

A child with dark hair, wearing a grey hoodie and red pants, is seen from behind, riding a small bicycle on a wooden pier. The pier extends into a calm blue sea under a clear sky. The child is holding the handlebars and looking out towards the horizon.

# INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATION FOR THE “A BICYCLE FOR EVERY CHILD” APPROACH



# PREFACE

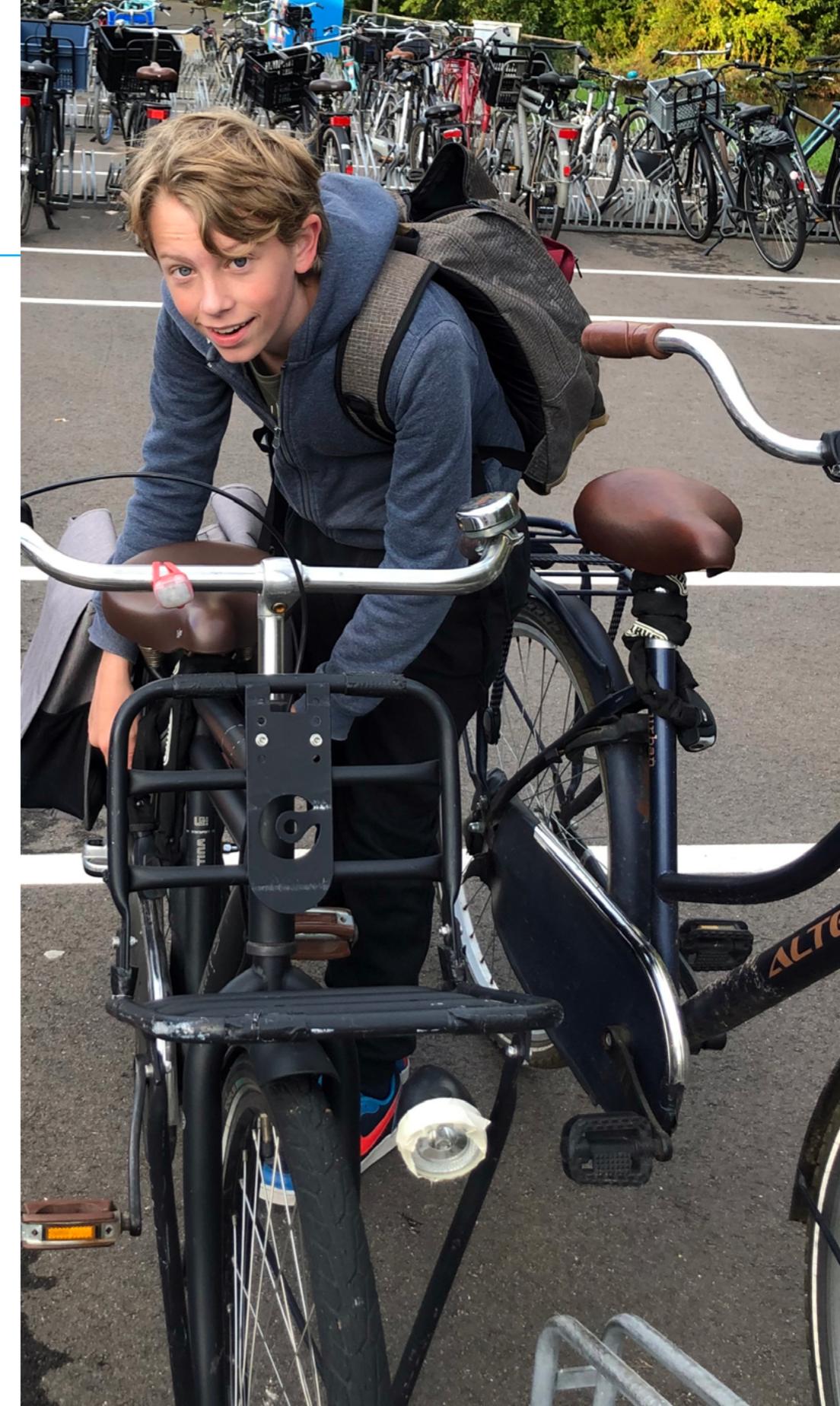
Although the Netherlands is a cycling country, there are still thousands of children who do not cycle, often because they do not have access to a bicycle. In a country as wealthy as the Netherlands, this should not be the case. Bicycles allow children to participate in their community, to cycle to school, to community centres or the library, to explore their city and, of course, to stay active and healthy. Fortunately, many municipalities have set up initiatives to help encourage and enable children to cycle. Additionally, the ANWB (the Dutch Royal Touring Club) has created its Children's Bicycle Plan, providing many children growing up in poverty with a bicycle.

However, many children and adolescents still live without owning or having access to a bicycle, making this issue one of the pillars for the Tour de Force (a collaboration between the three levels of government in the Netherlands to increase cycling). The goal is to ensure that all children in the Netherlands can cycle and have a bicycle at their disposal. Pilots are being carried out in more than 15 cities throughout the country, including the pilot A Bicycle for Every Child. As a collection of municipalities and provinces, we want to learn from others, but also from abroad, inspiring this booklet. Developing a well-run operation is not easy, and up to now, we have not been able to help every child in need of a bicycle.

Through the Dutch Cycling Embassy, we export plenty of cycling knowledge abroad, but we can also collect and learn from knowledge and experience elsewhere. Because the need for child-focused initiatives exists everywhere, in many countries throughout the world, we have seen wonderful examples of initiatives that help children and youth obtain a bicycle and learn to cycle. They often operate separate from local, regional and national governments, using a bottom-up approach, and supported by a variety of funding sources. What can we learn from these initiatives?

Mobycon has collected examples of initiative from around the world to create an overview, looking at the various elements and success factors of each. We hope this will inspire Dutch municipalities, provinces and social organisations to also work successfully towards achieving **A Bicycle for Every Child** in the Netherlands. As Tour de Force, we want these good examples to reach as many stakeholders as possible in the hope that they can learn from them and be inspired to start working on creating their own programmes.

Lucas Harms, Dutch Cycling Embassy  
Hugo van der Steenhoven, Tour de Force



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## Colophon

**Title:** International Inspiration for the “A Bicycle for Every Child” Approach

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# INTRODUCTION

A bicycle provides children and adolescents with independence and freedom. On a bicycle you can easily get to school, to meet up with friends, or even travel to destinations outside your own neighbourhood, all independently. Most children in the Netherlands have access to a bicycle and use it frequently, with Dutch children leading the world in bicycle use. Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 spend an average of 26 minutes a day on a bicycle, using it for 55% of their journeys. What is also striking from a global perspective is that girls cycle almost as much as boys. In no other country do girls cycle as much as they do in the Netherlands.

