

## 58th INTERNATIONAL MAKING CITIES LIVABLE CONFERENCE

### *"Architecture and the Edges of Public Space: Tools and Strategies for a New Urban Agenda"*

#### ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BREAKOUT SPEAKERS, ABSTRACTS, AND BIOS

##### **Livable Cities through Environmentally Responsive Urban Policy, Programming and Design** *Ric. Abramson, FAIA, City Architect, City of West Hollywood, West Hollywood, CA, USA*

###### **Abstract:**

"The New Urban Agenda's "think globally, act locally" mantra is more relevant than ever as migration to cities and the resultant urban density accelerate. While climate change will remain a global phenomenon, it is within local micro-climates that thoughtfully tailored environmental design solutions can and will make a substantive difference. Collective will in conjunction with creative urban policy, programming, and design will be essential to achieve successful natural and built environment stewardship.

Western cities are largely dependent upon on private sector construction models for new development. These models tend to be quantitative, proforma-centric, and emphasize project costs instead of more qualitative, people-centered, eco-conscious placemaking that fosters health and wellness and truly resilient solutions.

The City of West Hollywood, California is known for its progressive, forward-thinking governance. Two years ago, its City Council formed its Urban Design & Architecture Studio, a new "design thinking" division that focuses on creative strategies for sustainable growth and local climate regeneration. Since its inception, the Studio has actively researched the complex relationships between urban policy, programming, and design. In an effort to elevate public awareness about these relationships, this past year it produced an Urban Forestry & Biodiversity Symposium that in the ensuing months resulted in a demonstrable change in the collective community mindset regarding the imperative for effective and meaningful design solutions.

In this presentation, City Architect Ric. Abramson, FAIA will share how the City of West Hollywood City Council and this Studio have worked together to develop climate-oriented housing prototypes, tree canopy standards, and passive design-based infill concepts. From pocket parks and public spaces to environmentally-responsive high-density housing, the city is committed to not only combatting urban heat island effects but also promoting carbon sequestration, wildlife propagation, and soil restoration to ensure a vibrant, biodiverse, and healthy ecosystem."



### **Biography:**

Ric Abramson FAIA has been a licensed architect and urban designer for over 30 years. As part of his graduate work, he studied architecture in Rome as a Visiting Artist at the American Academy and then as a Fulbright scholar. He also taught design studios at the USC School of Architecture for 18 years. A strong environmental advocate, Ric's direct efforts as a Public Facilities Commissioner led to his city's first pocket parks, dog park, and heritage tree program. He has been a consistent implementer of sustainable design, and micro-climate climate inspired infill development solutions. With respect to housing affordability, Ric was recognized for his "tireless efforts to improve housing opportunities" by former California Governor Schwarzenegger. In 2016, he was elevated into the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows and at the local level, AIA Los Angeles named him as the first recipient of their Citizen Architect Award in 2019. Two years ago, after 30 years in professional practice, Ric made a change and moved into public service to establish and then lead the City of West Hollywood's new Urban Design & Architecture Studio as their inaugural City Architect.

**Publicness as a Myth: Individuality, Profit, Health, and Self-Affirmation in Framing Urbanism**  
*Anirban Adhya, Associate Professor, Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan USA*

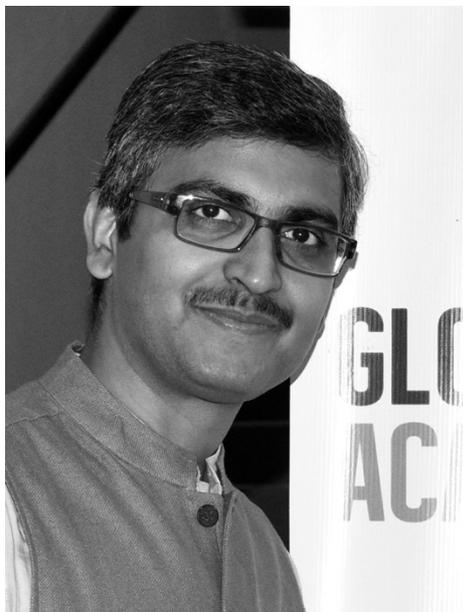
### **Abstract:**

As a socio-cultural construct, notion of publicness is typically associated with collective sense of togetherness in cities. However, pandemic urbanism illustrates that the American experience of publicness is one that defines the concept not as a collective, but as an extension of the individual, and as the most private rather than the most public of spaces. The global pandemic scenes reinforce that cities contain the underlying philosophy of privacy while being presented as a regulated public space. More than this, in the American philosophy of spatial development, public space (streets, squares, markets, public buildings and even parks) as a construct is defined through the mechanisms that we have used to develop our private properties – individual improvement, profit, self-affirmation, and health. Essentially, the division of space into non-economic spheres of isolation (the grid system) is the same

approach that allowed the division of a territory into “built” and “untouched.” Through the lens of pandemic, the city can be seen as an extension of our individual self.

We argue, through a correlation of concepts of legal movements of property ownership, history of privacy rights, urban design zoning and land use control history, that the underlying concepts of city and public space, philosophically and politically, are shaped by self-identity and individual non-economic right to privacy. A city is not, in fact, about public collectiveness but a projection of urban values centered on private ownership, human benefit and human control.

Such discussions highlight our struggle with ethical debates in imagining future of public spaces. Cities being fundamental sites of proximity and heterogeneity, analysing, understanding, and even undermining this false constructed notion of publicness are imperative for imagining and speculating future of our urban environment."



### **Biography:**

Anirban Adhya is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at Lawrence Technological University, USA. He focuses on highlighting underlying dimensions of architecture in the city that connects urban ecology, spatial typology, and everyday urbanism. His book, *Shrinking Cities and First Suburbs: The Case of Detroit and Warren, Michigan* (Palgrave 2017) illustrated the ecology of problems and responses in Metro Detroit. He has also written on evolving notions of publicness in *The Public Realm as a Place of Everyday Urbanism* (University of Michigan 2008). Anirban's work has been published in *Sustainability and the City: Urban Poetics and Politics* (2017), *Architecture and Sustainability: Critical Perspectives* (2015), *Inhabiting Everyday Monuments* (2014), *Terrain Vague: Interstices at the Edge of the Pale* (2013), and *The Urban Wisdom of Jane Jacobs* (2012). As an international Fulbright Specialist, Anirban has worked with communities in Buffalo NY, Warren MI, Seattle WA and Monteverde, Costa Rica.

## **Livable Streets Revisited**

*Bruce Appleyard, Associate Professor, San Diego State University, San Diego, California USA*

### **Abstract:**

On September 23, 1982, Donald Appleyard was killed by a speeding drunk driver in Athens, Greece. A year earlier, In 1981, he published the first edition of *Livable Streets* -- the seminal work outlining the general theory that streets are for people while also presenting compelling evidence on the impacts of car traffic on community health, livability, and humanity. And while the book was, and still is tremendously popular, it was never reprinted because of his untimely death. Now, Bruce Appleyard, Donald's Son and who himself was nearly killed by a car at 4 years old, has authored an update to this book with entirely new content and additional material on walking, bicycling, and placemaking.

At its core, this presentation is about people and their interactions in and around the most accessible public spaces of our cities, our streets. This presentation provides comprehensive, evidence-based articulation, both in narrative and graphic form, of the power struggle between automobiles, residents, and pedestrians, exposing the ill-effects of traffic on people, street life and communities, including people's ability to make important social connections with each other.

As autonomous vehicle technologies are emerging on roads around the world, we need the teachings of this book more than ever to understand how to manage this new age of automobility.

This presentation provides thoughtful, comprehensive insight into a broad range of street, traffic and neighbourhood types, including practical strategies and tools for redesigning and enhancing streets, and street networks so they can support community livability, health, and an ever-increasing importance in all aspects of our humanity, touching on the following themes:

- The Architecture of Great Places
- Tools and Strategies for Retrofitting Suburbia
- The Structure of Public Streets and Spaces
- Walkable, Multi-Modal 15-minute Neighborhoods
- Promoting Healthy Neighborhoods"

**Biography:**

Dr. Appleyard is an Associate Professor of City Planning and Urban Design at San Diego State University (SDSU) where he helps people and agencies make more informed decisions about how we live, work, and thrive. Working from the human to regional/ecosystem scale, he is an author of numerous peer-reviewed and professional publications and is a renowned expert on urban quality, the future of transport, and reimagining and redesigning streets for livability, placemaking, and the comfort of pedestrians and bicyclists. His expertise also extends to coordinating housing, land use, and transport to help places become more sustainable, livable, and equitable. He also recently published *Livable Streets 2.0* about the conflict, power, and promise of our streets (<https://bit.ly/LivableStreets>). Dr. Appleyard holds a Doctorate (as well as a Masters and Bachelors) from the University of California in the town of Berkeley where he grew up.

**Suburban Transformation Case Study: Chevy Chase Lake**

*Joshua Arcurio, Associate, David M. Schwarz Architects, Washington, D.C., USA*

**Abstract:**

The Chevy Chase Lake project is transforming a suburban shopping center into a mixed-use development connected to a popular bicycle trail and a new suburb-to-suburb light rail line outside Washington, D.C.

Following a years-long municipal sector planning process, the developers challenged David M. Schwarz Architects to master plan a long-term, three-site project spanning 16 acres that worked financially, could be approved by right, and would win neighborhood support. Using New Urbanist principles, we created a plan of seven buildings ranging from three to 14 stories comprising over 1.5 million square feet (140,000 square meters) of residential, retail, and office while placing parking underground.

David M. Schwarz Architects also served as design architect for the first phase, comprising three buildings, a curbside public open space, and underground parking across 9.5 acres. To create variety at both the street level and at the roofline, we incorporated a number

architectural styles to add variety to the project's fabric. The varying facades break down the scale of the neighborhood to seem as though there are eight distinct buildings. Thoughtful detailing of the facades, silhouettes, and roof elements create a place that is timeless and familiar with a comfortable sense of scale.

The exterior facade massings, materiality, and detailing continue the tradition of the great apartment houses along Connecticut Avenue, one of the most unique thoroughfares in America.



**Biography:**

Joshua Arcurio, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, is an Associate and the Design Technology Administrator at David M. Schwarz Architects in Washington, DC. His recent project experience has focused on transit-oriented, mixed-use planning and architecture projects including Chevy Chase Lake in Maryland and Riverside Station in Massachusetts. He was also the project architect on the newly opened 8,000-seat outdoor Orion Amphitheater in Huntsville, Alabama.

Joshua sees architecture and urban design as a process, a civic contribution, and a collaborative art that can pursue beauty and the sublime, and represent the values and aspirations of a community. In addition, he has a keen interest and expertise in digital technology, furthering the office's ability to create architecture that, in the words of Alberti, "gives comfort and the greatest pleasure to [hu]mankind, to individual and community alike".

## **Testing a Quick and Easy Way to Build the 15 Minute City** *Kelly Bergeron, Neighbourspace, Cornwall, ON, Canada*

We are currently designing and testing a circular strategy which will use shipping containers, sustainable materials, and custom pods to address the needs of neighbourhoods.

The 15 minute city is a concept that is lacking in cities across Canada. In order to make quick and impactful change to our driving habits, we need to address food deserts, lack of neighbourhood amenities and cultivate a sense of community through these quick and easy activations.

We are currently working to prototype and test designs in early spring in Canada, working with local municipalities to address their needs, and build a proof of concept in introducing various amenities closer to people's homes.

[www.neighbourspace.ca](http://www.neighbourspace.ca)

## **Reinventing Public Housing: Restoring the Infrastructure of Community that Modernism Left Out**

*Frederick Biehle, Professor, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY USA*

### **Abstract:**

The quiet successes and loud failures of New York City's Housing Authority (NYCHA) are well known. Recent criticism has identified bureaucratic management as the true catalyst for failure, giving the architects a pass. But doing so has required apologizing for design positioning now recognized as fundamentally anti-urban. Today, as public housing has only continued to grow old, the city that surrounds it has become more robust. The impending collision between the extravagance of private markets and the neglect of the public may yet prove to be fortuitous.

Two circumstances have altered the calculation. First is the dramatic fall of in crime. Second is a recent accusation that redefines New Deal public housing policy as race biased. By conjoining 'slum clearance' with the construction of public housing, the federal government ended up legislating a form of institutional racism. Slum clearance destroyed not only the physical but the social fabric of those communities. The anti-urbanism of the projects that replaced them was really a second act to guarantee they would never return.

The result is that the federal government has not only an opportunity to introduce change, but an obligation. Taking advantage of the excess open space on over 150 NYCHA estates is really a chance to reimagine our cities by engaging best practice conclusions for new affordable, equitable, and environmentally sustainable housing, thus improving the quality of life for tenants and city dwellers both. Based on the work of seven successive research studios, this paper will present a series of tactical strategies for breaking up super block sites by re-streeting and then re-urbanizing them by introducing and shaping a new fabric."

