



Candidate European Capital of Culture

Klankbordgroep GKO

6/09/2024

Agenda

- **Introductie**

Waarom kregen jullie deze uitnodiging en wat gaan we doen vandaag?

- **Tijdslijn kandidatuur en vooruitblik**

Hoe zag het traject er tot nu toe uit, wat zijn de verwachtingen van Europa en wat wordt er de komende maanden van ons verwacht?

- **Werken richting een artistiek programma**

Het artistiek narratief, de leerprincipes, werken aan een gezamenlijk artistiek programma, voorbeeldprogramma,...

- **Hoe wil jij betrokken worden bij Gent2030?**

Uitleg over de werkwijze en brainstorm aan tafels

- **Advies klankbordgroep over de open call voor het artistiek team**

Waarom en hoe willen we de titel binnenhalen?

We geloven dat we, allen samen, een systeemverandering kunnen teweeg brengen. Dat deze titel ervoor zal zorgen dat we hier de nodige hefboomen voor krijgen en dat Gent, naast veel troeven, ook nog veel werkpunten heeft.

De procesmatige aanpak die we naar voor schuiven stelt ons ertoe in staat om de slaagkansen voor dit verhaal zo groot mogelijk te maken, omdat we zeggen dat, als we dit echt samen doen, we nu niet weten waar we zullen landen.

WHY WE NEED THE TITLE

Ghent has always been...

A rebellious city

A city of water

A social city

But today...

... we need more physical and mental space for artists, cultural workers and citizens.

Many spaces are full

... Institutions have difficulty introducing reforms, because we often work in silos and new initiatives frequently get tangled up in rules.

Many systems are stuck

... the sense of disconnection between citizens and institutions is increasing, both in culture and elsewhere.

Many people are feeling left behind

The mission of Ghent2030

To create a city of resistance and resilience together, with the physical and mental space for people to feel genuinely at home and contribute to active and cultural citizenship, both locally, regionally and in Europe.



Welke systeemverandering?

MORE SENSE OF BELONGING

leefbaardere stad voor iedereen

meer connectie met de regio

verknooptere samenwerkingen

sectoroverschrijdende duurzame partnerschappen

verbinden wat er al is aan rijkdom

regelluwheid met een focus op vertrouwen

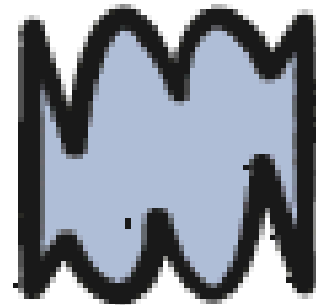
HOW WE WILL REALISE OUR ARTISTIC VISION AND STRATEGY

OUR PROGRAMME LINES

The themes of Ghent2030 inspire, connect and generate energy to work together.



**Wasteland as a
Wellspring**



**Water as a
Weaver**



**Margin as a
Measure**

TWELVE VALUES

Ghent2030's framework of values provides direction for the big and small choices we make, both today and in the long term.

inclusive & diverse

collaborative

connective

sustainable

innovative

open

free

accessible

democratic

just

safe

in solidarity

OUR LEARNING PRINCIPLES

Direct us in every phase, to strengthen skills in the city and the sector and grow together.

