



**Walk with Barcelona**  
*A Moving City*

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
October 2008

**BARCELONA**

## ***Call for Papers***

9<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Walking

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# CALL FOR PAPERS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

## WALK21-IX BARCELONA 2008

### WALK WITH BARCELONA *A moving city*

The 9th International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities  
8th-10th OCTOBER 2008

#### Programme information

##### 1.1 Introduction and conference objectives

On October 8-10 2008, the 9<sup>th</sup> International Walk21 conference will take place in the centre of Barcelona which is easily accessible by walking or public transport.

Barcelona Walk21, 2008, 'Walk with Barcelona – a moving city', is convened by Catalunya Camina, Pedestrian's Rights Association and the Barcelona Municipality. It is being supported by the Ministry of Environment, Generalitat de Catalunya, Diputació de Barcelona, FEMP, City of Barcelona and a range of other sponsors and contributors across a diversity of sectors involved in the promotion of walking and livable communities.

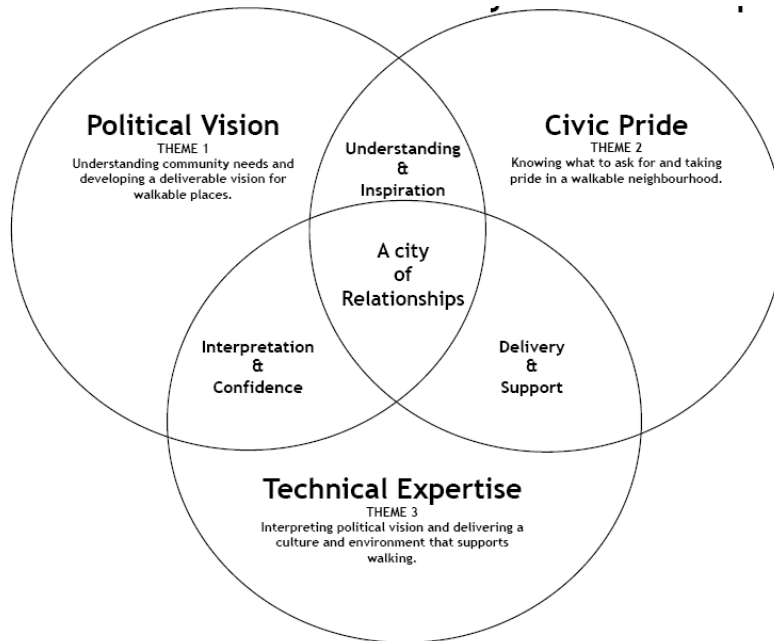
Leading speakers and delegates from around the world are being encouraged to participate in this landmark event and to assist in sharing what works in Barcelona and in other places like it that can be applied in other communities to bring walking into the mainstream of politics, planning, investment and delivery. The conference seeks to provide guidance and inspiration to support the development of walkable environments and to establish walking as a dynamic part of modern living.

Barcelona Walk21 has three key objectives:

- To strengthen the dialogue and relationship between politicians, technicians and representatives from civic groups, to maximize the benefits of investment in walking projects
- To extend the vision of walking plans and policies
- To promote and secure the needs of walkers in the transport hierarchy

These objectives will be articulated through three main interrelated themes:

1. **Political vision:** Understanding community needs and developing a deliverable vision for walkable places
2. **Civic pride:** Knowing what to ask for and taking pride in a walkable neighbourhood
3. **Technical expertise:** Interpreting political vision and delivering a culture and environment that supports walking



## 1.2 Conference papers

Abstracts for papers and proposals for associated workshops and activities are now invited from individuals and organisations across political municipal leadership, community development, urban and transport planning, environmental protection, recreation; road and community safety, health, education, tourism, design, business and other sectors interested in contributing to the conference and supporting programmes.

Papers should be targeted at one of the conference themes, or at the inter-relationships between them, though of course it is recognised that some papers will, by their nature, be “multi-thematic” (covering two or more of the theme areas): these papers are also welcomed.

Papers are encouraged which contribute to the debate between different professional fields, for example, between health professionals and traffic planners, between recreational and utilitarian walking experts, between public transit and walking representatives.

Particularly welcome are papers in each field regarding:

- Good examples and best practice, innovative tools and successful approaches
- Critical analysis of problems, perceptions and ideologies
- Examples of structured civic participation in mobility scheme elaboration.
- Experiences, successes and failures of implementation; promising paths for the future

### First theme: Political Vision

#### Understanding community needs and developing a deliverable vision for walkable places.

Potential topics that could be addressed under this theme include:

- Political success stories and high profile demonstration projects
- Using Walking Charters to benchmark success
- Evaluating the political will of elected members and senior managers
- Supportive pedestrian policies – evaluating your existing policies and practices
- Building the case for walking from business and economic perspectives
- The political and strategic measures needed to achieve 30kph/20 mph in city zones
- Encouraging responsible car use
- Road danger reduction strategies
- Strategic Pedestrian Plans in Municipalities

## **Second theme: Civic Pride**

### **Knowing what to ask for and taking pride in a walkable neighbourhood.**

Potential topics that could be addressed under this theme include:

- Measuring walking activity – what data do we have and what do we need?
- Community engagement techniques for understanding public attitudes and perceptions
- Target-setting for walking – examples of successful pedestrian policies
- Tools for effective decision making
- Pedestrian strategies as instigators of change
- Walking forums and managing cross disciplinary relationships
- Creative sources of funding for walking initiatives
- Managing community expectation
- Forming effective partnerships to promote walking and better living environments
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Successful civil group advocacy experiences
- Health and Mobility

