

Shaping Space for Civic Life

Using Data to Promote Social Cohesion

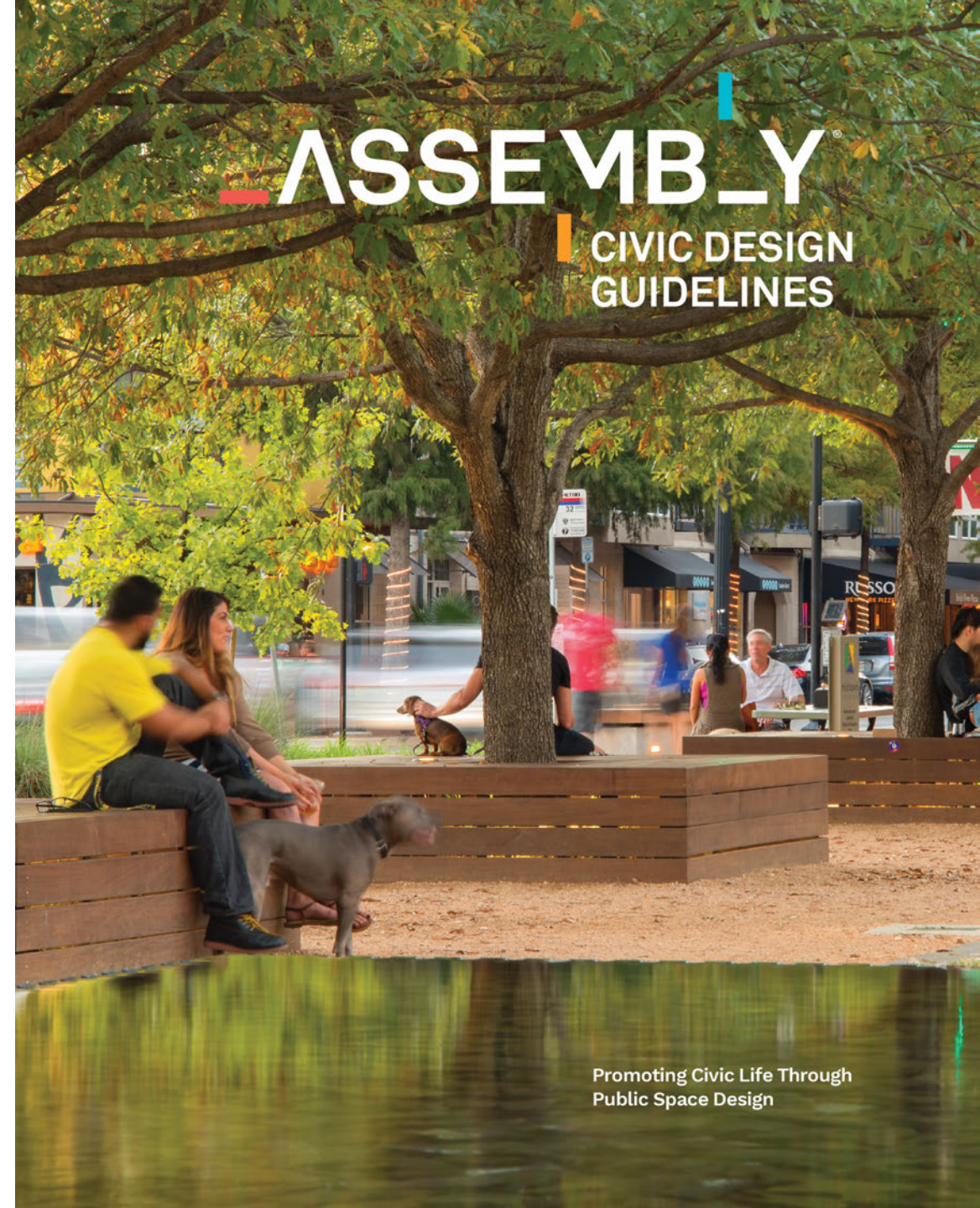
Suzanne Nienaber, Partnerships Director
Center for Active Design
November 13, 2019



