CONCORDIA’S INSTITUTE FOR URBAN FUTURES: RE-THINKING HOW WE LIVE IN CITIES

The Institute for Urban Futures is a research platform for engaging ideas on futurism, speculative design, embedded community engagement, and site-responsive urban practices.

Based in the Faculty of Fine Arts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration among faculty, artists, researchers and graduate students who are examining urban issues in the broadest ways possible.

concordia.ca/urbanfutures
Hello Vanguards!

Welcome to Montréal for a conference that promises to be informative, inspiring and energizing! Concordia is proud to join with Next City to co-host this four-day event — held for the first time in Canada.

You’ll be exploring “the best city in the world for students” named earlier this year in the latest QS rankings. Montréal jumped six spots to claim first place, ahead of Paris, London, Seoul, Melbourne, Berlin and Tokyo. And we were not surprised!

Our excellent post-secondary institutions educate more people than any other Canadian city — more than a quarter million, including some 26,000 international students.

In recent years, Montréal has also become a hub for innovation — a place where intergenerational and multidisciplinary collaboration produces solutions to pressing problems in our society.

At Concordia, our students, faculty members and alumni are leading the way when it comes to creative solutions to social problems and cutting-edge scientific and technological inventions. We support youth-driven social innovation.

As part of Montréal’s fabric, we are deeply connected to the city. We are involved in community-based research projects and offer our students community-based experiential learning opportunities. As well, our co-op program is growing and expanding.

Some unique Concordia initiatives likely to be of interest to you include the Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies, the Transportation Research for Integrated Planning (TRIP) Lab and the Institute for Urban Futures, all accessible from our website, concordia.ca.

As you explore this vibrant city, you’ll learn about citizen-led initiatives that are making a difference, and meet the people behind many of them.

You’ll hear about how the city is working with communities to address urban planning and design challenges, and planning for our shared future.

I look forward to hearing your ideas to help Montréal chart a course toward a more sustainable and accessible city.

I wish you all the best for a productive conference!

Alan Shepard
President
Concordia University
From The Mayor of Montréal

Bonjour,

C’est avec un immense plaisir que je souhaite la bienvenue aux 45 participants de la première conférence Next City Vanguard au Canada! La Ville de Montréal est très fière de contribuer à la tenue de cet événement d’envergure internationale.


La tenue de cette conférence représente une occasion unique de contribuer à tracer l’avenir de Montréal. D’autant plus qu’elle se déroule alors que Montréal célèbre son 375e anniversaire cette année.

Je tiens à remercier l’Université Concordia, l’hôtesse de cette importante conférence et les membres du comité organisateur de Next City. Je les félicite d’offrir la chance à ces jeunes leaders urbains, en provenance de l’Amérique du Nord, de découvrir Montréal et de mettre leur créativité au service de son développement.

À tous les participants, je souhaite que Montréal soit une source d’inspiration fructueuse et porteuse de solutions créatives et innovatrices.

Bonne conférence et profitez bien de votre séjour pour participer aux festivités du 375e anniversaire de Montréal!
Hello,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome 45 participants to the first Next City Vanguard conference in Canada! Montréal is very proud to contribute to this international event.

Montréal is known for its quality of life, bustling university scene and ecosystem of innovation. Montréal was named the 2016 Intelligent Community of the Year by the Intelligent Community Forum. The city is pursuing its objective of developing and launching, in a human, open and innovative manner and in co-creation with its residents, technological solutions to the major urban issues that it faces.

The conference is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of Montréal, especially since it takes place as Montréal celebrates its 375th anniversary this year.

I would like to thank Concordia University, the host of this major conference, and the members of the Next City organizing committee. I congratulate them on giving these young urban leaders from North America the chance to discover Montréal and put their creativity to good use towards its development.

To all the participants, I hope that Montréal will be a source of productive inspiration and creative, innovative solutions.

Have a good conference and take advantage of your time here to participate in the festivities of Montréal’s 375th anniversary!

Denis Coderre
Maire de Montréal
Mayor of Montréal
Bienvenue, 2017 Vanguards!

What could be better than celebrating city life with young urbanists? Doing it in Montréal, of course! The City of Saints sets the stage for Next City’s premier experiential leadership program, now in its eighth year. And, while there’s no requirement that you be an angel during the Vanguard conference, we do expect the experience to be transformative.

