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CITYMAKERS
Recommendations
November 2016

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An Interdisciplinary Network for Citymakers
Between China and Germany
连接智慧宜居城市创想者和实践者的跨界网络

CITYMAKERS RECOMMENDATIONS

The first CITYMAKERS Meet-Up China-Germany took place in Berlin on September 28/29th and brought together 100 city makers from 14 cities in China and 12 cities in Germany. The results of this meeting, as well as the CITYMAKERS-Interviews and Dialogues (available on → www.stadtmacher4986.com) that were conducted during the course of the year, are crystallized in these CITYMAKERS Recommendations. These are suggested as inputs for the ongoing Sino-German cooperation in the field of sustainable urbanization and cities.

PROGRAM PARAMETERS

Initiator and Founder
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Concept and Implementation
CONSTELLATIONS International

Program Type
International Understanding and Cooperation
(Mapping Study/Individual Dialogues/Conference/Publication)

CITYMAKERS Recommendation Task
Gaining a strategic overview of the Sino-German landscape in the field of urbanization and cities, discovering blind spots and leverage points for a deepened cooperation

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Time Frame
Content for this analysis was generated between February 2016 and October 2016.
(Prior to this, there was a 2-year preparatory phase.)

Mapping Methodology
→ Approaching the analysis qualitatively (interviews, dialogues, collaborative meetings)
→ Applying the metaphor of a 'landscape' as a matrix to structure the investigation
→ Sourcing from existing mapping studies
→ Peer reviews by fellow experts
→ Grounded in 20+ years of China-Germany collaboration experience of the authors and their team

KEY FINDINGS & MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Worldwide, cities are faced with sustainability challenges, but also increasingly acknowledged as key actors to tackle those problems: While municipalities seek to improve liveability for their citizens, most of the efforts occur in a top-down and sector-based approach. So far, Sino-German cooperation on urbanization and sustainability have overlooked the role of culture and social innovation for urban solutions and underestimated the need for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration.

CITYMAKERS, the Sino-German interdisciplinary program of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, implemented by CONSTELLATIONS, provides the following recommendations after a series of individual CITYMAKERS-Interviews and a first CITYMAKERS Meet-Up in Berlin in September 2016 with 100 citymakers from 14 cities in China and 12 cities in Germany.

1
Creativity and diversity across sectors and disciplines

There is potential for more **vertical cooperation in Sino-German relations**: The concept of multi-stakeholder (identifying and involving a wide range of actors), should be extended from the usual constellations of institutional and business stakeholders and a few selected society voices towards a much larger concept of diverse stakeholders. What these networks benefit from is a **cross-disciplinary approach** that enables the mixing and transfer of ideas from one sector to another (**cross-fertilization**). Programs do not need to be reinvented, but depend on new impulses for innovation from other disciplines than the usual ones presented in urban dialogues, e.g. historians, designers, social scientists, artists, farmers, linguists, communication specialists, real estate insiders and sectors, e.g. industry, academia, government and civil society.

2
Global ecosystems for a critical mass

There is a **critical mass of dedicated bottom-up city makers and entrepreneurs** with Sino-German connections and experience; individuals and professionals that are dedicated to the common good and want to make a change towards liveable cities. These pioneers need to be supported by enabling environments, i.e. long-term social innovation ecosystems. The challenges of city making are global ones, thus requiring global support mechanisms and dialogue that helps pioneers sustain their commitment and tackle mutual challenges, in particular when local peers are still few.

3
Global outlook and network, local action and impact (glocality)

What we see is the rise of **global citizens,** that lives up to the aforementioned challenges. Their members seek **to test new models of city making** as well as **creating new spaces for action** and community-building in China and Germany. They are **neither mainstream yet, nor are they explicitly against the mainstream**, but are rather seeking fresh approaches that can nudge the status quo for the better. These stakeholders are **catalysts for societal change**, but are driven and depend on understanding issues and their complexity as **woven into globalization**. The mostly urban homes to these global citizens thus are **hubs and centres for transformation**, that have to be connected across cultures to stay relevant.

4
Incentivising governmental city making intrapreneurship

Yet, while a **few urban pioneers** have begun to rally and speak out about problems of stagnant urbanization growth models, **these attitudes have yet to be transmitted to (local) government officials**, for whom GDP output per square meter often remains the major parameter of success. This parameter requires dialog and understanding of urban pioneers and their initiatives, on which a basis for city making cooperation and support from governmental institutions can flourish. More innovative government leaders should be recognized through other means that increase popularity of alternative ways. Disrupting city making to allow for innovation means fostering a culture of intrapreneurs within government institutions. These voices need to be moved from the edge of the discourse to an incentivised key component within governmental city making.

5
Sustainable businesses with scalable social impact

Social entrepreneurship fosters change in communities that is sustainable through applying self-financing business models. **Knowledge and capacity-building** are needed to come up with more effective tools for social entrepreneurs. This will further leverage the strategic field for action in order to establish an impactful and enabling environment while considering financial and legal frameworks. In order to scale good practices, more social impact investment needs to be made available to help spread good practices for the common good. Furthermore, legal frameworks for social entrepreneurs with beneficial tax models need to be set up to fully unleash the power of entrepreneurship for social innovation in liveable city making.

6
Community is key

The new paradigm of 'CO': From collaboration to co-housing/working/living: Although understanding of 'liveable cities' can differ depending on people and context, there is one common value that the CITYMAKERS program identifies as valid throughout cultures: Creating a 'community'. No matter if it is growing awareness in China that **human-centred urbanisation** means building **belongingness**, **not just houses**, or if it is about new models of inclusion for refugees and migrants in Europe. The ability to create communities (both space and relations) is the 'currency' that lies at the heart of liveable cities, reflected in the trends of co-housing, co-living, co-working. These concepts need to be further examined and then mainstreamed. to establish a culture in which social innovation is a constant process, not an event-based phenomenon. The city exists for its inhabitants; **community-building** makes sure that fragmented modern societies find common ground and **consensus** to **co-exist**.

7
New 'landscaping tools' for new fields of action

As Sino-German urbanization capacity is already well developed, CITMAKERS aim to 'cultivate' missing fields through identifying new spheres: **Urban Agriculture** helps promote food safety, and provide opportunities for unemployed or marginalized young people. **The Future of Housing and Living** lies in ensuring community integration and generational interaction, as well as openness and global values. **Dimensions of one city's Cultural Memory, History, Heritage** pervade the art of city making, as loss of heritage and distinctiveness are major societal concerns that need to be addressed. We propose the following 'landscaping tools', support mechanisms that leverage the aforementioned fields of action and Sino-German city cooperation as a whole:

→ **Incentivising:** Award for Liveable City Making
→ **Understanding and Going Deeper:** CITYMAKERS Compass, CITYMAKERS Fellows (Focus Group Support), CITYMAKERS Summerschool (Interdisciplinary), Learning Journeys
→ **Developing & Accompanying:** Project Support Labs (incl. Mentoring)
→ **Incubating & Scaling:** CITYMAKERS Start-up Hubs (incl. a Fund)

城市创者聚会
──结论与建议

为居民提供一个宜居环境是每个城市都面临的可持续发展问题。然而，这个以居民为中心的课题，却往往由政府采取顶层设计的方式自上而下推行。中德在城镇化的合作，至今忽视了可持续发展的关键——跨行业、跨部门的文化创新和社会的创新。