With these encouraging figures in mind, it can be easy to forget that there is also a group of children in the Netherlands who do not cycle. Due to various circumstances, they don't have access to a bicycle, hindering their ability to fully participate in social activities in their community, at school, after-school jobs and sports and social clubs. For 1 in 9 children in the Netherlands, they are growing up in poverty, and buying a bicycle is simply too expensive. To offer these children more opportunities to be involved in their community and rise out of poverty, there are various Dutch initiatives that collect, repair, and distribute bicycles.

In 2015, the ANWB launched the Children's Bicycle Plan, proclaiming that every child has the right to a bicycle in order to participate in society. The plan involves members of the ANWB who collect bicycles and then collaborate with existing bicycle repair shops around the country to refurbish the bicycles. At the same time, they work with local partners to ensure that these refurbished bicycles end up in the hands of the families who need them.



# A BICYCLE FOR EVERY CHILD

Pilot projects are currently being carried out in several cities throughout the country to organise locations for *A Bicycle for Every Child*. However, one of the challenges of these pilots is establishing long-term relationships with local partners that are easy for the target groups and professionals to find and contact in each city. Additionally, since the need for bicycles in these groups is so high, scaling up activities to meet the demand is another challenge. Of course, equally as important is ensuring that the children who receive a bicycle can actually use it. This can mean that they are also offered the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike, as well as a place to have a tyre patched or a lamp battery replaced.

Despite these challenges, there are also many opportunities. First is the potential for job creation. Repairing the bicycles does not necessarily have to be done by volunteers. For young people who have dropped out of school or are having trouble accessing the labour market, these initiatives may provide them the opportunity to learn valuable skills and could be further expanded to provide them with more bicycle-related job opportunities.

Another opportunity lies in the fact that refurbished bicycles do not necessarily need to be given away, but rather lent out on a long-term basis. Doing so creates a circular system that helps prevent bicycle shortages.

A third opportunity is creating a community hub where bicycle-related activities are organized in the same place where the bicycles are issued or loaned. This could include bicycle lessons for children and parents and any follow-up activities that arise from this. Other combinations may also emerge that strengthen the initiatives as a whole.



# INSPIRATION FROM ABROAD

Bicycle refurbishment programmes for children and young adults have likely been around since the beginning of the 20th century. And of course, this phenomenon is not unique to the Netherlands. Worldwide, there are hundreds of initiatives that are related in some way to collecting, repairing and distributing bicycles to children and young people. In North America, they often operate as community-run bike shops, though more recently “Bike Kitchens” have been set up in various cities around the world, and in Italy one might refer to it as an “Ciclofficina.”

The availability of affordable, second-hand, suitable (children’s) bicycles is less ubiquitous in other countries than it is in the Netherlands, which is why in many places there is a great deal of creativity and passion being used to promote bicycle recycling bicycles. These initiatives, programmes and organisations are rarely set up by the government, nor do they all receive government funding. They find ways to finance their activities through sponsorships, fundraising, selling or renting bicycles and offering various (bicycle-related) services.



# LESSONS LEARNED

By looking at a variety of international examples that collect, refurbish, and redistribute bicycles in some way, we can discover a number of lessons that the Dutch can learn from. The initiatives highlighted in this overview are intended as inspiration for anyone already involved in such an initiative or thinking of setting up something similar in their own community.

In total, we have identified 11 lessons that are briefly described below. In the next chapter, these descriptions are illustrated using examples from existing organisations. Each example will generally contain more than one lesson from the list below, showing that often it is the combination of several goals that gives a long-term initiative a greater chance of success. It is also worth noting that many initiatives pay considerable attention to acquiring funds or sponsors outside the government. This approach also seems to increase the chance of an initiative's long-term survival.



## 1. A BROADER FOCUS: BEYOND THE BIKE

These organisations look beyond the bicycle alone. The advantage being that it increases the chance of the organisation being noticed, and therefore giving the programme a higher profile. As a result, these organisations may have more resources and opportunities at their disposal to sustain themselves over the long term. A disadvantage of such a high profile, however, is that the theme of cycling for children often gets overshadowed by the broader focus of the initiative.

## 2. A BROADER TARGET: NOT SOLELY FOCUSED ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

These organisations do not specifically target children and adolescents, but people of all ages. This likely gives the organisation the advantage of being more visible, and as a result, a higher profile, and possibly leading to more resources and opportunities to sustain themselves long-term. Similar to the first lesson, though, the greater overall initiative may create a disadvantageous effect on the theme of cycling for children.



## 3. YOUTH PROGRAMMING

There are many initiatives that focus on children under the age of 12, but it is also important to address the needs of those between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. In this age group, an independent form of mobility is particularly important in order to be able to meet friends, go to school or training programmes, or to commute to a part-time job. These initiatives are often committed to keeping young people active and ensuring that they develop their prospects for the future.



## 4. A BICYCLE LIBRARY

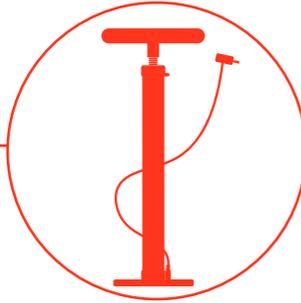
The main principle of a Bicycle Library is that every child has access to a good quality bicycle in the right size. Additionally, children's bicycles, seats and other reusable bicycle accessories are collected and reused.





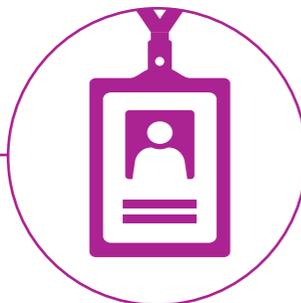
## 5. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Old bicycles are upcycled and a new owner found. Old bicycles are also stripped, parts are sorted, cleaned and then reused. These are often organisations that teach people how to maintain and repair their own bikes. The tools used to repair bikes are also lent out and reused.



## 6. BICYCLE SERVICES AS AN INCOME SOURCE

To ensure sufficient funds to run the workshop as well as be able to donate or lend bicycles to children, these initiatives have set up bicycle services in order to earn money. This money goes into the organisation's general funds, making them less dependent on donations or subsidies from governments, businesses and individuals. Many people would prefer to use a service that also supports an organisation rather than just donating money.