In partnership with Concordia University and a host city team beyond compare, Next City is pleased to bring you the opportunity of a lifetime to meet new friends and shape your passion for cities. With international speakers, fun activities and engaging events, Vanguard 2017 has been designed to inspire and motivate you to take on projects in your city that will produce a measurable difference.
As we travel through well-established neighborhoods and experience multicultural influences, we will encourage you to find lessons in Montréal that you can bring back to your city. Vanguard 2017 continues the tradition of mixing walking tours with panel discussions, informal conversations and keynote addresses that bring experts and ideas together in an experience unlike any other.

This year, we intentionally sought out an international experience. Montréal is an appropriate and important place for considering public and private civic assets, cultural integration and community building, access to food and mobility. These issues transcend any one city and are faced by urban communities around the world.

Vanguard 2017 will build on international efforts to inspire change in cities, including adoption of the Paris Climate Change Accord, Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda, a platform agreed to at Habitat III — the bicentennial conference on human settlements. Through our journalism and events, Next City has sought to inform and inspire urbanists to tackle the most pressing problems faced by cities throughout the country and around the world.

We encourage you to think broadly and question assumptions. And, we will ask you to give your all. Continuing a tradition, Vanguard 2017 will culminate in The Big Idea Challenge, an opportunity for you to collaborate with other Vanguards and civic leaders in Montréal to propose solutions that can leave a lasting impact.

You won’t be alone in this and all Vanguard endeavors — Next City staff, our host committee and several Vanguard alumni will be there to guide you (or prod, when necessary) to consider the keys to urbanity as well as the potential side effects of displacement and inequality. We guarantee this will be an experience you will long remember.

We at Next City eagerly anticipate a successful conference and sharing a lifetime of Vanguard experiences with you, starting today in Montréal. And, we hope that the program, experiences, lessons, networks and memories from Vanguard 2017 will inspire you to lead social, economic and environmental change in your city. Allons-y!

Tom Dallessio
President, CEO + Publisher
Next City
Important Info

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Getting Around
Téo Taxi
An all-electric taxi fleet. To download the app, visit: teomtl.com/en/mobileapp/ or download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

Public Transit
The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) offers buses and a metro system. Learn more at: www.stm.info/en.

Uber
To sign up to ride, visit: get.uber.com/new-signup/ or download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

Transit to and from Airport
747 Airport Shuttle
(Pierre Elliot Trudeau Airport/ Aéroport P.-E.-Trudeau/Centreville)

The 747 shuttle service runs 24/7 between the Montréal-Trudeau airport and the Berri-UQAM metro station. For the Nouvel Hôtel & Spa and Concordia-Grey Nuns, get off at Stop 2 (Guy St.).

Tickets are $10 and give you unlimited transit use on STM’s bus and metro networks for 24 consecutive hours. The $10 must be paid in cash with exact change on the bus, and only coins are accepted, no bank bills. There are fare vending machines in the international arrivals area.

Accommodations
Concordia – Grey Nuns Residence
1190 Guy St. (between René-Lévesque Blvd. and Ste-Catherine St. W.)
514.848.2424, ext. 8000

Le Nouvel Hôtel & Spa
1740 René-Lévesque Blvd. W. (corner of St. Mathieu St.)
800.363.6063

Local Amenities
Pharmaprix
1500 Ste-Catherine St. W. (corner of Guy St. and Ste-Catherine St. W.)

Supermarché PA du Fort (grocery store)
1420 Fort St. (between Ste-Catherine St. W. and De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.)
514.932.0922

Emergency
Concordia – Grey Nuns Residence
514.848.3717, dial 1 for urgent situations

Le Nouvel Hôtel & Spa
Please call the front desk

Lost & Found
Concordia – Grey Nuns Residence
Service desk – Room J104

Le Nouvel Hôtel & Spa
800.363.6063
Social Media Buzz

Share your highlights throughout the week and connect with other Vanguards using the hashtag

#VanguardMTL

Connect With Us

Next City

Twitter: @NextCityOrg
Facebook: @NextCityOrg
Instagram: @NextCityOrg

Concordia

Twitter: @Concordia
Facebook: @ConcordiaUniversity
Instagram: @ConcordiaUniversity
CHARMAINE LYN leads the Office of Community Engagement, which supports and promotes community-engaged scholarship, research, teaching and learning at Concordia. She is one of two special university advisors on Indigenous Directions. As a first-generation university attendee and a lawyer by training, Charmaine has a particular interest in dismantling unnecessary barriers to higher education for marginalized populations.

