

Ann Arbor City Center Commons Proposals Summarized And Put In An International Context

Commons-driven Cities are now a worldwide movement that is growing in response to the failure of conventional economics and politics to meet the needs of ordinary people everywhere. Ann Arbor has always had a tradition of trying new things and making leading breakthroughs in technology as well as social systems when challenges occur. The City Center Commons is an opportunity for the city to again rise to the occasion and claim a global leadership role.

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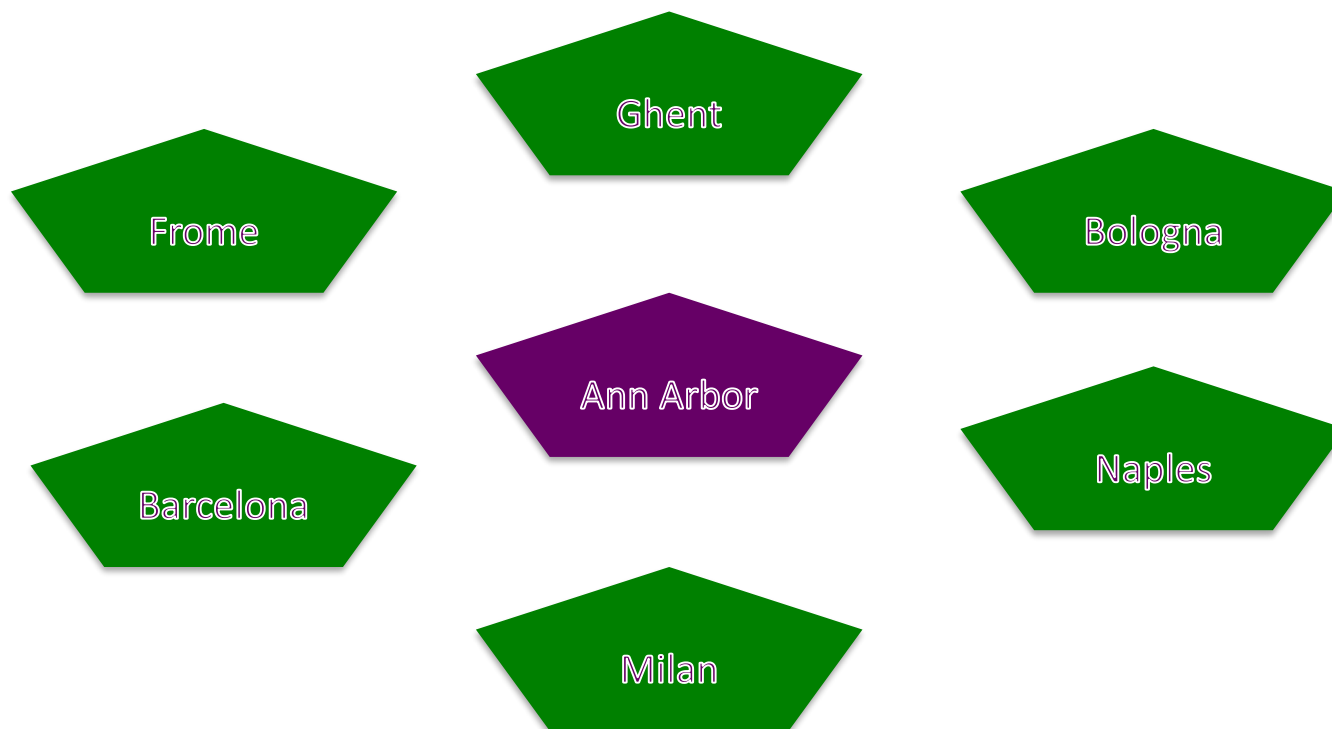
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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“**The commons** is a way to describe shared, material or immaterial property that is stewarded, protected or produced by a community – in an urban context often by citizens’ collectives – and managed according to the rules and standards of that community. It is fundamentally distinct from state bodies – government, city, state – but also from market actors. The commons is independent of, but of course still holds relationships to, the government and the market.”

<https://commonstransition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Bauwens-Niaros-Urban-Commons-Transitions.pdf>