 @active_design

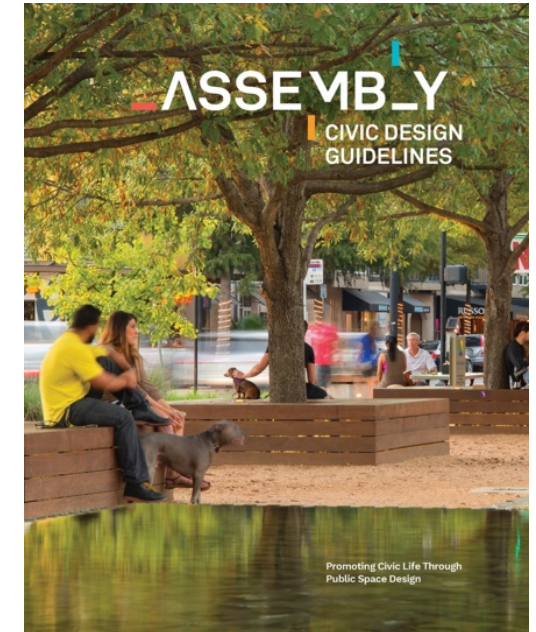
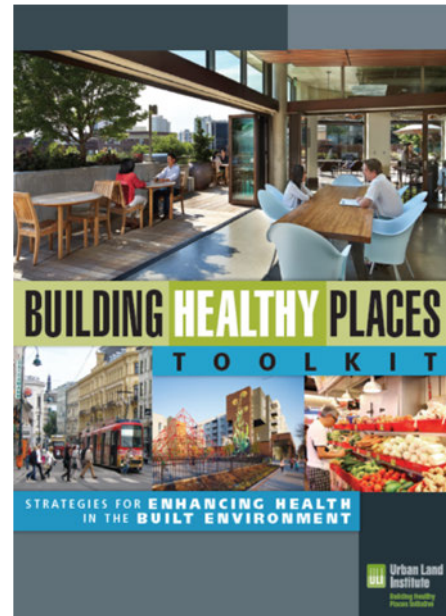
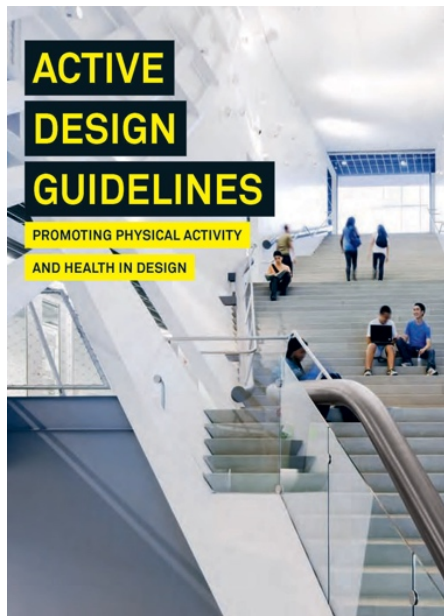
info@centerforactivedesign.org

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Promoting Civic Life Through
Public Space Design

