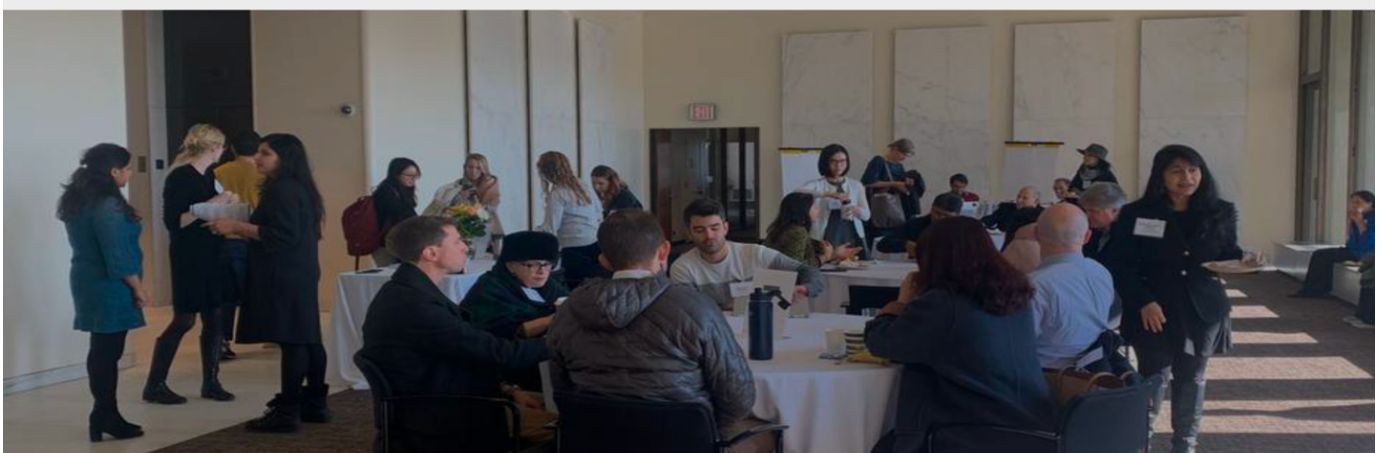# UN Habitat Urban Thinkers Campus

Accelerating the SDGs in Cities

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NOVEMBER 13TH - 14TH, 2019

Report

SUBMITTED TO UN HABITAT AND WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

INDEX

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) is an initiative of UN Habitat – a campus gathering of urban actors with an interest in advancing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Columbia University's UTC event was held on November 13th and 14th, 2019 and hosted 80 thought leaders working in the areas of academia, the professions, and civil society. The UTC was held at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as well as the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), and is part of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development 's three-stage project, Accelerating the SDGs. Representatives from the Center for Sustainable Urban Development(CSUD), Asia Initiatives (AI), Perkins Eastman(PE) and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU) developed the UTC concept and its delivery.

80 participants were welcomed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, via a video message:

> "This Urban Thinkers Campus has an ambitious agenda. It has brought together people in education, the urban professions, and civil society organizations. I commend you for committing your time and energy to this Urban Thinkers Campus"

Accelerating the SDGs in Cities addressed the urgency of meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and how academia, the professions and civil society can help expedite action on the SDGs and their targets. A key question was, "How can we best meet the challenge of accelerating the SDGs in cities, in tandem with other sustainability agendas, and inspire each other on this path?"

The goal of the UTC was to arrive at actionable items (Ideas for Action) by which each participant could bring the urgency of action to their own networks. The aim was to focus attention on the three key areas of academia, the professions and civil society, while keeping in mind issues of intersectionality and environmental justice. A key concern was that younger people have THE most to lose and their ideas for action must be heard.

Examples of Ideas for Action for the design professions, design and planning schools and civil society:

Design Professions
- **Promote the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda as well as other sustainability strategies as core urban design values, including through professional development courses.**
- **Establish state and national AIA (American Institute of Architects) awards for SDGs and New Urban Agenda implementation.**

Design and planning schools
- **Educate future urban practitioners with knowledge and skills to implement the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and other sustainability strategies.**

Civil Society
- **Use innovative technology to achieve social inclusion and economic progress.**
- **Lead by example through engagement with the wider public and scale and spread partnerships to work towards the SDGs.**

Over two days, the UTC offered a number of Talks or keynotes (three speakers plus respondents), five Panels (16 speakers) , one Innovating with Purpose breakout session (16 facilitators/leaders) and two wrap-up sessions (3 speakers) plus Q and A for all sessions. The format provided participants with an opportunity to fully and critically engage with the SDGs. An underlying theme was the question of localization of the SDGs. These questions included: What deep transformations are needed to achieve the SDGs in cities? How do the SDGs relate to the Green New Deal? Academic, professional, and civil society participants were invited to join in this dialogue, sharing experience, knowledge, and viewpoints.

THE LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE

www.localprojectchallenge.org profiles 110 projects from 39 countries that engage with the SDGs and their targets: 49 professional; 35 educational, 26 civil society. In addition to taking part in the UTC talks, panels and breakout session, participants viewed slideshows of the Local Project Challenge submissions on GSAPP monitors. These slide shows are available here .

This Report provides program details, session summaries and Ideas for Action developed in each session. Video recordings of all sessions and speakers' PowerPoint presentations are available on the Accelerating the SDGs project site. Accelerating the SDGs in Cities covered a great deal of ground. Over 60 Ideas for Action were generated by speakers and participants drawn from academia, the urban professions, and civil society organizations.

The website for an allied Accelerating the SDGs project , the Local Project Challenge , was launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Speaking about this knowledge sharing, network building gallery of projects that considered the SDGs, SG Ban -Ki-Moon said:

I encourage you to share this important gallery with colleagues, fellow students, friends and family. I encourage everyone to ask how the SDGs can be incorporated in our daily lives. Their widespread adoption will help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and create a more equal and livable future. To all who have taken this first step by submitting their projects to create this extraordinary resource, my warmest congratulations.

Report prepared by:

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December 2019.
Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD), The Earth Institute, Columbia University
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II. CONFERENCE PROGRAM

All UTC videography and PowerPoint presentations are available HERE.