**Biography:**

Frederick Biehle is a practicing architect and an adjunct professor at Pratt institute in New York. He represents the third generation of a northern Ohio family dedicated to the fine and decorative arts. In 1986 he was awarded the prix de Rome fellowship in architecture allowing him to live and study in Italy for two years while researching the remains of ancient roman urbanism. He is the coordinator of the Pratt undergraduate Program in Rome, whose curriculum focuses on large scale urban interventions. His current studio based research is titled the Reinvention of Public Housing which re-urbanizes NYCHA superblock sites in NYC. Previously he coordinated the third year comprehensive design studios which used multi-family housing as its program.

**The Park to Bay (P2B) Project: Empowering People in San Diego**

*Noura Bishay, Social Impact Urban Designer, NPB Design Studio, San Diego, CA, USA*

**Abstract:**

When most people hear San Diego, they think of sunny beaches, ample tourism, and green parks, but ignore the historical communities of Barrio Logan and Southeast San Diego. These diverse communities carry the weight of their rich culture, impoverishment, disenfranchisement, and environmental toxicity; it is here where we see the interplay between racism, urban planning, and politics rear its ugly head. Cultural suppression, social injustice, economic inequality, health disparities, and pollution are eating us alive. Time to heal, inspire and empower our communities to be more resilient via social-impact urban design as employed in the Park-to-Bay (P2B) Project, which targets the root causes, not the symptoms, by empowering the people.

The P2B model is centered around walkability, connecting parks to connect people. We share the community story by creating a multi-destination, inclusive, safe, and sustainable green corridor with a double-aisle of trees, community gardens, art corners, farmers' markets, pop-ups, street vendors, and more.

P2B increases access to heritage sites & information by facilitating community walkability and inviting tourism. P2B fosters job creation & cultural preservation while nurturing innovators and entrepreneurship. By creating opportunities for local vendors and artisans, the community can monetize, illuminate, and preserve its diverse heritage, identity, culture, traditions, history, & natural environment. Heritage conservation will come in the form of placemaking, art, and community spaces, revealing hidden treasures and uniting our diversity to create a space that matters. Trees absorb pollution while encouraging daily physical activity, which also reduces chronic diseases and improves residents' physical and mental health.

This is a plan to rebirth, re-imagine, and renew our city image that communities everywhere should implement now. Through thoughtful social impact urban design that puts people's needs at the forefront, we can make a difference!



*Noura Bishay*

## **A Typology for Canal Oriented Development: A Blueprint for Water-Driven Real Estate Development in Non-Water Cities**

*Stephen Buckman, Associate Professor of Real Estate Development, Clemson University, Greenville SC 29601*

### **Abstract:**

Place-making, as a thoughtful planning, design and development approach to creating communities, is critical not only to designers of the built environment, but also to developers and municipal officials who look to build and/or regenerate urban spaces that translate into vibrant successful places. Developers, policymakers and planners alike have examined ways to create pockets of greater urban density within a city's core to attract new urban dwellers, bringing about a rebirth of the city. One example is the construction of a waterfront development to attract people and rebrand cities, which is limited by the geologic setting of an area that dictates the viability of a waterfront community. Thus, landlocked cities that do not have extensive waterfronts have considered potential water-centered developments via canal-oriented development (COD). COD looks to take many of the ideas that drive Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and in its simplest form replace the rail line with a canal or canalized river. COD does two things that are key to designers and real estate developers: 1. It creates pockets of much needed density in polycentric regions reducing the community's carbon footprint; and 2. Utilizes the universal pull that humans have to be near water which aids in increased real estate valuation. Coming on the backs of previous studies on COD, this paper presents a typology that will aid real estate developers and designers to better understand what COD in terms of scale and design is best for the area under consideration for development.

**Biography:**

Stephen T Buckman: Dr. Buckman is an Associate Professor of Real Estate Development at Clemson University. His research is centered on resiliency, waterfront development, and community real estate development. He has two forthcoming books one on community real estate development due out the summer of 2022 and another on public private partnerships in real estate development due out the summer of 2023. Dr. Buckman is also a consultant to developers on issues of zoning and public private partnerships as well as a partner in a real estate development company that specializes in small community oriented mixed-use infill projects.

**Navigating the System: A Wayfinding Strategy for Guadalajara's New Transit System**

*Monica Castaneda Chavez, Project Manager, Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works of Jalisco, Jalisco, Mexico*

**Abstract:**

Mobility should be understood beyond the act of moving people or goods from one place to another, but rather as a social practice that offers opportunities and limitations. MiMacroPeriférico will be the newest BRT line in Periférico, a 12-lane peripheral ring in Guadalajara, the third-largest metropolitan area in Mexico. The entire project was conceptualized as an integral intervention including new sidewalks and a new cycling lane along the corridor.

The new line's implementation not only represents the restructuring of the transit system but also a new way of moving around Periférico. It will connect some of the most important parts of the city besides allowing a stronger connection between the central and the peripheral city. MiMacroPeriférico's wayfinding strategy was developed with the aim of improving the relationship of the system with both inhabitants and visitors of Guadalajara and in doing so, having a positive impact on their experience.

Being able to understand a space provides users with a sense of control and security, which has a positive impact on reducing stress and anxiety levels. This is extremely important for

women, who are the main users of public transport and who face various obstacles in doing so. Graphic guidelines for every sign, recommendations of content and location of each element inside and in the vicinity of the stations, were developed as part of the wayfinding strategy. Additionally, it identified main pedestrian destinations and flows as well as decision-making points in order to provide necessary clues that help people find their way.

By doing this, the wayfinding strategy guarantees that every user, regardless of their age, gender or physical condition is able to navigate the system, hence improving the travel experience. The system, more than a set of signs, provides users with information to make more informed decisions, thus enhancing active travel.

### **Implementing the New Urban Agenda: Youth-Led City Building**

*LC Clemons, Principal, Force of Nature Solutions, Wharton, Texas, USA*

#### **Abstract:**

On 12/23/16, the “New Urban Agenda” was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly. Delegations from around the world set forth to utilize a framework that was intended to set the world on a course towards sustainable urban development by rethinking how cities are planned, managed and inhabited.

This session will describe how “Youth Led City Building” is the ONLY path to achieving success in implementing the tenants of the New Urban Agenda at the speed necessary to mitigate the biggest contributors to climate change – cities. Putting these young “adults in the making” in charge of leading transformative change directly speaks to the NUA-15.c.

“Adopt sustainable, people-centered, age-and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change.”

As a former schoolteacher turned disaster recovery activist, LC developed the Youth-Led City Building Program to enable young people to have the confidence to take on leadership roles in creating cities designed and constructed by and for them. This approach finally addresses the “about us without us” mentality that is so pervasive in the built environment.

**Biography:**

LC Clemons is a Certified Floodplain Manager with a diverse professional background that spans curating celebrity art collections to teaching rural communities how to adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change. LC's passion for federal disaster recovery policy reform is fueled by her understanding of the exacerbation of disparities the broken system in having on children, especially in Black communities. She enjoys working through complex issues of social vulnerability in adaptation, preparedness, recovery, sustainable community planning, systems design, infrastructure upgrades and community-driven initiatives. When she isn't expertly advising clients on FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, she is volunteering her time at the Collaborative Communities Foundation thinking of new ways to bring community together through equitable urban design. LC be found doing free face painting in downtown Wharton, Texas where she is currently overseeing \$30M in grants she attained to build a variety of beautifully designed, safe, affordable, infill rental housing.

**The Mixed City: The Interconnectedness Between the Physical Environment and the Experience of Communities**

*Anne Corlin, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark*

**Abstract:**

In Denmark, at the moment the term 'the mixed city', which refers to the city as a place of dense populations where all neighborhoods contain residents from across social, cultural, and economic spheres, ranks highly on the political agenda. Concurrent is the word communities, and developing neighborhoods which are community supportive a pivotal aim in all city development programs, focusing on socially sustainable city development.

But what does actually influence residents' experiences of communities in their neighborhood, and how can we develop and build housing estates which are community supportive?

The paper builds on initial findings from the cross-disciplinary research project *Flexible Communities*, between the Danish National Museum and the Aarhus School of Architecture,

investigating the interconnectedness between communities and the built environment in social housing estates in Denmark.

Through a merge of ethnographic studies of people's experiences of place and architectural analyses of different spaces, the paper presents a way to gain additional understanding of the many various nuances between private and public places and how it influences the constant negotiations going on. It is, we argue, in these negotiations that communities come to exist and even flourish, and the physical environment's ability to facilitate these negotiations is of pivotal importance in community building and maintenance.

The paper thereby seeks to present and discuss how the built environment can support residents' participation in and experience of communities, and how the design of the built environment can either support or reduce the negotiation of participation.



### **Biography:**

Anne Corlin is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the Aarhus School of Architecture. She holds a Ph.D. from Design School Kolding on integrating design as means for designing democratic common places. During her time at Design School Kolding, she was also head of one of the three master's educations Design for People. Her current research focuses on the interconnectedness between the built environment and communities. In a research collaboration with the Danish National Museum, she is part of the cross-disciplinary research project titled Flexible Communities. The research focus is on investigating the connection between the built environment and non-formalized communities in the physical context of social housing in Denmark.

### **Promoting Walkability through Area-Based Development (ABD): Case Study of Four Smart Cities of India**

*Aarti B. Desai, Research Scholar, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat, Gujarat, India*

Rapid urbanization is being faced by the world currently. As per UN World Urbanization Prospect report 2018, 55% of the world's population is living in urban areas, and expected to increase as 68% by 2050. On other hand, according to the UN report, 40% of the population will be reside in urban areas of India. Rapid urbanization increases pressure on land for provision of housing and basic infrastructure facilities to urban dwellers. The expansion of city limits directly increases the vehicular growth for better connectivity to Central Business District areas. Smart growth promotes the development on brownfield and not greenfield, and it promotes walking and cycling. Walkability promotes social cohesiveness for people, leading to improvement of Quality of Life. Research into sustainable transport modes, in particular walking, has become increasingly relevant and necessary. Walking is directly targeted in the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) as it promotes a sustainable and green city. A walkable city improves the health of urban dwellers, and promotes green transport which leads to less energy consumption. It also mitigates Urban Heat Island effect. For this reason, the relationships between pedestrian activity, public health, and the built environment, more specifically, its street networks, has been subject of many studies. In the current scenario, walkability measurements increased due to easy availability of georeferenced data. This paper targets the ABD (Area Based Development) retrofit and redevelopment area targeted by the Smart Cities Mission of India in four different smart cities, which includes Commercial hubs, Industrial centres, and Residential centres. A walled city was also planned as a walkable city. The conclusion is that walkability can be helpful in livability, cluster planning, neighbourhood planning, micro level planning, and can improve the social cohesion of urban dwellers.

Keywords: Urbanization, Walkability, Trips, Sustainability

### **Bicycle Nodes as Urban Acupuncture: Surgical Planning from Private to Public, Towards Promoting Cycling Across Ain Sohkna, Red Sea**

*Momen El-Husseiny, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt*

#### **Abstract:**

Fourteen new cities are growing in Egypt rapidly along Cairo's desert edge, the Mediterranean coast, the Nile Delta, the Red Sea, and Upper Egypt. In Cairo, the New Administrative Capital alone is built to accommodate 6.5 million inhabitants. Most of these projects are private sector and mixed-use developments. At such instances of mega-planning and urban growth, little attention is given to the small details of connectivity, micro-mobility, and the question of advancing public space. This paper adheres to the forces on the ground. It argues for the need to adopt change at the edge of things, from within the private sector to the outside. The argument envisions a surgical planning that tactically catalyzes private projects — their edges, boundaries, and walls. The profusion of activities from the private sector to the public space may eventually re-produce nuances and points of contact, thus increasing porosity and proliferation. This paper reflects on a consultancy project through the American University in Cairo during 2021, where the author served as the principle urban designer for retrofitting the masterplan adjacent to the New Galala City to become bike-friendly. The objective was to envision a strategy of bridging the walls through cycling and bike nodes. The paper demonstrates the design intervention and action areas with the

positioning of bicycle nodes on natural contours, where the activity of cycling would act as “urban acupuncture” (Lerner 2016 [2003]). The broader impact is to expand sustainable transportation and multi-modal mobility integrating the inside-out along the Red Sea network. Such pilot project and strategy of intervention is itself an act of operating at the edge of publicness; when there is little left, yet, we have to act, improvise, experiment, and explore.



**Biography:**

Momen El-Husseiny is an Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the American University in Cairo. He holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley with a designated emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies and Anthropology. He is a registered architect in Egypt and a trained ethnographer. His scholarly work falls at the intersections of critical urban theory, massive urbanization, governmentality, modernity and othering, politics of space, gated communities, mapping communities under threat of climate change, healthy cities, sustainable urban mobility and new desert cities.

