



# ACTIVATE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

# A Tactical Guide for Physical Activity and Social Connection

The Tactical Guide contains dozens of ideas to help you re-imagine, re-think and re-purpose neighbourhood spaces to support and encourage physical activity and social connectedness. Here, we look at the sixth of seven tactics:



## Convivialize

Provide features that give neighbours the cue to gather and socialize in neighbourhood spaces. Here are a few ideas to get started:

### 1. Chairbombing

Add temporary seating or tables to a public square, on the side of your street, in your local park, or skating rink and gather with your friends.

**Chairbombing** can create a social gathering space where one currently does not exist.



Source: DIY Chair bombing, Tote Park, By: Greensquarehubteam, 2012, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/92213328@N06/8448313771/in/photolist-dQouS5-dQhU8n-dQhTUD-dQhU8v-ayhfFY-dSxPmg-LKF91Z-dQovYW-c4ik6b-8YyDxJ-8DkjMM-dQouW1-8Doqsw-dQouWS-diMeSX-dQovMo-dBuPvd-dQovLb>



Source: Laura Lukye, Brooks, AB

### 2. Host a listening booth

Spark conversation and potentially friendships by hosting a **listening booth** and inviting others to share their ideas and concerns.



Source: <http://circlespark.org/what-ive-learned-from-hosting-the-listening-booth-at-spark/>

### 3. Launch a prompt board

Ask others in your neighbourhood to share a bit about themselves with a **prompt board**. It's an interactive and personal way to discover what interests your neighbours and to find other ways of connecting.



Source: Before I die, Zorro2212, CC BY-SA 4.0 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Before\\_I\\_die...\\_board,\\_%C5%81%C3%B3d%C5%BA\\_Piotrkowska\\_Street,\\_2015.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Before_I_die..._board,_%C5%81%C3%B3d%C5%BA_Piotrkowska_Street,_2015.jpg)



## 4. Turn the street into a Parklet or StrEATerie

Gather with your friends and experience the potential of street space! Check out the [StrEATerie](#) or [parklet opportunities](#) where businesses can work to replace a car parking space outside their business with a space for people to gather together.



Source: [https://www.phillytrib.com/news/local\\_news/dining-tables-over-parking-spaces-streeteries-move-towards-permanence-in-some-philly-neighborhoods/article\\_1f4e5f89-b53d-5f39-ae63-3f6e93b66fc5.html](https://www.phillytrib.com/news/local_news/dining-tables-over-parking-spaces-streeteries-move-towards-permanence-in-some-philly-neighborhoods/article_1f4e5f89-b53d-5f39-ae63-3f6e93b66fc5.html)



Source: Parklet, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parklet#/media/File:SFParklet.jpg#5f89-b53d-5f39-ae63-3f6e93b66fc5.html>

## 5. Install a local park or front yard chess board

Put out some tables and chairs in a local park or your front yard and invite neighbours to walk/wheel over for a game of checkers, chess, backgammon or cards.



Chess in Washington Square Park, By Rhododendrites, 2016

### Here's more:

- Place benches on front yards and throughout the neighbourhood.
- Reframe “stranger danger.” Find creative ways to approach and get to know your neighbours.
- Next to an outdoor library, place benches or rocks, to sit on with other decorations.
- Offer informal home improvement gatherings with a skilled tradesperson.
- Host Firepit Fridays. Consider putting together community campfire kits.

For more information about how to Activate Your Neighbourhood, visit [activateyourneighbourhood.ca](http://activateyourneighbourhood.ca).

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