



Reflections about our system of open call

When a public administration, such as the City of Ghent, sells a property, every potentially interested party should be given the opportunity to compete, unless there are reasons of public interest to deviate from this.

For this reason, the City of Ghent works in principle with a public sale in case of a sale, and in case of rights in rem/rents/letting in use/... in principle with an open call. Such an open call or survey can be very extensive but also very limited, and can be quite formal or rather informal. For example, a policy department can make its own selection on the basis of its own knowledge and insights about the questions that exist. In any case, there must be some form of questioning, and it must be possible to motivate the choice.

In the case of such an open call, the City provides the outlines in a document:

- Minimum conditions: Which conditions are fixed, which must be taken into account by each candidate?
- Selection criterion: What conditions must the candidate meet?
- Award/assessment criteria: On the basis of which criteria will the City decide which candidate will be chosen?

There is a growing demand to involve 'the neighbourhood' in the framework of such a call.

Now we want to make a kind of "catalog" of when we work with an open call, and what forms of involvement we organize for and with the neighborhood.

In an open call, the City indicates what the purpose of the open call is. Here the City makes a choice between a number of options:

- It can be the intention to give a space in use to the neighborhood, for an interpretation for and by the neighbourhood. This is then a minimum condition.
- It can be the intention to give a space in use for other purposes, where an added value for the neighbourhood is essential. This is then a minimal condition.



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- It can be the intention to give a space in use, where an added value for the neighborhood is nice to have but not necessary. In this case it is not a minimal condition, but the criterion added value for the neighbourhood can be an award criterion: he who scores well gets more points.

In general it can be said that the more important the added value for the neighbourhood in the call, the more participation there will be for the neighbourhood.

A choice will have to be made for each individual case. From the Real Estate Department we see it as the role of the community managers involved to indicate how the neighbourhood will be involved in the assessment.

This autumn, we will further elaborate the "catalog" and make a concrete step-by-step plan together with the two services: the Policy Participation Service & the Real Estate Service of the city of Ghent.

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