## 7. MEMBERSHIP

Some organisation work with a membership system: Members receive discounts on parts or services and are invited to activities, as an example. These members in turn show their support for the organisation.

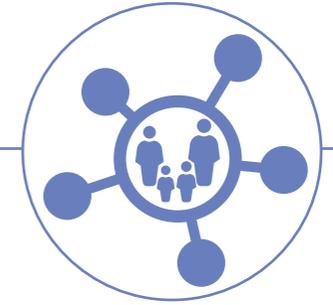


## 8. STORYTELLING, CAMPAIGNS AND EXPOSURE

People love a good news story, and a well-told one is worth its weight in gold. It contributes to exposure and recognition of an organization, and has the potential to reach a broader audience. This then contributes to better fundraising, finding and keeping volunteers, and increases the chances of cooperation with public and private partners.

## 9. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

These initiatives combine the provision of bicycles to people or families with low incomes with organising activities to bring people together and strengthening social connection. By organising engaging activities, these initiatives can also manage to attract media attention and increase their exposure. This can lead to more opportunities for cooperation with other organisations or for finding new volunteers.



## 10. CHILDREN LIVING WITH A DISABILITY OR IMPAIRMENT

These organisations cater to children living with a disability or impairment. In such cases, an adapted bicycle is often required. These organisations recognise the important of learning how to repair these bicycles, and understand that sometimes requires more or different approaches than with other children.



## 11. KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Many initiatives indicate on their website that they would like to share their knowledge with others who wish to set up a similar initiative. We have also included initiatives that are entirely focused on knowledge sharing between Community Bike Shops.



# INITIATIVE EXAMPLES

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The following pages highlight 29 examples of existing initiatives and organisations from 14 different countries that (among other things) collect, refurbish and/or distribute bicycles to children and adolescents. Using the symbols established in the last chapter, we indicate under which categories of inspiration a given example falls. This allows you to easily search for examples that fit the category you are looking for inspiration within.

In addition to the examples presented here, there are many other wonderful organisations around the world carrying out similar work. We have selected examples that represent the different categories and that originate from a variety of places around the globe. Because we mainly looked at initiatives that we were already aware of ourselves, supplemented by information from the Internet, many organisations have not been included in this list. Generally, organisational information is only available in local language for each region, which limited our ability to find additional examples.

The intention of this booklet is to provide inspiration using examples from a variety of countries. With this in mind, we would like to keep the conversation going, so please share the other example you may know of on social media, blogs and other digital or print mediums. Over time, more and more initiatives will become known to an even wider audience, and we can all learn more from each other.



# THE W.R.E.N.C.H

## LOCATION:

Winnipeg, Canada

## CATEGORIES:

- Youth Programming
- Community Spirit
- Circular



The Winnipeg Repair Education and Cycling Hub (W.R.E.N.C.H) is a registered charity founded in 2010. Their aim is “creating healthier communities by removing barriers to building, repairing and maintaining bicycles – with a focus on educating youth.” Located in an under-privileged neighbourhood of Winnipeg’s inner-city, the W.R.E.N.C.H strives not only to provide access to bicycles for young people who may otherwise not be able to afford one, but they also foster youth independence by teaching them to build, maintain and care for their own bike, as well as those of others. Driven originally by charitable and social-justice motivations, over time they have expanded to other themes such as sustainability.

## OPERATIONS

The W.R.E.N.C.H is run by a board of directors, a small group of paid staff, along with a larger team of community volunteers. They are funded by a variety of private sponsors and both provincial and municipal government funding. The initiative runs regular programming as well as drop-in workshops. The W.R.E.N.C.H is strongly embedded in a larger network of community cycling organisations with whom they often collaborate and share resources.

## ACTIVITIES

Focusing on youth programming and drop-in workshops, the W.R.E.N.C.H is most well-known for its Earn-a-bike programme and Open Shop Drop-in sessions.

- *Earn-a-bike*

Over a series of 8 to 12 workshops or a 5-day camp, the Earn-a-Bike programme teaches youth to rebuild a bike from scratch as well as lessons in bicycle safety. By the end of the programme, each participant ends up with a bicycle that they have made themselves, along with a helmet, lock and light. Participants in this programme are usually sent (and paid for) via other community organizations. The W.R.E.N.C.H offers a similar after-school programme called “Youth Bike Builders.” Those who complete the programme are eligible for summer employment at the W.R.E.N.C.H

- *Open Shop Drop-in*

These sessions are open to anyone who needs to fix their bike but is willing to fix it themselves with the help of one of the WRENCH’s staff or volunteers. To ensure that money is not a barrier, all goods and services are offered by suggested donation (sliding scale) or in exchange for volunteer time (avg. 4.5 for a bicycle).

- To collect bicycles, the W.R.E.N.C.H has partnered with local waste management services to divert bicycles and their parts from the waste stream. They have also recently opened a new location using an old freight train car at The Forks, a centrally located historical site where Winnipeggers of all kinds come together.



# A'PEN OP WIELTJES

## LOCATION:

Antwerp, Belgium

## CATEGORIES:

- Bicycle Library
- Membership



A'pen op Wieltjes contributes to a sustainable society in which everyone can participate. They believe that costs should not be a barrier in making sustainable mobility choices. By creating a low-cost bike-loan system, they offer an opportunity for children to have a bike, even if their parents cannot afford to regularly invest in a new one as their child grows and needs a larger bike. If the child is in need of a bigger bike, users can then trade it in for another bike free of charge.

## OPERATIONS

A'pen op Wieltjes is funded by means of a variety of charitable foundations, the revenue generated by yearly subscriptions, and is volunteer operated.

## ACTIVITIES

To ensure the service is affordable for all, a number of payment exceptions have been built into the service. For example, basic repairs are included in the yearly subscription fee. A reduced subscription fee is also available for low-income persons. The reduced fee is also applicable if users donate a bike to the A'pen op Wieltjes bicycle fleet. They are also open to donations from those who do not request their services. Since their start in 2015, they have expanded to three other locations throughout the Antwerp region.