**Enabling Community-Led Growth with the Lean Urbanism Toolkit**

*Brian Falk, Director, The Project for Lean Urbanism and Center for Applied Transect Studies, Miami, FL, USA*

**Abstract:**

Focus on the small scale is crucial to implementing the New Urban Agenda. The free Lean Urbanism Toolkit enables small-scale economic development and lowers barriers to entry for residents.

The New Urban agenda should broaden its focus from public participation in planning processes to include participation by residents in building and owning their communities. The New Urban agenda has successfully reclaimed the traditional settlement patterns abandoned in the mid-twentieth century, but has yet to incorporate a fundamental principle: Traditional settlements were built by many hands in small increments, allowing residents to participate in building their homes, businesses, and communities. This participation created the fine grain and character urbanists value. Equally important, it allowed residents to influence their surroundings and benefit from growth.

Urbanists recognize the value that vibrant, thriving networks of small businesses and small developments bring to their communities. They provide housing at lower costs, make local markets more diverse, robust, and sustainable, provide more jobs, keep wealth in communities, create shared prosperity by enabling participation in economic development, and strengthen local tax bases by contributing more property and sales taxes per acre while costing less for infrastructure and services.

Lean Urbanism recognizes that placing the same requirements on all projects regardless of scale puts disproportionate burdens on small projects. The nonprofit Project for Lean Urbanism provides a free toolkit to level the playing field for small-scale economic development. Unleashing the power of small actors enables community-driven growth and revitalization, with locals leading and benefitting from the efforts.

The tools address finance, comprehensive planning, zoning repair, and other issues. They can be used individually or within the primary tool, a manual to create Pink Zones — areas where the red tape is lightened, barriers are lowered, and it's easier, faster, and cheaper to create small businesses and develop small properties. ([leanurbanism.org](http://leanurbanism.org))

### **Oriental Park: A Biodiversity and Landscape Experimental Park in the City of Porto, PT** *Cláudia, Fernandes, Professor, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal*

#### **Abstract:**

Urban Green Infrastructure (UGI) and its constituent elements, urban green spaces (UGS), are established as fundamental for the ecological balance of cities and the physical and mental health of their populations. UGS are man-made ecosystems frequently thriving in a delicate ecological balance, thus much prone to pests and diseases. These issues have gained relevance, with some insect-related plant pathologies reaching worrying proportions with significant environmental, economic, and landscape impacts. If, on the one hand, we are witnessing an increase in populations of harmful insects, we are also seeing a decline of beneficial insects, namely pollinators and biocontrol agents. The decline of these populations has been seen as one of the most severe ecological crises of our times.

How to face the mentioned challenges and contribute to a more multifunctional, resilient, healthy, socially inclusive, and aesthetically more pleasant urban green infrastructure?

This project presents the Oriental Park of the city of Porto as a potentiating element of the ecological and social dynamics of the eastern and most deprived part of the city of Porto.

The work focuses on implementing practices for the differentiated maintenance of lawns, promoting biodiversity, and with a particular focus on creating conditions for the attraction and sustainability of communities of pollinating insects.

The project includes pivotal collaboration with local organizations, among which the Porto City Council stands out, which formally supports the project and actively participates by adjusting management practices, in close cooperation and guidance from the research team. The Oriental Park of the city of Porto is becoming a privileged stage for the enjoyment and appropriation of natural values and the development of environmental education activities, both for the school population of the surrounding and for visitors to the Park.



### **Biography:**

Cláudia Fernandes is an Assistant Professor at the University of Porto and group leader of the Landscape Planning, Design and Management (LPDM) Research Group at CIBIO Research Center. Landscape Architect with prior training in Agricultural Engineering and a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences has as main research interests the assessment, planning, design, and management of a wide-ranging of habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes, especially in urban environments. She is concerned with the resilience of cities and their adaptation to global changes, the social and ecological challenges of the future, and the role of trees and urban green spaces in this process.

### **Havana: Recording Urban Rhythms of Formality and Informality Surrounding Community Gardens**

*Susan Fitzgerald, Assistant Professor of Architectural Design and Practice at Dalhousie University School of Architecture, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*

### **Abstract**

Cities exist in between formality and informality and to understand the urban realm requires considering the interstices of everyday life including the ephemeral and the marginal.

Studying such moments within a city largely goes undocumented as it depends on serendipity as much as methodology. Using Havana, Cuba as a case study, this talk outlines methods that move beyond the morphological and typological to measure the quotidian and sensorial, uniquely place-specific rhythms that collectively help to describe a city. Henri Lefebvre made the powerful supposition that cultures dynamically produce space over time, which in turn shapes society. He started to develop rhythmanalysis as a tool to understand this relationship. Rhythmanalysis captures the everyday, heterogeneous, and evolving urban narratives of a city, making it an important tool for understanding a place. This talk will outline how rhythmanalysis, assisted by multiple methods of mapping, work hand in hand to listen to and record the urban realm to heighten an understanding of a community and seek to distinguish between how the city is constructed and how everyday life unfolds.

### **Biography:**

Susan Fitzgerald, PhD is an assistant professor of Architectural Design and Practice at Dalhousie University School of Architecture and the Design Director at FBM in Halifax, Canada. She is both an architect and an interior designer involved in teaching, research, and practice. Her work has been the recipient of many accolades—including the Canadian Architect Award, Canada Council for the Arts Professional Prix de Rome, Governor General's Medal in Architecture, the Wood Design Award, the EnRoute Air Canada Award, Maritime Design Awards, and multiple Lieutenant Governors' Awards including the Medal of Excellence. At Dalhousie University she has been running an urban systems design studio in Havana, Cuba since 2014 in close collaboration with Universidad Tecnológica de La Habana José Antonio Echeverría. She is the author of the book *Havana: Mapping Lived Experiences of Urban Agriculture*. Susan was made a fellow of the RAIC in 2015.

### **Midwest Nice: Designing Community Resilience in the Heartland**

*Suzan Hampton, PhD Student and Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas School of Architecture & Design, Lawrence, KS USA*

### **Abstract:**

Amidst a flurry of conflicting information, school closures (and openings...and closures), job loss and a drastic spike in homelessness during the Covid-19 pandemic, the low-to-moderate income neighborhood of East Lawrence, Kansas in the American Heartland has been successfully leveraging spatial networks and public spaces to educate and connect, strengthen place-identity and social ties, and empower the community so that no one gets left behind.

By highlighting case studies of neighborhood public space landmarks along the Lawrence Loop, a 22-mile, multi-use trail system in the university town of Lawrence, Kansas (population 100,000), this session will help attendees plan and implement urban public space initiatives to strengthen social networks and build robust community resilience. These design examples may also inform innovative solutions to build urban resilience to combat the negative impacts of political conflicts, migration and displacement, and climate change.

Topics:

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

- Placemaking built on cultural and historical legacies
- Design for delight, for dreaming, to inspire hope and motivate action
- Empowering social equity and inclusivity through design
- Integrating walkable neighborhoods with multi-modal transportation networks
- How to partner effectively with government stakeholders

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INCLUSION

- Creating synergy using digital and physical strategies for community connection- How to team up with community, business, and nonprofit partners
- Community outreach and events to generate momentum and public support
- Using social media, co-marketing, and partnerships to save time and money

#### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- Sense of place: identifying what's great and building on it
- Urban trail systems and public spaces as community and environmental networks
- Planning and land use issues related to spatial networks
- Past planning project impacts on community collective memory
- Building momentum to "rinse and repeat" successful design solutions in other neighborhoods



#### **Biography:**

Suzan Hampton, LEED AP BD+C is a PhD student and teaching assistant for the nationally recognized design/build program at the University of Kansas School of Architecture & Design. She is also the 2022-2023 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for the Integrated Arts Research Initiative at the Spencer Museum of Art, where current projects include a quantum physics, mathematics, and expanded media art collaboration with CERN. Combining her interdisciplinary design practice with a first career in IT, Hampton explores the potential of synthesizing place-identity with strategic partnerships and site-specific, mixed media public

art to foster community and environmental resilience. A LEED AP BD+C since 2010, Hampton earned her M.Arch at The University of New Mexico where her work focused on natural building systems. [www.arcd.ku.edu](http://www.arcd.ku.edu); [www.spencerart.ku.edu/iari](http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/iari); [www.studio804.com](http://www.studio804.com)

### **MaaS for the masses: Potential transit accessibility gains and required policies under Mobility-as-a-Service**

*Marc Hasselwander, Research Associate, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Berlin, Germany*

#### **Abstract:**

Public transport accessibility is one of the key indicators to assess the performance of transport systems, whereby higher scores indicate a better performance in terms of social equity (e.g., more equal access to jobs and other opportunities). To inform policymakers and support decision-making, it is crucial to measure potential accessibility changes for proposed transport investments. Due to the paucity of available data, however, calculating and monitoring accessibility is a difficult task. This holds particularly for the Global South, where informal transport services are often the most dominant transport mode. Anchored in the Sustainable Development Goal for more 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' (SDG 11), the UN has thus proposed a simplified, globally applicable indicator for accessibility (SDG 11.2.1) that measures the share of the population that has convenient access to public transport. Building on this definition – and leveraging on open-data sources – we use the PtAC tool to calculate accessibilities in Metro Manila, Philippines. We further analyze the potential to increase the accessibility to public transport under Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), if shared micro-mobility services are integrated as first/last mile feeder services. Our results highlight that less than two thirds of Metro Manila citizens have currently adequate access to public transport. Yet, shared e-scooter and bicycles have the potential to boost this share significantly (to 97.9% and 99.9%, respectively). To exploit this potential and foster a sustainable development under MaaS, we outline and discuss four evidence-based policy recommendations. Finally, we conclude with a research agenda for MaaS in developing countries, a topic which has been widely overlooked in the scientific literature so far.

### **Automated global assessment of urban green space accessibility in the light of SDG 11.7**

*Anna Kovacs-Györi, Postdoc researcher, IDA Lab - PLUS, Salzburg, Austria*

#### **Abstract:**

Green spaces represent a fundamental component of urban ecosystems as they provide benefits for the health and well-being of urban dwellers. As such, the relevance of public urban green spaces is acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations. SDG 11.7 highlights the importance of public spaces, especially considering their access. Currently, there is no official global data about the progress of cities concerning the intra-urban scale access of public urban green spaces. Earth Observation (EO)-based approaches are not novel for these types of assessments; however, public access should be identified, which is not possible by relying on remotely sensed imagery. Often this information is acquired from field work or cadaster data, which are adequate solutions for local implementation but their adaptation to global scales is impossible. To bridge this gap, we intend to develop a methodology that can facilitate the global evaluation of urban green

spaces in the light of SDG indicator 11.7 and also makes regular monitoring possible in any city by using an automated workflow. Our approach combines multiple data sources and methodologies to tackle the limitation of EO-based techniques, thereby providing the scientific foundations of a scalable and automated workflow, which relies merely on freely available global data.



### **Biography:**

Anna Kovács-Gyóri is a postdoctoral researcher and co-leader of the Space & Mobility research group at IDA Lab - Intelligent Data Analytics, Paris Lodron University in Salzburg, Austria. With her research team she examines various aspects of GIS-based urban livability and well-being assessment, with a special focus on facilitating the achievement of the UN Sustainability Goals. In addition to traditional spatial data and remote sensing analysis methods, their approach also include the analysis of data extracted from social media sources and biosensors.

### **Teaching the Public Face of Architecture**

*Alex Krumdieck, Director, Urban Studio, Auburn University, Birmingham, AL USA*

*John Pittari, Associate Professor, Auburn University, Birmingham, Alabama, USA*

### **Abstract:**

Auburn University's Center for Architecture and Urban Studies, located in downtown Birmingham and more familiarly known as the Urban Studio, has been undertaking its mission as an academic outreach program of Auburn's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture for nearly thirty years. Undergraduate students are immersed in the extraordinarily rich "laboratory" of the city where their work includes architectural explorations that typically focus on community development and urban design/planning. The Studio also strives to model a growing approach within architectural practice which suggests that, rather than relying solely on clients to bring them projects, architects should investigate their environs and actually identify problems that require solutions, and to then intervene in order to make a difference on larger issues that typically don't have singular clients.

While these projects address a variety of scales in space and time, they all consistently engage the important roles that architecture plays in defining and supporting robust public spaces, and in helping to structure social and spatial public space networks as venues for human

connection and opportunity within the city. Most recently, some projects have also begun to examine strategies and tools which may actually have the potential to improve streets and public spaces within long-underserved neighborhoods. This presentation will illustrate and describe a variety of student work at the Studio, ranging from the redesign of a street corridor to the proposal of a green “infrastructural” network that could serve as an armature for guiding the future expansion and re-development of the city’s built environment. Taken together, and guided by an awareness of architecture as a shaper of the public realm, these projects aspire to help the city of Birmingham transition to a more livable, humane, equitable and ecological generation of neighborhoods and districts.”

