# New Metropolitan Perspectives

NMP2018

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3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM











# MAKE 'PUBLIC SPACE GREAT AGAIN'

Using Social Innovation Reflections from the Context of Downtown San Diego as a Cultural District

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#### Presentation Structure







# Part I:

Cultural
Districts/Hubs
Methodologic
al Analysis

Part II:
Downtown
San Diego
Contextual
Analysis

Part III:
Implementati
on- Based
Approach
Evaluation









# Part I:

Cultural
Districts/Hubs
Methodologic
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#### Part II:

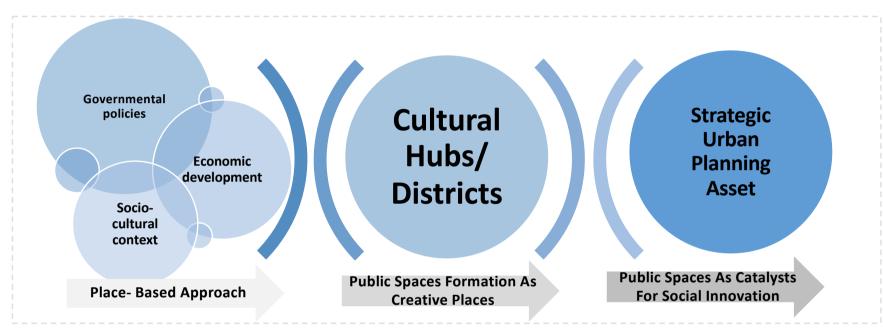
Downtown
San Diego
Contextual
Analysis

# Part III: Implementation-Based Approach Evaluation





## Public Spaces as drivers to Cultural District Formation



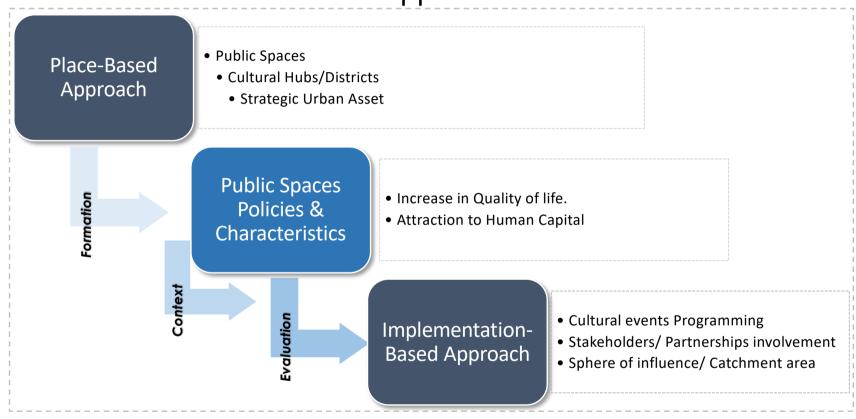
Understanding the Role of Public Spaces in Social Innovation. Source: the authors, May 2017.

#### That phenomenon occurs when two criteria are realized:

- i) the **increase in quality of life** through higher living standards and Cultural lifestyle diversity- and
- ii) the **attraction to certain human capital** knowledge-based workers, entrepreneurs and creative industries gurus.



# From Place-based Approach To Implementation-based Approach











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# A Spatial focus on Downtown San Diego Urban Context



Downtown San Diego seven Neighborhoods.

#### DOWNTOWN ZIP CODE



		RESIDENTS	MALE-TO- FEMALE RATIO	BACHELOR'S Degree or Higher	AVERAGE INCOME	RENTERS	STARTUPS PER 10,000 PEOPLE
	DOWNTOWN	34,550	60:40	51%	\$73,756	76%	15.34
	COUNTY	3.3 M	50:50	34%	\$59,414	46%	1.35

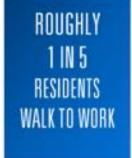
SD Downtown residents' in comparison to SD county, are more educated, well-paid, more male. Source: Data of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015.







