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On behalf of our members and partners at the New Cities Foundation, we are very pleased to bring you this e-book, which features videos and written summaries of sessions from the third edition of the New Cities Summit held in June 2014 in Dallas.

After successful Summits in Paris and São Paulo, we were delighted to bring this year’s global conversation on the future of our cities to one of the world’s most dynamic metro regions – Dallas.

Cities are increasingly dominant players in the global landscape. As cities and metropolitan regions compete and cooperate across borders, they must position themselves locally, nationally and globally. This is why our theme for this year was “Re-imagining Cities”. Re-imagining a city means expressing the dream that is at the heart of the city’s soul. It means telling a new story about a city that is often centuries old. From this dream comes a city’s vision; from the vision comes strategy; from strategy comes transformation.

Over 820 participants from more than 50 countries, 95 speakers and 70 members of the media took part in a fascinating set of sessions in the Winspear Opera House in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. The energy at the Summit and around Dallas that week was palpable and the feedback we have received from those who attended has been exceptionally positive.

Though this e-book cannot completely capture the many conversations that took place, both on and off-stage, during the Summit, we hope that you will find it a useful contribution to the essential discussion on the future of our cities.

Sincerely,

John Rossant
Founder & Chairman
New Cities Foundation
CLICK TO WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS FILM FROM THE NEW CITIES SUMMIT
Keynote: Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas

As the opening keynote speaker, Mayor Mike Rawlings made sure to extend what would become, for the Dallas event, a signature warm, oversized Texas-style welcome to the 800 attendees, coming from 51 countries.

Rawlings deftly made the link between the Dallas Summit’s theme, “Re-imagining Cities,” and the main site of the event – the Winspear Opera House, centerpiece of the AT&T Performing Arts Center – which had always been at the heart of the earliest plans for an arts district “re-imagining” of Dallas. “We can’t re-imagine our cities by simply reacting, or by coming up with cool ideas after a bottle of wine,” Rawlings exhorted the audience. “We must be more strategic.”

Rawlings took the assembled audience on a walk through Dallas’ history, from the late 1880s – when Dallas apparently first reimagined itself as a tourist destination heralded by the first State Fair of Texas – to the present day business capital of the Southwest, and still important technology hub. He also addressed the city’s biggest, most publicized setback – as the setting of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy – as well as achievements such as the completion of turn-key urban projects including the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in 1974, the DART light rail system in 1983 and the largest urban arts district in the United States.

Today’s Dallas is developing, according to Mayor Rawlings, a well-deserved reputation for nurturing not only its love of the arts, but also for eco-friendly green spaces. Examples include the spawning of three new downtown parks, and a recent embrace of the bicycle as a green mode of transport. Addressing the numerous challenges still very much on Dallas’ plate, namely tending to the homeless, tackling poverty, and improving educational standards, the mayor asserted this: “This city is still young, only 158 years old, and we’ve grown up a lot, especially in the last decade,” he said. “But we understand that of the major issues we continually face, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is still too wide. We must close that gap.”

“

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Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas

“
At first, Parag Khanna made certain the assembled audience fully understood the magnitude of the growth of cities throughout the world. Amid the battery of statistics offered to the audience, the most pertinent was the reminder that at the dawn of the 21st century, 50 per cent of the world’s population was firmly rooted in urban areas – a number that was expected to shoot up to 70 per cent by 2035. Khanna further asserted that by 2025, one sixth of the world’s richest cities will be in China. When addressing the meaty notion of urban development, Khanna introduced the mash-up term “diplomacity,” noting that “you don’t have to be a capital city to be a driver in diplomacy.” He then went on to describe the Pearl River Delta as a prime example of an urban corridor transcending various sovereign boundaries to form a multi-city megapolis.

The notion “diplomacity” is also strengthened by the fact that many heads of state were once city mayors. With reputations built by the fact that many heads of state were once city mayors. With reputations built on tangible, local achievements, including working with potentially unwieldy multi-ethnic societies, mayors vaulted themselves to the top as either national or diplomatic leaders, argued Khanna.

You don’t have to be a capital city to be a driver in diplomacy. Parag Khanna, Managing Partner, Hybrid Reality

In this opening session, the panelists did not shy away from squaring the dream of a re-imagined urban landscape with the “hard choices” of what that transformation would require.

Jaime Lerner vigorously urged his fellow panelists to understand the difference between “needs” and “dreams” for a city, emphasizing: “A city has no future if it lacks dreams.” He warned the panel about the pitfalls of ghettoization in future cities, according to income, age, and other possible divisions. To highlight this notion, he used the metaphor of a turtle, whose solid structure represents the city and its different parts living, working and moving together. If the shell is cut and fragmented, the turtle will die. This was a powerful way of emphasizing that ghettoization is the primary enemy of a thriving city.

Arturo Sarukhan made no bones about the pitfalls of ghettoization in future cities, according to income, age, and other possible divisions. To highlight this notion, he used the metaphor of a turtle, whose solid structure represents the city and its different parts living, working and moving together. If the shell is cut and fragmented, the turtle will die. This was a powerful way of emphasizing that ghettoization is the primary enemy of a thriving city.

Yet hope for cooperation was also countered by concerns regarding the increasing gulf between rich and poor seen in so many urban settings. “A certain level of urban growth has become inextricably linked with a level of inequality – meaning that something good and bad is happening at the same time,” pointed out Richard Sennett. “Growth, especially in a city, doesn’t necessarily imply wellbeing or an increase in the quality of life.” Sennett also addressed climate change and how cities should be flexible enough in their master planning to take into account the possibility of a catastrophic natural event, such as the tsunami of several years ago, in order to adjust how and where they build.

If anyone can attest to cities as occasionally being incubators of a highly visible inequality, it would be Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg. In no uncertain terms, he said that Johannesburg is historically beset with the problem of too much poverty, and for many, a lack of access to the most basic of urban amenities such as electricity or sanitation. Tau cautioned: “Access to technology doesn’t necessarily mean equitable access to all the amenities a city must provide.” Tau argued that for the 21st century city, it is most vital to integrate various urban communities by increasing the intensity of land use. For Tau, so much of the future boils down to increased access to all that a city provides.

“...a city has no future if it lacks dreams.” — Jaime Lerner

“...the primary enemy of a thriving city.” — Arturo Sarukhan

“Yet hope for cooperation was also countered by concerns regarding the increasing gulf between rich and poor seen in so many urban settings.” — Richard Sennett

“...in order to adjust how and where they build.” — Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau

“...it is most vital to integrate various urban communities by increasing the intensity of land use.” — Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau
The economic fate of the planet equals the fate of our cities.

*Geoffrey West, Distinguished Professor and Past President, Santa Fe Institute*
Dallas: A Case Study in Re-Imagination and Transformation: Rena Pederson (Moderator), Brent Brown, Dave Brown, Veletta Forsythe Lill, Ramon Miguez, Michael Tregoning
Technology and the Green City

How do we define green cities? Is a green city different from a smart city? What is the role of technology in the green city? What are some of the successes and failures in integrating technology in green cities?

Craig Donovan began by stating that a green city is both a sustainable and smart city. Emma Stewart suggested that the smart city construct is possibly counterproductive, certainly elusive. Smart cities can lead to two situations: either we spend too much money and find out that data states the obvious, or we invest too much time into actually getting data.

