

# **WALKING AS LEARNING: HYBRID SHOWCASE TOURS FOR HUBS**

## FROM FERAL WALKS TO SENSITIVE MAPPING

Knowledge Toolkit

**D2.26** Produce a HUB meetups conference themed toolkit YEAR 3



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Co-funded by the European Union



www.creativehubs.eu

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This toolkit was inspired by the Feral Walk, produced by **Feral Malmö** during the BauTopia conference and meetup at the STPLN Creative Hub in Malmö.

Feral Malmö organizes creative workshops about ecology in city life.

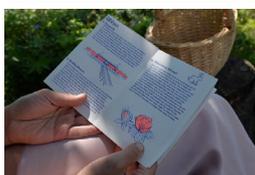
Working with plants, animals, oceans, fungi, and more as storytellers, we use participatory learning, publishing, and craft to practice better ways of living with nonhuman nature. To clarify the urgency and severity of our manufactured ecological crisis, and to form relationships around our shared ecosystem.

Feral was started by two designers, Inna Zrajaeva and John Kazior. Inna is part of Drevet, a company creating sustainability and social projects at a neighborhood scale in Malmö. John is a journalist and graphic artist, he has been working as a freelance writer covering sustainability and design in response to climate and ecological crisis.

[www.feral.design](http://www.feral.design)



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Publisher

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European Creative Hubs Network

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# Introduction

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## Introduction

- A. Why walking matters for hubs
- B. How to use this toolkit

## A. INTRODUCTION: WHY WALKING MATTERS FOR HUBS

Creative hubs are not abstract brands or neutral buildings. They are situated organisms that breathe with their streets and neighborhoods. To understand a hub, you must also understand where it lives. Walking is the simplest and most effective way to make that situatedness visible. It turns locality into knowledge, the city into an open classroom, and everyday routes into a curriculum that is specific, memorable, and transferable.

### **Walking shows why a hub is here**

Local walk tools help a hub highlight and explain its position in the urban ecosystem. A route that passes the market, the bus stop, the vacant lot, the repair shop, and the school tells a grounded story about access, partners, constraints, and opportunities. Visitors and members do not just hear that the hub is connected to its neighborhood. They see and feel how it is connected. This anchors the hub's mission in real places and gives credible evidence for funders, policy makers, and community partners.

Walking explores, understands, and re-explains locality

A good walk is not only a showcase. It is a method for exploration, understanding, and re-explanation. Even people who have lived or worked near the hub for years can gain new eyes when they slow down, change pace, and attend to different layers of the same streets. Collective walking surfaces traces of history, informal uses, contradictions, frictions, and quiet assets that are usually invisible. It generates fresh questions and reframes assumptions. This refresh of perception is valuable for local groups and staff as well as for international visitors.

### **The city becomes an immersive classroom**

When we walk to learn, the neighborhood becomes a teaching environment. Topics that usually feel abstract are grounded in tangible sites. Circularity is discussed at the loading dock and the thrift store. Inclusion is discussed on a threshold and a stair. Governance is tested at a contested corner. Storytelling begins at a mural that already carries a narrative. In this way a walk can carry almost any subject matter, from facilitation and design thinking to cultural policy or sustainability. The city provides the cases and the prompts, while the facilitator provides structure and reflection. The result is sticky learning that participants recall and reuse.

### **A format that activates attention and lowers barriers**

Walking is an attention grabber. It breaks routine, lifts energy, and invites curiosity. People look, listen, and compare notes. Hierarchies soften because everyone shares the same path and weather. This format works for international visitor groups who need a quick, rich understanding of context. It also works for local groups and hub members who benefit from a guided refresh of places they think they already know. Mixed groups often work best, since different forms of knowledge can meet on the move.

Suitable for different participants and unexpected topics

Because the classroom is the city, content can flex. A hybrid walk can train artists in civic engagement, producers in access and care, administrators in data that matters, or tenants in circular operations. It can even support topics that seem unlikely at first glance. Budgeting can be taught by walking the supply chain and mapping costs. Risk management can be taught by identifying thresholds and conflicts in public space. Digital culture can be taught by tracing the visible and invisible networks that make connectivity possible. The point is not spectacle. The point is relevance, anchored in place.