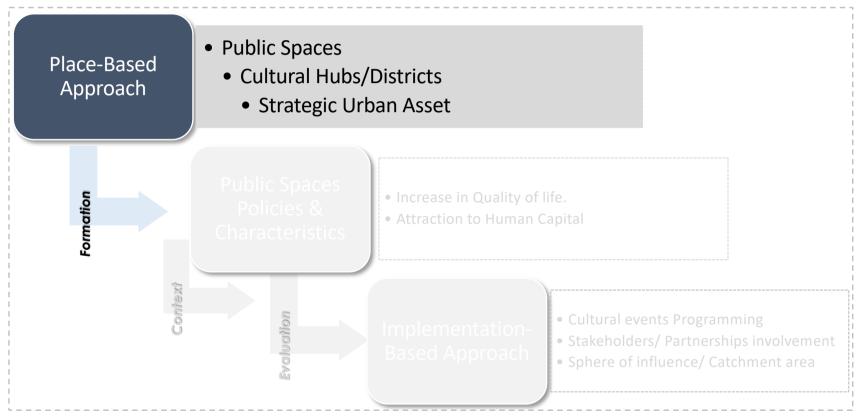




Source: SANDAG, Geographic Boundary Viewer, 2016



## **Formation Process**









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#### **Downtown San Diego Public Spaces and Parks / Cultural Cluster**

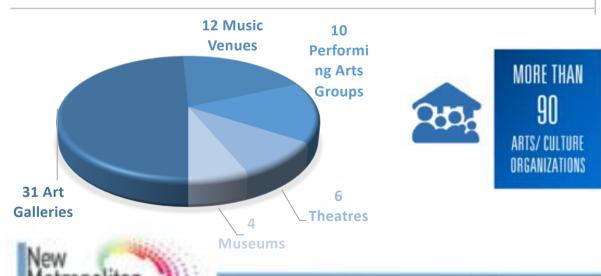


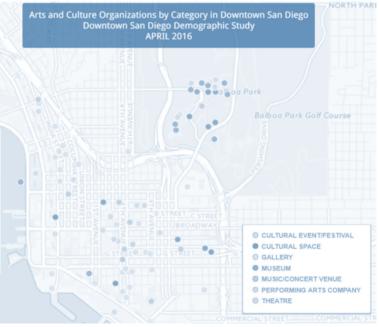




PARKS & ACTIVE SPACES IN DOWNTOWN

Public spaces, open and active parks in Downtown SD, year 2016.





Arts and cultural organizations Cluster in Downtown San Diego, Source: Carto, commissioned by DSDP, April 2016.

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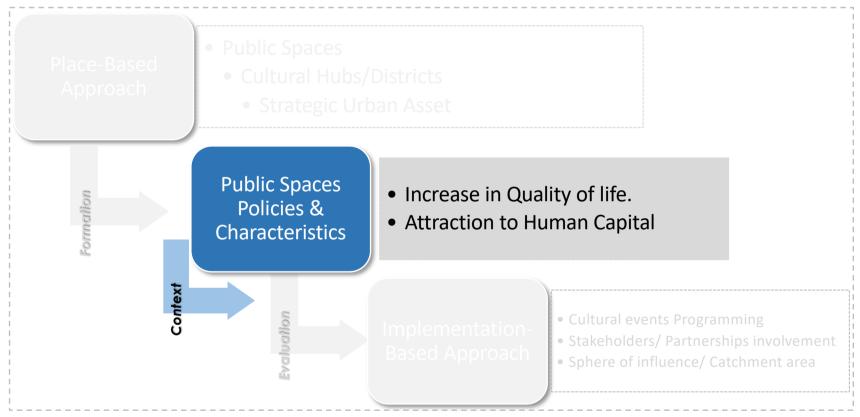








## Downtown San Diego Contextual Analysis







# 1st Verification Criterion: Increase in Quality of Life



Moving Parklets as seen around the Downtown .
Diego area.

- Placemaking Strategies
- Tactical Urbanism Techniques
- Lighter,Quicker,Cheaper















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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Verification Criteria: Human Capital Attraction

2017 Rank for the Startup Activity Index by Metropolitan Area



SAN DIEGO INNOVATION STARTUPS CREATED 1,650 NEW JOBS IN 2015

Top Sectors

906 NEW SOFTWARE JOBS CREATED

342

NEW COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS

JOBS CREATED

330

NEW LIFE SCIENCES
JOBS CREATED







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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Verification Criteria: Human Capital Attraction

