





City Blocks Urban Furniture
1275 West 6th Ave, Vancouver BC
Call us at 604-676-1450
Email us at hi@cityblocks.io
www.cityblocks.io
www.studiomeanwhile.com



DESIGNED BY MEANWHILE

Founded in 2013 in Vancouver, Studio Meanwhile is reimagining how we design and activate urban spaces. Meanwhile's purpose is clear: to create urban spaces that serve everyone.

As an international design studio working in the United States and Canada, Meanwhile operates as a registered benefit corporation with a triple bottom line business focus. Meaning we proudly honour our obligation to serve people, places, and the planet with our business.

For more than 12 years, Meanwhile has been at the forefront of transforming urban landscapes, blending industrial design with creative placemaking to deliver solutions that empower communities to thrive. Placemaking isn't just an outcome here—our design and products are tools for shaping how we live, connect, and share public space in cities.

In 2020, Meanwhile launched City Blocks Urban Furniture, a modular, adaptive, and customizable product line designed to reimagine public spaces, like plazas, streets and parks. These solutions are not just furniture—they are building blocks for better cities, designed to foster connection and enhance the experience of shared environments.

From the bustling energy of downtowns to the quiet corners of neighbourhood plazas, Meanwhile's designs are reshaping how we experience urban life. Projects throughout Vancouver, BC, and beyond stand as lasting testaments to their commitment to building accessible, vibrant, and inclusive spaces. Headquartered in Vancouver, Meanwhile is led by Founder and Creative Director Chris Charest, whose vision continues to push the boundaries of global urban design.

With every project, Meanwhile is setting a new standard for what it means to make cities work better — for everyone.





OUR MANIFESTO | URBAN SPACE FOR ALL

Shaping a city, or any space for that matter, for people is inherently a political act. Not much different from the street artist who picks up a can of spray paint to mark their form of urban renewal on the wall of a building, some city-shaping is planned, and some happens as our cities take on lives of their own, with people making public spaces their own. Either way, our cities change every day. Our responsibility as citizens is to shape them together for the benefit of everyone. Our mental well-being is interwoven with our experiences in the public spaces available to us and all around us. Public spaces are the backdrop and setting for all our lives. The street is common ground and an equalizer for all. At their best, cities foster togetherness, playfulness, inspiration, inclusion, curiosity, and even awe. At Meanwhile, our designs are a positive projection of how we envision cities and urban spaces ought to be. Our products are here to inspire these changes—a prolific space to sit, a place to play with your kids, a spot for a new business to serve its community, a piece of urban art that sparks curiosity about the world around you. We serve with tools for placemakers. **Urban space is for everyone, and our design is too.** We're here to build better hoods—we know you are too. We would love to hear the story of your neighbourhood and the changes you're working on, and we hope we can lend a hand in making it a better place.

CITY•BLOCKS

CHRIS CHAREST, FOUNDER
STUDIO MEANWHILE
CITY BLOCKS URBAN FURNITURE
VANCOUVER BC
01/09/2024



YOUR
THIRD SPACES

RE-IMAGINE
YOUR
PUBLIC SPACES
RE-IMAGINE
YOUR
PUBLIC SPACES
RE-IMAGINE
YOUR
PUBLIC SPACES
RE-IMAGINE
YOUR
PUBLIC SPACES
RE-IMAGINE
YOUR
PUBLIC SPACES
RE-IMAGINE
YOUR

&

PLACEMAKERS
COLLABORATORS
DESIGNERS
DREAMERS
DO-ERS
TACTICAL
URBANISTS
POCKET PARKS
SUPER BLOCKS
PLACEMAKERS
COLLABORATORS
DESIGNERS
DREAMERS
DO-ERS
TACTICAL
URBANISTS
POCKET PARKS
SUPER BLOCKS
COLLABORATORS
PEOPLE PLACES





MEANWHILE IN ... SOUTH GRANVILLE

A PEDESTRIAN PLAZA PLAYGROUND

14th and Granville plaza, Vancouver BC

Meanwhile in South Granville...

The South Granville BIA teamed up with Meanwhile to reimagine their neighbourhood plaza. The goal was to create a safer, more harmonious environment where cyclists and pedestrians could share the space without frequent conflicts.

The plaza had been closed to traffic as part of the City of Vancouver's open streets program, but it was in poor condition and not receiving attention from the city. It lacked street furniture, had no clearly marked bike lanes, and, despite becoming increasingly popular with local residents, was missing essential amenities.

The challenge was clear: implement a tactical urban intervention to turn the plaza into a local destination using street art and street furniture.

First, to address the lack of clear bike lane boundaries, we proposed an asphalt art installation. Partnering with the WKNDRS, a local artist duo, we organized a community paint day where participants helped create a vibrant mural that delineated the bike lane from the pedestrian zone.

Next, we introduced City Blocks' Urban Furniture.

Along the bike lane, we strategically placed planters and benches using our Pocket Blocks, transforming these areas into popular spots for visitors. Finally, we added a series of City Blocks urban loungers to take advantage of the plaza's sunny afternoons, attracting frequent sunbathers and making it the best place to relax along South Granville.