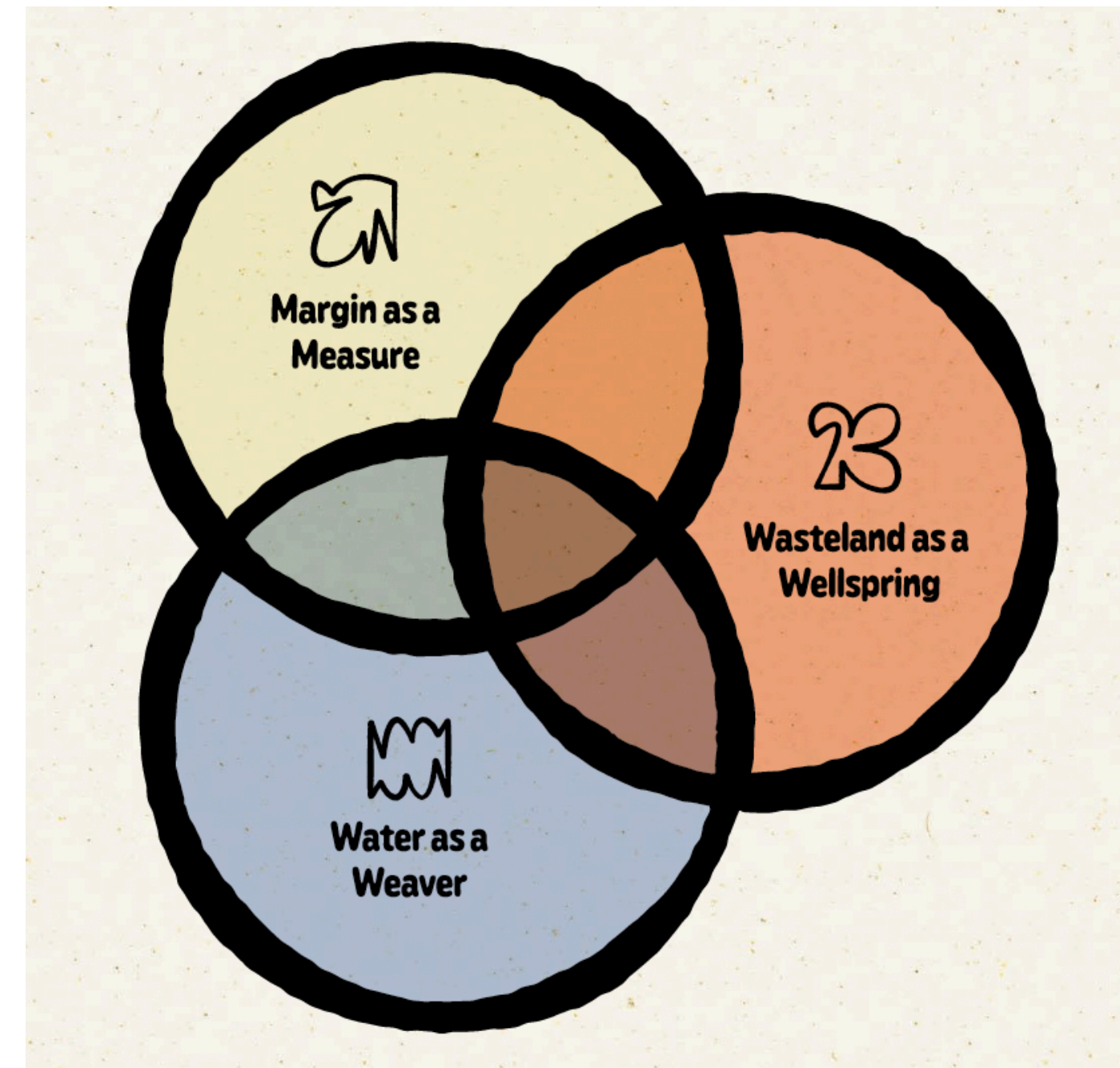
RADICAL LEARNING

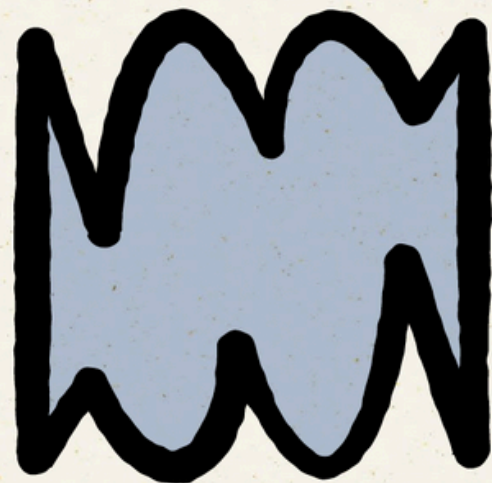
SURPRISING CONNECTIONS

SHARED OWNERSHIP

ARTISTIEKE PROGRAMMALIJNEN

WATER ALS WEEFSEL
MARGE ALS MAATSTAF
BRAAKLAND ALS BRON





Water as a weaver

Ghent originated at the convergence of the rivers Lys and Scheldt, at the place now called Portus Ganda, the small harbour for pleasure boats and canoes beside the historic Van Eyck swimming pool.