Translating research into practice

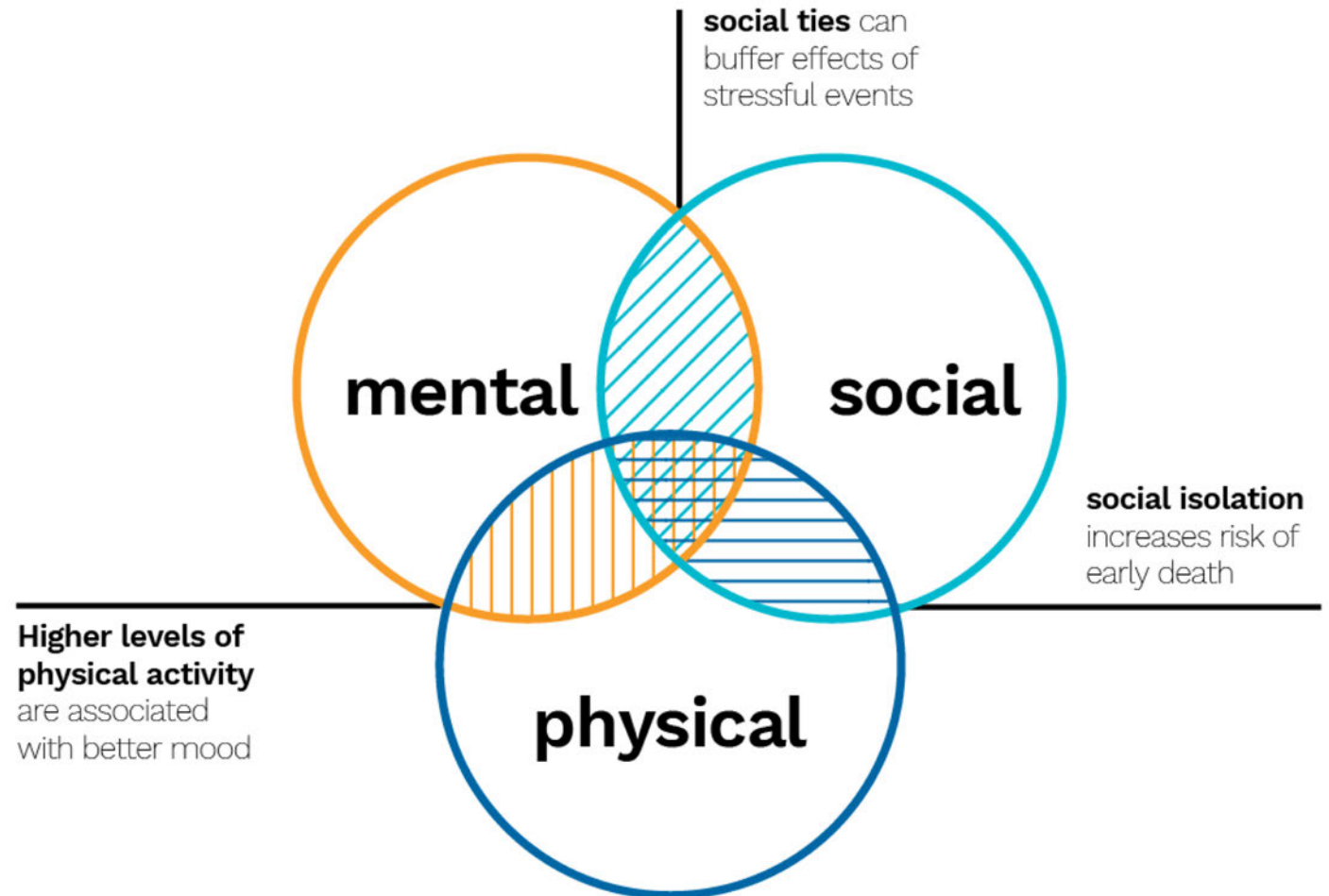


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Addressing interconnected health outcomes

“Health is a state of **complete physical, mental, and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

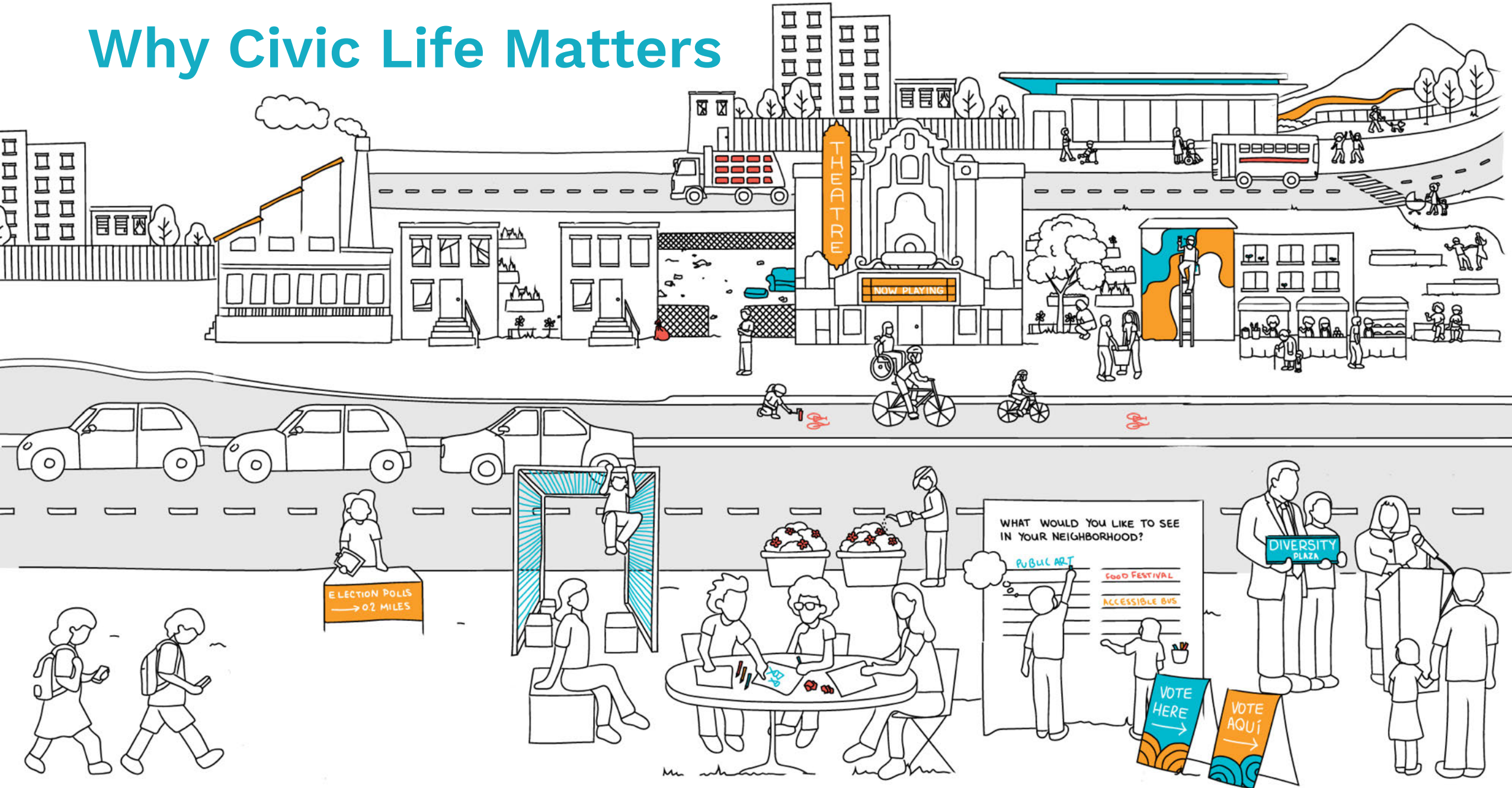
- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



