

A-Place

Linking places through
networked artistic practices

Newsletter #04

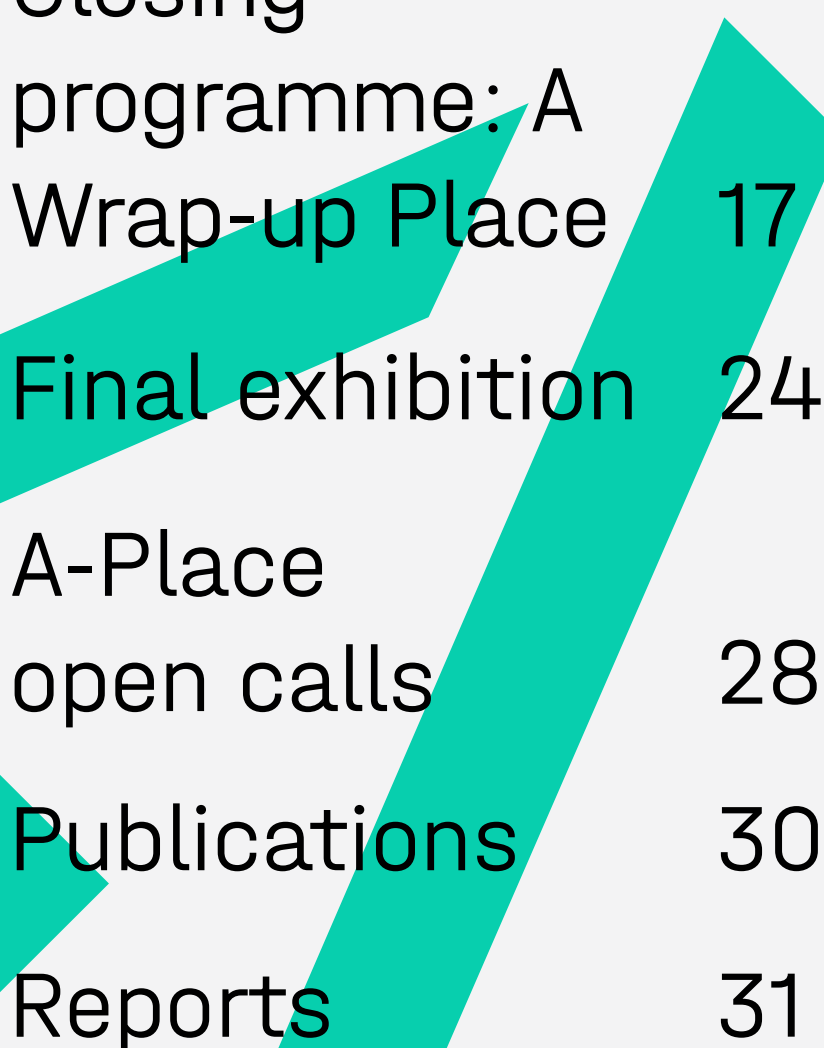
December 2023

We created places



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

CREATIVE EUROPE Cooperation Project Agreement number
607457-CREA-1-2019-1-ES-CULT-COOP2



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Introduction

In the fourth and final year of the A-Place project, we have concentrated our efforts on organizing closing events at Barcelona, Brussels and Lisbon, as well as the final exhibitions that were part of these events. Simultaneously, we continued with the local placemaking activities in Barcelona, Bologna, Brussels, and Lisbon.

The initial closing event took place at the community centre La Serre in Brussels, on May 26, with the title "[Co-constructing lived spaces](#)". An accompanying exhibition of A-Place was held at the Department of Architecture, KU Leuven. This was followed by a "[A place in Can Trinxet](#)" on June 3 in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona), featuring a comprehensive exhibition of A-Place outputs in the nave of the old factory which was on display until June 7. The final closing event "[Sensing places together](#)", took place at Largo Residências, in Lisbon, a former military garrison transformed into creative hub.

A series of activities unfolded during the 2023 editions of the Nicosia [Pame Kaimakli](#) and [LOOP Barcelona](#) festivals. In addition, activities were organized in Bologna to disseminate works produced in past editions of the Urban Visions festivals.

The dissemination of the project work in academic channels continued with the publication two papers in international conferences.


A [book](#) summarizing the collective work of the past four years is nearing completion and will be accessible on the project website in February 2024. The online resource will serve as guide to the extensive collection of works accumulated throughout the project's lifetime, which will remain available in the website.