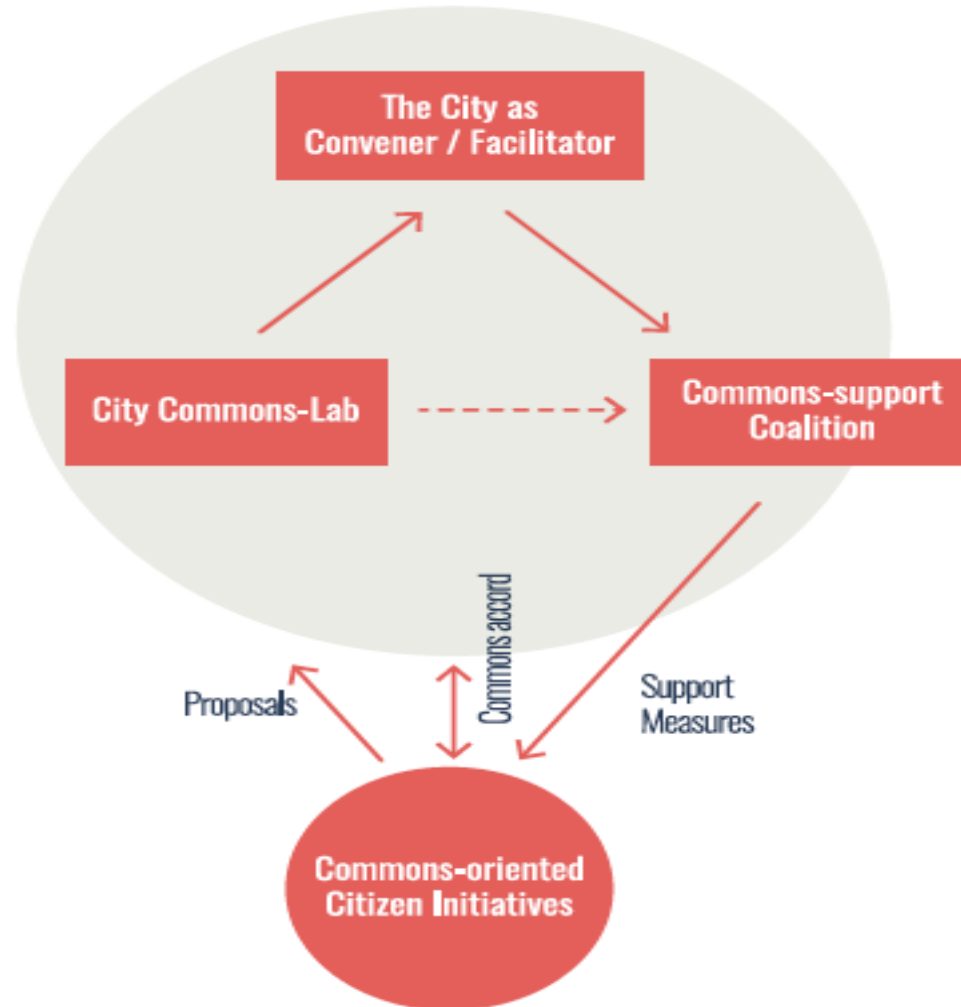
Preliminary Ann Arbor City Center Commons International Network



Initial Ann Arbor Commons Partner Cities

- **Barcelona** is significant because it is the expression of a new radical municipalism that seeks to bypass the current limitations of the nation-state and has a majority political coalition and movement, En Comú, that refers explicitly to the underlying principle of the commons. It illustrates how movement activists can work with existing political parties to create new platforms that foster greater participation in governance.
- **Bologna** is the paradigmatic case for developing new institutional processes for public-commons partnerships. Through this case, it is illustrative of new kinds of experimentalist and adaptive governance and legal tools are needed to allow citizens and other actors to enter a co-design processes for the city.
- **Naples** is a more radical version, explicitly catering for commons-based occupations and claims on public spaces.
- **Milan** presents a version less radical and a more mainstream practice of the 'integrated sharing city', which has the merit of seeing the various forms of mutualization of infrastructure, mainly collaborative consumption, as a key strategic development for any city. It is more directly connected to economic development, start-ups, etc.
- **Frome** illustrates how local councils can play a key role in enabling communities to increase their resilience and face their challenges, while not following the political agendas of a party.
- **Ghent** is the first attempt to craft an urban commons focused transition plan at the city level.

One Possible Model of The Basic Collaboration Process between Commoners and the Public Institutions of a Commons-Driven City



Key Sequential Next Steps For The Ann Arbor Civic Center Commons

1. Vote was YES – Honor It.
2. Issue A Launch Press Release
3. Close Existing Parking Space and Transfer Appropriate Revenues
4. Open up Space for Repurposing
5. Send Out Public Notice
6. Schedule And Organize Celebratory Opening
7. Establish Temporary Commons House
8. Set Up a Commons Council and Commoning Projects Mechanism
9. Put in Place Preliminary Management and Financing Committees
10. Create Commons Communications, Discussion, Recognition and Promotions Systems – Physical and Digital
11. Establish Green, Play, Food, Technology and Citizen Care Working Groups
12. Contact Leading Potential Partner Commoning Cities Worldwide for Advise, and Collaboration
13. Put Together Widely Disseminated Citizen Common's Tutorial and Orientation Materials and Presentations
14. Establish Government Liaisons
15. Generate Partnerships with Community Organizations and Local Businesses
16. Staff the Commons with 2 Paid Full Time Employees and Appropriate Numbers of Support Volunteers
17. Create Civic Center Building Design Group
18. Organize Performance Space
19. Organize A Commons Bank and Community Value Exchange System
20. Organize a Commons Affordable Housing Task Force

Some Key Resources

<http://globalcommonsalliance.org/>

<https://primer.commonstransition.org/3-library>

<https://www.collaborative.city/>

<https://help.loomio.org/en/about/> and <https://www.loomio.org/>

<http://bankingoncolorado.org/>

<https://open.coop/2018/07/09/holochain-commons-engine-cooperation-scale/>