#### 2011 | 1 Software Company



2013 | 24 Software Companies

2012 | 8 Software Companies



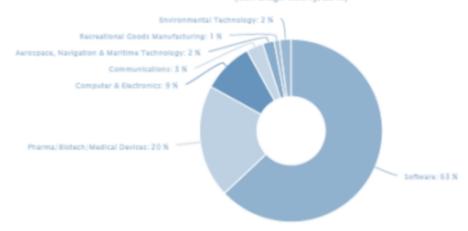
2014 | 23 Software Companies



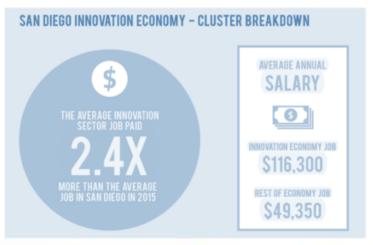
Growth of software Startups cluster in Downtown SD till year 2014. Source: DSDP, 2016

#### Percentage of Startup Companies Created by Sector

(San Diego County, 2015)



Source: CONNECT San Diego Innovation Report, year 2016







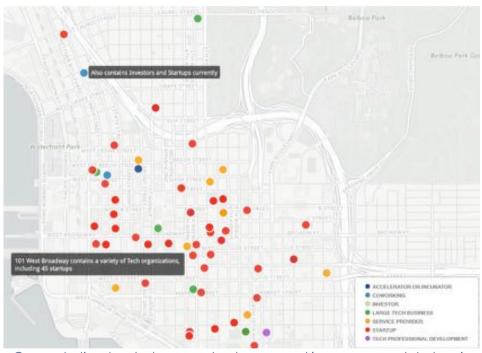




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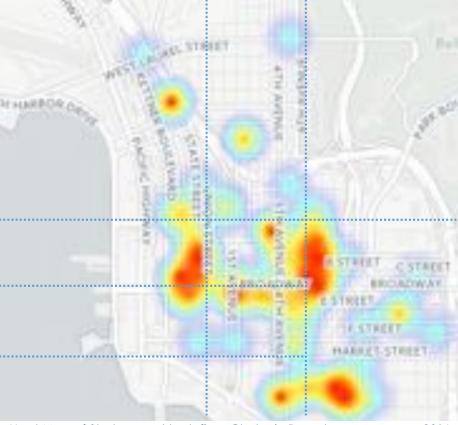


# 2<sup>nd</sup> Verification Criteria: Human Capital Attraction



Concentration Incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces, and startups in Downtown, year 2016.

Source: https://dsdp2015.carto.com/viz/b09e6e4a-d36f-11e5-8737-0e3ff518bd15/public\_map



Heat Map of Startups and tech firms Cluster in Downtown area, year 2016.



















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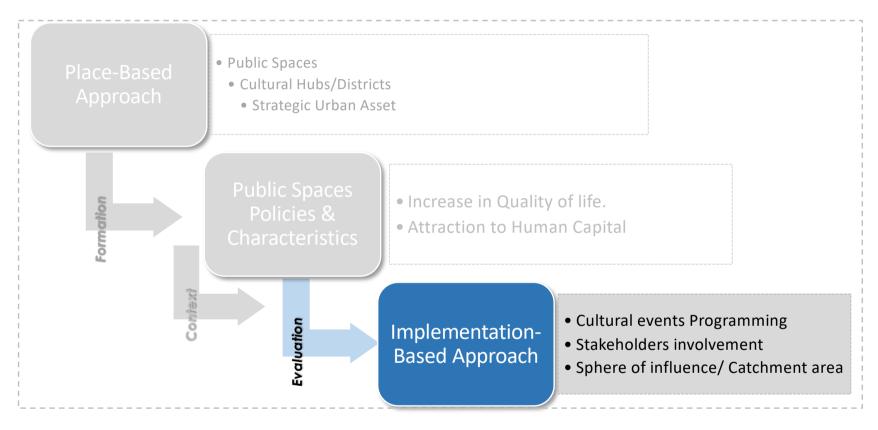




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# From place-based approach to implementation-based approach





