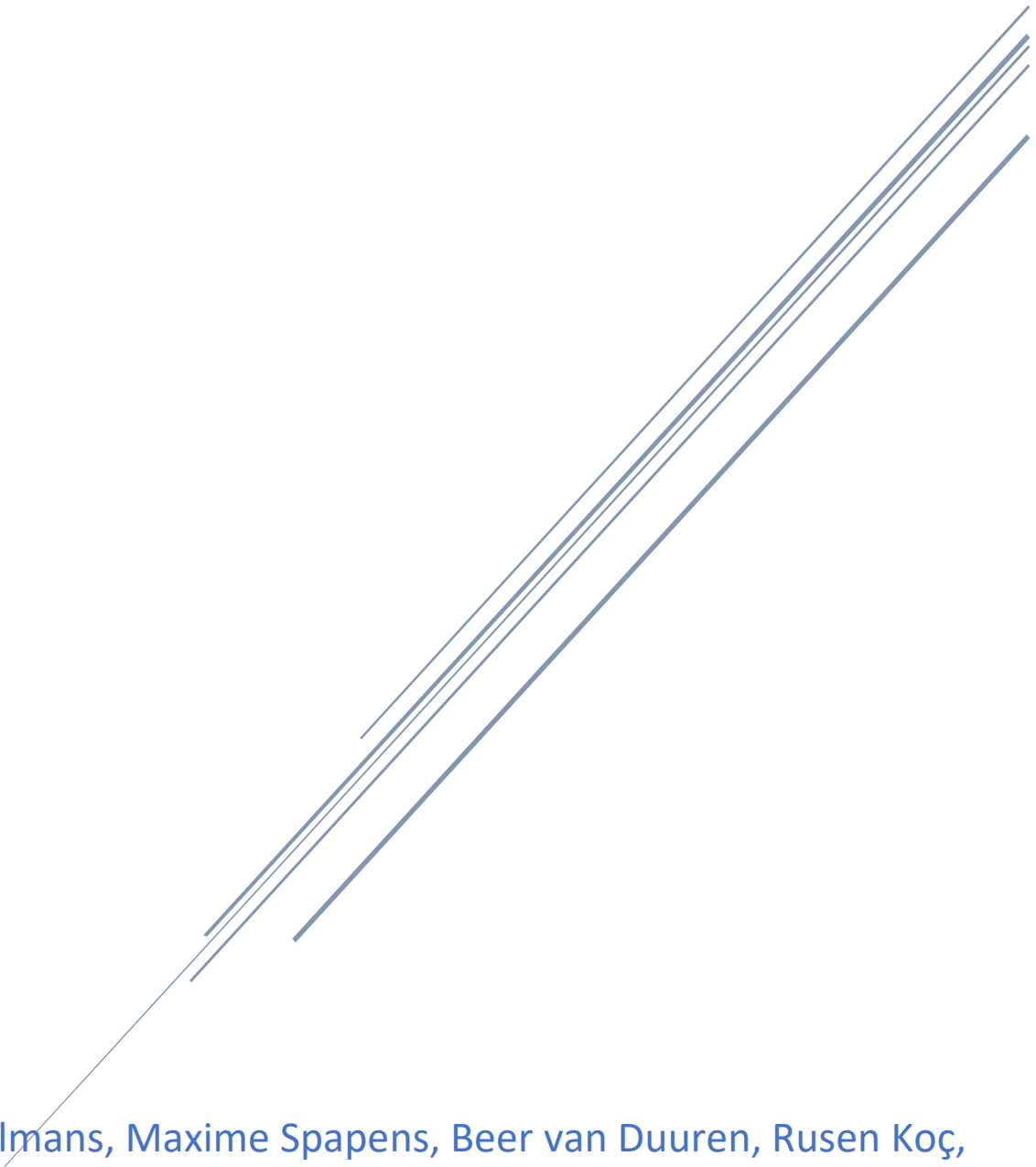


AR0095 SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN THE CITY, DIVERSITY AND DESIGN

Muziek in de Gaarden



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Chapter 1: Introduction

The city council of The Hague recently presented its plan for the renewal and restructuring of the neighbourhoods Dreven, Gaarden and Zichten (Den Haag, 2021). In total, 2000 houses of the housing cooperative Staedion will be renewed, and 3500 houses will be added (Den Haag, 2021). The municipality aims to focus on improving healthcare, cultural functions, sports facilities, and education in these neighbourhoods. The aim of the city is thus to renew and improve these neighbourhoods to a very large extent. In its endeavour to improve these neighbourhoods, housing corporation Staedion, the Universities of Leiden, Delft and Erasmus, and the Hague municipality have set up an initiative in which students of these institutions contribute to the problem-solving capacities of Staedion and the Hague municipality. It is in this capacity that the authors of this plan have set out to come up with an initiative that can potentially improve the aforementioned goals.

The main challenge this project will try to tackle is the lack of social cohesion. Even before the reconstruction started, the neighbourhood Gaarden already faced challenges like loneliness among the elderly and a lack of social meeting spaces. During and after the reconstruction of the neighbourhood, it is expected that there will be more pressure on the social cohesion in the neighbourhood. In order to improve the social cohesion in Gaarden, it is important to come up with a meeting space where social encounters can take place. In these times of rapid change it is important to create a meeting space that is easily accessible, realisable and flexible. The main question this report tries to answer therefore is: ‘‘How can we create a meeting space for the residents of Gaarden where neighbours can meet to increase the social cohesion in the neighbourhood?’’ And ‘‘How can this initiative be sustainable in the mid- and long term while the neighbourhood is being restructured?’’.

In order to come up with meaningful solutions that have the potential of being grassroots the authors have started off by compiling data from city council documents, conversations with neighbourhood residents, professionals and observations. It was decided that a combination of thematic analysis with a spatial analysis could paint a clear picture of the preferences of the residents of the Hague Southwest. The outcome from the fieldwork and analysis was that neighbourhood cohesion was very low. Residents had little to no contact with one another, nor were they often outside to contribute and take part in activities. The reasons were multiple but most notable were concerns over the fear of spending money and a lack of meeting spaces in the neighbourhood. Therefore, we propose to create places where all kinds of people can meet and interact for longer periods of time. Several activities could fulfil this need, however, one of

the features that came up during the interviews is that residents seem to value creativity. Due to this outcome it is proposed to connect neighbourhoods residents by use of a Modular Music Box. More specifically, for a Modular Music Box to be constructed in the neighbourhood Gaarden. The functions of such a Modular Music Box go far beyond the creation and outing of music. It can contribute to social cohesion, an individual's capacity to partake in cultural and creative activity, and the ability of primary schools to give music lessons.

In the following chapter the methodology will be further clarified. Chapter three will delineate the outcomes and analyses from the fieldwork and research. Chapter four, will provide a detailed overview of the Modular Music Box and its functions. It will further describe into detail its use and expected effectiveness. Last, chapter five will clarify the reflections and possible shortcomings of this report.

Chapter 2: Approach

In order to answer the aforementioned research question, several research methods are used. Firstly, research was done on the policy documents about the neighbourhood Gaarden and the planned reconstructions. These documents gave clarity on what is currently happening in the Gaarden and why reconstructions will take place. The main source for these policy documents was the city council of the Hague. Besides analysing these policy documents, certain statistics were also used to gain an insight in the composition of residents of the neighbourhood, as well as certain spatial aspects. The statistics that were used mostly came from the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands, and the website AlleCijfers (All numbers)

After the analysis of these documents, which will be described in the next chapter, observations were done in the neighbourhood, combined with interviews with residents. These interviews were conducted by students who visited the apartments and houses in direct vicinity to the planned changes. In total 10 interviews were conducted by two interviewers. Before we went to the neighbourhood to do these observations and interviews, a couple of themes were established that we wanted to focus our observation and interviews on. The first main theme was living conditions including poverty, safety, public health and also meeting spaces. These subthemes all mainly focus on what kind of residents live in the neighbourhood, how residents of the neighbourhood experience their environment and what opportunities for meeting spaces there are. The second main theme was relationships including the sub-themes spaces for children, the amount of neighbourhood interaction and whether there are public initiators in the neighbourhood. Finally, sources of academic urban literature were used to support our ideas for a specific intervention (Project for Public Spaces, 2018; Lydon & Garcia, 2015).

The results of the analysis of the policy documents, neighbourhood statistics, observations, interviews and academic literature will be discussed in the following chapter. These results helped us to indicate what specific problems the neighbourhood is facing, and what kind of interventions could possibly contribute in solving these problems. Finally, we will come up with our suggested intervention in the fourth chapter.

Chapter 3: Neighbourhood context and theoretical framework

Neighbourhood description

The city council of The Hague recently presented its plan for the renewal and restructuring of the neighbourhoods Dreven, Gaarden and Zichten (Den Haag, 2021). According to the alderman, Martijn Balster from the labour party, this renewal is necessary since there are more and more house seekers in The Hague, and because the houses in these neighbourhoods supposedly do not meet the current housing criteria (Voorburgs Dagblad, 2022). This report will first give a description of the neighbourhoods in The Hague Southwest in general (which the neighbourhood Gaarden is part of), and then describe what the renewal project for Dreven, Gaarden and Zichten will entail.

The Hague Southwest has had large multiple social-economic problems, such as poverty, unemployment and educational disadvantage, debt, radicalization, polarisation, increasing (feelings of) insecurity, degeneration, health problems (figure 1), and growing underprivileged young people in a socially weak environment. There is insufficient support for facilities, with a lot of vacancies and a one-sided supply of facilities. For example, there is no secondary HAVO-VWO school in Southwest. Furthermore, it is seen that only 17.3% of the inhabitants have a university or college degree (figure 2). Its one-sided social housing leads to one-sided population composition, due to a lack of good quality housing and a bad image, residents leave where it is better to leave the neighbourhood.

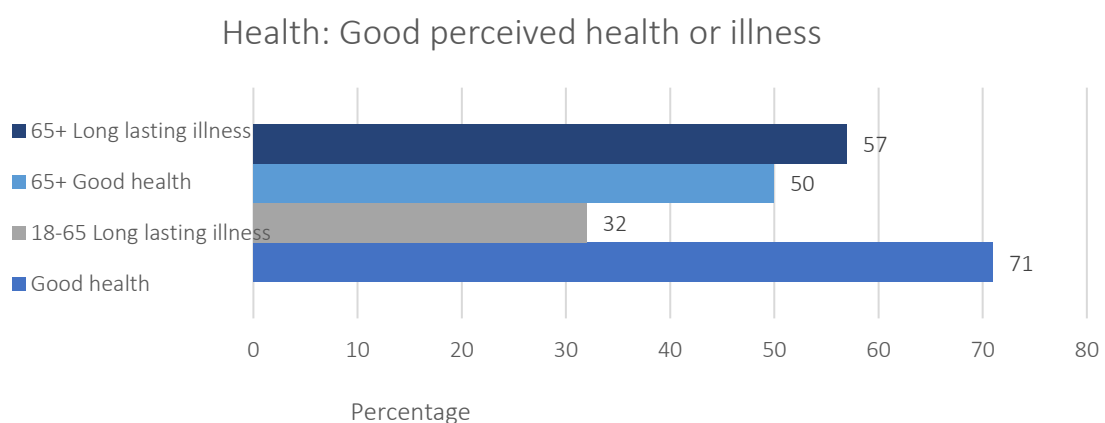


Figure 1: Health statistic Dreven and Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022d)

Educational level of residents between 15 and 75 years old

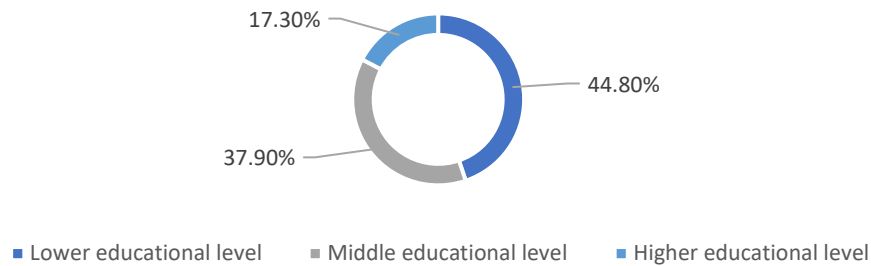


Figure 2: Education statistic Dreven and Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022g)

Social housing is very outdated and subject to large-scale, far-reaching renovation or renewal. The current homes are not future-proof and the design of public space does not contribute to a pleasant living environment. This assignment goes hand in hand with densification tasks, mobility tasks, sustainability challenges, and the task of improving the social and economic position of the inhabitants and the quality of life of Southwest reinforcement.

Housing restructuring

In order to improve the specific neighbourhoods Dreven, Gaarden and Zichten in The Hague Southwest, these neighbourhoods will be totally restructured. In total, 2000 houses of the housing cooperative Staedion will be renewed, and 3500 houses will be added (Den Haag, 2021). In the project plan, it is stated that even though houses will be demolished and original residents have to move to temporary housing, the original residents are able to return back to their neighbourhood (Den Haag, 2021). It is planned that more social rental housing will be built than demolished and that affordable housing will be added to the neighbourhoods. Next to that, the plan is to focus on the social mix, by adding a combination of social rent, middle and private sector rent and private-owned houses (Staedion, n.d.). Furthermore, public spaces and green areas in these neighbourhoods will be improved by the project. The project will take place in two phases, of which the first phase will already take ten years. At the moment there are 10.935 people living in the neighbourhood Gaarden and Dreven (figure 3). The figure shows that the number of inhabitants is increasing, with an exception for the year 2021. The 3500 houses that will be added, will make further increase possible. The existing houses are mostly from between 1950-1970 (AlleCijfers, 2022e), and are mostly rental for households with more than two people (figure 4). The addition of houses and focus on the social mix will make a more diverse population possible. The social mix could also make the average house value higher,

which is now €170.000, which is €100.000 less than the average in the Netherlands (figure 5) (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 2020).