PREM SOORIYAKUMAR is a knowledge broker in Concordia University’s Office of Research. He advises on, and manages, the development of knowledge mobilization activities on and off campus; identifies knowledge transfer opportunities for researchers and research users; designs and implements knowledge mobilization projects and activities; and liaises with community partners.

PAUL SIMARD is principal director for advancement and alumni relations at Concordia’s Faculty of Arts and Science. He works with alumni, friends and partners to find meaningful connections and engagement opportunities to support and enhance the student experience. He is a board member of Salon 1861, a co-creation community space, and Pour 3 Points, a nonprofit that focuses on keeping at-risk youth in school.

KAREN MCCARTHY is a communications and media relations strategist with more than 20 years of experience in the education, health care and social welfare sectors. She has held senior leadership roles at the Canadian Nurses Association and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is currently Concordia’s director of institutional communications.
About Next City and Vanguard

Next City is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire social, economic and environmental change in cities through journalism and events around the world. Our vision is for a world in which cities are not in crisis, but are instead leading the way toward a more sustainable, equitable future. Next City provides daily online coverage of the leaders, policies and innovations driving progress in metropolitan regions across the world. In addition to our online journalism, we produce events, including the Vanguard conference. Vanguard is an annual gathering of the best and brightest young urban leaders working to improve cities across sectors, including urban planning, community development, entrepreneurship, government, transportation, sustainability, design, art and media.

Each year, Next City selects applicants – whose bright ideas for cities, experience in the field and ambition for the future all show great promise – to become members of the new Vanguard class. Along with alumni, host committee members and Next City staff, Vanguards convene to collectively learn and think about how to tackle the challenges our cities face. After hosting Vanguard conferences in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cleveland, Chattanooga, Reno and Houston, Next City is pleased to present the eighth annual conference in Montréal, Québec, where host and steering committees made up of local urban leaders have played an integral role in shaping this unique event.
SILVANO DE LA LLATA is an assistant professor in geography, planning and environment at Concordia University. He received his doctorate in city and regional planning from Cornell University. His research focuses in the democratization of planning and urban design. Building on critical design theories and protest encampment planning, he developed two methodologies, “planning-in-situ” and “open planning” to engage ordinary citizens in the planning of public spaces.

BÉATRICE COUTURE is the general manager of InnoCité MTL, the first smart city startup accelerator in Canada. Prior to InnoCité, she gained solid experience with municipal sales and infrastructure project management as a team member of the BIXI business development team managing the bike-share system implementation in major Canadian and American cities.

CÉLINE COOPER is a columnist for the Montréal Gazette. She sits as an executive board member of the Association for Canadian Studies, the Montréal Press Club, and is an ambassador with the Contact MTL Greater Montréal Ambassador’s Network. She is a PhD Candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

CARMELA CUCUZZELLA is Concordia University research chair in integrated design and sustainability for the built environment. She holds degrees in computer science, design art, a master’s in design and complexity and a doctorate in environmental design. Her research work is framed within the broad domain of design studies where she investigates questions of sustainable design.

BÉATRICE COUTURE is the general manager of InnoCité MTL, the first smart city startup accelerator in Canada. Prior to InnoCité, she gained solid experience with municipal sales and infrastructure project management as a team member of the BIXI business development team managing the bike-share system implementation in major Canadian and American cities.

JULIE FAVREAU is a 2016 Vanguard and project manager for Société d’habitation et de développement de Montréal. A specialist in urban revitalization and real estate development, she leverages real estate and urban planning to create shared value that benefits citizens, businesses and cities alike. Her goal is to transform the way we live together through real estate.

STÉPHANE GOYETTE is chief smart and digital city officer for the city of Montréal. Named to this position in 2014, he has since built a dynamic team of smart city specialists and launched strategic and action plans comprised of 70 projects divided into six programs. Greater Montréal was named ICF 2016 Intelligent Community of the Year.

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NANTALI INDONGO, a storyteller and artist, is a member of Nomadic Massive, a multilingual hip hop supergroup based in Montréal, and co-founder of Hip Hop No Pop, an educational and interactive workshop series that looks at the non-violent origins of hip hop culture, situating it as a part of the African-American oral tradition; building critical thinking and confidence in young people. Nantali is also a broadcaster at CBC Montréal.

FÉLIX-AANTOINE JOLI-COEUR is a founding partner of IdéesFX. Previously, he worked at McKinsey & Company and in the Office of the Premier of Québec. More recently, he was the architect of “I See Mtl”, a movement that aimed to mobilize civil society to accelerate the revival of the economy of Montréal.

