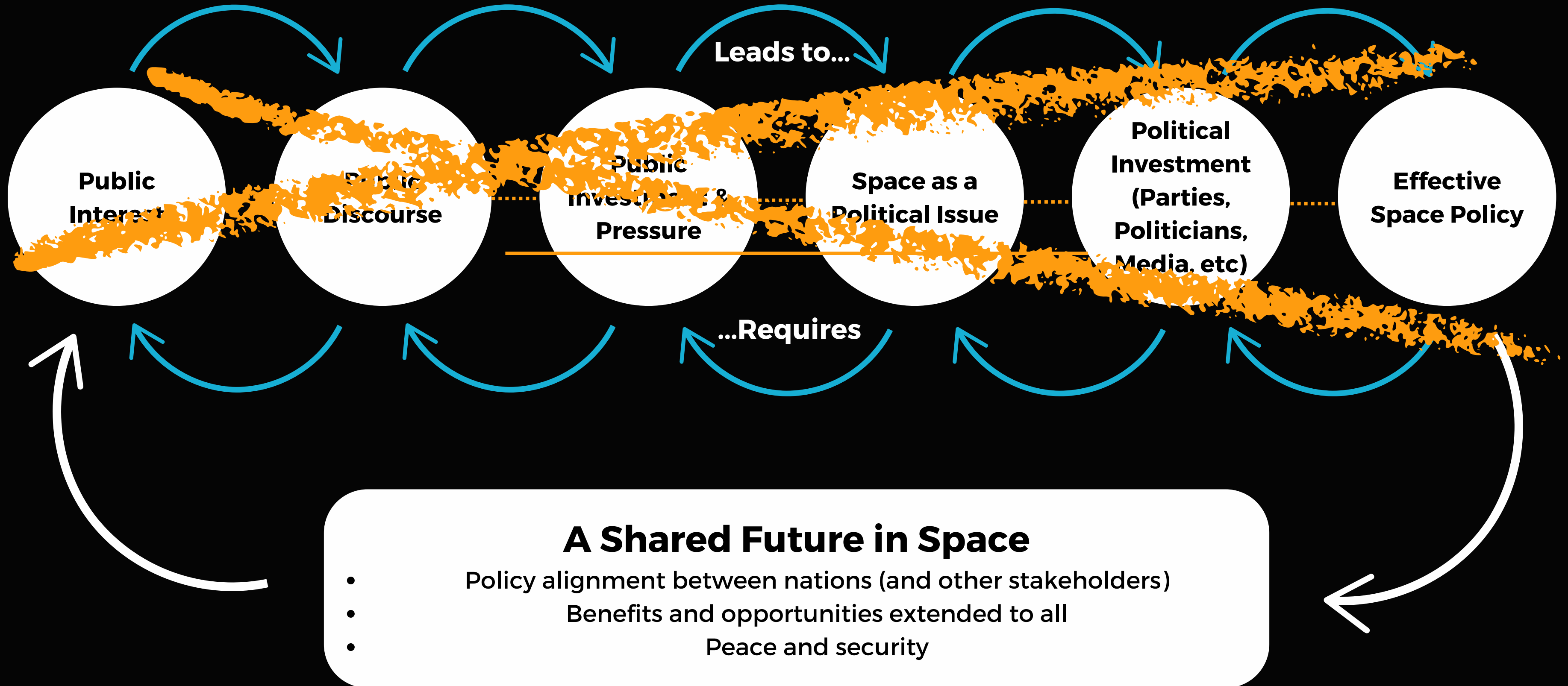


# CITIZEN SPACE POLICY PLATFORM

A FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
& A SHARED FUTURE IN SPACE

## The Big Problem



## **The Other Problem (s)**

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**“It’s for engineers, air force pilots and billionaires”**

**Stories don’t connect with people**

**Seen as too complicated**

**People feel alienated and disenfranchised**

**S P A C E**  
**is a**  
**VACUUM**

**Space effects everyone and everything but it’s not clear how**

**Policy being developed without citizen input**

**“Nobody cares”**

**Industry and government bodies running away with the ball**

**“But what about all the problems here on Earth?”**

## The Impact

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**Policy will predominantly reflect vested interests (like energy and finance)**

**Decreased political pressure for cooperation**

**Past mistakes repeated (ie, environmental damage)**

**No social, cultural or political connection to the final frontier.**

**SPACE**  
is a  
**VACUUM**

**We won't realise the true potential for positive impact**

**Ordinary people won't own the future, they'll just work there.**

**Increased potential for geopolitical conflict**

**Present trends exacerbated (ie, inequality)**

## The Solution

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# (GLOBAL) CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizen Participation is the **direct involvement** of citizens in public processes. Involvement can range from **simple observation** through to **direct policy and decision making**.