为此，一个由德国罗伯特·博世基金会主办，由Constellations公司负责实施的跨科际研讨会于2016年9月底召开。大会汇集了100多位来自中国14个城市和德国12个城市的城市创者，在柏林市政府、市议会的支持下和中国生态城市研究院宜居城市中心领队访问团的参与下，作出了以下结论和建议：

1
构建跨行业和跨学科
的互补组合

系统、政治、意识形态、保护主义、法律规定等因素形成了城市发展中的重重壁垒；工业、学术、政府、民间团体之间也存在隔阂。因此，让来自不同行业，如城市规划、设计、建筑、开发商、艺术、社会、历史等的各界人士，以智筹的形式跨界沟通，各尽所能，对城市发展尤为重要。

2
形成全球生态
系统的氛围

已经有许多拥有中德经验的城市创者和社会企业家在尝试自下而上的方式建设宜居城市。在目前中国尚缺乏此类先驱者的情况下，有必要创造一个长期性的让经验和资源交流的环境和氛围，以形成一个有共同目标的全球生态系统，从而影响和改变目前的城市状态。

3
全球化视野与网络
地域性行动与社会影响

受过国际化教育的一组中国人群是推动中国进行不断变革的力量。德国将教育放到了国际交流的首位。从全球化公民的成长中可以看出人们对变化的重要性的认识。当在一座全球化的城市出现越来越多的"变革者"时，一个地域范围内的设想则会赢得其改变的声望。这些角色便是社会变革的催化剂，但他们也需要在全球化时代中被全面地理解和推动。故同中小型地区的合作与在大型城市中当地"社区"的合作同等重要。全球本土化的"社区"是跨文化转化的核心。

4
激励政府内部的
企业家精神

针对目前城镇化的停滞和缺失，这些为数不多的城市创者们正在集思广益，向当地政府提出替代方案。政府也应激励甚至开放内部企业家精神，摒除一味追求GDP增长和强调控制的窠臼，让地方政府，甚至最基层的居民委员会，基于广纳雅言的本意，主动合作，提供服务，加速扩大已有的积极效应。

5
强化可持续和可扩大
社会影响的模式

社会企业除了要能养活自己，还需要产生效益；不但要有足够的方法还需要超过一定的规模。城市创者的社会企业要有效益，一方面需要完整的法律保障和财政框架来辅助成长；另一方面，有社会影响力的项目需要专案融资（例如社会影响力投资、绿色金融）的支持，加速成为可复制的商业模式。

6
建立社区归属感

来自中德两地的城市创者对"宜居"有不同的定义：中国希望以人为本的城镇化不只是建筑物的组合，而有街道、小区的"社区归属感"；德国希望不只是欧洲难民和移民的收容所，而是融入社会的新篇章。然而，社会创新不是活动的累积，而是连续的过程。于是，提供共同居住、共同生活、共同工作的能力将成为城市宜居的指标甚至可交易的"通货"；城市是为居民存在的，"社区（空间和关系）归属感"是重建现代支离破碎社会"共同存在"共识的基础——这将成为主流思想。

7
引入支持工具
配合城市发展

针对中德城镇化文化交流行之有效的项目，城市创者提出扩大的建议：保证食品安全及提供年轻人就业的城市农业，**保证社区**互信互助、世代和睦、与世界价值接轨的**未来的生活方式**；重视、发掘、展现城市的文化、历史和遗产，**延续并发扬城市的固有价值**。为了配合协助上述项目的进行，建议引入下列适合不同阶段开展行动的激励工具包：

→ **激励阶段：**宜居城市创意奖
→ **了解和深入阶段：**城市创者项目导引、城市创者项目导师群（辅导团队为主）、暑期学习营（跨行业跨学科）、游学团
→ **发展和辅导阶段：**项目支持实践营（包括辅导）
→ **孵化和扩大阶段：**创业营（包括融资）

ANALYSIS

Investigating the Landscape of Sino-German Cooperation in the Field of Urbanization and Cities – Identifying Key Trends and Blind Spots to add Value

By Katja Hellkötter, Magali Menant

THE MACRO CLIMATE
Growing Consensus: Time for a New Approach to Urban Development

As the **New Urban Agenda**[1] was just adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador, with an emphasis on **people, community and liveability**, there is a growing consensus that it is time for a new approach to urban development.

Over the past three decades, **China** has experienced a **wave of urbanization on an unprecedented scale and speed**. The proportion of the population living in urban areas rose from less than 20 percent in 1980 to some 55 percent in 2014[2], and is expected to reach 60 percent by 2020. This has brought with it a host of challenges, which have primarily been addressed through technical solutions. These have included a broad range of international cooperation projects – mainly based on the model of one-way technology transfer, with little engagement with the local culture and community – in the fields of green, ecological, sustainable, low-carbon, smart cities. More recently, there has also been an official commitment to integrated, inclusive and '**people-centred**' **urbanization** (as part of China's National New-type Urbanisation Plan which pledges to increase China's urban population to boost domestic demand and growth, by giving more rural migrants permanent urban residency rights, while following a 'human-centered and environmentally friendly path'[3]), though the emphasis seems to be largely on infrastructure and the provision of housing. Germany, with its environmental expertise and long-standing presence in China, has been one of the major **contributors** to this know-how exchange and capacity-building.

In Germany and Europe, meanwhile, governments – and cities – are themselves facing **new challenges**, notably in coping with **migration** and refugees. This has revealed a lack of flexibility and innovation of institutions and government administrations, while, at the same time, the power of civil society actors who have filled these gaps has become all the more apparent[4]. Another challenge for Germany is the acute shortage of housing in cities, leading to a big debate about affordable accomodation.

Some of these challenges are unique to Europe, but China also faces the pressure of migration – from rural to urban areas, while the high price of real estate in major cities has also become a major headache for many Chinese citizens, even as some smaller and inland urban areas struggle with unsold housing stock built in the boom years before 2012, leading to the widely reported phenomenon of 'ghost towns' or neighbourhoods.

And while urban planning in the two countries takes place within a very different framework (particularly in the field of e.g. land ownership, which in China is dominated by the state), the recent developments in Europe have also changed the paradigm of cooperation: while European nations (and the EU itself) on the one hand see themselves exercising a global responsibility, they also increasingly need to demonstrate concern – and effective results – regarding domestic problems. Thus, it can be argued that international cooperation with China needs to be a two-way win-win process. It is this program's belief that there is a potential for learning from both sides, as opposed to the one-way knowledge transfer that has been so far the norm.

THE TOPOGRAPHY
From Building Houses to Building Communities and Belonging in Cities

What are the current **trends** and where are the **missing links** for cities, as they seek to move towards liveable city models? Firstly, we believe that '**culture**' is a fundamental building block (sometimes referred to as the Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development[5]). This is not a new idea: It was promoted at the World Summit on Sustainability Development (2002) and the UNESCO United Cities and Local Governments conference (2010), in existing frameworks and models in China. This is reflected in the fact that both Shanghai and Shenzhen have been given the title 'City of Design'[6] as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (since 2008), and by the 'Hangzhou Declaration of Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies' (2014).[7] In practice however, its importance is still often underrated, and it remains underused, with its role sometimes misunderstood as being limited to 'cultural (industry) sector clusters'. In fact, **culture in all its dimensions – from cultural heritage and identity, cultural entrepreneurship to creativity and vitality – is a common thread** that runs through the economic, social and environmental fields of the urban fabric. A sustainable city depends on a sustainable culture.