DAY 1: NOV 13, 2019, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, SIPA

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM
WELCOME AND UTC OBJECTIVES
Anna Rubbo and Elliott Sclar, CSUD, Earth Institute
Local Project Gallery Launch Message from UN SG Mr. Ban Ki-moon

9:45 AM –10:30 AM
TALK 1: FRAMING THE CHALLENGE OF THE SDGS IN CITIES
Alex Hiniker, Mayor's Office of International Affairs
Respondent: Jacqueline Klopp, CSUD

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM
PANEL 1: URBAN PROFESSIONS AND GOVERNANCE
Moderator: Lance Jay Brown, CSU
Don Weinreich, Ennead Architects
Hayes Slade, Slade Architecture & President, AIA NY
Tom Kennedy, Arup
Tom Wright, President and CEO , RPA

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM
BREAKOUT: INNOVATING WITH PURPOSE
Candy Chang, James Reeves, James Francisco, William Chan, Florencia Librizzi, Amanda Abrom, Bruno Ragi, Alexandria Villaseñor, Christian Gaeth, Annesha Chowdhury, Spencer Harbo, Leonel Ponce, Kratma Saini Sood, Alexandria Villaseñor, Sreoshy Banerjea, Sonal Beri

2:00 PM – 3:50 PM
PANEL 2: ACCELERATING SDGS IN EDUCATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Moderator: Anna Rubbo, CSUD, Earth Institute
Harriet Harris, Dean of Architecture, Pratt University
Kaja Kuhl, Associate Professor, Urban Design, GSAPP
Sam Loni, Global Coordinator, SDSN Youth
Shawn Connell, GrowNYC Teaching Garden

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM
PANEL 3: ACCELERATING THE SDGS: TECH, BIG DATA, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND EQUITY
Moderator: Geeta Mehta, Asia Initiatives and Adjunct Professor, GSAPP
Art Lerner-Lam, LDEO, Earth institute
Jose Miguel Armijo, Perkins Eastman

5:00 PM –5:30 PM
CLOSING REMARKS
Critical Review of Morning + Ideas for Action Jacqueline Klopp, CSUD Critical Review of Afternoon + Ideas for Action Justin Garrett Moore, Public Design Commission NYC

DAY 2: NOV 14, 2019, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, GSAPP

10:30 AM – 11:20 AM
TALK 2: HOUSING NYC-AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES AND THE SDGS
Mark Willis, Furman Centre, NYU
Respondent: Justin Garrett Moore, Public Design Commission

11:20 AM –12:50 PM
PANEL 4: THE SDGS AND AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE HOUSING
Moderator: Theodore Liebman, Perkins Eastman
Lauren Zullo, Jonathon Rose Companies
Ramin Jahromi, Cox Architecture
Stephen Forneris, Perkins Eastman

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM
PANEL 5: ARE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS COMPETING FOR YOUR ATTENTION?
Moderator: Anna Rubbo, CSUD Earth Institute
Amy Leitch, Arup
Oliver Schaper, Gensler
Stephen Zacks, Journalist

2:40 PM – 3:20 PM
TALK 3: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES TO REALIZING THE SDGS IN CITIES?
Alainna Lynch, SDSN.
Respondent: Elliot Sclar, CSUD, Earth Institute

3:20 PM – 4:00 PM
CRITICAL REVIEW AND IDEAS FOR ACTION
Roberta Gratz, Journalist and Urban Critic

III. SUMMARY of UTC SESSIONS and IDEAS for ACTION

Session Reports: Day 1

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM WELCOME AND UTC OBJECTIVES
Session videography

Anna Rubbo and Elliott Sclar, CSUD, Earth Institute

UTC Welcome and Local Project Gallery Launch

UN SG Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Talk 1: Framing the Challenges of SDGs in Cities
Session videography

Alex Hiniker, Program Director, Mayor's Office of International Affairs,
Framing the Challenge of SDGs in Cities

Respondent: Jacqueline Klopp, CSUD, Earth Institute

Summary:
New York has been localizing the SDGs since 2015 and provides an excellent example of how they can be implemented locally. In 2018, New York created the concept of the award-winning Voluntary Local Review that documents progress on the SDGs in NYC. The talk explored New York's implementation of the SDGs, with a focus on how cities can make progress locally by using the common language of the SDGs. How has NYC benefitted from engaging in the global SDG conversations? Are there any lessons/advice New York can offer to other US or international cities?

Ideas for Action: Framing the Challenges of SDGs in Cities
- **Scale up and create new partnerships across sectors to work towards the SDGs.**
- **Advocate for more voluntary reporting in cities, and stronger political support for the SDGs.**
- **Localize the goals; incorporate them in city regulations to help address zoning, transportation, and emissions.**
- **Frame issues about climate change as resilience issues.**
- **Be optimistic; cities have stepped in where national governments have not.**
- **Support youth in their demand for climate action , and structural change.**

Panel 1: Accelerating the SDGs in Cities: Urban Professions and Governance

Session videography

Moderator: Lance Jay Brown, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
Introduction: Panel 1. Urban Professions and Governance

Don Weinreich, FAIA, LEED AP Management Partner Ennead Architects,
Case Study: Ennead Lab and the Socratic Practice

Hayes Slade, Principal, Slade Architecture & President, AIA NY,
 Accelerating the SDGs in Cities

Tom Kennedy, Principal, Arup
Accelerating the SDGs in Cities: Urban Professions and Governance

Tom Wright, President and CEO, Regional Plan Association
Accelerating the SDG's in the New York Metropolitan Region

Summary:

Accelerating the SDGs in cities will require increased awareness of the SDGs by design and development professionals in the public and private sector. Showcasing diverse approaches, four New York urban professionals illustrated the ways in which they are working to amplify the SDG goals in their practices and organizations . Already, sustainability and climate change are core parts of American Institute of Architects' (AIA) advocacy. AIA has ratified the Resolution for Urgent and Sustained Climate Action and has adopted the framework for design excellence. Since 2017 Arup committed to meeting the SDGs in their national and international projects. Speakers suggested that if the SDGs were codified in professional practice, the built environment disciplines could achieve even broader sustainability outcomes.

