



Loving the Play Community

Playable City Tokyo
September 28th 2018
@mathiaspoulsen

A photograph of two teddy bears sitting on a vast, flat, white snowy surface, likely a salt flat or a frozen lake. In the background, there are blue, hazy mountains under a clear blue sky. The bears are seen from behind, looking out towards the horizon. The bear on the left is larger and has shaggy brown fur, while the bear on the right is smaller and has smoother brown fur with a black patch on its back.

Immer ein Abenteuer

THANKS FOR INVITING ME!

A group of people are celebrating, throwing confetti into the air. They are standing in front of a wall made of perforated metal. The confetti is colorful and is caught in the air, creating a festive atmosphere. The people are wearing casual clothing, and some are wearing lanyards. The overall scene is one of joy and celebration.

About me - @mathiaspoulsen

- *Play activist*

- The CounterPlay festival

- CounterPlay '19

- April 4th-6th

- *Playing at the Edge*

- National Danish Play Think Tank

- ...and anything that helps play thrive



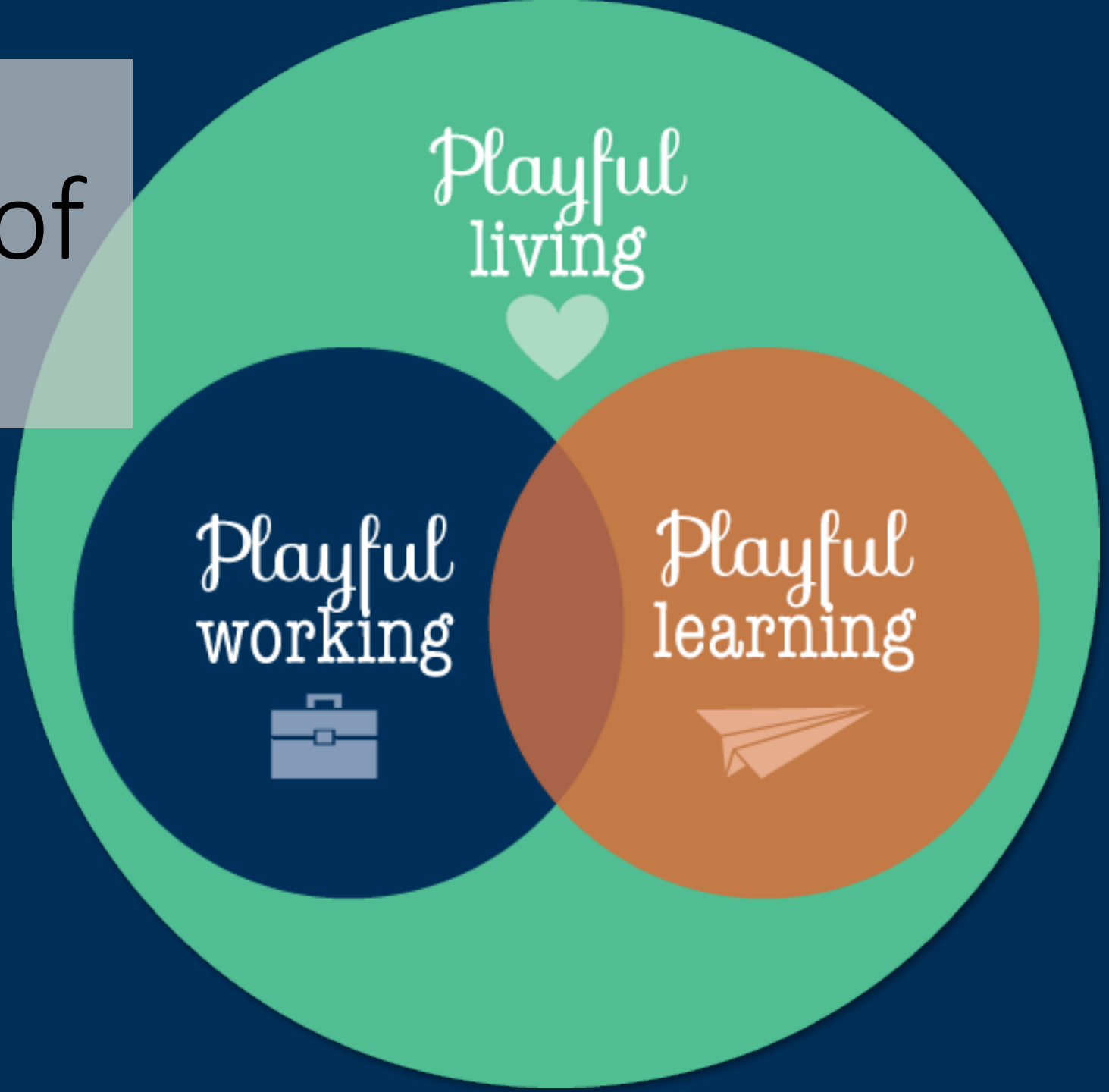
DISCLAIMER:
Cultural differences ahead

It might get awkward.

...but we're all
human. We all play
— in our own ways.



Three pillars of CounterPlay:



A background image showing a group of people in a workshop or meeting. A man with white hair and a beard is on the left, smiling. In the center, a woman with dark hair is seen from the back, wearing a blue patterned sweater. To the right, a woman with blonde hair is looking down, wearing a blue vest over a dark shirt. Other people are visible in the background, some wearing lanyards. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent grey boxes.

Before I get ahead of myself:

Play as activity

An activity we get involved in, usually limited in both time and space

Play(fulness) as attitude

An attitude, a way of being, of approaching the world, a "life practice"



I think playful
people are better
equipped to live in
this complex, weird
and chaotic world

For play to thrive, it needs a
community of people playing
together



A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt, stands with his arms raised in a gesture of enthusiasm or celebration. He is speaking into a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

“But we are a play community, and playing the way we do, for fun, for everyone’s fun, in public – our fun little community becomes something else – Bernie DeKoven.”




