

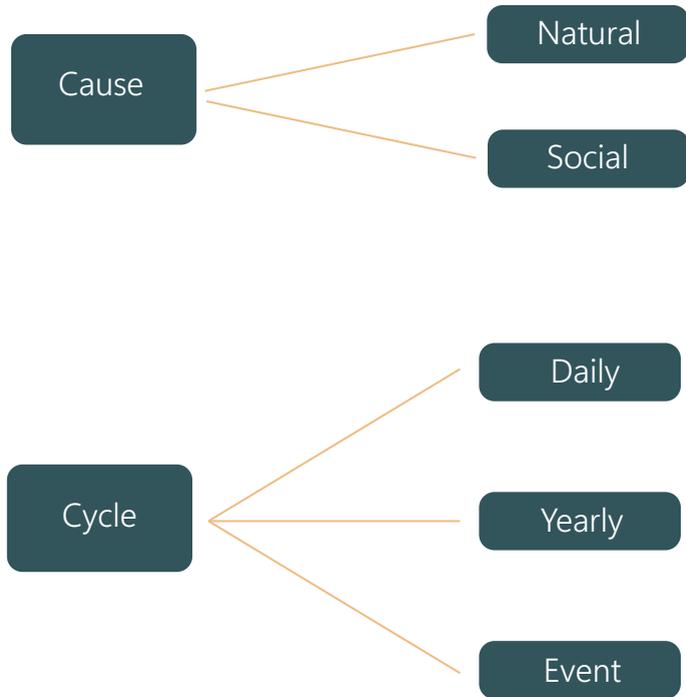
RHYTHMS IN HERTEN



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INTRODUCTION

Urban rhythms

This booklet is an addition to the thesis “redesigning rhythms” and offers a collection of the urban rhythms found in the neighborhood Herten. Urban rhythms are place specific elements that can be expected to repeat over a certain period of time. They can help in understanding how a place functions at different times.

The urban rhythms shown in this booklet are all urban rhythms encountered while doing fieldwork in the neighborhood. It is not meant to be seen as a complete collection but serves to get a better understanding of what type of rhythms can be encountered in a place.

Organization of rhythms

The rhythms are categorized based on what causes the rhythms and based on the period of time over which the rhythms are expected to repeat. The scheme on the right shows that the urban rhythms have either a natural or social cause, and that the time scale is either daily, yearly or linked to an event.

This booklet consists of two main chapters, the first chapter looks at the natural rhythms, and the second chapter looks at social rhythms. Within these chapters the rhythms are organized along themes and are shown together with parts of the fieldwork.

LIST OF RHYTHMS

Natural rhythms

- D1. Day/night cycle
- D2. Temperature
- D3. Light
- Y1. Temperature
- Y2. Daylight
- Y3. Rainfall
- Y4. Water level
- Y5. Foliage
- Y6. Flowering
- Y7. Crop cycles
- E1. Heat wave
- E2. Frost days
- E3. Floods

Social rhythms

- D4. Street lighting
- D5. Church bells
- D6. Opening/closing hours
- D7. Rush hour
- D8. Daily walk
- D9. Lunch break
- D10. Schooltimes
- D11. After school activities
- Y8. Vacation periods
- Y9. Tourism
- Y10. Ferry
- Y11. Watersports
- E4. Easter
- E5. Christmas
- E6. New years
- E7. St. Maarten
- E8. Sinterklaas
- E9. Schutterij
- E10. Carnaval
- E11. Kermis
- E12. Harbour parties

CHAPTER 1.

NATURAL RHYTHMS

D1. DAY/NIGHT CYCLE

The day night cycle is the most noticeable rhythms in a 24 hour period, it influences other daily natural rhythms such as the temperature and amount of light; it is also linked to many social rhythms.

Related rhythms: D2, D3

D2. TEMPERATURE

Throughout the day and night the temperature fluctates, being higher during the day than during the night, usually this means that activities happen in the middle of the day when the temperature is the highest but on hot days these activities may shift to the early mornings and evenings to avoid extreme heat.