There are several core principles that make it work:

**Political Will** - The buy-in from political entities must be authentic.

**Honesty** - Be realistic and up-front about the scope for change from the beginning.

**Transparency** - The process must be open and communicated properly throughout.

**Follow Through** - You have to do what you say you're going to do.

## Examples

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# THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES

- Town Hall Meetings
- Advisory Committees
- Citizen's Assemblies
- Opinion Polls
- Participatory Design
- Participatory Policy
- Participatory Budgeting
- Referendums
- Protests
- Votes

# AND THEY CAN TACKLE BIG ISSUES

- The Citizens Convention on Climate in France brought together experts and citizens selected by sortition over seven 3 day sessions to draft proposals for the government, which committed to enacting 146 of the 149 submitted.
- In Estonia, the Citizen Initiative Portal allows regular citizens to directly petition parliament. Gathering 1,000 digital signatures (for national issues) and 1% of the residents of an area ( for local issues) results in compulsory consideration.

More examples found at [www.democracy-technologies.org](http://www.democracy-technologies.org)

# CITIZEN SPACE POLICY PLATFORM

**A policy document outlining an aspirational future for human activity in space.**

- Derived from input from ordinary citizens from all over the world.
- Aggregated into coherent policy language using AI tools developed by civic tech platforms explicitly for citizen policy and citizens' assemblies ([citizens.is](https://citizens.is) / [govocal.com](https://govocal.com))
- Grown and iterated year by year to ask more complex questions and review old assumptions.
- Used as the basis for advocacy and fed directly into party/organisational policy.



# “What do you want humanity’s future in space to look like?”

## The Method - Year One

( 1000 people / 100 countries )

### STEP 1

Create a short questionnaire that encourages aspirational answers.

### STEP 2

Work with partner organisations to secure at least one volunteer in each country.

### STEP 3

Volunteer asks 10 individuals in their town/city - recording the answers on video (with signed permission for use).

### STEP 4

Inputs provided to civic tech partner for initial aggregation into key ideas and themes.

### STEP 5

Final document aggregates responses into 10 key bullet points or pillars.

### STEP 6

Document presented at conferences and to political organisations.

### STEP 7

Video content edited for use by CC and partner organisations on social and other media.

### STEP 8

Further engage political and civil organisations for MOUs

### STEP 9

Prepare for Year 2 and expansion of questions, size of engagement & scope of advocacy.

## **The Impact - Definite**

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**Participants and those close to them feel like they have a stake**

**Political and Intergovernmental bodies get real public input**

**innovators and technologists have a broader more interested market**

**More young people inspired to participate**

**Civil society organisations become active and start including space in their thinking**

# **The** **SOCIO-CULTURAL** **impact of** **PARTICIPATION**

**Academics, scientists and researchers get broader opportunities and interest**

**The public feels a closer sense of connectivity between earth and space issues**

**The space industry 'bubble' is penetrated with external feedback**

**Businesses in the market have less awkward conversations about their operations**

**New businesses encouraged to enter the market**

## **The Impact - Possible**

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**Political parties and political organisations develop policy in line with citizen interests**

**Space businesses get more sales because of demystification**

**Governments pass legislation and adopt citizen centered policy**

**Intergovernmental bodies get more traction with their programs**

# **The POLITICAL & ECONOMIC**

**The Space industry opens up to become more public interest focussed**

**Increased innovation stemming from greater access to opportunity**

**impact of**

# **PARTICIPATION**

**Increased funding to science, technology, research and development**

**New space industry booms as more young people see opportunities**

**Implementation of citizen centered policy broadly impacts SDGs positively**

**Interconnectivity of space and earth reflected in other policy areas**

## The Impact - Possible (SDG edition)

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### 1. No Poverty

Economic development & opportunity for poorer countries and communities

### 2. Zero Hunger

Space based tech leading to Improvement of food systems and crop yields

### 9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Entirely new industries and scope for infrastructure development

### 4. Quality Education

Shared access to data and research, as well as direct learnings from participation

### 7. Affordable & Clean Energy

Space based production, increased security and funding for green transition

## The **GLOBAL**

## impact of

# **PARTICIPATION**

### 8. Decent Work & Economic Growth

Not just new business, but every business can be a space business

### 12. Responsible Consumption & Production

Ensure new environments are developed sustainably.

### 13. Climate Action

Leverage space tech, as well as wealth generation to develop green infrastructure.

### 16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Reduce geopolitical polarisation and scope for conflict between powers

### 10. Reduced Inequalities

Enormous wealth generation can be taxed, shared and contribute to social services

## The Impact - Aspirational

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Interoperability of tech and alignment of regulatory frameworks results in increased trade, innovation and cooperation

New treaties and international agreements help reduce conflict and promote interoperability, trade and cooperation

Democratisation of global bodies (or creation of new ones) that help align space activities

Increased global political and policy alignment between governments and other stakeholders stemming from global socio-cultural shift and political pressure.