In the Middle Ages, the

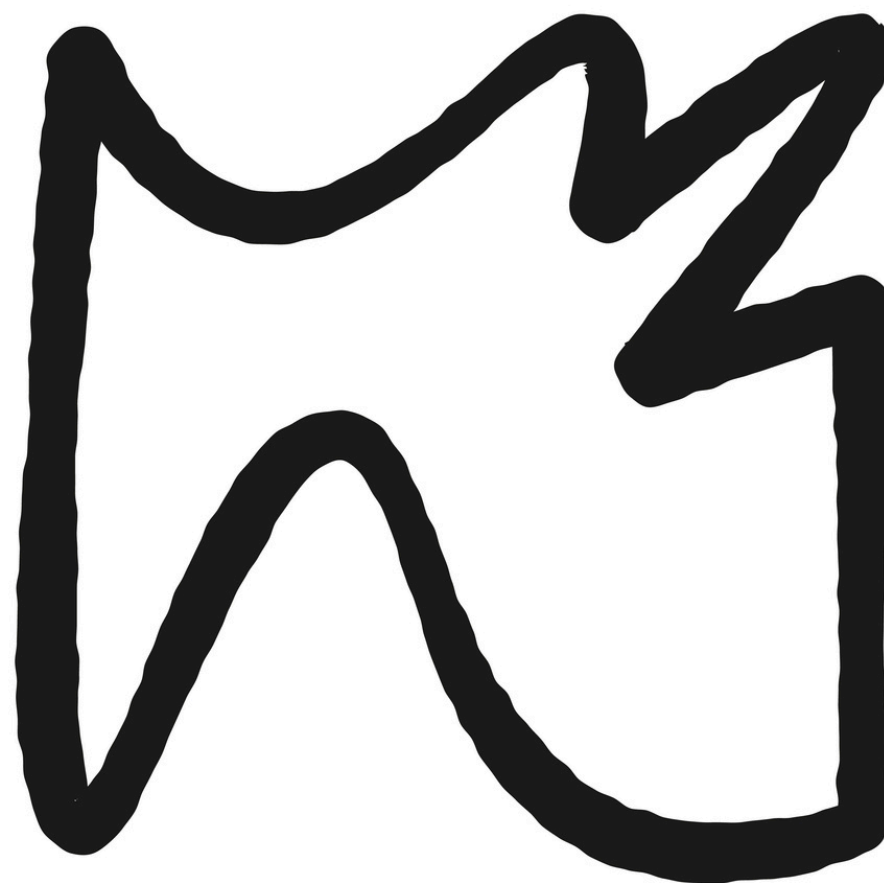
entire network of waterways was crucial to survival as a major European city. Even today, these waterways keep the city cool as the climate heats up, and all the water buffers and flood plains around Ghent protect our vital needs in times of flooding.

Water is capital. According to the WWF, the value of water in Europe amounts to three times the GNP of Germany. In Ghent, the port provides direct or indirect employment for 70,000 people, or almost a quarter of the city's population. A staggering 90% of the global economy is dependent on water, Water Europe claims. Nevertheless, water remains our most undervalued resource. We only think about it when sprinkler bans are imposed in hot summers. Europe has lost 90% of its flood plains and now has the most fragmented water landscape on earth, with more than a million blockades.

Just as water connects what is above ground to what is below, our interpersonal networks determine what flows through the city and society. In these terms, Ghent and Europe find themselves in turbulent waters. Growing xenophobia, international conflicts and a general sense of insecurity: the water is rising, sometimes up to our necks. What social lifelines can we grasp to fight declining kindness?