Public space as a tool for fostering equity

A photograph of three children playing on a large, green, circular swing set at a park. The children are sitting on the swing, which is suspended by thick black ropes. The child in the center is a young boy with dreadlocks, wearing a black t-shirt with a red and white graphic, and black shorts. He is smiling broadly. To his left is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a black t-shirt and black pants. To his right is another girl with her hair in a bun, wearing a grey tank top and blue denim shorts. The background is a blurred park scene with other people and greenery. The text "Public space as a tool for fostering equity" is overlaid in white at the top of the image.

Why Civic Life Matters



Assembly Research Process

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

+4

Years of Research

+200

Studies

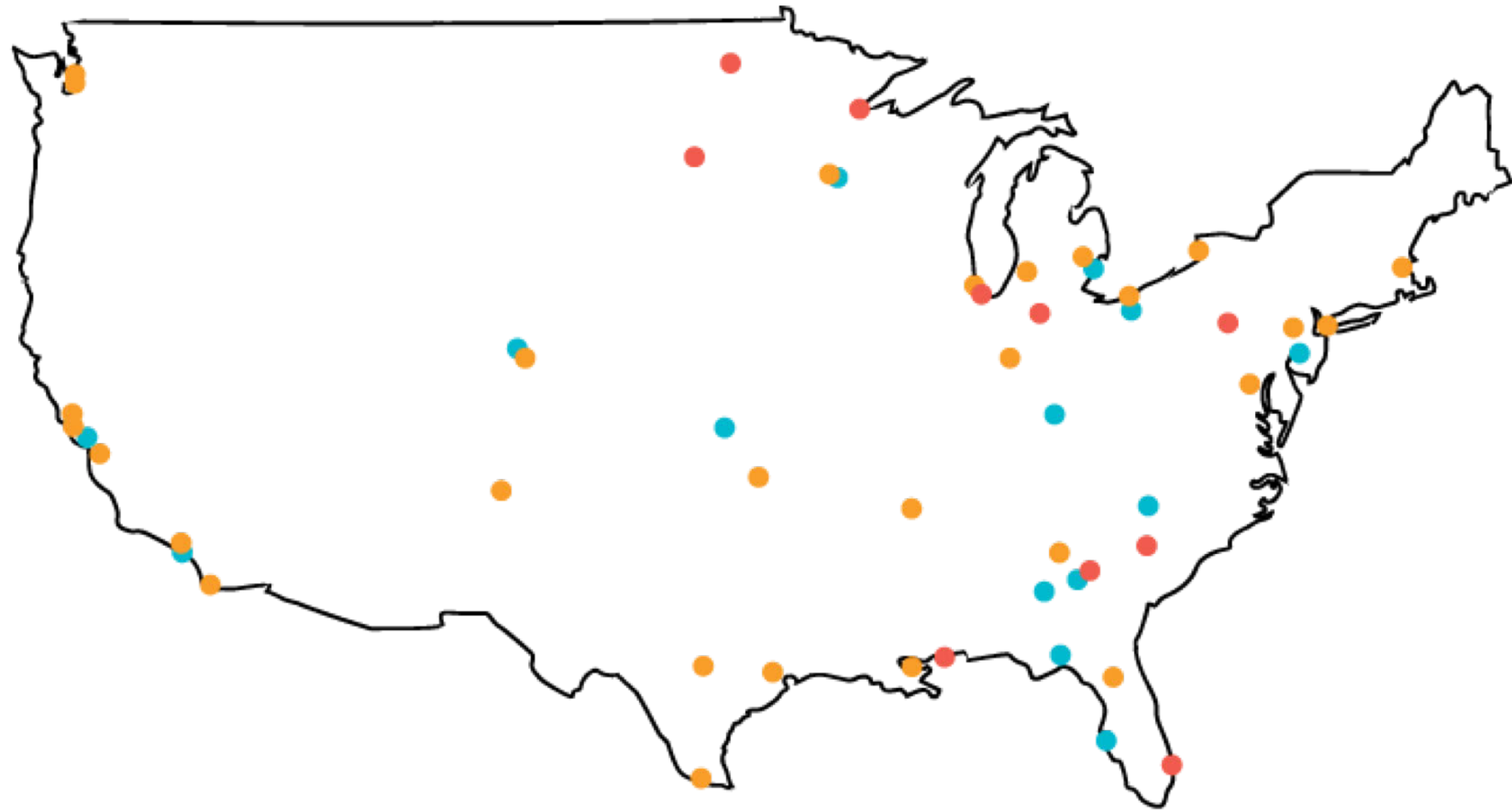
Original Research
+ Field Research

+50

Cities Surveyed +
Featured Projects

+70

Expert Advisors



Defining Civic Life



