Enhancing city spaces
From parks and plazas to walkways and waterfronts, open public spaces are essential to city life. The right lighting can turn these spaces into unique visual experiences, make them feel more inviting, and create safe nighttime destinations where residents can engage and socialize.

Whether your goal is functional or transformative, innovative lighting systems and services from Philips Lighting can help you maximize your city’s outdoor spaces. Bringing these areas to life can increase tourism, boost economic development, and inspire both citizens and visitors—all while saving energy and reducing your environmental impact.

Transform community areas in your city

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Light for public space

The increasing integration of networked technologies brings new opportunities to utilize light in public space. You can reap the benefits of cost-cutting and energy-saving LED technology while at the same time enhance neighborhoods to support vibrant city life and attract economic activity and tourism.

How can you successfully integrate LED lighting systems into your city that bring benefits to both your community and citizens?

Include lighting design early in the planning process
Provide a distinctive experience for your citizens and visitors while uniting them in one shared focal point.

Integrate dynamic lighting with city life
Enable a spectrum of public engagement ranging from designs that subtly support city life to fully interactive installations, making your city more welcoming, safe, and attractive.

Communicate your city’s brand with lighting
Use light as a tool for communication and link with branding for your neighborhoods, venues, and other unique features in your city.

Leverage partnerships to make a difference
Participate in public-private partnerships that can contribute to public health, constitute a more inclusive environment, and result in financial and energy savings results for your government and citizens.

Benefits for your city

Create experiences for open spaces that are welcoming and unique

Efficiently commission and manage your lighting infrastructure

Provide well-maintained spaces

Stay informed about the status of your lighting infrastructure

Give people peace of mind by fostering safe environments

Coordinate adaptive, functional, and dynamic lighting with city life

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LightRails: An artistic light installation
Birmingham, Alabama, USA

LightRails, a colorful lighting installation that now illuminates Birmingham’s 18th Street railroad underpass, led an initiative to bring the magic back to Alabama’s largest city. REV Birmingham, the city’s economic development organization, partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and city officials to kick off the ambitious program, which called on lighting designers to illuminate key structures and potential pedestrian traffic hotspots within the city center and surrounding districts. The revitalization project uses lighting as a connective thread throughout these areas, turning underutilized structures—such as underpasses, which have typically deterred foot traffic—into safe, vibrant passageways between districts and communities.

The inaugural installation, designed by San Antonio light artist Bill FitzGibbons, used a variety of Philips LED lighting fixtures throughout the underpass to create a welcoming and colorful walkway. The complete installation can produce a myriad of color combinations and displays across the underpass’s concrete interior, much to the delight of project coordinators, pedestrians—and even those outside of the city.

“Turning underused infrastructure into safe, vibrant passageways

My goal for LightRails was to create an exciting urban light sculpture that would engage the public and provide a joyful experience. *The amazing reception it’s received is a testament to these aspirations.*

Bill Fitzgibbons, Light Artist

Light Artist: Bill Fitzgibbons
Special thanks: REV Birmingham, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, and the City of Birmingham
Photography: Bill Fitzgibbons
The parks of the San Isidro district are popular respites from city life. When the local government was looking for a way to extend the hours of the parks and to create safe nighttime destinations where citizens could engage and socialize, they commissioned lighting designer Claudia Paz.

Paz is well known for her permanent interactive installations in public spaces that combine light and sound and provide a truly immersive and almost magical experience for people of all ages. Pixel Flow is a mobile installation that moves throughout the parks in the city of Lima. Paz integrated nodes of Philips iColor Flex MX into a wall-like structure to give the perception of pixels floating in space. Participants stand in the middle of the installation where each movement or gesture of their body triggers a light pattern and a custom sound. The installation has 10 different scenes to discover that are designed to engage and surprise both participants and spectators.