# RECYCKE Y'BIKE

Location:

Newcastle, UK

## CATEGORIES:

- Circular
- Broader Target Group
- Bicycle services
- Youth Programming



A registered charity established in 2006, Recycle y'bike promotes cycling in socially disadvantaged communities of North East England, as well as through international charity work in Gambia as a way of lifting people out of poverty. Teaching people the practical and mechanical skills to fix and maintain bikes is also part of their efforts. In addition to their charitable motivations, they promote the environmental benefits of both the act of cycling itself, as well as bicycle repair. In England they target participants that are low-income individuals, refugees, and people seeking asylum

## OPERATIONS

Recycle y'bike's has a diverse team of more than 40 volunteers, made up of veterans, refugees, people seeking asylum and youth under 18 years. To fund their operations, revenue is generated by offering bicycle maintenance classes, repair services, as well as selling refurbished bicycles and parts.

## ACTIVITIES

The organisation collects, repairs, and distributes bicycles to those in need. On top of handing-out bicycles, they also offer guidance in bicycle repair in which the shop opens for people to fix their own bike with the help of a volunteer staff member. Recycle y'bike also sends approximately 75 bicycles per month to partners in Gambia who distribute them to children living in remote areas to improve their access to education. They also send approximately 40 bicycles to the Deerbolt Prison (UK) where they are refurbished by young offenders, providing them with skills they can use upon release.



# DR CRANKY'S

## LOCATION:

Melbourne, Australia

## CATEGORIES:

- Storytelling
- Knowledge Sharing
- Community Spirit



Dr Cranky's is a volunteer programme and registered charity made up of a group of parent volunteers and schools whose aim is to get more kids cycling, recycling bicycles and participating in their community. The founder started the organization at one school, calling it the Bicycle Hospital, and has since expanded to 12 other schools. They encourage families with used bicycles, in whatever state, to donate them for repair to eventually be donated to children who do not have access to one.

## OPERATIONS

Dr Cranky's operates out of cooperating schools who provide storage space for bikes and equipment, and promotion through school communications. The programme requires at least two parent volunteers who are willing to coordinate and run the school's programme on a regular basis before and after school (e.g. once a week or once a fortnight). Dr Cranky provides the mechanical skills and will only carry out basic repairs, with monetary donations for bikes and repairs to cover the cost of spare parts and tools.

## ACTIVITIES

The organization operates multiple *Bike Hospitals*, which refurbish and offer bikes to children in need. Children needing a bike leave their name, age, and parent contact details at their school's *Bicycle Hospital*. In communication with the child's parents, the child then receives a working bike, lock, and helmet to take home as their own to keep.



# BIKE NEW YORK

## LOCATION:

New York City, USA

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Membership
- Storytelling
- Youth Programming



With a history going back to the 1970's, Bike New York has been removing barriers to cycling for decades. With a focus on increasing bicycle ridership, empowering youth, and promoting a healthy lifestyle, Bike New York offers free bike education programs throughout five boroughs of the city, teaching both youth and adults how to cycle safely and confidently. Their youth programming is made up of both educational classes and events.

## OPERATIONS

A board of directors, paid staff and volunteers make the wheels of Bike New York turn. Paid yearly memberships offering benefits such as discounts at a variety of local shops, club merchandise, and early access to related events also help fund their operations. Additional revenues are also generated through bicycle sales and repair services.

## ACTIVITIES

In partnership with many other community organizations, Bike New York runs the *Recycle-A-Bicycle* programme that refurbishes bicycles for resale to fund their education programs. They also operate a *Bike Library* that offers free access to bikes to use in Shirley Christholm State Park.



# BIKES NOT BOMBS

## LOCATION:

Boston, USA

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group,
- Storytelling,
- Bicycle services,
- Youth Programming,
- Children living with a disability or impairment
- Circular



Established in 1984 and driven by social justice and sustainability motivations, Bikes Not Bombs collects roughly 5,000 bicycles and countless parts every year from supporters throughout the state. Most of these bikes are shipped overseas to economic development partners in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, however many are also repurposed through the organization's youth programs. Participating teens learn bicycle safety and mechanical skills in the process of earning bikes to keep for themselves.

## OPERATIONS

The primary revenue stream of the organization is that of the fully operational bike shop that sells new and refurbished bikes, as well as services repairs. All Bikes Not Bombs programming, including drop-in 'Tool time' where people can make free use of the shop's tools under volunteer supervision, are run by youth employees between the ages of 15 and 18.

## ACTIVITIES

A number of community programs are run through the organization:

- *Earn-a-bike*  
Youth ages 12 to 18 are taught how to build and maintain their own bike from the ground up, finishing the programme with a bike they have made themselves.
- *Bike Institute*  
Intended for ages 15 to 17, participants acquire bike mechanics skills while earning a bike, and gain work experience with Bike Not Bombs' youth programmes by working in the bike shop and international shipping efforts. Many participants have been later hired on as paid staff after completing the programme.
- *On-the-bike*  
Targeted at ages 12 to 18, this programme runs group rides where participants learn about bike safety, bike fitting, and gain riding and commuting skills.
- *STRIVE*  
This programme focuses on developing training and employment opportunities for students with disabilities in a variety of career pathways. It serves students from all of Boston's public high schools.



# FIETSBIEB

## LOCATION:

Bruges, Belgium

## CATEGORIES:

- Bicycle Library
- Bicycle services
- Membership



The organization's primary goal is to encourage kids to cycle due to its health and recreational benefits. The Fietsbieb offers a bike loan service to parents who either can't afford to purchase a new bike for their child as they grow out of it, or those who see the environmental benefit of sharing a bike that is only needed for a period of a few years. Their mission is therefore not only motivated by charitable goals, but also environmental ones.

## OPERATIONS

As a foundation, the Fietsbieb is run by volunteers and generates revenue through foundation activities and community cycling events. The organization is also sponsored by a number of regional and national government organizations. Capital is also generated through the deposit members pay when subscribing to the Fietsbieb. This deposit is then returned to members when they return a bicycle without trading it in for a different bike. Repairs are not included in the member subscription fee.

## ACTIVITIES

At a number of collections points, members can select and pick-up the bicycle of their choice. At the end of the year, they will either decide to return (and be given back their deposit), keep, or trade the bike in for another model.



# OP WIELEKES

## LOCATION:

Ghent, Belgium

## CATEGORIES:

- Bicycle Library
- Membership
- Knowledge Sharing



Op Wielekes offers a bike-loan service to parents of children who quickly grow out of a given bicycle, only to need a new one a year or two later. This is available to all and is primarily for practical reasons rather than explicitly targeting low-income parents or driven by environmental reasons.