Related rhythms: Y1, E1, E2

D3. LIGHT

Throughout the day and night the amount of light changes, at night extra lighting is needed in order for people to use spaces.

Related rhythms: Y2, D4

1.1 THE DAY/NIGHT CYCLE

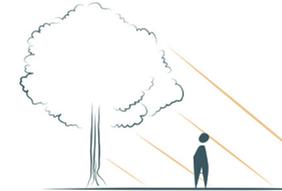
Design ideas

Provide shelter

To adapt to these rhythms a place should have spots where people can take shelter from either the sun or rain, this can be by providing shade or have easily accessible indoor spaces.



Providing shade through sunscreens



Shade from trees



Indoor shelter

Light up spaces

To make spaces usable after the sun is down artificial lighting is needed, this can either be functional lighting along streets or decorative lighting.



Decorative lighting



Functional lighting

Y1. TEMPERATURE

During the year temperatures change, in Herten in the winter the temperature is around 4 degrees celsius on average while in the summer this average temperature rises to 19 degrees celsius. The temperature, together with other weather variables have a big impact on the experience and usage of places.

Related rhythms: D2, E1, E2, D8, D9, Y9, Y11

Y2. DAYLIGHT

The amount of daylight differs throughout the year, in summer the days are longer than in winter, in winter the intensity of the daylight is also often lower than in summer, this means people might feel more tired and less inclined to go outside.

Related rhythms: D3, D11

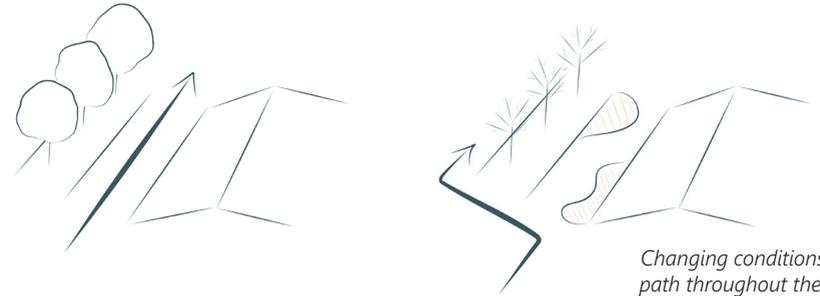
Y3. RAINFALL

Rainfall can have a big impact on the physical environment: it is necessary for vegetation to grow. Lots of rainfall can also cause the soil to become drassy and can cause the water level of the river to rise. When it is raining people often try to stay inside as much as possible and less people can be seen on the streets.

Related rhythms: Y4, E3, D8, D11

1.2 WEATHER VARIABLES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Notes from fieldwork



Changes in behaviour

Different weather conditions can change the behaviour of people, in the example a path is shown, this path is rarely used in wet periods when puddles form along the path. People then instead choose to walk over the road.



Girl and grandmother walking

*"lets find some puddles for
you to ride through"*
- Grandmother to her granddaughter
(translated)

E1. HEAT WAVE

During the summer a heat wave may happen, during this time urban areas become extremely hot and measures need to be taken to cool cities down. Certain places such as parks or areas near water will be visited more frequently.

Related rhythms: D2, Y1

E2. FROST DAYS

Similar to a heatwave there may also be days in the year when it is extremely cold. These circumstances can be fun as they allow people to play in the snow or go iceskating. It can also be dangerous: roads can be iced over and accidents are more common. Indoor shelters become important for people to go to to warm up.

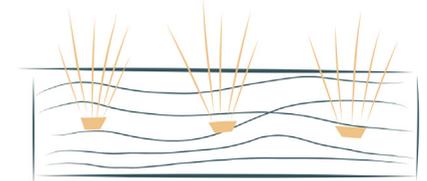
Related rhythms: D2, Y1

1.3 EXTREME HEAT AND COLD

Design ideas



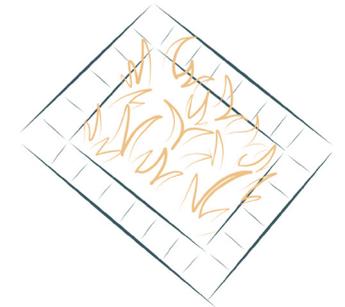
Shade and evapotranspiration from trees



Fountains

Using green and water to cool the city

When the summers become hotter a change in the way urban spaces are designed becomes necessary. Adding more green and water can help bring the temperature down.