Charbel Aoun insisted on the importance of putting people at the center of the green city and of having greener communities surrounding green cities in order to incentivize improvement. Reacting to this, Shannon Bouton defined ‘smart cities’ as cities that use technology-driven solutions to solve problems. She noted that increasing the efficiency of a service is better than just expanding it, as seen with light cameras, which can improve traffic management instead of having to widen roads.

Emma Stewart again lauded the significance of collaboration between the city and of having greener communities. Shannon Bouton stressed the importance of having wide access to the same platforms: technology should not be owned, but leased. Charbel Aoun insisted on the importance of collaboration. Whereas companies used to sell fully integrated systems, it is now common to sell just a single service.

Craig Donovan suggested that the transition from ‘things’, such as Blackberry phones, to servers, such as the cloud, would be beneficial. He agreed with Bouton on the importance of a universal platform, but expressed concerns about the difficulties of making this transition right now.

Emma Stewart again lauded the significance and usefulness of the cloud. She argued that its strength lies in its ability to tap into vast amounts of simulation power, preventing the need to go through rote calculations. She closed the discussion by providing three simple steps to obtain integration: simulate what the different options are, calculate what the various design scenarios could be, and then legislate. She claimed that if we use technology to better tailor policies, we would reach a winning formula.

Next Generation Concepts On the Contemporary City: Wellness, Happiness and Purpose

Are wellbeing, happiness and purpose changing the way we live? Tim Leberecht, the panel’s moderator, opened the discussion by quoting Aristotle, who once said that people gather in cities first and foremost for security, then for economic opportunity, and then they stay for the good life. Is this rationale still true? Over 50% of the population is already under 30 and, by 2030, about 75% of the workforce is predicted to belong to the millennial generation.

Sonja Miokovic invited people to think about the distinction between ‘youth’ and ‘youthful’. The former word describes a demographic challenge, unemployment and many other dark realities. The latter denotes vibrancy, dynamism, energy and colors. Some of the best cities around the world possess youthful attributes, she said, and the millennials are the ones defining what those attributes are – diversity, public transportation, and the ability and access to use the city among others.

Despite having to face challenging economic conditions, the millennial generation is full of optimism. Millennials want something different and more meaningful: purpose. Aaron Hurst, author of a book called ‘The Purpose Economy’, boldly proclaimed that we are at the dawn of “a new age of purpose”. Purpose, according to Hurst, boils down to: 1) a need for relationships, 2) a need to do something greater than yourself, and 3) a need for personal growth. As he stated, the millennial generation is helping make purpose central to our society.

Sarah Murray, an avid observer of these optimistic stories, invited the panelists to consider the other side of the coin. She drew attention to the large amount of the population that has been jobless for a long time and that does not have access to technologies. Is the age of optimism the same one that gave birth to the London riots in 2011? Is ‘purpose’ part of this trend? Does this behavior not stem from something else, a desire for engagement, for example?

Developing this thought, Ahmed Riaz explained that the reason that people are interested in purpose is because it is related to the act of creativity, which in turn leads to a feeling of hope, and an ability to control external factors. In that sense, purpose is the momentum, the thing that drives people. Even at the bottom of the pyramid, creativity, design and hacking play a significant role and propel a society forward.

The drive towards the purpose model is underlined by certain key principles, such as empathy and creativity. However, as the panelists and audience discussed, today education system is not designed to nurture empathy among students. On the contrary, they argued, schools tend to isolate youths from the community.

Questions from the audience prompted the panelists to further discuss issues related to technology and citizenship, as well as creativity and sharing as a measure of a city’s success.
This session discussed the emergence of the sharing economy and its relationship to urban environments. The speakers examined how a growing number of technological platforms, geared at sharing resources efficiently, may offer cities both economic and social benefits. Panelists also explored the future growth of the sharing model, including both new opportunities and potential challenges for cities.

Molly Turner argued that cities are the original sharing platforms, collectively organizing resources and infrastructure in an effective manner. New technologies, she argued, are compelling people to re-learn what it means to live in a city. According to Turner, cities can reap a variety of benefits if they embrace new models of sharing. Online sharing platforms empower citizens economically, by giving individuals a direct stake in the management of goods and services. Environmentally speaking, sharing leads to more efficient use of existing resources, thereby reducing the levels of production and waste. Finally and possibly most significantly, sharing builds new relationships among a city’s inhabitants, cultivating trust and social capital.

April Rinne agreed that the sharing economy offers numerous benefits to cities, but also acknowledged that sharing models will present new challenges for policymakers. As sharing platforms shift the economic activity from ownership to access, policymakers must adapt. As prior models grow outdated, cities must develop new regulatory regimes to coordinate their efforts to unleash greater productivity and efficiency.

Michael Dixon, the final speaker, reiterated the possibility of utilizing these new technologies to prompt a comprehensive re-imagination of the city. Identifying three key areas of infrastructure, utilities and social services — Dixon opined that the sharing of information could make electronic infrastructures the foundation of the city. He also argued that the application of these technologies would depend on local conditions, allowing each city to cultivate a distinct identity in the shared economy. As a result, cities would need to prioritize mobility and flexibility in shifting towards a data-dependent fabric for urban life.

Responding to audience questions, the panelists also discussed how sharing models could impact the future of work in cities. Participation in the sharing economy offers new economic opportunities for individuals. In this manner, sharing may free citizens from traditional, employer-centered modes of work to provide greater freedom for urban individuals.

Urban sprawl, and how we can tackle it, was the focus of this discussion. Mark Dixon began by asking whether allowing people to work from wherever they want could offer a solution. Professor Alex Krieger explained how North American cities have grown up around the car, yet this has created an impending crisis as the population has risen. Dixon went on to suggest that, by re-imagining how people work and use the Internet, we could create new possibilities for productivity. If work is where you live, there is no need to commute, he said. However, he noted, most people do not want to work from home.

Lorenzo Reffreger highlighted that urban design is essential to reducing urban sprawl, noting specifically different economic developments strategies. In India, a commute can take up to four hours. Solutions need to entail driverless technology. In the United States, Professor Krieger argued, there is still significant resistance to the idea of living in high-density areas, except among the millennial generation.

Harold Madi offered his insights from Toronto, arguing that we cannot force citizens to move to high-density areas, but we can create enabling regulations that will make it easier to have mixed-use development. Dixon added that the resistance to high-density living also comes from those who create jobs. Employers often believe that employees should be together in one place to obtain optimum productivity.

Dixon agreed that in the future, everything will be shared and enabled by technology. A space previously used by 10 people can now be used by 100 people. The future is about distributed work. How can companies operate and employ talent without everyone coming to the city? Professor Krieger insisted that increased mobility should not be the only goal in reducing urban sprawl; cities need to consider levels of service too. Madi concluded that giving residents choices is key.
In 2014, the New Cities Foundation partnered with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), Ericsson, and design agency FABERNOVEL to survey the world’s largest metropolitan systems and find out their levels of Internet connectivity. This session presented the study for the first time.