### **Measuring Gentrification: a Small Area Estimation approach with application to New York City**

*Glen Johnson, Associate Professor, CUNY School of Public Health, New York, New York, USA*

Although gentrification and its frequently negative consequences are well-known to urban residents, policymakers and social scientists, there is widespread disagreement on how to measure gentrification. By creating a scored index that combines five separate indicators, we hope to represent the nuanced and processual nature of the socioeconomic and demographic shifts associated with gentrification.

The relative change of key variables (median family income, median rent and proportions of non-Hispanic white, 20-34-year-olds and adults with a 4-year college degree) was computed from the years 2000 to 2016 for NYC census tracts that are spatially normalized to the year 2010. Raw scores derived from principal components analysis were then spatially smoothed through a fully Bayesian conditional autoregressive model, presenting an innovation over previous methods since it essentially blurs the otherwise artificial tract boundaries and results in a simulated posterior distribution of scores for each tract. The median and upper/lower percentiles provide a point estimate and assessment of uncertainty, respectively, of gentrification for each tract.

The composite index is positively associated with census tract-level change in home values, as measured separately from a real property database. Furthermore, the index is strongly spatially associated with brownfield projects and “upzonings” during the same period that the index applies to. While our motivation is understanding the forces and dynamics of gentrification in New York City (NYC), the methodological approach is expected to be replicable in other urban areas using readily-available public domain data similar to the US census and American Community Survey.

### **The Influence of Medical Contributions on Urban Hygienism in the Cities of London, Paris and Lisbon Since the 19th Century**

*Ricardo Latoeiro, PdD Student in Urbanism / CEO NOA arquitectos, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal*

**Abstract:**

Health is the engine of any species. The human being lives preferentially in urban agglomerations, and it is expected that in 2050 more than 70% of the world population will live in cities, in which 10% will be concentrated in megacities. Cities are the natural habitat of the human species, this being the preferred space for socialisation, and one of the main influencers of the health of its citizens. The medical contributions of the last two centuries have alerted to the relationship between the unhealthy conditions of cities, which became prone to the onset of disease and spread of contagion. Along with natural and environmental disasters, epidemic and pandemic crises are the main tests of the survival of the human species.

The outbreak of the industrial revolution led to a huge increase in the population of cities, causing the emergence of various diseases, many of which were made worse by the unhealthy conditions of cities. For over two centuries, there has been close collaboration between medicine and urbanism. The various medical contributions made it possible to identify and map various infectious and contagious diseases in cities, which allowed several urban paradigms to be changed. The beginning of the second decade of the XXI century marks the emergence of the covid-19 pandemic, raising several hygienist questions about the relationship of cities with health.

This presentation aims to assess the historical relations between urbanism and pandemics, with special focus on the examples of London, Paris and Lisbon. The temporal arc will be demarcated by the nineteenth century with the harmful effects of the industrial revolution, following the impact and urban transformations of the various epidemics and pandemics until the present COVID-19. This study will demonstrate the urbanistic modifications of cities in order to promote the well-being and public health of its inhabitants.

*KEY WORDS: urbanism; hygienism; pandemics; public health; healthy city*



### **Biography:**

Ricardo Lateiro, born in Lisbon, architect and urban planner graduated from the Lusitana University of Lisbon and Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV). Founded in 2008 the company NOA Arquitectos based in the Algarve, Portugal, where he develops activity in the area of urban planning, architecture and interior design. He is currently a PhD student in urbanism at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon with research in the articulation of urban planning with health and well-being. In 2020, he joins the first mandate of the Algarve Regional Section of the Order of Architects, as member (secretary) of the Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Portuguese Association of Urban Planners (APU) and the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH).

### **Rapid Building of Beautiful, Durable, Affordable Places: Case Study of District Testaccio, Rome**

*Ettore Mazzola, Professor of Architecture , The University of Notre Dame, Rome, IT*

### **Abstract:**

In my studies I had the chance to find out things I had a chance to document the existence of a particular enlightened economic and political system, which, despite the rapidity of the demographic growth, had allowed the building of the last examples of a great and qualified architecture, spending the least of time and money. What I would have never expected was the “discovery” of the incredible speed of execution and the cheapness of those houses, which, after one century, have never had the necessity of maintenance costs. As well as I could not imagine the ICP had worked competing with private entrepreneurship. As students we have been taught that districts like Palermo’s ZEN, Rome’s Corviale, Naples’s Vele, etc., are the “only possible solution to the necessity of building social housing spending the least of time

and money!" We have also been taught modern "sprawl" town planning is necessary to face the estimates of the growth of cities. On the contrary, using the data I gathered during my researches, I could show that, when the mentioned old ICP neighbourhoods were built, they were not based on town-growth estimates, but their purpose was to face a true housing necessity of a city, which, in a few decades from the Italian Unity, grew from less than 200,000 inhabitants to 1,000,000! My researches also proved that districts of the early 20th Century were built extremely fast and they cost up to 67% less than the current building ... on the other hand, all the "brutalist" modern districts have required times and costs much higher. In this paper, I show the case of the District Testaccio, a fundamental example to understand how we can improve the social-environmental conditions of all those citizens, who live in depersonalizing realities, improving as well local economies

### **Biography:**

Ettore Maria Mazzola is an architect, urbanist, restorer, painter and author of several essays and books (last one Urban Regeneration, preface by Rob Krier, 2021).

Blog: Virtutem Forma Decorat

- Vice President of A.U.T. (Architettura e Urbanistica Tradizionale), Member of the Committee for Urbanism of Italia Nostra; Member of INTBAU, member of the Board of Stewards of International Making Cities Livable.
- In 2006 he has been Member of the International Scientific Committee for *The Venice Charter Revisited*.
- Co-editor of the magazines Il Covile and Dionysos and member of the Scientific Committee of the Symmetria Institute.

His urban projects have been the recipients of several awards and/or honorable mentions. In 2016 he has been invited by the UNESCO, as one of the 500 international personalities called for giving suggestions, thoughts and sketches for the reconstruction in Syria.

He has been involved documentaries "Who is Jesus" (Fox News, 2004); "Great Continental Railway Journeys - Rome of 1913" (BBC2, 2013). "Rome's Invisible City". (BBC2 TV, NOVA TV, 2014)

### **Carmel - A Suburban Retrofit Masterclass**

*Henry Mestetsky, Director of Redevelopment, City of Carmel. Carmel, Indiana*

#### **Abstract:**

I serve as the redevelopment director for the city of Carmel, Indiana, which proudly hosted last year's IMCL conference. There, I had a chance to present about how Carmel overcame becoming another traditional American suburb. I'd like to do another presentation on public-private partnerships and tax increment financing (TIF), which I negotiate on behalf of the city in my role, and how to use those tools to further urban planning and architectural objectives of the city. Discussion will include plenty of before and after photos showcasing the growth of a walkable core from scratch, project by IMCL-award-winning project. Conversation about projects will include incentivizing developers to build many free, open-to-the public parking garages, public plazas and public bathrooms; city investments into luxury hotels and world-class performance venues; land assembly leading to quality new-urbanist development;

maximizing the flexing of parking uses between evening residents and day-time office workers; reorienting development towards pedestrian and bike trails and away from the streets; road diets; incorporating for-sale and affordable unit requirements into multifamily projects; and other creative strategies underutilized by suburbs and edge-cities. Because TIF is used as an economic development tool in most states, the presentation should be very informative to Americans. As a pure masterclass in urban retrofit, the presentation would be entertaining to everyone.

### **Promoting Healthy Neighborhoods: Lessons from COVID-19**

*Mark Moreno, Associate Professor, Andrews University School of Architecture / Interior Design, Berrien Springs, MI, USA*

#### **Abstract:**

Kids and Community Design: In today's pandemic, the world has seen a host of changes whose effects on society range from death to dreams-come-true prosperities. My personal experience has been mixed, but most significantly, Covid encouraged my daughter and me to write a children's book. It compelled me to change my college-level teaching methods. It inspired the transformation of Renaissance Kids, an in-person architecture program, into kids on Zoom promoting creativity and real design changes to the built landscape.

Since 2007, Renaissance Kids had been "Building with Kids to Build Kids up;" we were designing and building local sitting spaces, stage sets, sculptures, playhouses, etc. Since Covid-19, kids are at risk of being less engaged with other kids, so we've embraced online opportunities to deliver enrichment and problem-solving activities for kids in 7 countries and 30 United States.

In this presentation, I will show empowering kids to affect change in their communities. Through problem-solvers workshops, the kids have effectively designed an array of projects, including a community monument to Covid victims, a neighborhood gymnasium, and a car designed for city streets and racetracks. The latest projects indicate a direction the program is shifting toward, that is, realness. A Fall semester class of kids set out to redesign a city street for a real client intent on their involvement in Niles, MI. The "Niles Node," a project inspired by a restaurant's customer spillage into the street. Jersey barriers were deemed unacceptable elements for blocking car access, so a local merchant contacted Renaissance Kids to engage kids in the street's re-design.

In Spring 2022, a class of kids will design a juvenile detention center.

#### **Biography**

Mark Moreno is an Associate Professor of Architecture at Andrews University in Southwest Michigan, specializing in topics related to placemaking and person environment theory. He is the founder/director of Renaissance Kids Architecture program which provides creative, community-engaging creative experiences in design and making. He and his daughter, Siena, co-authored, " Architecture for Kids: Skill-Building Activities for Future Architects."

Empowering children through co-creation: writing a book with and for children about their first steps towards urban independence

### **Malta's Planning Initiatives: Promoting Walkable and Healthy Neighbourhoods**

*Wendy Jo Mifsud, Lecturer, University of Malta, Msida, Malta*

*Sarah Scheiber, Lecturer and Researcher, University of Malta, Msida, Malta*

#### **Abstract:**

The COVID-19 pandemic left devastating impacts on health, both physical and psychological, and on the places we inhabit. Yet, a positive outcome was that mobility habits changed due to lockdowns, resulting in reduced air pollution on a national scale. This pattern was noticed in several cities globally, with initiatives being planned to extend into the post-pandemic world. In addition, Malta's largely obese population started recognising the need for recreational spaces close to home that support more sustainable lifestyles. Such a transformation would have to be led by a change from obesogenic environments to Healthy Cities. Locally, in June 2020, the Maltese Local Councils Association collaborated with several government entities to set up a 'Slow Streets Action Plan'. This is designed to temporarily pedestrianize selected streets in 42 out of the 68 Local Councils. Firstly, the research aims to explore the potential role of this Action Plan in promoting walkable and healthy neighbourhoods in Malta as part of a post-pandemic recovery. Secondly, this research shall analyse an initiative that the Maltese Planning Authority has been working on since September 2019. Entitled 'Healthy Cities', a mapping platform has been developed through the project that can gather data from people who use Malta's waterfronts to follow active lifestyles. The combination of the data from these two initiatives, gathered through participatory means at a national and local level, shall provide insights into the drivers which could achieve success. This success is identified by capacity building within the wider community, and increased awareness of factors which characterise Healthy Cities. Through this research, the lessons learned from COVID-19 will be identified and the findings could serve to understand the potential for the pandemic to drive change in terms of facilitating active mobility and engaging in more walkable and healthy cities.

#### Authors:

Sarah Scheiber (sarah.anastasi@um.edu.mt)

Department of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Faculty for the Built Environment,  
University of Malta

Wendy-Jo Mifsud (wendy-jo.mifsud@um.edu.mt)

Department of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Faculty for the Built Environment,  
University of Malta

Thérèse Bajada (therese.bajada@um.edu.mt)

Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, University of Malta

**Biography:**

Dr Wendy Jo Mifsud is a planner with an interest in participatory approaches to decision-making in spatial planning. Her ongoing research follows upon her Doctoral dissertation entitled 'A Study of Spatial Planning using Participatory GIS in the Maltese Context'. Wendy's academic and professional background has been varied, becoming an architect following the completion of an undergraduate degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and going on to gain postgraduate qualifications in Sustainable Heritage, Geographic Information Science and Participatory Spatial Planning. Following a three-year period during which Wendy worked on numerous community-based urban planning projects in the UK, she returned to Malta and joined the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure to coordinate various heritage-related initiatives. She is now a lecturer at the University of Malta, having also gained professional experience working within the Forward Planning Directorate within the national Planning Authority, dealing mainly with forward planning and strategic policymaking in the Maltese context.

**Empowering children through co-creation: writing a book with and for children about their first steps towards urban independence**

*Beata Patuszynska, Author, cityforchildren.pl, Warsaw, Poland*

**Abstract:**

Children are largely absent from Polish social discourse, a fact which is mirrored in urban planning processes. Their absence creates a vicious circle – unfriendly urban space discourages children from going outside on their own, meaning adults do not see a need to make spaces more friendly for a group not present. The pandemic and lockdown, with their closed schools and temporary ban on unaccompanied minors on the streets, have only reinforced this.

The project – co-writing with children a book concerning their first steps into urban independence - aims at empowering children, enabling them to find their voice when it comes

to urban space. The foundation for the book was data collected during research and workshops with children from Warsaw primary schools, aged 7-10 - the age they begin independent travel in the city.