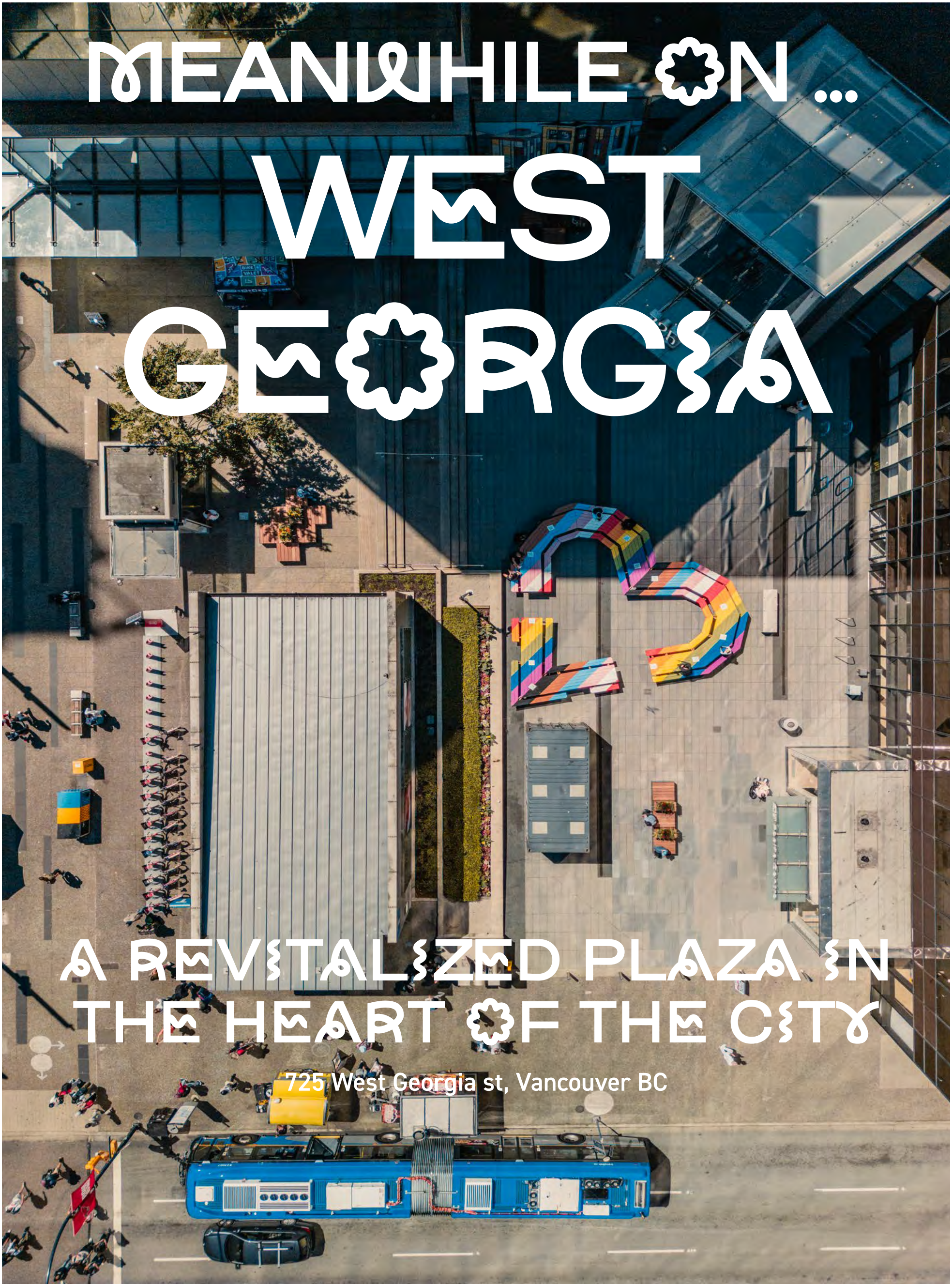
With the city recently designating the plaza as an outdoor alcoholic beverage zone, it has transformed into a lively hub for game nights and social gatherings, becoming a vibrant and cherished community space in South Granville.



The City Blocks team collaborated with Claire and Rachel AKA The WKNDRS to organize a community paint day for a giant asphalt art mural spanning an entire CITY BLOCK.

[@WKNDRSFORLIFE](#)





725 West Georgia st, Vancouver BC

Meanwhile on West Georgia...

725 West Georgia Street Plaza was recently a vacant area after a major retailer abruptly exited its lease, leaving the space lifeless and devoid of people.

Enter Meanwhile...

Our client sought solutions for the void left in what was once a thriving space—they needed a Meanwhile intervention.

Our challenge was to reinvigorate the plaza for existing tenants and shoppers who had lost amenities due to the vacancy.

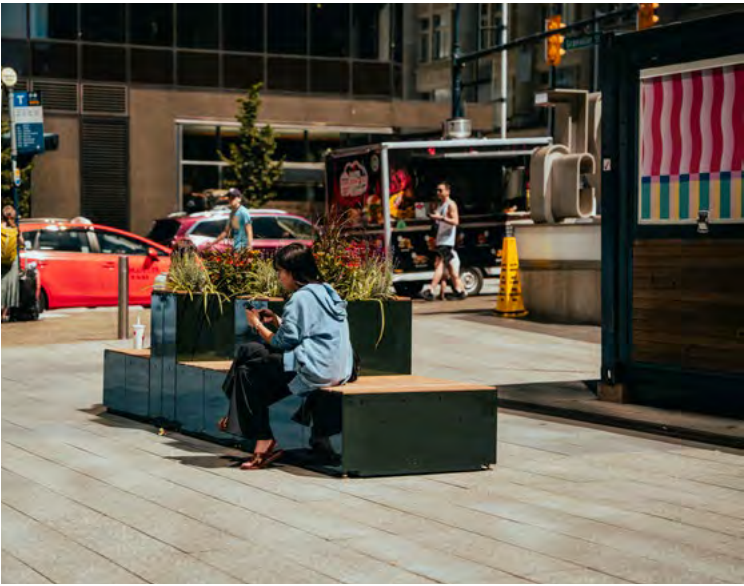
We took a classic approach, returning to our urban magnet DNA strategy: make the space welcoming and sittable so people feel comfortable lingering. We transformed the plaza into a new pocket park and encouraged vendor pop-up spaces—because nothing creates activity like good food.

“PEOPLE TEND TO SIT WHERE THERE ARE PLACES TO SIT”

- WILLIAM H. WHYTE

To make it sittable, we used our adaptive street furniture, Pocket Blocks seating, creating urban oasis-like clusters that invite people to linger, have lunch, and socialize. The Pocket Blocks can be endlessly rearranged and reconfigured by the client, allowing the plaza to shift and transform with the seasons and over the years.

This straightforward yet impactful transformation turned an empty expanse into a vibrant, people-focused magnet on West Georgia Street, demonstrating that even the most overlooked spaces can be revitalized with Meanwhile strategies for public spaces.



POCKET BLOCKS

CREATE PROLIFICLY SITTABLE SPACES WITH POCKET BLOCKS.

Pocket parks are an urban planning strategy aimed at reclaiming streets and public spaces from vehicles, reducing pollution, and promoting pedestrian and cyclist-friendly environments.