Ideas for Action: Urban Professions and Governance

- **Work towards rapid adoption of the SDGs in the design and development industries, and encourage client education about the SDGs.**

- **Coordinate efforts to expand dialogue around the SDGs within professional organizations, building on existing commitments to sustainability.**

- **Create SDG content in professional development courses.**

- **Encourage professionals to reflect on projects and evaluate how they match with SDGs.**

- **Include the SDGs and other sustainability frameworks as core urban design values.**

- **Encourage regional plans that address climate change across local boundaries.**

- **Introduce SDGs to the next generation of professionals through primary, secondary and tertiary curricula; explore the potential of youth video games that incorporate SDGs thinking and values.**

- Develop experiential awareness and understanding of SDG principles among youth in parks and public spaces, through events, educational programming, and community gardens.

Breakout Session: Innovating with Purpose
Session videography

Moderators: Amanda Abrom, William Chan, Kratma Saini

Speakers: Candy Chang, James Reeves, James Francisco, William Chan, Florencia Librizzi, Bruno Ragi, Alexandria Villaseñor, Christian Gaeth, Annesha Chowdhury, Spencer Harbo, Leonel Ponce, Kratma Saini Sood, Sreoshy Banerjea, Sonal Beri

Summary:
Young innovators kick started the breakout with inspiring 5-minute presentations on their own work. The aim was to stimulate a brainstorming session and to elicit Ideas for Action in the *education, professional or civil society* arenas that could help accelerate the SDGs in cities. Group leaders encouraged participants to think big, bold and critically, and to consider how innovative approaches and processes could be productively harnessed to generate Ideas for Action.

Ideas for Action: Innovating with Purpose

- Encourage more interdisciplinary teams when designing projects.
- Integrate an SDG framework early in the design process.
- Move towards indicators that capture best and worst practices.
- Establish state and national AIA (American Institute of Architects) awards for SDG implementation.
- Communicate the benefits of the SDGs at a community and grassroots level through new narratives, especially in relation to climate action.
- Use innovative messaging to engage a larger audience.
- Create content on SDGs which can be taught through open learning platforms, provide professional credits in order to incentivize positively in engaging with the SDGs.

Panel 2: Accelerating the SDGs in Cities Through Education and Civic Engagement
Session videography

Moderator: Anna Rubbo, CSUD, Earth Institute

Harriet Harris, Dean of Architecture, Pratt University
Accelerating SDGs in Cities through De-colonizing Architecture's Curriculum

Kaja Kuhl, Associate Professor, Urban Design, GSAPP, and Founder, youarethecity
Ideas for Action: Ask Questions, Unpack Systems, Make Solutions Visible.

Sam Loni, Global Coordinator , SDSN Youth
Local Pathways Fellowship: The Why, the What, the How.

Shawn Connell, GrowNYC Teaching Garden
Accelerating the SDGs at GrowNYC's Teaching Garden

Summary:

Educators can work together in diverse fields to enable transformative changes in a range of educational settings that increase knowledge of the SDGs and other sustainability strategies as well as supporting more inclusive curricula and educational practices. Examples were provided from Pratt's architecture program, the Urban Design Program at Columbia University as well as the global reach of the Local Pathways Fellowship. Importantly, this panel also explored how the civil society organization, GrowNYC, is raising awareness of climate action and educating children from New York's public – and often less advantaged – schools.

Ideas for Action: Education and Civic Engagement

- **'Decolonize' the traditional (male generated) architectural curriculum and allow for increased inclusion and representation in academia.**

- **Involve more women in SDG action.**

- **Engage stakeholders who reflect underrepresented communities.**

- **Educate future urban practitioners at the university level with the knowledge and skills to implement the SDGs and other sustainability strategies.**

- **Combine expert knowledge with practitioner knowledge to influence policy solutions and gain a bigger, overall transformation.**

- **Encourage university administrations to support SDG teaching and research across disciplines and create the next generation of leaders to help implement the SDGs.**

- **Design educational curriculum that goes beyond 'reduce, reuse, and recycle'. Involve more complex issues of climate change and address drawdown.**

- **Educate designers and researchers to reduce greenhouse gases at every stage of the construction.**

- **Ask questions to unpack unsustainable systems in education and the profession.**

- **Build on youth commitments to innovation, entrepreneurship, and social justice, and their capacity to apply pressure in education and business settings to work towards the SDGs.**

- **Lead by example through engagement with the wider public.**

- **Speak up and raise awareness with colleagues, friends and family.**

- **Join or start a community garden and demonstrate the SDGs through action.**

- **Explore the concept of urban farms rather than shipping food. Use farms as educational tools.**

Panel 3: Accelerating the SDGs in Cities: Tech, Big Data, Social Justice, and Equity

Session Videography

Moderator: Geeta Mehta, Asia Initiatives and Adjunct Professor, GSAPP

Jose Miguel Armijo, Perkins Eastman
Perkins Eastman Data Unit

Art Lerner-Lam, Deputy Director, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Earth Institute
Disaster Resilient Caracas: Urban Planning Student Studio

Summary:

Technology is becoming the biggest disrupter in cities, ushering in the shared economy in people's work and living location, shopping, privacy, surveillance, transport, communication, supply chains and logistics. Its impact on urban transformation is likely to be bigger than the one the Industrial Revolution had on cities. Tech and big data can help accelerate the SDGs in cities and be a force for social and environmental good. Examples included research (earthquake early warning systems, climate risk and response coordination, and other forms of urban disaster resilience); urban design (the use of big data in planning urban environments, and tech as an important tool in the development of better construction methods); civil society (the use of technology to achieve social inclusion and economic progress).

Ideas for Action: Tech, Big Data, Social Justice, and Equity

- **Coordinate human actions and behaviors with technology and government policy, keeping in mind long-term economic and financial impact.**

- **Develop a multidisciplinary approach with local institutions and community partnerships to implement solutions.**

- **Integrate and reinforce existing local capacity so that it can handle complex, systematic issues. Solve community issues that can prevent implementation of solutions.**

- **Incorporate disaster resilience strategies as a tool to inform societies and promote social responsibility; ie link science and society.**

- **Data is an important tool for new forms of construction and can be put to use in urban planning.**

- **Embrace data modeling and scripting workflows to as a way to analyze the performance of projects and embody climate action.**

- **Approach smart cities/high tech with caution to avoid loss of basic freedoms and or the entrenchment of privilege or inequality.**

Wrap-up for Day 1
[Session videography](#)

Critical Review of Morning + Ideas for Action

Jacqueline Klopp, CSUD, Earth Institute

Critical Review of Afternoon + Ideas for Action

Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director, New York City Public Design Commission

Urban Thinkers Campus Day 2

Talk 2: Building SDGs into a Local Housing Strategy
Session Videography

Mark Willis, Furman Centre, NYU
Affordability Challenges and the SDGs
Respondent: Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director, NYC Public Design Commission

Summary:
Throughout the United States, an increasing number of states and localities are grappling with challenges of housing affordability. This talk explored how local governments can incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into a local housing strategy. To assist communities in this task, the NYU Furman Center and Abt Associates convened a national Community of Practice on local housing policy. The presentation drew on that experience and the website it produced – LocalHousingSolutions.org – to show how cities can achieve several SDGs through a focus on housing affordability. Participants learned the basics of a comprehensive housing strategy, and its connections to climate action, health, education, and equality.