JONATHAN LAPALME is the principal at Les interstices, a strategic design atelier based in Montréal, and the co-founder of Entremise, a nonprofit organization aimed at facilitating transitory uses in vacant buildings. He has been working for nearly 10 years on the design of processes and strategies tackling various urban challenges.

GUILLAUME LAVOIE (Vanguard 2015) is a Montréal city councillor. He is interested in mobility, bikenomics and urban art. He is an expert on the sharing economy and cities. Before entering politics, Lavoie worked in public policies and international relations. An innovative social entrepreneur, he is the co-founder of the Collège néo-classique.

MICHAEL LENCZNER has more than 15 years of experience working at the intersection of technology and the nonprofit sector. He is CEO of Ajah, a Montréal-based company that develops online tools for fundraisers, and director of Powered by Data, a nonprofit initiative launched by Ajah that helps the nonprofit sector use data to increase its impact.

KYLE MATTHEWS is a member of the BMW Foundation’s Global Responsible Leaders network, past president of the Canadian International Council in Montréal, and is executive director of the Montréal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University. He has worked closely with the mayors of Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto and Montréal in advancing human rights at the municipal level.

ZACHARY PATTERSON is associate professor in the department of geography, planning and environment at Concordia University. He is also Tier-II Canada research chair in transportation and land use linkages for regional sustainability. His research has three main thrusts: the use of emerging technologies in data collection, GIS and statistical analysis.
MATTHEU SALOU is a passionate advocate for communications and innovation. After 10 years working in a web agency, commercial architecture, marketing and branding consultancy, he became a partner in Novae in 2011. As a marketing director, he is fueled by passion, guided by a strong desire to change things and to break down barriers in sectors that too often operate in silos.

ION VALASKAKIS is president of Portfolio IV, a strategic advice practice that helps individuals and organizations reach their full potential through reinvention. He is also the author of the recent business strategy book “The Magnificent Mistake: How you can earn from failure than you learn from success.”

DAN SELIGMAN is founder and creative director of POP Montréal. He has managed Stars, The Unicorns and Socalled. He recently co-founded the record label Club Roll Music. He has travelled and lectured at various festivals around the world including Bylarm in Norway, Goiania Noise in Brazil, Spot Festival in Denmark, Spring Scream in Taiwan and Green Zoo in Poland.

GEORGE STAMATIS is a globally respected children rights activist since the age of 14, an entrepreneur (co-founder of Trendr) and consultant. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 and UNICEF’s Unique Global Children’s Rights Champion Gold Medal in 2015.

NATALIE VOLAND has created a unique vision that uses real estate projects as a tool for economic development and urban regeneration. Her latest creation is retrofitting of one of Montréal’s oldest churches into a hub of social innovation. Le Salon 1861 helps to integrate residents of Little Burgundy, nonprofit community groups and universities with business leaders to use collective experiences to rebuild Montréal.

SANDENGA YEBAB is coordinator for international organizations with Montréal International, a public-private corporation tasked with attracting foreign direct investment and international organizations to the city with the objective of boosting Montréal’s global reputation and economy. He liaises closely with the United Nations and the more than 60 international organizations that have established a presence in the city.
Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, MAY 30

6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
› Brutopia @ 219 Crescent St.

Bonjour!
Meet up with fellow Vanguards, alumni and staff for an informal gathering to kick off the events.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

7:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.
› Grey Nuns @ 1190 Guy St., Room E104

Breakfast and Welcome

9:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
› Canadian Centre for Architecture @ 1920 Baile St.

PechaKucha
We’ll walk to the Canadian Centre for Architecture for a PechaKucha-style orientation to Montréal.

12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
› Share the Warmth @ 625 Fortune St.

Lunch and Panel Discussion
How a Group of Neighbors Brought an Abandoned Train Station Back to Life
Citizen-driven planning can do great things. Bâtiment 7 is a 90,000-square-foot abandoned train repair station in the deindustrialized and rapidly gentrifying neighborhood of Pointe-St-Charles that is being transformed into a neighborhood-owned, multipurpose community hub. Thanks to years of dedicated work by a collective of engaged citizens and neighborhood organizations, the space will offer community services, artists’ studios, a pub and restaurant, a general store, a market, a daycare and even a birthing center. Phase one is set to open in January 2018.

1:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
› Bâtiment 7

Tour

2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
› St. Henri Art Hive @ 4525 Saint-Jaques St.

Tour and Workshop
We’ll take the eLion bus to St. Henri Art Hive for a discussion and walking tour.

Art Hives & Radical Hospitality
This discussion will take place in one of the 30 art hives located in Montréal. These neighborhood hubs foster sharing and intercultural and intergenerational
connections while also serving as university storefront classrooms. In this presentation, we will learn about the practice of radical hospitality that power these spaces, and how art hives use the power of the arts to create welcoming third spaces in neighborhoods.

4:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
▷ Salon 1861 @ 550 Richmond Ave.

**Dinner and Panel Discussion**
We'll walk to Salon 1861 for a taco dinner on the lawn.

**The New Civic Commons**
In Montréal, libraries, community centers and churches have long been vital gathering spaces for the city’s diverse population, yet many of these civic assets increasingly find themselves underused or abandoned altogether as technology and other cultural shifts change the way we live. How can governments, communities and developers work together to reinvent these spaces in ways that continue to serve the public?

7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
▷ Old Port @ 110 Notre-Dame St. W.

**Art Walk**
We'll walk or bus to Old Port, where our day will end with a taste of Montréal’s world-class public art. We will experience two stunning light installations at the Notre Dame Basilica and the historic gateway into the island city, the Jacques-Cartier Bridge.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1**

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
▷ Milton B @ 3498 Park Ave

**Breakfast**
Meet in front of the Grey Nuns to travel to Milton B, an innovative cafe where we’ll get introduced to the Big Idea Challenge.

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
▷ Première Moisson, Jean Talon Market @ 7070 Henri-Julien Ave

**Market Walk**
We'll travel up through Mount Royal to the lookout chalet for a group photo overlooking the city, followed by a walk through Le Plateau to the Jean Talon Market. At the market, we'll enjoy croissants and coffee at a renowned Montréal bakery.

11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.
Presentation and Guided Walk with 2015 Vanguard and Montréal City Councillor Guillaume Lavoie

12:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.
▷ Esplanade @ 6750 Esplanade - corner St-Zotique

**Panel Discussion**
**Tomorrow’s Food System**
Located in the heart of the Marconi-Alexandra (Mile-Ex) sector in Montréal, Esplanade is a unique place dedicated to the development and upscaling of innovative practices related to social entrepreneurship and innovation in Québec. We will talk to Esplanade
members who are working to increase fresh food accessibility and create a stronger local food system.

1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
> **Champs Des Possibles @ 5605 Gaspé Ave**

**Site Visit and Presentation**
**Building the Possible**
Champs des Possibles directly translates into the “Field of Possibilities.” The space was a rail yard until the late 1980s when the trains stopped coming and wilderness was re-established. Montréaliers have gradually re-appropriated this industrial wasteland — planting and tending vegetable gardens, organizing concerts, cleaning and maintaining the plot. We will learn about how the space, now operated by a non-governmental organization, came to life and ongoing efforts to preserve its biodiversity.

3:00 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.
> **Notman House @ 51 Sherbrooke St. W.**

**Panel Discussion**
**The Mobile City**
Montréal is moving away from the car. We will learn more about how the city and other places are adapting for an urban future wherein oil and space on the road are scarcer than ever, focusing on the role of data in spurring advances in mobility.

4:45 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
> **Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative @ Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 Boulevard de Maisonneuve W., Room H-239**

**Dinner and Keynote**
We’ll travel back to Concordia for dinner and a reception, followed by a keynote address from Jeff Speck starting at 7:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2**

7:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M
> **Grey Nuns @ 1190 Guy St., Room E104**

**Breakfast and Workshop**
After breakfast, we’ll participate in a workshop on democratizing design with Silvano De La Llata & Ron Rayside.

9:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
> **Various Sites**

**Big Idea Challenge Site Visits**
Vanguard Big Idea Challenge groups will visit their community partners’ sites around Montréal.

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
> **Grey Nuns Working Rooms @ 1190 Guy St., Room E104**

**Working Lunch**
Grab a bite on the go near your site or the Concordia Campus before meeting up with your Big Idea Challenge team to work on your plan and presentation.
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.  
▶ D.B. Clarke Theatre @ Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 Boulevard de Maisonneuve W.

*Presentation Practice and Dinner*  
Your group will get the chance to practice your presentation in front of alumni and host committee members.

