Transforming Cities through Placemaking and Public Spaces

The Future of Places forum will open in Stockholm June 24-26th, 2013 – a few days after the Midsummer holiday when Stockholm is a most beautiful.

It’s the first conference of three that will lead up to Habitat III 2016, with the overall aim of contributing to a New Urban Agenda around people and places. The Future of Places forum will highlight how and why cities need to embrace a people centered approach in order to achieve positive urbanization and not fall victim to the negative attributes of urbanization. Examples of best practices and... read more

**Dates**

24-26th June 2013

**Location**

Sweden, Stockholm, Norra Latin, Drottninggatan 71b

**Free conference – no fee**
The conference is free of charge including meals and coffee.

Register

Upon invitation, please register here:

Admission

Approximately 200 participants will be invited to participate in this highly interesting and challenging international event.

Applications

On-line applications will be accepted based on criteria below, and representation from different parts of the world and cultures. Due to a highly competitive admission process, we encourage all applicants to apply early.

Conference Theme

The first conference will focus on defining the urgency, the problems and the potential of 'places' in the coming years – both in the developing and the developed world. We will listen to Mayors, engaged citizens and various experts as they set the context for 'The Future of Places'. We will be introduced to best practices and current methods for the further progression of 'places', and detailed analyses of the economic and social value of placemaking.

Subthemes

Three strategic themes

We have defined three 'strategic themes' for prompting bureaucratic innovation: Governance of Place, Place Capital and Healthy Communities.

There is also significant evidence that using a Place-Based/Placemaking approach adds significantly to a set of movements such as Smart Growth, Sustainable Communities, Community Health, Economic Development, etc.

There exists a developed set of tools and processes that have been tested in various situations and have proven to be effective in engaging communities. Some of these tools will be demonstrated in the upcoming conference.
Defining the basic elements that create a successful place

In one of the blocks you will learn to:

- Understand the role that successful community places play in neighborhood revitalization.
- Recognize a successful place.
- Learn to analyze a specific site.
- Facilitate groups of local community leaders, residents and designers to work together on improving public spaces.
- Develop a plan of immediate, short-term, and long-term actions to improve a site.
- Approach place-related issues or problems differently in the future.

Speakers

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Joan Clos i Matheu

Former Mayor of Barcelona and Currently Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program, (UN-HABITAT), Under Secretary General of the United Nations

Alfredo Brillembourg and Hubert Klumpner

Principals of Urban-Think Thank (UTT) and Professors/Chairs for Architecture and Urban Design at the Swiss Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH) Zürich in Switzerland and Guest Professors at the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, Columbia University

Ali Madanipour

Professor of Urban Design and the Director of Global Urban Research Unit at Newcastle University

Paul Murrain

Senior Fellow, The Prince's Foundation, Urban Design Practitioner, Landscape Architect

Christopher B. Leinberger

Land use strategist, developer, researcher and author, president of Locus and the Charles Bendit Distinguished
Scholar and Research Professor, George Washington University School of Business

Katherine Loflin
Principal of Loflin Consulting Solutions, expert in placemaking, community practice, civic engagement

Andrés Duany
American architect, urbanist, debater, author and urban planner and designer, Principal of Duany Plater Zyberk & Company (DPZ) and Co-Founder of Congress for New Urbanism (CNU)

Elizabeth Plater Zyberk
American architect, urbanist, author and urban planner, Principal of Duany Plater Zyberk & Company (DPZ) and Co-Founder of Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Miami

Dan Gilmartin
Executive director and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Michigan Municipal League

Patricia de Lille
South African politician and Mayor of Cape Town, also, concurrently, the leader of the Independent Democrats, a South African political party

Jed Patrick E. Mabilog
The Chief Executive and City Mayor of Iloilo City, Republic of the Philippines

Andrés Borthagaray
Executive director, strategic planning council, Buenos Aires City. Former Undersecretary of decentralization (office of the Vice Mayor). Director, Instituto para la Ciudad en Movimiento (IVM-América Latina).

Habitat III
Habitat III, the third United Nations (UN) conference to be held on Human Settlements, will take place in 2016. Bringing
together actors from across the globe, including local
governments, national governments, the private sector,
international organizations, and many others, this is the
largest urban discussion, involving the greatest number of
stake holders to take place in the world. Habitat... read more

Who should attend?

Local Politician’s, civil servants, all professions involved in city
planning and city management, architects, academics, NGO’s,
representants for Civic & Social Organizations, journalists,
real estate representatives and those from other applicable
disciplines. Some of you are change agents in communities
others are involved in the following Transformative Agendas:

1.) You know about and understand Public Space. You have a
strong understanding of the key elements and processes
needed to create quality public space inclusive to all.

2.) You are set on leaving a legacy. You understand that a
people centered approach is fundamental in creating a
cohesive city and needs to be considered in all aspects of
development. You are known for bringing awareness to the
sometimes overlooked realm of public space and are able to
exert its influence in larger processes.

3.) You have substantial experience with on-the-ground
projects and initiatives. You’re driven and you’ve got a few
success stories under your belt—and probably even some
failures that you’ve learned a great deal from. We’re looking
for people who don’t just think about how to create great
places— instead, they roll up their sleeves, head on out, and do
it themselves.

4.) You think holistically about place. When you enter a
public space you recognize the elements that make it
desirable, and you are able to identify the missing ingredients.
You notice the (often hidden) relationships among physical
form and the way individuals interact with this.

5.) You have your own networks and organizations. You have
a track record of working with people from different
backgrounds, disciplines, and communities, and you
understand how important unlikely partnerships are to
creating successful, people centered public space.

The language of the conference will be English
Program Schedule

To be announced.

Accommodation

We have strategically chosen hotels in primary locations and accommodating a multitude of price ranges. Please follow the following link to for further information and hotel reservations:

About Stockholm

Weather: In late June the weather is usually very pleasant with temperatures ranging between 20° to 30° degrees Celsius (68° to 86° Fahrenheit).
Distance to Venue from airport: 40.5 km. Driving time: approximately 30 minutes.
Language: Swedish, but most Swedes are highly proficient in English.

Places to visit

For a comprehensive description of places to visit while you are in Stockholm, please see the following link.

Organizers

UN Habitat, Project for Public Spaces, Ax:son Johnson Foundation
Responsible persons UN Habitat: Thomas Melin
PPS: Fred Kent Ax:son Johnson Foundation: Peter Elmlund

Hosting Organization

Ax:son Johnson Foundation which is a private foundation whose principle objective is to facilitate scientific research in general. Read more here:

Financial Support

There exists a limited possibility to obtain funding for participation at the conference, especially if you live in the developing world. Mail to info@futureofplaces with an application.

Steering Committee
Thomas Melin, Chair, Head of the Office of External Relations, UN Human Settlements Programme

Peter Elmlund, Project Leader, Urban City Research

Kathy Madden, Senior Vice President, PPS

Fred Kent, President, PPS

Ethan Kent, Vice President, PPS

Rafael Tuts, UN-Habitat

Peter Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide City Council

Mary Jane C. Ortega, Secretary General, CITYNET

Celine D'Cruz, Coordinator, Slum Dwellers International

Tigran Haas, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Design at Royal Institute of Technology

Peter Stonham, Editor, writer, and specialist information distributor, Landor Links Group

Charles C. Bohl, Ph.D., University of Miami’s School of Architecture

Cecilia Martinez, Director of the UN-Habitat Office, New York

Organizers
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The Future of Places