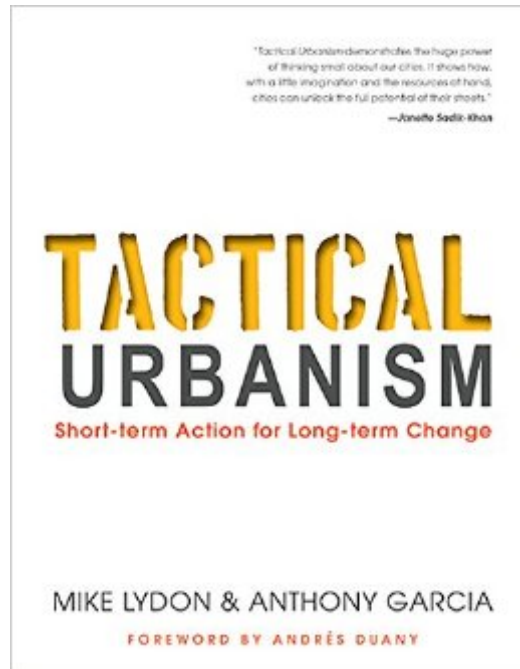


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# Tactical Urbanism: Short-term Action For Long-term Change



## Synopsis

In the twenty-first century, cities worldwide must respond to a growing and diverse population, ever-shifting economic conditions, new technologies, and a changing climate. Short-term, community-based projects—“from pop-up parks to open streets initiatives”—have become a powerful and adaptable new tool of urban activists, planners, and policy-makers seeking to drive lasting improvements in their cities and beyond. These quick, often low-cost, and creative projects are the essence of the Tactical Urbanism movement. Whether creating vibrant plazas seemingly overnight or re-imagining parking spaces as neighborhood gathering places, they offer a way to gain public and government support for investing in permanent projects, inspiring residents and civic leaders to experience and shape urban spaces in a new way. *Tactical Urbanism*, written by Mike Lydon and Anthony Garcia, two founders of the movement, promises to be the foundational guide for urban transformation. The authors begin with an in-depth history of the Tactical Urbanism movement and its place among other social, political, and urban planning trends. A detailed set of case studies, from guerilla wayfinding signs in Raleigh, to pavement transformed into parks in San Francisco, to a street art campaign leading to a new streetcar line in El Paso, demonstrate the breadth and scalability of tactical urbanism interventions. Finally, the book provides a detailed toolkit for conceiving, planning, and carrying out projects, including how to adapt them based on local needs and challenges. *Tactical Urbanism* will inspire and empower a new generation of engaged citizens, urban designers, land use planners, architects, and policymakers to become key actors in the transformation of their communities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

We have an unfortunate need to freeze everything. Starting with words themselves, which Timothy Leary called a "freezing of reality", we insist on things being rigorously defined and immutable, and then apply blanket rules to their status. But the world doesn't work like that, which causes all kinds of problems. Citywide bylaws have unintended consequences, among which are the inability to innovate or solve local problems. Tactical Urbanism is about the small things any town can do to make it more inviting, exciting, enchanting and livable. If Times Square can go from sardine-crushed hurried masses to food trucks, folding chairs and leisurely conversation "overnight" there must be something to it. It's all about working around the regulations that no longer have relevance, are anti-people, or which pointlessly keep the area unlivable. The book is a celebration of innovation, in everything from ideas to implementation. Tactical Urbanism is about temporary and/or low-cost answers to the challenges of urban life. It's about creativity in vision and in execution. There are examples from all over the world, and the way they are going viral. The most important takeaway from the book is precisely the outcome; they bring neighbors together, out in the streets. So the value of the book is simply this: you want to make a livability difference? You are not alone. There's lots of validation, reinforcement, and precedent. It is far from hopeless. The authors collect the five basic steps to success, but in reading the book, I find there are three simple foundations they missed: -Measure. Before and after. You need a baseline to prove what needed correcting. And if dragged before Council or a court, you will need results to show it was worthwhile.

You know all those things you see in cities and say, that's awesome! I love that! What is that? Those things that everyone tweets about, blogs about, those things that transform wasted urban space??? A lot of that is called Tactical Urbanism and this book gives you all the info you need to start making a ground up difference in your community. What's the connection between illegal book sellers along the seine in 16th century Paris, the Olmsted and Burham designed white city of 1893 Chicago and a pop up beer garden or a parklet in Philadelphia...tactical urbanism. The Great Recession is directly tied to the rise of tactical urbanism. As municipal budgets dwindled, smaller non profits, informed citizens, and even property developers started to take things into their own hands. "Tactical urbanism is a way for citizens and municipalities to hack the city" Landscape architects are some of the biggest players in this movement. Pioneers such as Bonnie Ora Sherk, Brian Davis, and Blaine Merker (all landscape architects) laid the groundwork for the work of current

tactical urbanists. The book traces the seemingly impossible to trace history of the tactical urbanism movement from the T-Hows in Portland in the mid 90's to guerrilla wayfinding in Raleigh NC in 2012 to the Snohetta redesign of Times Square. These case studies show the scalability and variety of tactical urbanism projects. This aspect is not all that dissimilar to the previous tactical urbanism guides but there is added insight and exploration of the site opportunities and constraints than in previous writings. The last parts of the book talks about action steps that should be taken in order to implement a successful tactical urbanism project.

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