

Giardino Pellegrino - Collaboration Pact

1. OVERVIEW	
Title of the Practice:	Giardino Pellegrino - Collaboration Pact
Location:	Turin
Country:	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy
Scale:	<input type="checkbox"/> City level
Website / Contact:	https://www.fondazioneportapalazzo.org/portfolio/giardino-pellegrino-da-spazio-chiuso-a-bene-comune/
Status (as of 2026):	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
Context:	
The Giardino Pellegrino, also known as the Cardinal Michele Pellegrino Garden, is located in the Aurora district, near Piazza Borgo Dora and Porta Palazzo neighbourhoods in Turin, just a short walk from the famous Balon market. It is the only public garden in this area and has become, in recent years, a true point of reference for the local community.	
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"/> Freedom of expression and information
Keywords:	
Typologies of participation (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Community empowerment	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Co-design	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Inclusive	
Details: --	
Governance model (max 1):	
<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNANCE: Public-community partnership	
Details: --	
Field(s) of activity (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Arts and culture	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Education (non formal or informal)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Relational work	
Details: --	
Typology of space (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Physical space	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Open air space	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Temporary	
Details: --	
Network of participating actors:	
Promoter(s) or initiator(s):	Community Foundation (of Porta Palazzo)
Target group(s):	All residents/citizens (primary) Young people (secondary) Families (secondary)
Contributor(s)...	
Role(s)	Details
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Local public authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Community Foundation of Porta Palazzo
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	Cultural association
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Active users (living the civic space actively)	Residents
Funding entity(ies)...	
Nature/features	Details
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Eu funds/Municipality funds (occasionally)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Bank foundation (CRT Foundation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	Donations
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	Volunteers

2. NARRATIVE	
Why / How it started	<p>Between 2011 and 2019, the garden hosted the "Turin Eye" hot air balloon, a tourist attraction that allowed visitors to view the city from above. When the balloon was dismantled, the garden remained closed and abandoned for several years, with concrete blocks and leftover structures making the area inaccessible. Starting in 2020, thanks to the efforts of associations and local residents, the garden began to be revitalized and returned to the community. The reopening process has been led by the "Porta Palazzo" Community Foundation, in agreement with local district government and other cultural and civic associations and has lasted 2 years. During the period of time this active community has been able to engage local residents in co-design sessions ("i Mercoledì del Giardino Pellegrino"), involve a construction company to do the first works for free, engage the public administration in refurbishing the space and provide new furnitures as well as a playground for kids. To achieve this, the necessary funds were secured to make the green area safe and accessible to the entire community. With the help of more than 200 people, the proponent group raised €7,382 through the crowdfunding campaign for the reopening and renovation of the Garden. Besides, other resources arrived from the Municipality thanks to the European project TONITE.</p>
How it is managed	<p>In 2022, a Collaboration Pact was signed between the Porta Palazzo Community Foundation, the City of Turin with the help of other 5 cultural associations, with the aim of transforming the space into a true "common good." This means that the garden is not just a green space, but also a place for participation, socialization and culture, managed with the active involvement of the local community. These realities meet every three months, to co-create a calendar of activities open to everybody (from community theater, to kind's circus workshops), free and accessible to all and moreover they take care of the opening and closing of the garden. Twice a year these proponents meet with the City of Turin in order to update each others on the ongoing activities and possible technical support required. The group of promoters organizes monthly meetings open to the local residents called "Why not?" meeting, to collect proposals, needs, desiders and availabilities to actively contribute to the management of the space.</p>
Links to Civic Space Dimensions	<p>Cultural and social animation: In addition to the very lively play area, the park hosts a book-crossing station and cultural events such as film forums, poetry readings, concerts, theatrical performances, circus workshops and art galleries. These activities are self-organized and self-founded by the associations that have signed the pact of collaboration and are accessible freely to all citizens. The aim is to make the garden a vibrant open-air civic space.</p> <p>Community empowerment: Besides the 5 associations involved in the Collaboration Pact to co-manage the garden as a common good, there are individuals as volunteers, that actively participate in the care of the space. Projects like "Green Care – Giardino Pellegrino" involve volunteers in practical stewardship — cleaning, planting, and maintaining green areas together. These shared tasks build relationships and a deeper sense of ownership over community spaces, especially by bringing together different groups around common environmental and social goals.</p> <p>Social inclusion and multicultural dialogue: The garden is situated between Porta Palazzo and Aurora, widely recognized as the most multicultural districts of the city of Turin. Accordingly, many of the activities promoted by the community responsible for the stewardship of the space are designed to facilitate encounters among individuals of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. Among the earliest initiatives implemented in the area was a program addressed to the neighborhood's grandmothers and mothers, with the objective of engaging families of Arab origin. The initiative fostered a relationship of trust between the Italian women who read stories every Wednesday to children of foreign origin, and the children who, in turn, translated the stories for their mothers.</p>
Other information:	<p>The Collaboration Pact: https://www.comune.torino.it/amministrazione/documenti-dati/documenti/patto-collaborazione-giardino-pellegrino</p>
3. REFERENCES	
Media profiles of the Practice:	<p>https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/112603491332138/giardino-pellegrino/ https://www.facebook.com/giardinopellegrino</p>
Publications, articles, media posts about the Practice:	<p>Master Thesis: "Un piano per lo spazio pubblico ad Aurora. Il Trincerino da infrastruttura che divide a infrastruttura che unisce": https://webthesis.biblio.polito.it/23055/1/tesi.pdf https://www.invasioncreative.it/quadreria-collezione-di-arte-urbana/</p>