7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.  
▶ D.B. Clarke Theatre

*Big Idea Challenge*  
The evening will be hosted by Andy Nulman, co-founder of Just for Laughs and CEO of Play the Future. Each team will have 10 minutes to pitch their ideas to a public audience and a panel of judges. After the presentations are evaluated the winning idea will be announced.

8:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.  
▶ The 11th Floor Terrace @ Concordia EV Building

*Big Idea Challenge Reception*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
▶ CJ Atrium at Concordia Loyola Campus @ 7141 Sherbrooke St. W.

*Breakfast and Closing Chats*  
Meet in front of Grey Nuns to travel to the CJ Atrium. After breakfast, we’ll have a town-hall-style event with Tom Dallessio and André Roy to allow Vanguards to provide feedback and engage in a dialogue about Montréal, what they have learned and the opportunities they see for the city going forward. Tom Dallessio will also discuss the role of Vanguards post-conference, and a panel of alumni will share about the role Vanguard has played in their careers and lives.

12:00 P.M.  
Conference Ends
Next City Vanguard Conference
Accessibility

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”
—Jane Jacobs, “The Death and Life of Great American Cities”

The 2017 Vanguard conference is grounded in the idea that 21st-century urbanism demands that all people enjoy access to the places, tools and decision-making power necessary to fully participate in urban life and effect change in their community.

Our goal is to create a platform for Vanguards and local partners to work together to identify and solve a design challenge. Community engagement must be built into any design solution.

Our time in Montréal is rooted in a commitment to fostering robust public participation. To do this, we have engaged with six community partners anchored in different communities and neighborhoods across Montréal. Community partners will have access to conference proceedings to benefit from and contribute to a dynamic learning experience and knowledge exchange.

Vanguards and community partners will enjoy a program designed to stimulate learning about and from Montréal’s exemplars of citizen-driven planning, public space design and cultural integration in a diverse population, just to name a few.

The Big Idea Challenge is where it all comes together. Vanguards and local partners will collaborate to design a solution for an accessibility challenge facing a community-based organization. The conference culminates in a public event, where Vanguards and their community partners will present innovative ideas that we believe will move Montréal toward a more accessible tomorrow.
The Big Idea Challenge provides an opportunity for Next City and its Vanguards to leave a lasting impact on the conference’s host city. In the competition’s fourth year, challenge teams will be made up of Vanguards — who bring impressive and diverse professional expertise — and representatives of local community organizations — who bring deep local knowledge. These teams will work over the course of the conference to co-design a solution for a problem faced by the team’s community partner.

In the spirit of the conference theme of accessibility, community partners are invited to participate alongside the Vanguards for the first two days of the conference. Together, Montréalers and the Vanguards will learn about how Montréal is tackling challenges related to creating accessible public spaces, planning processes and transportation systems. They will emerge from these two days with new insights into how to build more equitable, open and inclusive cities through participatory design.

The third day of the conference — Friday — will be focused on the Big Idea Challenge. Prepared with background on sites and ideas to inspire them, the Vanguards will come to Montréal ready to collaborate and create. Vanguards will spend several hours exploring their challenge site with their community partners as interpreters and guides. Teams will marshal their expertise, conference learnings and local information to generate solutions for the team’s identified problem.

Vanguards will then have time to brainstorm and develop seven-to 10-minute PowerPoint “pitches” that will be presented to Montréal community members — including city and community representatives — at a public event that evening.

Presentations will be evaluated on creativity, feasibility, community impact and overall delivery. A judging panel will select the winning idea. In the months following Vanguard, Next City will work with Concordia University to advance the plan of the winning proposal in Montréal, supported by a $7,000 grant.
Keynote Speaker
Jeff Speck

“The Walkable City: Why Access is the New Mobility”
Jeff Speck, AICP, CNU-A, LEED-AP, Honorary ASLA Principal, Speck & Associates LLC

Jeff Speck is a city planner and urban designer who advocates internationally for more walkable cities. As director of design at the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 through 2007, he presided over the Mayors’ Institute on City Design and created the Governors’ Institute on Community Design.

Prior to his federal appointment, Speck spent 10 years as director of town planning at DPZ & Co., the principal firm behind the new urbanism movement. Since 2007, he has led Speck & Associates, a boutique planning firm that specializes in making American downtowns thrive.

With Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Speck is the co-author of “The Smart-Growth Manual” and the modern classic “Suburban Nation,” which the Wall Street Journal calls “the urbanist’s bible.”