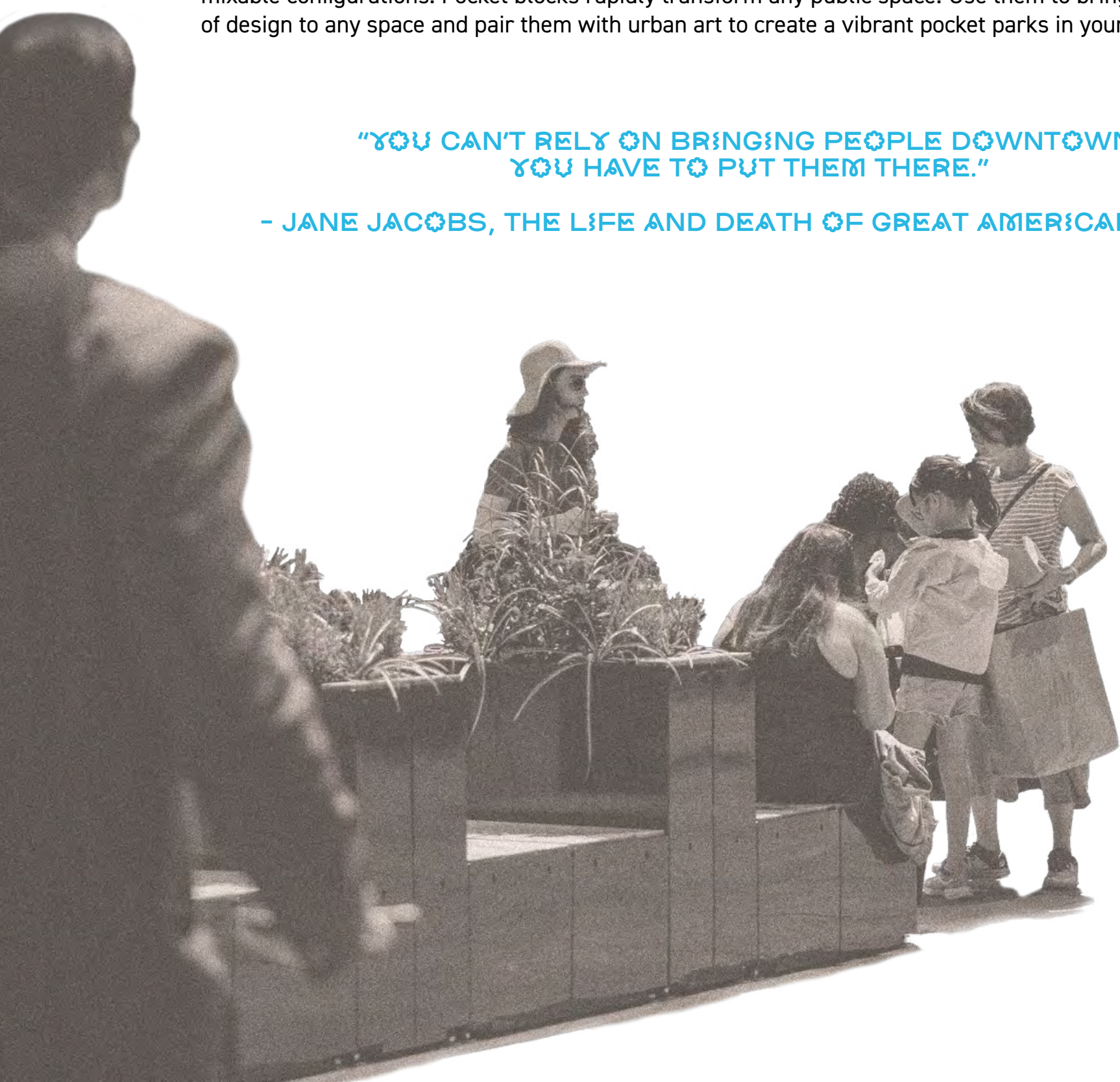
The heart of this initiative are the plazas, streets and sidewalks that are expanded and transformed and reconfigured to prioritize pedestrians and community activities, bringing a newfound sense of well-being to neighbourhoods that host pocket parks.

Our pocket blocks serve as versatile elements for transforming overlooked spaces into vibrant social hubs.

Our design inspires adaptability and modularity. When installed, Pocket Blocks offer an endless array of re-mixable configurations. Pocket blocks rapidly transform any public space. Use them to bring a biophilic sense of design to any space and pair them with urban art to create a vibrant pocket parks in your neighbourhood.

"YOU CAN'T RELY ON BRINGING PEOPLE DOWNTOWN,
YOU HAVE TO PUT THEM THERE."

- JANE JACOBS, THE LIFE AND DEATH OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES



HEMISPHERE SERIES



BACKREST SQUARE

RECTANGLE



AND WAVY SERIES

WAVY BLOCKS

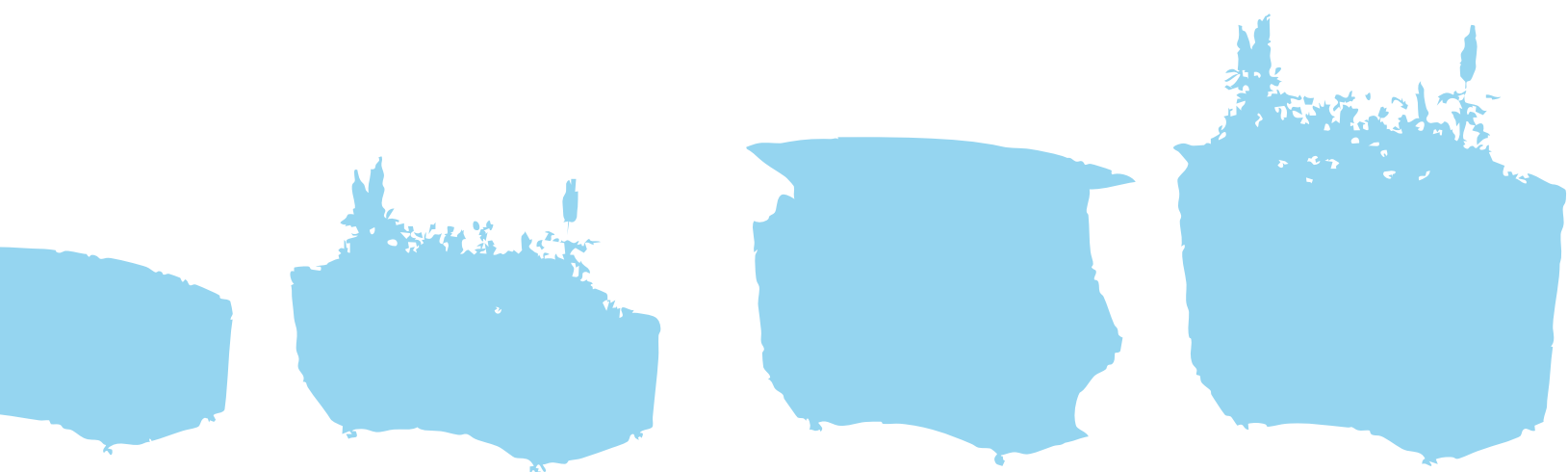
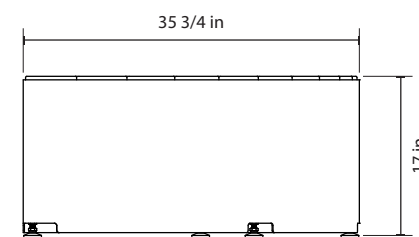
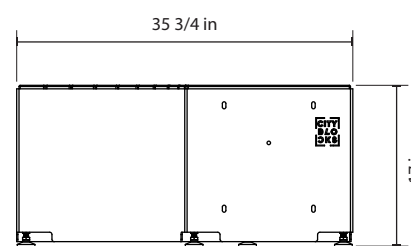
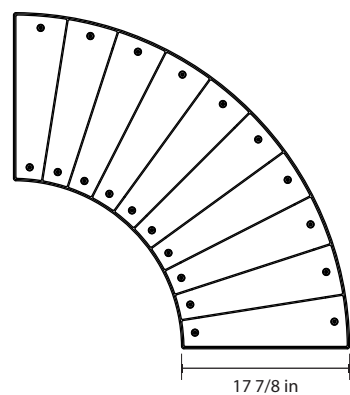


WAVY BLOCKS

Arch is designed to host groups of people in outdoor settings, adding a pop of colour to any public space

The Arch Table is built from 5052 Aluminum as its base body, powder coated in your choice of colour finish.