The project was carried out with the participation and involvement of children at each creative step. Children were (1) models: the narrator is an 7-year-old boy, getting ready for urban independence. He shares his experience as well as the experience of his school friends and his 10-year-old sister, who already travels on her own. Children were (2) teachers: the book is based on authentic children's stories and experience, along with the author's findings from research undertaken with children. The material was extended by observations and conclusions made during the pandemic. Children were (3) reviewers: a series of draft chapters from the book underwent review by children during workshops performed in a school.

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The process demonstrated that all children experience similar pleasures and worries when it comes to interaction with urban space. Furthermore, they also have similar needs that need satisfying. In my article I will discuss; (1) the advantages of creating together with children; (2) my conclusions on how to work with children in participatory processes; (3) research results: perceptions of urban space by children age 7-10, when they begin their independent travel in the city; the barriers to and pleasures derived from independent urban travel; the influence of the pandemic on children's feelings and their behaviour in urban spaces.

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travel in the city; the barriers to and pleasures derived from independent urban travel; the influence of the pandemic on children's feelings and their behaviour in urban spaces.



### **Biography**

Beata Patuszyńska – based in Warsaw, Poland. For over 15 years she has been involved in the property sector as public relations and marketing advisor. Connecting the role of a property advisor and a mother she started investigating children's experience of a city. She believes that children are important participants of urban space and therefore they should be included in deciding about its shape. She also believes that truly smart solutions are simple, and they don't need to employ state-of-the-art technology. Very often, children spot them first. That is why she talks and listens to children speaking on their experience of urban space. She shares her findings during conferences, writing articles and educating. Recently she has been preparing a children's book, aimed at accustoming children with the experience of first independent travels in a city.

### **Our Place on Earth: A New Unified Urban Paradigm in an Age of Climate Change for Safeguarding Our Planet**

*Julio Cesar Perez Hernandez, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA*

#### **Abstract:**

The world needs a new unified urban paradigm since it is facing unprecedented challenges that put at risk the future of mankind. We need to address a stable and rewarding (i.e. sustainable) relationship between Man and Nature, and reassess how we live together (i.e. urbanism) and how we build (i.e. architecture) according to sustainable principles.

The new unified urban paradigm should revisit how urban and architectural design have helped humans conceptualize and fabricate their relationship with Nature – the way people turn space into place and construct a human-made environment.

The new unified urban paradigm should emphasize the role of design, as the “art of the contingent” to help humanity respond to emerging challenges derived from climate change since it is — at its core—always about adjusting ideal models and values to specific physical locations and cultural contexts and give them authenticity and identity.

Urban planning and architecture are powerful means for promoting human development that can provide a more coordinated, planned, and strategic model that learns from great places that offer valid responses to foster an increase of quality.

We need to learn from the benefits derived from good places that build and support the economy and nurture and define community cultural identity by the meaningful interaction of their inhabitants to other places that lack this to extend them. Their public spaces nourish and support human activity, one that allows humans to flourish, live with stability and care for each other.

Planning is foreseeing, planning is about the future. We cannot know the future, but we can and should design for it."



### **Biography:**

Julio Cesar Perez-Hernandez is an Associate Professor of the Practice at the University of Notre Dame’s School of Architecture since 2017 where he previously taught as Visiting Professor (Fall 2012). Has lectured and taught in the US, Canada, Europe, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Bermuda. Author of *Inside Cuba* (2004) and *Inside Havana* (2011), published by Taschen, and numerous articles in international journals. An accomplished leader, visionary, and historian, he is a practicing architect and urban planner with projects in the U S, Cuba, Spain, and Panama. He is the President of I.N.T.B.A.U. Cuba, where he graduated in 1982. He is the author of “A Master Plan for 21st Century Havana” as well of other urban projects in several countries. In 2001 he became a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University, where he was selected the 2012-2013 Wilbur Marvin Visiting Scholar.

### **Teaching the Public Face of Architecture**

*John Pittari, Associate Professor, Auburn University, Birmingham, Alabama, USA*

*Alex Krumdieck, Director, Urban Studio, Auburn University, Birmingham, AL USA*

**Abstract:**

Auburn University's Center for Architecture and Urban Studies, located in downtown Birmingham and more familiarly known as the Urban Studio, has been undertaking its mission as an academic outreach program of Auburn's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture for nearly thirty years. Undergraduate students are immersed in the extraordinarily rich "laboratory" of the city where their work includes architectural explorations that typically focus on community development and urban design/planning. The Studio also strives to model a growing approach within architectural practice which suggests that, rather than relying solely on clients to bring them projects, architects should investigate their environs and actually identify problems that require solutions, and to then intervene in order to make a difference on larger issues that typically don't have singular clients.

While these projects address a variety of scales in space and time, they all consistently engage the important roles that architecture plays in defining and supporting robust public spaces, and in helping to structure social and spatial public space networks as venues for human connection and opportunity within the city. Most recently, some projects have also begun to examine strategies and tools which may actually have the potential to improve streets and public spaces within long-underserved neighborhoods. This presentation will illustrate and describe a variety of student work at the Studio, ranging from the redesign of a street corridor to the proposal of a green "infrastructural" network that could serve as an armature for guiding the future expansion and re-development of the city's built environment. Taken together, and guided by an awareness of architecture as a shaper of the public realm, these projects aspire to help the city of Birmingham transition to a more livable, humane, equitable and ecological generation of neighborhoods and districts."

**Biography**

Professor Pittari is a faculty member at Auburn University, and holds degrees in landscape architecture, urban design, and city planning. His teaching and scholarship bridge these allied disciplines through a focus on community design, both past and present, and on contemporary place-making. He has written about a number of historic planned communities, and has worked with numerous cities and towns in Alabama on community design and planning outreach projects. Most recently, his efforts have focused on the design of walkable communities and the link between public health and the built environment. Prior to joining the AU faculty, he practiced urban design and planning in both the public and private sectors for nearly ten years.

**Biography**

Alex Krumdieck is the Director of Auburn University's "Urban Studio" facility, located in Birmingham, Alabama. Krumdieck holds undergraduate (Auburn) and graduate (Georgia Institute of Technology) degrees in architecture, and often served as an adjunct instructor for Auburn before assuming his current role. In addition, he began a private practice in 1993, and continues to act as principal of the Birmingham-based architecture and interior design firm Krumdieck A + I, which has earned numerous awards for its design work. Utilizing both his professional and educational experience, Krumdieck has partnered with colleagues, stakeholders, political leaders, developers, and others to develop an academic outreach

program that challenges students to explore the inherent opportunities found in an urban setting as a means of “making great places.”

### **Climate Change, Cities and the Green New Deal**

*Joanna Robinson, Professor of Sociology, Glendon College, York University Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

#### **Abstract:**

How can cities benefit from a Green New Deal to create resilience and strengthen social, economic and environmental outcomes? An effective Green New Deal (GND) must be bold, transformative and implemented at an unprecedented scale. While iterations of the GND have existed for years and have been gaining traction in the public policy arena, governments and policy makers have generally been slow to link job growth to climate change, particularly when it concerns economic justice in urban areas. Yet a justice-oriented GND offers a clear pathway forward that includes retraining for workers, jobs for underrepresented populations, investments in other sectors beyond renewable energy, such as care work, health care, education and housing – areas that are key to resilient cities. This pathway is especially important for climate change mitigation in urban areas and for building community resilience and strengthening inclusion and equity across neighbourhoods. Using the Canadian context of COVID-19 economic recovery, the paper examines the possibilities of a combined GND/COVID-19 recovery plan for cities that prioritizes economic and climate justice by focusing on creating decent, well-paying jobs in low-or-zero carbon sectors of the economy. I offer a 5-point plan for a just and inclusive urban GND that uses the COVID-19 pandemic recovery as a catalyst to unite the concerns of climate activists with social and economic justice activists. The plan includes investing in retraining workers, expanding the care economy and investing in social services and affordable green housing, and working in partnership with social movements and community organizations to ensure more sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities."

### **Exploring the role of Malta's Planning Initiatives in Promoting Walkable and Healthy Neighbourhoods**

*Sarah Scheiber, Lecturer and Researcher, University of Malta, Msida, Malta*

*Wendy Jo Mifsud, Lecturer, University of Malta, Msida, Malta*

#### **Abstract:**

The COVID-19 pandemic left devastating impacts on health, both physical and psychological, and on the places we inhabit. Yet, a positive outcome was that mobility habits changed due to lockdowns, resulting in reduced air pollution on a national scale. This pattern was noticed in several cities globally, with initiatives being planned to extend into the post-pandemic world. In addition, Malta's largely obese population started recognising the need for recreational spaces close to home that support more sustainable lifestyles. Such a transformation would have to be led by a change from obesogenic environments to Healthy Cities. Locally, in June 2020, the Maltese Local Councils Association collaborated with several government entities to set up a 'Slow Streets Action Plan'. This is designed to temporarily pedestrianize selected streets in 42 out of the 68 Local Councils. Firstly, the research aims to explore the potential role of this Action Plan in promoting walkable and healthy

neighbourhoods in Malta as part of a post-pandemic recovery. Secondly, this research shall analyse an initiative that the Maltese Planning Authority has been working on since September 2019. Entitled 'Healthy Cities', a mapping platform has been developed through the project that can gather data from people who use Malta's waterfronts to follow active lifestyles. The combination of the data from these two initiatives, gathered through participatory means at a national and local level, shall provide insights into the drivers which could achieve success. This success is identified by capacity building within the wider community, and increased awareness of factors which characterise Healthy Cities. Through this research, the lessons learned from COVID-19 will be identified and the findings could serve to understand the potential for the pandemic to drive change in terms of facilitating active mobility and engaging in more walkable and healthy cities.

Authors:

Sarah Scheiber (sarah.anastasi@um.edu.mt)

Department of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta

Wendy-Jo Mifsud (wendy-jo.mifsud@um.edu.mt)

Department of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta

Thérèse Bajada (therese.bajada@um.edu.mt)

Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, University of Malta



### **Biography**

Dr Sarah Scheiber is specialised in urban design and spatial planning and is a lecturer within the Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta. Her PhD focused on the planning and design of urban open spaces in Malta. The research looks at the potential for urban open spaces in Malta to contribute to sustainable development. In particular, it develops proposals for moving towards the adoption of an 'Urban Green Infrastructure Planning Approach'. Prior to lecturing, Sarah spent several years working as an urban designer in both private and public spheres in The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Malta. Sarah is also co-founder of the platform 'Dawra Madwarna: Connecting People,

Connecting Places', an organisation set up to create a network of interdisciplinary individuals working voluntarily to contribute to the transformation of public spaces within Malta's urban areas for a more sustainable future.

### **Canopy Freeriding: How Tree Costs and Risks Burden a Low-income Community**

*Douglas Shoemaker, Director of Research and Outreach, CAGIS at UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC USA*

#### **Abstract**

Urban tree canopy has been shown to generate multiple public benefits ranging from wellbeing, to a de facto climate adaptation plan in the absence of intentionality. However, recent studies have revealed inequities in how urban canopy is distributed, and report low-income census blocks in many US cities have significantly less urban tree cover than high-income blocks, even when controlling for density.

It is unclear as to what is driving lower canopy coverage in these residential areas. Despite strong correlations between discriminatory housing practices and canopy, no mechanistic understanding has yet emerged to describe likely socio-ecological or socio-economic feedbacks eroding the relative abundance of trees in effected neighborhoods.

We investigated these questions in Revolution Park, an overburdened neighborhood of Charlotte (NC) notable for mature tree canopy associated with its older housing stock, and for a lack of uptake on programs designed to restore canopy. Using both a social survey of residents, and a granular, parcel-based tree inventory, we tested for the presence of cultural values and economic barriers hypothesized to sustain canopy loss.

Our survey found that residents valued the services and amenities provided by trees, but also expressed concerns over their ability to afford maintenance-associated arborist fees, as well as the physical hazard of falling branches. These concerns were supported by the inventory that found 30% of all trees required removal or pruning to reduce hazards. The cost to address high-priority work represented 10% of annual income for an average household in Revolution Park.

In contrast, the same urban canopy generated an estimated \$9.75 million in ecosystem services enjoyed City-wide annually. We conclude that while tree canopy generated public goods enjoyed by many, the risks and cost have been born privately, and often disproportionately. This mechanistic understanding could help explain patterns of canopy inequity and resistance to tree planting programming.

**Biography:**

Dr. Douglas A. Shoemaker is a Geospatial Analyst investigating urbanization and the evolution of socio-ecological systems. Co-originator of the FUTURES urbanization model, Shoemaker uses an ecosystem services lens to explore and quantify linkages between human and environmental systems, providing analyses of pressing global resource and sustainability concerns. His background in ecology, geospatial analysis and time-space modeling bridges social and natural science approaches, and enables him to conduct a wide range of interdisciplinary and collaborative study.