## OPERATIONS

Entirely volunteer run and operated, the organization forms a loose network of 'Op Wielekes Depots' where subscribers can pick-up and drop-off bicycles at the locations nearest them. Any revenue is generated by subscriptions and bicycles are gathered by donation.

## ACTIVITIES

In addition to their bike loan system, Op Wielekes also offers a guide for those who would like to start an Op Wielekes Depot in their own community, further expanding the bike sharing network.



# PEDAL SOCIETY

## LOCATION:

Vancouver, Canada

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Youth Programming
- Versterken Community Spirit
- Bicycle services



As a non-profit, Pedal Society's mission is to promote, encourage and teach community members to cycle. This is carried out by means of a variety of programming for all ages as well as operating a community bike shop that has been in operation since 1993.

## OPERATIONS

Revenue is generated by means of paid memberships which offer multiple community benefits, as well as their bike shops services including repairs and bike sales. Programming is run by volunteers.

## ACTIVITIES

Along with programming for a variety of groups, Pedal Society runs Pedals for the People. This programme improves access to complete bicycles, parts, accessories and repair for those who experience barriers to affordable forms of transportation. External organizations apply for eligibility for this programme.

They also run a youth drop-in centre to offer kids a safe and comfortable environment to come to after school where they can not only socialize with others, but also learn new skills. Similarly, a Youth Work Experience programme offers young people the opportunity to gain work experience through helping support the general operations of Pedal society.



# STORY RIDERS

## LOCATION:

Albuquerque, USA

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Focus
- Youth Programming



Story Riders uses bicycles as an educational tool, teaching scientific principles while at the same time educating youth on bicycle maintenance and safety. Group rides are also organized in which students learn about other environmental and cultural topics. Story Rider is part of the *Center of Southwest Culture Inc.*, which operates a variety of other non-cycling related programming.

## OPERATIONS

Story Riders is part of a larger non-profit community organization known as *Center of Southwest Culture, Inc.* which is managed by a board of directors and a small group of paid staff. Revenue is primarily generated through government grants and local community activities.

## ACTIVITIES

This program is relatively unique in that cycling, bicycle repair and maintenance is part of a larger goal of education and cultural programming.



# WHEELS FOR WELLBEING

## LOCATION:

London, UK

## CATEGORIES:

- Children living with a disability or impairment
- Broader Target Group



Wheels for Wellbeing exists to enhance disabled people's quality of life by ensuring that anyone can access the physical, emotional, practical and social benefits of cycling. Their vision is that more disabled people in the UK will cycle for everyday journeys – transport, leisure or exercise – and cycle routes will be inclusive and accessible. They also aim to transform attitudes surrounding disability and ensure a healthier population.

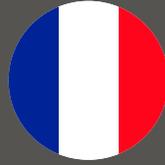
## OPERATIONS

Wheels for Wellbeing raises awareness of disabled cyclists and builds the support they need by working with local, national and international partners (charities, businesses, government), striving to influence attitudes, policy and standards.

## ACTIVITIES

Using their fleet of more than 200 inclusive bicycles (e.g. handcycles, side-by-side bicycles, go-karts, etc.), Wheels for Wellbeing organizes inclusive “cycling sessions” for disabled people and their families, caregivers or friends to help participants try out bicycles and get accustomed to one that suits them best. These take place in a safe area separated from other traffic such as a park or gymnasium. Sessions for youth (ages 0-18) and their family members are also available. Participation is free, however, participants must book timeslots ahead of time (including spots for family, friends or caregivers). Sessions last 45 minutes per timeslot.

In addition to their cycling sessions, regular drop-in sessions are held for those who are curious and would like to try it out. Wheels for Wellbeing also provides guidance on purchasing one's own inclusive bicycle, as well as navigating available funding for financial support.



# SOLICYCLE

## LOCATION:

Paris (Île-de-France), France

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Membership
- Community Spirit
- Bicycle Library



Motivated by reasons of sustainability, solidarity, community building, and community economic development, Solicycle runs repair workshops throughout the Île-de-France region.

## OPERATIONS

To keep bicycles affordable for all, Solicycle sells the bikes they repair at cost, ranging from €10 to €150. Memberships of €20 per year provide members with access to the shop and its tools, as well as all educational materials. Solicycle is volunteer operated and aims to involve those who lack access to regular employment.

## ACTIVITIES

Solicycle has started fundraising to finance a project called “Un vélo pour 10 ans” (“A bike for ten years”). In this project, the organization sponsors underprivileged families who would otherwise struggle to provide a bike for their child who often need a larger bike as they grow. This programme effectively guarantees participating children a bike from ages 0 to 10. Once the child outgrows one bike, it is traded in for another that is a better fit. Participating families also receive access to all Solicycle’s workshops and repair services free of charge.



# STIFTUNG KINDERGLÜCK

## LOCATION:

Dortmund, Germany

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader focus
- Circular



Cycling means freedom and is developmentally quite valuable for children. It trains their physical skills, expands their radius through the mobility they gain, they can meet other children in their free time, while also engaging in sports. Many families affected by poverty cannot afford a bicycle for their child. Kinderglück enables youth welfare organisations and child and youth professionals to apply for bicycles for their protégés. Every year, the foundation gives hundreds of children and adolescents access to improved mobility.

## OPERATIONS

The Kinderglück bicycle station is located at Dortmund harbour. Kenan and Bilal Güvercin support the foundation voluntarily. They professionally repair used, donated bicycles and bring them up to the highest safety standards. Through an additional cooperation with their company, the Galaxy bicycle trade, the Kinderglück Foundation is able to purchase new bikes at reduced prices. In addition, the company also donates balance bikes and children's bicycles for the very young.

## ACTIVITIES

Social workers and professionals apply for the bikes at the foundation and receive a confirmation email after internal review. They arrange an appointment by telephone where the child is allowed to choose the right bike - adapted to their individual size - on site.



# RÜCKENWIND

## LOCATION:

Berlin, Germany

## CATEGORIES:

- Bicycle services
- Circular
- Knowledge Sharing
- Membership



The main mission Rückenwind is to collect bikes for refugees. Refugees can contact the organization and are then invited to the workshop where they select a suitable bicycle from the donated bikes and repair it with the help of volunteers. Rückenwind works on a number of themes including mobility, integration and sustainability.

## OPERATIONS

The organisation is volunteer and participant-run, currently with 40 volunteers. Their funding methods are twofold: donations (both bikes and money donations) and memberships costing €60 per year.

