

2a5

# Transect Walk

## Do

Gather people together to walk through your neighbourhood together, talk to local people and see what is to be seen.

## Story

A fictional account...

People were complaining about graffiti in the neighbourhood. A concerned citizen gathered together people from youth organisations, artists and business people.

Rather than just concentrating on the areas where most graffiti was found, the transect walk also passed through the young people's creative quarter. Discussions during the walk led to more diverse audiences for artistic events staged by the young people and two examples of business sponsorship.

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## Transect Walk

### Hints & Hazards

Take a deliberate approach that seeks out community assets rather than just problems. If the team includes some specialists, you will get a richer picture. This might include a wheelchair user, a tree specialist and an architectural historian.

Stop every hundred steps or so to really look at the community. Plan your walk at a time when people are around and have time to talk to you about the life of the community. Ask about networks, neighbourliness and shared community identity as well as looking at the physical things you can see. Explore the history.

Use a long piece of plain wallpaper to draw out your route and the findings from the walk. Collect contact details of the people who joined in so you can follow up with them afterwards. Look out for unexpected connections between people.

More information at

<https://catcomm.org/transect-walk/>

Also check out Gemba Walks that are used in industry, as they get you to think about the power you hold and the way people might view you and your team as you walk around.

A worker with a similar lifestyle may have useful knowledge. If directories are out of date or inaccurate, mapping can be demoralising.

Many centres have local information available on events and activities. Collecting and collating data can become so time consuming that it replaces all other strategies.

Some people like to look at posters and collect information from the library. Others get on better by opening conversations with strangers about what is available in the community.