

CHAIR BOMBING

This is the act of making seating areas out of recycled or salvaged material, usually placing them somewhere quiet that few people think to visit. The most common material used when chair-bombing is old pallets with a lick of paint and a few pillows, but you can use anything that could be comfortable.



DEPAVING

Are there not enough people using a section of pavement? Maybe consider transforming it into green space. A bit of turf and some plants from the garden center will make the street look far more pretty, and it's good for the environment as there are more plants to absorb rainwater.



Photo credit: @LDN_environment

POP-UP RETAIL

Are there shop spaces that have been empty for ages? You could look into getting special permission to turn it into a pop-up shop serving community needs? You could display local artists' work, or have a weekend vinyl record fair. Vinyls are certainly back, filed under "cool"...



Photo credit: @Stourbridge Community Development Trust

PARK(ING) DAY

This is an annual event where car parks are temporarily turned into park-like or community spaces. A perfect opportunity for temporary chair-bombing or depaving, and just like the Biscayne example above, it might even be made permanent...



Photo credit: @Onward State

POET ISLAND

Is there a roundabout that could do with some nice people writing poems for passers by? Don't be silly. No one wants to do that there.



POP-UP PARK

Is a street section or other space underused? Similar to the Park(ing) Day example above, you could roll out the green carpet and create a temporary pop-up park. Swings sets and slides are cheap, and it allows parents and children to socialise somewhere unusual.



Photo credit: citydressing.co.uk

POP-UP FOOD COURT

A lot of cities are setting up food courts in city areas that don't get as much footfall as they should. This usually involves inviting gourmet food vans and stalls to congregate in a certain area. Imagine a regular weekend street food festival (feel free to add live music). It could be anywhere from the highstreet, to an old industrial area, or even right in the town centre.



Photo credit: www.digbethdiningclub.com

VIDEO GAMING CENTRAL

Turn an unused store into a mini retro arcade for the day or weekend. You'll need to source old TVs and monitors along with some old PCs, since you will be running retro games you won't need much graphics power. If you can include volunteers to lend you their retro games consoles you are onto a winner.



GUERRILLA GARDENING

Is there an abandoned building with overgrown land, making your area look messy? Do spaces outside your public buildings look dull? No problem. A team of volunteers can beautify the place by turning them into gardens - throwing a few flower seeds around is minimal effort and it will make them colourful when it matters most. Your new team of guerilla gardeners might start looking for other opportunities...



PERFORMANCE CORNER

Celebrate local musicians by creating a space for them to do their thing. Invite interested acts to get in touch in advance, and organise a running time to avoid “pile up”. If electricity is an issue, there’s always acoustic, and aim for a diverse range, from rap, to singer-songwriter and poetry.



URBAN FARM

Create a community space where people can grow and share fruit and vegetables, nestled in city or town surroundings. Urban farms are massive community assets, and showcase how cohesive citizens are. But there is a downside... It will need to be powered by dedicated volunteers.



An urban farm in China - photo credit: foreignpolicy.com

STREET PERFORMERS

We’re talking expert street performers, who are always looking for events to showcase their skills and designs. Jugglers, hip hop dancers and living statues will love to be better known, take part and maybe raise some funds. You’ll have more in your area than you think you do.



SUPERMARKET BEATS

The supermarket is usually the epicenter of any town now, although the good news is they have speakers, an aisle of drinks, and that one light that always flickers. So why not have a disco? "Rave on aisle 3." Because no one will allow that, that's why. Think of the damage!



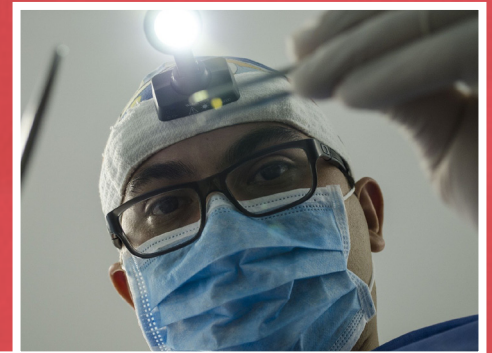
HOT DOGS EATING

Invite everyone to bring their dogs down to the town square for a free meal, with the stipulation that they must do it under a massive halogen heat lamp, all while encouraged wildly by a growing crowd. Actually, that's probably animal abuse. Don't ever do this.



TRAVELLING TRANSCENDENTALIST

What better way to improve wellbeing and allow people to smile more confidently, than a travelling dental surgeon who teaches meditation? Many. Many other ways. Not only would this be a litigious nightmare, but performing dentistry on the side of the road is quite unsafe.



ECOMMUNITY DAY

Gather a large crowd of volunteers to collect and recycle litter. Not only will this have a positive impact on the environment (good for plants, animals and people), but it will bring the community together in a project that will raise interpersonal relationships and provide exercise.



POP-UP GALLERY AND CRAFTS FAIR

Artists love any opportunity to showcase - and potentially sell - their artwork and crafts, and perhaps a local venue wants the footfall? You could create a pop-up gallery featuring local creatives' work, for a little effort and almost no money. Win win.



SHAKESBEER GARDEN

Without a doubt, a local drama company would adore to perform an outdoor play in a local and large beer garden. The pub itself will be grateful for business, and could be convinced to put on a buffet. A drink, a snack and free entertainment (donations accepted!) sure sounds like A Midsummer Night's Dream...



OUTDOOR CINEMA

Someone is bound to have a projector lying around, and someone else is bound to have a laptop with an HDMI cable. Someone else definitely has a white bed sheet... So, put them all together and create a cinema experience! Admittedly, this works best in the summer when it's warmer, but if it is winter then a local business might have a big white wall - and will be grateful for the business. Be aware of licensing laws, though.



THE FIX IT TENT

Everyone always YouTubes things nowadays, rather than speak to another. What happened to good old skill sharing, or pay-it-along favours? Set up a tent full of handypeople who just might be able to fix that old bass guitar, or that blender that's always on the brink. Besides the practical help, it'll introduce key people in the community to one another. Job's a good'n!