From immersion to insight and action

A walk that stops at three to five carefully chosen sites can yield a high volume of observations, questions, images, and micro decisions. The method only becomes valuable if those impressions are harvested and turned into insight and action. This toolkit therefore couples walking with short, structured debriefs and compact documentation habits. Participants move, then make sense, then decide what to change. The loop can be completed in a single afternoon, or scaled across a season.

### **Sensitive mapping deepens belonging**

The DiverCities approach to sensitive mapping adds a complementary layer. By using sensory and poetic techniques, and by inviting a local coalition into the process, the walk becomes a shared act of meaning making. People collect stories, sounds, objects, and traces. They upload and annotate them through simple digital tools. The map that emerges is not a neutral grid. It is a living record of how different communities experience the same place. This deepens belonging and creates narratives that support stewardship over time.

### **Who benefits and how**

International visitors	gain rapid, embodied context that makes later discussions precise rather than generic.
Local members and staff	gain new eyes on the familiar, often spotting quick wins and longer term opportunities.
Partners and policy makers	see how ideas meet realities, which improves negotiation and joint planning.
Residents and artists	gain channels to contribute knowledge that is usually excluded from formal plans.

### Principles for effective learning walks

Begin with intent.	Define what people should be able to do or explain differently after the walk.
Keep routes short and layered.	Fewer stops with clearer links beat long itineraries.
Mix roles.	Some lead, some document, some reflect, all contribute.
Design for access and care.	Move at the pace of the slowest participant. Plan seating, toilets, shade, and quiet options.
Ask for consent.	Be explicit about what will be recorded and how it will be used.
Close the loop.	Always end with a debrief and one concrete decision.

### Ethics, dignity, and care

Walking is relational. Treat people and places with respect. Avoid extractive observation that turns neighborhoods into exhibits. Share back what is collected. Credit contributors. Use plain language and provide translation where needed. If the route passes sensitive sites or marginalised communities, prepare the group with context and ground rules, and prioritize the voices of those most affected.

### From practice to program

A single walk can be valuable, but the real impact comes when walking becomes a programmatic habit. Hubs can schedule seasonal workshops tied to themes. They can invite partners to co-host routes that end in a workshop or a small showcase. They can build a light archive of routes, images, and insights to inform operations, programming, and advocacy. Over time, this builds a common memory and a shared map of what matters.

### Why this toolkit and how to use it

This toolkit translates the spirit of the Feral Walk in Malmö into a set of compact tools that any hub can adopt. Chapter 1 helps you design a hybrid workshop that combines training with exploration. Chapter 2 introduces sensitive mapping as a companion practice that turns immersion into collaborative narratives. Each tool includes clear steps, a tangible output, and one simple metric. Use one tool to prototype in a week, or combine several tools to build a small seasonal program.

### What this is not

This is not a fixed tour script, a tourist product, or a compliance manual. It is a set of methods that respect local specificity. Adapt routes, roles, and prompts to your place, your language, and your audiences. Keep it light, ethical, and repeatable.

## B. HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to be practical and adaptable. It translates the inspiration of the Feral Walk in Malmö into a compact set of methods that hubs can apply immediately. The emphasis here is on how to make the most of the tools.

**The toolkit has two chapters:**

**Chapter 1** provides tools for designing and running hybrid workshops, where walking is combined with workshop-style learning.

**Chapter 2** introduces sensitive mapping as a complementary practice that deepens the walk into collaborative meaning-making.

**Each tool follows the same format:**

Use when (when the tool is relevant)
Time (prep and delivery)
People (roles and group size)
Materials (what you need)
Steps (clear actions)
Outputs (tangible results)
Metric (a simple way to measure progress)
Tips (practical advice, pitfalls to avoid)

**Who this is for**

It is written for hub managers, cultural producers, trainers, and facilitators. Partners, educators, and artists can also adapt the methods for their own contexts. The tools require no specialist expertise, only a willingness to experiment and facilitate.

**Ways to use it**

Pick one tool as a standalone activity (e.g., run a Debrief canvas after an informal walk).

Combine tools into a half-day programme (e.g., Workshop design Participant preparation Debrief).

Embed them seasonally to create a rhythm of exploration and reflection linked to your hub's themes.

