



# Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator

A unique opportunity for 60 global changemakers to advance their knowledge, network, and skills to support safe, healthy, and inspirational streets for children and caregivers

60 changemakers  
20 cities  
1 mission



Designing  
streets for kids!

## Leadership Accelerator selection

### ABOUT THE ACCELERATOR

*This first-of-its-kind program will bring together 60 global leaders to support and accelerate their abilities to create change for kids in their cities. Teams of three professionals from 20 cities around the world will be selected as the inaugural cohort.*

*Select city teams will be eligible for project implementation grants of up to \$20,000 USD to support local street transformation projects.*

Improving the lives of children doesn't start with projects; it starts with people. We are thrilled to launch the first Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator, where 60 changemakers from 20 global cities will be selected to participate in an eight-month virtual professional leadership program. The Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCl) will combine its extensive experience working with international cities, street design transformations, and global expert networks to share industry best practices and facilitate group peer learning with the goal of improving lives for kids and their caregivers.

#### Who is eligible for the Accelerator?

The Accelerator is designed for teams of three people from the same city, creating an interdisciplinary team representing city government departments and other organizations. We will select 20 groups, each from a different city. For more information, see page 6.

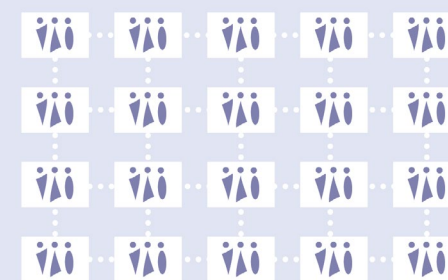
#### Topics covered in this program will include:

- Understanding childrens' and caregivers' needs
- Creating safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- Exploring sustainable transportation options
- Engaging kids in project development
- Implementing projects
- Understanding metrics, evaluation, and communications
- Scaling impact

#### What will participants gain from this program?

- **Global best practices and design strategies:** Building off the award-winning *Designing Streets for Kids* guide, the program will include in-depth sessions and discussions with a combination of industry-experts and facilitated peer learning.
- **An expanded global network:** Through small-group sessions and exercises, the program is designed to help forge lasting connections between city participants, regionally and globally, and foster lasting peer support.
- **Establishing local partnerships:** The program is designed around local teams of three to advance potential new local collaboration amongst departments to advance child-focused projects.
- **Project funding:** Participants will be eligible to apply implementation funding and GDCl technical support for a child-focused street design project for up to \$20,000 USD. For more information, see page 5.

The accelerator cohort will include three members per city from 20 cities globally.



# Leadership Accelerator schedule

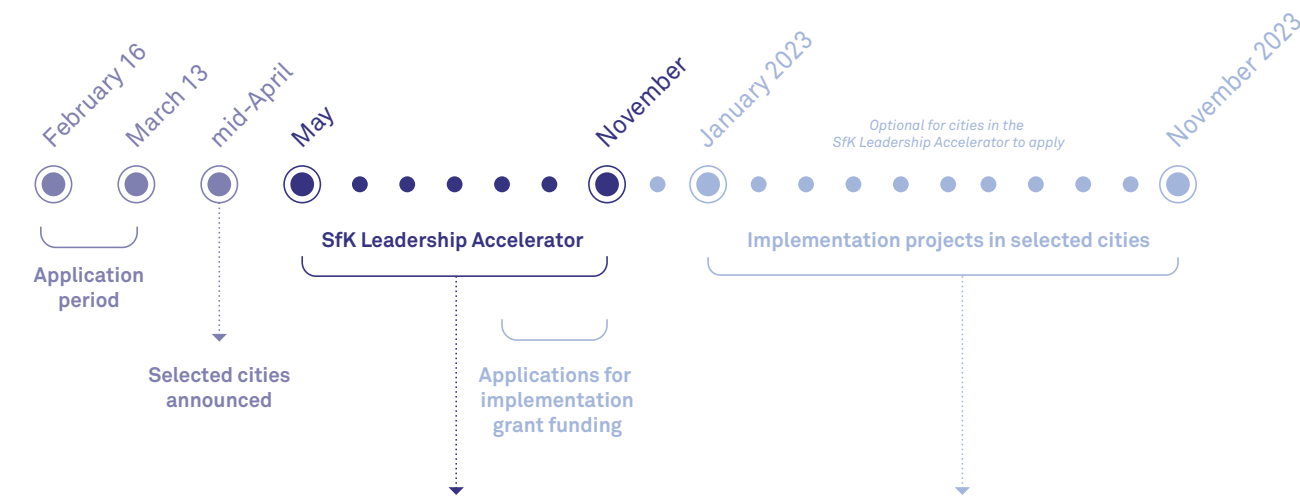
## TIMELINE & PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Below is a schedule to show how joining the Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator will work with your schedule. All sessions will be conducted remotely. The specific time has yet to be determined, but these will likely take place at the same time monthly and scheduled to accommodate the widest range of participants.