Ideas for Action: Building SDGs into a Local Housing Strategy

- **Make sure affordable housing policy creates opportunity, promotes racial and economic equity, and partnerships.**

- **Increase access to opportunity with geographically targeted subsidies, inclusionary housing bonuses, voucher mobility, and access to public transport.**

- **Improve environmental and health conditions in housing by reducing the housing cost burden, reducing energy consumption, and reducing the environmental footprint of housing development.**

- **Promote equity by reducing housing discrimination and decreasing the concentration of poverty through mixed-income neighborhoods.**

- **Create partnerships through community engagement as well as the public and private sector in order to break down government silos.**

Panel 4: The SDGs and Affordable, Sustainable, and Inclusive Housing
Session videography

Moderator : Theodore Liebman, Perkins Eastman and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization,
Introduction: Panel 4. Housing

Lauren Zullo, Jonathon Rose Companies,
Building & Preserving Green Affordable Housing

Ramin Jahromi, Director, Cox Architecture,
The SDGs & Affordable, Sustainable & Inclusive Housing

Stephen Forneris, Principal and Board Director at Perkins Eastman,
Popular and a little bit more Housing

Summary:

Market-based housing is not affordable for many around the world. In developing countries, ever-growing squatter settlements are glaring signs of injustice in housing and the infrastructure of cities. The rights of refugee populations, escaping oppressive political, economic, social or climate conditions, are often ignored. Meanwhile, the trend in the US and other countries is to move away from public housing and increasingly depend on the market to provide affordable housing for all age and income groups, including the growing number of seniors. Lack of housing security has severe consequences on a family's health, livelihood, children's education and future potential, often resulting in chronic poverty and detriment to the society at large. Therefore, policy must focus on safe and secure housing for low to middle income households. Speakers shared diverse housing examples from around the world including the US, Europe, Australia and Ecuador.

Ideas for Action: The SDGs and Affordable, Sustainable, and Inclusive Housing

- **Preserve (and maintain) affordable housing as well as building new affordable housing.**

- **Ensure that development creates communities of opportunity that guarantee safety, health, energy efficiency and positive environmental impact**

- **Build communities that include multi-generational facilities, such as elementary schools and senior living facilities.**

- **Utilize more public-private partnerships to facilitate affordable and secure housing.**

- **Understand, appreciate and support the social and environmental positives in informal housing.**

- **Develop action plans to ensure building codes guarantee safety in informal housing.**

- **Refine zoning codes so they impact buildings , streets and urban lots positively and comprehensively.**

- **Learn from other sustainable housing designs and use financial models that will ensure long term sustainability.**

Panel 5: Are Sustainability Frameworks Competing for your Attention?

Session videography

Moderator: Anna Rubbo, CSUD Earth Institute

Amy Leitch, MEM LEED AP BD+C Senior Consultant, Integrated Planning, Arup,
Are Sustainability Frameworks Competing for Your Attention?

Oliver Schaper, Design Principal and Northeast Regional Leader, Gensler,
Shaping the Future of Cities

Stephen Zacks, Journalist

Summary:

Many sustainability frameworks compete for the attention of clients, professionals, and the public. Public awareness of sustainable urban development has increased, and companies need to be more intentional in introducing the SDGs as well as other relevant frameworks. The world is watching. Journalist Stephen Sachs advocated for legislating SDGs compliance by city-making professions. Arup is a front runner in adopting the SDGs, having resolved to make their inclusion in all projects company policy in 2017. Examples were provided. Gensler outlined a different framework. The Socioeconomic Ecological Performance Index, or SEPI, is a tool for architects, owners, and developers to assess their project's social impact and improve the quadruple bottom line of people, planet, policy, and profit. SEPI posits that architects and planners can be a corrective force to the global epidemic of socioeconomic inequality by improving the social, economic, and environmental performance of each project. As of 2019, Gensler had saved 10.21 metric tons of CO_2 through their projects. By 2030, their projects will have saved 21 million metric tons of CO_2 emissions.

Ideas for Action: Are Sustainability Frameworks Competing for your Attention?

- Determine what "good" means in the context of a community and /or client; use the SDGs as a benchmark to guide company decision making.

- Use the SDG framework to increase awareness about sustainability with communities and/or clients and encourage take-up: make it fun ("games" often better than reports).

- Select project appropriate goals and targets, and localize/adapt as needed. Don't assume one size fits all.

- Ensure all disciplines (architecture, interiors, landscape, engineering etc.) within a company (or on a specific project) are on the same page.

- **Develop a company framework for engagement that supports the SDGs that can have a positive impact on urban sustainability, as well as the earth's ability to rebound; consider whether projects should be accepted, and how they can best be executed within the company framework.**
- **Encourage design professionals to enter the political arena to promote legislation and regulation that will help achieve SDGs in cities and the built environment in general.**
- **Develop initiatives like Resiliency NYC to stimulate innovation in the design and planning professions, including the issue of homelessness.**

Talk 3: What are the Challenges to Realizing the SDGs in US Cities?
Session Videography

Speaker: Alainna Lynch, Sustainable Development Solutions Network,
What are the Challenges to Realizing the SDGs in Cities?