We anticipate that the project's achievements will serve as a valuable resource and inspiration, fostering the development of new activities to reinforce the sense of place and belonging in our multicultural societies worldwide.

Art Video Productions

Developing a sense of place with audiovisual works

The fourth and last round of video productions commissioned by LOOP Barcelona gave rise to two new works.

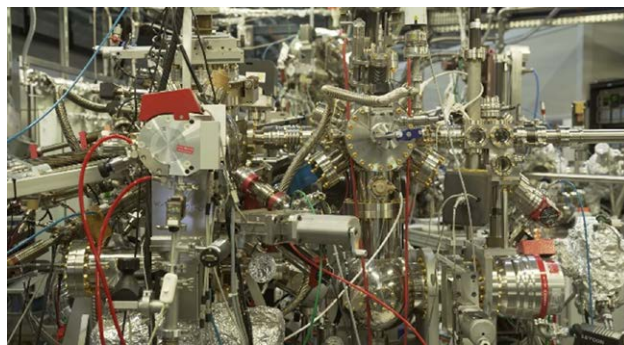


The machine and the flower

by Pau Faus

The work of Pau Faus during his LOOP residency encapsulates a dialogue between nature and technology. Filmed at two distinct locations—the interior and exterior of the [Alba Synchrotron](#), an impressive structure situated on the outskirts of Barcelona and recognized as the most intricate research facility in the southwest of Europe—the video relates a compelling conversation with Juan Arnau, an astrophysicist, philosopher, and specialist in Eastern cultures, who staunchly defends humanism in the face of contemporary technological distractions.

The video was [exhibited](#) at Casa Elizalde from November 15 to December 23.



We received 103 project proposals (33 in the 2020 call, 63 in 2021, 73 in 2022), 15 of them from European countries. The diverse range of projects showcased various approaches to constructing and involving communities in art-based placemaking processes. The sheer quantity and quality of the proposals have made the jury's deliberation process both exciting and complex. We extend our gratitude to all who submitted proposals for their interest and efforts.

The jury - composed by Ramón Parramón, pli-é collective, Victoria Sacco and Leandro Madrazo - decided to award the project entitled "We are here", by Camila Flores-Fernández. The [announcement](#) was made on March 7, 2023.

[We are here](#)

by Camila Flores-Fernández

An insight into the experience of immigrating through the lens of two queer refugees, who are each in different stages of this process in Brussels. This documentary delves into each step of the immigration process, as well as how the queer immigrants carve out their space in the urban landscape they find themselves in. Through a collective creation method, the immigrants get to choose how to tell their story. By narrating, sharing, and shedding light on their origins, they can make themselves, their identities, and their stories visible, allowing them to establish their own sense of belonging derived from a unique set of experiences.



The video was [exhibited](#) at La Casa Elizalde, Barcelona, from 15 November to 23 December, 2023.

Two video works created by two artists tutoring the students of the School of Architecture La Salle in the course 2021/22 were finalized in the Fall 2022. The videos were created with the recordings made by students in their analysis of the sociophysical territory of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat using audiovisual media.

[A journey to L'Hospitalet de Llobregat](#)

Directed by Claudio Zulian



[80.189](#)

Directed by Miquel Garcia



Festivals

A-Place sections in LOOP Barcelona, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals

The festivals that participate in A-Place organized their annual editions in 2023 in Nicosia and Barcelona.

In Pame Kaimakli, a series of artistic events fostered links between the residents of the Kaimakli neighbourhood and their living environments. The A-Place programme of the LOOP Barcelona 2023 edition featured the exhibition of two new video productions and hosted debates with the authors and guest experts. The activities of the Urban Visions festival focused on disseminating the results of the previous three editions in events held in Bologna and Venice.

LOOP Barcelona

16 November to 23 December 2023

In addition to the premieres of the video works commissioned by LOOP Barcelona, [two debates](#) within the A-Place section of the 2023 edition of this festival were held.

– [“Science, technology and documentary perspective”](#).

On November 27, there was a [dialogue](#) between Pau Faus with Victoria Sacco, curator, and project coordinator at LOOP Barcelona, and Pau Subirós, screenwriter, director, and producer around the topics embraced by the video [“The machine and the flower”](#).

– [“Documentary Film, Migration and Queer Subjectivity”](#).