His latest book, “Walkable City” – which the Christian Science Monitor calls “timely and important, a delightful, insightful, irreverent work” – was the best selling city planning book of 2013-2015.

Speck will be giving a keynote address at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 1.
The Big Idea Challenge is an opportunity for Next City and Vanguards to leave a lasting impact on our host city. In this fourth year, the Montréal Big Idea Challenge teams are made up of Vanguards — who bring impressive and diverse professional expertise — and community partners — who bring deep local knowledge.

In the spirit of the conference theme of accessibility, community partners are invited to participate alongside the Vanguards for the first two days of the conference, acquiring knowledge on challenges and solutions to issues of access to food, jobs, health, transportation and housing. They will also learn about innovative approaches to participative and inclusive design methods.

Challenge Day will bring Vanguards into neighborhoods and sites with their community partners as interpreters. Teams will marshal their own expertise, their newly acquired skills and local knowledge to work together to articulate a specific need and propose and co-design solutions.

Background on sites and ideas to inspire teams were provided to Vanguards prior to the conference. The conference program was planned to enable teams to meet, brainstorm and develop a presentation on their plan. Teams must prepare a seven-to-10-minute PowerPoint presentation that will be given to Montréal community members — including city and community representatives — at a public event on Friday night.

Presentations will be evaluated on creativity, feasibility, community impact and overall delivery. A judging panel will select the winning idea. In the months following Vanguard, Next City will work with
Next City Staff

TOM DALLESSIO  
President,  
CEO & Publisher  
Tom is the president,  
CEO and publisher  
of Next City.  
Before joining the organization in  
2015, he directed  
the Center for Resilient Design at the  
College of Architecture and Design at  
the New Jersey Institute of Technology.  
Prior to that, he ran the Regional Plan  
Association’s New Jersey office, and  
served as a senior adviser on land use  
for two New Jersey governors. Tom is  
a licensed professional planner, and a  
member of the American Institute of  
Certified Planners, as well as an adjunct  
professor at the New Jersey Institute of  
Technology, where he teaches land use  
planning and infrastructure planning.

ARIELLA COHEN  
Editor-in-Chief  
Arielle Cohen is  
an award-winning  
journalist with 11  
years of experience  
reporting on urban  
change, politics  
and policy. Prior  
to joining Next City, she co-founded  
New Orleans’ first online investigative  
news outlet, The Lens, and worked as a  
staff reporter for the Brooklyn Paper in  
New York. She has reported on disaster  
recovery, urban development and city  
politics in Port-au-Prince, Jerusalem and  
in cities across the U.S. She prefers the  
bus. Follow her @ariellacohen on Twitter.

JANINE WHITE  
Executive Editor  
From infrastructure  
to economic  
development to  
culture, Janine  
oversees Next City’s Daily content.  
Her experience  
includes gigs at an alternative medicine  
book publisher, an A&E weekly, and a  
daily newspaper. Most recently, she served  
as exec editor and online news editor at  
Philadelphia magazine, where she covered  
everything from elections to the city  
budget to real estate.

JEFF MUCKENSTURM  
Senior Audience  
Engagement  
Manager  
Before joining Next City, Jeff was the  
communications  
director for  
Healthcare-NOW!, a carpenter, and a  
community member of Leavenhouse (a  
Catholic Worker community that provides  
food and housing for the homeless) in  
Camden, New Jersey. He has a B.A. in  
Urban Studies and Regional Planning  
from Rutgers University-Camden and a  
M.A. in Regional, Economic, and Social  
Development from the University of  
Massachusetts-Lowell.
SARA SCHUENEMANN
Director of Events and Development
Sara is a marketing and events mastermind with more than 10 years of experience supporting small businesses, artists and nonprofits. She has worked with artists to donate tooth-related artwork for a dental surgery fundraiser, planned a flash mob for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and raised money for children orphaned by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

KELSEY E. THOMAS
Associate Editor
Before coming to Next City in 2015, Kelsey was an editorial assistant at Kinfolk Magazine in Portland, Oregon. During college Kelsey reported for the Mail Tribune in Southern Oregon, covering crime, politics and the occasional ukulele camp. She has lived in nine zip codes, but is happy to call 19102 home. Follow her on Twitter @kelseyethomas.

ANTHONY SMYRSKI
Creative Director
Anthony is a designer and artist. He works in both the cultural and commercial spheres with clients and collaborators from around the world. As his practice develops, he engages projects of increasing complexity involving print, web, installation, video, sound and other components. He travels constantly, studying culture, urban environments, and global patterns of human interaction. Findings and insights from his travels are woven throughout his work.