## ACTIVITIES

In their DIY workshops people learn how to repair their bike under supervision. Refugees and non-refugees work side by side. The initiative also organizes events and bike rides, in cooperation with other associations. Additionally, Rückenwind offers community members some of their extra tools and bike parts to open up a small remote workshop called a “bikehub” at their home.



# ECOVOLIS

## LOCATION:

Tirana, Albania

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Bicycle services
- Community Spirit
- Storytelling



Ecovolis is a program that aims to promote sustainable transportation by bicycle, contributing to improved air quality, civic participation and positive economic, social and environmental development of the community.

## OPERATIONS

In partnership with *Programi i Alternativave Sociale Stimuluese (PASS)*, Ecovolis hands out bicycles to local children in underprivileged communities throughout Tirana. They also organise entertaining and educational activities with bicycles for children at local shopping centres. The Ecovolis Team improvised a bicycle lane inside the shopping centre near the children's area.

## ACTIVITIES

At Christmas, Ecovolis donated 10 bicycles to children of an underprivileged community. In partnership with *Children of the World Albania*, Ecovolis organized cycling activities with the children and donated the bicycles to the local community centre where children are free to use the bicycles whenever they want or participate in organized bicycle tours. Ecovolis also runs a social-enterprise bike shop that sells and repairs bicycles of all sorts. Moreover, twice a month, the organization organizes bike tours of various lengths and themes, targeted at tourists, youth, and adults looking for an alternative group activity.



# VARIETY – BIKES FOR KIDS

## LOCATION:

Australia

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Focus
- Storytelling



*Bikes for Kids* is an initiative founded by *Variety*, an Australia-wide children’s charity. It offers relief to families with children struggling during hard economic times. They want to prevent Australian children from missing out on the “freedom, joy, independence, and inclusion of owning a bike.”

## OPERATIONS

Bikes for Kids is just one among many other charitable campaigns that Variety runs every year. The programme started as a radiothon in 2002 thanks to Senator Hinch and his will to share his fond memories of receiving his first bike. In the 10 years that the radiothon ran, it raised over \$2.5 million dollars, which enabled Variety to donate over 10,000 bikes and helmets to disadvantaged children across the province of Victoria. It is 100% based on donations and fundraising which they use to buy new bikes with the money. They do not take second-hand nor new bicycle donations from the public.

## ACTIVITIES

Each year, Variety holds special presentations that bring donors, kids, families and corporate volunteers together at an easily accessible location.

The day starts by bringing groups of corporate volunteers together in a race against the clock. The goal is to assemble over 150 bikes from scratch over the course of four hours. The donors are invited to watch and witness first-hand the impact of their support of the Variety Bikes for Kids Program. Each donor who gifts the entire cost of a bike and helmet combined is afforded the opportunity to meet multiple kids and personally present them with their very own bike.



# B!KE COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP

## LOCATION:

Peterborough, Canada

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Storytelling
- Membership
- Circular
- Bicycle services



B!KE is a community operated bike shop that runs a supervised workshop space with the tools, parts, and expertise for bike repair. In addition to bicycle servicing workshops, they also run a variety of community programming such as both youth and adult Earn-a-bike workshops, volunteer build nights, and a winter cycling campaign.

## OPERATIONS

B!KE finances its operation mainly on the basis of membership fees and the training and repair services it offers to the public. As an additional revenue stream, the shop also sells a selection of bicycle parts and accessories, as well as refurbished bicycles and a limited selection of new bicycles.

## ACTIVITIES

The shop regularly hosts open shop nights where members can make free use of the shop's equipment under supervision of a skilled volunteer mechanic. Non-members may access the shop for a small fee. In partnership with another organization called *GreenUp*, the organization also organized the *Pedal Power* cycling education programme with grade five (age 10) classrooms across the city to deliver the Pedal Power curriculum. Throughout the course of the programme, children learn how to be safer and more confident on their bikes through a variety of on-bike drills and games. In addition to promoting physical activity, Pedal Power gives children the skills and knowledge to navigate their community on a bike. On top of their educational programming, B!KE has also installed three "Fixit" stations throughout the city. These Fixit stations provide 24-hour access to tools and pumps for basic bicycle repairs on the go.



# AROMEIAZERO

## LOCATION:

São Paulo, Brazil

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Storytelling
- Bicycle services
- Children living with a disability or impairment
- Youth Programming



Aromeiazero is an organization that promotes the bicycle as an instrument of social, cultural and personal transformation. The bicycle is seen as a democratic tool for citizen empowerment, used to break paradigms and bring autonomy, freedom and happiness for everyone who relates to the bicycle. Aromeiazero's mission is based on four strategic axes through which bicycles impact people's lives: entrepreneurship, education and culture, social development, and sports.

## OPERATIONS

Aromeiazero is an institute founded in 2011 by four friends interested in mobility, art and city life, quality of life and social innovation. It is run by 10 employees, numerous volunteers and is supported by individual sponsors and local and international foundations and companies.

## ACTIVITIES

The organisation has developed a range of relevant activities:

- *Pedala Sampa* - A street festival organised by and for a disadvantaged neighbourhood in São Paulo. In addition to street festivities, they offered the OFCi (Integral Cyclist Training Workshop) for kids to learn more about bike mechanics, renovate used bikes and cycle more safely and autonomously on Sampa's cycle paths.
- *Viver de Bike* - A course aimed at training 15 young people to work with cycle deliveries, using the bicycle as a source of income, improving the quality of life and driving creative businesses. Each participant works on refurbishing a bicycle donated by Aromeiazero. The bicycle is then donated to the participant at the end of the training.
- *Desafio* - A challenge in which 360 employees put together 60 bicycles in 60 minutes, with the help of 15 mechanics and their assistants. At the end of the challenge, 60 children of disadvantaged backgrounds are surprised with this gift. The children are selected by a local charity that promotes the integral development of children, adolescents and their families in vulnerable situations. This activity is offered to companies as a (paid) teambuilding activity.
- *Bazar da Bike* - A charity bazaar in which the main revenue generated is reinvested in Aromeiazero's projects. With affordable prices of the bikes that were donated throughout the year, the bazaar offers several models of quality children's and adult bikes, as well as cycling accessories.
- *Rodinha Zero* - This activity encourages the bicycle as a comprehensive development tool for children aged 4 to 11 years and promotes its use through activities inside and outside school. All activities carried out by Rodinha Zero are inclusive: Children with disabilities also have the opportunity to make use of accessible bicycles. The activities help to build positive and affective relationships between children.
- *Bike Parada Não Rola* - As many people are using their time in isolation during the COVID-19 crisis to clean out their homes, Bike Parada Não Rola encourages people to organise and gather second-hand bikes to donate. After filling out a form and contacting Aromeiazero, the organization will arrange for bicycles be picked up and distributed to children in need.



