



**living environments** project  
*towards inner-city living  
environments that enrich the  
lives of residents and the city*

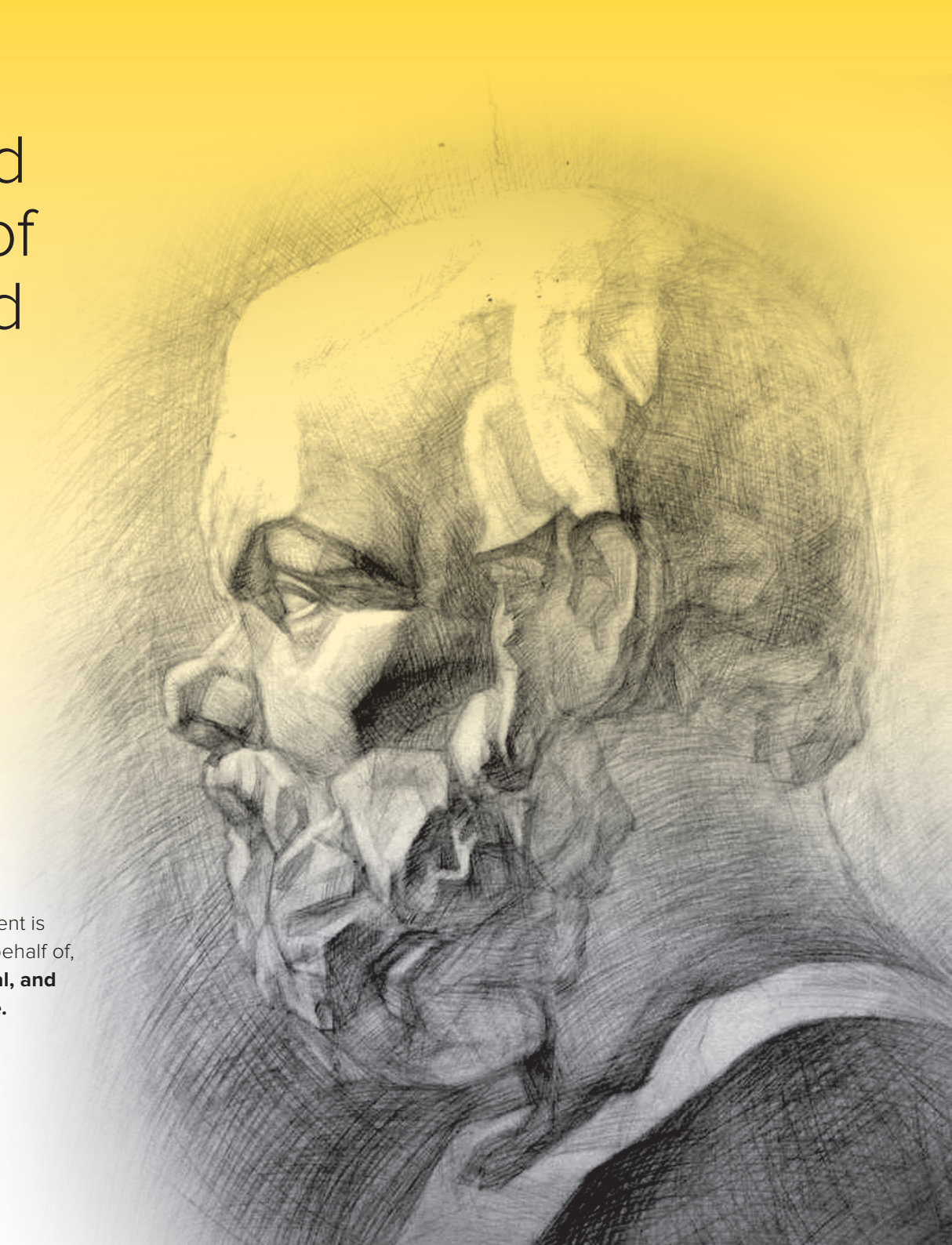


*enhancing community well-being  
through civic engagement*

“By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and human communities.”

Socrates

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of local government is (1) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (2) **to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.**



## Context

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One of Inner-City Wellington's three strategic priorities for 2019–2022 is to “promote **sustainable development** perspectives that advance the social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of the inner-city and of the wider city as appropriate”. It is also committed to the principle of “think global, act local” and to that end this priority supports the United Nations Development Programme's **Sustainable Development Goals** (2015–2030) adopted by New Zealand in 2015.

This project focuses on **Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities** which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

## Position Statement

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Inner-City Wellington affirms (1) that shelter is a fundamental necessity for human survival; (2) that adequate living environments are critical to wellbeing and a human right for all; (3) that living environments should be sustainable; (4) that living environments should be integrated within a framework of national and local sustainable urban development as outlined in the **United Nations New Urban Agenda**; and (5) that governments must play the key enabling role in the development of such living environments.

## Living Environments

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The **United Nations Right to Adequate Housing** states that adequate housing is a human right for all. It has defined seven standards that must be met in order for living environments to be adequate. They are security of tenure, habitability, accessibility, affordability, availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure, location and cultural adequacy.

The **United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing** seeks to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all and has defined four principles that must be met in order for living environments to be sustainable. They are social inclusion and participation, environmental protection, economic effectiveness and cultural adequacy.

In 1985 the UN General Assembly designated the first Monday of October every year as **World Habitat Day**. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.



## living environments project

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Within an inner-city context the project seeks to explore three key themes with the community.

1. The commodification of living environments.
2. The development of living environments as if people and planet matter.
3. The accountability of the various levels of government around their human rights obligations concerning living environments.

The project involves the development of a public **discussion paper** and three community **forums** based around the key themes. It is also hoped to produce a similarly-themed short **documentary**.

The **living environments project** is a local response to the predicted growth in inner-city living, rather than a comprehensive overview of New Zealand housing.

The project seeks to promote awareness and action within public authorities around three key perspectives affecting high-density living that appear to have diminished in importance at all levels of government.



*listening to and working with our community*



[www.innercitywellington.nz](http://www.innercitywellington.nz)