Urbanites are a mobile and hyper-connected community. They expect a seamless web experience and uninterrupted connection even when travelling. In that sense, Internet connectivity in underground transport infrastructure is becoming an indicator and reflection of quality of life in cities.

The public transport sector’s business culture has been changing to reflect these trends. There is an increased focus on the complete passenger experience and increased levels of service.

The New Cities Foundation and its partners created an online tool to visually explore some of the key results and figures of the study. The tool can be found at http://bit.ly/OandU-2014.

About 77% of the metro systems surveyed provide some level of Internet access in their underground installations, either in stations (73%) or on-board trains (58%). The study highlights the regional differences in connectivity – and, either way, whether you look at connectivity on trains or connectivity on stations, the Middle East is leading the way in terms of underground connectivity. It is followed by Asia, Europe, North and South America (which are tied), and Russia.

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Urban Entrepreneurship

In this session, a direct link was carved between entrepreneurship and urban development. The speakers illuminated how cities can work more closely with the entrepreneurial class in order to produce greater economic growth. The panelists agreed that it is incumbent on cities to encourage and nurture that community of entrepreneurs.

Fahd Al Rasheed, who is spearheading the development of King Abdullah Economic City, a new urban mega project on Saudi Arabia’s Red Sea coast, argued that the two main objectives for a thriving city are attracting and identifying talent. Both Al Rasheed and Julie Lein agreed that nimble entrepreneurs are infinitely more efficient than bulky companies when it comes to putting the resource pieces in place to eventually create a bevy of new jobs. “If big companies create one job, entrepreneurs create 18 jobs,” said Al Rasheed. “But it would be a mistake to focus on quantity rather than quality.”

Striving for diversity in an entrepreneurial class working in the urban space was also of paramount importance, according to Lein. Along with a diverse class of entrepreneurs, Lein also stressed the importance of integrating older professionals, whose experience, expertise and perspective could be of enormous use. Entrepreneurship should also help correct the lingering gender gap (to wit: only 7-12 percent of all venture capital funding ever lands in the hands of women). Another valuable link between cities and this growing class of young entrepreneurs is that urban settings are a fertile ground for mentoring, that must and should go on between civic leaders and budding innovators. For Al Rasheed, community engagement, initiated by the city, is vital in nurturing an entrepreneurship culture. Eventually, a fruitful tripartite alliance can be forged involving large companies, city governments and entrepreneurs – all of whom come together to spur innovation across a wide urban landscape.

For Lein, the great thing about an entrepreneurial class is that its members “see things from the bottom up.”

“I see two big gaps for urban innovators,” said Lein. “Seed funding and mentorship.” It is important to fill those gaps, she continued, because “startups provide a great opportunity to bring a wealth of knowledge.”

Another valuable link between cities and this growing class of young entrepreneurs is that urban settings are a fertile ground for mentoring, that must and should go on between civic leaders and budding innovators. For Al Rasheed, community engagement, initiated by the city, is vital in nurturing an entrepreneurship culture. Eventually, a fruitful tripartite alliance can be forged involving large companies, city governments and entrepreneurs – all of whom come together to spur innovation across a wide urban landscape.

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Global Air Hubs

Air hubs play a key role in the development of the cities that they are attached to. Using Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport as a springboard, the panel’s moderator, Greg Lindsay, asked the speakers to look more broadly at the future for air hubs in light of a rapidly shifting economic landscape.

The conversation began with an exploration of the correlation between the opening of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and the economic growth of its surrounding region. For Donohue, the economic windfall generated by large, globally oriented air hubs and their surrounding cities and communities is undisputable. DFW International Airport alone, according to Donohue, generates around $31 billion to the annual local economy. Last year, DFW was the fastest growing US gateway in the past year. He specifically noted that new overseas routes to Shanghai and Hong Kong alone would bring some $200 million in business. In tandem, Mike Boyd pointed out that as air patterns change and the global economy shifts, the main issue is not whether you live near to an airport, but “Are you connected to a global hub?”

The panelists agreed that cities must ensure that air hubs are well integrated into the urban area. That means a definite need for a public transport link to the airport – with the new Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) line due to debut in August as a useful example. Greg Lindsay challenged the panelists to consider potential competition between DFW and other air hubs in the Middle East, China and elsewhere. How can an air hub continue to attract more international carriers and remain competitive?

For Donohue, it is the airport’s responsibility to attract business through incentives, but it is up to the wider network of partners and the community to ensure that the services are a sustainable success. Looking to the future, Boyd asserted his confidence that airports such as DFW and Detroit would remain major hubs, because they are well connected to local traffic – unlike some airports in the Middle East, for example.

Throughout the conversation, the panelists agreed upon the need to be as technologically modern as possible. For Donohue, it was the twin areas of customs and immigration that could best benefit from the latest in technological innovation. With better technology, passenger transit could be sped up to such an extent that an airport could increase its overall traffic capacity while adding new routes.

In addition, newer technologies could also have a desirable green effect on the enormous carbon footprint made by almost any airport. The “smarter” technologies could work to diminish the carbon emissions from an airport’s huge central utilities and power grid.
The specific use of visual space as it relates to art's role in the city was at the heart of Huang Rui's keynote address. Huang argued forcefully and passionately for both the re-imagination and preservation of urban space, as it serves the twin purposes of culture and art.

Persuasively, Huang cited his own personal experience in Beijing where his current artistic studio space used to be an industrial factory. Huang was particularly adamant about the need to not be quick to condemn, literally and figuratively, a seeming dinosaur industrial space to the fate of demolition, but instead, give new life to these forlorn, abandoned areas by reviving them as cultural centers.

Huang was a proponent of vigorous urban recycling and redesign of spaces once thought to have outlived their former utility. Bridging back to his own experience, Huang reminded the audience that the once foreign history of an old factory space suddenly could become the highly useful presence of his current art space.

It is up to artists to take charge of the preservation of these raw urban spaces, argued Huang. He conveyed the idea that artists are specially endowed with the vision to appreciate both tangible physical, as well as imagined, space. And, by extension, Huang emphasized that when an artist works towards re-configuring and repurposing an urban space, using all the powers of his or her creative and artistic imagination, then a city is well on its way to being re-imagined.

One could argue that arts and culture are bound up with the city as their incubator. Yet when a city is looking to transform itself, authorities are often pushed to ask, how much of an engine of change are arts and culture? We are also led to question whether some cities are better at nurturing a vibrant cultural scene than others.

The discussion ranged from the universal, as Rip Rapson explored the broad notion of a city’s “cultural ecology” and what is behind a city’s cultural DNA, to the specific, as Michael Eissenhauer enumerated Berlin’s 15 varied museum collections clustered into that European city’s two hot areas: Museum Island and Kulturforum.

Meanwhile, Huang Rui referred to China’s complex arts scene and its relationship with urban areas. In China, according to Rui, two situations co-exist: a wholly artificial arts scene backed by the government, and a parallel, organic arts culture that has evolved underground and gained enormous street-level credibility.

Catherine Cuellar provided examples from her perch at the Dallas Arts District, officially recognized as the largest contiguous arts district in the entire United States, as it reaches the culmination of a 30-year period of near non-stop philanthropy. At the same time, Cuellar noted, Dallas has larger ambitions, including sending out Dallas’ homegrown artistic talent to the rest of the world, while simultaneously becoming an incubator for more artists.