With sturdy wood slats for the table and benches, the Arch table is designed to last and become a magnet for social connection in any public space for years to come.



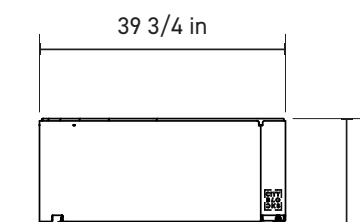
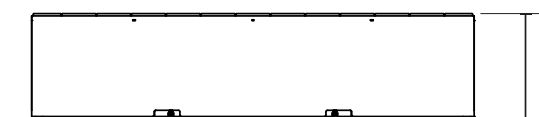
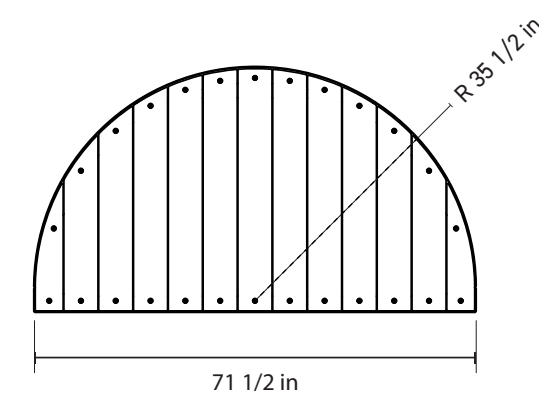
HEMISPHERE



HEMISPHERE SERIES

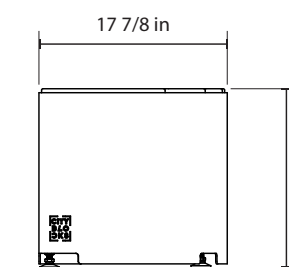
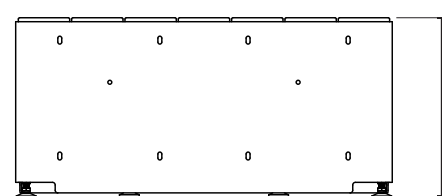
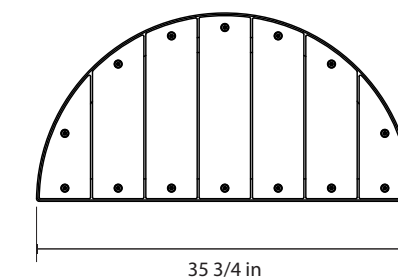
Doluptat quo tem facero mos rendusam ditio. Hil iducienimil est ommo omnis et dolor sit lanimagmet maiorrovit, que sint, sequamusciis eleste il invella ndionsequam illique comnis auda quodio de quam que illabor sumquas sed et dolorei caepudam, vero debita la venisi nonseditisit aut ipsaecto volest, sandaecat dolorectus aute magnatust unt officipis re nost, cus molupiciat quae. Nisque lab is voloriatiste et dolecum am evere volo qui omnihilit volupta dolupta sa nonestis et odignit ut quam esciisque ducid molores torerrum id quis idus nit as dolupti culpa con nobitae ea

HEMISPHERE



Doluptat quo tem facero mos rendusam ditio. Hil iducienimil est ommo omnis et dolor sit lanimagmet maiorrovit, que sint, sequamusciis eleste il invella ndionsequam illique comnis auda quodio de quam que illabor sumquas sed et dolorei caepudam, vero debita la venisi nonseditisit aut ipsaecto volest, sandaecat dolorectus aute magnatust unt officipis re nost, cus molupiciat quae. Nisque lab is voloriatiste et dolecum am evere volo qui omnihilit volupta dolupta sa nonestis et odignit ut quam esciisque ducid molores torerrum id quis idus nit as dolupti culpa con nobitae ea

MINI HEMISPHERE



PETAL BLOCKS



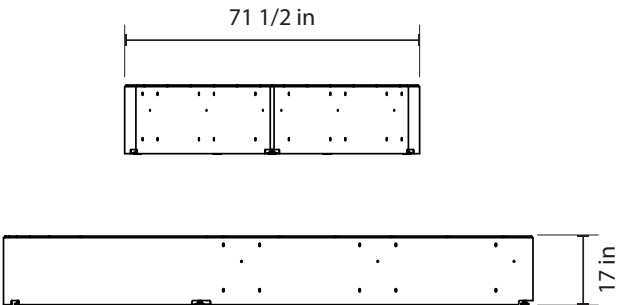
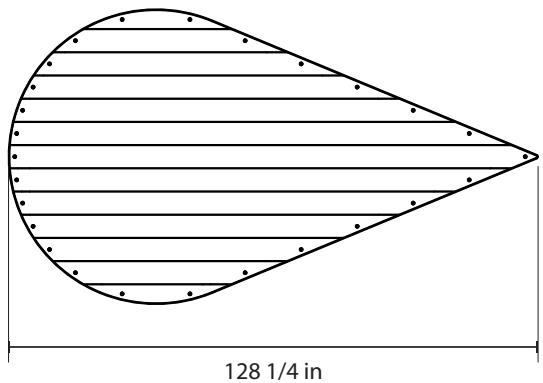
PETAL BLOCKS

LOWLINE LOUNGER DESIGN

Our Low Line Street Lounger is inspired by the movement in cities around the world seeking to transform under used urban spaces into people oriented urban places, with Low Line parks. Inspired by New York’s Highline with these park movements. The Low Line Street Lounger is based on our original lounger with a low seat pocket ergonomic groove. It calls out to people passing by to take a seat, lean back and stay a while in the 'hood.