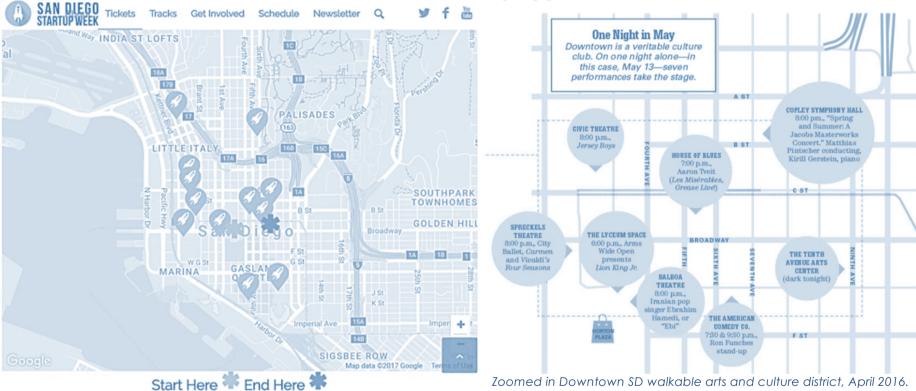




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# 1st Measurement Tool: Cultural Events Programming and Occurrence



the dynamic crawl of Downtown san Diego startup scene, June 2016. Source: https://sandiegostartupweek.com/2016-downtown-startup-crawl/#top

Zoomed in Downtown SD walkable arts and culture district, April 2016.
Source: <a href="http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/San-Diego-">http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/San-Diego-</a>
Magazine/May-2017/The-New-Downtown-San-Diego/Downtown-Has-an-Unofficial-Arts-District/

Result: Successful Socio-Cultural Development Policies are effectively put in Place and implemented





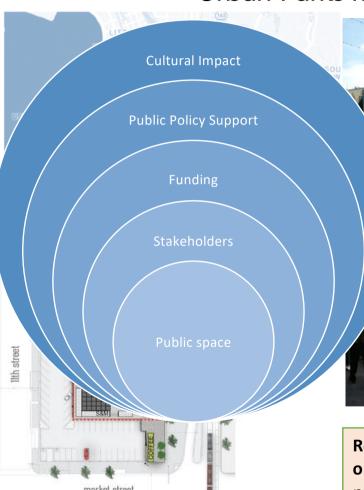




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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Measurement Tool: Stakeholders Involvement Urban Parks model: The Quartyard case Study









Views from inside the **Quartyard** urban park, source: the researcher





Variety of cultural events occurrence in **Quartyard** urban park

Results: Activation of vacant lots as public urban spaces when rightly orchestrated through Stakeholders Involvement, funding provision, and public policy support (land ownership) have a wider cultural impact on surrounding Communities.







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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Measurement Tool: Sphere of Influence/ Catchment area Co-working spaces model: Downtown Works case Study



Downtown Works location, Spring 2017. Source: the author after HERE maps.



Views from inside the Downtown Works Co-Working Space, source: the researcher



Exemplar Networking events in Downtown Works Co-Working Space.

Results: facilitated Public Policies for small Businesses development, missing Educational anchor institution in Downtown area and cross-border Tijuana Connection effects on talented labor pool.













# Findings and Conclusions







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# Findings

Downtown San Diego Case Study Summary								
Concept	Criteria of evaluation	Measurement tool	Assessment results					
Place-based Approach	<ul><li>Socio-cultural context</li><li>Governmental policies</li><li>Economic development</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Demographical context</li> <li>Arts and cultural hotspots</li> <li>Open spaces and Parks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Proximity to transportation,</li> <li>high walkability score,</li> <li>vicinity to amenities</li> </ul>					
Cultural Hubs/ Districts	<ul> <li>Quality of life increase</li> <li>Human capital attraction</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Vibrant spaces in area</li><li>Startups located in area</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Effective planning strategies with small scale defective land ownership issues.</li> <li>High wage multiplier for certain sectors.</li> </ul>					
Implementation  – based Approach	<ul> <li>Cultural Programming</li> <li>Stakeholders involvement</li> <li>Sphere of influence/ catchment area</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cultural Events occurrence</li> <li>Variety of cultural scene</li> <li>The rippling effects of innovation scene.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Diversity in implementation techniques</li> <li>Wider Cultural impact</li> <li>Cross-border labor relations,</li> <li>missing Educational</li> </ul>					





Anchor institution





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# Conclusions

Downtown San Diego is not lagging as a Cultural Hub/ district, it works as a strong urban asset, and strong policies are proven to be a driver for cultural-led urban development.

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On one hand, DSDP is playing a protagonist role to pace out physical changes in area that are connected to art and culture venues in downtown. On the other hand, the private sector has the upper hand; yet the cultural vibrancy is undeniable.



- Downtown area lacks an educational anchor institution
- Governmental Facilitation is low profile, yet for small businesses is effective.
- Connection to Labour pool in between downtown area and Tijuana Border ripples the Cultural Cluster effects.











# Thank you!

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