Both Rapson and Eissenhauer fully agreed that while varying funding schemes and systems are taking root in different cities worldwide, there is still a common challenge of how to raise more and more money.

Rapson argued that if a city is to nurture homegrown talent, it must support not only the major institutions but also alternative centers for creativity. “The big institutions are definitely the city’s mansion on the hill,” said Rapson. “But it shouldn’t make us forget about the other institutions – the gardens, greenhouses, and the wilds producing the local, individual artists, the ones who give us so much street vitality – and all of which contribute greatly to a city’s cultural scene. The problem with the occasional temptation of supporting and patronizing only those higher institutions of culture is that you would progressively lose all the vital connective tissue a city derives from smaller arts groups.”

Catherine Cuellar developed upon this metaphor, agreeing that it is the city’s role to “move the artist from the obscure wilds through the garden, the greenhouse, and, perhaps, all the way to the artistic mansion on the hill.” A city like Dallas needs to be a place that also inspires others, she argued, suggesting that a radio station could be set up for the Dallas Arts District to recognize and develop new talent.

An ensuing discussion treated that of major arts institutions in a city. Panelists questioned the often-underappreciated role that larger cultural players have in bringing along their smaller artistic brethren.
If there were a single theme running through Paul Romer’s address, it was to take risks and be daring in one’s thinking about how cities should reinvent and evolve – even if it means missing the logical mark on the main issues. “It’s better,” Romer advised, “to make statements that might be wrong instead of giving platitudes that we can all agree with.”

For Romer, the equation is simple: public spaces are paramount and urbanization equals opportunity. He argued that, as the world becomes increasingly urban, all citizens have the opportunity to better themselves through change. “Urbanization literally gives billions of people a way to connect to a network of innovation and new opportunity.”

Romer advocated taking advantage of all the best services that the government can provide to help cities improve. He reminded the audience how governments had intervened in cities, throughout the centuries, to help, through sheer rule of law, diminish the degrading effects of such urban scourges as crime, disease, and rampant anarchy. For Romer, there is no time like the present when it comes to government being even more active – especially when it comes to land allocation – as cities experience their current growth spurt. “Cities are the level of government that is the most innovative right now,” Romer said.

Romer rounded off his presentation with the one urban issue that invariably takes precedence over any other: crime. If crime becomes too widespread, then that inevitably leads to an exodus (see New York in the 1980s and 1990s, and Detroit today), from the most dangerous parts of a city. That movement rips away at the inner core of a metropolis, undermining all the progress that an urban area has made: “If a city doesn’t manage its crime problem, nothing else it does will make any difference,” said Romer.

Technology and all its ancillary issues – from the rampant growth in mobile phone use, to the rising concern for privacy – dominated this discussion.

Both Bhikshesvaran and Rogers agreed upon the ubiquity and growing essentialness of the mobile phone. Rogers in particular asserted that his company, Nest, had “underscored the necessity of the mobile phone”, shifting its entire control system onto individual cell phones. Meanwhile, Bhikshesvaran echoed Rogers’ enthusiasm for mobile devices by asserting something the entire audience could relate to: that a mobile phone was probably the first thing we all touched in the morning, and ultimately the last thing we make contact with at night. “I can assure you,” assured Bhikshesvaran, “that around 84 per cent of São Paulo’s citizens use their smart phones while on their daily commute,” he added. “Most cities nowadays are completely data-centric worlds.”

Rogers utilized the metaphor of a flood to describe the wealth of interconnected data that now spills from one technological device to the next, all connected to a centralized grid, and accessible to us from our car to the house.

In turn, Bhikshesvaran commented that citizens have made the important leap from asking themselves the simple, “When do I need to get there?” to the more ambitious query: “Can I accomplish what I need from where I currently am?”

As for the thorny matter of technological privacy, Rogers reasoned that all technology is still created by flawed human beings. As such, human error is always a possibility. “It’s incredibly important in whatever technology we work with, that it be done in a secure manner, and that sensitive data is kept private,” Rogers says. “We do that by employing some of the best hackers around to keep the data totally safe.”
Beyond the Smart City: Towards a New Paradigm

Mathieu Lefevre kicked off the session with a poll, asking how many times each audience member had touched their cell phone from the moment he or she woke up that day. He then classified cell phone technology as a big, small or medium-sized city’s latest utility, no different from water or electricity and with the same demands for easy accessibility and performance. Yet as encouraging as the ubiquity of technology is, especially in an urban environment, it can be freighted with its own set of problems, especially when it comes to privacy. Who is, in fact, in charge of data, big or small?

For Wim Elfrink, the glass is very much half-full in terms of the rewards to be reaped from smart technologies, such as smart transport or smart parking. “In a city like Dallas, there is such great interaction between citizens and the city, by way of all the technology and apps available, whether it’s booking your own tickets or getting a taxi service like Uber. The technology has created all these services in the city where citizens have taken the lead in coming up with their own uses for them.”

Reinier de Graaf revealed a twin note of fascination and skepticism, especially as he related his impressions of Rio de Janeiro’s central urban operations control room, with its web of video cameras. He suggested that this center offers a striking and perhaps unsettling similarity to a NASA mission control complex. “What it also indicated to me was that this was a place in a major city where lots of data on private individuals was collected, computed, and analyzed to understand trends in the city,” he said.

For Lutz Bertling, “There is this constant desire to track the flow of people, let’s say during their morning or afternoon commutes”. He argued that cities must come up with better ways to deal with the influx of people into and out of the city. He stressed that if we do not set ambitious goals, urban re-imagination will not be possible.

Meanwhile, Laurent Vernerey challenged the very term ‘smart city’, arguing that it is around seven years old and now must evolve. Reinier de Graaf went further, suggesting that we let go of the adjective altogether and just talk about ‘the city’.

Elfrink admitted that as cities gather more ‘smart’ data, there is a growing unease about ownership. He conceded that whilst more ‘smart’ data, there is a growing unease about keeping their car running smoothly than they are on maintaining their health. Often, technology might fail to provide an answer that common sense can.

Anil Menon took a more global perspective, noting that most cities have skewed priorities, spending a good portion of their money on physical infrastructure with an exclusion of digital services. Menon purported that every city could use unlimited bandwidth, especially if it would help improve healthcare, not to mention education. Wireless technology, on a broadly applied basis in a city, could ferry more services applied basis in a city, could ferry more services.

The Caring City

There is often a direct correlation between a caring city and an engaged city. However, the continuous challenge is how to get and maintain citizen involvement. In this panel, Mayor Betsy Price emphasized that city leaders’ power will diminish if it does not take on board citizen feedback. Price argued that cities should favor a mix of brand new data and technology, with the traditional 911-style of contact number, putting together citizens with their government service provider or representative to create a solid bridge between a city and its people.

Esther Dyson saw a clear link between community cooperation and healthier urban populations. Dyson talked about the urgent need for ‘health literacy’. She pointed out the irony that many people are armed with more information about keeping their car running smoothly than they are on maintaining their health. Often, technology might fail to provide an answer that common sense can.