Another missing link is '**social innovation**'. This not only implies looking at challenges from a societal development point of view (rather than from e.g. a technological or economic development perspective), it also relates to processes of interacting to bring forth new ideas: '**The new does not come from technological artifacts, but is emerging through new social practices, including new ways of governing, organizing, communicating, consuming, partnering and relating, negotiating etc.**'[8] Thus, worldwide, and also in China, social innovation is increasingly seen as providing new ways of solving complex problems, by involving a wide range of stakeholders in rethinking these issues and co-designing solutions using collaborative methods of communication.

Addressing these missing links is particularly significant, at a time when urbanization models are being questioned after creating a huge tension between progress and conservation, economic growth and community/social stability. There is now a growing awareness that building people-centred and liveable cities is **not just about building houses, but about 'building belonging' in cities**. Yet, while a **few urban pioneers** have begun to speak out about such problems, their concerns have yet to get through to many mayors and local government officials, for whom GDP output per square metre often remains the major parameter of success. It is this program's belief that greater grassroots involvement, and more emphasis on local culture, can play a part in changing this.

THE PATHWAYS
Merging Official Cooperation Frameworks and People-to-People Relations

With a history of 45 years, Sino-German relations have an **outstanding foundation**, with a **dense framework for action** already existing **on all levels**. This ranges from the unique high-level annual intergovernmental-consultations – co-chaired by China's premier and Germany's chancellor, and in which all ministers participate – to more than 40 bilateral agreements and dialogue mechanisms (some dating back to the late 1970s), coordinated by various ministries and related agencies or city associations on both sides. These include **some 10 programs** related **specifically to the topic of sustainable cities, future cities**, eco cities, and low-carbon cities – notably the '**Sino-German Urbanization Partnership**', launched in 2015. The framework also includes city-to-city partnerships – there were 105 such bilateral relationships as of 2016, ranging from formalized full partnerships to project partnerships – as well as some 400 inter-university cooperation arrangements, including about 15 alone in the field of architecture and urbanism, with six even running double degree programs.

Some of these exchanges have been more fruitful than others. In the field of policy framework setting, for example, German cases have inspired China's legal and policy system in areas including renewable energy and transportation. Others have, for various reasons, been less successful. But what is certain is the existence of a good capital of trust, and strong long-term relationship foundations, a fertile ground in which to plant seeds.

The question is, how can we make use of this capital to 'cultivate' this ground, and harvest more impact in terms of our key goal of liveable cities? Areas where this potential could be leveraged to fill gaps include:

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1. United Nations: New Urban Agenda. 2016. URL: https://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/. 07.11.2016.
2. World Bank, population data: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=CN
3. Xinhua News: China unveils landmark urbanization plan: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-03/16/c_133190495.htm /16.11.2016.
4. 2014. Migration Policy Institute. URL: www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Mainstreaming-Germany-FINALWEB.pdf. 07.11.2016, p. 5.

5. http://www.agenda21culture.net/index.php/docman/-1-393-zzculture4pillarsden/file
6. http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/shenzhen
7. http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/images/FinalHangzhouDeclaration20130517.pdf
8. Definition based on Howaldt/Schwarz 2010. http://www.sfs.tu-dortmund.de/cms/de/Soziale_Innovation/index.html

- **More cross-fertilization** among sector dialogues. It is widely acknowledged that city making needs interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial platforms.
- More emphasis on the issue of sustainable or liveable cities in **sister-city relationships**.
- More systematic integration of **sister-city relations into the state-level bilateral programs**, something currently only in its fledgling stages.
- Dialogues have been mainly top-down. We propose **far more 'vertical' cooperation**, with integration of bottom-up exchanges, and official dialogues combined with people-to-people dialogues.

In particular, dialogues should be opened up to new cooperation partners, including actors from the **private and third sectors**. → **The Actors**, below The latter, in the form of civil organizations, has been active in the field of urban issues in China, and is increasingly networking with its counterparts from abroad.

Furthermore, the most dynamic platforms for cooperation are increasingly **not the traditional 'exchange bridges'** set up by governments, but **new spaces such as co-working spaces** and creative hubs in big cities in both China and Germany, which allow foreign and Chinese innovators to work together. Such 'pathways' may encourage more profound inter-linkages than con-ventional 'exchanges', and it may be worth considering integrating such spaces as tools into official dialogue platforms.

In this context, it should be noted that concerns have been raised that China's **new law on the activities of overseas NGOs**, which takes effect in January 2017, will make it harder for foreign non-governmental organizations to register offices in China or to find local partners. Yet while some particularly sensitive areas are likely to feel the impact, some Chinese experts argue that the new law actually formally enshrines the principle of cooperation with foreign NGOs in other sectors and, though it requires foreign groups to register with state security, it will also reduce some administrative restrictions on the activities of such organizations.

Similarly, **the participation of citizens in the city making process** in German is being increasingly enabled by digitalization, and such trends hint at the potential for similar new spaces in China. While government control of the internet in China is tighter, Chinese local authorities do in theory seek public comments on a limited number of urban issues via social media and other online channels, and many young people see the **internet as the best platform for expressing their views.**

THE ACTORS – A new Generation of Entrepreneurs and Change Makers

It is important to note that in China, social engagement does not necessarily take place through non-governmental organizations in the European sense. As mentioned above, China's formal NGO sector is subject to more legal constraints. But if we **take a wider perspective**, there are an increasing number of grassroots, bottom-up actors involved in individual initiatives that are helping to change China's cities.

New actors range from start-ups to social entrepreneurs, from creatives to volunteers. The **rapid growth of industry** in China over the past two decades, along with the rise of a young, technologically literate generation keen to encourage innovation in the country – has led to the rise of the grassroots creative: **the bottom-up maker**. Creative spaces are helping to encourage young people to set up their own enterprises, a significant number of which focus on urban-related issues, from city bike apps to environmental technology. In a nation where direct political involvement by the public is limi-ted, it is often **these entrepreneurs and technological and social innovators** who are helping to create a **new social fabric** and responding to the challenges of modern living.

Inspirational leaders from this generation seek to test new models of city making, as well as creating new spaces for community building. They are **neither mainstream yet, nor are they explicitly against the mainstream,** but they are seeking fresh approaches, which may affect the status quo.

In Germany, meanwhile, bottom-up makers in the form of social entrepreneurs have played an important role, particularly over the past two years, as an agile and active civil society has reacted quickly and innovatively to the challenges of migration and integration, following an **influx of refugees** that has threatened **to overwhelm many traditional German institutions**. Yet it has also been argued that Germany's highly-deve-loped **social welfare system** and the resulting expectations of government provision, complemented **by a refined non-profit sector**, have separated the flourishing German start-up scene from societal impact, and left it within the boundaries of the for-profit sector[9]. As a result, the German social innovation ecosystem lacks larger sources of investment for new approaches, especially in terms of scalability for social entrepreneurs[10].

