

Casa del Quartiere di San Salvario



1. OVERVIEW

Title of the Practice:	Casa del Quartiere di San Salvario
Location:	Turin
Country:	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy
Scale:	<input type="checkbox"/> City level
Website / Contact:	https://www.casadelquartiere.it/
Status (as of 2026):	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing

Context:

The Casa del Quartiere di San Salvario is a vibrant community hub located in a dense, multicultural neighbourhood in central Turin, close to Porta Nuova railway station. Historically diverse and socially dynamic, the area hosts families, students, migrants, artists and small businesses. The Neighborhood House explicitly works to ensure equal access to cultural, educational, and social opportunities.

Fundamental rights and freedoms addressed: (from the EU Charter)

Relevant families of fundamental rights and freedoms (max 3):	<input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of assembly and association
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination
	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to services of general economic interest

Keywords:

Typologies of participation (max 3):

- PARTICIPATION: Community empowerment**
- PARTICIPATION: Inclusive**
- PARTICIPATION: Collective cultural expression**

Details: --

Governance model (max 1):

- GOVERNANCE: Public-community partnership**

Details: --

Field(s) of activity (max 3):

- ACTIVITY: Arts and culture**
- ACTIVITY: Relational work**
- ACTIVITY: Solidarity work**

Details: --

Typology of space (max 3):

- TYPE: Physical space**
- TYPE: Reused/repurposed building**
- TYPE: Open air space**

Details: --

Network of participating actors:

Promoter(s) or initiator(s):	The Local Development Agency of San Salvario neighborhood
Target group(s):	Residents of San Salvario (primary) Children, youth and families (secondary) Migrants and newly arrived communities (secondary)

Contributor(s)...

Role(s)	Details
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Local Development Agency of San Salvario (staff and board)
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Network of Neighborhood Houses (Rete delle Case del Quartiere) (supporting the implementation of social projects, activities, and cultural events + communications and fundraising)
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Local public authority (City of Turin) (institutional support within a public-community partnership framework + integration into city policies)
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Participating associations (co-managing specific programmes or shared spaces, i.e., kitchen, rehearsal rooms, community facilities)
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Local public authority (District 8) (institutional support within the Collaboration Pact framework + integration into District's social welfare and health services)
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Citizens and local associations (operational support within the Collaboration Pact framework)
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	Associations and NGOs (running cultural, social, educational activities)
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	Volunteers and civic groups (contributing time, skills, and organisational support)
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	Local businesses (providing sponsorships or in-kind contributions for events)
<input type="checkbox"/> Active users (living the civic space actively)	Cultural practitioners, artists, educators (animating the space)
<input type="checkbox"/> Active users (living the civic space actively)	Local residents of all ages (participating in daily activities, events, workshops)

Funding entity(ies)...	
Nature/features	Details
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Local public authority (City of Turin) (owns the building + contributed to the initial renovation costs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Regional and national/EU-funded programmes (e.g., urban regeneration, social innovation, culture projects, occasionally)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Bank foundation (Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation) (supporting the Network of Neighborhood Houses and specific cultural/social projects)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Bank foundation (CRT Foundation) (occasionally supporting specific projects on culture, social inclusion, education, and well-being of vulnerable groups)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Bank foundation (Vodafone Foundation) (funded the initial renovation of the building)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Private sponsors from local enterprises (occasionally funding events or equipment)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	Membership fees, activity fees (accessible/low cost), and small donations from users
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	Crowdfunding initiatives for specific projects (e.g., kitchen upgrades, cultural festivals, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please, specify)	Income-generating activities (e.g., room rentals, coworking, event hosting, and bar/restaurant services: social enterprise model reinvested into community programming)