Green in the street

Y4. WATER LEVEL MAASPASSEN

The water level of the maasplassen changes throughout the year, it is mostly dependent on the amount of rainfall in areas upstream, and is generally higher in the winter months. When the water level rises too much, areas outside the maasplassen may flood. The floodplains directly bordering the maasplassen flood multiple times a year, floodings in the urban areas are rare but may happen more frequently in the future due to climate change.

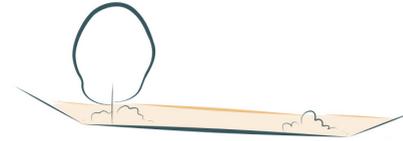
Related rhythms: Y3, E3

E3. FLOODS

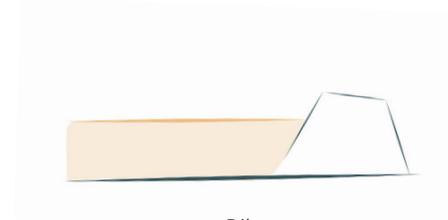
The neighborhood was built on the floodplains of the river the Maas, this means that there is a risk of flooding when the waterlevel of the river is high, this has happened in the past and has caused a lot of destruction. Nowadays the chances of a flood event are low.

Related rhythms: Y3, Y4

1.4 WATERLEVEL OF THE MAASPASSEN



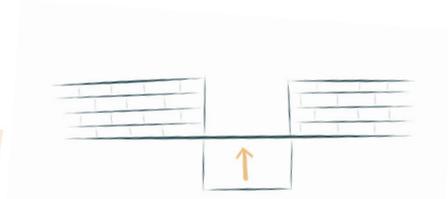
Water retention areas



Dikes



Residential areas that are higher than their surroundings



Moveable walls

Protecting against floods

A large part of the neighborhood is at risk of flooding if no measures are taken to deal with the excess water. The neighborhood is surrounded by dikes and has water retention areas to store extra water in case of heavy rainfall.

Y5. FOLIAGE

In deciduous trees the passing of the seasons is clearly visible, the trees are bare in winter but start growing leaves and blossom in spring filling the branches with colour, the leaves change colour from a light to a darker green and eventually turn yellow and brown in autumn.

Related rhythms: -

Y6. FLOWERING

Flowers can grow throughout the year, with different types of flowers having a different blooming period. Most flowers will start blooming in spring or summer, flowers that start blooming early in the year, such as crocus or daffodils, can be seen as a sign that spring is starting.