THE SOIL – A Desire for Change and a Search for Values

So what is the 'soil' – the values and cultural fabric of the land – in which future liveable city making can grow? In our CITYMAKERS Dialogues, one frequently raised topic was the **search for meaning** and purpose to life that characterizes many young people in China today, the urban middle class – some 225 million people[11] – in particular. This is seen as a response to the dramatic changes in Chinese society over recent decades, which have produced **a disconnect from tradition, rising social inequality, and a sense of an overemphasis on economic values**, which some see as leading to a crisis of social values and cultural identity.

Such issues, along with the environmental problems resulting from rapid modernization and urbanization, as well as concerns about food safety and the education system, have led some wealthier citizens simply to seek to leave China, or at least to move their families abroad. But others are eager to find solutions to such problems, implying a willingness to embrace a different approach to urbanization. A cleaner urban environment, safer roads, and food safety are high on their list of priorities, **while some are concerned about a loss of culture, heritage and the distinctive characteristics of individual cities.**

Another value which some feel has been lost in contemporary China is **trust**. Even a recent study by the official Chinese Academy of Social Sciences[12] suggests that mistrust is common in Chinese society, both between citizens, and between citizens and authorities.

There are increasing echoes of such concerns in Europe, too. Some urban residents are increasingly disenchanted with city life, and tempted by the idea of returning to the land and a simpler, more traditional existence. And while **many citizens continue to embrace diversity and remain optimistic** and socially engaged, others **appear overwhelmed by the growing complexity of society** – and the world – as migration increases and the common future of Europe looks less certain than for many decades. This sense of a loss of security, has played into the rise of nationalism and populist politics in Germany and other European nations – described in a recent survey by Ad Hoc International as 'Xeurophobia[13].' This highlights the need for building inclusive communities that are guided by concepts of collaboration from co-living to co-creation. Only community-building enables fragmented societies to promote inclusion and hinder alienation among citizens.

THE FIELDS – New Areas for Cultivation: 'The Future of Living', 'Urban Agriculture' and 'Heritage Sensitive City Making'

Cities are complex systems and city making is **thus a broad arena**. The CITYMAKERS program has identified three key areas for further attention, all of them relevant to the topic of liveable city making:

The Future of Housing and Living: Promoting community integration and generational interaction, as well as openness and global values, was identified as a key goal by both Chinese and German participants in the CITYMAKERS Meet-Up. Chinese participants highlighted the difficulty of integrating migrant workers into cities, along with the problems caused by expensive housing, leading to urban segregation and social division. Much new housing also suffers from poor construction quality, not always ideally located for other needs. Proposals included creating **Sino-German Urban Pioneers**, local city-based think tanks, to discuss such issues, and to research issues such as purchasing land to build housing cooperatives, along with **a starter kit on 'community-focused living space.'**

Urban Agriculture: Long popular in Germany, urban gardening and farming has been a difficult undertaking in Chinese cities, with most land swallowed up for development. Yet in a traditionally agricultural society, where many recent rural-urban migrants have experience of growing their own crops, more and more Chi-

9. Ryland, Naomi: Social Business in Germany. A closer look at Germany's social business landscape and the key actors shaping it. 01.07.2015. URL: http://thechanger.org/resources/social-business-germany. 07.11.2016.
10. McGath, Thomas: Alternative economy: the rise of social innovation in Berlin. 30.03.2015. URL: https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-busi
11. http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21701760-communist-party-tied-its-fortunes-mass-affluence-may-now-threaten-its-survival-225m

nese social entrepreneurs are starting to pioneer in this field – from NGOs establishing farmer's markets, to 'we-gardening' community initiatives. Such initiatives contribute to sustainability, promote food safety, and provide opportunities for unemployed or marginalized young people. Promoting knowledge by linking grassroots participants from both countries, training volunteers to educate interested citizens, and **setting up garden spaces and demonstration gardens in twin cities could all encourage this growing trend**, and help advocate for policy change.

Cultural Memory, History, Heritage: As noted above, worries about the loss of heritage and distinctiveness in Chinese cities are a concern, while culture plays a key role in creating liveable cities. Previously, culture has not been a focus of urbanization-related cooperation between China and Germany. However, thinking about cities more culturally will add value and provide more holistic solutions. There are many areas of potential cooperation, from research on shared 'Sino-German cultural heritage' in China, to sharing examples of best practice based on Germany's growing emphasis on preserving cultural memory. Society organizations and grassroots

actors on both sides should be encouraged to contribute to the process of city making, including in dialogue with top-down administrators – a contextualized approach to grassroots involvement in China is vital.

Further topics not yet on the agenda within urbanization-related cooperation, which complement our approach of social entrepreneurship in city making, include: **Social impact investment** and financing (including the development of social impact assessment tools), and further legal and policy frameworks for social entrepreneurs (e.g. tax incentives). The role of water, and its links to power in China – where many areas of the country are affected by severe water-shortages, and **water** is often diverted to major cities to meet their needs – has also been proposed as a topic suitable for investigation through a fresh and interdisciplinary lens.

Integrated urban development and **urban governance**. – already on the agenda both domestically in China, and in the field of Sino-German cooperation – were highlighted as equally important during our CITY-MAKERS Dialogues.

TERRAIN – Leveraging the potential of City-to-City Cooperation

While many have argued in the past that international cooperation projects do not necessarily need city frameworks and official memoranda of understanding to be viable, **we believe that twin-city structures can be a great catalyst**, providing experiential spaces and a reference framework for innovation – particularly when it comes to city making cooperation, which requires top-down municipal-level and political commitment as much as bottom-up engagement. What could be better than a city-based platform as a starting point for prototyping projects for the future of city making?

Nevertheless, many questions remain: how to make use of these twin-city partnerships, bringing them to life whilst making them a platform for cities to learn from each other and together – to help bring the transformative change needed? The reality is that, currently, the majority of the more than 100 Sino-German city partnerships remain mostly on the level of exchanges (delegation visits, student exchange programs etc.) while few have so far **moved on to implementing substantial projects with tangible added value for both sides** [14].

The STRATEGY-Lab at the CITYMAKERS Meetup **identified various fields of action**, including the challenges of finding areas of joint interest, and matching needs as well as offerings between Chinese and German cities, particularly due to their different city size and scale of challenges. Partnerships also tend to be very sectorial focused, with one department in the city administration having the lead, and a relatively limited number of stakeholders actively involved. Institutionalizing partnerships in the long term can also be difficult, as officials change, and city representatives can find it hard to motivate and mobilize internal stakeholders. Goals are thus not always achieved, while complex issues such as sustainability or climate change can be too challenging for such a framework. Cities also often do not sufficiently involve citizens in activities related to the partnership.

However, we believe in the potential of these partnerships, and see new prospects for leveraging this. More engagement and communication by those involved in the partnerships – including a willingness to learn from each other, via 'active listening'– can enhance their

impact. Greater publicity and praise for the efforts of those involved in such partnerships, both within the partnership and among their colleagues and senior officials not directly involved, can **boost the value attached to these cooperation arrangements**, emphasizing the

successes and value generated along the cooperation journey as much as the final project results. The newly set up Sino-German Urbanization Partnership, meanwhile, offers encouragement, since it aims to support city-to-city cooperation in the field of urbanization.