Respondent: Elliott Sclar, The Earth Institute

Summary:
Cities are essential to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in the United States and around the world, but success in cities will not only depend on political will, but also community leadership and purposeful action. While there has been progress in several cities, the 2019 US Cities Sustainable Development Report underlines the rising inequalities of income, healthcare, education and gender as barriers to meeting the SDGs. Drawing on the report which analyzed how well US cities incorporate the SDGs, Lynch emphasized that American cities are underperforming compared to EU cities. Overall, the USA ranks #35 in achieving the SDGs. Highest scoring indicators were life expectancy; lowest were sustainable transit and rent burden. Cities with the highest indicators of success tend to be on the coast, while cities with the worst tend to be in the South. American cities need to invest in social equity, infrastructure, and fiscal policy to address social disparity and accelerate SDGs. The talk concluded with remarks about how an integrated SDGs framework, combined with smart and innovative finance policy, offers opportunities to address challenges in housing and transportation, and at the same time confront injustice.

Ideas for Action: What are the Challenges to Realizing the SDGs in US Cities?
- **When developing policies or proposals about social issues, such as the gender gap or incarceration rates, use the SDGs as a lens to address these challenges.**
- **Engage communities and support the leadership of those most impacted with a "leave no one behind" agenda. Examples include addressing unemployment rates and energy burden.**
- **Fill data gaps using the SDGs to proactively address societal injustices.**
- **Create local and state level accountability measures.**

Wrap-up for Day 2
Session Videography

Critical Review + Ideas for Action

Roberta Gratz, Journalist and Urban Critic

IV. SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOS

Alexandra Hiniker - Program Director, Mayor's Office for International Affairs

Alexandra Hiniker is responsible for highlighting the connections between local and global sustainability using the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining the Mayor's Office, she was the PAX Representative to the United Nations, focusing on the protection of civilians in Syria, Iraq, and South Sudan. She has 15 years of international development, policy, and advocacy experience working in 18 countries. This included implementing pandemic preparedness projects in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Alexandra has a B.A. from the University of Chicago, an M.A. from Uniwersytet Jagiellonski in Krakow, Poland, and an M.S. in Urban Policy and Leadership from Hunter College.

Jacqueline Klopp - Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) The Earth Institute

Jaqueline M. Klopp is Co-Director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development. Her research focuses on the intersection of sustainable mobility, land use, air pollution, climate and accountability. She is a founder of the Digital Matatus project that mapped out and created open data for minibus routes in Nairobi and is collaborating with AFD, WRI, MIT, the World Bank and others on building collaborative open transport data platforms for cities in Africa ("DigitalTransport4Africa") and Latin America (DATUM). Dr. Klopp received her B.A. from Harvard and her Ph.D. from McGill University. Formerly, she was an Assistant Professor at SIPA and Director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration.

Don Weinreich - FAIA, LEED AP Management Partner Ennead Architects

Don Weinreich is a Management Partner at Ennead Architects. His experience is broad, particularly with academic, cultural and research institutions. Don is currently leading an Ennead Lab research project Rethinking Refugee Communities, in collaboration with the with UNHCR, Stanford University and other institutions, to develop a new methodology for the design of refugee settlements. Don is an expert in organizing the collective efforts of complex project teams. In addition to his work on specific projects, Don plays a leadership role in Ennead Lab, the firm's research arm and is responsible for the office's technology development, leading the implementation of new ways in which architectural computing can advance the firm's practice.

Hayes Slade - Principal Slade Architecture & President, AIA NY

Hayes Slade is a founding partner at Slade Architecture. Their work has been recognized with national and international design awards, publications and exhibitions including the Venice Biennale and the Architectural League of NY's Emerging Voices program and several hundred magazines, books, and

newspapers. Slade Architecture has been included in the NYC Design Excellence Program for over twelve years. In addition, Hayes is currently President of the NY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. She has also taught graduate and undergraduate design at Parsons School of Design/The New School and Syracuse University School of Architecture. She is a mother of four.

Tom Kennedy - Principal, Arup

Tom Kennedy currently leads Arup's Civil Engineering Practice and the Circular Economy business for the Americas region. He brings 30 years of experience in a wide range of engineering projects and site development worldwide. Tom's cross-disciplinary knowledge of structural, civil and utilities allows for a flexible approach to a variety of project types covering private and public clients. His extensive project list includes planning and delivery in education, residential, commercial, government, security, airports, general transportation, as well as public open space design. He was the Principal in Charge and project leader for the Hunters Point South Waterfront Project in Queens. Prior to moving to the US, Tom spent time working and residing in Middle East, Far East, Russia and Europe.

Tom Wright - President and CEO, Regional Plan Association

Tom Wright is President and CEO of Regional Plan Association, the nation's oldest independent metropolitan research, planning, and advocacy organization. RPA works to improve the prosperity, infrastructure, sustainability, health and quality of life of the NY-NJ-CT metropolitan region. In 2017, RPA's Fourth Regional Plan was released under Tom's direction which proposes to reform public sector institutions, modernize our transportation systems, address the challenge of climate change, and provide affordable and livable communities for the region's residents. Tom has a master's in urban planning from Columbia University and a bachelor's in history and a certificate in American Studies from Princeton University.

Harriet Harriss – Dean, Pratt School of Architecture

Harriet Harriss is Dean of the Pratt School of Architecture. Her teaching, research and writing focus upon pioneering new pedagogic models for design education, as captured in Radical Pedagogies: Architectural Education & the British Tradition, and for widening participation in architecture to ensure it remains as diverse as the society it seeks to serve, a subject she interrogates in her book, A Gendered Profession. A qualified architect, Harriss has won various awards for teaching excellence and is a recognized advocate for design education. She was nominated by Dezeen as a champion for women in architecture and design in 2019.

Kaja Kühl - Urban Design Program , GSAPP and Founder, youarethecity

Kaja Kühl founded youarethecity in 2008. A research, design and planning practice, youarethecity collaborates with cities, institutions, and community-based organizations to produce maps, diagrams, writings, designs, websites, events and exhibitions about urban spaces. Prior to founding youarethecity Kaja worked for the New York City Department of City Planning. She is Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University, where she coordinates the Fall Urban Design Studio and leads the Hudson Valley Initiative, an applied research initiative focused on cities and landscapes in the region. Kaja has a Diploma in Architecture from Karlsruhe, Germany and a MSc in Urban Planning from Columbia University

Sam Loni - Global Coordinator, SDSN Youth

Sam is a global leader working in sustainable development, climate change, and human rights. He is based at the Secretariat of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network in NYC - an initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to mobilize global expertise around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Sam founded and currently leads SDSN Youth, an organization that empowers youth globally to create sustainable development solutions. Sam is also the Partnerships Manager of SDSN's Financing for Sustainable Development initiative – where he helps coordinate efforts to mobilize global funding and resources to close the SDG financing gap in low-income-developing-countries.