The panelists agreed that human demographics are pointing in an unsustainable direction. All the panelists agreed that human capital for cities is skewed in such a way as to make the increased life expectancy a transformational element on all of society. The panelists concurred that keeping the retiring age at 65 would effectively shunt half of the population to the sidelines. What has clearly emerged is a whole new phase of life, planted squarely between the middle years and ‘old age’. In the U.S. alone, it was revealed that 31 million people fall into this category, fully able to remain engaged, desiring a second act in their role in society. Cities will reap the benefits of engaging this group of older citizens, since they tend to become healthier, absorbing fewer of the vital healthcare resources.

Virtual healthcare, as far as Joel Allison was concerned, is another much-needed component in fighting off rising health care costs. However, in this scenario, it is crucial that a patient be shifted from a sick-care model to one focusing on wellness and prevention. It is all predicated on the notion of smart, informed citizens managing their health in the optimum way. Panelists envisioned that healthcare in cities will move away from ‘big box’ hospitals and back into the home. Through both connectivity and the latest in technology, this shift will allow for lowered costs while increasing personal health.

The implied conclusion of this panel was this: a healthy and caring city brings about economic development.
Financing Transformation

Creative financial engineering and public-private partnerships are the name of the game for the 21st century of cities. Key topics addressed during this session included the potential solutions, the need for infrastructure investments across the globe, and the growing population.

Professor John Macomber began the workshop by giving a mini-finance lesson. City projects are difficult to compare, he said. He mentioned some caveats. Firstly, there is plenty of capital, but not enough bankable projects. Secondly, we must be wary of vendors with a vested interest in making a project as complex as possible. He explained that there are roughly three ways to pay for projects: taxes, tariffs and transfers. The best approaches to financing transformation are seed funding, financial engineering where different entities take risk, privatization that defines clearly the scope of services, quantified financial externalities, informal value capture, and taking a long-term view. He emphasized that, in creating investment vehicles, there are many ways to split cash flows.

Lady Barbara Judge presented a role of pension funds in financing infrastructure. As Chairwoman of a 16 billion Euro pension fund, she explained that the money is there to invest, but due to the nature of pension funds, investments are conservative. Their goal, she said, was to invest from 5-15 per cent in projects. She gave examples of toll roads, airports and water treatment plants. She asserted that pension funds do not like risk, and there needs to be a first line set of lenders that can help with projects from scratch with reliable builders and contractors.

Javier Palomarez focused his presentation on the US market. He addressed the trends he has observed in business investment within the Hispanic community. He noted that the Hispanic population is booming: it is the largest minority ethnic group in the United States with a powerful purchasing power of US$1.5 trillion. Cities need to tap into this market, he argued, since productivity and population go hand in hand.

Professor Macomber noted that financial vehicles, such as performance contracting, are creative ways to finance city projects. However, cities need to protect themselves from signing bad deals. “We assume good intent, competence and good transparency,” but that may not be the case, he warned. This becomes particularly obvious when dealing with cash-strapped cities. So many things citizens need do not necessarily generate an income. Professor Macomber argued that the focus needs to be on infrastructure projects that can create income. Lady Judge mentioned that having good visionary leaders could also help solve these issues in bringing people together. Palomarez concluded that what lies ahead is the need for job creation, leadership and transparency. Cities also need to keep in mind that two-thirds of all jobs are created by small businesses. Thus, public/private sector investment in urban settings should be a major priority.

PARALLEL WORKSHOP
JUNE 18

SPEAKERS
Lady Barbara Judge
Chairman, UK Pension Protection Fund & Former Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority

John Macomber
Senior Lecturer - Finance, Harvard Business School

Javier Palomarez
President & Chief Executive Officer, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

MODERATOR
Mark Paris
Managing Director, Citi

The New Urban Citizen

Beginning the discussion Nithya Raman claimed that the New Urban Citizen is the same as the Old Urban Citizen, but with access to new tools. In response to how the government is helping or hurting society, Ashwin Mahesh offered a different perspective on how government operates. He defined himself as the government, being a part of the democracy. In his ideal form of government, there would be problem finders and problem solvers in each and every neighborhood, who would collaborate together in order to solve issues pertinent to them. This provocative model inspired the ensuing discussion.

Miriam Fahmy offered her views that we need to redefine what public participation really is. The common type of project that comes to fruition out of meetings of the urban elite are “prestige projects.” While beautiful and magnificent, they do not take into consideration what they are replacing—possible homes and occupied spaces. There needs to be an avenue for regular citizens to participate in the planning of projects.

Galit Gun suggested that governments could become more effective through adopting a more nimble structure. The ability to move quickly allows for citizen engagement to occur. However, this fluidity is difficult to achieve in large organizations. One possible solution that Gun suggested was the creation of small pockets of nimble participation, without changing the integral structure of organizations themselves.

Miriam Fahmy countered Gun’s point, arguing that nimbleness is more apt for civil society than for governments. In her opinion, the rigidity of governments allows for predictability, which is comforting for citizens.
Cultural Districts as Engines of Urban Transformation

The focus of this panel was on how the arts community can be brought together to create cultural districts that are vibrant and engaging for citizens. Manal Ataya showcased the investments the emirate of Sharjah is making in creating a sustainable cultural district. Jamie Bennett argued that cities must understand that every community has art and artists, and that the arts must be placed at the seat of every urban planning session. "Create a pattern of foot traffic and cluster arts organizations, buildings and communities together", he said.

Zhiyong Fu highlighted China’s huge budget for developing cultural districts, particularly in Beijing, and how they are looking at ways to involve people and students into cultural policy. Jeffrey Johnson offered more insights into the huge museum boom going on in China. In the 1990s, the US witnessed a museum boom where about 30 museums were being built per year. Johnson contrasted this figure with what is going on now in China, where about 400 museums are being built annually. Whilst China does not have a history of philanthropic support of culture, Johnson pointed out that many private collectors are building their own museums in China today.

The panelists then offered their advice on best practices to consider. Ataya stated that master planning is not done enough: “Make sure to engage your local population and know what they think”. Bennett encouraged cities to think about cultural districts as creative place making, where citizens can approach and enjoy the place in a variety of ways, and where arts and culture are a means and an end. Zhiyong Fu stated that it is important to address the content of space, and to create a real network by using technology. Johnson gave the example of China where there is a culture district of 1 million square feet currently under construction. The scale is so enormous, Johnson said, that you have to look at the project as a living organism.

Bennett ended the discussion with the example of St. Paul, Minnesota’s green light rail construction. 500 artists were partnered with businesses using micro grants and, over a two-year period, produced over 200 events, which revitalized a disadvantaged neighborhood. Engaging artists, argued Bennett, changed the identity of the neighborhood and made it a cultural district.

Innovations in Urban Data

Thinking of data as a resource is useful if it aligns public and private interests around the idea that data is important. Nonetheless, the panelists warned that data should not be thought of as a currency or as “the new petroleum.” Most importantly, the tension between privacy and data ownership must be addressed. Open data is a tool for innovation. New models for urban innovation will happen whether they are legislated or not. The question is how citizens are going to be involved.