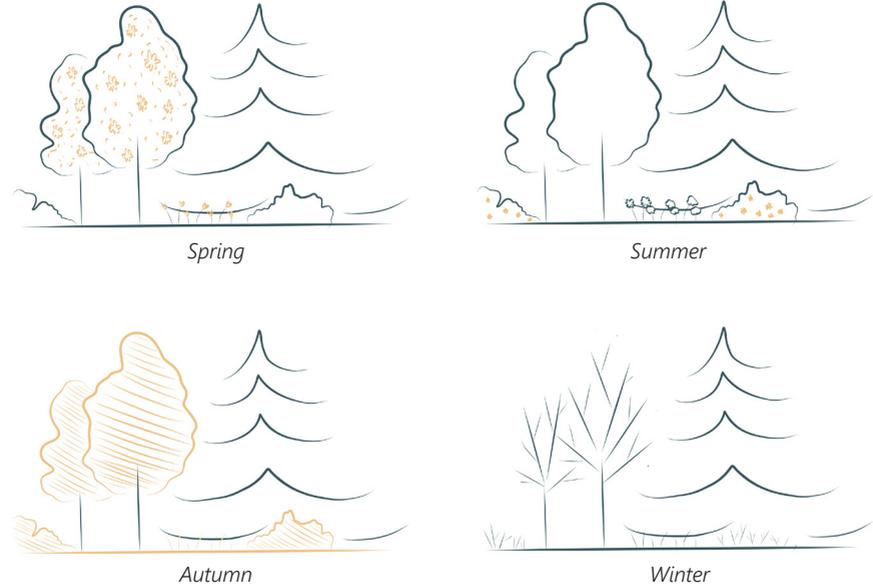
Related rhythms: -

Y7. CROP CYCLES

Like other plants, crops have different growing periods, these used to be very important to agricultural communities such as Herten as they determined what kind of work needed to be done by the inhabitants. In spring seeds need to be sowed while the crops need to be harvested in autumn.

Related rhythms: E14

1.5 CHANGES IN VEGETATION



Showing the seasons

The different blooming periods of vegetation can be used to show the passing of the seasons, by using these different blooming variations an urban space can continuously change.

CHAPTER 2.

SOCIAL RHYTHMS

D4. STREET LIGHTING

The street lighting turns on every evening when the natural light is no longer sufficient for people to see their environment, it is an visual indicator of the day/night cycle. It is necessary to have this artificial lighting to increase the safety of places during the night, but this lighting can also be a design element.

Related rhythms: D3

D5. CHURCH BELLS

The churchbells sound every hour and can be used to tell the time, it is an auditory reminder of the passage of time.

Related rhythms: -

D6. OPENING/CLOSING HOURS

Shops, restaurants, and sometimes gas stations or parks are all examples of places you can find in urban areas that have set opening and closing hours, what these opening and closing hours are varies per establishment. The opening hours shape the adjacent public spaces: when all shops are open the place will attract more visitors than when everything is closed.

Related rhythms: D9, S8, E4, E5, E6, E10

2.1 TELLING THE TIME



Amenities during the day



Amenities during the night

Activities depending on time

During the day the space around the basic amenities is filled with people but after these amenities close for the day the space becomes nearly deserted.

D7. RUSH HOUR

Rush hour is a time where many people have to move at once, this happens when people have to move to or from work, something. At this time roads will be busier and traffic jams may occur.

Related rhythms: D9, D10

D8. DAILY WALK

Some people go on a daily walk, this can be for different reasons: getting some exercise, walking their dog, or meeting up with other people. While this daily walk could happen anywhere, the fieldwork showed that most people preferred to walk along the dedicated paths that are found around the water side.

Related rhythms: D2, D3, D9, Y1, Y2, Y3

D9. LUNCHBREAK

On a working day most people have a longer break in the middle of the day, this time is meant to have lunch but is also be used by people to take a walk, or do groceries among other things, this means that during this time public spaces are busier.

Related rhythms: D8, D10

2.2 MOVEMENTS DURING THE DAY



Time	8:30	9:30	15:00	17:00
People	135	56	95	175

Count of people on the Oolderweg

Oolderweg

The amount of people using the Oolderweg -one of the main roads into Herten- changes drastically throughout the day, the table shows the amount of people observed during 10 minutes at different times on the same day.

Daily walk

Many people can be seen taking a daily walk, especially near the waterside. This walk also often has a social function and allows people to meet.



People walking through the neighborhood

D10. SCHOOLTIMES

Like working hours, school is also linked to certain time a day, the schoolday starts at 8.30 and ends at 14.30. When school starts and ends it is very busy around the school with parents coming to pick up their children.

Related rhythms: D7, D11

D11. AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After the schoolday ends children have free time while many of the adults still have work, during this time most children are at home or at a friends house, but public spaces that are well suited for children, such as playgrounds, are also busier.

Related rhythms: D2, D3, D9, D10, Y1, Y2, Y3

Y8. VACATION PERIODS

Throughout the year there are several vacation periods based on the school vacations, people use these vacations, especially the longer summer vacation, to travel. While some people may be away from their homes in these periods, public spaces are more active and more events are planned. In these periods there is also an increase in tourism.