On December 13, a conversation at Casa Elizalde between Camila Flores-Fernández and Victoria Sacco, discussing the integration of queer migrants in Brussels, the theme of the video [“We Are Here”](#).

LOOP Studies → Talk

Pau Faus, Victoria Sacco, Pau Subirós. 'Science, Technology and Documentary Perspective'

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 7 pm



Pau Faus 'The Machine and the Flower'. Image courtesy of the artist.

Participants

[Pau Faus](#), [Victoria Sacco](#) and [Pau Subirós](#)

Venues

[La Casa Elizalde](#)

A project by

[La Casa Elizalde](#), [A-PLACE](#) & [LOOP](#)

Price

Free admission

Date and hours

Wednesday 29 November 2023, 7 pm

[Add to calendar](#)

LOOP Studies → Talk

Camila Flores-Fernández & Victoria Sacco. 'Documentary Film, Migration and Queer Subjectivity'

Wednesday 13 December 2023, 7 pm



Camila Flores-Fernández. Still of 'We Are Here'. Image courtesy of the artist.

Share

Artists

[Camila Flores-Fernández](#)

Participants

[Camila Flores-Fernández](#) and [Victoria Sacco](#)

Venues

[La Casa Elizalde](#)

A project by

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Urban Visions

The dissemination activities of the Urban Visions film festival was an opportunity to screen and present audio-visual contents, but also to promote the festival and the A-Place project. These activities took place at:

- City Space Architecture’s headquarters, Museo Spazio Pubblico, in October 2022, with the exhibition “SLUM”, hosting the short film “L’asino che vola” by Marco Piantoni, that was awarded with a special mention in the category “Migrants, refugees and displaced communities”
- the Fondazione Marta Czok in Venice, in June 2023, a selection of short films included in the exhibition “The rise and fall of the ideal city”.

Further dissemination activities included an exchange with the Pame Kaimakli Festival in Nicosia at the pop-up cinema.



Installation reproducing the typical shack in Mauritania



The Urban Visions film festival in dialogue with the work of the artist Marta Czok

Pame Kaimakli

The 2023 edition of the festival included the following activities in the programme carried out in September:

- a pop-up cinema space was set up in an abandoned shop in the Kaimakli neighbourhood to showcase four video Interview stories created with the collaboration of the informal group People of Cyprus. These interviews primarily featured the captivating narratives of the residents, serving as the foundation for the moving walking theatrical performance, "Following the footsteps of Kaimakli."

- a video documentary was presented, capturing moments from workshops organized by Urban Gorillas and guided by Natalia Panagiotou, a renowned actress and theatre specialist, in collaboration with EKYSY, a retirees' organization of retired Kaimakli women.

These remarkable elderly women shared their inspiring stories of establishing the organization, emphasizing themes of solidarity and their relentless pursuit of peace in the context of the divided island.



Video stories enacted and screened in the pop-up cinema



Kaimakli stories of feminist activism

Placemaking activities

The local activities carried out in the last year are of two kinds:

- conclusion of on-going activities initiated in the third year: "A Weaved Place", in L'Hospitalet; "A Resilient Place" in Bologna, and "A Just Radio", in Brussels
- activities initiated in the fourth year: "AGORA: A Spot Place", in Nicosia.

A Weaved Place

School of Architecture La Salle

Students who participated in an elective seminar from February to May 2023 played a role in the closing event programme held at Can Trinxet, an old textile factory rehabilitated as a civic centre. Their task was to analyse the work carried out by project partners in their local activities, summarize the findings, and establish connections between them. The final assignment required them to propose ideas for revitalizing the old factory. These proposals were presented by the students to the neighbours of a local association dedicated to preserving the memory of this place during the closing event in June 2023.

Presentation of student's proposals at the closing event in Can Trinxet, June 2023



A Resilient Place

in Bologna

City Space Architecture

"A Resilient Place" is a placemaking activity taking place in the Porto-Saragozza neighbourhood in Bologna, in front of the City Space Architecture (CSA) headquarters.

It started in April 2022 and was intended to transform a small green spot, a left-over space, into a public biodiversity garden. This green spot is located at the opposite side of the area along via Curiel where CSA implemented a parklet as a placemaking activity of "A Visionary Place" in 2020-21.

The regenerated space held cultural activities, like installations by Italian artist Yari Miele for the "Art City White Night of Arte Fiera"; an exhibition about re-thinking public space from a gender perspective, and an exhibition of the "European prize for urban public space". Along with the exhibitions, debates on public space and art were held in the newly created garden.