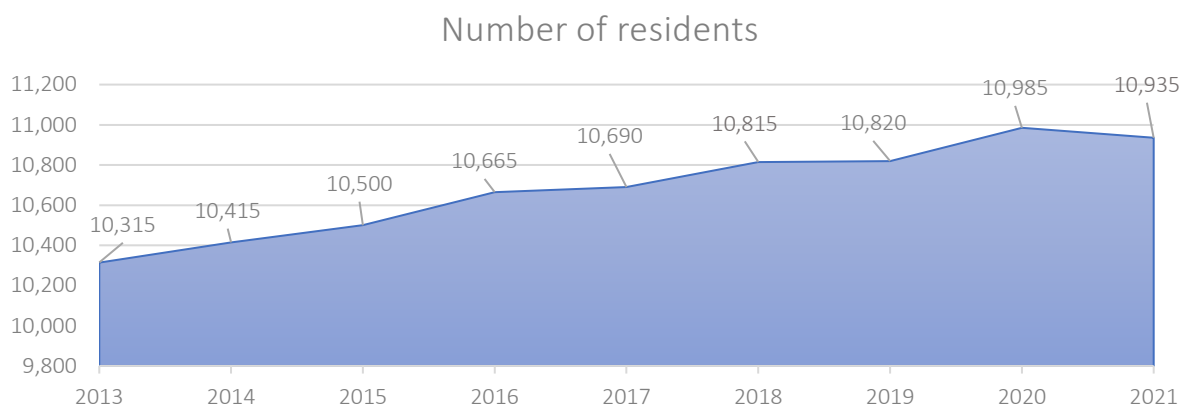


Figure 3: Residents Dreven and Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022a)

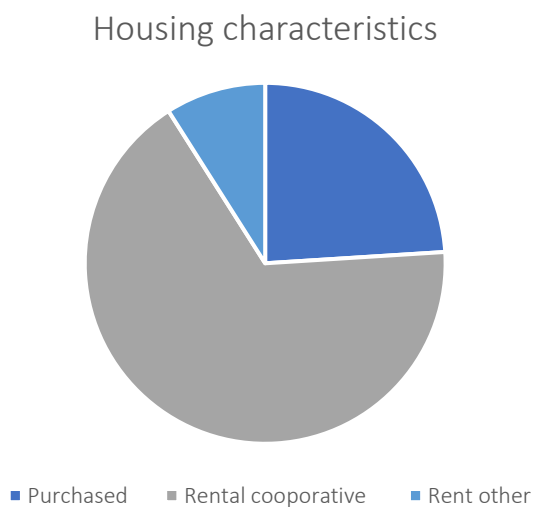


Figure 4: Residential buildings Dreven en Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022f)

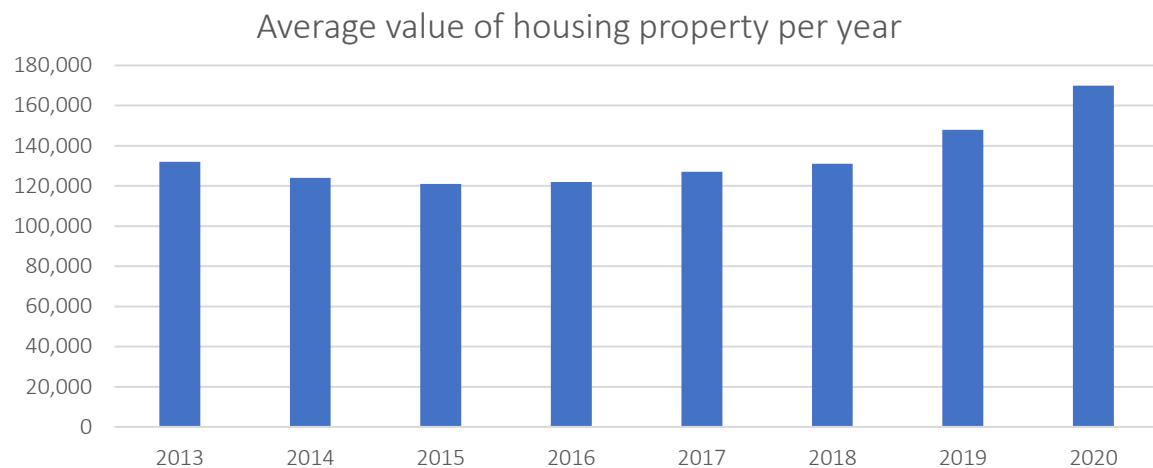


Figure 5: Average residential value Dreven and Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022c)

Resettlement and temporary housing

As stated before, the housing cooperative Staedion tries to guarantee that original residents can return to their neighbourhood after the renewal. Residents that have to move out of their houses because they will get demolished will always have priority to move into new homes over new residents. However, there has been quite a lot of resistance to the fact that residents have to move out (Navis, 2020). Even though Staedion lets everyone that has to move out because of reconstruction know 1.5 years prior to the moving out date, many people are concerned about where they will end up living and how “temporary” this move will be.

Services and public spaces

Next to the renewal of housing, the project will also undertake action in order to improve the services and public spaces in the neighbourhood. There will be a focus on improving healthcare, cultural functions, sports facilities, and education. The lack of these functions in the current neighbourhood is seen in figure 6. There will also be investments in commercial real estate in the neighbourhood to improve the economy in the neighbourhood. Since there already were many specialized/practical schools in the neighbourhood (instead of higher education), there will also be focussed on small-scale, artisanal activities. Next to these improvements, there will also be a focus on incorporating a live/work/learn concept in the neighbourhoods. Entrepreneurs that will rent buildings in the neighbourhood will contribute to offering space to young people that are part of this project. These youngsters will get housing within these office spaces of the

entrepreneurs and there will be common rooms that will offer space for guidance for these youngsters, but which can also be used as a meeting space for the neighbourhood

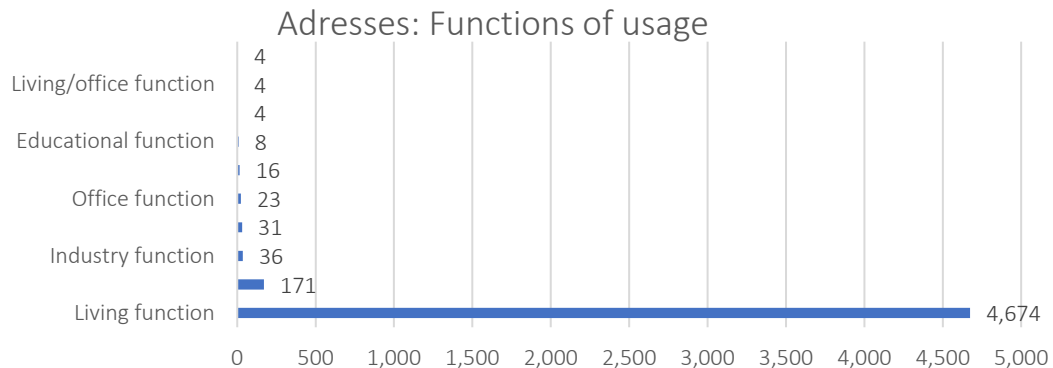


Figure 6: number of functions per category in Dreven and Gaarden (AlleCijfers, 2022b)

Parts of the neighbourhood that will be used for the neighbourhood economy are seen in figure 7. These parts will exist of meeting places such as co-workplaces and -study places, fitness, and retail with showrooms. Furthermore, functions such as healthcare and commuter homes will be added (Den Haag, 2021)

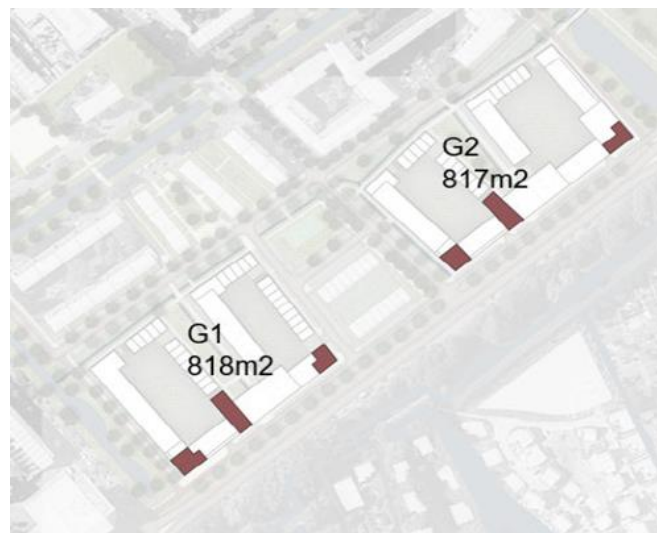


Figure 7: locations Gaarden (Den Haag, 2021, p.2.)

For the public spaces, there is a focus on preserving and strengthening the already existing green areas in the neighbourhoods. Parking spaces will therefore mostly be realized within built areas, possibly covered with communal gardens. In these green areas, there will be more opportunities to meet, sport, and play. In order to make the neighbourhood more open for pedestrians and cyclists, the quality of these paths will be improved. In sum, the renewal project will thus not

only be focused on building more houses that are both comfortable and energy-efficient, but also on increasing the relationship between the buildings and the outdoor spaces to improve the liveliness and involvement in the neighbourhood.

Participation in the renewal process

The city council is strongly focussed on involving the residents of the neighbourhood in the renewal process of the area. In every phase of the project, residents have been involved in order to gain input and feedback from them. This involvement of residents started in 2016 and since then, nine meetings have taken place about what the original residents felt was most important for redevelopment plans in the neighbourhood. From 2020 until the end of 2022, the residents were invited for “digital walkthroughs” and webinars, in order to engage them with the decisions that were made for the neighbourhood renewal. During the building process, the residents will stay involved with the renewal. Not only when it is about the development of the building process and the design of public spaces but also for possible contemporary initiatives in the neighbourhood during the building process, to keep the neighbourhood liveable.

Connection to academic urban literature

In the following paragraph, academic literature on tactical urbanism and placemaking will be used to try and explain the proposed urban policies from a theoretical point of view.

Tactical Urbanism

As we have seen in the first paragraph of this chapter, the city council of The Hague focuses strongly on the participation of the inhabitants of the neighbourhoods which are selected for reorganization. The necessity of this participation can be explained by the profits of tactical urbanism (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). These profits can be summarized as follows. Firstly, the inclusion of residents in the planning process reinforces mutual trust amongst the different targeted groups. Secondly, participation in this process will increase support for long-lasting changes. Finally, the involvement of local actors can reinforce or alter the proposed plans. As inhabitants, they are the users of the new area and therefore of major importance in the process of reshaping a neighbourhood (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). This part of the theory is mainly focused on the steps the city council of the Hague made to ensure local participation because the willingness of the inhabitants is of great importance. However, it is good to notice that Tactical urbanism is normally characterized as a short-term event with low risks (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). As we have seen, the city council of The Hague started its involvement in the

neighbourhood around 2016. Further, the projects are scheduled to take place for at least ten years. This long-term scope is in clear contrast with the approach of tactical urbanism. However, small, local initiatives do form a major role in the creation of the renewal process of the Southwest area.

Placemaking

In addition to the approach of “tactical urbanism”, “placemaking” has been proposed as a means of creating better public spaces. Its similarities with tactical urbanism are clear: it focuses on relatively small-scale interventions in public spaces, by and for every member of a community. In the words of the Project for Public Spaces (2018), placemaking “inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community” (p. 2). Seen from this lens, the proposed changes in The Hague Southwest can only partially be classified as genuinely being a placemaking process. First, regarding housing restructuring and temporary resettlement, the municipality and Staedion plan to return current residents to their old communities after the completion of the project, as well as to increase the share of social renting houses in the neighbourhood. Furthermore, residents were told 18 months in advance about the scheduled construction, giving them time to adjust to the possible changes in their lives. They also were invited to provide feedback on the plans, letting policymakers know about their preferences for the project. This setup seems inclusive, residents have worried about how long they may be forced to leave their homes, and many share a concern that their displacement may not be temporary after all. In placemaking terms, The Hague’s planned changes most closely resemble a “place-sensitive” approach, which gathers community input but is still led by designers and architects. In order to make the project even more resident-friendly, a “place-led” approach is necessary: one which relies not on community input, but on a “unified focus on place outcomes built on community engagement” (Project for Public Spaces, 2018). This strategy turns the planning of these projects into a group activity based on shared values, turning residents into participants.

Analysis and report of observations and buurtbakkie activity

For the analysis of the *buurtbakkie* activity and the observations, we decided to combine a thematic analysis with a spatial one. In doing so, we hoped to paint a clear picture of what we have learned about the experiences and preferences of the residents of the Hague Southwest, while simultaneously applying this knowledge and thinking ahead to the design of a potential meeting space. After observing the neighbourhood and its spaces, being invited into peoples’

homes, and conducting interviews, we found the two most important themes to be 1) living conditions, and 2) relationships. Below, these two themes are discussed using information from both our interviews and official statistics. Throughout, we also pay attention to the spatial aspect of the project.

Living conditions

The first theme we found relevant judging from our observations and interviews are the residents' living conditions in the neighbourhood. This theme is divided in a few sections on poverty, security, and public health.

Poverty

When talking about poverty, numbers on average yearly income can give useful insights:

- Average gross yearly income level in the Hague: €27.000.
- Average gross yearly income level Dreven-Gaarden €18.600

The numbers speak for themselves, looking at gross income in the Gaarden district, there is an €8.400 dissimilitude between the Hague as a whole and the Gaarden. Besides individual income, the area's low socio-economic status is also reflected in the physical space of the neighbourhood, with buildings looking unkempt, not modernized, fungus, and other lapses visible when looking inside buildings. Very few shops and other material welfare institutions are present or active in the neighbourhood, possibly because profits are speaking not present or feasible. When interviewing a woman during the *buurtbakkie* activity, she mentioned that a lot of residents live off a social allowance, which is underlined when looking at statistics provided by the Hague municipality: on average, 13,7% of the Hague's population depended on some form of financial support in 2015. In Dreven-Gaarden, this number was 17.4%. In table 1 below, the percentages of (minima) households that use financial support can be seen.

Financial support instrument	Dreven Gaarden	& Municipality the Hague
Special welfare assistance	17.4%	13.7%
Compensation of educational costs	67.0%	66.4%
Stork-Pass (discount on socio-cultural activities for lower income households)	83.1%	80.5%

Table 1: Usage of financial support instruments among households in Dreven-Gaarden, 2015

Safety

Regarding the safety in the neighbourhood, the interviews show conflicting results. On the one hand, an elderly man indicated that he does not feel very safe being on the streets in the neighbourhood all by himself because according to him, there are a lot of younger people on the streets that shout things to him which do not make him feel comfortable. However, a younger girl indicated that she feels perfectly safe walking outside the streets and feels like the neighbourhood, in general, is pretty safe.