# The **LONG-TERM** possibilities of **PARTICIPATION**



People everywhere feel a personal connection to space and have access to our shared future

Science, technology and research developed for or in space helps alleviate the greatest challenges on Earth

Wealth generated invests in further space business and development as well as provides for humanitarian interests such as social services and green transitions

Space access is an incentive for increasing freedoms and promotes democratic movement around the world

## Who Are We?

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# CELESTIAL COMMONS

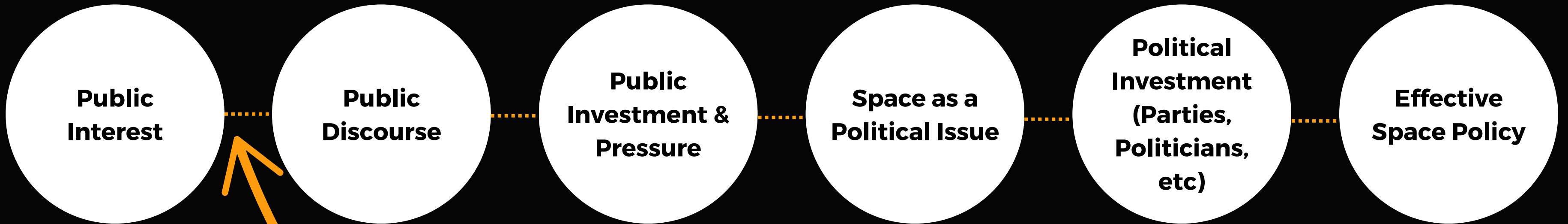
- Started as a small advocacy network of journalists, public and civil sector people believing space needs to be talked about.
- Mission is to promote public (common) interest in space and to ensure that those interests are represented and advocated for.
- Until now has provided pro-bono strategic communications services to individuals, groups, organisations and projects working on public interest space activities.
- Developing citizen policy and ownership initiatives as a way of giving the global public direct engagement with space development.

# DANIEL MACKISACK

- Founder of Celestial Commons
- Former diplomat and Policy Officer for the British FCO
- Former researcher in the social geometry of democracy and democratic movements.
- Head of Product at the Vienna-based Innovation in Politics Institute
- Editor of democracy-technologies.org
- Researcher into Citizen Participation in Europe
- Co-developed the online course Participate Practically
- Led development of political Briefings for EU leaders on Citizen Participation
- Founder of DemocracyWorks (team building internationally through participation exercises)

## What We Already Do

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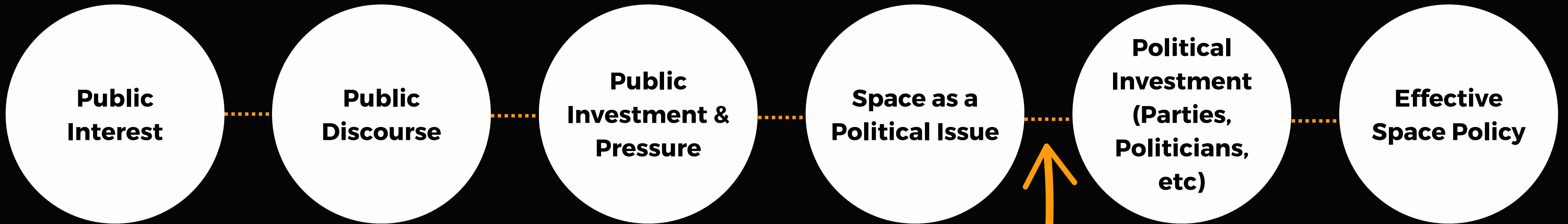


### **Strategic Communications for Public Interest Space Activities**

- Tell different stories that make connections
- Demonstrate broad social impact of space activities
- Highlight those working on public interest/impact space activities
- De-alienate and de-mystify space for the public

## What We're Going to Do

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### Cut to the Chase

- Directly engage citizens all over the world in policy discussion
- Create an aspirational policy platform as the basis for advocacy
- Go straight to orgs with a need for citizen-sentiment based policy on emerging topics (civil society, political parties, etc)
- Get MOUs and agreements to treat the platform as the basis for public policy



Finally...

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# **WHY** **MAKE SPACE** **POLITICAL?**

**There's an argument that worries  
politicisation is bad for budgets.  
Bad for projects. Bad for innovation.  
Bad for the sector.**

**But this paints the situation (and those budget cuts) as the result of competing interests.**

**It's not.**

**It's **the people who care** vs **the people who don't**.**

**By politicising space through the practice of citizen engagement, we shift people from the false impression that space is a waste of money disconnected from their lives, into an invested population that sees and believes in the value of space and the development of the sector.**

**THANK YOU**