LOWLINE LOUNGER DESIGN

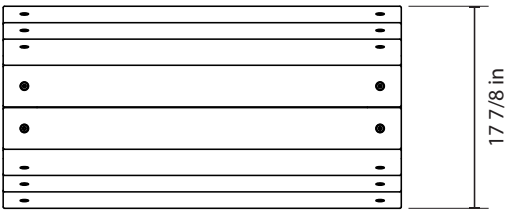
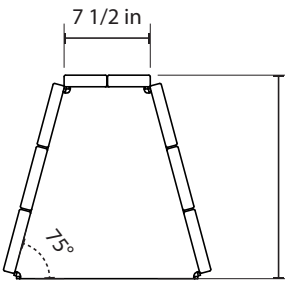
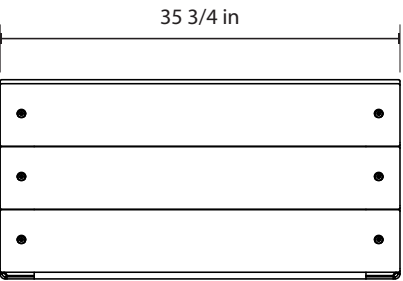
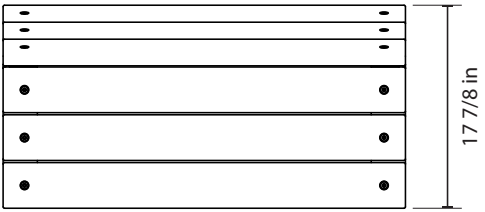
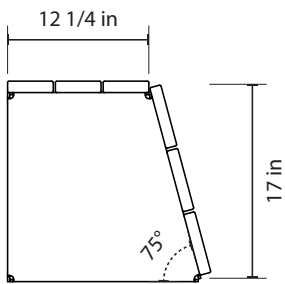
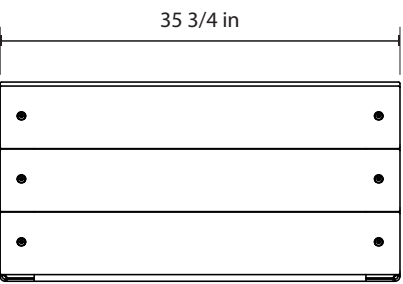
Our Low Line Street Lounger is inspired by the movement in cities around the world seeking to transform under used urban spaces into people oriented urban places, with Low Line parks. Inspired by New York’s Highline with these park movements. The Low Line Street Lounger is based on our original lounger with a low seat pocket ergonomic groove. It calls out to people passing by to take a seat, lean back and stay a while in the 'hood.



BACKREST

LOWLINE LOUNGER DESIGN

Our Low Line Street Lounger is inspired by the movement in cities around the world seeking to transform under used urban spaces into people oriented urban places, with Low Line parks. Inspired by New York’s Highline with these park movements. The Low Line Street Lounger is based on our original lounger with a low seat pocket ergonomic groove. It calls out to people passing by to take a seat, lean back and stay a while in the 'hood.



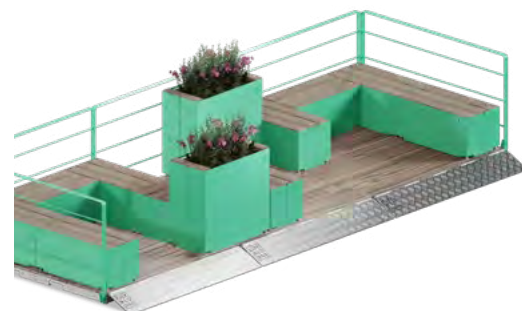
BACKREST





SUPER BLOCKS

Ask us about
a Parklet
strategy for your
community



Barcelona's **Superblocks**, or "*Superilles*" in Catalan, represent a pioneering approach to urban planning that reimagines how city spaces are utilized. First introduced in 2016, this innovative concept seeks to address the challenges of congestion, pollution, and the lack of public space in urban environments. **The idea was born out of the city's need to create more livable sustainable neighborhoods that prioritize people over cars.**

Our Super Blocks, are a new toolkit for urbanists by City Blocks. Just like their urban counterparts, SuperBlocks reclaim your environment, creating vibrant, sustainable spaces that enhance community well-being. **By prioritizing modularity and adaptability and flexible design principles to streets, these tools help create thriving walkable neighbourhoods.** Designed as a kit of parts system, which may be easily relocated, reconfigured, upgraded and improved over time as your community changes.

Ask us for more information about how Super Blocks can re-imagine your street.

We can design an implementation plan that will generate revenue for your BID or City with Super Blocks parklets and our rental program.



RE-IMAGINE YOUR STREETS
SUPER BLOCKS
RE-IMAGINE YOUR STREETS
SUPER BLOCKS
RE-IMAGINE YOUR STREETS
SUPER BLOCKS
RE-IMAGINE YOUR STREETS

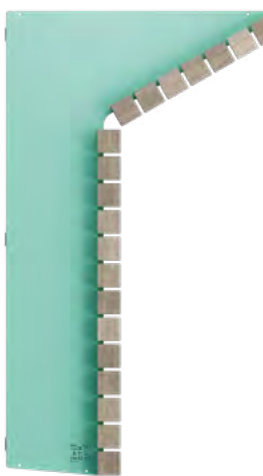
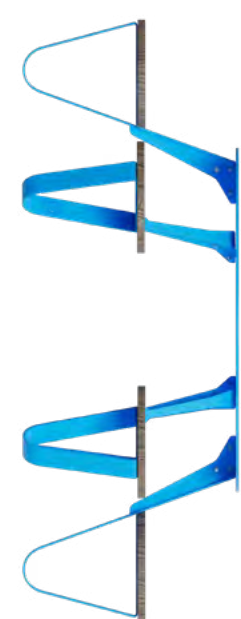
Meet the fam... POCKETBLOCKS. CITY PONG. WOONERF. HIGHLINE. LOWLINE. ARCH.

CITY BLOCKS URBAN FURNITURE

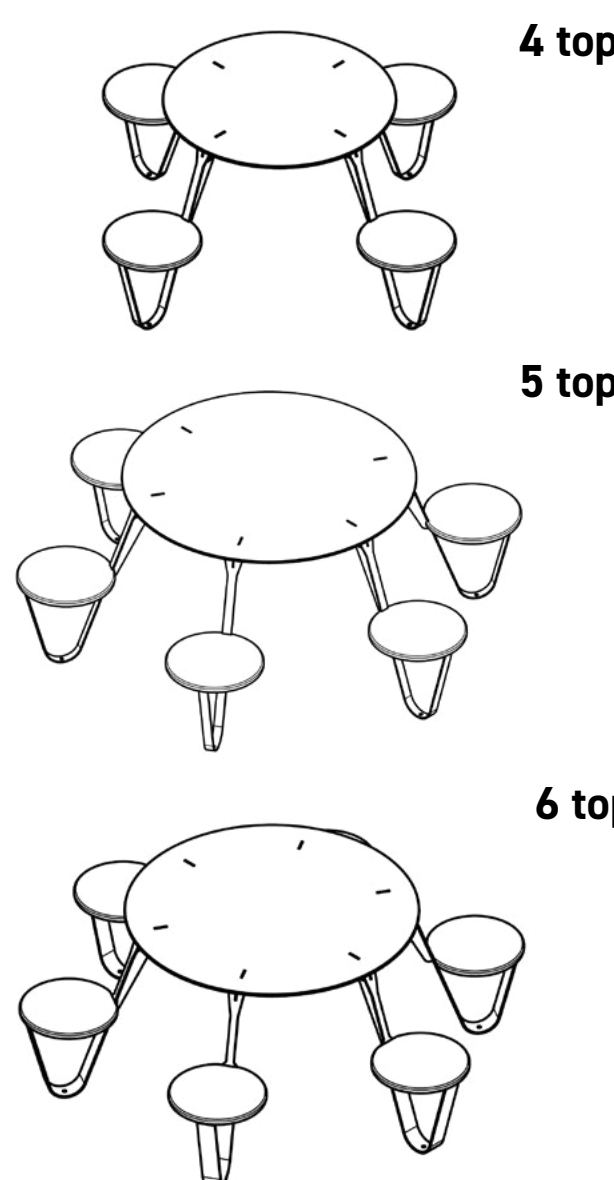
Our City Blocks Urban Furniture catalog is a toolkit of urban furniture designed by urbanists for placemakers.