Water as a weaver stands for the elementary connections we depend upon as a community. For continuing to move in fluid ways. For always finding our way, around and over and through obstacles and difficulties. Water is unstoppable. More and more disastrous flooding is unfortunately showing how destructive that can be. Water is everywhere. Even human beings are 70% water.

water als verbinder/verbinding
water als leven
water als grondstof



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Voorbeeld toop
MAANDAG MAALDAG

**Hoe kunnen we de volledige stad
elke eerste maandag van de maand
trakteren op een maaltijd en een
artistieke interventie?**



Margin as a measure

So much of value is lurking in the messy margins. From the blue-green belt of canal villages and outlying municipalities around Ghent to the borderlands just beyond Europe: they hold a different

relationship to things, a different consciousness, a different set of measurements. Much can also be learned from their perspective on the centre and the standards that apply. What if we turn that fixed hierarchy between the 'edge' and the 'reference' on its head? What if the centre changed to accommodate the edge, instead of always doing things the other way round? Borderlands invite you to move, to travel, but also to decentralise your way of thinking. To call borders into question.

At the same time, every dynamic between the margin and the centre implies a difference in power (and decision-making power), legitimacy and ownership. What new habits emerge in institutions if they embrace the truths of more peripheral practices and subcultures? What freedoms do you gain? Every reevaluation of the periphery entails the crucial question: who decides who decides?

'The margin' is a construct, that much is certain. Historically, too, the drawing of borders has had significant consequences that are still felt today. Voyages of discovery, colonialism, migration, border politics: it's difficult to escape them. What is our current and historic interaction with cultures and influences from far beyond Ghent and Europe?

Margin as a measure has to do with our relationship with 'the abnormal'. Mental vulnerability. Insiders and outsiders. Strengthening unheard and underrepresented voices. The beauty of crookedness, the power of the unfinished. It also has to do with our personal boundaries. When can my specific 'I' merge with our collective 'together'? Which boundaries can I cross, when are my boundaries violated? Margin as a measure is not a plea to bring everyone into the centre or to fight for everyone in the margins. It is a profound question of perspective and ownership.

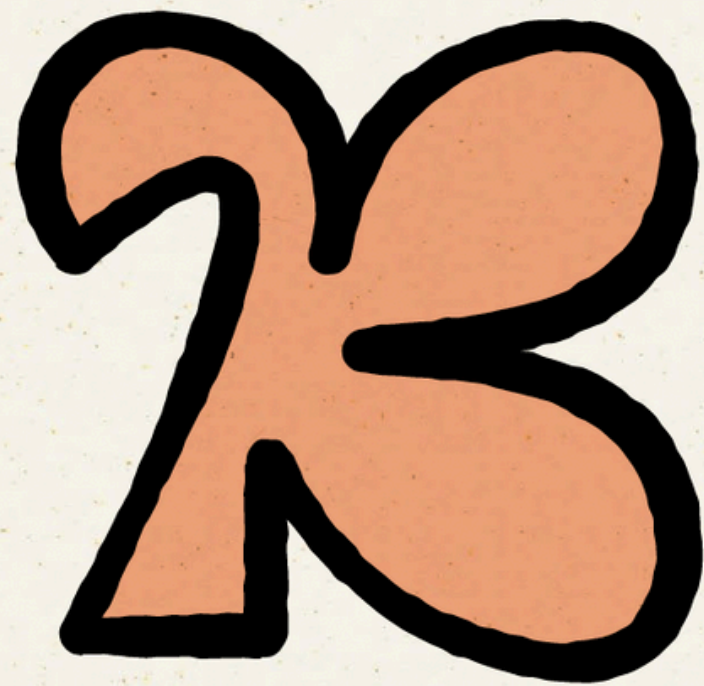
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**marge als uitgangspunt
kijken van de marge naar het centrum
welke mentale marge is er nog?
marge van Gent en van europa**

**voorbeeld TOOP TRIANGLE
Kunnen we driehoeken/langdurige
samenwerkingen maken tussen
telkens een buurt, een kunsthuis en
een maker. Om samen na te denken
en de noden van de buurt als leidraad
te nemen voor creatie.**



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Wasteland as a wellspring

Originally, wasteland meant the fallow fields that were not used for one or more years so that the soil could recover. Today, wasteland is described as 'land that is not currently fulfilling its intended purpose'. That pause for rest and

quietness generates a healing power, whilst also offering space for unpredictable creative possibilities, a new beginning.