Public health

Another aspect of the neighbourhood's living conditions is reflected in the residents' health behaviour. In Dreven-Gaarden, there especially seems to be a high percentage of overweight, and the percentage of people that do sports on a weekly basis is relatively low (as can be seen in figure 8). These lower levels of activity could be explained in many ways, including a lower income, which might make one less likely to join a sports club or gym, but also the neighbourhood's physical attributes. The interviews with the residents provide support for this hypothesis, with for example a statement by an elderly man who does not really go outside much to move around, because he feels like there are too few benches in the area where he can rest when walking around. This, therefore, is definitely an aspect to take into account when trying to stimulate people to move around the neighbourhood a bit more.

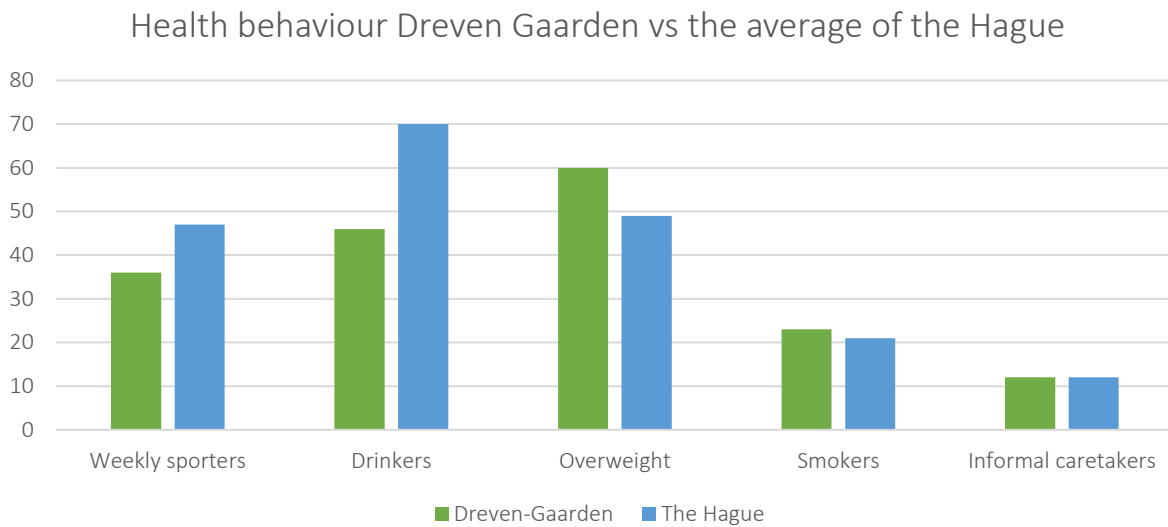


Figure 8: Health behaviour Dreven-Gaarden vs the Hague

Meeting space

During the *buurtbakkie* activity and the flyer assignment, we took our time to observe the neighbourhood and started conversations with residents about the ways they used to meet each other. The first thing that we noticed during the visit was the big soccer field lying right beside the Gaarden. This field, including its associated buildings, could be a perfect fit for a community centre or a place where the people of the neighbourhood can meet each other. However, when interviewing an older man who lives across the soccer field told us that he didn't see a single person playing or even being on the field the entire year. This is a major potential loss for the entire area since sports can function as a meeting catalyst. Furthermore, since the neighbourhood consists mainly of living areas, community centres or places to hang out or come together are rarely seen. This is therefore the main reason that residents don't feel connected with their fellow residents of the district. These findings are correlating with the interviews we conducted. The interviews are summarized as follows:

Around the apartment blocks, we met a girl around the age of ten. After school, around half-past three, she often plays with friends in the neighbourhood, either in the backyard or somewhere in the neighbourhood nearby. However, as we were observing these spaces, they did not seem very inviting.

We also talked with a group of friends around the age of 16, who were hanging out together at one of their houses. One of the girls was holding a musical instrument and a guy

told us that there was a music instructor just around the corner. They said they like the neighbourhood and that there are a lot of friends nearby. We asked them what kind of meeting spaces they would like, and the conclusion was that there is a lack of spaces where you can sit down and get a coffee or tea, or a place where you could do something creative together.

A woman around the age of 20 said she just moved in and was living there in a squatted building. She had not connected with any neighbours yet, except for the casual greeting in the street, but liked the quiet aspect of the neighbourhood. Something that would make interaction easier for her, would be a place where you could do something creative together.

Talking to a mother, around the age of 40, she said she only goes out in the neighbourhood to play with her son or to do groceries. She added to this that there is a need for more sitting places.

Around five interviews were conducted with grown-ups (20-80 years old) and the general findings are that most people actually do not interact with their neighbours much. Some of them say hello or have some small talk, but that is about it. These people also mainly do their activities outside of the neighbourhood, except for doing groceries or going for a little walk/bike ride.

All in all, what can be learned from these interviews is that there is not that much interaction between grown-ups in the neighbourhood. An assumption is that there is a need for initiators or a space where people can exercise their hobbies together or sit down. However, the children in the neighbourhood do have good connections, which with the right kind of meeting space could be an opportunity for parents to meet each other. Furthermore, the neighbourhood right now doesn't have enough sitting spaces, the playgrounds are of great quality, and there is a lack of hospitality and hobby spaces.

As could already be seen in figure 6 of the previous paragraph, it is clear that there are only a few buildings that function to connect people. This seems to correspond with what the residents say.

Relationships

Regarding the relationships between residents, the following themes popped up during interviews.

Spaces for Children:

One interview we conducted took place in an apartment complex. A male of around 30 to 40 years old opened the door. During the conversation, he explained that he was workless and

often at home but still could not think of many new ways of interacting with other residents in the neighbourhood. He just believes that the children in the area do not have enough places to go and meet. Many of the Muslim kids in particular, who would like to go to lessons in the mosque, cannot go as a result of lack of space. For this reason, he believed that the neighbourhood needs more space inside for the children to be entertained and schooled.

Low interaction:

Another conversation took place in an apartment complex where we were invited inside to have a cup of coffee. The gentleman explained he was a political refugee from Turkey and had moved to the neighbourhood 2 years ago. He explained that he had little reason ever to leave the house, except for language classes and other official appointments. He explained that he had studied law in Turkey and that according to his observation there were two reasons for this low interaction. First, many people in Dreven-Gaarden are either former refugees or without a job. This meant that the individuals living in this neighbourhood are dependent on the municipality, both financially and bureaucratically. The second reason was the fact that most parents do send their children out to play but that they rarely go out themselves. Both this and the previous conversation demonstrate the need for meeting places for adults in the neighbourhood.

Initiators:

The final theme that we found is the need for community initiators. When asked about the residents' resilience, a policy advisor on communications in the neighbourhood, who joined the *buurtbakkie* activity, explained that for successful grassroots initiatives, motivated initiators and pioneers from the neighbourhood are necessary. It could therefore be helpful for the municipality to organize events and give space to such initiators.

Chapter 4 Design & execution

According to the previously made observations and interviews in the neighbourhood, we can conclude that meeting spaces and the opportunity to meet in the neighbourhood are minimal. Even though some meeting spaces do exist, like small playgrounds, these spaces are not optimally used, and often do not provide a space for all residents in the neighbourhood. For example, they may miss places like benches where people can actually sit down, stay for a while and make contact with others. Our proposal for a meeting space will therefore be focussed on creating places where all kinds of people can meet and interact for longer periods of time. One of the features that came up during the interviews at the *buurtbakkie* activity is that residents seem to value creativity. Apparently, residents would be very much interested in a meeting space where they can exercise their hobbies, and meet other people at the same time. Some residents that were interviewed inspired us with a certain creative outlet that could be implemented as a meeting space: music. As it is often said, music has the possibility to connect people. Not only are spaces to practise and play music important for musicians themselves, places where music is being played can also potentially attract people to these places and thus create opportunities to meet. One example of the phenomenon in practice is the concept of the public piano. In the last couple of years, pianos all around the world were placed in public spaces like squares and train stations. These pianos are open for anyone passing by to play on and were meant to give more dynamic to public spaces and as a catalyst for conversations where differences between people do not matter for a while (MaestroMusicToday, n.d.; Pawlik, 2019).

Our proposal for a meeting space for the neighbourhood Gaarden in The Hague will thus build on the idea of the connecting quality of music. However, in order for this idea to actually contribute to social connections in the neighbourhood, this meeting space should not only be a place where spectators can walk by and enjoy the music that is being played. The place could be used even more optimally if it is open for all kinds of people that want to learn or play music together. This meeting space should therefore have multiple musical functions, in order for it to contribute to social connections in the neighbourhood as much as possible. We, therefore, focused on creating a place where the following activities can take place: music lessons, rehearsals, opportunities to just jam together, and a place where spectators can enjoy the music that is being played and meet with other people. In order for this meeting space to fulfil these requirements optimally, it is necessary to consider certain spatial aspects. In the next parts, we will first elaborate on a possible way how the physical meeting space we hope to implement could take shape, while at the same time considering that the space should have a

temporary nature to accommodate for potential changes in the neighbourhood as a result of the planned reconstruction. After that, we will elaborate on how to connect this meeting space concept to community initiators and key actors in the neighbourhood, that could possibly contribute to making sure this concept could work in practice.

Modular Music Boxes

With the idea of a meeting space that will provide the ability to play, teach and listen to music, first of all, we looked at possible locations (figure 9). The empty soccer field, which is left unused for most of the time according to the residents, is a big space with a lot of potential. However, it is not exactly a location that sees a lot of random visitors, accidental passers-by, or spontaneous get-togethers. For this reason, we started looking more into the neighbourhood itself. The neighbourhood is home to many public spaces between the buildings and next to the waterfront. The waterfront however doesn't have a lot of wide spaces, so therefore the spaces in between the buildings are likely to be the most suitable. Furthermore, it should be taken into consideration that the meeting space, being one in which music takes centre stage, could lead to noise complaints if it will indeed be positioned close to the apartments.

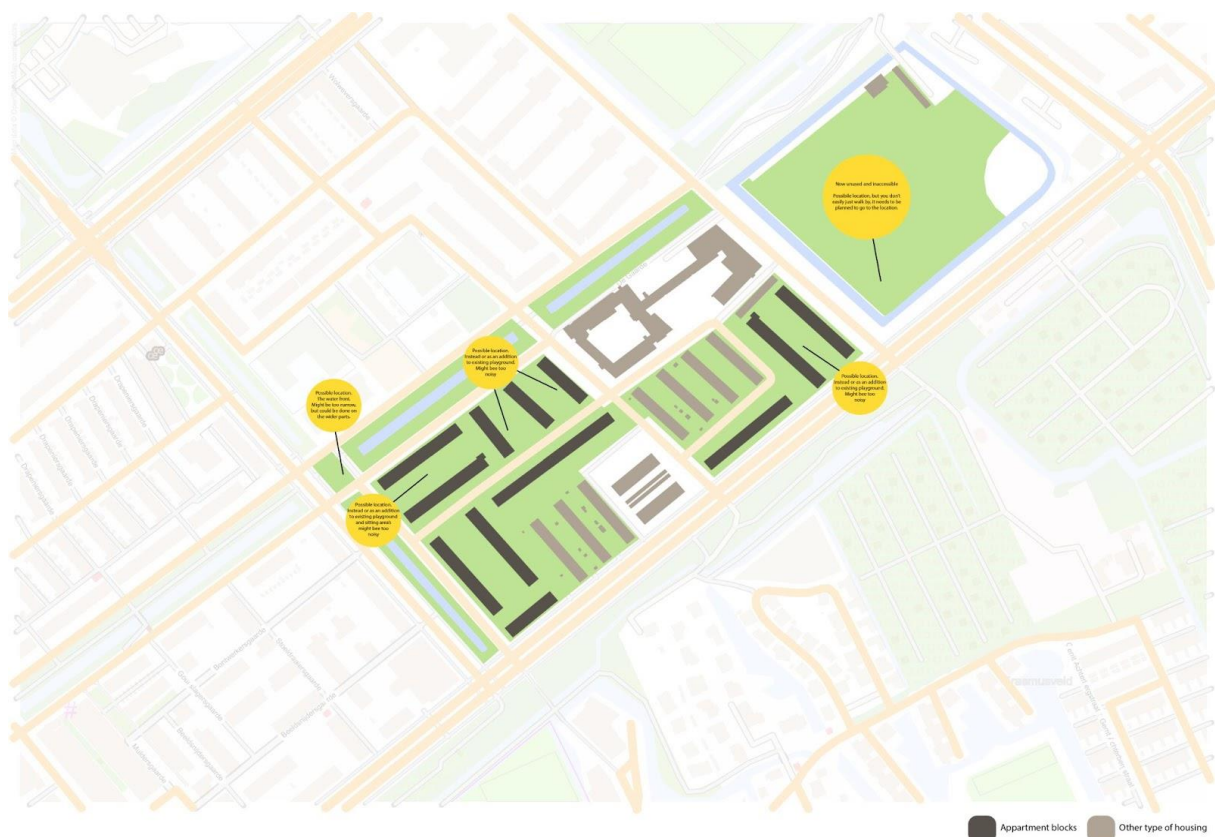


Figure 9: possible locations for the Modular Music Boxes in the neighbourhood de Gaarden.

The physical meeting space that we have in mind will consist of modular boxes of wood that are sound insulated to make the music sound better and to keep noise complaints to a minimum and have thermal insulation to make the modular boxes usable all year round, combined with seating spaces. To develop this idea further, first of all references were found. These references can be seen in figure 10.



Figure 10: modular spaces combined with seating possibilities

After looking at the references, we started developing our design: the Modular Music Box. The modular boxes consist of wood panels with thermal- and sound insulation that are assembled, together with a skylight for daylight in the modules (figure 11). This assemblage results in wooden modules that are 3x3x3 metres.