Client: San Isidro Local Government, Mare Manuel Velarde
Design & Concept: Claudia Paz Lighting Studio
Project Management & Implementation: ARQUILED
Structure & System Design: Cesar Castro
Art Direction: Claudia Paz
Interactive Programming: Chris Flint, ColourBurst
Sound Design: Neil Spragg, Future Sound Design
Sound: Giancarlo Aita Campodonico, Equipo Profesionales
Installer: MAS Contratistas Generales
Photography: Claudia Paz Lighting Studio

We aim to create permanent interactive installations in public spaces, because we believe these will bring life to these spaces by generating social participation and creating safer places to gather with family and friends.”

Claudia Paz, Claudia Paz Lighting Studio
Providing a secure and enjoyable route for pedestrians

Southwark will become famous for the way it has transformed spaces that were previously dark and unattractive into bright and interesting routes for people to enjoy and walk through. Not only do the tunnel installations in many of the borough’s historic railway arches enhance the original structures, they also provide a safer environment for pedestrians during the evening.”

Councillor Fiona Colley
Cabinet member for regeneration at Southwark

Clink Street Tunnel
Southwark, London, England

For several years, the local governing council in the Southwark area of London was looking for a way to revitalize the Clink Street Tunnel, a well-worn Victorian railway tunnel in the heart of historic Bankside that is also a popular trail for local residents.

The council wanted to incorporate a lighting effect, improve safety in the pathway area, and preserve the historical value of the arch. Halo Lighting, a London-based lighting design firm, used strands of Philips iColor Flex MX to create a subtle firework display to provide way-finding light for pedestrians in the pathway of the tunnel.

The lights are programmed to correspond with the highs and lows of the pedestrian flow in the tunnel. During quiet times, there is a twinkling star effect, and in times of increased activity the firework effect builds up momentum, reaching a striking display.

Lighting Design: Yann Guenancia and Chris Page, Halo Lighting Ltd.
Lighting Supply: Architainment Lighting Ltd.
Photography: RedShift Photography
Improving the quality of life for citizens

Giraffe Park (Tegnérparken)
Uppsala, Sweden

During the winter months in the small town of Uppsala, darkness falls in the early afternoon. With shortened daylight hours, people tend to stay indoors and outside playtime for children significantly decreases. With the help of the city government and lighting design consultancy Bjerking, the town installed a Philips CityTouch connected LED lighting system in the popular Tegnérparken playground, extending the hours of the daytime park. What started out as a temporary experiment of sorts, soon became permanent. Children were now playing outside no matter how early it became dark, resulting in a 37% increase in time spent outdoors each day since the park had been lit. More time outside and less time indoors also translated into a reduction of screen time on both computers and televisions. Parents and their children not only have a new destination, but the lighting also adds a safety element to the park. The new installation has changed the perception of winter and improved the quality of life for citizens.
Our vision is for the Rail Trail to be a zipper that connects people and neighborhoods. This project represents the type of unique experiences we plan to curate across the length of the Rail Trail and is a remarkable example of what can be accomplished when the private sector and community stakeholders collaborate.”

Cheryl V. Myers, Senior Vice President
Planning and Development at Charlotte Center City Partners

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The Charlotte Rail Trail is a popular destination for both citizens and tourists alike. The 4.5-mile (7.2 km) footpath runs parallel to Charlotte’s light rail through the heart of the city and connects its various neighborhoods. With the help of an ArtPlace™ grant, sponsor partnerships, and private donations, Charlotte Center City Partners hope to turn the Rail Trail into a linear artistic experience that makes getting from place-to-place just as much fun as the final destination.

Duke Energy was the first to sponsor a stakeholder project along the Rail Trail—an ‘intelligent’ art illumination of a Duke owned substation highlighted with a Philips dynamic color-changing LED lighting system with remotely accessible controls. The structure is illuminated starting at dusk, and in synchrony with a neighboring radio tower. What started as a solo project soon evolved into a flagship event to formally commence the Rail Trail project.

Photography: Sean Busher
City of Palencia
Palencia, Spain

The city of Palencia, Spain had a network of obsolete street lights that were expensive and inefficient to operate, provided a poor quality of light, and released an excess of CO₂.