Shawn Connell - GrowNYC Teaching Garden

Shawn is the co-founder of GrowNYC's Teaching Garden, a one-acre urban farm and environmental sustainability demonstration space that engages with over 18,000 New York City public school students and members of the public each year. In 2010 Shawn founded the Community Farm at Sandy Spring Friends School, a community-run educational and working farm. He has over a decade of experience as an educator and activist working on transformative, community-driven solutions to local and global environmental challenges. He has an M.A. in Sustainable Development and is a certified Master Gardener.

José Miguel Armijo - Perkins Eastman

José Miguel is a Chilean Architect who holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from UC Chile. His thesis titled Structural Skin, focused on high-rise and parametric façade prototypes according to performance variables such as structural topological optimization, solar radiation and urban occlusion. His professional experience includes working at Perkins Eastman Architects in both New York and Dubai, as well as lead founder of the DATA UNIT, aiming to enhance the firm's design and efficiency through scripting, data analytics and digital literacy. José Miguel's digital fabrication skills were featured in the 2014 MoMA exhibition Latin America in Construction: Architecture 1955-1980. He was a top 15 finalist for NASA 3D Printed Mars Habitat Challenge.

Arthur Lerner-Lam, Ph.D. - Deputy Director, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

Arthur Lerner-Lam is the Deputy Director of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. A seismologist, he has led scientific expeditions in the Middle East, Europe, Central and South Asia, the Southwest Pacific, and throughout the United States. Over the last 20 years, he has lectured and written widely on natural hazard risk identification, assessment and management. He has consulted on natural hazard resilience for the governments of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Chile, India, China, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela, as well as the World Bank. He has testified before the U.S. Congress on preparedness for natural disasters.

Justin Garrett Moore - Executive Director, New York City Public Design Commission

Justin Garrett Moore is an urban designer and the executive director of the New York City Public Design Commission. He has extensive experience in urban planning and design—from large-scale urban systems, policies, and projects to grassroots and community-based planning, design, and arts

initiatives. At the Public Design Commission, his work focuses on prioritizing quality and excellence for the public realm and fostering accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in New York's public buildings, landscapes, and art. He is a member of the American Planning Association's AICP Commission, the Urban Design Forum, and BlackSpace. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University and co-founder of Urban Patch.

Mark A. Willis - Furman Centre, NYU

Mark A. Willis is the Senior Policy Fellow at NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. Prior experience: Visiting Scholar at the Ford Foundation; EVP at JPMorgan Chase for community development; positions with the City of New York in housing, economic development, and tax policy; and urban economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of NY. He speaks and writes frequently on such topics as affordable housing, national housing finance reform, and the Community Reinvestment Act. Mr. Willis has a J.D. from Harvard Law and a Ph.D. in economics from Yale.

Lauren Zullo - Jonathon Rose Companies

Lauren Zullo joined Jonathan Rose Companies in 2017 as Director of Environmental Impact, where she is responsible for overseeing environmental and healthy building design, retrofit, certification, and reporting initiatives across all the firm's business practices. Prior to joining Jonathan Rose Companies, she worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), where she led initiatives to scale up market-based strategies to improve the environmental performance of large buildings. Lauren previously held roles in development, property management and sustainability for the commercial real estate firm Greenebaum & Rose Associates in Washington, DC. Lauren received her A.B. from Bowdoin College.

Ramin Jahromi - Director, Cox Architecture

Ramin is a Director with COX Architecture who has held key roles for more than 20 years in the practice and has specialized in delivery of residential and complex mixed use projects. He has a passion for mixed tenure housing developments and is currently the project director for the master plan of a number of Sydney's mixed use residential housing development including Ivanhoe Housing Estate as part of the New South Wales' Communities Plus program. In addition to housing projects, he has led a wide range of projects in Australia and internationally across master planning, hotel, commercial, education, research planning and urban design and transport infrastructure. Elsewhere, Ramin has lead Master Studios in the integration of practice and academia and plays an active role and link between the universities and COX Architecture through the initiation of scholarships at respective tertiary institutions.

Stephen Forneris - Principal and Board Director at Perkins Eastman

Stephen Forneris is a principal and board director at Perkins Eastman. He manages the firm's Guayaquil office and Latin American practice. An authority on building and construction practices in Latin America, he contributed to drafting the 2008 Ecuadorian building code.   In 2011 he published a guide to building an earthquake resistant house in Spanish and English that used drawings as well as references to the latest seismic resistant codes. Published later as a book, in French and English, it

serves as a test of concept that safe buildings do not cost more money than unsafe buildings. He has taught at Yale School of Architecture.

Amy Leitch - MEM LEED AP BD+C Senior Consultant, Integrated Planning, Arup

Amy is a Senior Consultant with Arup's Integrated Planning team in New York, focused on accelerating human-centered planning to influence the future development of cities, ensuring their livability, sustainability and resilience. She leads the North American city engagement for the City Resilience Index on behalf of Arup and The Rockefeller Foundation, supporting cities to operationalize the urban resilience agenda and measure and monitor the impact of their planning and investment programs. Amy has over a decade's experience working on large-scale urban planning projects in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

Oliver Schaper - Design Principal and Northeast Regional Leader, Gensler

As a design principal and Northeast Regional Leader of Gensler's Cities and Urban Design practice, Oliver spearheads and oversees planning and urban design projects, strategies, and communication tools for varying scale projects including master plans, environmental systems, commercial and institutional headquarters, mixed-use campuses, and residential developments. With an expertise in developing holistic, civic-minded, and sustainable places, Oliver focuses on shaping a design practice that draws from the insights of interdisciplinary conversations. Oliver is a visiting assistant professor at Pratt Institute's Graduate School for Architecture and Urban Design and a fellow at the Urban Design Forum.