## Roles

Although lightweight, the process benefits from clear roles:

Facilitator to hold the frame and keep flow.

Liaison to support care and inclusivity.

Documenters to capture observations.

Reflectors to link what happens to the learning theme.

These roles can rotate; participants themselves can take them on.

## Documentation

Capturing what happens is essential:

Provide notebooks, sketchpads, or simple audio/photo tools.

Encourage short notes at each stop.

Use the canvases to harvest insights systematically in the debrief.

Share results back with participants and partners in clear, accessible formats.

## Care and access

Plan for comfort and inclusion:

Walk at a pace that suits everyone.

Ensure rest points and step-free options where possible.

Provide water and clear ground rules for consent if stories or images are recorded.

Translate invitations and materials if needed.

## Adaptation

The tools are prompts, not prescriptions. Adapt the route, themes, and exercises to your hub's reality. The format can host almost any theme — from sustainability to governance — as long as it is rooted in your place.

## What you will gain

By using this toolkit you will:

Gain practical formats to link learning with locality.

Strengthen your hub's visibility within its neighborhood.

Provide participants with fresh perspectives and memorable learning.

Generate documentation that supports ongoing programming and communication.

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# Chapter 1.

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## Walking as a Method for Hybrid Showcase Workshops

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### **Chapter 1.** Walking as a Method for Hybrid Showcase Workshops

1.1 Walking as immersive classroom

1.2 The Toolkit

Tool 1: Designing your Hybrid Walkshop

Tool 2: Preparing Participants

Tool 3: Debrief and Integration

## 1.1 WALKING AS IMMERSIVE CLASSROOM

Walking is a way to transform the environment into a stage for learning. The Feral Walk in Malmö showed how *dérive*-style exploration can be turned into pedagogy. For hubs, this means creating hybrid showcase workshops: sessions that combine training on a topic with an exploration of the hub's local context.

**Why it matters:**

Showcases the hub's place in the city.
Turns abstract concepts into lived examples.
Works equally well for local and international participants.
Creates shared, memorable learning experiences.

## 1.2 THE TOOLKIT

### Tool 1. Designing your Hybrid Walkshop

Use when: You want to link training content with a local walk.

#### Steps:

Define the learning goal.
Select 3–5 stops linked to the theme.
Design one exercise at each stop.
Test the route before delivery.

#### Outputs:

Route map + session plan.

#### Metric:

% of participants applying the skill in debrief.

#### Tips:

Keep routes short and layered; avoid fatigue.

### Tool 2. Preparing Participants

Use when: You want participants to be active contributors.

#### Steps:

Assign roles (guide, documenter, reflector).
Provide documentation tools.
Share ground rules (pace, care, consent).

#### Outputs:

Briefing sheet + role cards.

#### Metric:

Diversity of documentation collected.

#### Tips:

Rotate roles to increase engagement.

#### Time

design 2 hours,  
route trial 2 hours.

#### People

Facilitator,  
hub lead,  
2 partners.

#### Materials

Map,  
markers,  
notes on stops.

#### Time

prep 1 hour,  
briefing 15 minutes.

#### People

Facilitator,  
participants.

#### Materials

Role cards,  
notebooks,  
simple tools.

**Time**

1 hour.

**People**

Facilitator,  
group.

**Materials**

Flipchart,  
sticky notes,  
pens.

**Tool 3. Debrief and Integration**

Use when: After the walk, to anchor learning.

**Steps:**

Reconvene in the hub.
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Harvest observations, learnings, applications.
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Create a shared artefact (poster, story map).
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Link outcomes to learning goal.
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**Outputs:**

Debrief sheet + artefacts.

**Metric:**

Number of concrete takeaways linked to goal.

**Tips:**

Without debrief, the walk remains anecdotal.

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# Chapter 2.

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## Sensitive Mapping as a Companion Practice

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### **Chapter 2.** Sensitive Mapping as a Companion Practice

2.1 Walking into belonging and narratives

2.2 The Toolkit

Tool 4: Sensitive Mapping Walk

Tool 5: Digital Mapping Tools

## 2.1 Walking into belonging and narratives

Walking can be more than a method of showcasing or teaching. It can also be a way of producing meaning together, creating new narratives of a place, linking memory, emotion, and imagination. This is what the sensitive mapping approach, developed in the DiverCities project, contributes to hub practice.