Related rhythms: Y9, Y10, Y11

2.3 SCHOOL



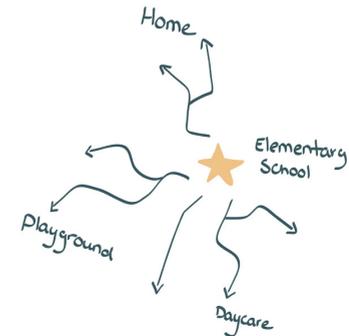
Parents gathering near the school

School start/end

At the beginning and end of the school day many parents gather at the gate of the school, often chatting with each other.

Spreading through the neighborhood

After school ends all children are on the move, filling the streets for the next 15-20 minutes. After this most children are at home, while some can be seen at the public playgrounds.



Children playing on the playground after school

Y9. TOURISM

During the summer, especially during the summer holidays tourists visit the area to walk, cycle, practice watersports on the Maasplassen, or visit the city of Roermond. In Ool and Merum there are a few hotels and in the Maasplassen area there are some campings for people to stay at.

Related rhythms: Y8, Y11

Y10. FERRY

The ferry makes the Maasplassen more accessible from the neighborhood Herten, however this ferry only runs during the warmer periods of the year, in July and August it goes everyday while in the other months it is limited to a few times a week.

Related rhythms: Y8

Y11. WATERSPORTS

During the warm days the Oolderplas is popular with those that practice watersports, people use the lake to swim, surf or sail. In Herten there is also a small harbour where people can store their boats.

Related rhythms: D2, Y1, Y3, Y4

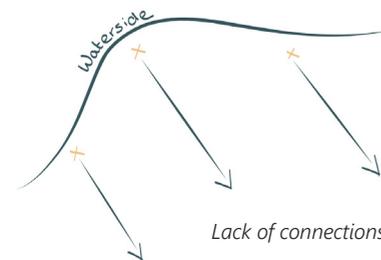
2.4 TOURISM AND THE WATERSIDE



Activities near the waterside

Visiting the waterside

During summer there are many activities around the waterside. The shore on the other side of the maasplassen is filled with campings during this season.



Lack of connections

Connecting to the neighborhood

While many people visit the waterside the core of Oolderveste is not well connected to the water, there are no continuous roads leading to the water. Creating a better connection is a possible opportunity for the future

E4. EASTER

Easter, like christmas, has an religious origin. While it is not celebrated as widely as christmas it is still a time a year that families and friends come together. During easter adults hide chocolate eggs for their children to find, the holiday is therefore often more important to children than to adults.

Related rhythms: -

E5. CHRISTMAS

Christmas is an holiday that has religious origins, it is one of the most important yearly events for the church. While the influence that religion has over the lives of people has decreased over the past decades, christmas is still an important holiday. Most people are free during this time a year and celebrate together with their families and friends. Rituals associated with christmas are decorating homes and public spaces, and exchanging gifts.

