Mission Statement

These are our core principles:

① **ALIGNMENT WITH CONSTITUTION:** We believe "Everyone has the right of access to any information held by the state; and any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights." [South African Constitution (Section 32)] and with the realisation of the Bill of Rights [South African Constitution (Chapter 2)] in urban spaces within South Africa.

② **DEMOCRACY + TRANSPARENCY:** We are founded upon the desire to support the development of a democratic society through the advancement of transparency of process, decision-making, and the data upon which these are derived; supported by communication through available and accessible channels, and routed in equitable participation processes

(3) **OPENNESS:** We are committed to openness across all aspects of society.

(4) **INDEPENDENCE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION:** We are an open and non-partisan community founded on the belief of equality and inclusion.

(5) **POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE IN CITIES:** We will implement projects that bring about positive social change in urban spaces.

(6) **GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION:** We seek to be an organisation that embodies all aspects of gender and social inclusion in an effort to be transformative in the way we operate.

(7) **MISSION STATEMENT:** We believe that through empowering citizens, building trust and accountability in civic space, and building capacity with government, we will enable participation in decision-making, evidence-based urban intervention, and inclusive co-design that will improve the lives of residents in urban spaces.

(8) **MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE:** We believe that purely accessible data is not truly open, and capacity building is required in tandem with access provision to ensure openness. Further, we believe that the opening of data is not enough to realise the rights of residents, where data and information must be made meaningful and understandable to citizens if it is to affect social change.

(9) **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH:** We are committed to collaborating and engaging with the Government and the private sector to promote transparency and accountability.

(10) **USER CENTRED CO DESIGN:** We believe that the development of technology and innovation can only help realise constitutional rights if developed with the interests and needs of the citizen, as the user, as the central concern. To this end, we believe in promoting co-design, co-development and meaningful participation in the implementation of our initiatives and programmes.

(11) **PARTNERING:** We believe in developing partnerships and networks to maximise the insights and information that adds value to our output and efficacy to our functioning.

(12) **IMPACT OF OPEN DATA:** We observe that making data freely and widely available to the public, through easily accessible, multi-formatted online data, contributes to the equipping of informed active citizenry as envisioned by the Constitution, and supports an inclusive, transparent, and open democracy. Open data can also support improved service delivery; generate meaningful efficiencies in Government and Nongovernment operations, and yield tangible economic and social benefits to the population at large.

(13) **NON-DISCRIMINATORY DATA:** Where possible, data should be made available to anyone, with no requirement of registration or provision of potentially discriminating information. Data should be made available in an open format over which no entity has exclusive / proprietary control , and we strongly support the use of open standards.

(14) **RESPONSIBLE DATA:** We will uphold the law of South Africa and other domains with regard to the protection of privacy and the access to personal information in our work and engagement processes.

(15) **CORE COMPETENCIES:** We believe in using technology, data science, action research, human-centred design, participation and engagement which can be useful to realising access to information and, the furthering of transparency, accountability, and the building of capacity for positive social change.

(16) **SHARING KNOWLEDGE:** We will generate and share knowledge and thought leadership in relation to our core programmes so as to make them as reproducible as possible.

(17) **SHARING LEARNINGS:** We will share lessons, toolkits, and experience with other organisations seeking to achieve similar goals in cities and regions in South Africa, the African continent, and internationally.