**Course content** will include a mix of presentations, videos, interactive exercises, and guest speakers.

**Peer-to-peer networking** will include facilitated sessions among participants and participant presentations.

**Project development** will include time to work as a city team on a potential 2023 implementation project, as well as feedback from other participants.



Sample month A				
Course content session ~ 2 hours	Ongoing peer connections	Peer-to-peer networking ~ 1 hour	Ongoing peer connections	
Team exercises, independent site visits, and more				
Sample month B				
Ongoing peer connections	Course content ~ 1 hour	Independent project development	Project development ~ 1 hour	Ongoing peer connections
Team exercises, independent site visits, and more				

2023 – teams with implementation grant funding only

More significant time commitment for groups/cities who have been selected for implementation funds. Implementations projects begin in early 2023, with completion by November 2023.

# Implementation support grants

## 2023 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Select Leadership Accelerator teams are eligible for \$20,000 USD implementation grants to support child-focused projects in their city, to be used in 2023. Interested groups will apply for these funds in September 2022.**

For program participants, there will be an opportunity to apply for up to \$20,000 USD in grants and technical assistance to implement a Streets for Kids-focused project in your city. This funding is available for up to ten cities, and is contingent upon successful completion of the Accelerator program in December 2022. More detailed information about implementation funding will be available after the program begins.

Grant recipients will be selected based on project readiness, ability to deliver, opportunities to incorporate children-focused improvements, demonstrated commitment in the fellowship program, local match (in-kind or financial), site relevance, potential for impact, and opportunities to scale up Streets for Kids work within the city.

Potential 2023 projects will be workshopped through the 2022 Leadership Accelerator series.

### Examples of elements eligible for funding:

- Materials for site implementation
- Street analysis and redesign
- Play equipment
- Kids and community engagement programs
- Metrics collection
- Documentation (photos, video)
- Site programming
- Local staff support

The GDCI-supported elements of project must be completed by November 2023.



# How to apply

Apply for the Accelerator at <https://globaldesigningcities.org/sfk-2-apply/>.  
The application includes short written and video components.

## ACCELERATOR APPLICATIONS

*Applications for the Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator open on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, and close end of day (EST) on Sunday, March 13, 2022. One application per group of three is required, and one person will be the main point of contact throughout the application process.*

### Who is the Leadership Accelerator best for?

The Accelerator is suited for designers, engineers, urban planners, government officials, and other professionals working in the fields of the urban environment, transportation, policy, education, early childhood development, child advocacy, public health, and law enforcement.

Applicants should be mid- to advanced career professionals, ideally with at least several years of experience working with city governments. At least two people in each group should work directly for the city government. One person in the group may work for a nonprofit, NGO, school, or other organization, provided they demonstrate their experience working with city government.