Civic trust and appreciation

Participation in public life

Stewardship of the public realm

Informed local voting

Guidelines

1 Enhance
Community
Connections

2 Prioritize
Maintenance

3 Incorporate
Nature

4 Celebrate
Community
Identity

5 Make Public
Spaces
Welcoming

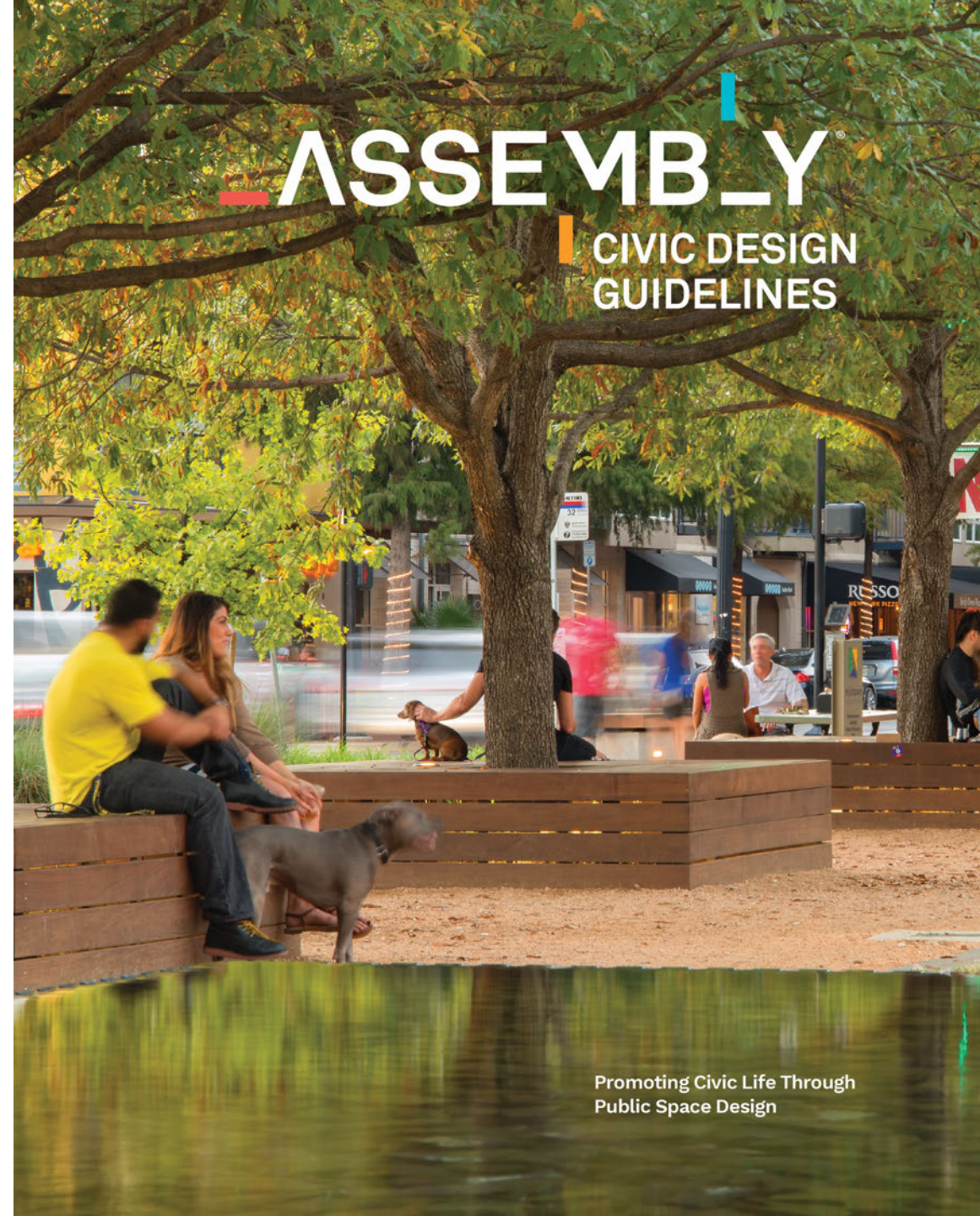
6 Make Public
Spaces
Comfortable

7 Make Space for
Activity

8 Foster Local
Democracy

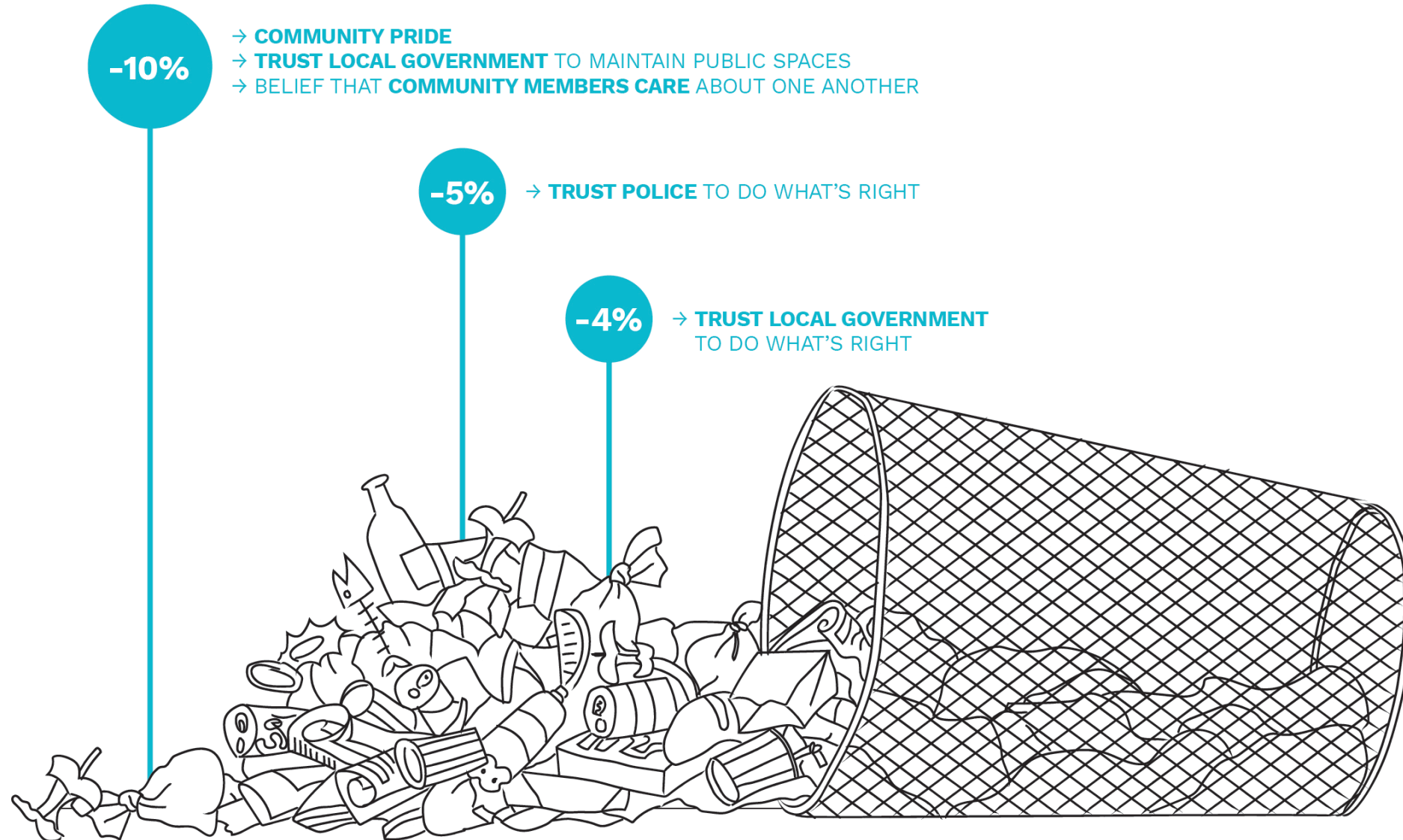


ASSEMBLY
CIVIC DESIGN
GUIDELINES



Promoting Civic Life Through
Public Space Design