RESOURCES – Building Capacities for Co-Creation and Creative Approaches

The 'natural resources' of talents for city making in China need to be further exploited: Linked to the necessity for urban and social innovation, **new competencies** (e.g. **transversal thinking, creativity in leadership, immersive learning, facilitation techniques**) must be acquired. This requires newly designed curricula to prepare future leaders on all levels – from community leaders and social activists to municipal managers – to tackle the challenges of city making with creativity and with an open mindset. **With regard to the resources and capacity for Sino-German cooperation** building, new formats of cooperation can underline recognition of the potential for more learning **with** each other, rather than simply from one another, and the importance of co-creating as a means of learning. Such an approach would provide a vision for potentially more impactful and deeper exchanges between Germany and China →**Learning Journey**, p. 26

Process support and accompanying will also be needed, both to support the design of projects in their initial stages, accompanying them through mentoring and monitoring, and finally leading to the scale-up phase of good practice sharing, capacity building and further funding acquisition. Successful city cooperations seek to explore internal resources and align interests with their city's stakeholders before engaging in a Sino-German collaboration. →**Intra City Creative Labs**, p. 27

To promote the development of liveable city making, we also propose several specific, practical 'landscaping tools', including support mechanisms and activities that serve the following:

→ **Incentivising** best practice via **an Award for Liveable City Making**
→ **Creating Deeper Understanding** via activities including: CITYMAKERS Compass, CITYMAKERS Fellows (Focus Group Support), CITYMAKERS Summerschool and Learning Journeys
→ **Developing & Accompanying**: Project Support Labs and Mentoring
→ **Incubating & Scaling**: CITYMAKERS Start-up Hubs and a Feasibility Study for Setting up Fund)

Furthermore, we propose designing new practically-oriented **learning offers**, beyond traditional university and vocational education, to help grow young entrepreneurs and ventures. Chinese and German cities have seen a rapid proliferation of start-up incubators. Developing such supporting tools in the context of Sino-German cooperation would offer a strategic advantage, benefiting from Germany's strong sustainability know-how and with unique experience of heritage-sensitive city making, in combination with China's flair for business model innovation. →**Incubator for Start-Ups,** p. 27

CONCLUSIONS

→ Based on our observation of the Sino-German city and urbanisation cooperation landscape, we conclude at this stage: Though still a niche group, there is a **critical mass of dedicated city makers** with Sino-German connections and experience individuals and professionals who are focused on the common good and want to make a change towards liveable cities.
→ Despite the challenge of significant differences (in terms of system, politics, perceptions, protectionism, laws etc.) there are **spaces for transformative bottom-up action in both countries** and an excellent fertile ground of Sino-German relationship capital and frameworks.
→ The key to '**cultivating**' this ground is to establish a supportive and enabling environment, in which the skills and commitment of actors on both the official and grassroots level can be fully harnessed, to bear new fruit in the field of **liveable city making**.

12   13

12. 王俊秀 and 杨宜音 (2013): 中国社会心态研究报告. 中国社会科学院.
13. https://nefia.org/sites/default/files/adhoc_15_EN_total_issue_NEU.pdf
14. See e.g. study by Engagement Global (currently in the making) and also projects presented at http://www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/html/53265.asp

The above is an analysed based on first observations within the projects time frame. Site investigation to be continued.
For comments and feedback please contact: kh@constellations-international.com

SINO-GERMAN
CITYMAKERS & THINKERS

How to add value to the sino-german cooperation on urbanization?

SINO-GERMAN URBANIZATION PARTNERSHIP

International understanding
Eye Level

multi sensory approach
Focus on
Street level lens
人和社会
4# tier Cities
3# tier 三,四线

Eco-City
低炭生活
Low Carbon

Connecting civil society with government dialogue

political Dialogue
政治对话

GAPS
bLINDSPOTS

Energy Efficiency

Technological Cooperation

Alternative incentive system

city size
AFTER
BEFORE
INDEX FOR happiness in the city

rural areas
乡下

cities & More

Public Private Partnership

playfulness

Heritage Preservation
遗产保护

City to City partner-ship

Citymakers livability index

Social Inno-vation

Public Space × Participation

Creative and Culture Industries || Interdis-ciplinarity

BER Gießen 上海
HAMBURG 滿洲
Duisburg

Sister City Makers

Learning Programme

Citymakers Incubator

BOTTOM UP activities exchange
市区 交流

Interdisciplinary Summer school
暑期学校

PROJECT

Kiez-Tandem

Benjamin Fellows

IDEAS

le petit flaneur
Le flaneur

Meta sister city mapping

Think Tank
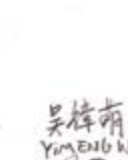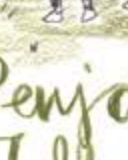
Learning from the street-level

吴倬萌
YumEng WM

STUDIO WU

FOCUS TOPICS

1. FUTURE OF LIVING

What are the challenges for the future of living in times of demographic change, regional and national migration, urbanisation, and hypermobility of labour? Can urban density and mixed neighbourhoods foster beneficial diversity and heterogeneity? Within urban density settings, are co-living concepts scalable and transferable to make housing affordable and socially sustainable? **To what degree and under what circumstances can typologies be transferred between countries like Germany and China**, given cultural, economic and geographic differences?

During the CITYMAKERS Meet-Up, the Future of Living group discussed these questions, visited innovative housing projects in Berlin, and developed solution-oriented strategies. The research field expanded to concepts of living as opposed to concepts of housing only. We are convinced that in order to imagine the future city we would like to live in, **we cannot limit our explorations to the domestic, mono-functional nature of housing, but have to include other activities of everyday life**. Below are initial findings based on this workshop, deeper research and feasibility checks needs to be undertaken in a next step.

China — DISTINGUISHING PARAMETERS — Germany

→ Before 1949, most urban housing was private rental provided by landlords. In the 1950s, under socialism, **ownership of most property** was transferred to the government

→ **Land-use rights-not land ownership** – are leased by bidding, auctioning or agreement.

→ People **prefer to buy homes in residential areas**; those living in homes in non-residential used areas are also ineligible for permanent urban residence permits.

→ The 'Provisional Regulation of Selling and Transferring State-owned Land in Urban Areas' sets **time limits for how long land-use rights can be transferred** from the government: 70 years in residential areas, 50 in commercial areas, and 40 in mixed use areas, under the official zoning plan.

→ Policy aims for '**a comfortable society**' (includes housing for all) by 2020.

→ **Private ownership plays a bigger role** in Germany than China: 43 % of homes are owner-occupied, 37 % belong to private individuals and are rented out, 20 % are owned by investors, cooperatives, companies.

→ Balancing yields on private investment in housing and the **rights of tenants in rental homes** (incl. long-term contracts, stable rent) **is a major issue**.

→ As most housing is privately invested, providing **incentives for investors** is crucial to secure supply in areas with housing shortage.

→ While in cities housing is mainly **supplied by developers**, in the countryside many families still build their own homes.

→ Likeminded individuals started to form **construction cooperatives** for their own multi-family homes, bypassing developers and thus managing to realize innovative life-style ideas the mainstream market does not yet demand.