**Case Study/Report from the Trenches: A Los Angeles Suburb becoming a 15-minute City**  
*Thomas Small, CEO, Culver City Forward, Culver City, California, USA***Abstract:**

As an urban design/architectural consultant and the Mayor of Culver City, I was often quoted in a seemingly outlandish claim: “Culver City is where the cities of the world will come to see their future. That future is incredibly bright, but also enormously challenging.”

A small city of 40,000, Culver City is a vibrant oasis at the heart of the LA metropolis, near the ocean at the crossroads of major transportation arteries south of Beverly Hills and west of downtown Los Angeles. Historically, this location attracted the preeminent film studios, including MGM and Columbia Pictures. Today, Culver is home to the world’s major media and high-tech giants, including the headquarters of Apple TV+, Amazon Studios, Sony Pictures, HBO, and Tick Tock. This small city also hosts powerhouse media boutiques, well-funded tech startups, and more great architects and designers per capita than anywhere in the world.

I was elected to City Council in 2016, as Mayor in 2018 and planned and oversaw major changes that are just beginning to take full effect now. These projects include the new General Plan and the transformation of our major central boulevard into a Complete Street (with a micro-transit shuttle, and bike lanes and transit/emergency lanes replacing two lanes of traffic), as well as major private commercial developments including Amazon Studios and the Apple TV+ campus in our Transit Oriented District, adjacent to our new light rail station. Retired from public office, I now run Culver City Forward, a public/private non-profit partnership between our city community and major businesses. Emerging from the pandemic in the teeth of a severe housing, mobility, and homelessness crisis, we are transforming a

former first-ring suburb of Los Angeles into a walkable, multi-modal 15-minute city, with residences adjacent to good jobs, public transport, great public spaces, and extraordinary architecture.



**Biography:**

Thomas Aujero Small is the CEO of Culver City Forward, a non-profit public-private partnership that brings business, government, and the community together to inspire and pursue innovative urban solutions to the most crucial issues in our region. He was the 2018 Mayor of Culver City and served on the City Council from 2016 to 2020. The short film [Culver City Forward Motion](#), part of his 2018 State of the City presentation, sets forth a vision for the future of Culver City. As Mayor, he co-hosted the 2018 Conference of the International Society for Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty with the RAND Corporation and has collaborated with RAND on research and policy projects. A long-time writer and consultant in architecture and urban planning, he serves on the Mobility Committee of the Urban Land Institute Los Angeles and chairs the LA METRO Sustainability Council. A graduate of Yale University, he held a French National Fellowship at the University of Paris, and an NEA Fellowship at Columbia University.

**Placemaking Under Bridges Through Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Examining the Aurora Bridge Project**

*Ellen Southard, Founder, Site Story LLC, Seattle, WA USA*

**Abstract:**

This session explores place making under bridges through green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) examining the Aurora Bridge project. Site Story led outreach and fund development for the first installation of 12 green stormwater infrastructure projects at 6 bridges to improve water quality and salmon habitat along the lake Washington Ship Canal. Contaminated stormwater from Seattle's Aurora Bridge and the other 5 bridges on the canal has been

discharged untreated for over 80 years, impacting migrating salmon and resident orcas that depend on those salmon as a primary food source. The project is the first in the country addressing polluted stormwater off public bridges to be treated on private land. The work has emphasized bio engineering solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales and other green stormwater infrastructure solutions (GSI). To date they have built 2 bioswales and studied others including now on the Duwamish River which is the largest superfund site in the country and its residents having a predicted lifespan 11 years less than other communities in Seattle. Since their start we have heard from multiple NGO's and public agencies including dike districts, tribes, conservation districts and NGO's that want help creating their own projects. Two of the priority water bodies would be the Skagit and Nooksack Rivers which are most critical for the endangered Chinook and Sockeye salmon that make up 92% of the Orca whale diet. Saving salmon on those 2 rivers is to save the orca from extinction. In addition to protecting marine species, eliminating polluted stormwater in Puget Sound helps mitigate ocean acidification. Given the cool temperatures of Puget Sound our acidification rate is more rapid. GSI is also an important strategy to the flooding problems in the region and serves as treatment "bowls" during peak storm events while also providing habitat and climate resiliency."



### **Biography:**

Ellen Southard has 29 years' experience in community planning and climate resiliency projects. Ellen founded Site Story as a firm dedicated to supporting projects that emphasize storytelling and place making. With a background in history and education she works closely with both public and private sector clients to lead community engagement and education for neighborhood planning, preservation, public policy, and sustainable community development. Her firm runs the Seattle 2030 District water programs linking site development and land management practices to climate change. She has vast experience working with frontline communities, including the Duwamish Waterway, the largest superfund site in the U.S. She is currently funded by the Boeing Company to create a shoreline resiliency plan for Seattle's Central Waterfront. She was an early adopter of green building and site certifications and a founding member of the International Living Future Institute. She was named the Institute's Living Hero in May of 2020. She is an Oxfam America Ambassador and a member of the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystems Coordination Board and their Diversity and

Inclusion Board. Ellen recently received a Graduate Certificate from Cornell University in Diversity and Social Inclusion.

### **Global Placemaking Networks**

**WORKSHOPS - (Salle Palladio – Level +2)**

**3C 2:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSION 3**

**4C 4:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSION 4**

#### **Abstract:**

Leaders from the global placemaking movement will share stories from around the world – and in their own backyards – on the struggles to make place central to social life in new developments, old town centers and the suburbs alike. But don't despair! We'll equally share great success from our work tracking how placemaking knowledge and strategies are iterating and evolving through an organic, globally-connected, feedback loop. Finally, we look forward to engaging with all participants around your placemaking challenges and achievements as we hope to connect you more globally, and potentially locally, with our networks' practitioners relevant to your area of work or interest.

#### **Placemaking Team Bios:**



#### **Biography:**

Madeleine Spencer, Initiator, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, PlacemakingUS, Santa Ana, California, USA

Madeleine Thérèse Spencer (she/her) is a leader in placemaking, arts, education, community engagement, economic pipeline development and downtown management. She is the

founder of Diamond Heart Enterprises, The Venus Foundation and Urban Alchemy. She is also the co-founder of the Boca de Oro Festival, a leader and advisor for an XQ Superschool - Circulos and on the executive board of Community Engagement. Since 2020 Spencer has been part of the Leadership Team of Placemaking US, a placemaking network where she is dedicated to modeling standards of diversity, equity & inclusion within the United States Placemaking Network.



**Biography:**

Ryan Smolar, Initiator, PlacemakingUS, Los Angeles, California, USA

Ryan (he/him) is the initiator of the PlacemakingUS network and he is an Emerging Leadership Fellow with the International Downtown Association. Smolar has the dual experience of working for community benefit with the "inside knowledge" of city processes and financial ingenuity from his longtime experience straddling the fence of many private-public partnerships. Smolar has helped chair multiple best-practice industry reports around creating community assets and building local economies with the International Downtown Association including: "Nighttime Economy: A Guidebook for Emerging, Growing and Established Nighttime Districts," "A Practical Guide to Great Urban Parks: How to Benefit from and Finance your Urban Park," and "Municipal Partnerships: A Toolkit for Municipal & Urban Place Management Organization Relationships." Personally, Smolar is most passionate about placemaking with ecological awareness and local food and he prioritizes work that repairs his country's legacy of exclusion for BIPOC and other marginalized communities. Smolar's highest goal is to share information and connect the placemaker in all of us to make good on his favorite Jane Jacobs quote: "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."



**Biography:**

Ethan Kent, Executive Director, PlacemakingX, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Ethan works to support public space organizations, projects, and leadership around the world to build a global placemaking movement. Ethan has traveled to more than 1000 cities and 60 countries to advance the cause of leading urban development with inclusive public spaces and placemaking. In 2019 he co-founded PlacemakingX to network, amplify, and accelerate placemaking leadership and impact globally. He builds on more than 20 years of working on placemaking projects and campaigns with Project for Public Spaces. Ethan has been integral to the development of placemaking as a transformative approach to economic development, environmentalism, transportation planning, governance, resilience, social equity, design, digital space, tourism and innovation.

Ethan has keynoted well over 100 of the top urbanism conferences and has helped organize dozens of the placemaking conferences that have most shaped the movement.

**Biography:**

Sherryl Muriente, Initiator, PlacemakingFL, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

Sherryl is the initiator of the PlacemakingFL network of creative placemakers. Her experience and reputation around the state is well-known thanks to her on-going role at the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Public Realm Director. She oversees the creation of public spaces to further enhance the quality of life for Downtown residents and visitors.

Before joining the DDA team she worked with Street Plans, the internationally known stewards of Tactical Urbanism, for which she managed large-scale temporary projects such as Biscayne Green in downtown Miami. Prior to Street Plans, she spent six years teaching urban design courses with experiential learning techniques at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Besides teaching at FAU, she managed an international exchange program, mentored students, researched and presented her work in urban acupuncture, community storytelling and the human layer of planning and design.

Muriente also served as the Creative Director of LeJobart, artist duet, in which she curated and managed large-scale public art projects. She has worked on an array of community engagement projects that use urban intervention techniques and processes for community-led interventions, alleyway restorations, and parklet studies, such as C'est la Via, Sistrunk's Story Share, the Megaphone, and the Street Balcony Pilot Project.

As part of her grant work, Sherryl was appointed to manage the first Office of Public Life in the U.S., as an urban lab, with Gehl Studio in the City of West Palm Beach. Her work in Ardena, Italy has been featured as part of a biourbanism documentary, ReGeneration City. An advocate for common sense urbanism, incremental urban planning, and testing of demonstrations and pilot studies, Muriente brings an expertise in getting the community engaged in activating place through action.

She was also an elected councilor for the National Strategic Council of the American Institute of Architects from 2015-2018. Muriente received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelor of Architecture from Florida Atlantic University, and is fluent in Spanish and French.



**Biography:**

Erica Dorn, Founder, Suburb Futures, Portland, Oregon, USA

Erica is a doctoral researcher in Transition Design at Carnegie Mellon University and an Alfred Landecker Democracy Fellow. She is the Founder and Lead Researcher of Suburb Futures - a social design institute that works relationally on policy design and new narrative building to bring about more equitable and living futures in US Suburbs.

In 2015, she co-founded and served as Managing Director of etsy.org, now known as the Good Work Institute. She's held leadership roles in US Microfinance and social impact investing, as a professor at City University of New York, and led team-based community development consulting projects around the world through her social design practice. Her relational work seeks to build pathways towards living places where the human and more-than-human world can belong, co-exist, and thrive.

She is on the Board of Directors for Third Millennium Alliance, a rainforest conservation organization in Ecuador, and a co-creator of the Spanish bi-lingual podcast, Design in Transition/Diseño en Transición, a podcast about plural notions of world-making towards just futures.

## **Reframing Successful Public Space Through Forming the Edges of Livable Vibrant and Healthy Urban Corridors**

*Felia Srinaga, Lecturer, University of Pelita Harapan, Karawaci-Tangerang, Indonesia*

### **Abstract:**

In the past two years, the pandemic has affected all aspects in our life. It flipped the usual order of our everyday life, including our activities in the public space. The most interesting is the well-tempered building like malls becomes undesirable and restricted. Human activities are more directed to open public spaces or relations with the outdoors environment as an alternative to address the need for healthy public spaces.

Our city is intertwined between buildings and public spaces, the disconnection between them lead to a non-harmonious image of the city. This post-pandemic calling for a creative mind to rethink the figure as parts of the city that can fill and interweave between public spaces and their buildings. The unity of this relation will form a figure and ground of the city that is healthy, livable, aesthetic, and also liked by the city community as a vibrant place. The common problems are the arrangement of roads, urban spaces and buildings that are not well established and the function of buildings that do not support the needs of the urban community.

Those problems are also clearly visible in one of the important urban space corridors in the Cikini area, along the Ciliwung River in Jakarta, Indonesia. This area is known as a cultural area with several historically and meaningful heritage buildings. The area is also considered as a lively social, recreational, and commercial area. The purpose of this study is to obtain several design criteria and provide design recommendations to account for the current post-pandemic possibilities. The edges of Cikini corridor plays an enormous role to achieve a livable, vibrant, and healthy public space corridor.

*Keywords: the edges of urban corridor, livable, vibrant, healthy*

*Felia Srinaga1\*); Jacky Theodore 2)*

*1 and 2) Department of Architecture, School of Design, University of Pelita Harapan-Indonesia*

*1)\* Corresponding author; email: ff\_srinaga@yahoo.com; felia.srinaga@uph.edu*

*2) email: [jacky.thiodore@uph.edu](mailto:jacky.thiodore@uph.edu)*

**Biography:**

Felia Srinaga is a full time Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture, School of Design, University of Pelita Harapan, Tangerang-Indonesia. Currently Felia also serves as a scientific committee of Center of Research and Community Development, (CRCD-UPH), and active in Forum of Indonesia-Korea Cultural Study. Her study background is Bachelor in Architecture Engineering from Tarumanagara university, Jakarta-Indonesia, Master in Architecture-Urban Design from University of Colorado at Denver, USA and Doctoral degree in Environmental Psychology from University of Indonesia. Felia's research interests in Urban Public Spaces and Places, Human Behavior Study, Sustainable Urban Architecture, Everydayness of Urban Architecture and Social and Environmental Psychology.

