



20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Grace Adam - Transcript

Hi I'm **Grace Adam** and I'm based in North London

A Vision of the world of walking in 2040

When I think about walking and 2040 I think about parks. I think about those vital places, those pockets of common ground that should be all over cities towns and villages and we need to hang onto them and need to keep them.

Crossing paths with people you may never encounter anywhere else happens in a park. We really need to think about real access, ownership and agency for all members of the community in these spaces.

You know, there has been a lot of recent debate about who and how we remember in our public spaces. And I think that's vital and it needs to be talked about, and it needs to be part of an ongoing debate and it's an ongoing concern of mine. Real access, agency and ownership is crucial.

I do think about barriers to walking and socialising outside as the purpose of public spaces. Obviously these are vital places for meeting, walking, talking, playing, exercising and chance encounters. And when I think about walking, I think about access for those who may be physically less able as well. I'm interested in this idea of benches, places to sit. I think they are really important. Social Isolation for some older people is a real problem, for many people, and lots of debate and design is happening right now around places to sit, around 'staging posts'. Walking: it's about stopping and resting and talking too.

I've recently made a socially distanced bench and installation. It was originally planned as a seat for kissing and conversation but the design of the piece has responded to our new socially distanced environments. We used to choose where to sit, now we have to consider a new set of social rules, norms and morays around proximity.