## **Third theme: Technical Expertise**

### **Interpreting political vision and delivering a culture and environment that supports walking.**

Potential topics that could be addressed under this theme include:

- How to count walkers and predict demand
- Evaluation methodologies to effectively predict and assess impacts
- Auditing the physical environment – applying universal access principles
- Cost-effective behaviour change methods, techniques and programmes
- Design guidelines as tools to influence planning
- Increasing inclusive mobility
- Designing public spaces for people
- Designing *new* environments so that barriers are minimised and walking is encouraged
- Re-designing or retro-fitting *existing* environments to create more walkable and liveable communities
- Best practice examples of achieving walkable places
- Monitoring, measuring and reporting results
- Professional training

**Within these themes, Barcelona Walk21 intends to address two specific issues, both individually and together:**

- **Road safety** . Safe walking needs attention in street design and mobility management. The majority of pedestrian accidents are avoidable with designs that, 'think pedestrian' and guide walkers through the street space. Proposals for pedestrian design manuals will be proposed and discussed.
- **Shared spaces**: progress, problems and developing best practice around the world
  - Contributions are invited on the technical issues concerning shared space installation and operation. These can be in the form of a traditional paper, or in the form of a video, maximum three minutes. It is anticipated that a plenary session will be devoted to viewing a number of videos and discussing them with their authors.
  - Contributions are also invited on the political issues inherent in controversial shared space interventions, including legal issues and generating political will.

### 1.3 Walkshops

Submissions are invited from individuals or organisations who wish to lead a '**Walkshop**' within the conference programme. Walkshops are mobile workshops which can introduce conference delegates to key programmes and features of Barcelona's walking environment or demonstrate how an approach or tool can be applied to Barcelona streets or public spaces.

### 1.4 Pre-and post-conference activities

Expressions of interest in conducting **pre- and post-conference activities** are sought. These activities could include professional training workshops, advocacy meetings, walking tours and other events.

### 1.5 Session formats

The conference embodies various forms of sessions: plenary, breakout and poster sessions as well as walkshops.

**Keynote and Plenary:** Keynote and plenary sessions address the entire assembly. They consist of individual speakers and of plenary panels debating the main themes of the conference.

**Breakout:** The breakout sessions will be smaller assemblies held in various meeting rooms. The sessions will give presenters a chance to debate their papers in the context of other papers on a similar topic.

**Posters:** Poster sessions are where researchers, designers and practitioners will be available to discuss their exhibited displays.

**Walkshops:** Walkshops are mobile workshops to selected places in the Barcelona area where delegates will get a hands-on experience of the conference themes. These are to be conducted as part of the conference programme and will add a unique opportunity to see ideas implemented and assess achievements critically.

## 2. Guidelines for submission of abstracts

Individuals and organisations wishing to present a paper, a video, a poster display, a walkshop or a pre-conference workshop at the conference are invited to forward an abstract in English and provide the following information.

### 2.1 Papers

#### Description of presentation

- Specify that this is a proposal for a paper
- Proposed title
- Name, affiliation and contact information including your e-mail address
- Context, aim, methodology, results and main conclusions of the work to be reported
- Form of presentation (lecture, PowerPoint presentation, film etc.)
- Qualifications of presenter (education, experience as it relates to the topic)

#### Format

- Maximum length for each proposal is 500 words
- Maximum length for presenter qualifications is 100 words
- Proposals will be accepted in electronic format only
- You may propose several abstracts **but it is essential that each proposal is submitted individually** i.e. in a separate electronic document

### 2.2 DVD

If you wish to offer a DVD on shared space, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above as far as possible, but in addition please specify that this is a DVD

## 2.3 Posters

If you wish to offer a Poster display, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a Poster display
- Indicate if you have any special display requirements

## 2.4 Walkshops

If you wish to offer a walkshop, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a walkshop
- Location; time taken to get there and back; means of transport
- Ideal and minimum length of time required
- Maximum number of participants
- If you don't live in the Barcelona area, identify any support you may need from the local conference team.

Please note that the responsibility for leading the walkshop lies with the walkshop organiser, not the Walk21 Conference Management.

## 2.5 Pre-conference workshops

If you wish to offer a pre-conference workshop, please follow the guidelines in 3.1 above, but in addition:

- Specify that this is a proposal for a pre-conference workshop
- Provide as much detail as possible on the objectives, *modus operandi* and desired outcomes
- Indicate space and time requirements

## 3. Organisation

### 3.1 Programme Committee

An international Programme Committee with members from various professions and backgrounds will be responsible for the selection of the contributions and the overall conference programme. The members of the Programme Committee are currently being confirmed and the Committee will be chaired by **Rodney Tolley**, Conference Director, Walk21.

### 3.2 Deadlines

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| ➤ Receipt of abstracts                                 | 8th Feb 2008   |
| ➤ Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts | April 2008     |
| ➤ Receipt of final paper                               | September 2008 |

**Abstracts must be in English**

**and must be forwarded to [papers@barcelonawalk21.com](mailto:papers@barcelonawalk21.com) by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008.**

### 3.3 Further information

For further information regarding the content of themes or papers, please contact [papers@barcelonawalk21.com](mailto:papers@barcelonawalk21.com) / [info@barcelonawalk21.com](mailto:info@barcelonawalk21.com)

Please visit the Barcelona Walk21 website [www.barcelonawalk21.com](http://www.barcelonawalk21.com) for more information and regular conference updates. Past papers and other information about previous Walk21 Conferences can be found at [www.walk21.com](http://www.walk21.com)