

## **APPENDIX A: SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**

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**Interview Format:** General interview guide approach with semi-structured and primarily open-ended questions. The interview questions were appropriately adjusted to capture firsthand, secondhand, and professional perspectives during the interviewing process.

**Preliminary Questions:** This interview is confidential, and your name won't be recorded – in light of this, do you have a preferred pseudonym? Pronouns? And do you have a preference for person-first language or identity-first language?

### **Interview Questions:**

1. Do you identify as Neurodivergent? If yes, how so (i.e., ASD, dyslexia, etc.)?
2. Have you experienced any recurring sensory sensitivities, discomfort, or sensory processing challenges in your life?
3. If you answered yes to #2: which senses tend to be the most impacted by your surrounding environment(s)? How so (i.e. either hypersensitive, hyposensitive, or both hypersensitive and hyposensitive?)
4. Can you recall a time when you were in a public outdoor space, that you experienced sensory discomfort or obstacles that impacted your use or enjoyment of the space? (For example flickering lighting, high contrast décor such stripes or checkerboards, noise, textures, just to name a few). If so, can you tell me more about the scenario?
5. If you answered yes to #4: What do you think might have helped reduce discomfort in that moment or ways the surrounding space [environment] could have been improved to be more accommodating?
6. Imagine if you could wave a magic wand and instantly walk out your front or back door into your ideal supportive, accommodating/comfortable outdoor space...what might that experience be? Consider sights, smells, sounds, temperatures, things you might find in that space... Have you been to a place like this before?
7. Do you have access to spaces (i.e. parks, plazas, etc..) in your community that are sensorially supportive [or accommodating/comfortable] for you to spend time in? Is this primarily in a rural, suburban, or urban setting? ...Can you share more details?
8. Are there spaces (i.e., parks, plazas, etc.) in your community that are not [sensorially] supportive [or accommodating/comfortable] for you to spend time in? Is this primarily in a rural, suburban, or urban setting? ...Can you share more details?

9. What are some key differences you have observed between outdoor spaces that are sensorially supportive [accommodating/comfortable] for [participant] to be in, in comparison to ones that are not?

10. Do you have any advice you could give or share to city planners, designers, and landscape architects to design more neuro-inclusive, or sensorially supportive, places?

Exit Question: Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in designed outdoor environments? Or any questions you wish I would have asked?