Alex Winter is trying to optimize the way cities work for citizens by providing planners with extensive and accurate data. For example, data on how citizens navigate around the city, by using video feeds and smartphone videos. His experience shows that if some basic rules are followed, privacy concerns are eased, and data analysis can be pushed further. These rules include; combining current data feeds with new feeds that citizens participate in; never store video; never broadcast video; never identify or track individual people. Data can work for citizens by providing planners with extensive and accurate data. For example, data on how citizens navigate around the city, by using video feeds and smartphone videos. His experience shows that if some basic rules are followed, privacy concerns are eased, and data analysis can be pushed further. These rules include; combining current data feeds with new feeds that citizens participate in; never store video; never broadcast video; never identify or track individual people. Data can then start telling the city where a sidewalk needs to be widened, or give smartphone users real-time information on when to go shopping or how to avoid traffic congestion.

Teji Abraham noted that the International Data Corporation reported that 13 trillion gigabytes of the current 44 trillion gigabyte digital universe is from sensors. However, he argued that the collected data is meaningless if you cannot extract insights from it. Open data, which is growing from a local to a global level is unsustainable if it remains in silos. Transit data in a silo, for example, stagnates and is not scalable. When data is combined, insights emerge, Abraham asserted.

The open data concept is one way to avoid silos. The rise of distributed sensors has created new opportunities for feeds. However, Romain Lacombe pointed out that much data is within government institutions that create policies and deliver services. It is important for this data to be accurate, but also open. Innovators need to have access to this data to build new services. Lacombe argued that governments and entrepreneurs would work better together than on their own.

The panelists agreed that data’s value is not just economic, but also social and environmental. Data should be available for people to validate. To achieve citizen engagement, the value exchange must be apparent and the system trustworthy. Privacy tradeoffs need to be made understandable and transparent. This is more easily accomplished, they acknowledged, in countries that practise democracy.

Smartphones have 40,000 times the computing power of the computer that sent Apollo 11 to the moon. The explosion of data, the rise of decentralized sensor networks, and even open street maps will redefine the role of government at all levels and may lead to greater government accountability.
Inclusive Cities

Hailing from four continents, the six city chiefs on the closing panel each addressed the biggest challenges they envisage for today and tomorrow.

Mayor Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau stressed that his prime concern is the 25 per cent poverty rate in Johannesburg. Reversing the kind of historically deep-seated deprivation in his city and country was a tall order, to say the least. Tau was encouraged by the Digital Ambassadors Program initiative that instructs various residents how to use the internet and even includes a rollout installation of Wi-Fi hotspots. Tau admitted to being buoyed by the predictions that the program could reach as many as 40,000 people in the next two years.

The Mayor of Dallas, Mike Rawlings, admitted to being most troubled by citizen apathy. He also addressed the high figure of 24 per cent of Dallas’ population reportedly living below the poverty line. In tandem, he acknowledged the direct relationship between the growing economic gap amongst his city’s population and the education system.

Mayor Betsy Price of Fort Worth echoed Rawlings’ focus on education. Without an educated city population, Price warned, a city will have a tough time attracting employers. An advocate of the importance of public education, Price implored the audience to pay attention not just to inequalities within cities, but the inequalities that exist between global cities. She made the same plea-demand of business groups as well. “A city cannot do everything,” was Price’s cautionary word.

“I’m very direct with various business groups, telling them that they need to give something back in the direction of schools.”

Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth

Colombo’s mayor, A.J.M. Muzammil, admitted that his major challenge is a nation-wide need for housing. He had the numbers readily at his disposal: 65,000 homes are needed immediately. Though Colombo is a well-situated port city, the country still is reeling from a 30-year old war. He urged everyone to pay attention not just to inequalities within cities, but the inequalities that exist between global cities. He agreed wholeheartedly that citizen apathy and education are two major priorities, whilst arguing that what is even more unsettling is the explosively rapid growth of Colombo. “As a result, so much of the population is living in highly underserviced settlements,” he warned. Muzammil admitted that he felt a pang of jealousy being in Dallas, since his own people “are not getting nearly the same benefits as one might have here.” He stressed that in Colombo, the biggest needs are much more basic. “We need help in two key areas: housing and solid waste management.”

For Mayor Bernard Manyenyeni, one of Harare’s primary concerns is water. He stressed the urgent need to double the city’s water supply and help his citizens understand how important it was to control the litter and garbage of their city. His biggest challenge is the sheer size of his city’s population – as one-third of the country’s populace has crowded into his city – which has put a strain on funding for the basic projects he needs done. “Harare is a very beautiful city and I think we’re doing okay on education, on crime, and on health,” he said. “What I do worry about is water and the terrible inequality issue. When I re-imagine Harare, I imagine a city with a citizenry that is more engaged in the city.”

“I want citizens that are active in their cities, in their neighborhoods.

Juan Carlos Izagirre,
Mayor, Donostia - San Sebastian

When it comes to a model for intra-city cooperation, Dallas and Fort Worth seemed to be the panel’s standard bearers. Yet it was Mayor of Johannesburg who summed up the spirit of the session in one word. “When I think about the cooperation and collaboration between Dallas and Fort Worth, Mayor Tau’s word, ‘coopertition’ – a combination of cooperation and competition – well, that says it all,” affirmed Mike Rawlings.

“...When I re-imagine Harare, I imagine a city with a citizenry that is more engaged in the city.

Bernard Manyenyeni,
Mayor of Harare
Inclusive Cities: John Rossant (Moderator), Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau, Mike Rawlings, Betsy Price, A.J.M. Muzammil, Bernard Manyenyeni, Juan Carlos Izaguirre
Urban innovations that work

Eleven inspiring urban innovators from a variety of disciplines, regions and backgrounds inspired the Summit audience in a series of dynamic, 6-minute presentations. In their short talks, they highlighted what works to solve the great urban challenges facing all cities.

WHAT WORKS

was moderated by:

**Catherine Cuellar, Chief Executive Officer, Dallas Arts District**

Catherine Cuellar is CEO of the Dallas Arts District, the largest contiguous urban cultural neighborhood in the US and headquarters of the Global Cultural Districts Network. Previously, Ms. Cuellar spent five years as communications manager for the sixth-largest electric power grid in the US, Oncor. Ms. Cuellar is a 2014 Next Generation Project Texas Fellow at The Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas. Cuellar was recognized among the 2013 Dallas Business Journal “40 Under 40,” and was honored in 2007 as one of Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce’s Five Outstanding Young Dallasises.

**Mark Dytham, Director, Klein Dytham Architecture, Founder, PechaKucha**

Mark Dytham is director of Klein Dytham architecture (KDa) based in Tokyo. KDa is a multi-disciplinary design practice active in the design of architecture, interiors, and public spaces, installations and events. Working with clients such as Selfridges, Vertu, Uniqlo, Shiseido, Tsubaya and Sony redefining the retail experience is a key element of KDa’s work. Mark is also founder of PechaKucha, a simple presentation format (20 images x 20 slides) for the creative industries which has taken the world by storm, with over 100 PechaKucha Night events taking place each month in over 500 cities globally, and is described as one of the largest physical social networks in the world.
Mohamed Hage is a born entrepreneur, running the world’s first commercial rooftop farm, built in 2010. Hage oversees all of Lufa Farms development and operations. He has a long history in successful technology-based ventures and real-estate development. Hage is the visionary behind Lufa Farms and is driven by a keen personal interest in environmental science, sustainable fresh agriculture, and the challenge of renewable energy.