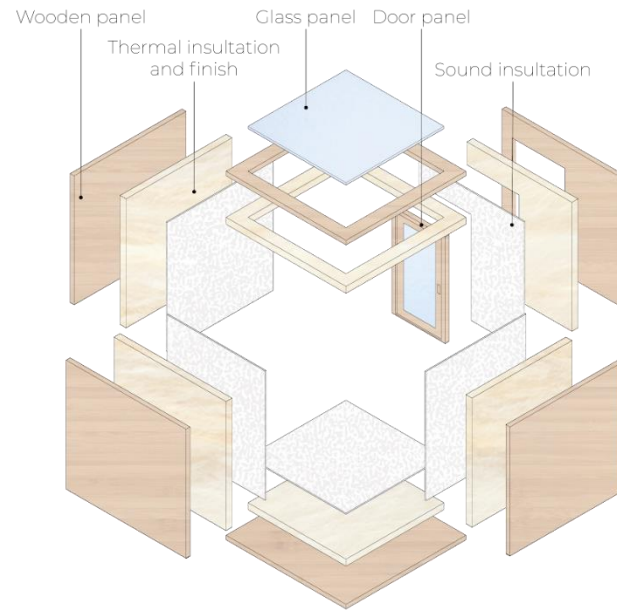


Figure 11: elements of the Modular Music Box

The modules can have more or less openings in the walls, which gives a differentiation in the privacy of the modules (figure 12). The boxes can be assembled horizontally (figure 13) and if wished for also vertically. However, looking at complexity and expenses, only assembling horizontally will be preferable for this project. Furthermore, walls can be removed, making bigger spaces possible (figure 14). This could make studio spaces possible or bigger gatherings.

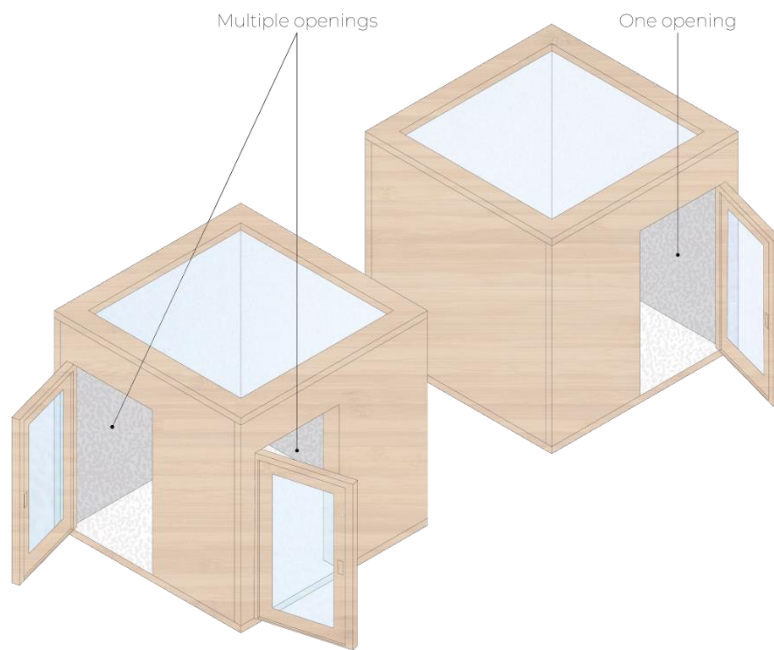


Figure 12: openings of the modules

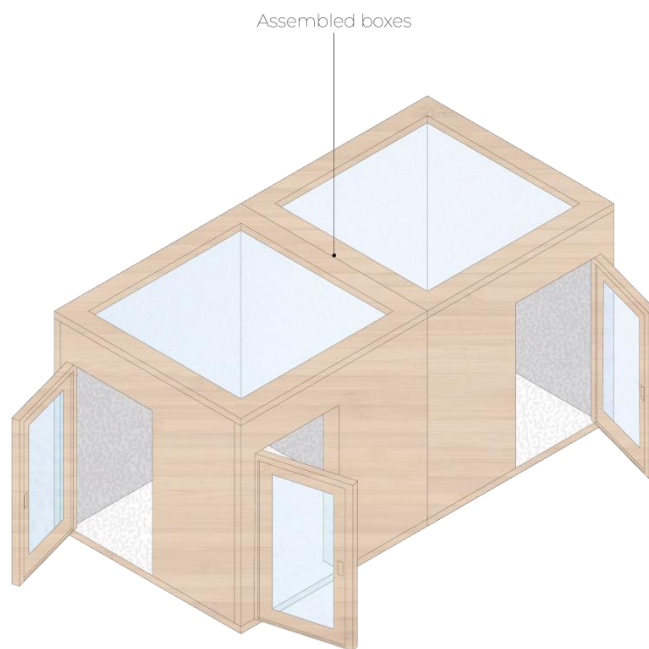


Figure 13: assembly of the modules

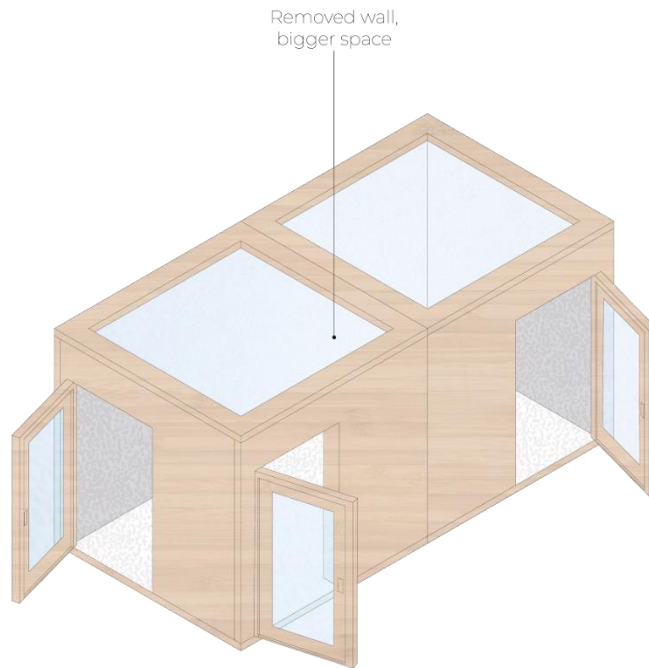


Figure 14: removing of walls

In figure 14-16 a possible assembly can be seen. Besides the Modular Music Boxes, picnic tables, moveable sitting cubes and a stage have been added. The moveable seating can be put in The Modular Music Boxes to make flexible seating possible for practising, teaching and playing music. Furthermore, the moveable seating can be put next to the picnic tables or free in the space, for example as stands for people to come and watch a concert of their neighbours. The stage also functions as a storage place, where instruments will be held, which can be borrowed for free. One potential problem that the space might face is the theft of instruments or any other element that may not be attached to the main Modular Music Box. Several solutions are possible, ranging from an application which allows people to register and “book” certain instruments for a certain amount of time to a responsible volunteer who is trusted in the neighbourhood who holds a key to the storage space. This detail will receive more focus later on in the project.

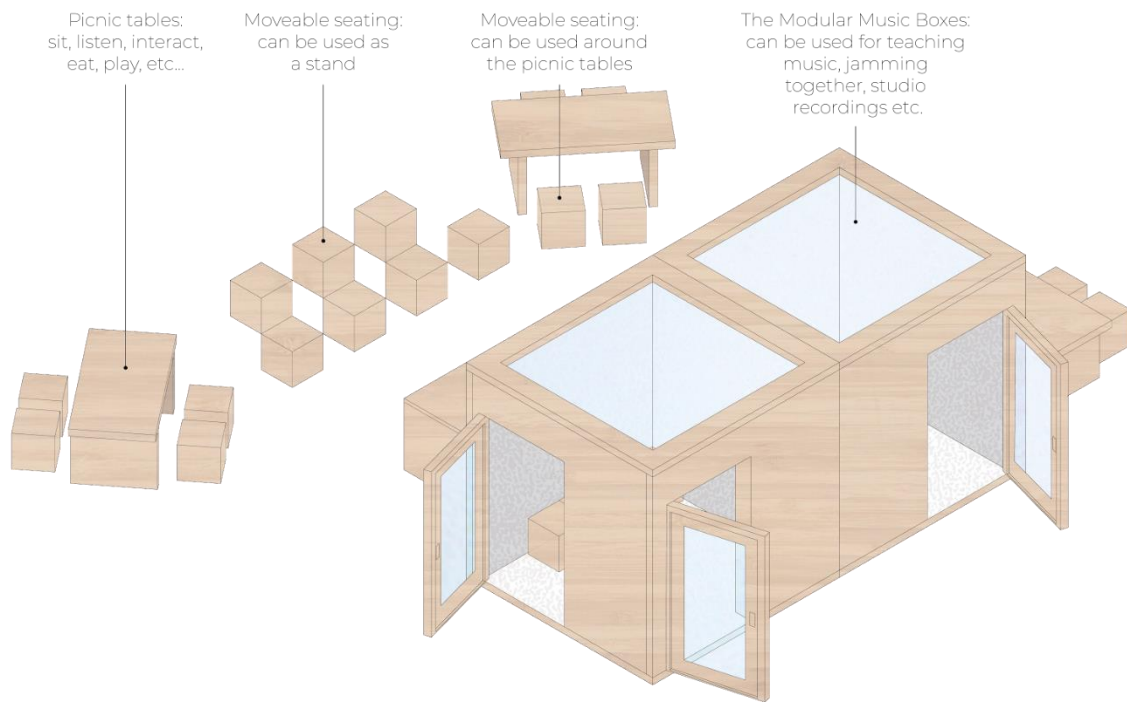


Figure 15: assembly view 01

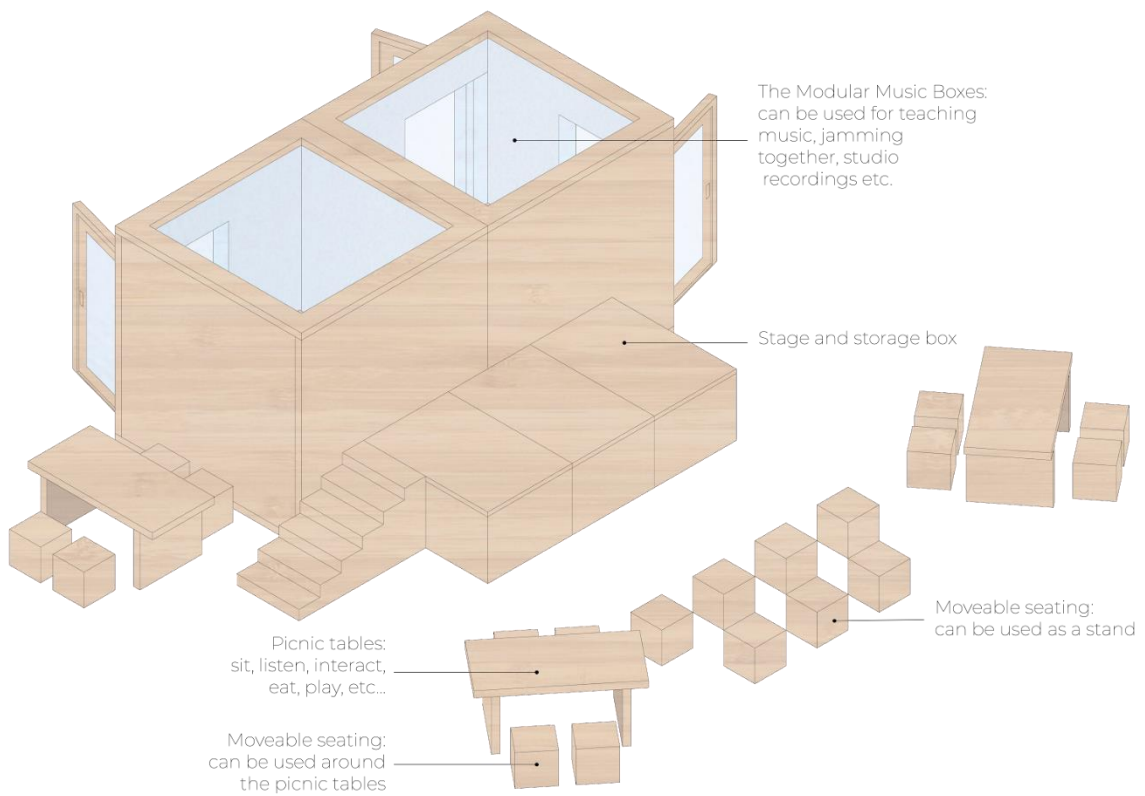


Figure 16: assembly view 02

Seen in figure 16 and 17 is the assembly in relation to different possibilities on how the Modular Music Box will be used. However, the flexibility of the modules and the added elements result in the possibility of more functions than shown, if the neighbourhood wishes to use the Modular Music Box for other kind of activities.



Figure 17: The Modular Music Box used for a concert



Figure 18: The Modular Music Box used for 'chilling'

Remaining things to take into consideration is what happens to the Modular Music Boxes outside of operating times, and the ways in which people could be stimulated to spend time at this the new space. As mentioned below, *Muziek in de Gaarden* will be responsible for the closing of the modules, putting inside the moveable seating and many other tasks regarding the daily uses of the Modular Music Boxes

App and interaction

In addition to building the physical location which will host the meeting and interaction of music-lovers, neighbours and passers-by, we plan to realise the development of an app. This app will have multiple functions relating to the daily use of the practice spaces and provide access to music classes. After creating an account, residents of De Gaarden will be provided with the ability to sign up for time slots during which they can use these spaces themselves or receive lessons by the music teachers associated to the *Muziek in de Gaarden* organisational body, on which more elaboration will follow in the stakeholder analysis. In addition, the app will function as a public calendar, in which registered time slots will be available to see for

everyone. Finally, a messaging service will be added. After all, the goal of the Modular Music Boxes is to connect people. Thus, even if slots are booked, this does not mean others cannot join or be at the space as well. The addition of this messaging service should hopefully smooth out such interactions, especially when people do not know each other well personally.

In addition to designing an online application for the registration and communication with the *Muziek in de Gaarden* organisation, it will, of course, always be possible to be in touch with the body through other means. Hoping to be as accessible as possible for all residents in the neighbourhood, including those less technologically skilled, an email address and phone number will be shared at the Modular Music Boxes, as well as the home address of the resident members of *Muziek in de Gaarden*.

