

Investment fund for Citymakers / Placemakers

26th of November 2019

On 21th March 2019, STIPO and Stadkwadraat have launched the Citymaker Fund as matchmaker between citymakers (re:Kreators, placemakers) and investors. The Citymaker Fund actively contributes to a lively and inclusive city by investing in initiatives with social and fair economic return. The Fund helps initiatives by buying property or land, or by helping to finance construction or renewal of buildings. To enable social return and sustain this in the city, the fund has a low interest on loans. Additionally, the fund advises citymakers on setting up feasible business models.

Citymakers have impact

Citymakers see major challenges to make cities sustainable, inclusive and attractive. They take action. They contribute to a better living and working environment. They start a circular hub, a public neighborhood garden, an employment program for people with a distance to the labour market, breathe new life into vacant property, or turn dull spaces into neighborhood places.

Citymakers work socially involved and include the community into the participation. They create a diversity of values: social, sustainable, creative, artistic, but also urban, area and property. Citymakers are passionate catalysts for new area development and *placemaking*.

Citymaker fund as investor and matchmaker

With social impact as key driver, a healthy financial model is necessary for the sustainable success of the initiative. However, for new players in the field, it is hard to gain access to finance. Citymakers and funders who want to invest responsibly find it difficult to find each other. Traditional banks and funders consider the small-scale and young initiative to be vulnerable and are not immediately interested in social return.

Guidance and partial financial guarantees can help overcome concerns. And there is an increasing interest by private investors in initiatives with impact, if the investment is thoroughly guided. The Citymaker Fund is matchmaker between Citymakers and investors.

Start in Province of Utrecht

The Citymaker Fund has started in May 2019 in the Province of Utrecht. The Province lays the first foundation under the Citymaker Fund by providing it with its first own equity. The partnership with the Triodos Bank multiplies the amount available for investment. The bank invests frequently into special projects, among others creative incubators in urban areas. Collaboration with the fund is entirely in line with the bank's social goals.

The Citymaker Fund is currently in advanced progress with the first projects that it wishes to fund. First funding is expected to take place before the end of 2019. After a successful launch in the Province of Utrecht, the Citymaker Fund aims to expand to other provinces and cities, and grow into a national and European fund for Placemakers, Citymakers and re:creators.

Formal status

Citymaker Fund is a Foundation (Dutch: 'Stichting') with an independent board (in formation) and has an advisory board (in formation). STIPO and Stad2 are initiators and play an important role in the first phase to get the fund started and advise Citymakers in their financial models. When the first projects have been started and funded, it will be possible for private and other investors to step in and invest along with private equity, thereby expanding the Citymakers' scope. In this way, we can work together on more social return in the city!