Litter and depleted civic trust



“Front porch” improvements

METHOD

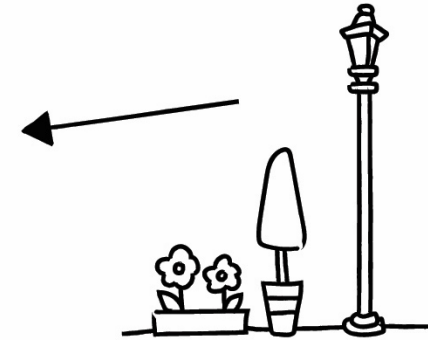
Each ACES respondent was randomly assigned just one photo and asked to imagine it was their local library and respond to questions.



PHOTO 1
LIBRARY WITHOUT
ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS



PHOTO 2
LIBRARY WITH SMALL-SCALE
ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS



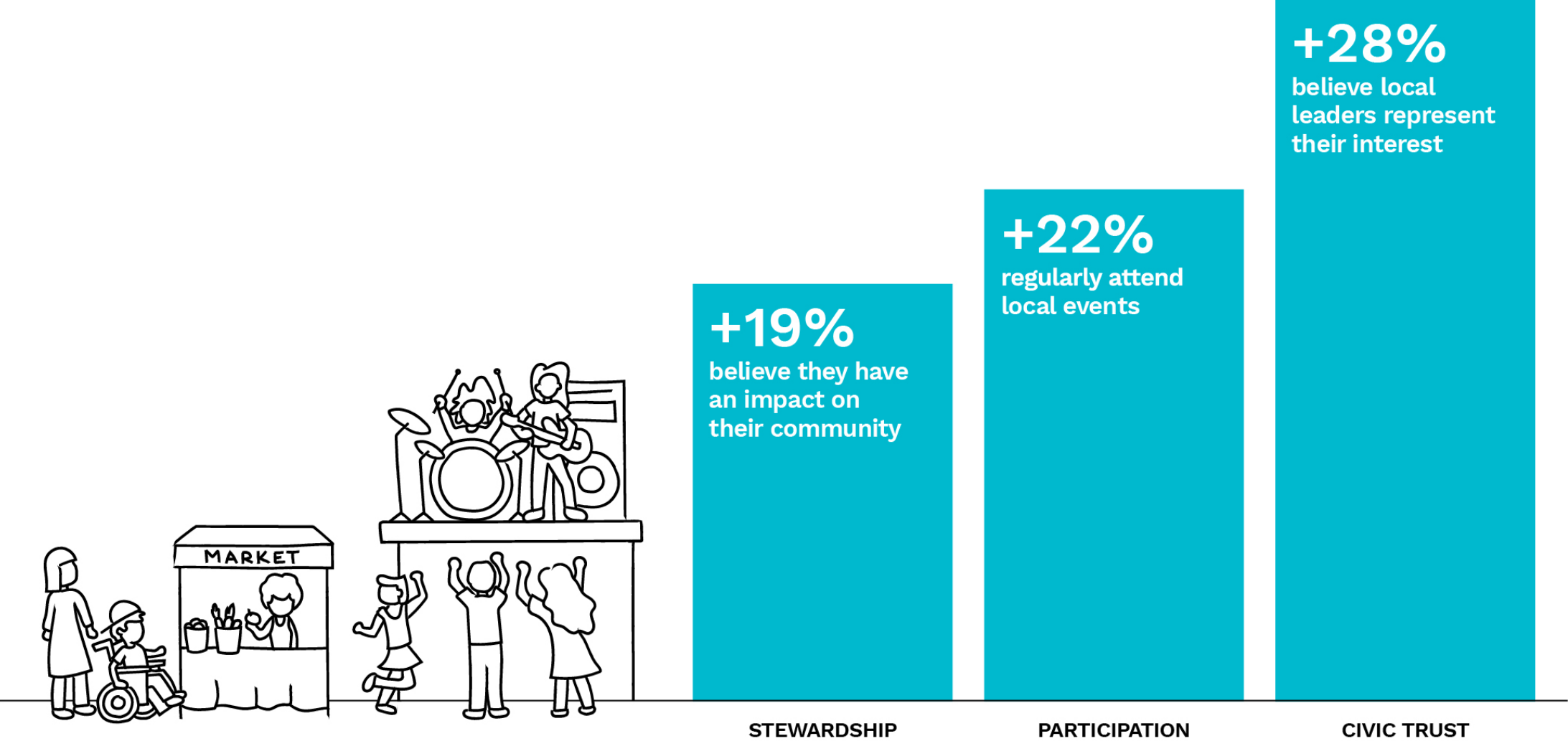
I would feel
extremely welcome
attending an event
at the library

