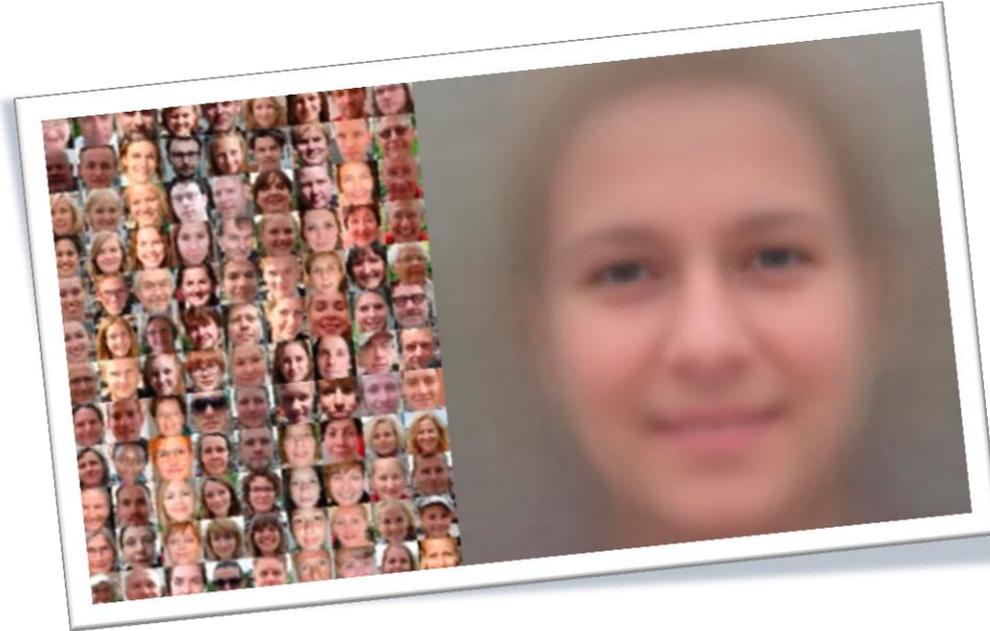

All the People in my City

2011



IDEA CATALOG

Step 1

DEVELOPING THE IDEA

Aspects of Danish culture

- The Royal Family
- Face book
- Politics
- Lottery
- Competition
- The Sankt Hans tradition
- Trust in authority
- Mistreating animals; ex pigs
- Religion
- Racism, nationalism
- Superstition
- Fear of the future
- Idolisation

Aarhus facilities of interest

- Churches. "Domkirken"
- The river as a connecting force
- City slogan; Smilets By (The City of Smiles.)
- Shopping streets
- "Den gamle By". (A historical site/ The old City.)
- Aarhus as Copenhagen's "little sister"
- "Store Torv" (The main street in Aarhus city)

General project development

- Adaption of Green Peace action. To use a living object to communicate a statement.
- The project as a "virus". The "infection" has starting points and spreads rapidly over the whole area.
- Using a staged city life from another city (ex Africa/India) and activating it in Aarhus streets. Webcams, Google earth, film etc.

Working process

- Research. Different aspects on how to affect the whole city.
- Option to include the results of the brainstorm for "Aarhus, European Capital of Culture 2017".
- Meeting over skype.
- Establish an online-collection of ideas. Ex drop box.

Step 2

BRAINSTORMING PROJECTS

Dates: 5th of March and 7th – 8th of May

1. ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Church bells in Aarhus chime a certain melody, for example:

"All you need is love" by the Beatles.

Criteria's: Either the use of one single church where the performance will happen, or a combine of different churches that play unison to have the right effect.

Pros: "All you need is love" is an universal song.

Cons: Organising unison church bells, and the conflict of other surrounding noises as shopping malls, street noise etc.

2. OIL RAFINERY

Using the wind to carry the oil scent from the oil refinery at the harbour to the city core. Could be effectful combined with a visual act.

Criteria's: The wind would have to move towards the city core.

Pros: Changing the scent in Aarhus could create a cozy atmosphere, and maybe slow things down. It could get the publics attention towards something happening in the streets.

Cons: Only a supporting element in a project.

3. DENMARK A FLAG CULTURE

Using the Danish tradition of putting up flags as for indicating holidays, birthdays etc. in public spaces and on busses. The project would either use flags from other countries or simply set up flags to indicate holiday.

Criteria's: Public transport must be willing to put up flags.

Pros: Using a national tradition will create curiosity.

Cons: Setting up flags is an exhausting job. The people because of the flags already set up for Skt. Hans may not recognize "Faking" a holiday.

4. FAKING A NEWS REPORT

Create a candid for television, radio or/and the local newspaper. Should be a "positive" disturbance. Create a situation where the people start talking together, relating to each other because of the fabricated news.

Criteria's: Requires a sponsor and collaboration with the media.

Pros: Creating a sense of companionship between the citizens.