Where hybrid workshops frame walking as a mobile classroom, sensitive mapping frames walking as collective authorship of place. Participants do not only consume information; they actively generate it through stories, sensations, and creative documentation.

### **Why this matters for hubs:**

Creating belonging: Hubs are often perceived as islands in their neighborhoods. Sensitive mapping re-anchors them by building collective knowledge with neighbors, artists, and visitors. It makes the hub part of the shared story of the place.

### **Revealing hidden layers:**

Official maps and datasets rarely capture the small, affective details that shape people's attachment to a space: the graffiti that marks a community's presence, the smell of a bakery, the memory of a protest, the silence of an abandoned building. Sensitive mapping surfaces these layers.

### **Building coalitions:**

By inviting different groups residents, artists, students, local workers to walk and map together, hubs foster new alliances. These coalitions often outlast the exercise, strengthening civic and cultural bonds.

**Expanding evidence:**

Funders and municipalities often require quantitative data. Sensitive maps provide qualitative evidence, stories, images, narratives, that enriches advocacy and planning.

**Regenerating narratives:**

Sensitive mapping can help reframe a neighborhood, not as “problematic” or “neglected” but as full of history, resilience, and creative potential. This reframing is crucial for cultural regeneration.

Sensitive mapping is not about precision or technical cartography. It is about empathy, imagination, and dialogue. It asks participants to notice with all their senses, to share what a place means to them, and to contribute to a common archive.

## 2.2 The Toolkit

This toolkit helps hubs organise sensitive mapping in practical ways. It includes a walk-based method for collecting sensory narratives and a digital tool for capturing and sharing them.

### **Tool 4. Sensitive Mapping Walk**

Use when: You want to generate new narratives of place with community members and partners.

**Time**

Walk 2 hours,  
synthesis workshop 2 hours.

**People**

A coalition of 10 to 20 participants,  
artists, residents, students,  
hub staff, local workers.

**Materials**

Phones or cameras,  
sketchpads,  
audio recorders,  
sticky notes,  
bags for collecting small objects.

**Steps:**

Form a coalition: invite diverse participants with different relationships to the area.
Set thematic lenses: e.g. history, architecture, memory, poetry, future visions.
Walk and collect: split into small groups, explore with your lens, collect stories, photos, sketches, objects, sounds.
Regroup and share: return to the hub, lay out all materials, discuss patterns.
Synthesize into a map: use a large printed map, wall, or floor space to place contributions geographically. Add annotations, quotes, and photos.

**Outputs:**

A physical sensitive map (collaged or drawn).  
A set of stories, images, and artefacts connected to locations.

**Metric:**

Diversity of contributions (number of groups, types of material, range of perspectives).

**Tips:**

Provide guiding questions for each lens to focus contributions.  
Avoid treating the walk as data collection only emphasise dialogue and reflection.  
Document the synthesis process as carefully as the walk.

Adaptations:

Short version: a 1 hour lunchtime walk with quick reflections.

Extended version: a series of walks over a week, culminating in a public exhibition.

### Tool 5. Digital Mapping Tools

Use when: You want to share sensitive mapping outputs more widely and sustain them beyond the physical session.

Steps:

Set up the platform: create an online map space and ensure it is accessible.
Create contribution categories: text, photo, audio, video, object.
Train contributors: show how to upload and annotate their contributions with place, name, and reflection.
Populate the map: start with a few entries to inspire others.
Share link and invite additions: open the map to broader community input.
Curate and review: periodically group entries, highlight themes, and remove duplicates.

#### Time

Step 1 hour, ongoing contributions.

#### People

Facilitator or hub team to administer platform;

contributors can be participants, residents, partners.

#### Materials

Laptop, internet connection, open-source mapping software (e.g. dodoc by L'Atelier des Chercheurs).

Outputs:

Online sensitive map, with layered multimedia contributions.

A growing archive that reflects collective narratives of place.

Metric:

Number of entries; diversity of contributors; number of repeat contributions.

Tips:

Keep the interface simple. Overly complex tools discourage participation.

Provide options for anonymous contributions.

Use the map as a live resource in workshops and advocacy meetings.