Real life examples

The music stand in the Assendorperdijk, a neighbourhood in Zwolle is an example of how we would like to build and create a community. On April 29, 1950, the bandstand was festively launched. A local orchestra organised the very first edition, later on many concerts followed in which local and national artists held different kinds of concerts. The activity around this amazing building had its peaks and downfalls, since the 1980/1990s the organisation changed and the festivities were bustling again. The success of this building has everything to do with the arrival of the socio-cultural association Eureka, community centre The Enk, the mosque and the Jenaplein School. This same-shared partnership of organisation is of major importance and interest for our music stand in the Gaarden. Because of this shared ownership in the Assendorperdijk, new vitality arises. The different parties are joining forces and host the most spectacular festivities, such as Queen's Day, outdoor concerts, poetry, and all kinds of dance performance. To improve its success even further, the creation of 'Music in the Tent foundation was created in 2004. This local community organises monthly events every second Sunday of the month. The interests from local residents in these free outdoor concerts are overwhelming. This local organisation is also an inspiration for our project in the Gaarden. As it shows the importance of local stakeholders and initiators for its success. The Gaarden has many potential existing initiatives who could use the music stand the same way as the Assendorp neighbourhood does. The most important missing element is the lack of areas in which people can gather and meet each other. Our plan of a music stand can be of the same success as the one in the Assendorperdijk. As it shows that even with different backgrounds, music can bond beyond these differential paradigms.



Source: assendorperzaken, no date



Source: assendorperzaken, no date

Stakeholders analysis:

In order to implement our design, it is necessary to create an overview of all actors who will be relevant to the project. In other words, the people, organisations and levels of government who may be affected by, or have a certain level of power over the realisation of the Modular Music Boxes, will be considered. To do this in a systematic and structured way, this stakeholder analysis will place these actors on a power interest grid. This grid, which can be found below, provides information about each actor's power over the project, as well as their level of interest regarding the project. In addition to this simple schematic display, this analysis will provide a detailed contextualisation on each of the involved actors, all of which will be mentioned below. Finally, this analysis discusses all the stakeholders which will be involved before, during and after the realisation of the Modular Music Boxes. This means that it includes *Muziek in de Gaarden*, a currently non-existent body which will be founded as part of the project.

The most important actors relating to the project are, of course, the local residents. In designing a meeting space, their interests and wishes were at the centre of our attention from start to finish. During the *buurtbakkie* activity, we asked residents about their preferences regarding any potential new meeting spaces in their neighbourhood. The expressed desire for new spaces in which to learn, play and enjoy music with their friends and neighbours subsequently became the primary inspiration for our proposed design. However, while we have kept the residents' wishes in mind from the start, an ideal case scenario would have included their input throughout the entire developing process as well, ensuring their maximised involvement and satisfaction with the final product. As further discussed in the reflection section, such a collaborative process was unfortunately hard to attain. This meant that, in the

end, most individual residents were not involved in the project's final design, and that the final design is based on our interpretation of the wishes as stated by the people we met during the *buurtbakkie* activity. To make up for this limitation, our proposal includes the initiation of *Muziek in de Gaarden*, an organisational body which will allow willing residents to be involved in the day-to-day maintenance of the Modular Music Boxes. This body will be discussed below.

Muziek in de Gaarden will be an organisational body, in charge of the daily operation of the project. It will be founded alongside the Modular Music Boxes and consist of around five to ten dedicated members from varied backgrounds. As mentioned, local residents will be the main decision-makers within the body. If necessary, they may be guided and aided in their tasks by employees from Staedion with managing experience. This will be done according to the principles of USE-IT!, a project by the University of Birmingham which is geared towards facilitating training programmes for people of disadvantaged backgrounds. In their words, they aim to “unlock the potential of poor communities and facilitate the creation of a matching skills service to enhance employment and encourage the spin-off of social enterprises that are socially innovative and resilient” (USE-IT!, 2022). Staedion, who possess the right expertise, could thus use this principle and teach, if necessary, the residents of De Gaarden to be in charge of their own project. Tasks performed by *Muziek in de Gaarden* include the planning and scheduling of music classes and events, being present when musical instruments are in use, managing the app and ensuring the Modular Music Boxes remain tidy and clean. Naturally, users will be responsible for leaving the space tidy after they finish. However, a once per week cleaning would be part of *Muziek in de Gaarden*'s obligations. In addition, members of this body, using their knowledge of the neighbourhood and its people, will be in charge of finding willing music teachers from the neighbourhood and integrate them into the project from the start. These teachers, then, will also join the board of the organisation and participate in its daily operations, mostly relating to music classes and hosting practice spaces.

Next, naturally, is Staedion. As the client of our project, it will be the final decision-maker on many details of its execution. For this reason, staying in close and constant touch with employees of Staedion is essential. This could be done, as mentioned above, by including representatives of the organisation in *Muziek in de Gaarden*, both to train residents for the job, and to ensure decisions are made in accordance with Staedion's wishes.

Next is the municipality of The Hague, who, like the residents, are likely to have a high interest in the implementation of the project, as it hopefully will lead to more neighbourhood cohesion and interaction, which the municipality holds in high regard. In addition, as the final authoritative body, the municipality does hold a lot of power over the project. If its

implementation does not suit The Hague's preferences, the project may lose its licensing. This means that regular communication with the municipality over the proposed meeting spaces could be essential. *Muziek op de Gaarden* will be responsible for this interaction.

Next, for the physical realisation of the project, as well as the development of the app, we aim to collaborate with ROC Mondriaan in The Hague, a school for vocational training. This collaboration would have two separate functions. First, to realise the construction of the Modular Music Boxes. In exchange for credits, or perhaps as part of an examination or test, carpentry students could carry out the construction of the project. In a similar structure, we hope to receive the services of students enrolled in ROC's software development course for the development of the app. This proposed collaboration has two main benefits over choosing to hire carpentry or IT companies for the two jobs. The first, importantly, is financial. Indeed, if students can be employed to help us realise the project in exchange for credits, costs should be significantly lower than in the case professional companies would be hired. Second, the selected school's location is only a few minutes' drive from the De Gaarden neighbourhood. For this reason, it is possible, and even likely, that students enrolled at the school are largely from De Gaarden and surrounding neighbourhoods. Their knowledge of the area and its residents may inspire passion for the project. Further, having been involved in the development of the Modular Music Boxes could hopefully be a trigger for them to visit the space once it has been completed.

Finally, the police deserve a mention. They should be notified ahead of events, large gatherings and resulting noise disturbance. In addition, the regular playing of music runs the risk of occasional noise complaints. For this reason, the *wijkagent* (neighbourhood officer) should be aware of the space's location and function, and *Muziek in de Gaarden* should introduce themselves and their organisation for transparent communication, keeping the police station in the loop at all times.

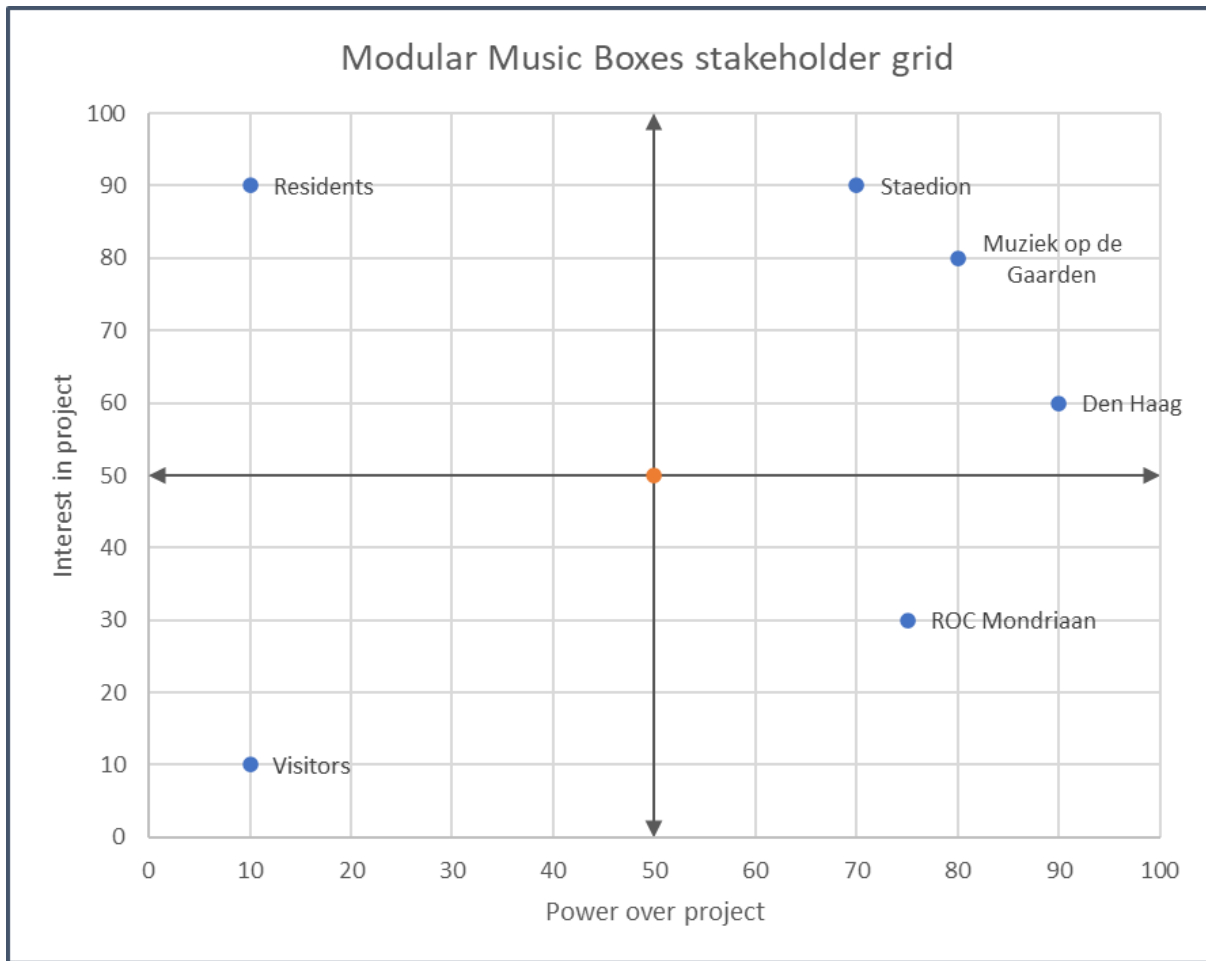


Figure 19: Stakeholder grid for the Modular Music Box

Current situation

Meeting places

In the existing neighbourhood as mentioned before, there are not many meeting places to be found (figure 19). The buildings mostly occupy residential functions, while most of the potential meeting places that are found here are shops and hospitality. Looking at the outside spaces, there are many little playgrounds in between the apartment blocks. However, these are not of high quality and are meant mostly for (parents and their) children. Furthermore, there are a few benches here and there, but not many. Lastly, there is a big sports field for the sports association. However, this location is hard to reach and left mostly unused. During the *buurtbakkie*, where residents of the neighbourhood Gaarden were interviewed about the topic of meeting places, it was established that there is a big need for places to be creative. An opportunity to do this is with our idea of the Modular Music Boxes.



Figure 20: Existing functions in the neighbourhood De Gaarden

Social cohesion

The need for meeting places goes further than simply adding “quality” to the neighbourhood, and looking at what the residents want in a meeting space, namely an improvement in the social cohesion is needed in the neighbourhood de Gaarden. When conducting the interviews, most adult residents stated that they had zero to no contact with neighbours and that they did not feel the necessity to have this type of interaction. For this reason, it is important that the design of the meeting place, with its function and activities, will stimulate people to meet each other in a spontaneous and natural way. The Modular Music Boxes should thus be easily accessible, location-wise as well as socially, so that even those who do not plan to participate may end up joining now and then. Our goal is to stimulate interaction between people from different ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, and walks of life, which hopefully could lead to more understanding and social cohesion.

Socio-economic status

Another aspect that is important when looking to create a meeting place in the neighbourhood of de Gaarden is to make it affordable. As seen in chapter X, the average income level in the neighbourhood is relatively low, which underlines the necessity to make the usage of the meeting space free or as cheap as possible. Low costs will also contribute to a more realistic chance of implementation, as an affordable project is more likely to receive funding and execution. The aspects to look at with the Modular Music Boxes are human resources, maintenance and responsibility, resources and money.

Meeting places and social cohesion

The chosen location is in between one of the apartment blocks because this is an accessible location for residents to come by, both intentionally and unintentionally. The flexibility and multifunctionality of the Modular Music Boxes should make it an interesting space for different target audiences, while most importantly being a way to connect people through music. The addition of picnic tables around the “stage” of the Music Boxes should provide for more options to simply sit and meet in a nice place

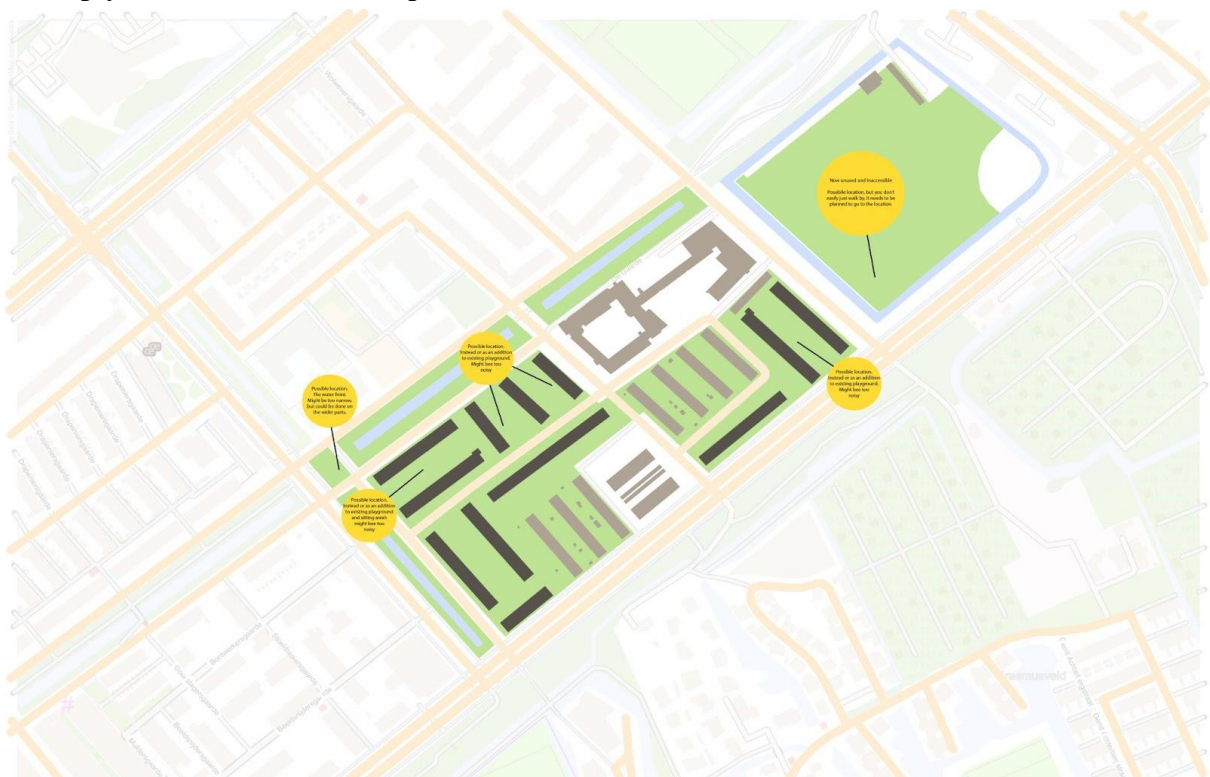


Figure 21 Location of the Modular Music Boxes

Investments

To make our plan work, the most important factors are those related to management and finances. As we have seen in the music hall in the Assendorperdijk, the input from initiative stakeholders and activity planning is one of the explanatory factors in their success. We are planning to make two kind of investments namely, human and financial resources. These different categories will be explained now shortly.

