
|           | 7           | 2           | 8 February  |
|           | 34          | 49          | 8 February  |
|           | 23          | 47          | 8 February  |
|           | 46          | 33          | 8 February  |
|           | 18          | 54          | 7 February  |
| 1         | 2           | 15          | 6 February  |
|           | 22          | 5           | 6 February  |
|           | 50          | 31          | 6 February  |
|           | 14          | 59          | 6 February  |
|           | 6           | 22          | 6 February  |
|           | 38          | 0           | 5 February  |
| 1         | 6           | 4           | 2 February  |
| 2         | 10          | 54          | 1 February  |
|           | 6           | 20          | 1 February  |
|           | 48          | 19          | 1 February  |
|           | 4           | 0           | 1 February  |
|           | 35          | 54          | 1 February  |
| 1         | 25          | 20          | 1 February  |
|           | 58          | 6           | 29 January  |
|           | 54          | 17          | 29 January  |
|           | 25          | 33          | 26 January  |
| 1         | 10          | 1           | 26 January  |
|           | 30          | 56          | 25 January  |
| 1         | 11          | 42          | 25 January  |
|           | 50          | 38          | 24 January  |
|           | 39          | 38          | 24 January  |
|           | 49          | 26          | 24 January  |
|           | 39          | 2           | 23 January  |
|           | 36          | 16          | 23 January  |
| 1         | 2           | 12          | 22 January  |
|           | 37          | 26          | 22 January  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>1679</b> | <b>1717</b> |             |

Recorded Interviews and Conversations  
During January to April 2024 = 40.46 hours

## Appendix F: Creative Workshop Participants During January to February 2024

| SL         | DATE       | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | TASK                          |
|------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Workshop 1 | 26/01/2024 | 4                      | Draw and Talk                 |
| Workshop 2 | 01/02/2024 | 10                     | Model Making                  |
| Workshop 3 | 07/02/2024 | 8                      | Aspiration Map, Draw, Discuss |
| Workshop 4 | 08/02/2024 | 8                      | Aspiration Map, Draw, Discuss |
| Workshop 5 | 09/02/2024 | 4                      | Aspiration Map, Draw, Discuss |

| SL | NAME OF PARTICIPANTS | AGE |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 1  | Mohammad             | 11  |
| 2  | Huzaifa              | 8   |
| 3  | Hashir               | 6   |
| 4  | Haziq                | 7   |
| 5  | Hassan               | 9   |
| 6  | Jawad                | 11  |
| 7  | Anton                | 9   |
| 8  | Arvin                | 10  |
| 9  | Tehilla              | 8   |
| 10 | Eliora               | 6   |
| 11 | Hani                 | 8   |
| 12 | Hodan                | 10  |
| 13 | Laura                | 10  |
| 14 | Aylin                | 10  |
| 15 | Monika               | 44  |