**The Edge: Architecture as Background, Proscenium, Object and Panopticon**

*Christine Storry, Architect, Utopia Architects, Leura, NSW AU*

**Abstract:**

In architecture the focus is often on building as object, yet in urban design architecture contributes much more than merely a singular building viewed and experienced in isolation. Most buildings that exist within an urban context exhibit more complex stenographic and experiential qualities that are worthy of our consideration. A focus on the nature of edge, assists us in exploring what some of these important phenomenological relationships might be. The visual examples I am using here, as Americans, may be familiar to you. They are from the State of Hawaii. The four primary urban relationships relevant to architecture I am going to describe are architecture as background, proscenium, object and panopticon. As already mentioned most of us are probably familiar with building as object. Again, taking an American example, the White House, iconic home of the President in Washington is a classic example. However, although most of us most of the time, experience architecture as background, we rarely give much thought to the importance of this phenomenon. When you are outside in a city - for the majority of the time - architecture exists as background to your urban activities. However, in its purist form, background can best be appreciated in the coastal strip, as shown at Waikiki Beach. Perhaps the least understood urban phenomenon, the architecture of the edge encompasses, is the proscenium. The edge of architecture in its static form is the place that the surrounding urban environment is viewed from and where glimpses of the buildings' interior life are available from the street. Simultaneously, in its dynamic form, the proscenium, is traversed, allowing movement from interior to exterior and vice versa. And

an even more interesting aspect of the proscenium is when the edge itself is occupied, as in the verandah, the balcony and the ledge, where the line between inside and out is somewhat blurred. Finally, there is architecture as panopticon. In this edge condition, the person is in a relationship of interiority to a building or urban space. That is, the edge, surrounds them as a vista of edges, as in a courtyard - typically found within a university - as it is at the University of Hawaii; a piazza, a park or an atrium. So let us begin our exploration of the edge.

### **Co-Live, Co-Work, Co-Play: The Healthy City**

*Maria Syed, Designer, Independent, New York, NY, USA*

#### **Abstract:**

The world and life as we knew it has changed drastically due to the recent pandemic. During this presentation we will embark on a journey through a visually compelling story board in order to understand key components and how they work together creating holistically 'Co-Live.Co-Work.Co-Play'.

The storyboard starts at the macro scale, showing the big picture as a whole creating an umbrella concept. This would clarify for anyone new to the concept, the idea behind it and how the theory of Co:'live-work-play' consists of multiple pieces to a puzzle which work together and create The healthy city.

Furthermore, we delve into the theoretical elements that create the environment at the micro level. These would be the non physical aspects. Relative visuals to the theory of the holistic concept will be paired with explanations. Ideas of equity, mental/physical health and broader visions in relation to life after the pandemic will all be incorporated graphically.

Progressive visuals will tie in the macro and micro scales to the meso scale. This is the human scale. Establishing a human scale will create a realistic vision of The healthy city in lieu of recent events. Throughout the presentation, the audience will see graphic glimpses of physical tid bits that work together as a machine towards one goal - The Healthy City.

This presentation relates to the 15 minute Cities theme and touches the concepts of Urban interventions, tactical urbanism, and life after COVID.

**Biography:**

Maria Syed, AIA Associate. LEED GA.

1 West St, Apt 3508, New York, NY 10004

Bachelors in Architecture and Masters in Urban Planning.

Freelance Designer, writer and content creator.

Editor, author and creator of Articles and papers, which have been published and presented.

Winner of International Fairytales design competition.

**Designing the Invisible: Sensorial Dimensions of Public Spaces**

*Rennie Tang, Associate Professor, California Polytechnic University Pomona, Pomona, California, USA*

**Abstract:**

Architecture and urban design are spatial disciplines that generally work with elements that are tangible and visible, forming design ideas communicated through images and drawings. The width of sidewalks, the height of buildings, the materials used for urban surfaces, the planting of trees etc. are elements that have critical impacts on the well-being and social life of public space. However, equally important are the sensorial dimensions of public space, such as sounds, smells, movements and other embodied qualities, that are invisible and therefore easily overlooked. As architect Juhani Pallasmaa asserts "Every touching experience of architecture is multi-sensory; qualities of space, matter and scale are measured equally by the eye, ear, nose, skin, tongue, skeleton and muscle." Part of the challenge is that many of these sensorial dimensions are difficult to communicate using the conventional tools of architecture. Collaborating with disciplines that specialize in embodied practices can open doors to new ways of thinking about spatial practice. This research focuses on the dramatic shift in the spatiality of sound and movement in the city of Paris during the early part of pandemic. Based on my personal experience living in Paris during this time, I had the

opportunity to witness not only a city under confinement but also a city devoid of commodified and touristic life that is so prevalent during normal times. This quiet time in Paris had a profound effect on public space, opening up a world of awakened sensory experiences. Sounds and movements, such as urban wildlife or human bodily expressions, that previously seemed invisible became acutely present. Using interdisciplinary tools, sound and movement in the city was documented and analyzed as a basis for speculating on how the sensorial dimensions of public spaces can be more fully embraced by designers as we move towards the post-pandemic era.



**Biography:**

Rennie Tang is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at California State Polytechnic State University Pomona where she coordinates and teaches the Design Foundations curriculum. Her research interests include kinesthetic processes, sensory-driven design and intergenerational landscapes. Projects are often fueled by transdisciplinary collaborations with visual artists, choreographers, sound artists and healthcare researchers. Her work draws from her background in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and dance. She holds a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in architecture from McGill University.

**Creative Class Theory Revisited**

*Craig Thomas, Director, Planning & Development, City of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada*

**Abstract:**

"Wider social, cultural, and geographical acceptance of creative class theory has inspired city officials to make cities appeal to creative workers. Creative class literature assumes that creative workers develop similar conceptions of place regardless of geographic location, local context, or how individuals identify with and develop attachment to place, and a comprehensive analysis of the ways people experience space in relation to creative class theory is lacking. Using a phenomenographic research approach, and a framework grounded

in theories of place, I studied the conceptions of place among twenty-eight creative workers in Edmonton, Canada, based on the fundamental notion that attracting such people will benefit the local economy. Through a series of cultural probe exercises designed to provoke creative and emotional responses, followed by in-depth interviews, I revealed that, contrary to the literature, participants described strong attachment to place, a sense of belonging, and a commitment and responsibility to the city. Participants were found to possess both strong and weak ties to social capital; however, place is not a means to maintain weak ties to several social circles.

*Themes Addressed: Place, Architecture, Public Space, Strategies and Tools for an evolving and place-based urban agenda.*

*Qualifications: Doctor of Social Science, Planner, Urbanist, Social Scientist, 30 years experience.*

*Relevance to Specific Topics: The Architecture of Great Places; Tools and Strategies; Implementing a New Urban Agenda..."*



**Biography:**

Dr. Craig Thomas, Urbanist, Social Scientist, Planner, Educator

Craig has over 25 years of experience in municipal planning and is currently the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Fort Saskatchewan Canada within the Edmonton metropolitan region. As a side hustle, he developed and taught an urban design course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). He currently sits on two academic advisory boards and teaches research and environment courses (NAIT) as well as a Land Use and Subdivision Design course (University of Alberta). Craig recently completed his Doctor of Social Sciences at Royal Roads University where he successfully defended his dissertation, *Creative Workers in Place: A Phenomenography of Creative Workers' Perception of Place*.

**M\_NEX Detroit: Engaging Circular Systems, the Food Energy Water Nexus and Urban Accessibility**

*Geoffrey Thiin, Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA*

**Abstract:**

This paper will present a research and design framework that evaluates the Food Energy Water (FEW) Nexus across scales from Region (Great Lakes Megaregion), to State (Michigan), to the City of Detroit to illuminate issues of equity and access across FEW domains while aiming to leverage circular systems towards more just and sustainable urban futures. Working with existing stakeholders across four urban development sites in Detroit, the project illustrates strategies to enhance circular systems, reduce waste flows and evaluates proposals based on CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita in the resulting schema. Models include: Oakland Avenue Urban Farm, a 6-acre urban farm and cultural incubation space surrounded by medium and low density housing prototypes; Eastern Market, an intensive 'food innovation hub' coupling high density housing with mixed use food and market related programs; Recovery Park, an industrial scaled urban farming campus providing housing for urban agricultural workers in recovery and mediating agricultural functions with green-blue public space models; and Riverbend, a super-block scaled collective farming cooperative that produces new formats of public interface at its perimeter. Quantification of systemic impacts is presented alongside visualizations of resulting building and public space typologies, engineering components, and new formats of public space that surface and center FEW circular systems as a means towards more sustainable and livable models of urbanism. Lessons from the Detroit experience offer portable strategies for post-industrial cities and urban centers where issues of equity and access to food systems are pressurized. Work to be presented has been supported by The Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative (SUGI)/Food-Water-Energy Nexus jointly established by the Belmont Forum and Urban Europe funded by the US NSF.



**Biography:**

Geoffrey Thün is Professor of Architecture at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and Associate Vice President for Research: Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts at the University of Michigan. He is a founding partner in the research-based practice RVTR. Thün's work ranges in scale from that of the regional territory and the city, to responsive

envelopes that mediate energy, atmosphere, and social space. These operational scales are tied together through a methodology that entails a complex systems approach to design questions. His work has been awarded, published and exhibited widely. RVTR's Infra Eco Logi Urbanism: A Project for the Great Lakes Region, examining the future of energy, mobility and urbanization traveled as a solo exhibition to Montreal, Toronto, New Haven, Detroit and Knoxville between 2013 and 2015, and was published as a monograph by Park Books, Zurich in 2015. ([www.rvtr.com](http://www.rvtr.com))

## **Bangkok New Urban Agenda Through Urban Living Lab Model: Case Studies of Urban Studies Lab**

*Chamnarn Tirapas, Assistant Director, Urban Studies Lab, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand*

### **Abstract:**

In Thailand, the urban population reached 51.34% in 2020 (O'Neill, 2021). Like other megacities, the capital, Bangkok, faces immense urban and global challenges – aging society, climate change impacts, PM2.5 pollution, urban mobility, urban inequality, etc. – and government cannot overcome these challenges alone. Most efforts to implement urban change in Bangkok come in the form of top-down policies or private-driven projects, and many are inefficient, lack adequate data, and fail to engage local communities. Moreover, academic research in the field of architecture and related fields often goes unnoticed by decision-makers, leading to a large gap between good urban policies and practical implementations for Bangkok's urban development. One solution to this problem is the urban living lab concept, a model that aims to include academic experts, government agents, and private enterprises to work directly with urban communities to achieve more sustainable and equitable urban development. This paper introduces the urban living lab (ULL) model actively applied by Urban Studies Lab (USL), a team of diverse academic experts and professionals based in Bangkok, Thailand. The model places local communities as equal partners in the planning, design and transformation of their city, and strategically convenes a broad range of actors to test new methods of neighborhood-scale urban development. This focus on co-creation aims to expand the organizational capacity of the city, sharing the responsibility that falls on government, and make direct impact by changing urban policy, enhancing community power, applying practical and theoretical knowledge, and actively employing a bottom-up approach. By exploring example projects that have resulted from the ULL approach, including placemaking interventions, a social innovation hackathon, and an ongoing COVID-19 relief effort, the authors will demonstrate and evaluate the urban living lab concept as a new tool and mechanism for Bangkok and other cities to achieve the new urban agenda.

- Dr. Chamnarn Tirapas, School of Architecture and Design, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
  - Mr. David Fiske, Assistant Director, Urban Studies Lab
  - Ms. Pin Udomcharoenchaikit, Faculty of Architecture, Chalalongkorn University
- Assist. Prof. Kisanapol Wattanwanyoo, School of Architecture and Design, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi

**Biography:**

Chamnarn Tirapas is a full-time lecturer in the Architecture Program at the School of Architecture and Design (SoA+D). He is also the head of the Architecture track in the Graduate Program in Design and Planning, SoA+D. Tirapas is also a co-founder of the Urban Studies Lab (USL), Bangkok. His works and projects with USL cover a wide range of community projects, urban and architectural research, urban development policies, housing designs and policies, placemaking, and research consulting. Most of the works cooperate with various parties; government agencies, private firms, communities, and academia. The approach of USL is to facilitate and cooperate with all the entities to raise the quality of the citizens by increasing and improving urban living conditions.