The biodiversity public garden completed in July 2023



Site specific installation by the Italian artist Yari Miele at the biodiversity public garden. Picture by Elettra Giulia Bastoni

Exhibition of the 2022 edition of the "European prize for urban public space" promoted by CCCB at the biodiversity public Garden, with the artwork by Michele Liparesi



A Just Radio

in Brussels

KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture

In the fourth year of our journey with "A Just Radio", we embarked on a series of insightful interviews, both internally with students and faculty members of

KU Leuven, and externally with students from various universities in Europe. These conversations were edited, archived, and subsequently shared with our audience on the radio platform known as Rss.com. "A Just Radio" will now be transitioned into the capable hands of "Ten Thirty Collective" (1030c), a student group that emerged from the diverse KU Leuven courses conducted in parallel with the A-Place project based in Brussels over the past four years.

Our podcast series was carefully crafted to illuminate the multifaceted landscape of architectural education while providing a vibrant platform for diverse voices and critical discourse both within and beyond

the A-Place project partnership and the university that hosts us. The podcast interviews served as a dynamic arena for dialogue, enabling us to delve deeply into critical subjects pertaining to architecture and education.



Architecture students at the Launch event of 1030c collective

A Just Radio recording at KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture



AGORA - APlace4All

Urban Gorillas

AGORA, designed by Urban Gorillas in 2023, is a mobile structure that functions as a versatile platform for a range of events.

Easily assembled and adaptable to various scenarios, its primary objective is to enliven spaces and promote community engagement through arts and participatory activities that enrich democracy. The structure, composed of 600 pieces and 180 joints, can be configured in various formats, acting as a cultural driver to host diverse activities in different spaces.

In 2023, AGORA was used as a cultural and social catalyst in two events:

– At the Afrobanana festival, to host artists Orancosang from Japan and their performative art piece Hitsudankai. This is a vibrant four-day music event attracting throngs of young attendees and boasting a lineup of world-class musicians from across the globe..

– At Pame Kaimakli Festival, it functioned as “AGORA-APlace4All”, serving as the central focal point of the festival. It hosted festival facilities such as pop-up cinema, workshops, theatre stage, info point and lounge. This year’s festival centred around the art of storytelling, revealing previously hidden truths and showcasing unseen neighbourhood protagonists. The festival aimed to provide a fresh perspective on historical narratives and places, unveiling new possibilities in an engaging manner.



AGORA installed at the Pame Kaimakli festival

AGORA installed at the Afrobanana festival



Closing programme: A Wrap-up Place

With the purpose of showcasing and disseminating the work carried out during the project to and reflecting about the work done with a diversity of stakeholders involved in community development through placemaking, at the end of the project we have organized three closing events in Brussels, Barcelona and Lisbon within the programme "A Wrap-up Place". Along with these events, an exhibition of the collective work done was on display.

The three closing events took place between May and September 2023, each one focusing on specific theme:

- **Co-constructing lived spaces, Brussels.** The role of placemaking in promoting participatory design, spatial justice, and the appropriation of public space.
- **A place in Can Trinxet, L'Hospitalet (Barcelona).** The importance of educational and creative activities in public spaces to engage artists and creators from all academic levels, in the creation of places.
- **Sensing places together, Lisbon.** Representing a sense of place through various art forms, such as music, photography, video, and artistic performance.

Co-constructing lived spaces

La Serre community centre
Brussels, 26 May 2023

The meeting at this community centre managed by the NGO Communa brought together A-Place partners and invited speakers to share and discuss their strategies to foster the appropriation of public space and the right to the city. About thirty participants attended the one-day gathering, culminating in a music concert that drew around 150 people.

A-Place partners Leandro Madrazo (La Salle-URL), Maša Cvetko and Vesna Skubic (Prostorož), Rosaura Romero (KU Leuven), Nina Povše (University of Ljubljana), as well as Petra Pferdmenges and Juliette Marchand, from Alive Architecture, organizer of the event, presented their work they did during the project.

Guest speakers included Bram Dewolfs from [Urban Foxes](#), a multi-disciplinary placemaking collective based in Brussels;

Lisa Pleysier from [Park Poëtik](#) which organizes workshops, interactive shows, concerts, visual installations and parades in collaboration with artists, residents and local cultural organizations, and Antoine Dutrieu, from the non-profit organization [Communa](#), engaged with social transitional urbanism.