### What is the application timeline?

- **February 16:** applications open online
- **March 13:** applications due
- **Late March and early April:** potential interviews of applicants by Streets for Kids team
- **Mid-April:** selected participant groups notified by email
- **Week of May 2:** first Accelerator session

### Accelerator selection criteria includes:

- Team composition: diverse group of professionals from different departments or organizations in the same city (minimum two members working in city government)
- Prior experience: creating, leading, or implementing child-focused projects, programs, or policies in your city
- Organizational capacity and individual capacity of each applicant
- Potential impact of Streets for Kids in your city
- Enthusiasm about and understanding of urban design
- Letter of support from executive-level city leader

### Application questions include:

- Why do you want to be selected as part of the Leadership Accelerator? How does this program relate to your current work and to your career goals? What specific skills are hoping to develop through this program?
- What is your experience implementing child-focused projects, programs, and/or policies?
- Describe a recent project or initiative your city has undertaken that has focused on improving outcomes for children through the built environment (street design or otherwise).
- (Optional) Do you have an idea for a project(s) that might be implemented in your city in 2023 using a technical assistance grant of up to \$20,000 USD?

# Additional program information

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I apply as an individual to the Leadership Accelerator program?

Unfortunately, part of the program's design is to bring together individuals from different city departments who may share a goal of improving streets for kids. As a result, we are only accepting applications from city teams of three people from different departments or organizations.

### What if we have more than three interested individuals to apply from our city?

Given we want to create a diverse, yet intimate, community, we are limiting participation during any meeting(s) to a maximum of three participants per city. However, cities may suggest alternate participants in the situation that all three members of a team cannot be present at a meeting.

### What if I cannot attend all sessions of the program?

We recognize that 100% participation at every session may not be possible. However, we strongly encourage full team participation as much as possible to obtain the most from the program. Where truancy is an issue, teams will no longer be eligible for implementation grants in the second year of the program.

### What if all members of the team are not proficient in English? Will you offer it in different languages?

At this time, we will only offer the program in English. We ask that all members be proficient in English due to our current constraint that all content and materials will be delivered in English. We will offer live interpretation during sessions if possible, but cannot guarantee the specific languages at this time.

### If I'm already working, or have previously worked, with GDCl, am I eligible for this program?

Yes, we welcome GDCl city partners to apply.

### Do I need to have a project in mind to apply to the Leadership Accelerator program?

It is a goal of the Leadership Accelerator to help city participants develop or further refine projects that may already be in process in their city. However, a project does not need to be defined at the start of the leadership accelerator, although having ideas for possible projects is encouraged.

Later in 2022, we will open up applications for technical assistance grants for up to \$20,000 USD per project for participants in the Leadership Accelerator. To be eligible for these grants, applicants must have a project to which a grant could add or supplement.

### What type of letter of support is required as part of the application?

Given the leadership accelerator will require participant time, attention, an commitment, we desire to have executive level support from city leaders (for example, a mayor or the department head for each applicant). These are not intended to be peer or colleague letters of support.

### What is the time commitment for this program?

Participants should expect to commit approximately four to six hours per month (two meetings plus independent work) which will likely take place at the same time monthly to accommodate the widest range of participants. However, the specific time has yet to be determined.

### Can I apply for the implementation grants even if I am not selected to be part of the Leadership Accelerator?

No, we unfortunately will only accept implementation grant applications from participant teams of the leadership cohort.

# About the Streets for Kids program

## GLOBAL DESIGNING CITIES INITIATIVE (GDCI)

[Global Designing Cities Initiative \(GDCI\)](#) focuses on inspiring a shift toward safe, sustainable, and healthy cities through transforming urban streets. We are committed to raising the state of the practice for street design and sustainable transportation around the world by developing new technical guidance and resources, building a common vision, sharing data, encouraging peer-to-peer exchanges, and supporting regular communication among international cities.

Based on the award-winning [Global Street Design Guide \(GSDG\)](#) publication, which set a new global standard for designing urban streets that prioritize pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders, GDCI provides technical assistance to cities around the world. GDCI helps cities apply the practical strategies from the [GSDG](#) to local contexts, simultaneously addressing challenges such as climate change, road safety, and public health.