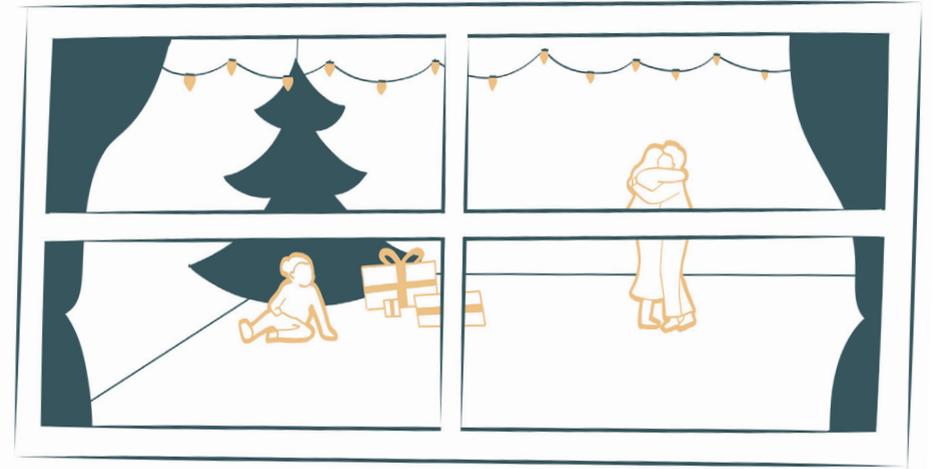
Related rhythms: E13

E6. NIEUWJAAR

The New Year is celebrated by people with fireworks, champagne and deep fried doughnut balls. While the actual event only lasts for one night in the period arounds New Years it is often celebrated with many new years parties organized by family, friends or employers.

Related rhythms: -

2.5 EVENTS: BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Christmas

There are different types of events taking place in the neighborhood, the first type are events that are celebrated in a small circle of family or friends. Most of the celebrations for these events take place behind closed doors. This does not mean they do not impact public spaces however. An example is christmas where event specific decorations can be found throughout the neighborhood or new years where people go outside to launch fireworks.

E7. ST. MAARTEN

St Maarten celebrates a saint that gave away all he had to those that needed it, it used to be a beggars holiday in which the poor people of the village went around the houses asking for extra food for the winter. Nowadays the holiday is celebrated mostly by children, rituals related to this holiday include having a procession with (selfmade) lanterns towards a big bonfire at the edge of the village, and going around homes asking for candy.

Related rhythms: -

E8. SINTERKLAAS

Sinterklaas is a childrens holiday in which children get presents from 'Sinterklaas'. The event lasts three weeks and starts with the arrival of 'Sinterklaas' over the water and procession through the village.

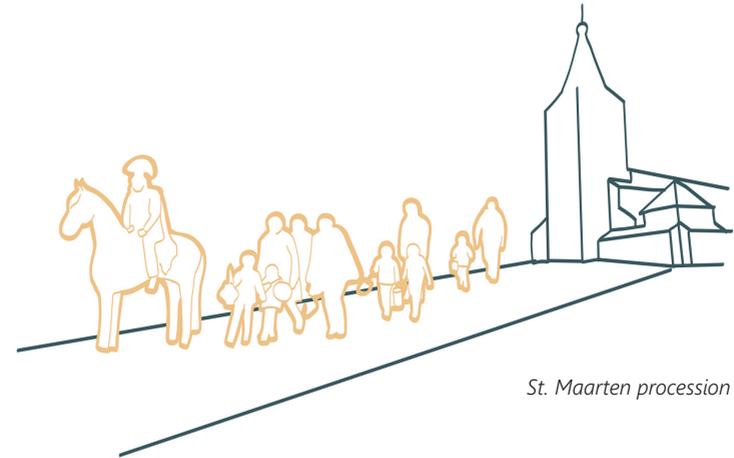
Related rhythms: -

E9. SCHUTTERIJ

The Schutterij is a typical village association, in the past this association was responsible for guarding the village, but nowadays it only exist as a leisure association that organizes competitions or otherwise social activities and is therefore a way to connect with inhabitants of the village. One of the most well known activities that it organizes is 'koningschieten' an event where the best shooter is selected for the year.

Related rhythms: E12

2.6 EVENTS: SELECTS GROUPS



St. Maarten procession

The next type of event is celebrated in bigger groups but are often aimed at a specific target group. An example of this is Sint Maarten which is mostly an event celebrated by children and their parents. People outside this target group will not notice much of the event taking place.

E10. CARNAVAL

Carnaval is a well known regional holiday where people dress up in costumes and party together, it has many traditions associated with it such as choosing a 'prince' that represents carnaval for that year and having a parade with floats built by the various carnaval associations in a region. While there are many things happening within the neighborhood many people also decide to celebrate the event elsewhere, often in bigger cities.