City Blocks Urban Furniture is designed to foster connection in public spaces. These tools are “adaptive,” meaning they account for the way streets and public spaces evolve, serving as flexible, modular amenities for years to come in your public realm projects.

Our design philosophy with City Blocks is centred on the belief that streets are the common ground we all share. They represent the public spaces that connect us in our neighbourhoods, travels, and daily experiences. Streets should be designed, built, and shared with an inclusive, accessible, and multi-functional approach for everyone who uses them.



WOONERF



THE WOONERF TABLE FAMILY

WAIT, WHAT IS A WOONERF?

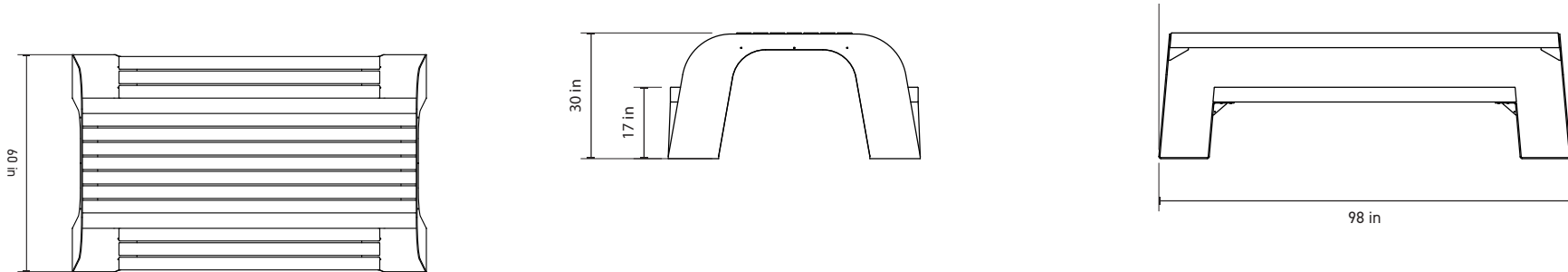
A “Woonerf” is a Dutch term that translates to “living street.”

It refers to a type of residential street design that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists over motor vehicles, creating a shared space where cars, bicycles, and people can coexist safely. **Born in 1970’s Delft, the Netherlands knew back then that streets for people create happy communities and places.**

Our Woonerf tables are designed to create these shared spaces: add them to plazas, streets and shared spaces. Woonerfs are a hub for human connection, built for inclusivity and accessibility. **Everyone has a seat at the Woonerf table.**

Woonerfs are available in 3 distinct offerings, a smaller 4-seat woonerf designed for micro spaces.

A 5-seat Woonerf which is designed to be fully wheel-chair accessible and a large 6-seat Woonerf.



THE ARCH PICNIC TABLE

Arch is a new picnic table from City Blocks it features...

A universally accessible design; each end of the table acts as a place where a person using a wheelchair may comfortably sit at the table.

At City Blocks our guiding principle is to build urban space for all in our cities and public spaces.

Our public spaces should be inclusive, inviting, functional and fun.

Arch is designed to host groups of people in outdoor settings, adding a pop of colour to any public space

The Arch Table is built from 5052 Aluminum as its base body, powder coated in your choice of colour finish.

With sturdy wood slats for the table and benches, the Arch table is designed to last and become a magnet for social connection in any public space for years to come.

CITY PONG TABLE TENNIS

Whiff Waff, Ping-Pong or Flim-Flam.

No matter what you call it, City Pong brings the fun to any place!!

With an inspired Art-Deco style, City Pong is designed to make a statement in your public space.

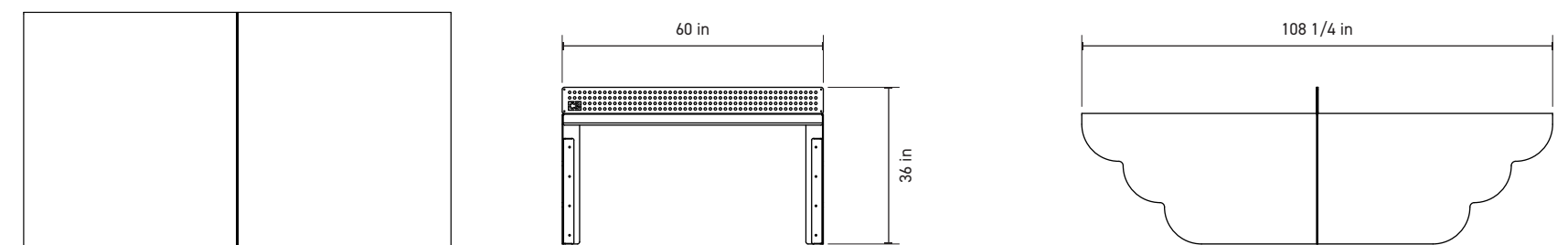
With custom paint and graphic options available, this is the must have item for placemakers to make any place pop!

The City Pong table is built from 5052 Aluminum as its base body, powder coated in your choice of colour finish.