## STREETS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

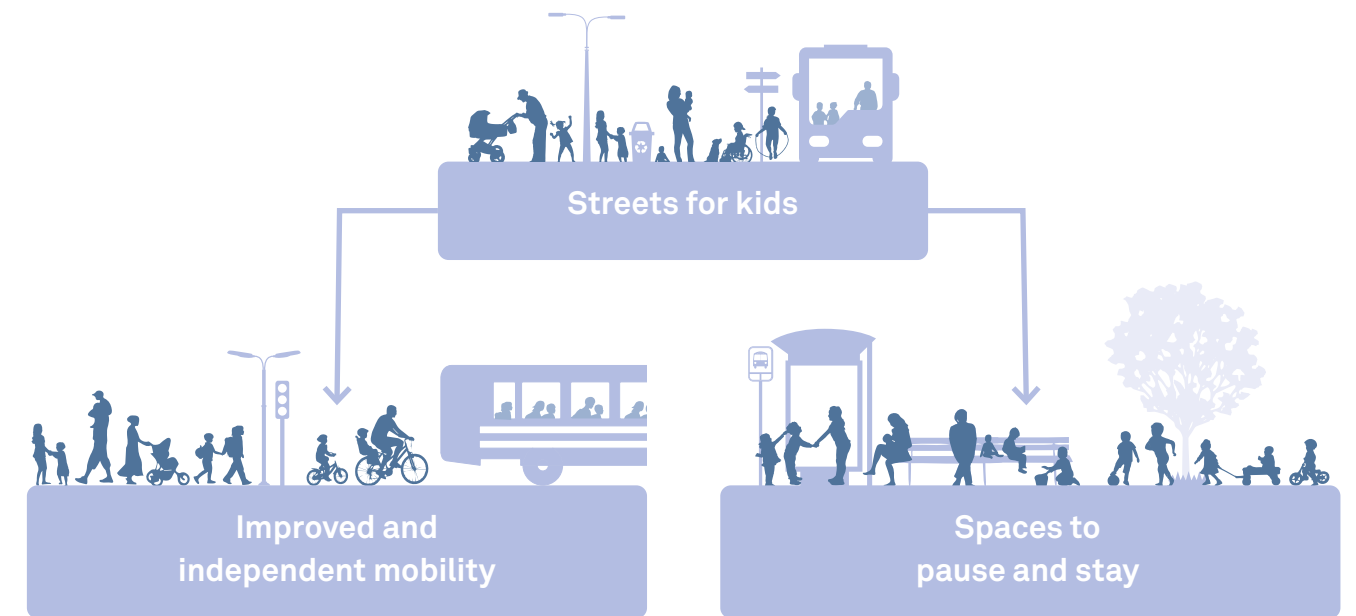
[Streets for Kids](#) aims to inspire leaders, inform practitioners, and empower communities to make cities around the world better for children and their caregivers.

[Streets for Kids](#), a program of GDCI, looks at cities through the lens of children and their caregivers. [Designing Streets for Kids](#), a child-focused design guide to supplement the [GSDG](#), was published in 2020. Since then, GDCI has applied these child-focused strategies in 12 global cities through streetscape transformations, workshops, and trainings.

The Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator builds upon and expands content featured in [Designing Streets for Kids](#), as well as from our extensive experience working directly with cities to implement street design projects.



# Focus of the Streets for Kids program



## DESIGNING FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY STREETS

GDCI's goal is to work directly with practitioners to reimagine and redesign their streets to support comfortable, healthy, and inspiring environments for all children.

The goals of the Streets for Kids program are to:

- Catalyze the implementation of street designs that support sustainable mobility choices and quality public spaces that advance the well-being of children and their caregivers
- Provide child-focused guidance on street design and policy
- Build local capacity through trainings and give participants an expanded toolkit to create streets that are safe, enjoyable, and inspirational
- Train practitioners to help envision great streets for kids and see what's possible in cities

# Program funders

We are grateful to our funding organizations for their support and enthusiasm for the Streets for Kids Leadership Accelerator.

## BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION

Bernard van Leer Foundation believes that giving all children a good start in life is both the right thing to do and the best way to build healthy, prosperous and creative societies.



## FONDATION BOTNAR

Fondation Botnar is investing in emerging solutions to build a better future for children and young people globally.



## FIA FOUNDATION

The FIA Foundation is a leading global road safety philanthropy, enabling innovative injury prevention programmes and pilot projects.



**GDCI is excited to work with you and your city to reimagine, rethink, and redesign streets for kids!**

**FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
SFK@GDCI.GLOBAL**