**Lufa Farms**

Lufa Farms is an agricultural and technology company located in the Ahuntsic-Cartierville neighborhood of Montreal, Quebec. It is the world’s first commercial greenhouse on the roof of a building. Lufa Farms specializes in new agricultural technologies in urban zones. Covering an area of 31,000 square feet, Lufa Farms produces vegetables year-round for more than 3,000 people in the greater Montreal area. The farms produce forty varieties of vegetables grown without synthetic pesticides, capturing rainwater, and recirculating irrigation water.

**SU YUNSHENG**

Director, Urban Development Planning Branch, Shanghai Tong Ji Urban Planning & Design Institute

Dr. Su Yunsheng has been a planning consultant for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo, a guest lecturer at Shanghai’s Urban Planning Bureau and co-founder of Urban China Magazine. Dr. Su earned his PhD in Urban Planning, Design and Design Theories from Tongji University. His career at Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute started in 2001. He has supervised many important urban design projects, such as Beijing Tongzhou Canal City, 2010 Shanghai Expo-village, and Guangzhou Financial City. He has been active in bringing the experience of China’s rapid modernization and its designs to other countries. In 2008, together with some Tongji designers and urban planners, he found Etopia, a conceptual construction platform.

**WHAT**

Etopia is a company specializing in sustainable construction. It is a one-stop service team made up of the finest young minds at Tongji — not just urban planners but architects, designers, and materials experts. Etopia enables the design of “intelligent sustainable structures,” made either of steel, wood or loam. Not only can these buildings be assembled astonishingly fast, but their constituent parts can be flat-packed and mailed to where they’re needed. Etopia is a private company, but is doing consciousness-raising work typically associated with an NGO.

**David Auerbach**

Co-founder, Sanergy

David Auerbach co-founded Sanergy, a pioneering social enterprise in Nairobi, Kenya. Previously, David ran Partnerships at Endeavor, a non-profit that helps high-impact entrepreneurs in the developing world. He also served as Deputy Chair for Poverty Alleviation at the Clinton Global Initiative where he helped build over 50 impact-focused partnerships. David taught in central China for two years as a Yale-China Teaching Fellow. He began his career researching foreign policy at the Center for American Progress. David is an Ashoka, Echoing Green and Rainer Arnhold Fellow. He holds an MBA from MIT and a BA from Yale University. He lives in Nairobi, Kenya.

**WHAT**

Sanergy builds healthy, prosperous communities in Africa’s informal settlements by making hygienic sanitation affordable and accessible for everyone. Taking a systems-based approach to solve the sanitation crisis, Sanergy designs and manufactures low-cost, high-quality sanitation facilities. It also builds a network of local residents who purchase and operate the sanitation facilities. The waste is safely removed from the community and converted at a centralized facility into useful by-products such as organic fertilizer and renewable energy. The fertilizer is sold to a variety of Kenyan farms.

**Pronita Saxena**

Co-founder and Chief Growth Officer, NextDrop

Pronita Saxena is Co-founder and Chief Growth Officer at NextDrop, a startup solving water issues by connecting citizens, government bodies, and the private sector to actionable information via mobile technology. Prior to joining NextDrop, Pronita led Sales and Marketing at a Boston-based startup improving manufacturing efficiency and helped a publicly-traded, global clean energy company generate profitability through a strategic operations group. Following her degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Pronita worked with MIT’s Poverty Action Lab and Save the Children in Bangladesh and at the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC.

NextDrop is a social enterprise that collects and shares water delivery information with city residents and water utilities companies. NextDrop was launched in 2010, in Hubli-Dharwad, twin cities in the southern state of Karnataka in India. Urban Indians have mobile phones, yet access to water is still a challenge. The nearly 1 million people of Hubli get water only every three to five days, for about four hours a day. Using a Smart Water Supply Message Service, NextDrop helps bring water information more transparently to more than 25,000 subscribers by sending them an SMS letting them know when water services will be available in their area that day. NextDrop has expanded its operations to Bangalore, Karnataka’s capital.
MOUNA ANDRAOS  
Co-founder, Daily tous les jours

Mouna is Co-founder of Daily tous les jours. She is active in the design and new media communities, giving lectures and workshops in forums such as SXSW, Leaders in Software and Arts (LISA), and the Tangible Embedded & Embodied Interaction International Conference. She teaches computational arts and design at Concordia University and UQUAM’s school of design. Mouna previously worked at Electronic Crafts, exploring the intersection of mass-produced electronics and handmade crafts. Her web-based work for interactive agency, Bluesponge, won international recognitions including prizes from Communication Arts, ID magazine, and a CyberLion in Cannes. Mouna holds a Master’s degree from NYU’s Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) and a Bachelor’s from Concordia University.

MATTHEW GEORGE  
CEO, Bridj

Matt is the CEO of Bridj which is the world’s first smart mass transit system. Bridj uses big data and network optimization to develop direct transit routes within a city to cut trip times in half without a car. Matt has a degree in Biology from Middlebury College and lives in Cambridge, MA.

WHAT

For the past four years, Daily tous les jours’ focus has been on creating collective experiences that inspire people to become active participants in the world around them. Their work takes on different shapes: from urban interventions and planning, to events, to software applications or short films. Daily tous les jours’ work has won numerous international recognitions including the grand prizes of the 2013 Interaction Design Awards (ixDA) and the 2014 UNESCO Creative Cities Design Awards for Young Talents. Mouna and co-founder Melissa Mongiat were also awarded the 2011 Phyllis Lambert Design Award by the city of Montréal.

MEENU VADERA  
Founder, Sakha Consulting Wings

Meenu is a feminist and currently a social entrepreneur working on the idea of ‘Women on Wheels’. Meenu worked with Action Aid in Uganda as their Country Director, before founding the Women on Wheels social enterprise. A postgraduate of Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRM), Meenu also chose to further support her experience on the ground by undertaking a Masters in Social Development and Public Policy at the London School of Economics, where she did Gender Studies in health and education. In 2011, Meenu was awarded the first prize in Business and Enterprise category of the 100 unseen powerful women, listed by One World Action, from across 40 countries internationally.

WHAT

Sakha Consulting Wings is a unique social enterprise, launched to provide safe transport solutions for women, by women in urban India. The services are available primarily to women and their families. The women drivers engaged by Sakha are handpicked from the poor and marginalized sections of society, and their entire training and development is undertaken by Azad Foundation, Sakha’s non-profit sister organization. Azad Foundation received the “Social Innovation Honors” given by Edelweiss and Kuber for their work on “women and employment”. Sakha won the award for the best business plan in an international competition hosted by Business in Development (BiD) network in Netherlands. Azad and Sakha have both been recognized for their innovative approach on working against ‘violence against women’ by Jagori & Sangat South Asia.

WHAT

WHAT

WHAT

WHAT

MILOŠ MILISAVLJEVIĆ  
Founder and CEO, Strawberry Energy

Miloš is a founder and chief executive of Strawberry Energy, responsible for the everyday functioning and business strategy development of the company and its products. He was a member of the Center for Young Talents and Research, “Petnica,” where he engaged in scientific and research work. While still in middle school, Miloš discovered his passion for entrepreneurship, entering a business competition which he won, becoming Serbia’s champion in youth entrepreneurship. Since then, he continues to engage in entrepreneurial activities. In parallel, Miloš intensively works on promoting youth entrepreneurship by presenting and holding lectures about this issue throughout the country.