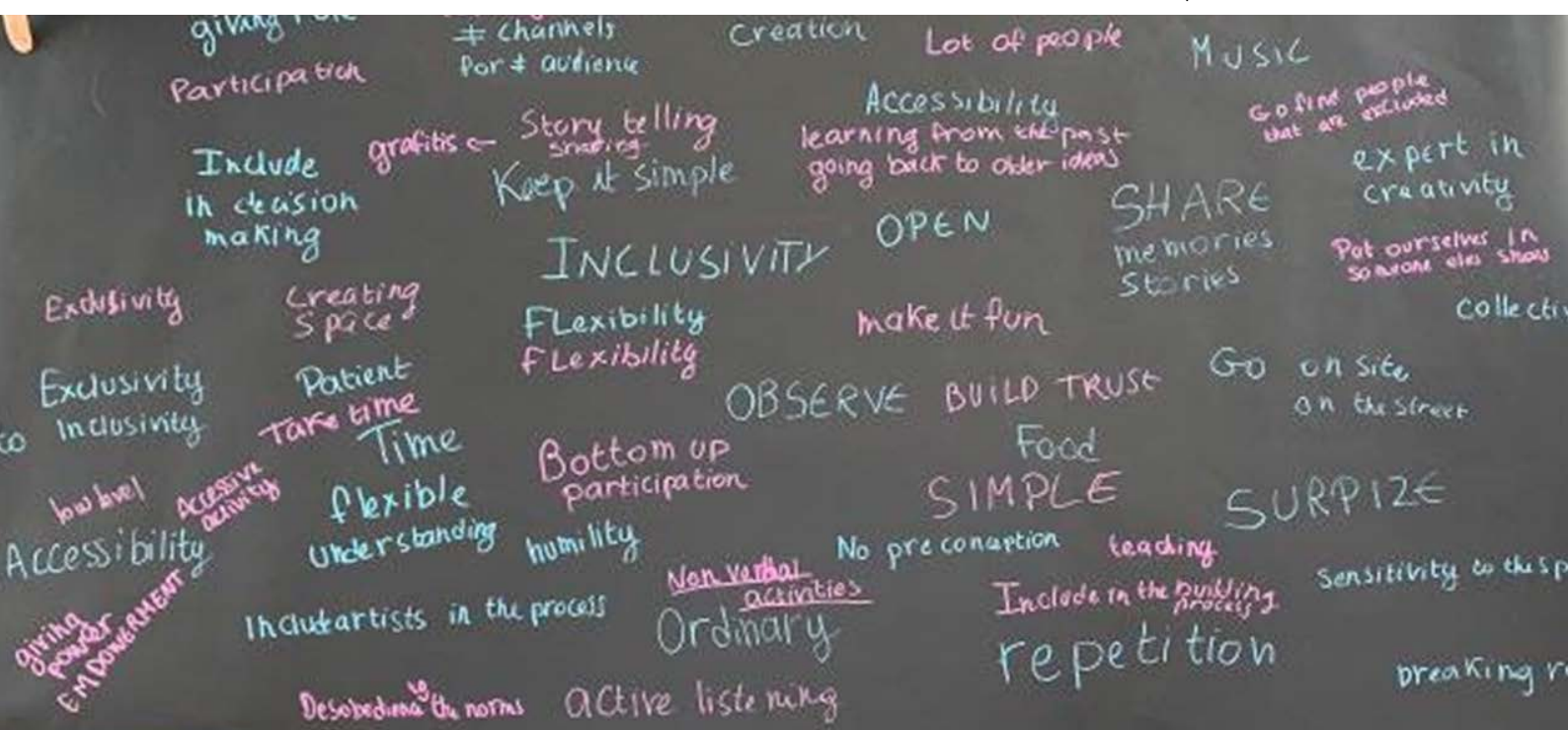
After the presentations, the group moved to a nearby outdoor space, where they divided into teams to discuss two issues: How can we invite citizens to appropriate public space? How can we generate inclusiveness in artistic urban interventions?

The reflections were visually represented on a map laid out on a table, which was drawn as the discussion unfolded.

The event ended with a drink and concert of [Peixe e Limão](#).

A video documentary of the event is available [here](#).