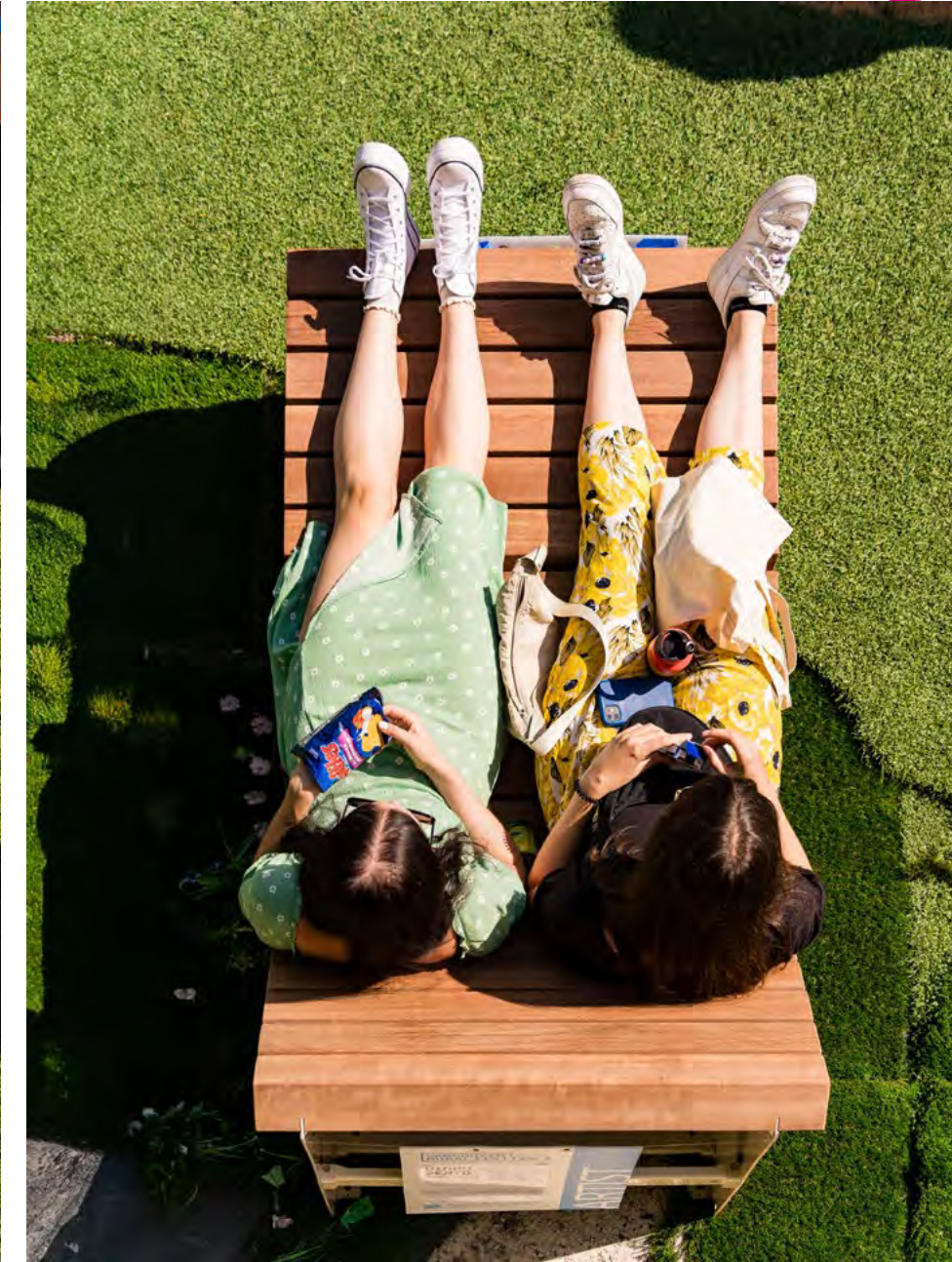
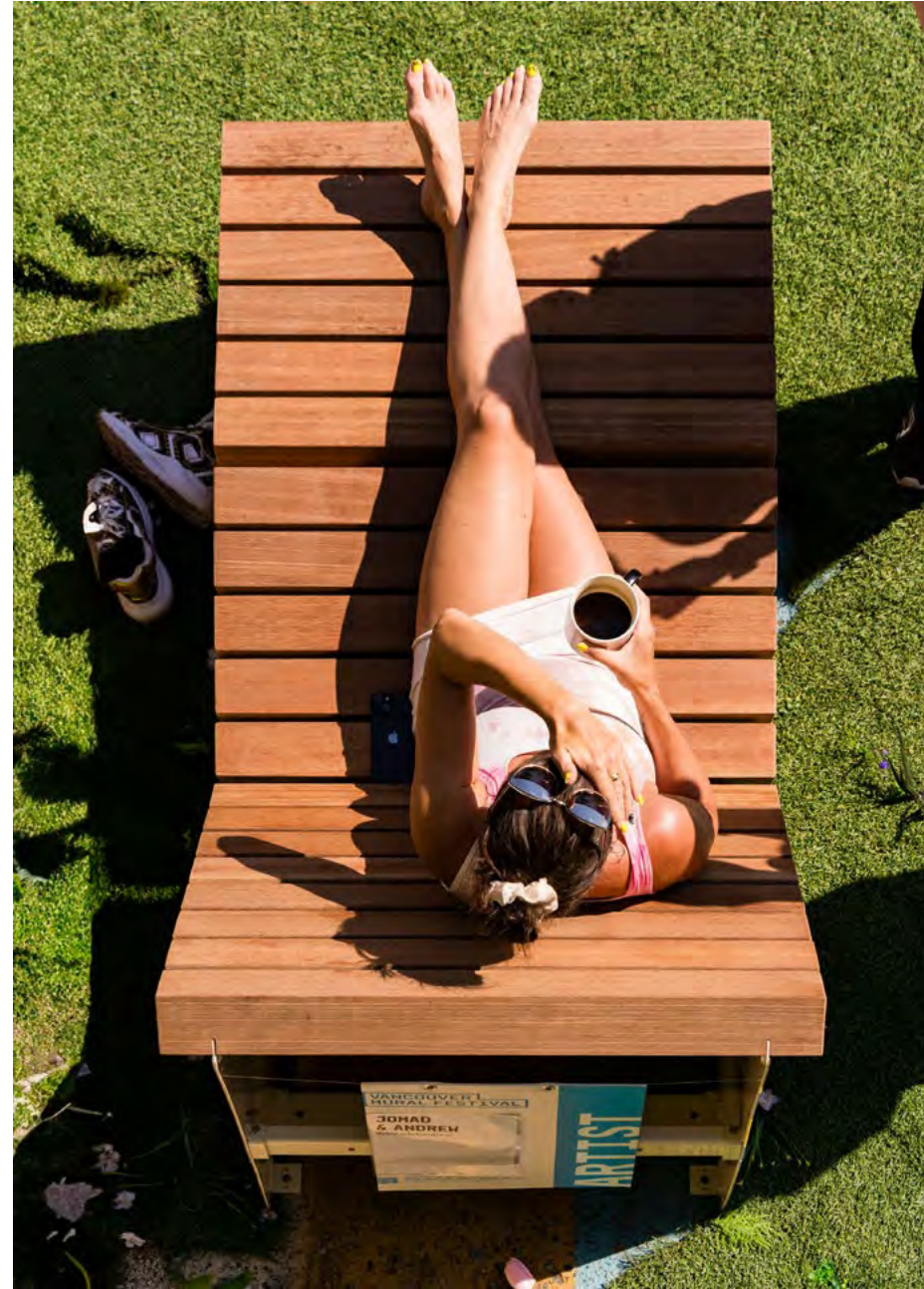
A colour contrasting aluminum inlay makes the net easy to see in the middle of an intense rally.

It's is designed to be flat packed and assembled on site which means no cranes needed even for a piece this size!

The City Pong table is designed to last and become a magnet for social connection and play in any public space.



LOUNGERS



LOWLINE LOUNGER

LOWLINE LOUNGER DESIGN

Our Low Line Street Lounger is inspired by the movement in cities around the world seeking to transform under used urban spaces into people oriented urban places, with Low Line parks. Inspired by New York's Highline with these park movements. The Low Line Street Lounger is based on our original lounger with a low seat pocket ergonomic groove. It calls out to people passing by to take a seat, lean back and stay a while in the 'hood.