**Greening Charlotte, NC: Trees as a Litmus Test and Non-Fungible Resource for Urban Heat Island**

*Veronica Westendorff, Graduate Student, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA*

**Abstract:**

Climate change is challenging cities to confront growing concerns like urban heat island, the retention and slow release overnight of heat that is absorbed during the day by dark and impervious surfaces. The continued increase of urbanization over the past 50 years brings with it added surfaces and exacerbates the urban heat island effect through the loss of tree canopy, which has been shown to mitigate the effects. The smart principles managing urban growth, such as encouraging infill and alleviating sprawl, often result in tree canopy loss which increases UHI. Current policies allow mitigation of trees off-site, but does this practice have non-fungible effects on new and infilled urban development? The spacing, canopy coverage, and effects of mitigation of trees when development occurs have not been well documented. Like other growing cities, Charlotte, NC allows developers to mitigate the loss of tree canopy coverage off-site. While this method has shown some success for air quality and water quality, the results are not the same for UHI.

This paper uses Charlotte, NC as a case study to evaluate current land-use policies, as well as the proposed Charlotte 2040 Plan. Changes in land surface temperature over time in high-growth neighborhoods are retrieved through LANDSAT8 data at the census tract level in neighborhood types defined in the 2040 Plan. Tree coverage as a percent of land area and surface temperature from multiple points within each tract are compared from 2015-2019, years of increasing growth in the city, pre-pandemic. Results of this study evaluate different tree locations and spatial forms based on surface temperature in each neighborhood type and can be used to improve the design of urban neighborhoods and improve the impacts of climate change.

**What.We.Share: Catchment Neighbourhoods – a concept for climate adapting urban areas with a departure in waterscapes and multiple benefits**

*Katrina Wiberg, Cand. Arch., Phd, MDL, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark*

*Keywords:*

*Climate adaptation, water, catchments, liveability, resilience, design with nature, multiple benefits, urban transformation, landscape architecture*

**Abstract:**

With Climate change, increasing urbanisation, scarcity in resources, and the rapid decline in biodiversity, we share a need for mitigation and adaptation. Waterscapes are changing too, creating drought and flood. However, contemporary planning, settlement patterns and material practices further tend to increase flood risk and urban heat islands in cities. For example, the amount of impervious surfaces, urban development on low-lying grounds, and zoning detached from geomorphological and hydrological characteristics such as water flow, terrain and former wetlands.

This paper suggests that we share a call for a paradigm shift in contemporary planning and urban development practices towards holistic planning inclusive of natural and human processes to work towards resilient and livable cities.

On Earth, all areas share that they are inscribed in catchment areas with sub-catchments. Also, all cities share that they undergo a constant transformation and retrofitting. Herein lies an underutilised potential for transforming cities step-by-step by connecting existing planning and urban development efforts with design with nature methodologies: to connect the built city with its natural topography, geomorphology and waterscapes at a catchment level.

This is investigated in two Danish case studies via the concept of Catchment Neighbourhood with the objective of addressing climate adaptation while embedding multiple benefits such as more biodiversity, avoiding UHI, walkability, clean water, social coherence and equity, as well as beauty and atmosphere. The concept of Catchment Neighbourhoods draws on catchments as a physical and place-specific relationship and the neighbourhood as a place of importance and belonging. The aim of investigating the concept of Catchment Neighbourhood has been to develop applicable methods for a holistic water-strategic urban development based on retrofitting places and seeking resilience and livable cities with a departure in nature-based solutions. What we can share is the catchment as a neighbourhood as a driver for resilient and livable cities.

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### **Biography:**

Katrina Wiberg is an Associate Professor in landscape architecture at the Aarhus School of Architecture (AAA). Katrina has a solid background in architectural practice and is now teaching and doing research at the AAA. Katrina is working with transformative design research in transdisciplinary contexts within the field of green transition in the context of waterscapes and climate adaptation in urban landscapes, focusing on multiple benefits such

as biodiversity, social coherence and equity, safe spaces, beautiful spaces and atmosphere. Katrina's current research projects are on SLR and adapting urban landscapes to changing waterscapes, focusing on transformative strategies with long-term perspectives.

**A Downtown Reimagined: Visions and Strategies to Restore the Historic Squares, Districts, and Public Spaces of Downtown Santa Rosa, California**

*David Woltering, Community Planning Consultant, Woltering Community Planning, LLC, Santa Rosa, California, USA*

*Co-Author/Presenter:*

*Rick Phillips, Urban Planning and Design Consultant, rp/PLACE/, San Jose, California, rick.phillips.ra@gmail.com*

**Abstract:**

The City of Santa Rosa, 55 miles north of San Francisco, is the governmental seat of the County of Sonoma and the northern gateway to the Sonoma Valley, an internationally-renowned wine producing region. Supporting a population of approximately 180,000, Santa Rosa enjoys a rich mix of natural and urban amenities, including a traditional downtown, distinctive historic neighborhoods, nearby mountains and streams, trails and greenways, and 700 acres of public parkland.

However, at Santa Rosa's center is an "elephant in the room", a great wall separating Downtown's two key districts, Railroad Square and Courthouse Square. Imposed since the early 1980s, this barrier is the cumulative impact of a wide elevated freeway and the aging Santa Rosa Plaza Mall, an adjacent linear shopping center stretched-out over six city blocks, extending up several floors with significant at-grade and decked parking. This barrier disrupts social connections, functional circulation, and commerce, capping the potential for greater vibrancy, sense of place, and community pride and identity.

Reconnecting Downtown is the topic of this paper and presentation. Building on IMCL's principles of True Urbanism, the authors will apply an innovative mix of urban planning and design, landscape and architectural expression, development strategies, and supporting policies and regulations. The target is a Downtown grounded in walkability, richly-mixed land uses, enhanced public transit, protected historic and natural resources, and abundant connections to nature, fueling the flourishing health and well-being of residents and visitors alike.

Santa Rosa's elephant is not unique! The ideas and lessons in this paper and presentation will be of benefit to all cities beset by seemingly intractable physical barriers that block the fulfillment of urban visions and possibilities.



**Biography:**

David Woltering is a City and Regional Planner. He has over 30 years of experience in Community Planning for various municipalities in northern California, U.S.A. He has been the Planning Director or the Community Development Director for the Town of Windsor, the City of Cotati, the City of Clayton, the City of San Bruno, the City of Healdsburg (Interim), and the Town of Ross (Interim). Since October of 2018, David has been a Community Planning Consultant to local governments in the areas of management, housing development, economic development, community development, and active transport. David may be contacted at [WolteringCommunityPlanning@gmail.com](mailto:WolteringCommunityPlanning@gmail.com)



**Biography:**

Rick Phillips, an award-winning urban designer and planner, is the director of rp/PLACE/, a visioning studio focused on public space, multimodal transportation, urban development strategies, and signature active transportation projects.

Prior to founding rp/PLACE/, Rick served as Northern California Urban Design Director for the HNTB Corporation, with major clients including BART, Caltrain, and the California High

Speed Rail Authority. Major projects included San Francisco's iconic "Presidio Parkway", Caltrain's multiple award-winning "San Bruno Station", and two just-opened iconic pedestrian/bicycle bridges for the Bay Area cities of Emeryville and Fremont.

In 2016, Rick authored the introductory essay on Transportation to the ground-breaking book *Planning Sustainable Cities, an Infrastructure-based Approach*, published by Harvard University's Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure.

Rick is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), a Registered Architect in Arizona, and a member of the Board of Stewards of International Making Cities Livable.

Contact Rick at [rick.phillips.ra@rp-place.com](mailto:rick.phillips.ra@rp-place.com).

### **The Humble Sidewalk: Essential Urban Investment for Inclusion, Equality and Accessibility**

*Steve Wright, Writer-Planner, Miami, Florida, USA*

#### **Abstract:**

This presentation will focus on the value of the sidewalk as a tool for mobility, economic development and connectivity for all. It relates directly to conference topic: The Structure of Public Spaces, and the Importance of Social and Spatial Networks -- Walkable, Multi-Modal 15-minute Neighborhoods.

The 15-minute-city relies on sidewalk to connect people to jobs, health care, parks, education and daily needs. But many of Europe's most-beloved walkable cities have sidewalks that are too narrow and lacking curb ramps – for wheelchair users and other people with disabilities (PWDS.) In the U.S., sidewalks in pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods have been reduced by road-widening projects -- making them unsafe for children, the elderly and PWDs.

Steve Wright -- a Pulitzer-nominated, award-winning urban storyteller/activist with 35+ years of experience in mobility, universal design and planning – will play the role of Sidewalk Evangelist. He will show that the sidewalk is the most efficient, egalitarian and productive civic investment. Cities foolishly spend on dubious development schemes, when their best return on investment comes from expanding, maintaining and connecting sidewalks.

Disability is a normal part of life. WHO stats count more than 1 billion PWDs on earth and one in five experiencing some level of disability. Fixing sidewalks, pathways and connectivity is the best way to boost quality of life for PWDs.

Regulations must be enacted to protect sidewalks from abandoned dockless scooters creating impossible barriers on the sidewalk and its brethren curb ramp and cross walk. Policy must ensure that sidewalk funds are distributed to poor and marginalized neighborhoods – not simply CBDs, tourist and influential areas.

A city that loves its sidewalks serves 100 percent of its constituents.

Steve Wright, Founder of Steve Wright Storyteller, 2330 SW 13 Street Miami FL 33145"



**Biography:**

Steve Wright, Storyteller/Advocate/Educator/Planner

Wright has four decades of experience in urban design, planning, architecture, mobility, sustainability and universal design. He co-created a groundbreaking universal design course at the University of Miami School of Architecture, team taught with his wife of 33 years – ADA expert Heidi Johnson-Wright. Wright’s storytelling has advised dozens of clients on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility – with a focus on advocacy for people with disabilities. His award-winning reporting frequently appears in Planning magazine and he has presented at FLA APA. The Kent State graduate served as Urban Policy Advisor to the Miami City Commission Chairman.

**Reimagining Historic Places: Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings and Public Spaces**

*Karim Youssef, Assistant Professor, California Baptist University, Riverside, California, USA*

**Abstract:**

Propelled by a growing commitment to sustainability and creative place-making, heritage-led regeneration is transforming the urban fabric of Canadian cities and is creating a dynamic new civic identity. Heritage planning is a key component of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Approach guiding global and national efforts for inclusive and vibrant cities. We capitalize on the synergies of this approach and use it as a framework to reimagine the future of historic places in Canadian cities.

Our comparative research explores case studies from Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton to illustrate the diversity of architectural, social and cultural heritage. Historic places are an assemblage of heritage buildings and public spaces that have acquired new functions and continue to be a catalyst of community life and social interaction. We focus on innovative design to facilitate adaptive reuse in line with Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. The conservation activities (preservation, rehabilitation and restoration) are a sequence of actions progressing from understanding the historic place

through inventory, planning for its conservation, and intervention. Our methodology builds on case study analysis, experiential learning, key informant interviews and critical reflection on design thinking for social innovation.

The key findings of our research illustrate that the adaptive use of historic places creates a model for people-centered, livable, and mixed-use spaces. We argue that historic places that have survived the test of time offer important lessons for more equitable planning that reflects cultural diversity, preserves authentic architecture, and promotes community resilience. This perhaps builds a more global sense of place where the global constitutes the local."

Karim W.F. Youssef is author of *The Monadic Space of Suburban Canada* and is an assistant professor at the College of Architecture, Visual Arts and Design at California Baptist University. Karim specializes in environmental design with a PhD degree from the University of Calgary and a Master's degree from the University of Montreal. His research publications can be found at: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Karim-Youssef-7>



*Karim Youssef*

### **A Poverty Reduction Campaign in Toronto, Canada: Identifying Challenges and Reforms to Enhance Livability**

*Dan Zuberi, Professor, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

#### **Abstract:**

Located west and northwest of Toronto, Canada, the Peel Region includes three cities: Mississauga, Brampton and the town of Caledon, with a total population of 1.5 million residents that is projected to increase by more than 40% over the next two decades. The majority of development in the region has been new single-family home suburban developments, perhaps at a somewhat higher density than in other parts of North America, but with many of the similar challenges such as traffic congestion on arterial roads and freeways, long commute times, and limited access to public transportation. Research evidence also reveals growing inequality and polarization in the Peel Region, including increasing numbers of low-income and very low-income census tracts. Precarious work and working poverty are major challenges as well as limited services and supports for newcomers and those experiencing poverty.

This paper focuses on a Poverty Reduction campaign led by the Peel Regional government, engaging leaders of non-profits, community service organizations, health providers, and education as well as people with lived experience of poverty. As a research partner, I am working with the initiative in order to strategize what kinds of data and research would be most effective to mobilizing reforms to reduce poverty and more effectively meet the needs of those experiencing poverty. There are some innovative proposals to address the challenges of sprawl in the Peel Region. For example, the city of Mississauga has bold plans for the development of revitalized downtown core including high density housing, a transit hub and green spaces. The paper will conclude with policy recommendations inspired by the New Urban Agenda, including regional development planning and inclusive zoning as well as increasing access to services and supports such as affordable high-quality child care and public transportation."