

Local Transition Forum

Our old paradigm is increasingly cracked and obsolete. Covid-19 has sped things up. The centrality of the local, live and earth, the necessity of a socio-ecological transition has gained ground. The Pandemic has shown the importance of strong, caring, and resilient local communities. People turn out to be social, caring, and reciprocal. In cities struggling with inequality, movements for a more just city and local circular economy are flourishing. There, residents are active in neighborhood groups, citizen committees, energy collectives, and food cooperatives. They are tackling major issues such as the climate crisis, energy transition, and gentrification. With their own currency and their own solidarity-based neighborhood economies. With commons and cooperatives in care, shelter, and other services. With squares and parks under our own management, the city as common property, the city as a commons.

Amsterdam wants to play a pioneering role in a growing movement of cities that are looking for ways to shape the challenges of our time, and intends to play a pioneering role in the international networks of progressive city councils and local social movements.

About us: the 99 van Amsterdam and the Fearless City Program

De 99 van Amsterdam (de 99) is a do and think tank, consisting of a small team and falls under the Fearless City program of the municipality of Amsterdam. We collect ideas, initiatives, experiences, and *best practices* and make them accessible. In addition, we conduct research and develop municipalist strategies and visions to contribute to Amsterdam as a city of change.

The name 'de 99' refers to two types of 99. The 99 neighborhoods of Amsterdam where we live, know each other, do our shopping and our children play in the street. The 99 also refers to the 99 percent of the world, the vast majority of people who are excluded from power and are not among the enormously wealthy 1 percent.

Forum - Cities for Change

The forum in Amsterdam will start at the end of March and run until the end of May. For a large part, it is about the process itself, in which we are shaping a common story with many others in order to keep collaborating after May. We are thinking about a decentralized event, in which different cities and towns will celebrate their own forum on the date that is more convenient for them. The forum will focus on the social, ecological, and democratic transition, and on local wellbeing. We want to bring together as many local initiatives and movements from Europe and beyond as possible: civil society organizations, social movements, (members of) political parties, trade unions, and just active citizens. People do not necessarily have to agree on everything: mutual acquaintance, exchange, inspiration, solidarity, connection, and fun are central.

Program & Actors

The program will be shaped locally and in collaboration with many groups and actors. The intention is to create a program that is widely supported that would facilitate long-term collaborations. Ultimately we want to contribute to a stronger ecosystem of organizations and groups that can bring about bottom-up system change. We work with actors from all over Europe to jointly develop a translocal vision of the city and its economic model.

- Working groups for the program.
 - We are working on the governance: local groups would autonomously decide the program, communication, etc + coordination meetings for common things.
 - We are exploring how related groups view this. What would be important for them? how does it align with their programs and agendas?
- We would like to organize the Forum as a real open process, as for example the WSF.
- The online participatory platform is being developed with Decidim software.
- Hybrid program. Within each local corona measures, we envision a curated and layered hybrid program, between online and offline. This mix offers a more playful and flexible character, a kind of political festival with room for more creativity to show our ideas.
- The program also has a political-institutional dimension. Mayor and aldermen of different cities will act together and thus advocate a different policy. This adds to the story, to the new European story, and gives strength to the movements. At the same time, movements will give strength and inspiration to the institutional actors.

Actors we would want to get involved

1. Municipalist organizations and networks
2. Civil Society Organizations: social movements, NGOs, etc
3. Big actors: think tanks, political projects, parties, etc
4. City Halls
5. Social entrepreneurs + small business, cooperative movement
6. Media: web portals, journalists, radio broadcaster
7. Academy: intellectuals, scholars, etc
8. Artists
9. Philanthropy organizations
10. Spirituality and emotions

Narrative & Focus

Shift the paradigm. We need a new social and economic model for our societies. For that, we have to get released from those values that hold the structures of power that maintain some people under other's will:

Key concept: Transitions

We identified 4 working tracks in which we would organize the different activities:

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| - Colonialism, racism,... | → Towards equity |
| - Patriarchy, sexism, ... | → Towards feminism |
| - Neoliberalism, growth, extractivism... | → Towards regenerative systems/sustainability |
| - Individualism, consumerism, ... | → Towards community |

Core values and context for framing the forum

Post-corona live

- Use the forum for making a balance of the learnings of the lockdown and the change we lived during corona times: what was better before, what is better now, etc

Translocal change:

- Cities and towns together can change society, from the bottom up. It is in towns that people live, and it is at this local level that people can take power.

Rural areas, agroecology and sustainable food systems

- Give centrality to small villages and the countryside and the connection and interdependency with cities and metropolitan areas

Global togetherness

- We are in front of a civilization leap (one global society, limits of the Earth, communion of spiritualities and religions, etc)
- Re-scalization of humankind. Narrative: universe, animal, togetherness
- Anti-ego narrative

Cooperation

- Avoid seeing politics as a zero-sum game - competition is a luxury
- Generosity. Share knowledge, experiences, practices, contacts, skills, etc