Output of the round table discussion





Presentations at La Serre community centre



Group discussion outdoors

A place in Can Trinxet

Can Trinxet
L'Hospitalet (Barcelona), 3 June 2023

The closing event took place on June 3 at Can Trinxet, a restored old textile factory building now serving as a community space. The municipality of L'Hospitalet, and the Centre Cultural Santa Eulàlia, which oversees the management of the equipment, made the venue available for the event. An [exhibition](#) of the A-Place project, which remained open from June 3 to 7, was part of the programme.

The [one-day programme](#) included debates, music performances, participatory creative activities, students' presentations, a sensorial workshop and, to finalize, a concert by a band of the local music school.

The debates were organized into three panels:

- Creating learning spaces
- The sense of place and audiovisual language
- Art, activism and public space

A series of music and dance performances took place during the event.

Attendees of the debates and exhibition had the opportunity to participate in a sensory exploration workshop of the space and in creating a collage using images from the city.

A video documentary of the event is available [here](#).

Open-air debate on "Creating learning places"





Entrance gate to the premises of the old factory



Music and dance performance in the rehabilitated factory hall, by Albert Vallverdú and Carla Camacho



Concert by the Django Orchestra Academy



Engaging with the body through senses other than sight.
Organized by LEMUR, Laboratorio de Emergencias Urbanas

Sensing places together

Largo do Cabeço da Bola
Lisbon, 14-15 September 2023.

The closing programme in Lisbon, organized by NOVA team with the support of the project coordinator, Leandro Madrazo was focused on the theme “[Sensing Places Together](#)”. The event took place on the 14th and 15th of September 2023, at [Largo do Cabeço da Bola](#), in a former garrison.

“Sensing Places Together” created a place by transforming the spaces of the old military installation into a shared experience. During the event, these spaces became an artistic, cultural and social meeting point, encompassing lectures and debates, performances, musical concerts, exhibitions, projections and conversations on contemporary cultural and sociopolitical issues, as it is the case of homeless women from the association “[Somos Mulheres](#)”. Artists, academics, and researchers involved in processes of creation and transformation of multi-varied public spaces participated in the event.

Three years after creating the soundscape of Bairro de Mouraria in “[A Sound Place](#)”, the composers Jaime Reis, João Quinteiro and young composers from the Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa, as well as performers Duo Contracello and Henrique Portovedo, re-edited the concert held in 2020 for only ten spectators at the Mouraria Innovation Center, and broadcasted across the world via streaming.

The event finalized with a live concert by composer João Ferreira (electronic Organ), with the screening of a video essay created by the collective [Entropia](#) (João Ferreira and Marta Fiollić for the A-Place project). This concert-installation includes original music by João Ferreira inspired by the sounds of Bairro da Mouraria, with the aim of recreating the feelings of women of the “[Somos Mulheres](#)” Association. These women lived on the streets of Lisbon, some of them for decades, and are now trying to rescue other women, in the same situation.

A video documentary of the event is available [here](#).

“Passages”: Composer João Ferreira (electronic organ) and video essay screening by Marta Fiollić





Representatives of the collective "Somos Mulheres" in the event, accompanied by Marta Fiolic




Duo Contracello & Jaime Reis (composer): "A (travelling) Sound" concert



Performance by Mara Maravilha

Final exhibition

As part of the programme of the closing events in Brussels, Barcelona and Lisbon, an exhibition showcased the collective work accomplished during the four-year project. The exhibition comprised 13 panels that outlined the project's progress over the years. It highlighted activities conducted in various locations, utilizing multiple art forms and strategies, and demonstrated the interconnectedness between them.



Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

Brussels

22 May to 9 June 2023

In addition to the panels, it featured the projection of five "Thematic videos," produced at the end of the first two years of the project. The panels and video projections were strategically placed in the multi-use space on the ground floor of the building, serving as a lobby, working area, exhibition room, and cafeteria.



Panels exhibition



Video projections

Can Trinxet

L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona)
3 to 7 June 2023

The exhibition was embedded in the closing programme on Saturday, June 3, and then remained open after it ended. Part of the exhibition was later moved to the [La Salle campus](#), and remained on display during the rest of the year.

It was structured in various sections: collective work done in the project, "A Confined Place", activities carried out within "A Weaved Place" in L'Hospitalet, videos commissioned by LOOP Barcelona, "The experience of living at home" contest at La Florida neighbourhood, and a sound installation "Listening tables", intermingling the sounds of L'Hospitalet and Lisbon.