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VISION/OBJECTIVES

→ Promote a **sustainable neighbourhood approach** based on **affordable** housing: prices allowing different income groups to live together; flexible use of spatial functions to promote interaction within/beyond the **community**

→ Apply **the principle of sharing economy to housing**: temporary use of living spaces would respond to increased need/desire for mobility (e.g. allowing alternative lifestyles, rural-urban or global-local patterns)

→ Promote openness towards **universal values** as a basis for shared living across boundaries

China — CHALLENGES — Germany

→ Low participation of citizens in planning process leads to **little public input into housing design**

→ **Lack of social mix in urban areas**

→ Integration of migrant workers in cities

→ Demographic change: **ageing population**

→ **Affordability** (exploding housing costs)

→ **Safety** concerns (using non-toxic materials)

→ **High energy consumption** (in heating, cooling, ventilation and in production of building materials)

→ **Large distances** from home to work and shopping

→ Optimization of participation of stakeholders in the whole building process

→ **Low risk-taking** by citizens in alternative living forms

→ **Rigid rules on space planning** make it hard to find (affordable) plots for building projects

→ Integration of **migrants/refugees**

→ Demographic change: **socio-spatial polarization, shrinking towns in rural areas**

→ Calls for protection of tenants (stable rents)

→ Threat of **gentrification**

→ **Policies favouring denser settlements** to avoid urban sprawl

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

→ **Set criteria for strategies of future housing**
COMMUNITY-BUILDING: cooperative housing as common ground for social interaction
TALENT SHARING as criterion when applying for housing (match talents/interests/needs)
BOTTOM-UP awareness: user-/citizen-/people-oriented
Top-down COLLABORATION with industry (find market niches, state-of-the-art solutions)

→ **Create initiative: 'Pioneers of Future Living'**
REGIONAL: create action-oriented think-tanks with local experts and stakeholders, focusing on socio-political, cultural, economic and ecological aspects in each city, advocate and experiment with future living formats
NATIONAL: create a network of local experts, stakeholders (connect it to think tanks via internet, social media)

→ **Work on different strategy levels (parallel and in exchange)**
STRATEGY: Economy, society, investors, markets: e.g. how to identify and purchase plots: legal aspects (land ownership/leasehold/planning regulations)
EXECUTION: Products, users: e.g. how to develop affordable housing with integration of users?

COOPERATION SUGGESTIONS

A concrete proposal from the workshop is a **Sino-German Living Starter-Kit**: a strategy to provide a community-focused living space that is smart and future-fit. Aiming to test prototypes in field projects in China and Germany, it consists of co-housing and co-working, a shared place for community, sharing talents and values. This approach is to be refined and developed by local think tanks via workshops. Next steps: feasibility study and project plan.

CITYMAKERS Future of Living peer group members

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2. CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Whatever the cultural context, **culture is at the heart of a liveable city: it expresses a society's state of social, civil and urban development**, and represents both its contemporary and traditional values. Cities are places of history and memory, both in their architectural, built environment – and in the related narratives, cultural heritage, historical events, stories and even emotions that are interwoven into the fabric of cities. Such cultural heritage is part of a city's identity. Museums, traditional places to experience the culture of a city, are only one way of preserving memory. Another is to give civil society a greater role in defining and building a city's identity.

Questions of investigation for this CITYMAKERS focus are: **How is cultural memory rooted in the 'fabric' of a city?** How does it contribute to a productive **dialogue on history and future**? How can **cultural memory and history be made productive** for citizens and their identification with places? What other cultural approaches can create a sense of belonging? Below are initial findings based on the CITYMAKERS-workshop. The next step would be to undertake deeper research and feasibility checks on the proposals made here.

DISTINGUISHING PARAMETERS

China

→ **Heritage** protection traditionally understood as the **reproduction of the original**. Confucian thought attributes different values to material and immaterial culture; the past is remembered **through the written word** rather than material culture, which was about legitimizing power.

→ **Heritage policies:** Big shift over recent decades, highlighted by 2006 inauguration of 'Cultural Heritage Day' (cf. crackdown on 'Four Olds' in Cultural Revolution, 1966).

→ China's State Council, **in line with Unesco's definition**, now emphasizes both 'tangible cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage.'

Germany

→ Understanding of **heritage** linked to the concept of **originality and authenticity**, an ideal in European culture since the 18th century (age of Romanticism). The term 'originality' is often applied as a compliment to the **creativity** of artists, writers, and thinkers.

→ According to this understanding, (physical) heritage protection means protecting the original.

→ The main focus of German heritage protection is to preserve the original condition, with historic traces of use, and **document evolution over time**.

→ The concept has evolved **from physical towards intangible heritage**, stressing the 'values' embodied, and cultural memory.

VISION/OBJECTIVES

➔ Protecting heritage and developing new formats for education
➔ Creating official awareness of society organizations and grassroots actors as expert partners in the field
➔ Bringing cultural memory to life and making it relevant to local people
➔ Changing the notion of the museum: seeing the whole city as a museum and an open cultural campus

CITYMAKERS Culture & Identity peer group members

SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES

1. Question of how to **make use of Western concepts of authenticity and originality**, which now co-exist with traditional Chinese concepts.

2. Government approach to showcasing cultural memory differs from that of grassroots actors, resulting in **contrasting narratives** for retelling history.

3. Negotiation about historic facts and relics can become a 'battlefield' for **the right of interpretation**.

4. **Which aspects** of cultural memory **to focus on, and what it means, varies from city to city**: e.g. colonial history in Wuhan, Tianjin or Shanghai, or daily life in Xian over the last century.

5. In the early 20th century, German architects had offices in Qingdao, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Some of the buildings they designed still exist, and have the **potential to become monuments**. However, the issue of **colonial heritage** is a **delicate topic**, and documentation about these buildings is not always easily available.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

→ **Sensitize city government leaders**, for example through the mechanism of an award for heritage-sensitive city making – since experience shows that creating popularity is a catalyst for greater understanding.

→ **Create exchange and awareness-raising platforms for new partnerships** between the local administration, local people and private initiatives (like the China Endangered Culture Protectors).

→ Develop a broader, rational and equitable **methodology to evaluate** the overall **value of the heritage**.

→ Showcase how heritage can be 'used' in a way that serves the future needs of society.

→ Colonial-era heritage could be turned into a '**shared heritage**'. A Sino-German research cooperation framework for this could also help to boost the credibility of grass roots actors locally. The German side could also provide access to documents and materials in German archives.

COOPERATION SUGGESTIONS

1. **Deeper research** on shared heritage, including identifying and mapping actors already active, and pooling knowledge and engagement within a **Sino-German peer network** of cultural heritage protectors.

2. Create and produce '**Sino-German Cultural Memory Maps**' that would include Chinese memories of local German-designed architecture. (Based on peer group members' availability, this could start with Beijing, Wuhan, and Nanjing, as part of the twin-city relationships with Berlin, Duisburg and Leipzig).

3. **German experts can share their experience of discussion** and dialogue between different stakeholders for the evaluation of urban heritage in the shaping of identity. Policy makers involved in Sino-German related cooperation should be encouraged to build on their experience and expertise in heritage-sensitive city making, to expand cooperation (e.g. within sister-city relationships).