WHAT

Strawberry Energy is a Serbian company motivated by a simple vision: to make renewable energy sources more accessible to all people by building public solar chargers for mobile devices. Their Strawberry Tree is a green urban furniture and Wi-Fi station, which is permanently installed in public places such as streets, parks and squares. Energy is stored in rechargeable batteries, which can keep it charged for weeks, regardless of weather conditions. It is a unique social hub and meeting place where people gather to juice up the portable devices that have become an inevitable part of their everyday lives.
Scott Crouch is the 22-year-old Co-founder and CEO of Mark43, a startup that helps law enforcement agencies fight crime more strategically with code. Over two years ago, Crouch and his classmates left a Harvard classroom for the streets of Springfield, Massachusetts, a heavily gang-infested city. While working with the Massachusetts State Police, Crouch and his team began to see the challenges that police officers face and the violent crime that plagues many communities.

Mark43 provides law enforcement software that helps police in reducing crime. The technology, which grew out of an engineering design class, helps law enforcement do sophisticated data analysis, such as mapping the hierarchy of gang members to make more targeted arrests and giving officers on the street critical information about dangerous suspects.

Chef Chad Houser is a proud native of Texas and a graduate of El Centro College with a degree in food and hospitality service. Houser has been cooking for discriminating guests in the Dallas area for almost two decades. Most recently he was chef-partner at Parigi, one of Dallas’ most beloved neighborhood restaurants. In 2012, he left Parigi to be the Executive Director and Executive Chef of Café Momentum, a social enterprise restaurant and life skill training facility focused on the rehabilitation of adjudicated teens, which he co-founded in 2011. In his spare time, Houser sits on the advisory board for the Dallas Farmers Market Friends. He’s been nominated multiple times by D Magazine for best chef in Dallas.

Café Momentum is a Dallas-based restaurant and culinary training facility that transforms young lives by equipping the most at-risk youth with life skills, education and employment opportunities to help them achieve their full potential. It is a restaurant and training platform that provides post-release paid internships and support for juvenile offenders to foster successful re-entry into the community. In addition to significantly reducing recidivism, Café Momentum create opportunities for long-term, sustainable (legal) employment for a demographic that would otherwise continue to burden the justice system and taxpayers.

Gerardo Asali is a Mexican architect based in Mexico City. He received his Bachelor’s in Architecture from the Universidad Iberoamericana Mexico and his Master’s in Architecture from the Berlage Institute, Netherlands. In 2007, he founded DAS - Desarrollo Arquitectura Sustentabilidad, whose purpose was to improve systems through urban development and architecture to enhance standards of life. To date, he has built over 20,000 housing units, hospitals, laboratories and residential architecture. In 2013, he created a research area at DAS, which focuses on sustainability and social issues in the urban context of Mexico City. The methodology of DAS is based on research on energy, materials, and social and economic issues that build the ideas that will become part of our built environment.

Inspired by the reutilization of parking spaces in San Francisco and New York to become public spaces for leisure, Mexico City’s “parklets” were designed as an innovative response to restrictive regulations that favor cars over pedestrians. To make Mexico City more pedestrian-friendly, mobile public spaces were built on wheels to circumvent regulations that only allow registered vehicles to park in parking spaces.
Mobile apps make good cities great

A contest for the world’s best urban app

AppMyCity! is an annual contest for the world’s best new urban app. After watching presentations by the three finalists, the New Cities Summit audience voted for Peerby as this year’s winner.

Congratulations to Peerby, winner of the 2014 AppMyCity! Contest

“"We are absolutely thrilled to win this prize. The AppMyCity! competition is about making cities more fun, fair, vibrant and sustainable. That is exactly what we are trying to do with Peerby.""  
Daan Weddepohl, CEO & Founder, Peerby

AppMyCity! was moderated by:

Cristian Santibanez, Program Associate - Urban (co)LAB and Communications

Cristian joined the New Cities Foundation in its early days and has been actively contributing to its growth through a variety of roles, including project management, communications and business development.

Click here to watch the AppMyCity! Presentations

AppMyCity! Finalists

Djump (Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France) is a peer-to-peer ride-sharing service that allows drivers to register, users to request a ride, and drivers to answer the call. Users can track drivers in real time, and can choose to give a voluntary donation at the end of the ride.

Peerby (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) enables people to borrow the things they need from their neighbours in under 30 minutes. Users post something they want to borrow, and neighbours will get a push notification to which they can respond in a single touch.

SocialCyclist (New York, USA) encourages bike riders to map their preferred routes, report hazardous road conditions, and vote on their preferred site locations for future cycling infrastructure. This aggregate data can then be used by cities to plan future infrastructure.
In June of 2014, The Network met as part of the third annual New Cities Summit, which took place in the Dallas Arts District. Aside from curating a keynote, plenary session and workshop during the Summit, the GCDN also hosted two sessions on June 19. www.gcdn.net

The Governance of Cultural Districts

Whose voices should be at the table and what shape the table should be is a critical issue in the successful planning and management of cultural districts. This discussion went to the heart of that issue and explores the respective roles of the community and its political representatives, commercial developers, artists and cultural institutions, business and other stakeholders. It also explored the range of business models that sustain cultural districts and create the resources to animate and champion the public domain and ensure the sum is greater than the parts.

PANELISTS
Theresa Cameron
Manager of Local Arts Agency Services at Americans for the Arts (AFTA)

Gabrielle Trainor
Director of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, Australia

James Taylor
Red River Cultural District

Brad Spies
Brand Development and Special Projects, SXSW, Inc.; Board Chair, Austin Music Commission

MODERATOR
Russell Willis Taylor
President and CEO, National Arts Strategies

Carroll Joynes
Co-Founder, Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago

Global Cultural Districts Network

The Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN) is a federation of global centers of arts and culture that fosters co-operation and knowledge-sharing among those responsible for conceiving, funding, building, and operating cultural districts. It is an initiative of the New Cities Foundation, Dallas Arts District, and AEA Consulting.

Austin, Texas and South by Southwest: A case study in cultural animation

South by Southwest (SXSW) began in 1987. Today it is a series of high profile film, interactive media, and music festivals and conferences that lasts for ten days in March, with a visitorship of nearly 155,000 and an economic impact of some SUS 200MM per annum on the local economy. This workshop examined the roots of its success and its wider impact – positive and negative – on the cultural and social ecology of this extraordinary city. The festival provided the basis for a wider conversation about festivals and others programming strategies in the animation of cities and cultural districts.

PANELISTS

Katie Dixon
Director of Special Projects at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music)

Mark Day
Founder, Future City

MODERATOR

Carroll Joynes
Co-Founder, Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago

Read Our Blog Posts

Urban re-imagination calls for participation from all sectors. Be inspired by blog posts from many of our New Cities Summit speakers and collaborators, from across sectors and continents. Access them all on our website:

www.newcitiesfoundation.org/category/ncs/