The city worked with Clece, an Energy Service Company (ESCO), to secure initial funds to upgrade its street lighting. The upgraded system consists of Philips LED luminaires with CityTouch control that allows for the remote management of the lighting.

The new luminaries coupled with the ability to remotely control light levels in different areas, reduced energy consumption by 70% and CO₂ emissions by 871 tons. The new luminaires provide high quality light with excellent color rendering, enhancing feelings of safety and comfort in the neighborhoods. As a result, livability in Palencia has been significantly improved for both citizens and visitors.

Enhancing safety and comfort while saving energy

Client: Municipality of Palencia
Project Leads: Gabriel Rubí, Palencia City Council / Jaime Pontigo, Clece
San Diego Trolley Station at One America Plaza
San Diego, California, USA

The San Diego Trolley Station at One America Plaza bustles each day with commuters and tourists. The station is adorned with a stunning canopy of steel girders and opaque glass that covers the waiting area and creates an overpass for the trolley as it enters and exits the station.

The canopy was lit with metal halide fixtures that were both labor and cost intensive to maintain. Lighting designers, Rebecca Ceballos and Debra Fox of LPA, Inc., incorporated a new Philips dynamic LED lighting system to improve the light levels and light uniformity, increase safety, and reduce maintenance and energy costs.

The color-changing LED lighting system provides a unique experience for people travelling through the station and has also provided another opportunity—to revitalize the city and the whole downtown experience.

"Through the use of color-changing lighting, we had the chance to brand the city. The new lighting could extend beyond the station and tie back to city events and happenings, and with the nearby station, we could create a ‘gateway’ to San Diego."

Debra Fox, Lighting Designer, LPA, Inc.

Lighting Designers: Debra Fox & Rebecca Ceballos / LPA, Inc.
Architect: Nick Arambarri / LPA Inc.
Owner: The Irvine Company
General Contractor: Suffolk Construction
Electrical Contractor: Dynalectric San Diego
Programmer: Scott Cain / Pharos Architectural Controls
Photography: Juan Ceballos and Debra Fox

Creating a gateway to the city

San Diego Trolley Station at One America Plaza
San Diego, California, USA

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Debra Fox, Lighting Designer, LPA, Inc.
Adding a connected lighting management platform to your urban architectural LED lighting system enables it to share data about its status and operations allowing for better management of your lighting investment by your maintenance team or services partner.

**Philips ActiveSite**

Philips ActiveSite is a cloud-hosted connected lighting software that allows authorized system users to remotely monitor, maintain, and manage their urban architectural LED lighting systems. It is simple to install, secure to use, and easy to access from anywhere there is an internet connection.

With the ability to monitor, maintain, and manage your open spaces remotely, you can reduce costs and optimize operations:

- Guarantee performance and no downtime for highly used and visible areas
- Streamline and facilitate maintenance
- Coordinate open space and street lighting with combined scheduling and system updates

Remote content management allows you to easily support and instantly respond to city rhythms:

- Schedule unique lighting experiences for ever-changing content that draws new people and brings the community together
- Program content in advance to accommodate seasonal changes, special occasions, and holidays
- Change content instantly in response to local or world events

Choose how ActiveSite can best work for your urban architectural LED lighting installation

Depending on your business goals, staff, and needs, ActiveSite can support different scenarios.

**ActiveSite (SaaS)**

With its software-as-a-service platform, ActiveSite is easy to deploy and gives your dedicated maintenance team quick access to start monitoring, maintaining, and managing your lighting system.

**Philips services enabled by ActiveSite**

Philips and our value added partners offer customized services to suit your requirements and meet your business objectives.

We can take care of the whole process for you, or you can choose how much you want us to be involved, picking the level of service you require. Many services offerings, such as remote monitoring and content management, are enabled by ActiveSite.
Unique lighting draws citizens
to the downtown area to dine and shop.

“It’s great that the lighting is different every single day. The possibilities are endless.”
Jan-Hein Opheij, Town Center Manager for Veghel

City of Veghel
the Netherlands

Veghel, a charming city located in the south of the Netherlands, was experiencing high turnover in the local shops and restaurants in its city square. The center needed an economic resurrection, and connected lighting was the key to jump-starting business and helping to bring people from the area in at night.