# MIERZ WYSOKO

## LOCATION:

Warsaw, Poland

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Broader Focus
- Community Spirit



The Association Mierz Wysoko was founded in 2005 by a group of sociology and psychology students who had experience in conducting training courses for children and youth. The main goal of the organization is to support young people to use their potential and develop their abilities. Through their activities, the members of the association want to promote young people to develop their sense of self-confidence, satisfaction and develop their passions.

## OPERATIONS

Since 2013 the Association started its activities in Wawer, a part of Warsaw, organizing parents and children around the Wawer Club for Families. The local district granted them an indoor space where they hold classes for children, parents and future parents. Mierz Wyzoko actively cooperates with other organizations working with young people and in the field of social welfare.

## ACTIVITIES

By running a bicycle workshop, the association gives young people the opportunity to learn DIY skills, repair equipment and build their own bicycles. Participants can become owners of their self-built bicycle on the condition that they take part in a community 'good deed' such as walking shelter dogs, cleaning up the neighbourhood, or repairing bikes for those in need.



# NEUE ARBEIT GMBH

## LOCATION:

Stuttgart, Germany

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Focus
- Bicycle services



The association runs various programmes, one of which is the “Fahrradspende” initiative, where they collect old bikes and give them to underprivileged groups, particularly children and adolescents (adults are not excluded).

## OPERATIONS

According to Neue Arbeit, it’s a shame how many “retired” bikes are gathering dust in people’s basements and garages who could still make someone else happy. Their aim is to collect such bikes that are not used anymore. If the bikes are damaged, they fix them before giving them away. The bikes are given away for free, for a small contribution towards those in need, or sold as used bikes.

## ACTIVITIES

The bike donations can be dropped off at several bike service facilities throughout Stuttgart. If needed they will also pick up the bikes themselves for free. Additionally, the bicycle service stations create jobs for long-term unemployed people with the aim of helping them to re-enter “normal” working life through employment and qualification in bicycle repair.



# FAHRRADGANG

## LOCATION:

Berlin and Cologne, Germany

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Community Spirit
- Storytelling



Fahrradgang's mission is to pass on self-determination, freedom and quality of life through mobility. They pursue this goal in collaboration with other groups in projects and events.

## OPERATIONS

They describe themselves as a colourful group of people who realize projects in Cologne and Berlin. They are a non-profit association and work on a voluntary basis. They collect bikes, repair bikes, and distribute bikes to those who seek support for financial, social, health or political reasons. They organise different events and projects on a regular basis.

## ACTIVITIES

Some of the projects they organize are:

- *Schraubertage* – Community members come together and fix bikes while teaching others in the process.
- *Montagschrauben* - Every Monday evening they invite young refugees, social workers, and volunteers to the workshop of the “Stattnast” in Neukölln to repair together, cook and have fun.
- *Rad & Spaß in der Manege* - The Faradgang was in the famous youth club “Manege” at the Rütli School in Berlin Neukölln to bring bikes to the kids and young people from the neighbourhood. On these days there were numerous assembly stands, craft and make-up tables, a painting station, table tennis, campfire, music and food.



# DE VËLOS BUTTIK

## LOCATION:

Differdange, Luxembourg

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Circular
- Bicycle services



De *Vëlosbuttik* is based on the principle of the circular economy and aims to promote the sustainable use of consumer goods.

## OPERATIONS

Their store offers second-hand, well-maintained bicycles, scooters, balance bikes, skateboards, roller skates, inline skates, as well as accessories and sportswear. There is a free pick-up and delivery service for residents in the south of Luxembourg who wish to donate bicycles or other non-motorized vehicles. It is also possible to sell bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles through the *Vëlosbuttik* on a commission basis with an expense fee.

De *Vëlosbuttik* offers bicycle and wheeled-vehicle safety checks and repair service. Furthermore, those interested can learn to repair their own bike in various courses (e.g. bicycle maintenance) in the workshop of the *Buttik*.

## ACTIVITIES

Connected to the *Vëlosbuttik* is the project “*Vëlosschoul*” (bike school), which is aimed at the pupils of the pre- and elementary school in Differdingen. Various courses related to cycling are offered at the location of the *Vëlosbuttik*. There is a traffic garden where children and adults can learn to ride a bike, to cycle in traffic, and mountain bike techniques.

In the surroundings of the *Vëlosschoul* there are designated bicycle paths, which are also used for lessons. The traffic garden is open to the public outside school hours.



# PIKALA BIKES

## LOCATION:

Marrakesh, Morocco

## CATEGORIES:

- Youth Programming
- Broader Target Group
- Bicycle services
- Storytelling
- Circular



Pikala uses the bicycle to educate and employ the local youth in the tourism and technical sectors. By training local girls and boys to become professional bicycle tour guides, Pikala provides them with a source of income. Pikala also has a training program for young locals to become bicycle mechanics. Trained by European bicycle experts, Pikala facilitates knowledge exchange between Europe and Morocco through educational activities such as traffic safety lessons, cycling lessons for girls and the student bike project.

## OPERATIONS

In order to support and finance the activities, Pikala offers professional bicycle tours guided by their trained youth. They also offer bicycle rentals. The funds raised through their services are reinvested in their social endeavors. The organisation is supported through both private and public sponsors.

## ACTIVITIES

- *Bicycle Recycling* Pikala's recycling project brings old bicycles from The Netherlands to Marrakech and refurbishes them locally to be used for social bicycle projects. To stimulate cycling among locals, they organise bicycle events such as free bicycle repair, bicycle art interventions and their own bicycle club for local youth.
- *Hotel bike service* Pikala collaborates with hotels and riads (popular traditional guesthouses) by leasing out their bicycles so hotel visitors can immediately enjoy the freedom of cycling. They offer a map with recommended cycling routes, so it is easy for anyone to enjoy the city of Marrakesh by bicycle. Any bicycle maintenance is taken care of by Pikala. For hotels and riads that don't have bicycle storage space, they offer a small promotional package. If a reservation has been made, Pikala delivers the bicycles directly to the hotel or any other requested location in the city.
- *Bicycle Food Delivery Service* By providing the drivers, bicycles, and isolation materials for the food, Pikala offers a way for restaurants to deliver their food by bike.