My work is all about
the play community



The play community is
a space of possibility

LEEDS CITY
PLAY LANS
(2017)
on the crocks
5 mins

A group of people are gathered in a room, smiling and clapping. In the background, there is a large, bright green abstract sculpture. The scene is lit with warm, indoor lighting. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the image, containing a quote in a black, cursive-style font.

"As the world becomes an ever lonelier place, it is sustaining relationships, in whatever form they take, which must become ever more important. An act of defiance, even" – Lynne Segal

A man with a mustache, wearing a red beret and a black and white striped shirt with red suspenders, is blowing a large, iridescent bubble. He is holding a thin rod with both hands, and the bubble is expanding to a large size, reflecting colorful light. The background is a modern interior with a dark, textured ceiling and recessed lights.

How?



It's a lot like love

Meaning: it's complicated, it takes effort, there's no guarantees - but we can't live without it.



Dare to be guided by play

PLAY

<http://www.counterplay.org/counterplay-manifesto/>



Lead by
example.



Play is
diverse

A photograph of two women playing a game on a city sidewalk. The woman on the left is a Black woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a colorful patterned top and red pants. The woman on the right is a white woman with blonde curly hair, wearing a blue top and black pants, with a red cloth blindfolded over her eyes. She has a sunflower tattoo on her right arm and is holding a yellow pencil, about to draw on the first woman's nose. The background shows a city street with traffic lights, trees, and a sign for local landmarks.

Play is
uncertain




Play is
sincere

...so you have
to be too.



Play is
generous

A photograph of two children in a modern, brightly lit interior space, possibly a museum or gallery. They are wearing elaborate costumes made of cardboard boxes. The child on the left is holding a cardboard airplane aloft. The child on the right is holding a cardboard sword. In the background, a large sign reads 'AFLEVERING' with a downward arrow. The ceiling is a complex, perforated metal structure with recessed lights. The floor is polished and reflects the lights. The overall atmosphere is one of creative play and imagination.

Trust the play community
Then they will perform magic.

The future of
the play
community

...is unknown, but we
can shape it together.