The project required a lighting system that was not only functional but that could also produce dynamic lighting shows. Using Philips iColor Flex LMX, custom luminaires were designed to reflect the architecture of the area and the city’s personality.

Content was especially important in the project since the city did not want the lighting to center around holidays or special events. Instead, the emphasis was on using the lighting experience to turn daily activities and everyday tasks into a more enjoyable experience.

With Philips ActiveSite, authorized users can schedule content in advance. They can also upload content remotely allowing the lighting to change quickly and respond to the city’s rhythms. With the ability to schedule and update content instantly, city visitors are always greeted with a unique lighting experience. The lighting is also remotely monitored using ActiveSite to ensure fixtures are always on for Veghel residents and tourists.
CityTouch Applications

The CityTouch connect and workflow apps make it easy to support and respond to the city’s changing workflow needs and ensure that the system is consistently operating to its full potential.

It also makes it simple to set custom lighting and dimming schedules to reflect the rhythms of your city life. Provide more or less light where needed based on time of day and activity patterns.

CityTouch connect application
Measure, manage, and monitor

A remote lighting management tool that lets you measure, manage, and monitor all connected street lights securely and remotely through a close to real-time, map-based view using any standard web browser, via your existing mobile network.

CityTouch workflow application
Analyze, plan, and maintain

A lighting asset management application that offers rich data visualization capabilities and lighting-related workflow management tools. The result is an advanced platform that makes your public lighting infrastructure easy to analyze, plan, and maintain.

Advancements in technology and open systems allow for evolving applications that go beyond operational efficiencies and more directly impact the health and well-being of citizens.

Using CityTouch connected street lighting management and connected sensors, cities can obtain additional value from their public lighting system for applications such as environmental noise monitoring for better city planning and optimized control of luminaires for emergency response situations.

Philips CityTouch

CityTouch is an end-to-end public lighting management system. It provides simple web-based applications to analyze, plan, and maintain workflow management. You can easily monitor, manage, and measure your connected lighting through the applications.

As soon as a CityTouch Ready luminaire connects to CityTouch it’s ready for operation, with all the GPS data automatically appearing on an easy-to-use interface. The luminaire immediately begins relaying performance data, including lighting levels and energy consumption.

Enhancing city spaces
Brighter public spaces for a lively community

Especially for a shopping destination like ours, well-being and the safety of the people is of considerable importance. Therefore we need a reliable and sensible lighting situation without dark areas.  

Mayor Franz Huhn, Siegburg
River Lights in the Rock
Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

Entergy Arkansas and Entergy Charitable Foundation contributed $2 million to a public-private partnership to help fund the lighting of three bridges that have become a beacon of civic pride for residents.

The impact of lighting

Cities, and private and public organizations, are using dynamic LED lighting in new and unique ways.

Many of these lighting installations do much more than provide light, and in many cases, spark increased tourism, economic development, community pride, social interaction, and neighborhood revitalization.

To better understand the potential comprehensive impact of these lighting projects, Philips commissioned an impact evaluation and analysis of a sampling of diverse installations.

Read the full report at philips.com/measuringimpact

Photography: Rick Friedman

Used to promote conventions with more than 60,000 attendees with a tourism impact of $19 million

Visible from nearby locations visited by 1.2 million people per year

Garnered media coverage with a combined reach of more than 70.6 million

Based on findings from an impact evaluation and analysis of a sampling of Philips Lighting installations performed by Boyette Strategic Advisors. For the full report visit philips.com/measuringimpact.
District Hall
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Located in the newly developed innovation district at Seaport Square in Boston, District Hall opened in 2013 and is the world’s first public innovation center.

Over 70,000 visitors since 2013
1,400 events
In-kind event space valued at $2m
World’s 1st public innovation center

Based on findings from an impact evaluation and analysis of a sampling of Philips Lighting installations performed by Boyette Strategic Advisors. For the full report visit philips.com/measuringimpact.