

# Technical Mission to Germany

"A child-friendly city is good for everyone"

JUNE 30 TO JULY 6, 2019



Initiative:



Organization:



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**"A child-friendly city is good for everyone"**

**June 30 to July 6, 2019**



## What is it?

The Technical Mission of the Child and Nature program of the Alana Institute is a study trip to Germany that will take place from June 30 to July 6, 2019. The program will offer public administrators and other professionals who are committed to the themes of children, nature and cities, the opportunity to learn more about the policies and urban designs of two cities that are an international reference in sustainability and child-friendly policies: Freiburg and Griesheim.

## Why organize a Technical Mission?

We want to learn first-hand what makes Freiburg and Griesheim global references in urban sustainability and quality of life for children. We hope this experience will allow us to contribute to the development of public policies that promote greener and more child-friendly cities in Brazil, through initiatives that improve children's health and well-being, the amount of time they spend playing outdoors, their levels of contact with nature and their ability to get around independently.

The program will provide an opportunity to explore the public spaces in these cities, engage with children experiences, talk to experts and share impressions within the group. The opportunity to be part of an interactive group experience is what makes this field trip truly unique.



In 2017, we held the 1st Technical Mission to Freiburg with an interdisciplinary delegation. The visit provided strong learning opportunities and hands-on training. It also helped the participants to create a professional network that provides support to the members in developing their actions in Brazil.

The complete study program is available [\*\*here\*\*](#).

*"The study trip to Freiburg was a great learning experience and inspiration! It was important to personally experience the urban solutions that promote the development of children and their interaction with nature, as it showed us that most solutions could be adopted in Brazil, even with our cultural differences. The installation of equipment in areas of circulation, for example a slide next to stairs, makes the streets more playful and the whole city more accessible, which is good for children and adults!"*

*Sylvia Angelini, Director of Urban Planning for the city of Jundiaí.*



## Why Freiburg and Griesheim?



**Freiburg** lies in the heart of the Black Forest, one of the largest forested regions in Western Europe. Known as one of the main “green cities” in the world, Freiburg boasts long-term social and economic development policies, anchored in principles of sustainability, supported and validated by its population. The city is also internationally recognized for offering its children an outstanding quality of life, because of its natural environment and many **low-cost cross-sectoral urban policies** focused on children.

**Griesheim** is known in Germany as the Playable City, in recognition of its actions to promote road safety and the many playful interventions on roads and streets that make it an attractive city for children. Actions such as reducing vehicle speeds, longer crossing times at traffic lights and safe and fun school routes have improved road safety, and as a result increased the number of children that use public spaces and engage with the city.



*“The playable city creates a network that provides access to places that, until now, seemed inaccessible. In addition, it must provide experiences for the children who use these places. So on wider sidewalk corners we installed street signs with suggestions for activities. Even narrow pathways can be easily transformed: for example, by painting the pavement or asphalt at irregular intervals, creating an area to play hop-scotch or other games. The streets become fun”.*

*Bernhard Meyer, professor emeritus who established the first playable city in Griesheim.*



### **What does the program look like?**

We will meet with public managers, technical specialists, researchers, educators, non-governmental organizations and community associations, as well as children and their families. Through meetings and conversations, exchanges of experiences, excursions and visits to various urban facilities, we hope that participants will be inspired and gain the technical, political and institutional tools to find ways to transform the reality of cities into better places for children and nature. We will also have an opportunity to work as a group with the members of the delegation to reflect, exchange impressions and prepare a working agenda for when we return to Brazil.



### **Themes for the visits and meetings**

- Innovative policy and planning tools: the “Playable Master Plan”
- Autonomous and safe mobility for children and youth in the city: concepts, urban planning measures, behavioral aspects, associated environmental, social and economic gains.
- Participation of children and youth in urban planning: advantages and challenges, involvement in the different stages of the projects, instruments and methodologies for institutionalizing these concept.
- The playable city: streets for playing, living architecture, playful objects, “reclaimed nature” spaces and unstructured play equipment in school playgrounds, parks, and throughout the entire city.
- Optional excursions will be announced later.



### What are the questions that drive us?

- What aspects characterize a child-friendly city and how do these interrelate?
- What are the planning instruments, actions and public policies to support the institutionalization of the "child-friendly" concept in cities?
- How can city planning help restore and provide access to urban nature so that all children will have attractive and inclusive places to play?
- How can we (re)integrate play into the urban fabric to create a playful city?
- What does children tell us about their relationship with the city and nature and how do we give them a voice?

**Target Audience:** public administrators and managers, architects, landscape designers, urban planning professionals, educators and other players who are willing to form a network to contribute to strengthening and advancing this cause in Brazil.

**Investment:** the Alana Institute will be responsible for the costs associated with the planning, organization and logistics of the Technical Mission in Germany. Throughout the trip, the group will be accompanied by a Portuguese-speaking interpreter. Participants will be responsible for the costs of their international airfare, lodging, food, health insurance and a small contribution to the local logistics costs of the group. The value per person, including all expenses, is estimated at around 2,000 euros.

**Limited number of participants:** 15 participants

**Selection:** if you are interested, please send a letter of no more than one page explaining who you are, your involvement with this agenda, your motivation for participating and how you will apply the knowledge you acquire on this Technical Mission in your professional context to: [vitor.matsumoto@alana.org.br](mailto:vitor.matsumoto@alana.org.br)

**For more information,** please e-mail: [vitor.matsumoto@alana.org.br](mailto:vitor.matsumoto@alana.org.br)