Section of the exhibition "The experience of living at home", La Gloria Factoría de Arte



Installation "Listening tables", Alejandro Artigas and Jimmy Solórzano



Section of the exhibition displaying the work of the A-Place network.



Section of the exhibition dedicated to "A Confined Place"



Section of the exhibition dedicated to the videos commissioned by LOOP Barcelona

Largo do Cabeço da Bola

Lisbon

14 to 15 September 2023

The exhibition was taken place along the closing event in the old military garrison. The thirteen panels were placed on the dilapidated wall and a video composed with the contents of the panels was projected on the walls, highlighting specific moments from the project activities. This video, as well as all the videos created by project partners, were permanently on display during the two days of the conference.

During the event, some of the discussions took place at the exhibition space.



Exhibition space, with video projections



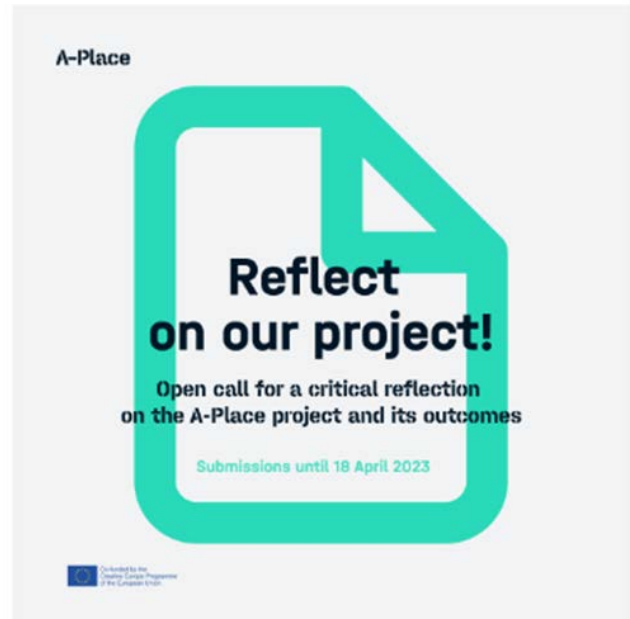
A conversation happened in the exhibition space during the closing event

A-Place open calls

Open calls are an integral part of the project communication strategy. Through the different contests we have been able to make the project known internationally and to get to know other creators around the world integrating art and placemaking. In the last year we organized the fourth open call for video productions commissioned by LOOP Barcelona, an open call for guest authors to contribute with a chapter for our book, and an open call for articles in a special issue in the "Annales. Series Historia et Sociologia" journal for papers related to the project topics.

Reflect on our project

We invited authors to contribute with an essay to be included in the A-Place book which will summarize the work done in the project and will frame the results in the wider context of creative placemaking.



LOOP Barcelona

The fourth and last open call for video works organized by LOOP Barcelona received 103 project proposals, with applications coming from 15 European countries.

The jury decided to award the project entitled "We are here" by Camila Flores-Fernández.



Publications

Two papers were presented at conferences in the last year of the project:

Angel Martín, Leandro Madrazo (2023) "A-Place Project: Placemaking in L'Hospitalet". Proceedings of the Triple Helix XXI Conference, Barcelona, 26-29 June 2023

Leandro Madrazo, Á. Martín, A. and M. Hernández (2023). "Embedding learning places in a sociophysical territory: a case study in the city of L'Hospitalet", Proceedings of the 3rd Research and Teaching Innovation Conference, La Salle Campus Barcelona, 25 January 2023

Reports

The work carried out in the last year has been documented in the reports, as was done in the previous two years.

A comprehensive description of the activities at each partner city can be found in "Local placemaking activities 2022-23". The work carried out in the three festivals participating in A-Place is reported in "LOOP, Urban Visions and Pame Kaimakli festivals 2023". The video productions commissioned by LOOP Barcelona are described in "Artist videos 2022-23". And the closing events and final exhibitions are documented in "Closing programme and travelling exhibition".

A-Place

Linking places through networked artistic practices



607457-CREA-1-2019-1-ES-CULT-COOP2

Artist Videos 2022-2023

Deliverable 4.5.1

A-Place

Linking places through networked artistic practices



607457-CREA-1-2019-1-ES-CULT-COOP2

Local placemaking activities 2022-2023

Deliverables 4.1 and 4.2

A-Place

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If you would like to have more information about the A-Place project, please contact the project coordinator at leandro.madrazo@salle.url.edu

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