Cons: May not affect people in the same way, may not affect them at all. Might not fit the term performance.

5. Contest

Contests and competitions are very popular in Danish television. Therefore by using contest as a frame for the project, and including a lottery aspect, it could get the peoples attention. The budget of the project will be used for the reward.

Ideas for contests:

1. A "task list"/ "Paper chase". The materials created could be used for an object of art/collage.
2. Dog competition. "Which dog in Aarhus barks the loudest?"
3. Singing competition.
4. Competition between homeless people.

Pros: It would be an easy bait to include a reward. Photographs taken under the competition could be transformed into a piece of art.

Cons: Is a competition considered a theatrical situation? Organization will require a lot of people involved.

6. FLASH MOB

20 naked people walking around Aarhus Main Street. A couple of people wearing burka. Pillow-fight.

Pros: A flash-mob is a known way of using the public space. People will be interested and affected. The burka will raise a debate about religion and racism in Denmark. The project would develop into a political statement. Public reaction is not predictable. (Jyllands Posten- Muhammad cartoons controversy 2005-)

Cons: Could be considered offending by the Muslims. Flash-mob is very common, and not very creative. It would only affect a small part of the city.

7. RELIGION

Using the tradition of Sankt Hans. Ex a burning man running through Aarhus city a few nights before Sankt Hans.

Could create a carnival of carnage or a wedding, which develops into a public celebration.

Could include other religious aspects.

Pros: Danes may be reserved when it comes to religion, and playing out religious aspects may be used to debate that issue.

Cons: The celebration must be original and not like a masquerade.

8. MESSAGE IN A BREAD ROLL

Getting a couple of bakeries in Aarhus to put messages in bread rolls. The message will be an invitation to a performance.

Pros: Very original and unpredictable. Perfect as an invitation.

Cons: Danes don't have tradition for buying bread rolls, and it may only reach a small crowd.

9. THREE MAN IN A BOAT

A boat will arrive every evening at the shore. There will be three strangers aboard. On the last evening they will give out ex candy for the children.

Pros: Connects the harbour and the city. Uses superstition to create suspense. Using religious elements; saint Nicholas.

Cons: Difficult to organize. Danes are not very religious, how can they be superstitious? Harbour and city are not really connected.

10. URBAN SPACES

Writing peoples names on the street with chalk. Creating a map of connections between people.

Criteria's: Depends on dry weather.

Pros: Strengthen a feeling of companionship

Cons: Has been done in New York before. May include several streets, which takes time.

11. POSTCARDS

Handwritten postcards get sent to at least one person in every household in Aarhus. The postcards could be an invitation.

Criteria's: Cooperation with Post Denmark

Pros: This experiment would reach everybody.

Cons: Lots of work to write all those letters. Need all addresses of the people in Aarhus.

12. A PICTURE

Taking photographs of all the people in Aarhus. Create a collage, which resembles a place, building or a face.

Criteria's: Cooperation with Public Service.

Pros: Visualization of the inhabitants of Aarhus would create a sense of connection.

Cons: Difficult organization. Cameras, list with names, addresses etc.

13. THE QUESTION

Each inhabitant will be asked to give the question, which he/she would like to have answered. In the end one question will be drafted and shown on a board on Store Torv (The main street).

Pros: Asking for a question will get the inhabitants to reflect on their city. This could also be used as an historical document.

Cons: To involve as many as possible we have to bring in an element in the project element. This could be media, sirens etc. It would take a lot of effort to collect as many as possible. May be to simple a project.

14. 24 HOUR LIVE

A camera transmitting a 24-hour video of people living in the church. Could involve face book to invite people to come and see the performance.

Discussion

The idea chosen is depended on money and time. Lots of the ideas need too much of both.

The idea should be specific for Aarhus. Not a general idea, which could be used in any city.

Creating a manifesto should be avoided.

Step 3

Working on the Final Idea

TAKING PICTURES OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY CITY

1st. draft.

Take pictures of all the people with the same name. Could create an installation resembling a family tree. Could be combined with a competition.

2nd draft.

Arranging pictures after the system, Liebenskind, used for drawing the building for The Jûdisches Museum in Berlin.

3rd draft.

Collecting pictures of households and arranging them in a collage with the inhabitants of the entire street. Could start with 5-6 streets, and if chosen to run the experiment as a pilot for Aarhus, European Capital of Culture, 2017. Then it could run all streets in Aarhus.

4th draft.

Pictures hung on a tree. Resembling the tradition of hanging pacifiers on trees when the child is too old for using it.

5th draft.

Using the pictures to create an abstract map of Aarhus. The map would be arranged according to the individuals address. Would be projected on the main street.

FINAL

ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY CITY – AARHUS ANSIGTET

In a caravan or box in the centre of Aarhus, pictures will be taken of people wishing to be involved in the experiment. A synthesis will be created from all these pictures. The latest picture will be projected on to a large canvas in the centre of Aarhus city. This will be adverted on local television.