Human resources

Human capital is one of the most important factors to achieve our goals. A meeting spot for the neighbourhood only succeeds if there are individuals who are genuinely committed to the Modular Music Box.

Therefore, a couple of human investments need to be made. The first one is an internal organisation within the neighbourhood, people who are responsible for the Modular music box and hosting events. This organisation should consist of 5-10 individuals. These individuals do not only host events but also make sure that the Modular music box is kept clean and in perfect shape and initiates the search for instrument donations. Since the Modular music box will also be available for neighbouring schools and other communities, a management role is given to this neighbourhood community. *Muziek in de Gaarden* could be one of the given names of this organisation. Secondly, an overarching network needs to be established. The main actor in this network is reserved for the local community *Muziek in de Gaarden*. However other existing communities and clubs should be able to join this overarching network and make use of the Modular music box. Control will still be in the hands of the *Muziek in de Gaarden*, but they can loan the Modular music box to other communities or even co-host different events. Our project aims to stimulate the collaboration of a wide variety of clubs and actors, leading, hopefully, to the celebration of diversity in the neighbourhood. Widespread collaboration should also mean common ground between different views regarding the Modular Music Boxes' use can be found. This will lead to mutual understanding and a general meeting place for all.

Two other, more individual ways of organising the maintenance of the Modular Music Boxes are the mentioned next. The supervision could be maintained in two ways. The first would be to hire a supervisor who oversees all activities of the music module. Someone who maintains the schedule, maintenance, and supervision of the module, the instruments, and its surroundings. However, this strategy would be costly. At least two supervisors would be needed to keep the module available seven days a week and constant monitoring of the module would mean that the supervisors would also be working at moments when there is no demand for the

module. The second option would place more responsibility on the neighbourhood. In this instance, the module can be reserved through an app or webpage for certain times by the use of a personal and verified account. In this instance, the maintenance of the module can be subcontracted to residents of the neighbourhood and limited to two times every week.

Financial resources:

A second important pillar for success and the ability to create the Modular Music Boxes is money. Not only is money needed to start building and maintaining the Modular music box, but funding will also be necessary to keep the different activities going. As the graphs will show on the next page, the resources needed are split into two categories. The first graph will show a division of the actual starting capital of €95.000. This money is needed to build the Modular music box and to buy a wide range of musical instruments and other attributes, these attributes are needed to host events, record, and make music. However, depending on potential donations, this costs can vary. This can also include the possible collaborations with schools surrounding De Gaarden. One possibility is a collaboration with ROC Mondriaan, which has both an IT and a carpentry department. For students, this project would function as a wonderful learning opportunity. With these kinds of collaborations, costs can be cut considerably.

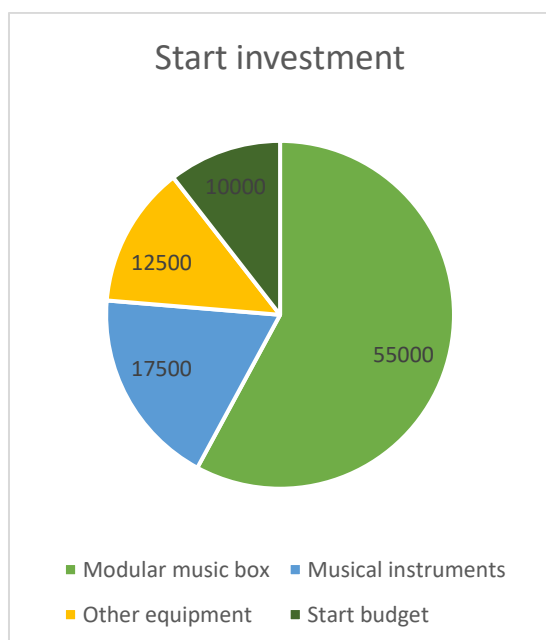


Figure 22: Start investments for the creating of the music stand.

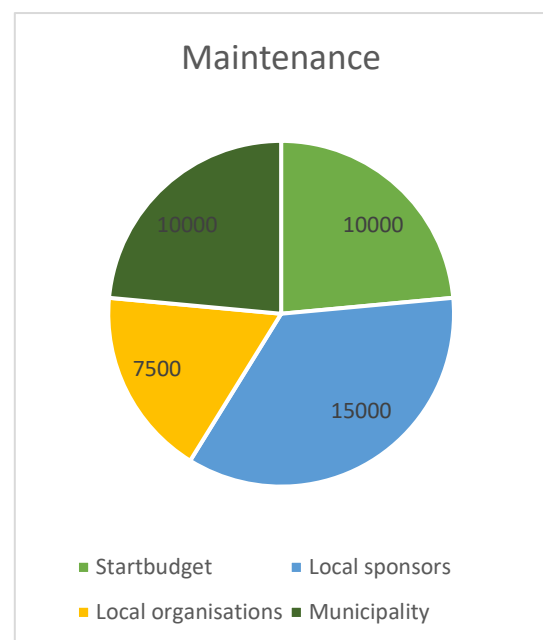


Figure 23: Average revenue for maintenance per year

The second graph shows the expected revenues per year. The largest flow of generated income comes from local support. Think of money collections during events, organized club actions by the committee, and local companies who offer to sponsor the Modular music box in some kind of way. Since the overarching network consists of more than one existing community, these separate bodies generate income as well. If an activity is dually hosted, the costs can be split. Furthermore, we aim to apply for various grants from the municipality of The Hague, as a body that already sponsors a wide range of different cultural events. As an incentive, the municipality has a going application for investment in culture. If accepted, this application can lead to a massive starting capital which will cover most starting costs.

Activities

The activities that could be held in and around the module are endless, but we will name a few. First, the module could serve as a lending facility where people who do not have the funds to buy instruments can lend these instruments. Second, it can serve as a location where close by primary schools can visit for music excursions. Third, the stage has greater potential to serve also for non-music-related activities such as theatrics and political debates. Fourth, it can serve as a place where the youth can meet. Many youths hold dreams of becoming artists, beatmakers, producers, or rappers. The Modular Music Boxes can be an outlet for these youth.

In short, the Modular Music Boxes are multi-functional, and its use can be determined by the residents. This broad functionality also means that a diverse set of people, of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, can find a possible usage of the space. The options named below are an indication and only a small portion of the possible functions the Modular Music Boxes could have in the neighbourhood. These four suggestions will be further explained below but the module is by no means limited to these options.

As mentioned in chapter three, residents of De Gaarden are more likely to have lower income levels. Instruments such as guitars, MIDI controllers, pianos, microphones etcetera are very costly. Because of this, these activities are less accessible to the youth in this neighbourhood. Lending out these instruments or the facility where these instruments are placed can be a way for these youths to channel their energy towards their goals. However, lending comes with higher maintenance risks, and it could also pose a problem in terms of availability. Second, most primary schools offer music classes. However, such classes often require parental contributions. These parental contributions can be obstacles for families of lower socio-economic backgrounds. Often these parental contributions are used to pay the music teachers and the rent of instruments. By use of the Modular Music Box and in cooperation with the

primary schools, the parental contributions could be limited to a minimum and music classes can even become available to all schools in the neighbourhood.

Third, in recent years online platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Soundcloud have grown rapidly. More and more people are making dance videos, beats, raps, and other such creative productions. Often such productions are filmed on smartphones but a location for such videos could make for a great meeting place for the youth. Especially, as one wall of Modular Music Box could be painted green and function as a green screen. The green screen can be used to record clips. Furthermore, musical aspiration can be an alternative to more negative ways of making money for youths. However, often renting out studios is expensive and hard to arrange. To make this more accessible to the youth in the neighbourhood, the project could host walk-in hours. To keep the costs low, students from the Hague Conservatory could be employed to master and produce the recordings in return for study points.

Fourth, the Modular Music Boxes, put very simply, have a stage. This stage can be rented out for different projects and can also be used for town hall meetings in the neighbourhood. Such local meetings can be very useful in several scenarios. For example, in times of turmoil or riots, neighbourhood cohesion can be strengthened and used to oversee the neighbourhood. While riots do not happen often in De Gaarden, they have taken place in Schilderswijk and other places in The Hague. Examples of such preventative strategies can be found in Kanaleneiland. In addition, people could use the stage to unite and voice dissatisfactions they may have about their neighbourhood, giving them the opportunity to come together and discuss solutions, as well as creating a way to establish a coherent view which could be presented to Staedion or the municipality.

Outputs & outcomes

In short, our initiative aims to provide the neighbourhood with three separate ‘tangible’ outputs. The most important of these is the physical creation of the Modular Music Boxes. This will take shape in one of the neighbourhood’s green areas in between housing blocks, as shown in Figure 21. Not only will this the Modular Music Boxes be available for musicians to play and practice in, but it will also be an area where people can participate in music lessons, where people of the neighbourhood can enjoy music, and most importantly, simply meet each other and interact.

To ensure the proper functioning of the Modular Music Boxes, two other outputs will be created, the *Muziek in de Gaarden* initiative and the app. The former, as widely elaborated on above, will be a way for the De Gaarden residents to take charge of the meeting

space. We believe that the neighbours should be partially made responsible for decorating the Modular Music Boxes. By involving them in the creative process of its implementation, the neighbours could feel more engaged with this new project from the beginning. This process is thus focused on creating a sense of shared responsibility and ownership over this meeting space, in addition to the overarching goal of enhanced social cohesion within the neighbourhood.

Time strategy:

In order for the implementation of the Modular Music Boxes to work, a clear time-planning is necessary. This will make sure the implementers do not lose track of the vision and for the Modular Music Boxes to actually be implemented as soon as possible. We expect that the project can be put in place within one year after the start of the project. The first half-year is necessary to consult with the stakeholders in the neighbourhood, to concretely work out the project modules, and to find and cooperate with a contractor that can manufacture these modules. After the first 6 months, the modules can hopefully be put in place in the neighbourhood, whereafter the process of decorating and gathering the instruments and other necessary music gear starts. If this procedure will be successfully finished after that second half-year, the activities in and surrounding the Modular Music Boxes can slowly be initiated by involving music teachers, bands, and performance groups that are interested to participate. After this, it will probably take some time before these actors have figured out clear time division on the use of the Modular Music Boxes. These actors also need this third ‘semester’ to attract people of the neighbourhood that are interested in following music lessons, participating in rehearsals, or contributing by organising other activities in and around the Modular Music Boxes. After one and a half-year, it is expected that the Modular Music Boxes will fulfil its function optimally.

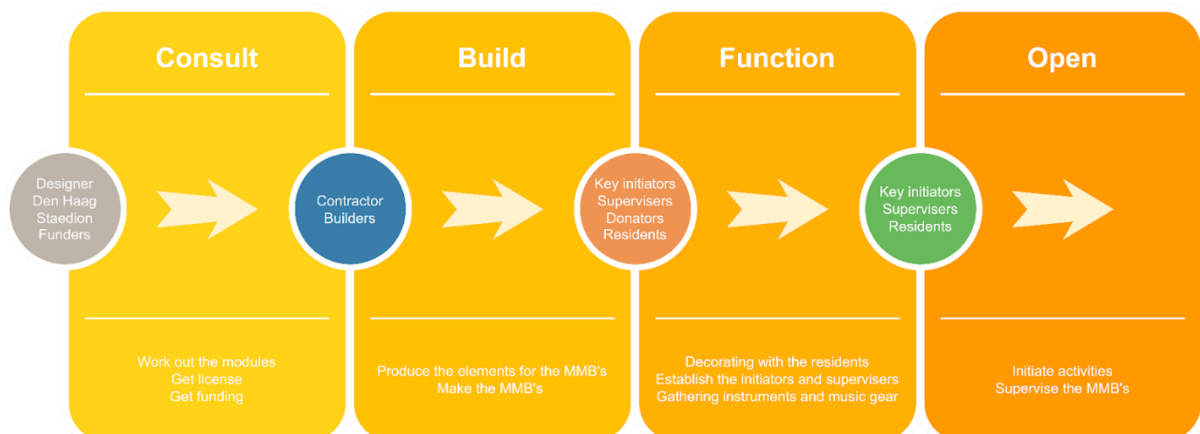


Figure 24: time sequence of the Modular Music Box

Expected long-term effectiveness

We hope and believe that the implementation of the Modular Music Boxes in De Gaarden will have a positive and lasting impact on the neighbourhood's community, especially in the long term. De Gaarden is a neighbourhood with relatively high poverty levels, while its social cohesion generally is very low. This observation led to and underlined our vision: our project's main *goal* is to bring together neighbours of all walks of life, in many different ways and times of the day and year. For this reason, we decided to focus on music: it is an accessible and powerful uniter. Indeed, the central *function* of Modular Music Boxes is to accommodate the residents' need for creative, musical outlet, allowing them to learn, practice and perform and share music in a trusted and safe environment. Its name suggests that this may be where the story ends. However, our design, including its stage and spaced-out seating arrangement, is highly flexible and perform many different functions based on the needs of the neighbourhood's residents. The year-round availability and flexible nature of this meeting space is one of the reasons why we think it will achieve its long-term goal of increased social cohesion within the neighbourhood.

