A More Walkable SINGAPORE

hile Singapore is known as a City in a Garden, it is not quite known as a walking city, unlike Paris or Tokyo. Current initiatives by both the public and private sectors, however, indicate growing interest in creating more space for pedestrians.

The motivations for these projects are varied, such as promoting public places and revitalising streets. Nonetheless, the results consistently show that a city that is pedestrianfriendly is a liveable city. **Nicole**Chew from the Centre for Liveable Cities shows how in this photo essay.









The Bras Basah and Bugis (BBB) precinct has been earmarked to be an arts and cultural district. Located in the middle of the busy Central Business District, Singapore's urban planning agency, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), understands that providing ample pedestrianfriendly space also helps to cater to outdoor arts events and is crucial for promoting the arts scene.

Termed the "Queen Street Makeover", kerbside parking lots along a stretch of Queen Street were removed to create expanded sidewalks of up to 10 metres. In other areas of the BBB precinct, the sidewalks in front of the Singapore Art Museum at 8Q were also extended to create more public space for holding events.

Benches colourfully decorated by art and design students of the nearby Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts make the area vibrant and more public-friendly.



To encourage people to find ways to improve and activate public spaces, the URA supported Park(ing) Day 2014 in Singapore.

Initiated by Re(bar), a design company in San Francisco in 2005, Park(ing) Day is an annual worldwide event where citizens convert parking lots into spaces for alternative, non-commercial use. The result is a fun, interactive event that demonstrates how spaces set aside as parking lots can benefit the public in more holistic ways, and invites conversation of how urban planning can better serve its citizens.

This year, Singapore joined more than 160 cities in 35 countries to participate in Park(ing) Day. The event saw parking lots revamped into mini parks and game stations that brought strangers together on a busy work day.



PARK(ING) DA

THANK YOU



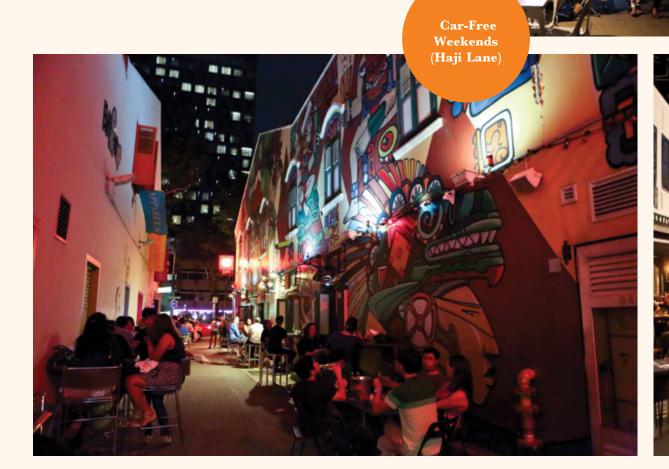






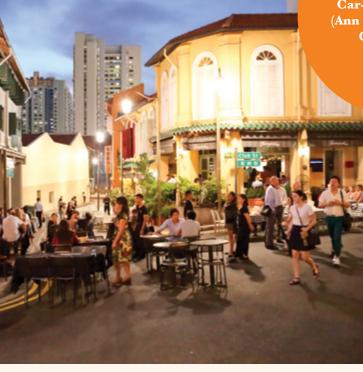


Streets such as Ann Siang Road, Club Street and Haji Lane are closed regularly to automobile traffic on weekend evenings to allow food and beverage establishments expand their space onto the streets. During these times, the streets come alive with buzz and activity. This arrangement is so popular that there have been requests to extend the hours of the road closures, or to close the roads altogether.

























The link between footfall and retail sales continues to be explored in Singapore. In attempts to revitalise the area, a series of Pedestrian Nights is held on Orchard Road, one of Singapore's major shopping districts. Initiated by the Orchard Road Business Association, a part of Orchard Road is closed to automobile traffic one Saturday evening a month, from October 2014 to March 2015. In its place, mass events such as tennis and yoga clinics, as well as musical performances, are held on the streets. The public also enjoys the freedom to roam along one of Singapore's busiest streets.