# CYCLONOMIA

## LOCATION:

Budapest, Hungary

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Bicycle Library
- Community Spirit
- Storytelling
- Circular



The main goal of Cyclomania is to support and promote urban cycling, the independent use of tools, and share the potential of cargo bikes. They work with a do-it-yourself philosophy and recycle what they can. The operation of the workshop is based on self-organization and volunteerism.

## OPERATIONS

Cyclonomia is a collective that operates a community workshop where participants can help each other build and improve their bikes, as well as learn to ride cargo bikes and experimental bikes. They are an independent and non-profit social cooperative.

## ACTIVITIES

Bicycles are also used as a form of artistic expression. Cyclomania encourages their members to make experimental bicycles and bicycle-based machines in the spirit of art and bicycle promotion. They also run a children's bicycle library, stocked with child bicycles of various sizes. When a child outgrows their bike, the bike can be swapped for a better fitting one among Cyclomania's stock.



# VELOKITCHEN

## LOCATION:

Dortmund, Germany

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Community Spirit



The mission of the VeloKitchen is to gather like-minded people to enjoy repairing bikes, cooking and eating together.

## OPERATIONS

The concept of the VeloKitchen is based on two guiding principles: the vegan kitchen and the bicycle workshop. It is run by a loose association of different people on a voluntary basis and is financed exclusively by donations, which are requested by the visitors and users. Each person determines the amount of their donation. It is important to VeloKitchen that financially disadvantaged people, students, unemployed people, refugees, retired people, children and young people can also make use of it.

## ACTIVITIES

Every Monday from 6 p.m. the premises are unlocked and self-managed by active members of the VeloKitchen, who are then on site until 10 p.m. During this time, the VeloKitchen is open to anyone interested and seeking help, either with or without a bicycle. Everyone can come by and work on his or her bike in the bicycle workshop with the available guidance and tools. There is support from other people present, so repairs are a group activity. Likewise, every enthusiastic hobby chef can cook something vegan for everyone in the associated kitchen, usually for about 5 to 15 people.

Over time, several other projects were developed in the VeloKitchen space in cooperation with other initiatives. For example, CriticalMass Dortmund.



# VÉLORUTION

## LOCATION:

Tunis, Tunisia

## CATEGORIES:

- Broader Target Group
- Community Spirit



Vélorution believes that the bicycle is a solution to a number of interconnected issues including health, transport, economy, climate change, gender equality, access to services, and the improvement of public space. Therefore, they focus on promoting cycling throughout the community by educating citizens and public authorities on the use of cycling in the city.

## OPERATIONS

The organisation is funded by a number of international organizations, as well as a local small grant programme. Their cultural and festive approach attracts people of all ages.

## ACTIVITIES

Vélorution offer bicycle tours to both locals and tourists, as well as a cycling education program. This program includes lessons on bicycle maintenance, as well as lessons dedicated to girls in order to overcome cultural barriers in learning to cycle.



# BIKE! BIKE!

## LOCATION:

North America

## CATEGORIES:

- Knowledge Sharing
- Community Spirit



Bike!Bike! is an international annual gathering organised by and for community bicycle projects. The conference is a space for participants from bike shops and related advocacy groups to converge in a different city every year over a 4-day period to have workshops and strengthen their social network.

## OPERATIONS

All those who are willing to share what they know about organization, mechanics, social impact, addressing inequality, and increasing accessibility to cycling in their community are invited.

## ACTIVITIES

Workshops are organized and run by attendees. They can be about anything that might concern community bicycle projects and can be in any format including presentations, hands-on workshops, discussion groups, and bike rides. Participants who want to host their own workshop, can enter details after registering. What ends up in the final schedule and when they happen is decided by the conference hosts.

Often times the conference hosts arrange shared accommodations, one to two meals a day, and bicycles available for registered attendees.

The Bike!Bike! conferences have been held in:

- *Durham, North Carolina, United States in 2020*
- *Tijuana, Mexico in 2019*
- *Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in 2019*
- *Los Angeles, California, United States in 2018*
- *Columbia, South Carolina, United States in 2018*
- *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 2017*
- *Alexandria, Virginia, United States in 2017*
- *Detroit, Michigan, United States in 2016*
- *Guadalajara, Mexico in 2015*
- *Columbus, Ohio, United States in 2014*
- *Columbus, Ohio, United States in 2014*
- *Tallahassee, Florida, United States in 2014*
- *New Orleans, Louisiana, United States in 2013*

# BIKE COLLECTIVES NETWORK

## LOCATION:

International

## CATEGORIES:

- Knowledge Sharing
- Community Spirit



The Bike Collective Network (BCN) is a social hub that anyone involved with not-for-profit bicycle projects can use. Its purpose is to network and share knowledge and experiences. BCN works on improving and encouraging communication between existing and future community bike shops.

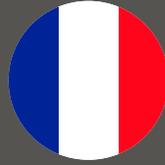
## OPERATIONS

Since 2008, the BCN website has acted as an archive of information and a public forum. It is a free space for people to ask questions or share what they have learned and engage with people working in community bike projects.

## ACTIVITIES

The *Bike Collectives Wiki* was created to help bike collectives collaborate and share ideas. Anyone can freely contribute to the content of the site and a history of all changes ensures that nothing is lost.

The ThinkTank is an electronic mailing list where anyone involved with the coordination of bicycle organizations can seek advice, share their wisdom, and make important announcements. Topics may range from how to disassemble rusty bikes, to how to apply for non-profit status, to conference and career postings.



# L'HEUREUX CYCLAGE

## LOCATION:

France

## CATEGORIES:

- Knowledge Sharing
- Circular



L'Heureux Cyclage brings together more than 125 associations in France that run bicycle workshops on a non-profit basis. The bicycle workshops, whose first bicycles appeared in France in Grenoble and Lyon in 1994, are defined by their bicycle promotion activities based on the reuse of used bicycles and the training of mechanics.

The founding principles of the bicycle workshops are:

- active promotion of cycling
- the reuse and upgrading of bicycles
- transfer of mechanical knowledge

The network is organised around a number of working groups on topics such as knowledge exchange, treasury, website maintenance, national meetings, newsletter postings, the cycling gender gap (Cyclofeminisme) and recycling.