Stephen Zacks - Journalist

Stephen Zacks is a journalist, architecture critic, urbanist, and arts organizer. A New School Liberal Studies graduate, he founded Flint Public Art Project in 2011 and serves as president of Amplifier Inc., a platform for socially engaged art and design in under-served cities. He has published in the New York Times, Village Voice, Art in America, Abitare, L'Architectured'Aujourd'hui, the Architectural Review, Oculus, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Architectural Record, the Architect's Newspaper, Brownstoner, Curbed, and previously served as an editor at Metropolis. A highly awarded writer, he is currently writing a mid-to-late 20th century cultural history of New York City.

Alainna Lynch - Senior Research Manager, SDSN

Alainna Lynch is a Senior Research Manager at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), where she considers the question: What will it take to achieve the SDGs in the United States? Alainna's research interests also include understanding how poverty and inequality become entrenched in social systems, and how to prevent harm when designing policy and programs. Prior to SDSN, Alainna worked with Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on the Leave No One Behind Agenda. Alainna has a degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago and a Master's degree in Evidence-Based Social Intervention from Oxford University.

Elliott Sclar - Co-Director CSUD, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Elliott Sclar is an economist who has written extensively about the strengths and limitations of markets as mechanisms for effective public policy implementation. An international expert on urban

development, he was co-coordinator of the Taskforce on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers, one of the ten taskforces set up by the UN Millennium Project to help guide the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In recent years he has been a leading figure in a scholarly movement to reconnect the work of population health experts and urban planners in creating healthier cities. Sclar is Professor emeritus of Urban Planning at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Roberta Brandes Gratz - Journalist and Urban Critic

An award-winning journalist and urbanist, Roberta Brandes Gratz has been observing and writing about cities – how they grow, fall apart, recover – for more than 40 years. NYC born and raised; Roberta started her journalism career as a reporter for the New York Post under Dolly Schiff. She left when Rupert Murdoch bought the paper and went on to write five books on urban change. Her writing has also appeared in the Nation, New York Magazine, New York Times Magazine and The Wall Street Journal. She served on the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Sustainability Advisory Board for NYC under Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In 2004, Roberta, with author/urbanist Jane Jacobs, founded The Center For the Living City centerforthelivingcity.org to build on Jacobs' ground-breaking work.

V. INNOVATING WITH PURPOSE PRESENTERS

Sreoshy Banerjea, *New York City Economic Development Corporation.* Sreoshy Banerjea leads Urban Design at The New York City Economic Development Corporation where she guides urban design strategy, and manages consultants on visionary master planning efforts. She has a masters in Urban Design from MIT and a B'Arch from RPI.

Sonal Beri, *Anant National University, India.* Sonal Beri is and Architect and Urban Designer with 20 years of experience in a wide range of project types and scales from city planning, super tall towers, institutional buildings to exhibition design and robotics. She is an adviser and a core faculty at Anant National University in India (India's first Design University)

William Chan*, Cox Architecture and Local Pathways Fellow, UN SDSN.* HY William Chan is an urban designer from Cox Architecture in Sydney, Australia. William co-founded an initiative to help refugee youth develop skills in sustainability, innovation and the circular economy, which was presented at the High Level Meeting on Social Business, Youth and Technology during the 2018 UN General Assembly.

Candy Chang and James A. Reeves, *Project Leaders, A Monument for the Anxious and Hopeful.* Candy Chang and James A. Reeves collaborate on participatory installations that envision the future of ritual in public life. A Monument for the Anxious and Hopeful served as a living catalogue of the ways we relate to uncertainty and collected over 50,000 reflections from visitors to the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City.

James Fransisco, *Senior Urban Designer and Planner, Arup,* James Francisco is a Senior Urban Designer and Planner and a graduate in Architecture from the University of Sydney. He has extensive experience in the design and implementation of public space including streetscapes, urban parks and plazas. His aim is to create an enhanced urban environment and experience for people to connect.

Christian Gaeth, *Founder, NGO 'Project Mako e.V.",* Christian studies architecture and political economics in New York and Paris. His work focuses on housing development in West Africa and emphasizes sustainability and affordability. He is working with a community in Senegal on a project that reconsiders vernacular typologies and building materials for urban housing solutions.

Spencer Harbo, *GrowNYC,* Spencer Harbo manages community garden projects for GrowNYC's Garden Program. With backgrounds in community organizing and environmental psychology, he works with community members, city agencies, and other stakeholders to build gardens within vacant lots and other public spaces. He received master's degrees in Social Work and Natural Resource Management from the University of Michigan.

Florencia Librizzi, *Head of Program and Partnerships, SDG Academy,* Florencia Librizzi is a sustainability and education professional and international attorney, licensed to practice law in Argentina and New York. As Head of Program and Partnerships, she leads the SDG Academy, the flagship education initiative of SDSN. Previously, she devoted over 6 years to build the PRME initiative, UN Global Compact. She received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) magna cum laude from Universidad Nacional de Cordoba and her Masters of Laws (LL.M.) at NYU School of Law.

Leonel Lima Ponce, *Acting Academic Coordinator, Pratt Institute.* Leonel Lima Ponce is Acting Academic Coordinator at Pratt Institute's M.Sc. in Sustainable Environmental Systems, in the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. As a Registered Architect in New York, he's managed institutional, restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Kratma Saini, Asia Initiatives. Kratma is an urban designer/architect who received her MS of Architecture and Urban Design from GSAPP Columbia University. Prior to founding KS Atelier LLC, she worked with Pritzker winner B.V. Doshi and Davis Brody Bond on several prestigious and award winning NY projects including the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

Alexandria Villaseñor, *Youth Climate Activist.* On 23 September 2019, Villaseñor, along with 15 other youth activists including Greta Thunberg, filed a legal complaint with the United Nations accusing five countries, namely France, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, and Turkey of failing to uphold their reduction targets to which they committed in their Paris Agreement pledges.

VI. UTC HOSTS

Accelerating the SDGs in Cities was hosted by The Earth Institute's Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) in collaboration with Asia Initiatives (AI) , Perkins Eastman and the Center for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU).

Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD)

CSUD was founded in 2005 by Elliott Sclar as one of eight Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) global Centers of Excellence (CoE) in Future Urban Transport. CSUD's work has expanded to address critical urban sustainability, equity, and planning issues through a creative, humanistic, multi-disciplinary, and collaborative approach based on strategic systems thinking. The UN Urban Campus Thinkers Summit: Accelerating the SDGs in Cities was initiated by CSUD's Anna Rubbo as part of the Accelerating the SDGs 2018-2020 project.