As mentioned above, the main goal of the Modular Music Boxes is to bring people together, whether that be through music or other ways of community-based interaction. In addition, the day-to-day functioning of our project, as well as its initial design and decoration, are designed in such a way to ensure shared responsibility and to maximise community involvement from the start. The creation of the *Muziek in the Gaarden* maintenance group will ensure that the management, planning and cleaning of the space remains shared and interactive. Further, we hope to involve residents in the decoration and final execution of the Modular Music Boxes, to give them a sense of ownership and power of the space which, ultimately, was designed for them.

Chapter 5: Reflection

In this closing chapter, we will first discuss some limitations and possible challenges of the implementation of our meeting space intervention. After that, we will discuss the lessons that we as a group learned from this assignment in terms of the analysis and content. As well as our experiences with the Design Game approach.

Limitations and challenges

One of the main concerns about the implementation of the Modular Music Boxes concept is whether the boxes are soundproof and don't cause too much nuisance to the neighbourhood. By placing the music module in the middle of the neighbourhood, we tried to create a space where many different kinds of people will pass by anyways, and could then be more attracted to this place. A downside to this however is the fact that many residents are living close to the music box, which may cause disturbance to residents that are not very open to music. A way to counter this drawback, the music box must firstly be very well insulated against noise pollution. By paying a lot of attention to this while building the modules, we hope that this noise pollution while rehearsing and practicing inside these boxes will be kept to a minimum. When talking about the use of the outside stage, however, it is harder to maintain the noise manageably. In order to deal with the sound of music outside the boxes, we, therefore, suggest being quite strict about what times the stage can be used for musical purposes. We suggest only using the stage during the weekends, until around 10 pm.

Another challenge in the implementation of the Modular Music Boxes is keeping the instruments and recording equipment safe from theft. Therefore we would like to put even more emphasis on the shared responsibility of the commission *Muziek in de Gaarden* to lock up these boxes and the storage room every day. Also, while building the boxes, it needs to be considered to build the places of storage with more firm material than the rest of the box is built with. Lastly, we think it is essential to address the challenge of using the Music box in different seasons and different types of weather. Because the modules will be built of wood, it is important to still keep an eye out for the isolation of these modules and the possible incorporation of heating systems. This way, the Modular Music Boxes can be used in different types of weather and therefore does not lose its function.

Critical reflection

In this City Game assignment, we as a group have learned quite a lot of practical and creative skills. Because the City game assignment leaves a lot of space open for the groups to come up with their own ideas, we especially learned to have a closer look at what is actually going on in a neighbourhood, what the needs of residents are, and how we can come up with a practical intervention. Even though we did take this approach of first investigating what the needs and possibilities are in the neighbourhood before coming up with intervention ideas, we did find it quite hard to always keep in mind the neighbourhood circumstances. As also described in this final assignment, we really tried to keep a bottom-up approach by involving the residents as much as possible and thinking of what the outcomes of the intervention could offer to them. However, when in the process of creating the intervention, we sometimes struggled with coming up with creative ideas, while keeping in mind the residents' needs. We therefore think this assignment could have been better adapted to the residents if we continuously kept in contact with them throughout the creation of the intervention, following the principles of placemaking. Concludingly, however, our Design game group learned a lot by working on this more practical assignment. We especially learned to look at smaller practical details of an intervention to make sure it can actually be implemented, as well as how to take the multiple stakeholders into account that have an influence on the success of the implementation.

Appendix

Observation protocol

For the observations and interviews we mostly came up with the following themes we wanted to ask questions about to different types of residents of the neighbourhood:

- The availability of meeting spaces
- Involvement of residents in activities?
- Favourable design of meeting space
- Favourable opening times meeting space
- Distance willing to travel to join meeting space activities

The materials we used during the observations and the interviews:

- Pinboard
- Prints of maps of the neighbourhood
- Different colours markers
- Pen and paper
- iPad/mobile phones

During the observations, we systematically explored the neighbourhood to map out physical differences and possibilities for new meeting spaces.

Interview transcripts:

Girl 10 years old

Girl (10): ‘Can I ask what you guys are doing here?’

Maxime: ‘Ofcourse, we are from TU Delft and we are looking into a moveable meeting place for this neighbourhood. Where do you like to go in this neighbourhood?’.

Girl (10): ‘I like playing in the playgrounds with my friends after school or playing soccer behind these apartments’.

Maxime: ‘That sounds like a lot of fun! Do you play with any kids from this neighbourhood, or are your friends from elsewhere?’.

Girl (10): ‘I play with a lot of kids from these blocks, we all like to play together’.

Maxime: ‘Are there any places in the neighbourhood you would like?’.

Girl (10): ‘A better place to play soccer maybe, but I really like the neighbourhood already’.

Woman 40 years old

Maxime: ‘Are there any meeting places in the neighbourhood that you would like or think are needed?’.

Woman (40): ‘I don’t do much in the neighbourhood, the only thing I really do is go to the playground with my child. So I think those could maybe be upgraded here. Also I like festivals and things like that, but I don’t do them here’.

Maxime: ‘Okay! Do you feel like there are enough places where you can sit, when you go with your child to the playground and do you interact with your neighbours there?’.

Woman (40): ‘No there are not many places to sit, more benches would be nice. I don’t interact much with my neighbours, except for the occasional “hey” and I don’t feel the need either.’.

Woman in her 20-30’s

Maxime: ‘Are there any meeting places in the neighbourhood that you think should be added?’.

Woman (20-30): ‘I don’t do much outside or with neighbours. I like spending time with my child and go to the playground from time to time with him. So if anything, I think more benches or playgrounds would be good’.

Maxime: ‘Oke, and do you think anything for yourself is needed, like cafés or somewhere when you can do something creative for example?’.

Woman (20-30): ‘There are not really cafés here, I think that could be very nice to have’.

Man in his 30’s

Maxime: ‘Are there any meeting places in the neighbourhood that you think should be added or somewhere where you could meet with neighbours?’.

Man (30): ‘I actually only sleep here and don’t do anything outside or with neighbours, so I don’t know if I can help you.’.

Maxime: ‘That’s alright!’ What do you like to do when you are not working?’.

Man (30): ‘When I have time I like to visit friends and family or sometimes they come here but we stay in my apartment.’.

Man in his 50-60's

Maxime: 'Are there any meeting places in the neighbourhood that you think should be added?'

Man (50-60): 'I don't really understand what that is, but I don't do anything with my neighbours.'

Maxime: 'A meeting place can be all sorts of things. Somewhere you can sit, somewhere you can do your hobbies, places you can walk, etc. What are things you like to do?'

Man (50-60): 'I like biking or walking in the forest. I do that just outside of the neighbourhood'.

Group of teenagers

Hannah: *showed some different kinds of activities that could be done and asked them what they would like...*

Teenagers: 'A place to drink tea or coffee would be nice, because we don't have that in this neighbourhood right now. The children's farm sounds like a lot of fun, somewhere where we can do something. But we also like to make music and be creative, so that would be fun if we could do that in the neighbourhood'.

Hannah: 'Do you make music in the neighbourhood?'

Teenagers: 'There is a music teacher just around the block and we play together, for example the matsikas, with our friends here from time to time'.

Hannah: 'What other things do you do with your neighbours?'

Teenagers: 'We hang out at each other's places, like now, and we play soccer a lot. Other times we meet each other in the shopping centre nearby'.

Hannah: 'What do you think about the existing meeting spaces?'

Teenagers: 'There are no good meeting spaces around. The only thing we can do in the neighbourhood is walk with friends.'

Maxime: 'What do you think of the neighbourhood itself, do you like it here?'

Teenagers: 'We have a lot of friends in the neighbourhood and we think it's really nice here'.

Woman in her 20's

Hannah: *showed some different kinds of activities that could be done and asked her what she would like...*

Woman: 'I don't know many neighbours yet, because I just started living here. But somewhere where I could be creative, I would be very interested in'.

Maxime: 'Do you think that could be a nice way of getting to know more people here?'.

Woman: 'Yeah, I think that would make it easier for me to connect with people!'.

Hannah: 'What do you do for work?'.

Woman: 'I am a music teacher.'.

Hannah: 'Would you be interested in maybe volunteering as a music teacher for neighbours if there was a creative space?'.

Woman: 'I think that would be really fun!'.

Man his 80's

Maxime: 'What do you like to do in the neighbourhood?'.

Man (80): 'I only leave the house to do groceries actually or sometimes to go to the beach with the public transport.'

Hannah: 'Do you like the neighbourhood?'.

Man (80): 'I think it's fine, but there are some people in this neighbourhood that make too much noise and sometimes they scream in front of my apartment. Because of that, I don't feel safe going out in the evening.'.

Hannah: *showed some different kinds of activities that could be done and asked him what he would like...*

Man (80): 'I think cooking or being creative together sounds fun, gardening would be a nice way to get out and the petting zoo would be nice to sit and relax and be amongst some people.'.

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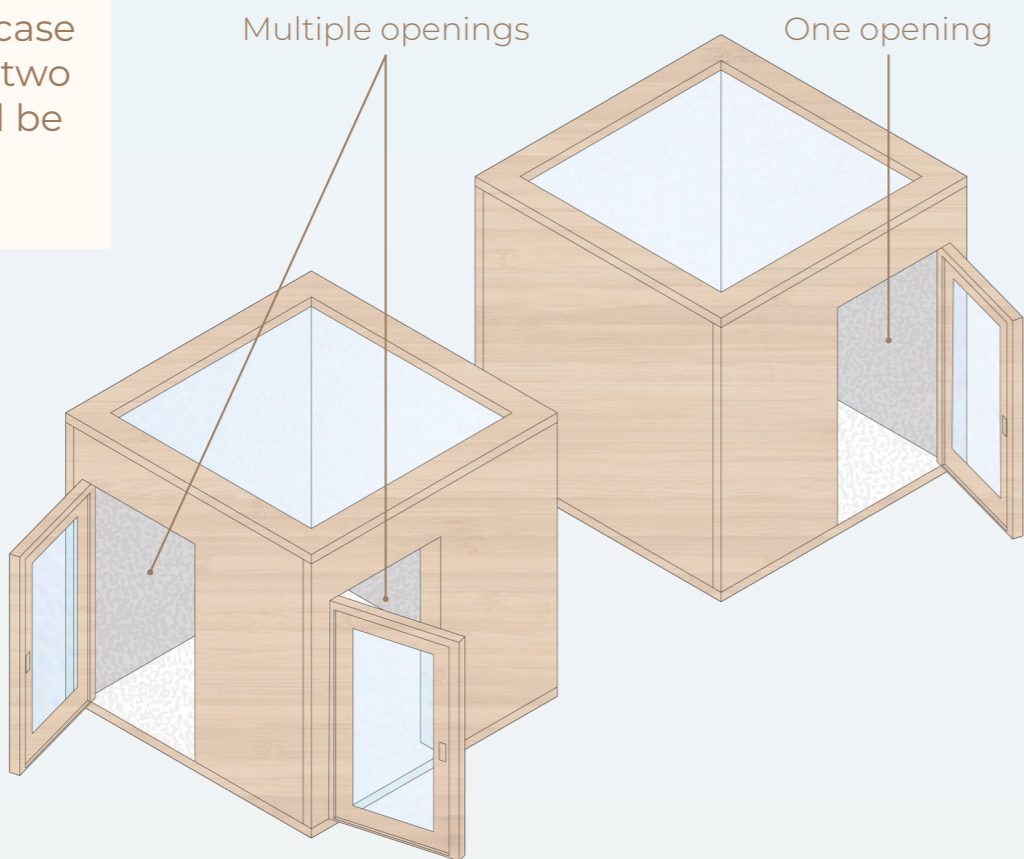
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The Modular Music Box

Goals:

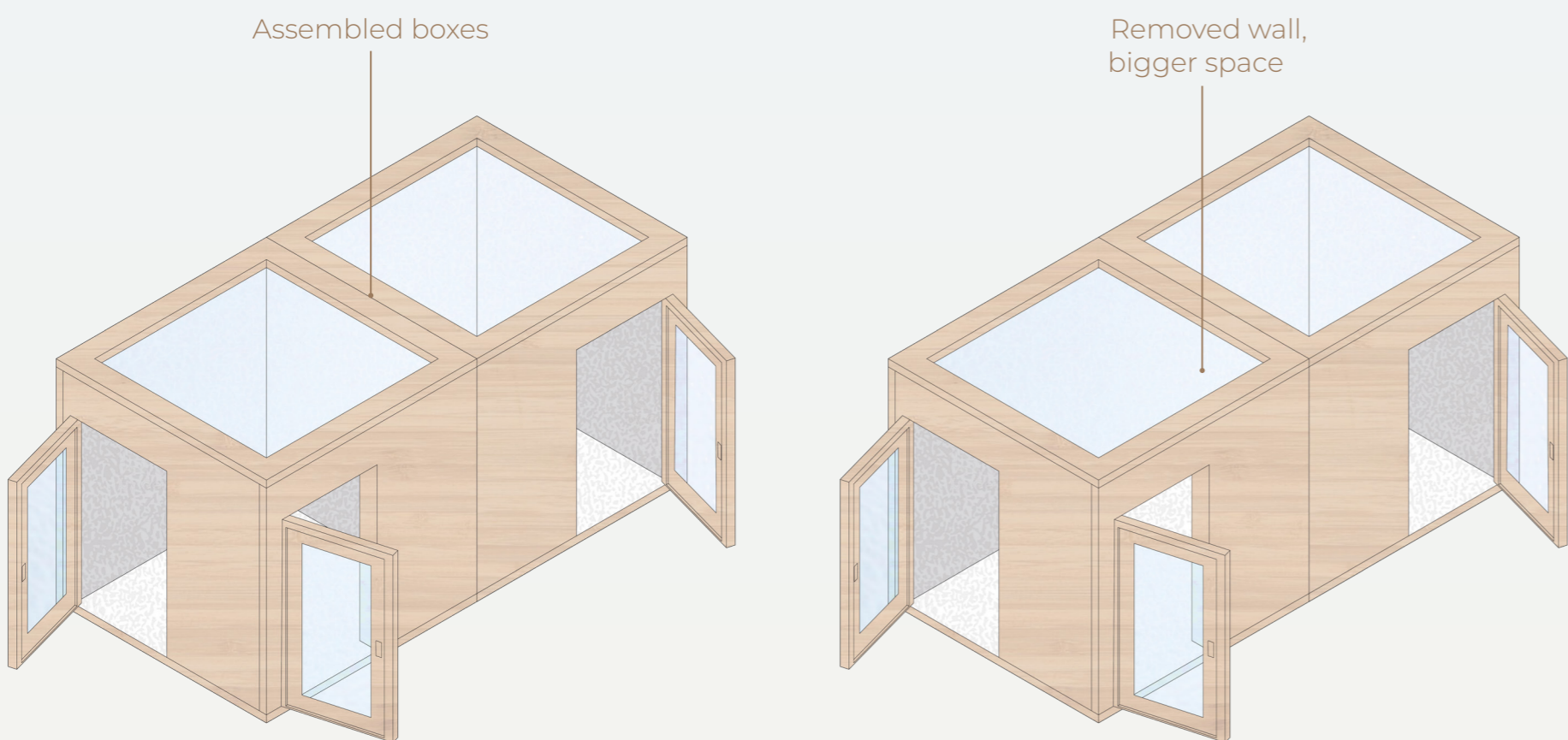
- Multifunctionality creates diversity
- A place for all people
- Social cohesion building by the power of music
- More safety due to more activities
- Learning possibilities for volunteers
- Stage for a start of political interests

Different amount of openings for more open or private spaces. In this case there is shown one or two openings, but it could be more if wished for!