Adaptations:

Combine with exhibitions: print QR codes linking to map entries.

**You can find dodoc by L'Atelier des Chercheurs and a sensible mapping example in Athens Greece by Bios Creative Hub in the link below:**

<https://divercities.dodoc.fr/+athens/plex-1/publications/the-neighborhood?view=section-1721744223741.meta.txt>

**Chapter 2 wrap up**

Sensitive mapping extends the practice of walking beyond observation and training into collaborative authorship of place. For hubs, it is a way to weave together stories, emotions, and visions that rarely find their way into official plans or metrics. The process produces not only maps and artefacts, but also new relationships between participants residents, artists, visitors, and hub teams who together create a richer, layered understanding of their neighborhood.

As a companion to hybrid workshops, sensitive mapping ensures that the insights generated by walking do not fade, but become collective narratives that strengthen belonging and stewardship. By adopting these methods, hubs can position themselves not only as venues or conveners, but as active mediators of place, able to connect creativity with community in ways that are lasting and meaningful. Use as a seasonal diary: refresh with new contributions every quarter.

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# Canvases for the five tools

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## Using the Canvases

The following pages contain the practical canvases that support each tool in this toolkit. If you are working with a printed version, you can cut these pages out and use them directly in workshops. If you are working with a digital version, you can easily print the canvases as many times as you need.

They are designed to be reusable working sheets. Feel free to adapt, annotate, and duplicate them for different groups and sessions.



# Designing your Hybrid Walkshop Canvas

Use when	Time	People
Planning a walkshop	2h design + 2h trial	Facilitator, hub lead, 2 partners
Materials	Outputs	Metric
Map, notebook, markers	Route map + session plan	% participants applying skill after walk

## Learning Goal

Goal statement

## Route Map

Stop	Location	Theme	Notes

## Stop Activities

Stop #	Exercise	Materials	Expected learning

## Session Plan

Time	Activity	Responsible	Materials

Run order	Pitfall	Tip	Log here
Define theme → Choose route → Link stops to exercises	Too long a route	Fewer, deeper stops	Debrief notes



# Preparing Participants Canvas

Use when	Time	People
Briefing participants	1h prep + 15m briefing	Facilitator, participants
Materials	Outputs	Metric
Role cards, notebooks	Role cards + briefing notes	Balance of documentation collected

## Roles

Role	Name	Notes

## Tools

Tool	Purpose	Assigned to

## Ground Rules

Rule	Explanation

Run order	Pitfall	Tip	Log here
Assign roles → Provide tools → State ground rules	Unclear expectations	Keep roles light & fun	Participant reflections



# Debrief and Integration Canvas

Use when	Time	People
After a workshop	1h	Facilitator, all participants
Materials	Outputs	Metric
Flipchart, markers	Debrief sheet + collective outputs	# concrete takeaways linked to goal

## Observations

Visuals	Feelings

## Learnings

Skills	Insights

## Applications

Idea	How to apply	Responsible

Run order	Pitfall	Tip	Log here
Gather group → Harvest insights → Decide next steps	Only anecdotes	Link each story back to goal	Impact Dashboard



# Sensitive Mapping Walk Canvas

Use when	Time	People
Co-creating narratives	2h walk + 2h synthesis	Artists, residents, hub team
Materials	Outputs	Metric
Phones, paper, pens	Sensitive map + exhibition	Diversity of contributions

## Themes

Theme	Method	Notes

## Collected Material

Type	Collected by	Notes

## Outputs

Format	Responsible	Notes

Run order	Pitfall	Tip	Log here
Form coalition → Walk with lenses → Collect stories	Too much data	Focus on quality stories	Mapping log



# Digital Mapping Tools Canvas

Use when	Time	People
Sharing mapping online	1h setup + ongoing inputs	Facilitator, participants
Materials	Outputs	Metric
Laptop, open-source tool (dodoc)	Online map	# entries + active contributors

## Platform

Tool	URL	Notes

## Inputs

Type	Contributor	Location	Reflection

## Contributors

Name	Role	Contact

## Map Link

Public/Semi-public URL	Notes

Run order	Pitfall	Tip	Log here
Set tool → Upload entries → Share link	Low engagement	Keep tool simple & open	Online archive