49%

59%

+10%
extremely welcome

Community events and civic life






No Barriers

CHARLOTTE, NC

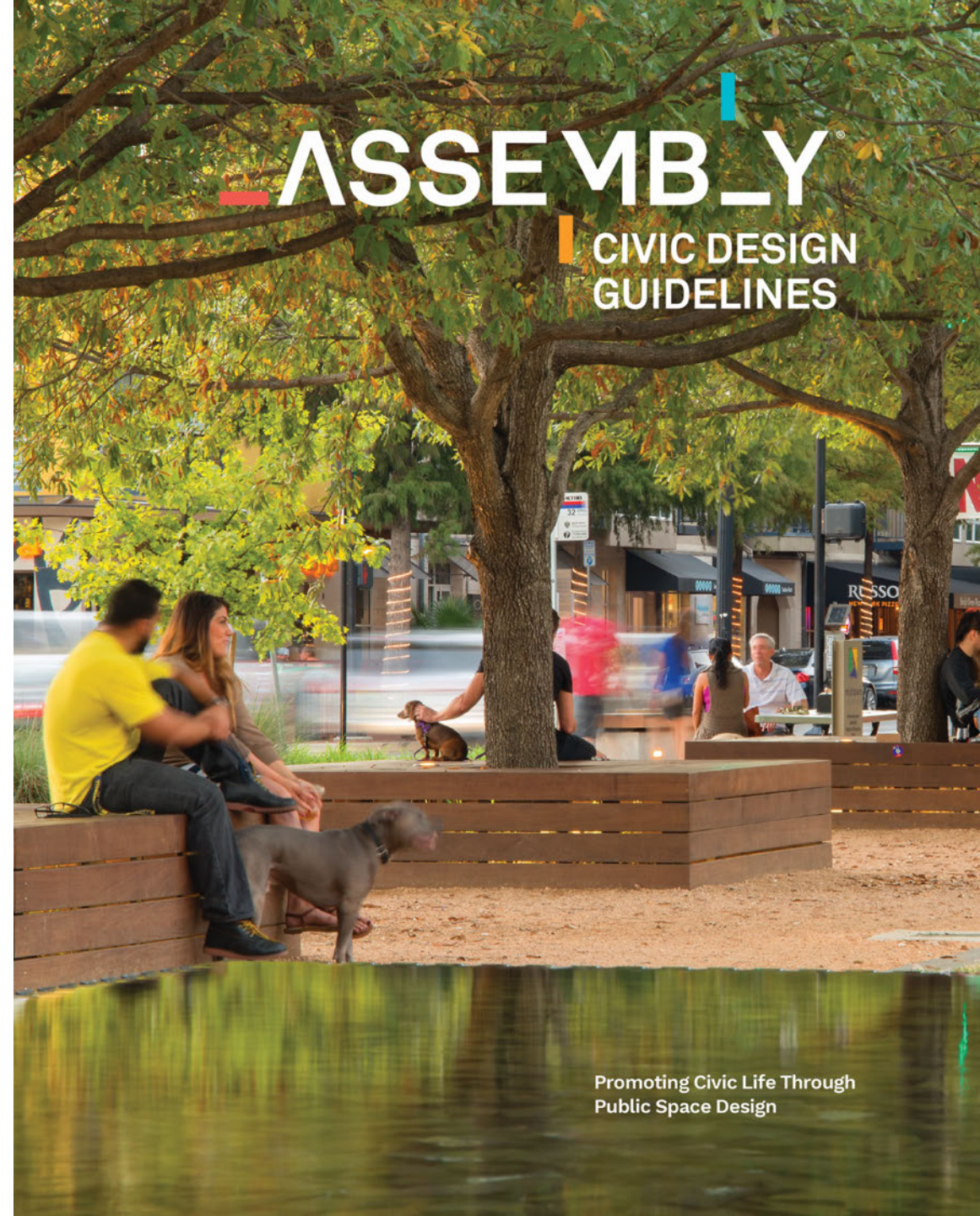
Download today!
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Promoting Civic Life Through
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fitwel[®] Community

- **Optimizes community-scale impacts** of the design and operations of the public realm
- **Currently in pilot phase** with 9 communities across North America
- Will be available for **public use in 2020!**
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