

4 Well-being arises from contacts that are satisfying, and enjoy-
able, that affirm persons as individuals and as members of a community.
The city must provide occasions and places for such good experiences to
occur. Participation in social interactions makes an essential contribution
5 to personal well-being. Impoverishment in social contact may result in a
sense of isolation, meaninglessness for individuals and in the dissolution
of social bonds for the community.

Once we think about cities in terms of this conception, we must con-
sider the nature of public social life, the conditions both architectural
and social, under which it flourishes, and how the public and private
10 domains interconnect. (---)

The public realm makes possible the exchange of opinion and informa-
tion that forms the basis of civic dialogue and development of consensus.
It is in the public realm that we learn about each other, through observa-
15 tion and participation, and develop a public conscience that pays heed
to the foibles² and needs of our fellow citizens. [...]

The public realm facilitates learning about ways of being and relating!
We learn how persons relate within and across generational, social class,
and experiential difference, and become skilled in making inferences
20 about the fate and biography of our fellow beings.

We learn about the humanity and dignity of all persons.

Henry L. LEONARD, *The Essence of the City*, 1991
(available at <http://www.livablecities.org>)