LOWLINE LOUNGER PRODUCT

The Low Line Lounger is a laid-back addition to any landscape. The low seat line groove creates a natural ergonomic pocket, ensuring maximum chill for those seeking relaxation in urban settings. Versatile and adaptable, the Low Line Lounger is designed to work seamlessly in both multi-piece linear arrangements or as a striking solo feature. Its modern aesthetic makes it a statement piece for plazas, public spaces, or any destination aiming to offer an inviting place to unwind.



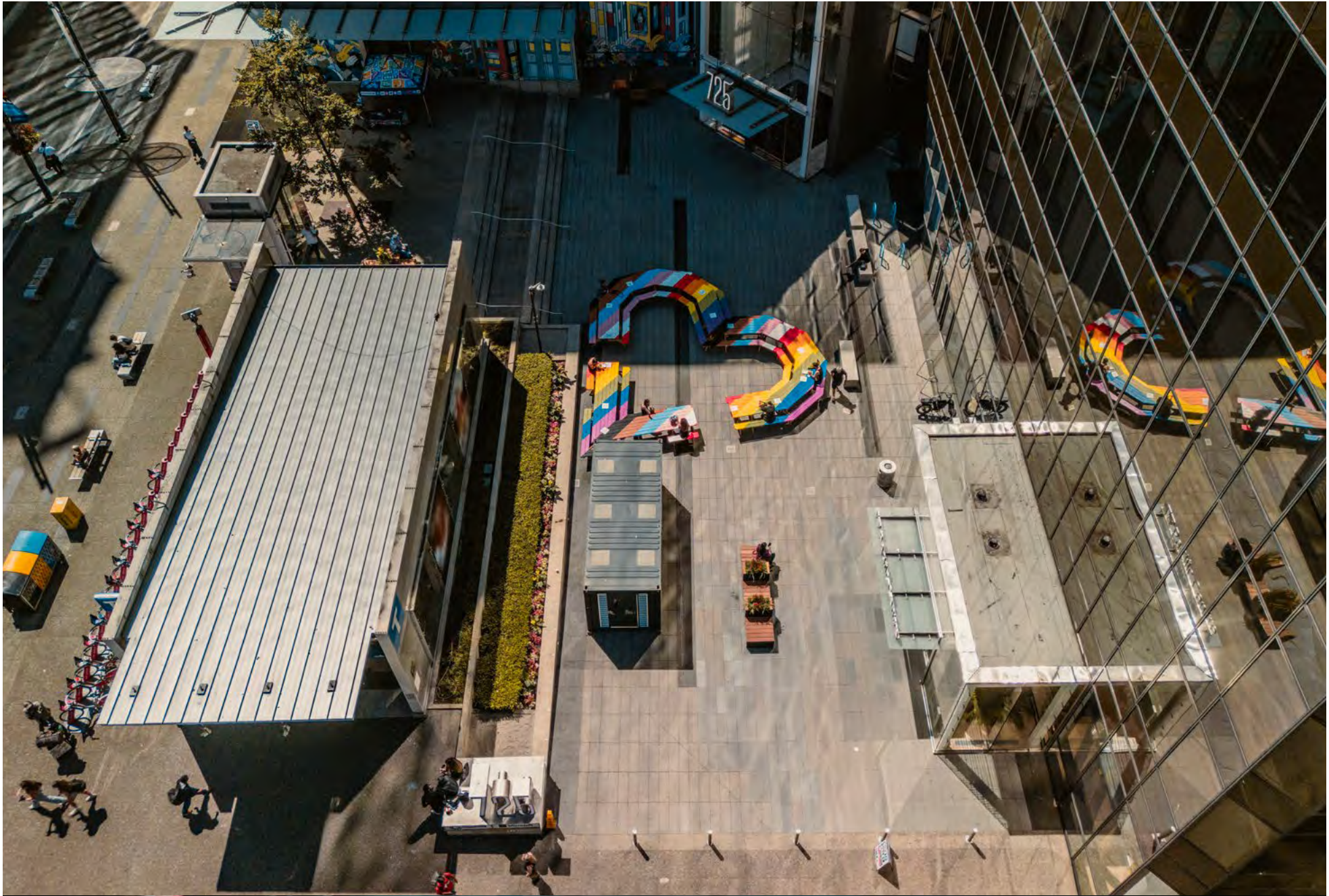
HIGHLINE MODULAR LOUNGER & CHAIRS

HIGHLINE SERIES DESIGN

The High Line was originally constructed in the 1930s to elevate freight trains above Manhattan's streets, reducing accidents at rail crossings. However, it fell into disuse in the 1980s after the decline of the manufacturing industry. Instead of demolishing it, a community-led initiative worked to preserve and repurpose the structure as a public park. Today, The High Line has become a symbol of success for neighborhood revitalization, spurring economic development and attracting new businesses and residents to the surrounding area. In the spirit of The Highline and the beautiful wide plank seating found along the iconic park, City Blocks has designed a modular seating series that echoes the loungers, benches and seats you'll find peppered along The Highline.

HIGHLINE SERIES PRODUCT

Our Highline series is a modular lounger and bench system, creating both beautiful solo pieces and pieces that connect for bench and lounger modular variations. The sleek lines and durable material transforms any ordinary street space into the opportunity to create a sense of place. Embrace the concept of urban relaxation with the Highline Street Lounger Series.





"ART IS FOR EVERYONE."
- KEITH HARING

Haring's words continue to reign true even 34 years after his passing. His influence created a movement that has exploded into the lexicon of street culture and is now a permanent fixture throughout cities everywhere.

Haring wanted to break down the barriers that often separate art from the general public, and he did so by bringing his work into the streets, subways, and public spaces. His philosophy was grounded in the idea that art could and should be a part of everyday life, accessible to all people regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

When we started City Blocks, we wanted to launch an initiative and platform that continued what Keith built bringing art to public spaces, with street furniture. Around the world urban artists take to the streets to share their work with us, painting the inspiring backdrops to our lives in the spaces we all share.

Art for everyone is our commitment to promoting urban art in public spaces, colliding the worlds of street art and street furniture. Follow along here as we share stories, profiles and art on City Blocks internationally.

Art for Everyone, Urban Space for All.

MEET THE ARTISTS



PABLO ZAMUDIO

Pablo Zamudio, born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico in 1974, began his artistic journey at 15. From 2003 to 2020, he owned the renowned streetwear boutique El Kartel, curating numerous successful art shows featuring hundreds of artists, photographers, and designers.

Zamudio's work is characterized by **geometric abstraction and pop-art illusions using hard-edged monochromatic fields of vibrant color**. Influenced by his Mexican heritage, Zamudio draws inspiration from colorful markets, indigenous art, and geometric symbols.



ALI BRUCE

Ali Bruce is a Vancouver based mural artist and illustrator, with dozens of murals around the city and province. Bruce specializes in **bold bright and nostalgic designs**.

She's collaborated with and created designs for numerous outdoor companies, and for many small business' in and around Vancouver. Ali is currently focused on her mural work and fine art practice, which consists of vibrant paintings and hand-cut woodwork.



**ART FOR EVERYONE.
ART FOR EVERYONE.**