Sometimes you need to take the time to recharge and free up energy so that you can find the essence: connection with yourself and others. In that clear, empty space, the rules that shape our thoughts and actions fade away. Our minds open up to unexpected inspiration, learning or knowledge, beyond the everlasting, functional focus on personal growth goals. New synergies emerge spontaneously. Ultimately, the community and society also gain extra breathing space as well.

One fifth of Ghent's surface area is agricultural land; in fact, two fifths of the entire territory of the EU is agricultural. Isn't it strange that we are alienated from our fallow fields? Couldn't the wasteland offer more space for diversity rather than monoculture, for extra 'free time' rather than constant mass production?

**braakland als rustpunt,
leegstand, ontregeling,
ander gebruik.
Stilstaan om anders weer
verder te gaan.**

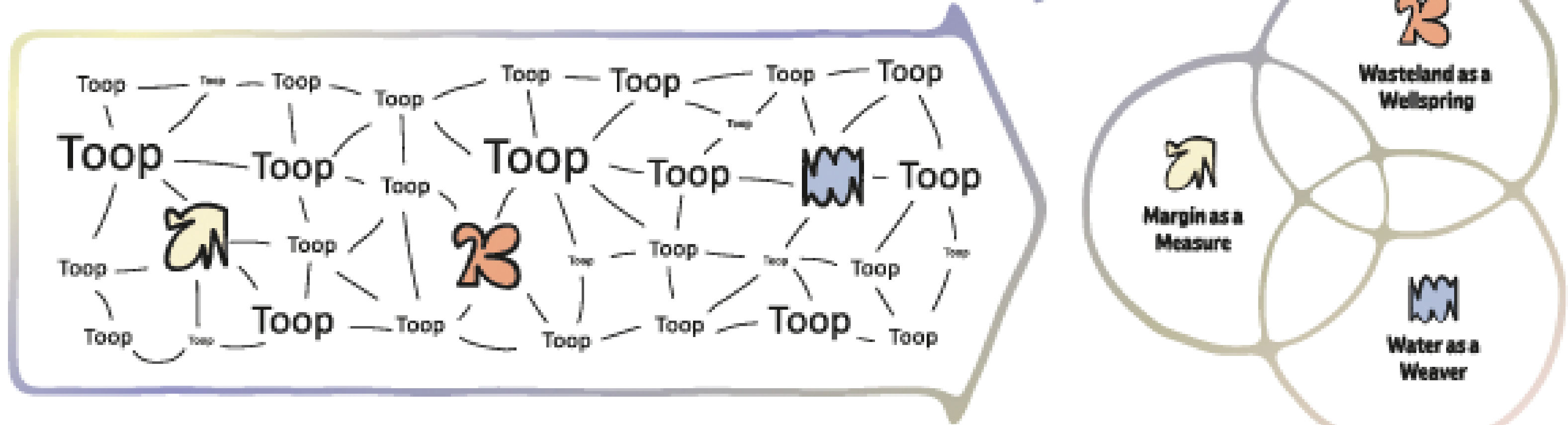
**voorbeeld TOOP
GROUNDED**