未来を
つくる

Create your future
创造未来 미래를 만들다

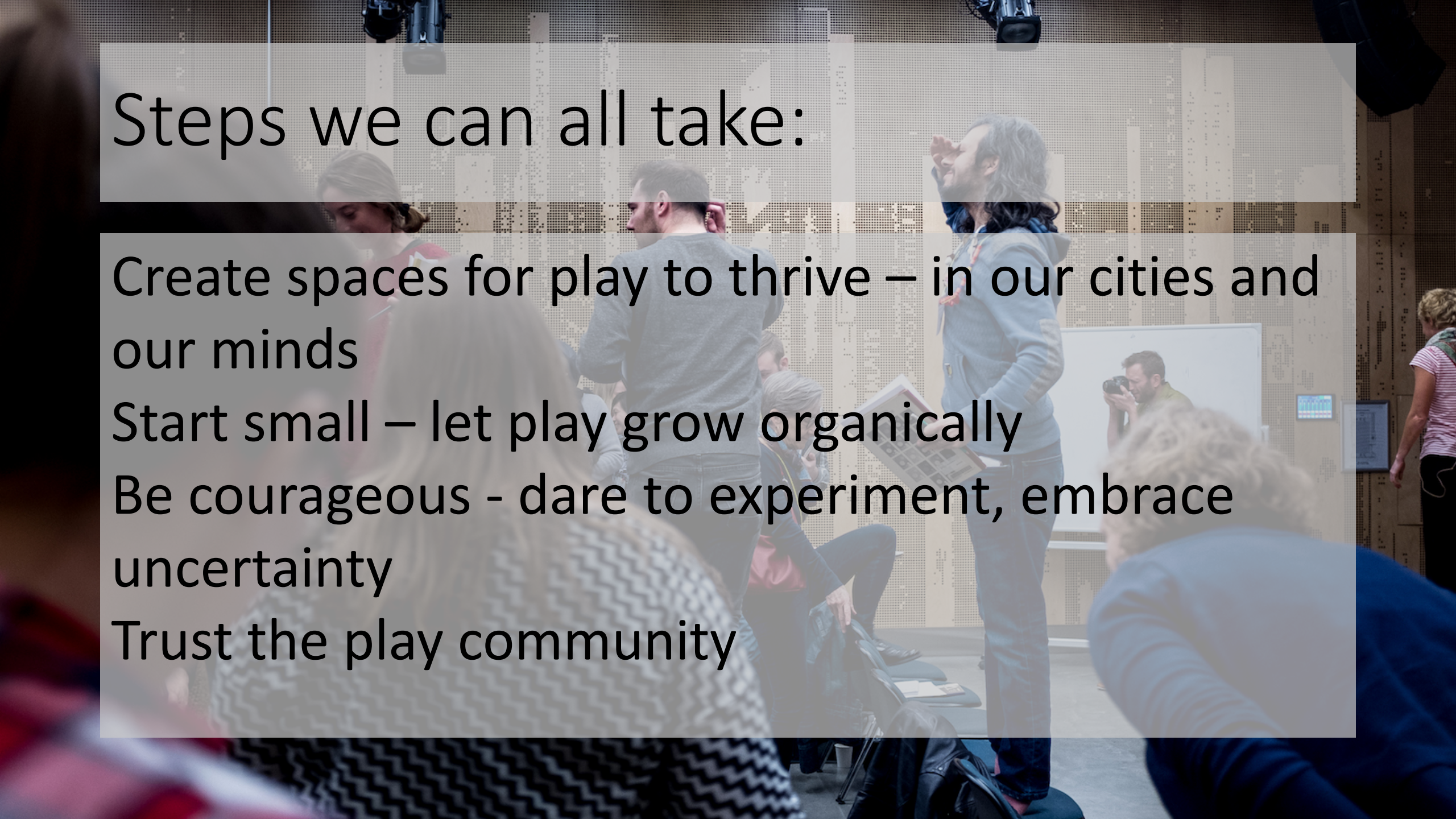
Steps we can all take:

Create spaces for play to thrive – in our cities and our minds

Start small – let play grow organically

Be courageous - dare to experiment, embrace uncertainty

Trust the play community



A photograph of a crowd of people at a celebration. The scene is filled with falling confetti in various colors (gold, silver, blue, red, green). In the foreground, the backs of several people's heads are visible. In the background, a group of people is standing and smiling. Two people in the background have their arms raised, pointing upwards. The overall atmosphere is festive and joyful.

THANK YOU!

Get in touch

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