4. Integrate 'culture and heritage protection' **within existing Sino-German university exchanges**, e.g. starting with a cross-disciplinary CITYMAKERS **Summer Campus project** (open for participation to students from several universities, possibly with Tongji University as an anchor university).

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3. CITY LAND GARDEN FOOD URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban Agriculture, defined by CITYMAKERS as including Urban Gardening and Farming – the practices of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a village, town, or city [1] – is increasingly becoming a trend in German and Chinese cities.

Urban agriculture has manifold impacts: it mitigates food safety concerns, reduces carbon footprints and use of energy for transport, helps decrease noise pollution and combats soil contamination. Apart from the obvious ecological impact, urban agriculture also contributes to community building, offers recreational outlets and provides informal education and connection to nature. However, Sino-German cooperation on sustainable development **lacks exchanges** on urban agriculture.

China — DISTINGUISHING PARAMETERS — Germany

China
→ **traditional agricultural society**; many citizens alienated by rural-urban migration

→ **food safety awareness** rising due to food safety scandals [2]

→ seen as way of reducing pollution [3] and connecting to nature/agriculture [4]

→ urban gardening fairly new; **visiting urban farms to eat** (农家乐) more popular since early 2000s among middle class, commercial purpose more prevalent, gardens are a **service product**

Germany
→ concept of **urban agriculture as old as cities:** 19th century 'Von Thünen Model of Land Use', advocating urban food production

→ **allotment gardens** ('Schrebergärten') used for foodsecurity in WW I and II

→ **967,240 urban gardeners**, 15,000 urban agricultureassociations, 20 federal organizations under overall 'umbrella' group

→ **participatory social movements** have lobbied to initiate and maintain garden projects with civil society support

China — CHALLENGES — Germany

China
→ legislation: urban agriculture **legal grey zone**; private use of public land technically not allowed [5]

→ **scarcity of space**: public green areas not open to private gardening (though area per capita in e.g. Shanghai has grown, from 2m2 in 1978 to 15m^2 in 2015 [6], to 18m^2 in 2020 [7]); urban property expropriation hinders long term land use

→ broader land shortage: only 11.3 % of China's land is arable [8], 10% of this land is polluted [9]

→ lack of scalability: only around 20 urban gardening projects in Shanghai

→ funding issues: gatekeepers are neighbourhood committees (juweihui居委会)/sub-districts (jiedao 街道)

Germany
→ policy-making/funding: urban agriculture seen as **disruptive to property development**; local governments often use them to upgrade city's image, but do not support urban agriculture through space allocation and funding

→ lack of guarantees: urban agriculture usually in **temporary spaces**; faces constant struggles with investors and property developers

→ **community-building**: engaging entire neighborhoods, not only socio-ecologically engaged groups/ middle-class, but also working-class, migrants, other marginalized communities

→ scalability: grassroots organizers often have little interest in **commercialization and scalability**

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

China
→ **Advocate policy change**: actively promote urban gardening as part of urban planning

→ **Temporary use**: mobile urban gardens (as promoted by consultants Nomadic Green)

→ **New public spaces**: explore community projects in private residential compounds (小区)

Germany
→ **Marketization**: adding a market dimension to urban gardens

→ **New private spaces**: partnerships with private industry (e.g. the 'Rooftop Garden' on a shopping mall in Chengdu) offer new concepts other than small-scale, bottom-up projects

VISION/OBJECTIVES

→ Highlight and promote social-ecological development through urban agricultural projects

→ Promote scalability of urban gardening/farming projects

CITYMAKERS Urban Agriculture peer group (Nov 2016)

The above is based on the focus group at the CITYMAKERS Meet-Up, moderated by Dr. Pan Tao and Tarek Mohamed Hassan, who then participated in further refining with Katja Hellkoetter and Magali Menant at CONSTELLATIONS. All suggestions are subject to further discussion.
Members of this Focus Group committed to further deepen exchange on urban agriculture: Dr. Pan Tao, Founder Ecoland Club, WeGarden, Green Think Tank ISEE Shanghai; Dr. Eva Sternfeld, Professor of Sinology at Free University of Berlin; Gregor von der Wall, Research Asisstant at Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; Beatrice Lange, Project Manager at Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.; Yan Fang Fang, Founder of Chengdu Urban Roof Top Farm

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COOPERATION SUGGESTIONS

1. Pairing Urban Gardeners/Farmers
→ Connect bottom-up initiatives to facilitate learning between urban gardens from China and Germany
→ Explore concepts for education (transcultural learning, 'glocality' = global perspective, local impact), recreation, financial structures for sustainable business realization

2. Green Campus
→ Neighborhood Academy: educate communities on sustainability, reach out to volunteers to build community
→ Vocational Training: target marginalized youth to fight unemployment, create jobs as gardeners in the community garden

3. 'Growing' Policies
Offer learning journeys for government officials, to officials from sister cities to see feasibility of urban garden initiatives and examples of best practice in administration

4. Mapping-Study
Compile best practice examples of urban gardening/ farming from China and Germany, and give precise recommendations for green policies, with a focus on projects with a Sino-German dimension, in the context of Sino-German Urbanization Cooperation. Cooperate with the FU Berlin class 'Food Security in China' to research this.

5. Universities Go Green
Study tour between FU Berlin; Sichuan University, Chengdu (College of Architecture & Environment); and Tongji University, Shanghai (College of Design & Innovation) to scientifically frame Sino-German dimensions in urban agriculture

Site investigation to be
continued.
Further fields to be discovered...

Any blindspots you see and feedback you want to share?
Please contact us at info@stadtmacher4986.com

RAUMSTATION

The collective RAUMSTATION Weimar partici-
pated in the first CITYMAKERS Meet-Up in Berlin.
RAUMSTATION's mission at the Meet-Up: Not
only starting a discourse, but bringing potential city
makers together in the CITYMAKERS Authority. Being
a prototype in form of a temporary micro-architecture,
it docks to a certain public or private place and dis-
rupts its functionality by adding an additional space
within space. Providing input to trigger a reaction, it
lives from an **equal interplay between in- and out-
put**. Through processing, reflecting and exhibiting,
it provides added value for the RAUMSTATION as
researchers in the field of city making as well as for
the participants and locals. Using **artistic and social
science methodologies**, CITYMAKERS Authority acti-
vates neighbours, passers-by and interested people to
interact with RAUMSTATION and each other within the
open structure of the Authority.

The emerging discourse is (self-)documented through
various media and documentation techniques. Addi-
tionally, it enables us to locate potential city makers
and encourage the strengthening of a network in the
form of follow-up formats. Substantially and visually
processed as well as enriched with individual perspec-
tives, the input is presented in diverse and locally spe-
cific formats, e.g. **urban interventions.**

This may range from plain exhibitions of the input to
encouraging a discourse about one's own opinions,
to a multimedia artistic installation or a performance.
CITYMAKERS Authority provides the possibility to
research controversial sites in China and Germany,
understanding public spaces to be prepared for cul-
tural differences and identifying possible city makers.

Working action-oriented, it leaves space for commu-
nication and representation of alternative CITYMA-
KERS ideas in public. This opens up the opportunity
to not only act and research in an intercultural con-
text, but jointly develope projects in an intercultural
and interdisciplinary team: e.g. docking to chinese
student collectives.