**Hoe kunnen we samen
nadenken over de betekenis
van vrijland/vrijheid en
publieke grond/ruimte.**

FROM TOOPEN TO PROGRAMME

FROM 2025

TO 2030

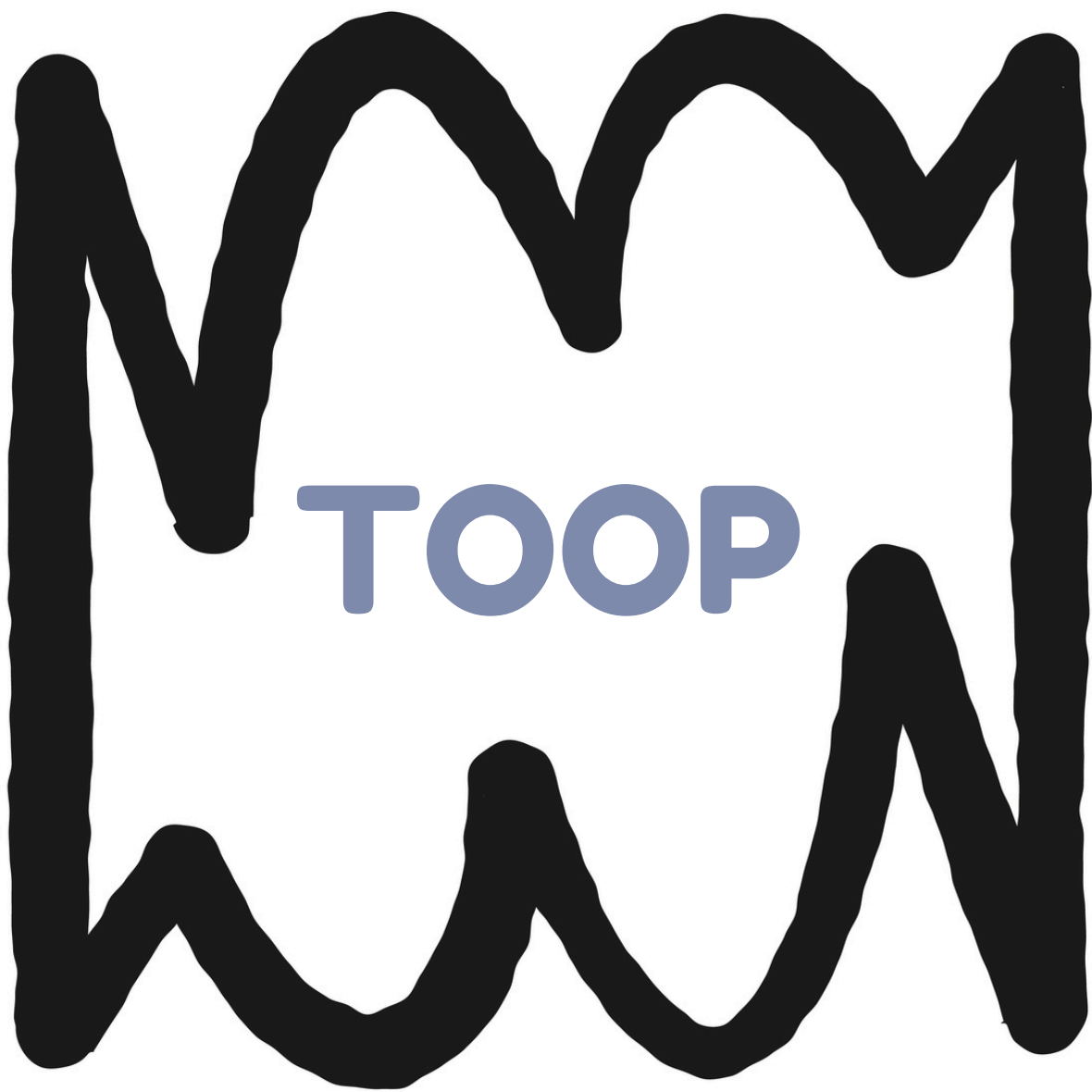


WHAT WILL BE OUR SHARED FUTURE AND LEGACY

more open space,
physically and mentally

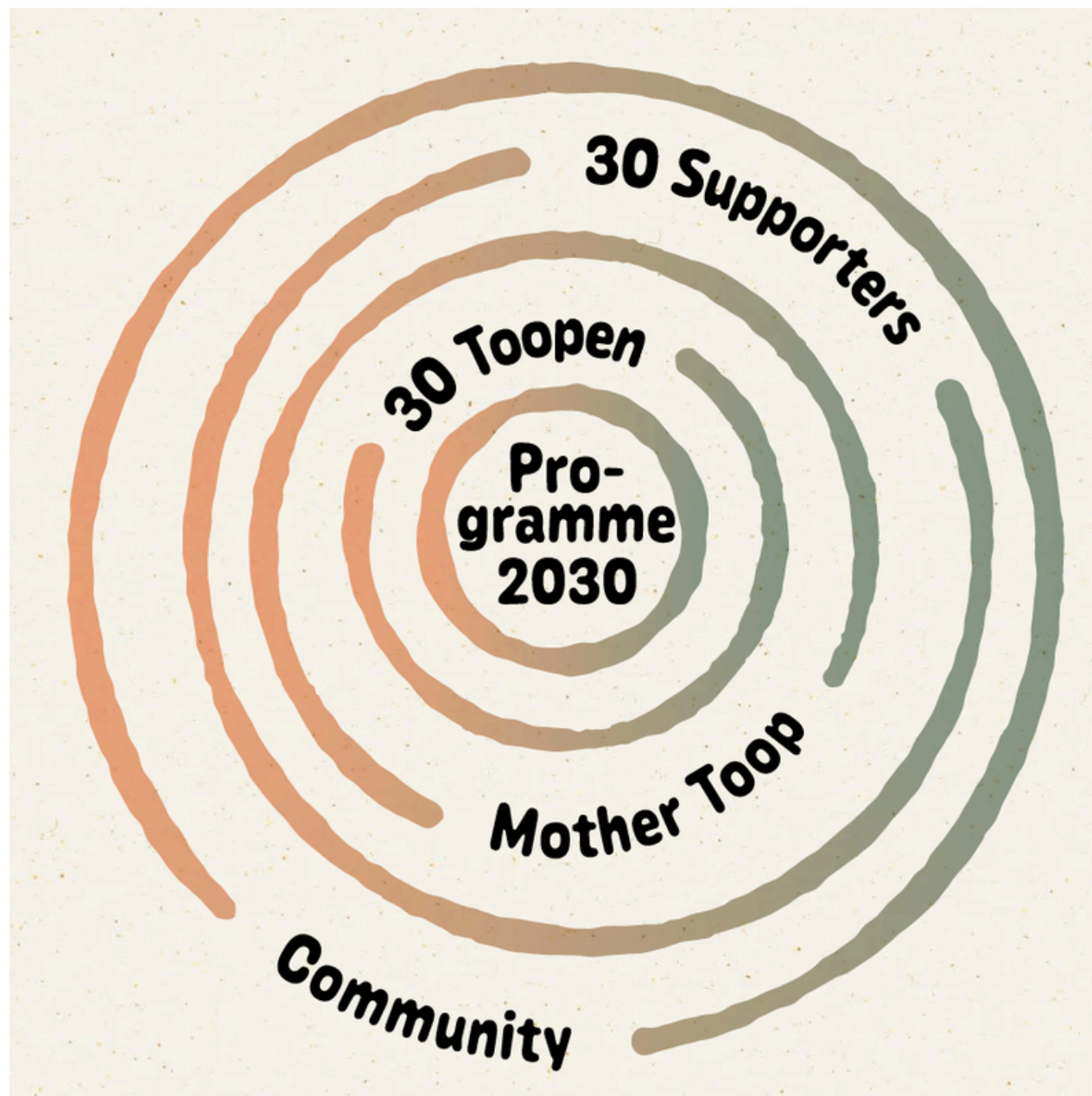
more *resilience* due
to surprising connections

people have a greater
sense of belonging



diverse groep deelnemers
gedeelde interesse/bezorgdheid
hier maken we het programma

1. **About 30 toopen** will act as testing grounds for how we dream that cultural programmes will be created more often in Ghent and Europe. They will be set up between 2025 and 2029 – some earlier and others later (see below). They start out from a specific theme within a single programme line and aim for a concrete contribution to the ECoC programme, guided by the three learning principles of Ghent2030. The participants will enrich their own practice as they go:
 - **Shared ownership** – The starting point for each toop is building trust, safety and openness. There is explicit attention to sharing responsibilities and an open decision-making process. At the same time, each toop focuses actively on encouraging a generally less involved audience to participate.
 - **Surprising connections** – Each toop is an unprecedented collaboration or pairing that involves at least three different sectors, one of which is always art and culture. So cultural creators are always involved, along with partners who have not worked together before. As such, a toop creates new connections by definition.
 - **Radical learning** – Each toop will start with a clear learning goal and defined ambition aligned with the objectives of Ghent2030. Consequently, each toop will bring about either a significant or minor transformation and will also multiply the experiences and learnings among other parties.



Programma

+/- 30 TOOPEN

**moedertoop = kernteam
combinatie Stad,sector
en GKO (klankbordgroep)**

Supportersgroep

iedereen