Parklets: A Tool For Community Engagement

*Streets as a place for social interaction and local feedback.*

Places for Good and Pallet Kingdom together with Albert-Eden Local Board and Kowhai Intermediate built furniture out of waste, placed it in an unusual location, and then asked passers by what they thought.

By transforming a carpark into a temporary community space we sought to challenge preconceived notions about transport priorities, give individuals the opportunity to experience new solutions, and learn directly from the community what it is they want in their urban streetscapes.

This Park(ing) Day parklet activation was an inclusive and equitable transport solution integrating schools with community and their road corridor.  It was a tactical platform to connect with local users in a purposeful way in a familiar place.

Tactical urbanism is a human scale place transformed in particular areas where the community contributes to the improvements through an incremental staged process with the intention to (enact) more sustainable and permanent solutions.  New ideas are created based on trials, testing, quantitative, and qualitative data collection.

We hope this activation and transportation disruption presented the opportunity to desegregate pedestrians and motor vehicles within the area of the humble car park.  A Parklet activation often acts as a trial solution to save space for? people over cars in an effort to overtly decarbonize space.

This is an opportunity to improve accessibility that encourages mode shifts into active transportation and micromobility.  As a community, people are able to visualize the curbside and repurpose car parks away from vehicle storage into vibrant and inclusive places accessible to all.  This reveals the capacity for a student-run parklet to serve as a mode of community participation and a driver of political will

This lens itself needs to be considered as a key tool for public outreach: it provides an opportunity for the public to better understand transportation, and can help build support for potential projects.