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| **Laneways in Malaysian cities, opportunities for participatory rejuvenation** |
| **Setting/problem**In Malaysian car dominated city cores, there are very few pedestrian-friendly spaces that encourage walking or socialising. Lane ways are underutilised connectors that would provide such opportunity but are often not inviting being dark, full of rubbish with broken and uneven surfaces. **Intervention**Following site analysis, community and businesses bordering the laneway are surveyed about issues and ideas for improvement. A joint clean-up event is organised to forge stronger relationships among stakeholders and a chance to point out issues. In further consultation, a prototype is developed to turn the laneway into a place through greening, seating, general upgrade of walls and lane way surfacing. Once these temporary changes are made in partnership with local council, programming of events is used to attract people from diverse communities. After a multi-months trial and further feedback, final infrastructure changes are made.**Outcomes**A number of laneways have been completed in four cities in Malaysia. Issues are different for each lane way and hence influences the design. The multiple rounds of community engagement is strongly related to the sustainability of the upgrade such as businesses opening back doors and expanding into the back lanes or taking on maintenance of seating or pocket gardens. Pedestrian traffic flow has changed from the main road with men and women preferring to use the lane ways not just as safer thorough fares but to spend time. Unplanned activities such as music jamming sessions or games of badminton have emerged.**Implications**Using design thinking with stakeholders to repurpose underutilised lane ways has created places for social interaction, opportunities for communities, including those that are usually marginalised to have a say in the design of their neighbourhood. This place-based strategy is a contribution to participatory governance, social cohesion and active mobility with their related mental and physical health benefits.**Preferred presentation format**oral |