STEP 02

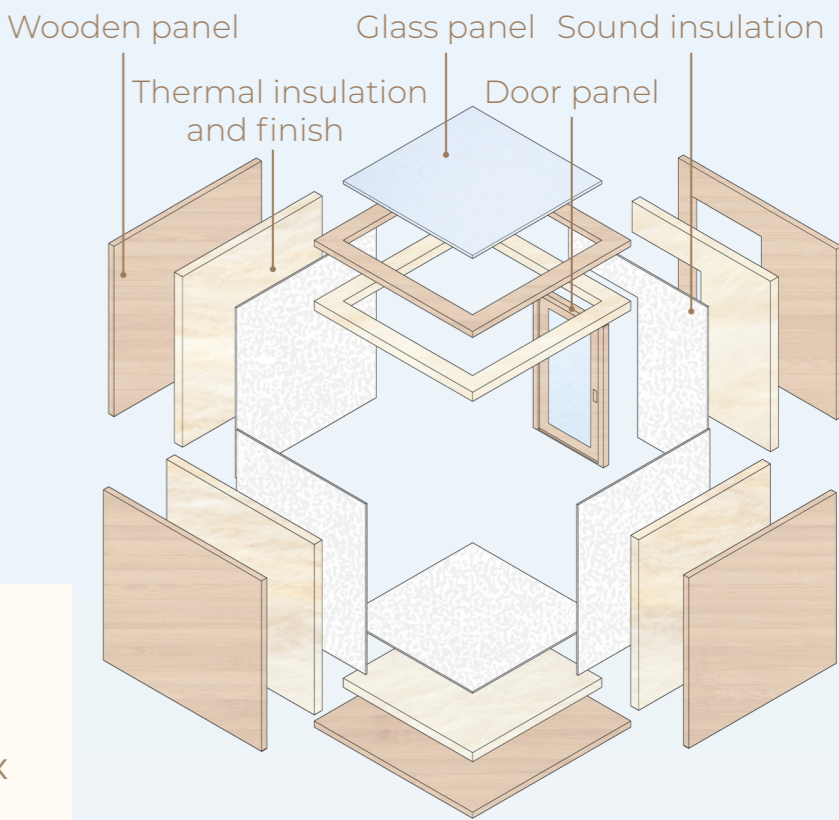
The Modular Music Box can be combined and made unique endlessly. Think about different openings for the preferred privacy, adding multiple Modular Musix Boxes together and even removing walls to make bigger spaces...



In this case two boxes are assembled. However this could be many more, stacked horizontally or even vertically...

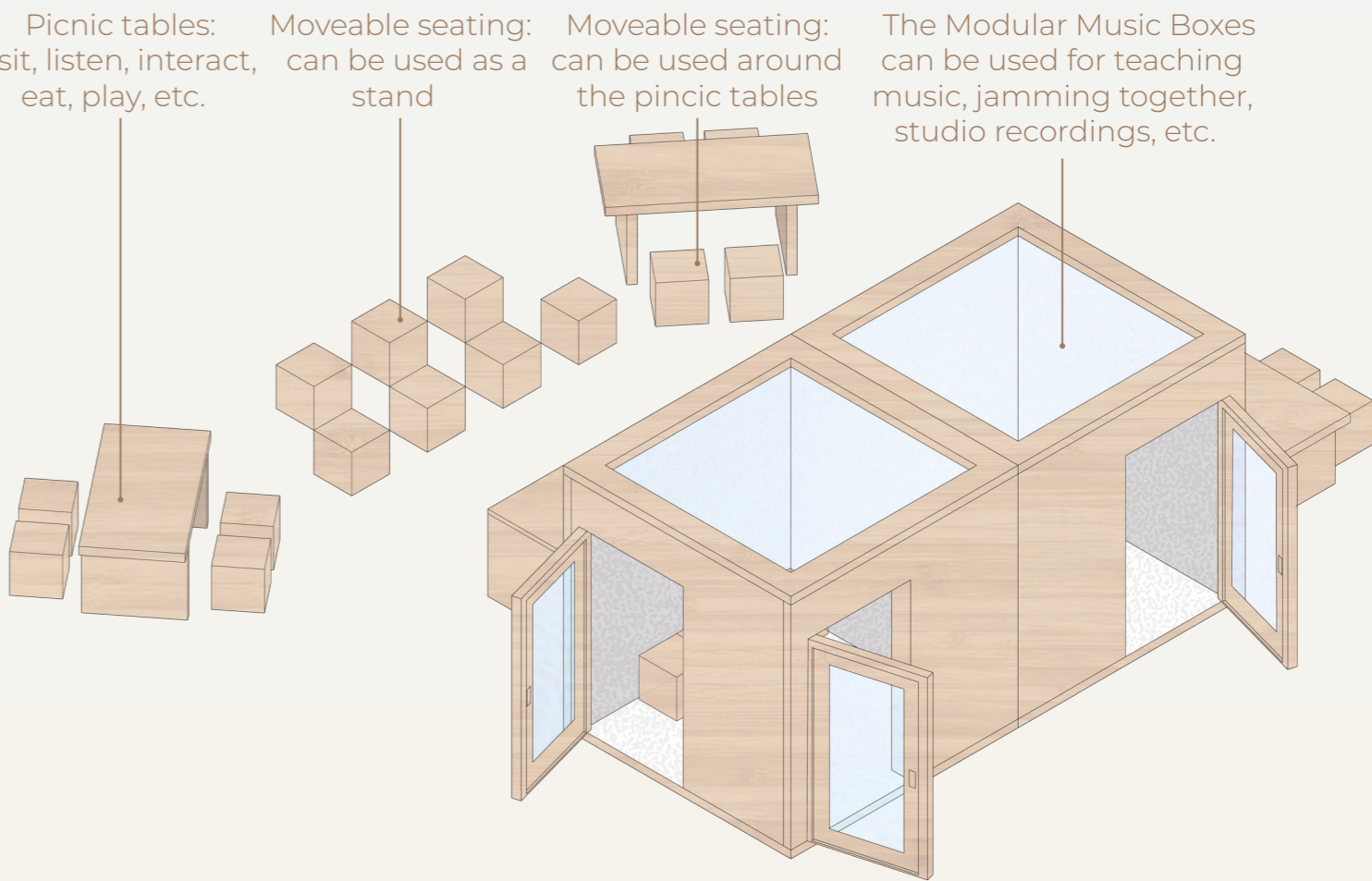
STEP 01

The Modular Music Box is assembled with thermal and sound insulation to give a pleasant music experience and a skylight to provide enough daylight...

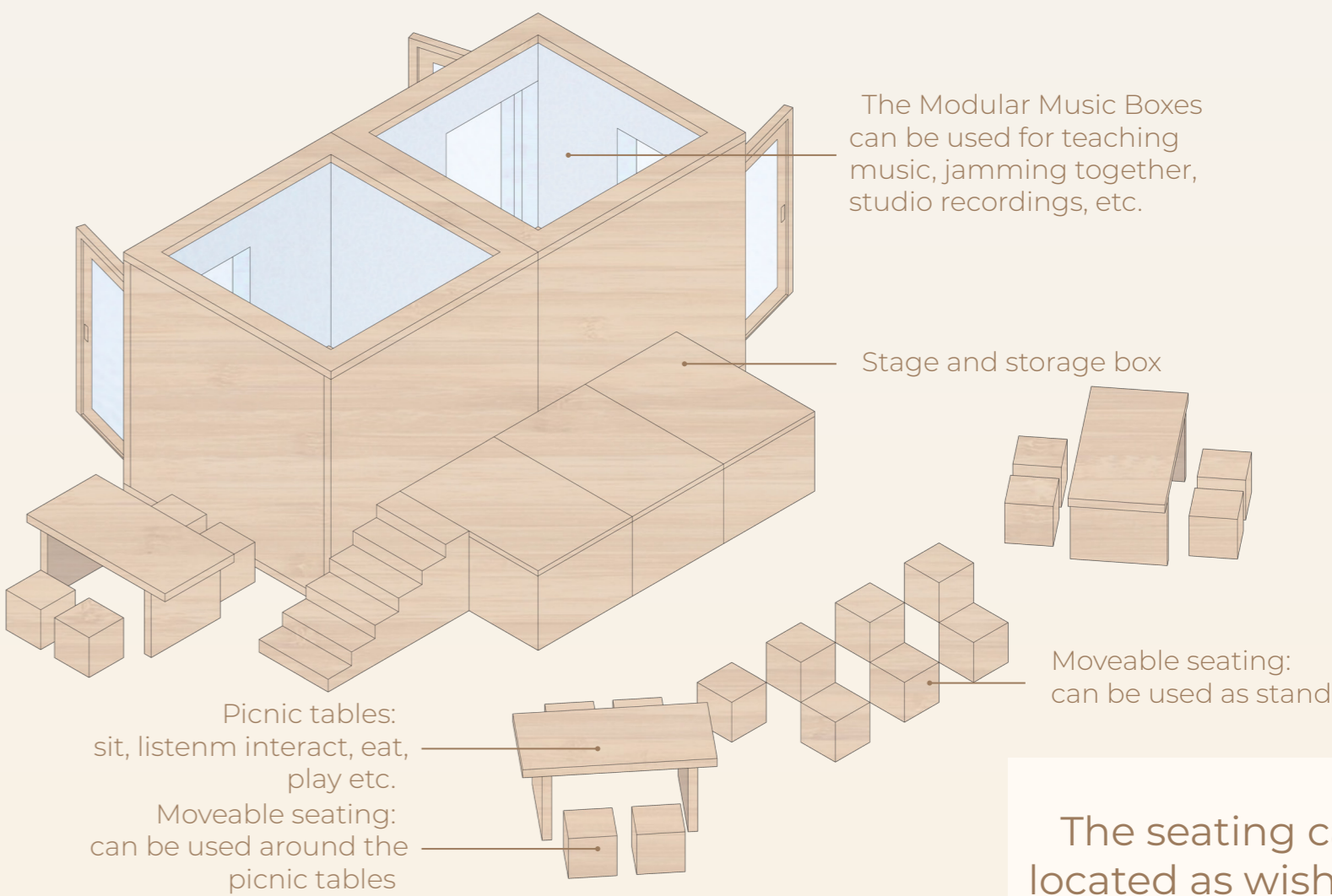
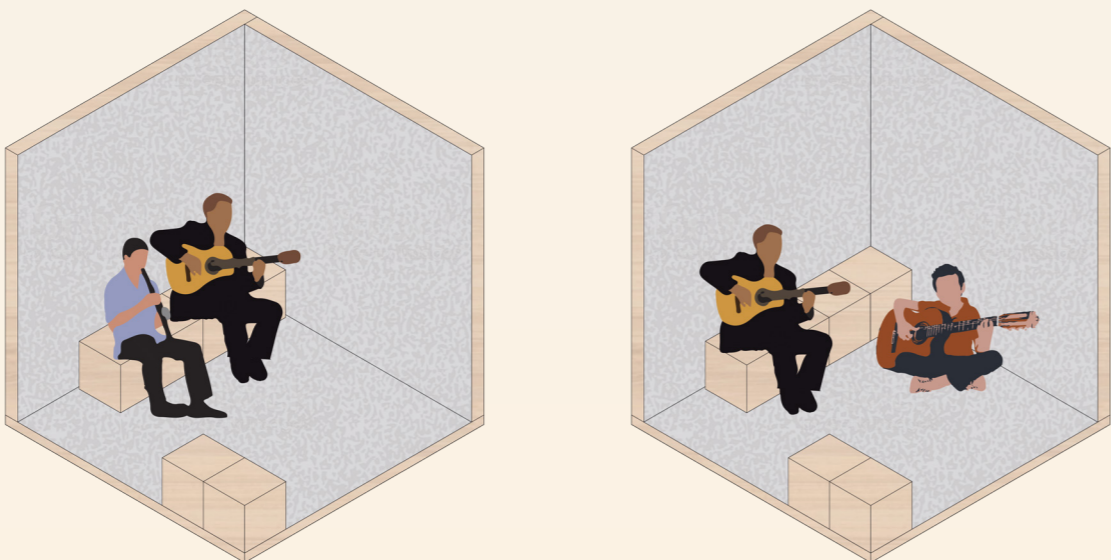


STEP 03

The Modular Music Box is assembled with an outside space to sit, meet chill, listen and make music for everyone! Furthermore there is a stage that also functions as a storage box for instruments, which can be used by downloading the app or going to the Muziek op de Gaarde committee...



Do you want to jam with others, teach others, get lessons, practice, record, host an event, etc.? Claim a spot for The Modular Musix Box in the app or ask the Muziek op de Gaarde committee.



The seating can be located as wished for, in the Modular Music Boxes or outside!

STEP 04

Use The Modular Music Box! Create music in the lovely boxes all year long, use the outside space for your wished activities and make it your own! The outside space can be used for chilling outside alone or together, making and listening to music...v