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RAUMSTATION Members

Tao Han, Gunnar Grandel, Felix Joosten, David Hees, Hanna Rentschler, Paula Pons from Bauhaus-Universität in Weimar; Ana Martin Yuste, Silvan Hagenbrock from
TU Berlin; Zhong Yuan, Robert Bosch Media Ambassador; Hang Su

Changing place is
changing perspective.

There is a space for more uncon-
ventional and more creative interaction
formats within the more conventional
Sino-German dialogue approaches.

Involve more students into city
making processes and into Sino-German
urbanization related cooperation.
Connect citymaker students between Germany
and China, that are interested to get active
beyond their usual studies.

New things need
places to happen.

Creating transcultural
spaces for exchange is more
important than building
cultural bridges.

From RAUM = SPACE = 空间
(literal: kōngjiān: kōng = empty, vacant;
jiān = space) to urban intervention
(literal: 城市干预 chéngshì gānyù).

Dialogues forums should get more
out of the conference room.
Indeed, the whole city should be
the conference space.

Walking with groups in the city offers
multiple ways and formats
of communication and interaction.

ADDING VALUE TO CITY-TO-CITY PARTNERSHIPS AND URBANISATION COOPERATION

Based on the ideas generated at the CITYMAKERS Meetup in September 2016 in Berlin, individual dialogues and interviews with city makers during the course of 2016 and the needs derived from the above analysis, a number of activities and support mechanisms are hereby recommended to encourage Sino-German city making cooperation to create more liveable cities: some of the recommendations are made specifically for the CITYMAKERS program, some recommendations are meant as possible activities in the frame of the Sino-German cooperation in general.

Incentivising

CITYMAKERS-To-Policy-makers Cross Dialogues

What An interactive meeting with citymakers and policy makers on social innovation: how can it be scaled within cities and be of value in the context of the Sino-German Urbanization Partnership and other (related) bilateral programs?
Why A lack of interaction between bottom-up initiatives underway in German and Chinese cities, and larger bilateral agreements. Sino-German sector dialogues are plentiful but rarely inter-linked.
Who Selected city makers and city representatives to discuss city making
How A CITYMAKER Meetup as an element of the Sino-German Urbanization Forum planned for the end of 2017 in Chengdu. (Cooperation with GIZ/BMUB and CSUS/MoHURD)

CITYMAKERS Award

What An award, celebrating good examples of liveable city making; criteria to be defined.
Why More political and municipal leaders are needed as pioneers. New incentive systems need to offer alternative ways of gaining recognition, beyond usual growth/success factors.
Who Targeting both city makers (bottom-up), from all walks of life, and municipal leaders that enabled such projects to flourish in their cities.
How Possible in cooperation with CSUS, ICLEI and other actors.

Deeper understanding

CITYMAKERS Cooperation Compass

What An illustrative manual with process support tools, applied tips, ideas, references and resources for creating successful city-to-city cooperation on liveable city issues.
Why German city representatives often do not know how to start or strengthen cooperation with Chinese cities regarding good city making.
Who For German city representatives involved in or planning cooperation with a Chinese city. And vice versa.
How Extracting from the CITYMAKERS mapping and collective knowledge in the community. Apply information design.

Learning Journey for Citymakers

What Interactive, stimulating learning journeys, exploring innovative policies, measures, projects, and spaces for participation in Germany and China. Facilitating knowledge transfer, as well as following up to crystallise the learning.
Why Lack of understanding of the city making processes in each other's country; lack of awareness of areas of innovation and what can be learned from other peers.
Who Mix of municipal decision makers and creative city makers/thinkers from each country to visit the other.
How For instance in cooperation with GIZ/Sino-German Urbanization Partnership.

CITYMAKERS Summer School

What An interdisciplinary summer school offering topics identified by the CITYMAKERS such as 'Culture & Heritage', 'Future of Housing', and 'Urban Agriculture' and innovative formats of learning.
Why There is a need for more unconventional city making summer schools: looking at the city as a campus, integrating topics beyond the usual urban planning/architecture study topics.
Who Students from different universities in German and China from all disciplines interested in the future of liveable city making. The School of Design and Innovation, Tongji University as possible anchor partner.
How Funding through academic exchange programs (for example DAAD).

Developing & accompanying

CITYMAKERS Fellow Groups

What An open fund, granting seed money and other support to project groups with good ideas, to enable them to conduct further mapping, support exchanges, or pairing work between Germany and China.
Why There are many ideas in the current CITY-MAKERS' community that need to take one further step to reach maturity, and need seed funding to support their development.
Who Participants (including focus groups) from the current community gathered in the course of the program, extendable to further actors who submit ideas.
How Run by the CITYMAKERS program, providing net-working support and matchmaking of actors.

Intra-City Creative Labs

What A creative workshop to map and evaluate potential, co-design and gain ownership from all city stakeholders and talents potentially interested in cooperation with China.
Why German cities can find it hard to engage local stakeholders in collaboration with China – and also often lack awareness of the local talents available, particularly from more informal and creative bottom-up scenes.
Who German cities; and all citymakers with a possible China interest or activity.
How tailor designed for interested cities

City-to-City Cooperation Support Lab

What A learning offer (workshop format) to support and design Sino-German city-to-city cooperation projects on liveable cities. A set of mentors can offer support, providing ideas, networks and resources.
Why Collaboration agreements are often empty, and struggle to develop viable projects.
Who German cities interested in further developing their twin city cooperation in China.
How Directly contracted by interested cities or offered to cities in the frame of the Urbanization Partnership.

Incubating & scaling

Incubator for CITYMAKERS Start-Ups

What 'Start-up in-residence' spaces in German and Chinese cities for urban innovation-related young entrepreneurs, supporting with networks, context knowledge, funding opportunities and learning programs.
Why Young entrepreneurs in the start-up phase cannot afford to go abroad and seek inspiration other similar ideas, yet need inspiration and partners.
Who Young entrepreneurs and start-ups with a socially valid service or product related to liveable city making.
How In cooperation with corporate sponsors interested in ideas and urban innovation.

Fund for CITYMAKERS Impacts

What A new funding vehicle allowing money from various stakeholders – including private donors and foundations – to be allocated from and managed in one pot.
Why Long term funding is needed to help scale outstanding ideas. Finding sustainable business models to help projects contribute to lasting change, and meet urbanization challenges, is a major bottleneck.
Who Target the best, most impactful city makers (including winners of CITYMAKERS awards).
How Feasibility study as first step and social impact (not just risk) assessment for investors.

ABOUT

Program Initiator

Robert Bosch Stiftung: The program 'CITYMAKERS China – Germany' was initiated by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2016. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. To this purpose, it develops and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, science, society, education, and international relations. Moreover, in the coming years, the Foundation will increasingly direct its activities on three focus areas:

→ Migration, Integration, and Inclusion
→ Social Cohesion in Germany and Europe
→ Sustainable Living Spaces

Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 1.4 billion euros in charitable work.

Concept and Implementation

CONSTELLATIONS International: The program CITYMAKERS China – Germany is conceptualized and implemented by the Shanghai and Berlin based agency CONSTELLATIONS International headed by Katja Hellkoetter and Magali Menant. The CONSTELLATIONS team is specialized in German/European – Chinese collaboration design and facilitation at the interface of society, business and education. → www.constellations-international.com

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