2. NARRATIVE

Why / How it started	<p>The story of the San Salvario Neighborhood House begins in 2003 with the establishment of the San Salvario Local Development Agency (<i>Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Locale di San Salvario ETS</i>), comprising 27 associations and organizations of various kinds. The Agency was established to enhance the quality of (social, economic, environmental, and cultural) life in the San Salvario neighborhood of Turin. From its very foundation, the Agency identified the creation of a multifunctional community space as a strategic action for the district as the area lacked adequate venues for inclusive socio-cultural engagement.</p> <p>After negotiations with municipal authorities, in 2005 the project '<i>ConverGente. Casa del Quartiere</i>' secured funding from the Vodafone Italia Foundation, enabling the restoration of the former municipal baths (a historic Liberty style building from the early 20th century). With this support and backing from the City of Turin and other partners, the Neighborhood House officially opened in 2010 as a pilot model of participatory urban regeneration. It was one of the first such community hubs in Turin and later helped shape the broader Network of <i>Casa del Quartiere</i> across the city.</p>
How it is managed	<p>The San Salvario Neighborhood House is managed by the San Salvario Local Development Agency, which oversees the coordination of programmes, facilities and community engagement. Management is characterised by a separation between the governance of the space itself and the programming of activities: the Casa is conceived not as a venue where activities are provided to people, but as a space where associations, residents, artists, cultural workers and volunteers co-design and realise social and cultural activities together. On the one hand, the Casa provides infrastructure, support services, logistical assistance and organisational facilitation, while on the other associations, informal groups and individual citizens are empowered to propose, develop and deliver their own cultural and social projects.</p> <p>Operationally, the management team handles scheduling and logistics, supports co-design processes, facilitates communication and fundraising, and assists with event organisation. A system of resident associations meets regularly to help shape the programme, while the Casa's spaces (including a café, co-working rooms, meeting halls, outdoor terrace and multi-purpose halls) are made available for activities ranging from artistic workshops and dance classes to tech support services and youth programmes.</p> <p>The Casa remains open daily with a continuous annual offer of activities and services for diverse groups, including families, young people, older residents and immigrants. In recent seasons, it has hosted neighbourhood festivals, open-air events, digital facilitation points, language clubs and support services, demonstrating both operational flexibility and responsiveness to emerging community needs.</p>
Links to Civic Space Dimensions	<p>Social inclusion and non-discrimination: By providing open access facilities - from co-working and meeting rooms to cultural workshops and support desks - the Casa strengthens social interaction and mutual support, reducing isolation and creating bridges between diverse social groups in San Salvario. It also enables intercultural dialogue and solidarity by hosting initiatives like language clubs and migrant support services, reflecting the neighbourhood's multicultural identity.</p> <p>Community engagement: The participatory model of management enhances civic agency: residents, cultural organisations and volunteers do not merely use the space, but actively shape it co-creating cultural activities, co-planning social events and collaborative programming. This approach nurtures local leadership, shared decision-making and collective project ownership.</p>
Other information:	<p>In 2020 a Collaboration Pact for the active care of the green space in front of the Neighborhood House (the <i>Aiuola Ginzburg</i>) has been signed by the local authority (District 8), some active citizens and associations (including the San Salvario Local Development Agency). The Agreement provides: maintenance (shared responsibility for cleaning, maintaining the greenery, and ensuring the safety of the area), regeneration and entertainment (transformation into a welcoming space with furnishings such as tables, chairs, hammocks for studying, reading, and playing) and events (organization of meetings, parties, concerts, and cultural activities) to create a safe, inclusive, and socially inclusive space for all ages.</p>

3. REFERENCES

Media profiles of the Practice:	<p>https://www.facebook.com/casadelquartiere/</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/casadelquartiere/</p>
Publications, articles, media posts about the Practice:	<p>The <i>Casa del Quartiere</i> is part of the Network of Neighborhood Houses (<i>Rete delle Case del Quartiere</i>), an organisation formally founded in 2017 (but whose coordination process started in 2012), which measures and evaluates the social impact generated by the eight Neighborhood Houses of the City of Turin. The last Social Impact Assessment has been recently published and its accessible here: https://www.retecasadelquartiere.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Report-VIS2024.pdf</p>