Related rhythms: -

E11. KERMIS

Once a year the fair comes to Herten, In Herten this includes the usual attractions but also a few other community events such as a cycling competition and parties in the evenings

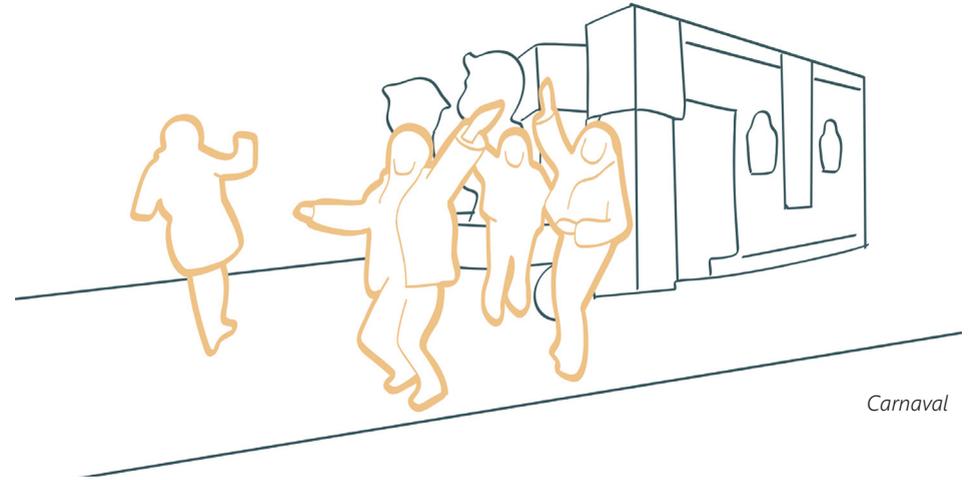
Related rhythms: -

E12. HARBOUR PARTIES

The harbour parties are an event specific to Herten, and is organized by the schutterij, it is a collective name for the parties surrounding the yearly 'bondschuttersfeest'.

Related rhythms: E9

2.7 EVENTS: BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



Carnaval

The final type of events are events that are open to everyone and target a large group of people, these events are best for bringing people together and allowing people to meet. An example of this type is carnaval which hosts a variety of activities for different demographics, the events on this list are also mostly organized by local associations, they will be different in Herten than they are elsewhere.

E13. WINTERFAIR

Currently there are few events organized in winter that target a large audience, a winterfair could be an opportunity to bring people together in this season.

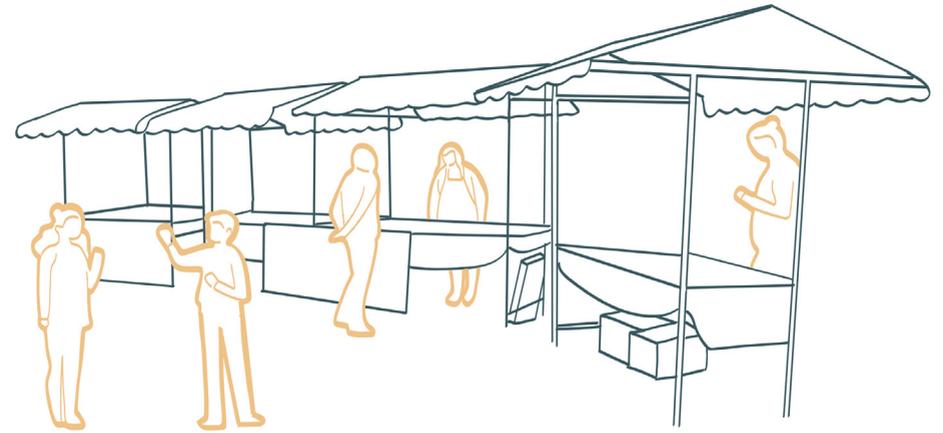
Related rhythms: E5

E14. MERUMER MARKT

A yearly market inspired by the merumer markt that used to be organised in the past, it could take the shape of a foodmarket when combined with harvest season.

Related rhythms: Y7

2.8 EVENTS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Local market

Some opportunities for new events are hosting a winter fair to allow people to go outside and meet others in winter or an harvest market inspired by the Merumer markt that used to take place in the villages, this could be a food market that remembers the agricultural past of the area.