

EDITORIAL

**Strengthening our civil servants' mission
for the common good**

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This issue of The Journal of Public Space marks our Editorial Team's fourth year of activities, that I'm proudly leading as Editor in Chief. Over the past three years we have published eight issues, 121 papers from more than 140 authors from 30 countries, engaging more than 60 academic reviewers at the global level. More than 50% of those papers were double blind peer reviewed, following academic standards; other published papers included reports from United Nations events (like the Habitat III conference and the 9th World Urban Forum) or reports concerning art-based or placemaking-led projects, professionals' viewpoints, artists' portfolios, editorials from influential scholars, leading experts affiliated to global NGOs and practitioners serving as guest editors.

While we receive submissions through our website, via the Open Journal System platform, we are also currently working on two special issues this year: one to be published at the end of the summer on *The Entrepreneurial City. Social Entrepreneurialism and New Forms to Interact in Public Space*, in collaboration with The Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong and the International Forum on Urbanism (IFoU), and the other, to be published at the end of the year on *Public health and well-being in public open spaces through climate responsive urban planning and design*, in collaboration with James Cook University in Australia.

On May 29, at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi, I signed a Letter of Agreement with UN-Habitat—the United Nations Human Settlements Programme—on behalf of City Space Architecture which marked the beginning of our cooperation to further develop The Journal of Public Space. In addition to celebrating this amazing achievement that we accomplished a mere six years after founding City Space Architecture and three years after launching The Journal of Public Space, we recently welcomed two new academic partners, who will be cooperating with us during the coming years: KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places, based in Stockholm (Sweden) and RMIT University, based in Melbourne (Australia).

The network around the journal is expanding and providing exciting opportunities and new partnerships. We are already planning special issues for 2020, and beginning to organise our participation in the 10th World Urban Forum that will take place in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. We are building momentum on public space culture and we are currently redefining our strategic approach, in order to become more inclusive and to cover a broad range of topics and fields of expertise, from different perspectives.

In this issue we are publishing two viewpoints related to the Placemaking movement, one from Ethan Kent, Co-director of the newly established PlacemakingX and Senior Fellow at

Project for Public Spaces in New York, and another from Jeroen Laven, Anna Bradley and Levente Polyak from Placemaking Europe, the European chapter of the global Placemaking movement, founded by STIPO in Rotterdam. Each viewpoint opens a new section of the journal, aimed at incorporating placemaking as a relevant field of action: we are interested in publishing articles related to design projects and community-led interventions, collecting successful and also unsuccessful stories, from research into action, from theory to implementation, providing case studies, best practices on capacity building, education and empowerment, tackling the complexity of the process, at the community and governmental level, from top-down to bottom-up, with a particular focus on youth. We want to open the discussion to all those who are actively working and fighting daily, on the ground, to promote public space as a common good, to those who are agents of change and are pushing local, regional and national governments to change, to adapt, to reconsider policies and regulations and to look for solutions related to innovation and creative bureaucracy. At the same time we are inviting leading academic scholars to join our Editorial Team, as part of the Scientific Committee, to contribute to our mission by providing insightful advice and qualified contents for the journal. We are starting a very exciting journey and we know that we will only be successful if we are, all of us, able to work together.



Figure 1. Luisa Bravo, Editor in Chief of *The Journal of Public Space*, at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi, with Laura Petrella, Leader of the City Planning Extension and Design unit at UN-Habitat, signing the Letter of Agreement for the cooperation in developing *The Journal of Public Space*, during an event at the City Stage, on 29 May 2019.

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