Columbia University and the Earth Institute

Columbia University is a distinguished research university and learning environment for both graduate and undergraduate students. It is located in New York City and home to dozens of research institutions spanning a myriad of global issues. In 1995, the Earth Institute was launched on Columbia's campus and has now grown into a large community of social scientists, lawyers, policy analysts, health experts, and engineers, across schools and disciplines. It is home to dozens of research centers, of which CSUD is one.

Asia Initiatives (AI)

The mission of Asia Initiatives (AI), as described by founder Geeta Mehta, is to leverage the power of social capital to promote healthcare, education , improve livelihoods, and sustainable development, while striving to bring positive change in the quality of life of people in underserved communities. With a particular focus on women and their families, initiatives utilize transformative methodologies and technologies to empower people to realize their full potential. AI empowers women and their communities in becoming the stakeholders of their own success. With headquarters in New York and New Delhi, AI has projects in India, Kenya, Ghana and the United States.

Perkins Eastman (PE)

Founded in 1981 Perkins Eastman is a global architecture firm with 17 interdisciplinary offices around the world. The firm designs for a sustainable and resilient future and bases its approach on the idea that design can have a direct and positive impact on people's lives. PE principal Theodore Liebman, architect Sylvia Vercher and associates in PE's Mumbai and Guayaquil offices have also worked with CSUD to accelerate the SDGs through university collaborations on the Local Project Challenge.

Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU)

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization is a New York based, non-for-profit organization 501(c)(3) formed to promote a better understanding of the role of sustainable urbanization and resilient design in the planning of our cities. Founded in 2008, CSU brings together dynamic leaders, professionals, governments, NGOs and academics. Its partners with organizations with overlapping goals and interests such as: UNHabitat, United Nations Economic and Social Council, American Institute of Architects New York, Regional Plan Association, New Jersey Institute of Technology, American Planning Association, Next City, City College of New York, International Council for Caring Communities and others. Lance Jay Brown is a founding Board member and president of CSU. Theodore Liebman is a Board member.

VII. UTC ORGANIZERS

Anna Rubbo, the Center for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia University. Anna Rubbo LFAIA joined CSUD in 2012 from the University of Sydney where she taught Architecture. A member of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers (2002-04), she initiated the Global Studio, a think and do tank offered in four countries (2005-12). She led the People Building Better Cities exhibition shown in 10 countries and 18 cities, and in 2016 curated the first exhibition on architect Marion Mahony Griffin in Chicago. Currently working on Accelerating the SDGs, a three stage project that compliments this UTC. She received the Australian Architecture Educator's award in 2011.

Geeta Mehta, Asia Initiatives. Geeta Mehta is the President and Co-Founder of Asia Initiatives, along with Krishen Mehta. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at Columbia University. She serves on the Boards of WSI and the Center for Liveable Cities, and on the Advisory Boards of the New York Mayor's Waterfront Management and Friends of the University of Tokyo. She has been recognized as one of the 21 leaders of the 21st Century by Women's eNews.

Amanda Abrom, Columbia SIPA and Earth Institute Intern. Amanda Abrom is a current Master's student at Columbia SIPA and a Project Officer for the UN SDSN's Global Schools Program. She is a former Fulbright Scholar and a current UN Conference on Trade and Development Youth Delegate. Previously, Amanda worked on the US Department of State's Exchange Programs as a university Peer Mentor for students from over 13 countries.

Lance Jay Brown, Perkins Eastman and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization. Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, DPACSA is an Architect, Urban Designer, Educator, and Author. He is currently the President of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization working closely with UN Habitat and the AIANY Chapter. He is an ACSA Distinguished Professor and Chair/Director Emeritus of the Spitzer School of Architecture, CCNY and was awarded the coveted AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education. He consults, teaches, and lectures nationally and internationally. Writings include Beyond Zuccotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space, Urban Design for an Urban Century, The Legacy Project: Via Verde, and Waterproofing New York.

Theodore Liebman, Perkins Eastman and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization. Theodore Liebman, FAIA, is a Principal at Perkins Eastman and a board member of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization. Mr. Liebman was Chief of Architecture at the New York State Urban Development Corporation and Chief of Architecture for Roosevelt Island in the 1970's. Over the past 50 years, Mr. Liebman's focus on issues of housing, lifestyle, and culture in the urban environment is part of a comprehensive view of long-term sustainability, challenging the limits of density in urban communities while advocating for the efficient use of precious land and resources. He received a B. Arch. from Pratt Institute, a M. Arch. from Harvard University, GSD and the Rome Prize Fellowship in Architecture. He is an adjunct professor @ NYU and has lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

Annesha Chowdhury, Asia Initiatives. Annesha is a Program Associate at Asia Initiatives, NYC and a PhD scholar at the Academy for Conservation Sciences and Sustainability Studies at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE, Bangalore, India). Her research uses on-ground ecological, remote sensing and sociology data to understand how human-dominated landscapes can be managed for biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing.

Bruno Mendonça, Local Project Challenge Team. Bruno Mendonça graduated in Architecture and Urbanism (Bennett Institute – Brazil) with a Master of Science Degree in Architecture (UFRJ, Brazil) and a Professional Master in Urban Engineering (UFRJ - Brazil). He has experience in different fields, like urban landscape morphology and urban design. His research focuses on the relationship between the open spaces and the landscape configuration in Rio de Janeiro's suburbs. Mendonça is associated with the ProLUGAR/UFRJ (Places and Landscape Research Group), has worked in collaboration with Brazilian and international researchers and participated in different projects focusing on the importance of urban areas.

Silvia Vercher, Perkins Eastman. Architect Silvia Vercher specializes in urban design with 10 years of experience. She is a designer at Perkins Eastman in NYC. Silvia's work on local and international projects include an ambitious masterplan in Brooklyn, NYC, together at SCAPE; a winning design competition entry and construction of the Rike Park in Tbilisi, Georgia, together with CMD; and the collaboration of the Zurich tower in Mexico City with FR-EE. With Anna Rubbo, she co-organized events at Habitat III in Ecuador, and World Urban Forum 9 in Malaysia. Silvia holds a Master of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of South Australia.

VII. FUNDING