

The LOCUS field trip in Oslo was held on February 6th, 2023.

The first stop on the field trip was in a neighborhood in Mortensrud, a local district in the municipality of Søndre Nordstrand, Oslo. We visited a community development program that operates out of an apartment in the area. The apartment functions as both a neighborhood hub as well as office space for program staff. The staff informed us about various efforts that are undertaken to strengthen the surrounding neighborhood, as well as other projects they are involved in across the municipality. Following this, the staff gave us a tour of the neighborhood, highlighting diverse collaborations with local citizens. Among these, were a community garden and a brand-new park and playground area.



The second stop was a local volunteer center in Bjørndal, another local district in the area. We were given a tour of their facilities and given a presentation about the various activities



that are currently ongoing. The volunteer center was co-operated by a youth center. The youth center was open two evenings a week, catering to various age groups. A major point of emphasis for the volunteer center was developing activities in close

collaboration with citizens and ensuring that these served as a positive catalyst for the local community. Since the volunteer center operates in a very diverse municipality, it is vital that it provides a positive common ground for its citizens.

The field trip was a very valuable experience. It allowed for learning and exchanges of ideas between the participants and the local hosts. Furthermore, it highlighted that many of the local community programs across the LOCUS cities have many strategies and outcomes in common.