ROMINA GIEL
Operations and Events Coordinator
Romina is a recent graduate of The New School in NYC, where she earned her B.A. in Urban Studies and Visual Arts. Before coming to Next City, she was an intern at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania working closely with their development team. Romina has collaborated on planning and executing HSP’s major events, and is happy to stay active in the nonprofit sector.

DEREK HOGUE
Web Developer
Derek has been building (and rebuilding) the Next City website since 2007 out of his humble abode in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he designs and builds websites and custom code for publishers, artists, and non-profits at home and abroad.
LENA AFRIDI
Brooklyn, NY
Equitable Economic Development Policy Coordinator, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development

Lena P. Afridi has extensive experience merging data, policy and grassroots organizing. As policy coordinator, Lena integrates quantitative research, geographic analysis and coalition-based campaign planning to inform the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development’s equitable economic development agenda. Lena holds a B.A from Mount Holyoke College and a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University.

ASHLEY ATKINSON
Los Angeles, CA
Senior Planning & Development Manager, The Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

Ashley Atkinson is a planner with an economic development focus and a decade of experience in L.A.-area agencies. She serves as both Mayor Eric Garcetti’s senior planning & development manager and volunteer director of the American Planning Association’s Los Angeles section. She received a master’s degree from USC in 2007.

ROTEM AYALON
Montréal, Canada
Food and Planning Advisor, Québec en Forme

Rotem works as a food and planning consultant for Québec en Forme. She advises, creates and implements strategies, action plans, programs and policies to encourage healthy eating and physical activity in cities in Québec. Recently, she has been helping with the development of a food strategy in Montréal.
Demelza Baer is a policy counsel for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where she directs the Economic Mobility Initiative. She previously worked as a policy counsel for the Washington Legislative Office of the American Civil Liberties Union, and as an assistant counsel for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

Frederic Bourrely is the general manager of SODER, a nonprofit organization active in three fields: environmental education, supporting citizens in their local green projects, and supporting companies and states in their sustainable development efforts.

Imron Bhatti is the presidential management fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His career has focused on how urban planning can ameliorate or exacerbate inequities in access to opportunity.

Kirby is the Beam fellow of placemaking + equity at Western Reserve Land Conservancy, working with residents to green and repurpose vacant lots and activate spaces in the community. She’s a former elementary school teacher, a trained mediator and an organizer with her local “artivist” group called Bridging The Tracks.
Natalie is a sustainability–sr. consultant with a focus on urban resiliency, for AECOM in Texas. Natalie also co-founded Green Money Search to inspire sustainable city development by leveraging incentives to encourage citizens to implement sustainable practices on their projects. She also leads advocacy for USGBC Texas Gulf Coast Region.

Antionette D. Carroll is the founder and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab, a civic engagement and design social enterprise addressing building healthier and more inclusive cities. Throughout her career, Antionette has worked for social justice, human rights, and diversity and inclusion nonprofits. She is an AMEX/Ashoka emerging innovator.

Jonathan Cha is an urbanologist and landscape architect and has a doctorate in urban planning. He teaches at the University of Montréal, UQAM and McGill. A specialist of public space, he is a co-founder of MTLville en mouvement, vice-president of the Association of Landscape Architects of Québec and a member of several boards of administration.

Elizabeth Bowie Christoforetti is design director and co-founder of Supernormal, a design and research collaborative built to explore the potential of big data for the design of small urban places. Supernormal bridges the disciplines of architecture, urban design and planning to bring increased sensitivity and systematization to urban development.
Kate Clark, MPA, is the assistant director of the Center for Population Health Innovation at Thomas Jefferson University. Prior to this position, she worked in local governments and organizations managing initiatives, such as Age-friendly Philadelphia and GenPhilly, that aim to address the social and environmental determinants of health.

Betty Cruz founded Change Agency, a social enterprise that elevates civic initiatives, in September 2016 where she leads implementation of a countywide immigrant integration plan. Previously, Betty was deputy chief of special initiatives for Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto. Originally from Miami, Betty is the daughter of Cuban immigrants.

Lyndsay Daudier seeks to find ways to make cities more livable through inclusion. With a background in urban planning, law and project management, she is a dot-connector creating innovating partnership through Amplifier Montréal, a movement within The Maison de l’innovation sociale–MIS (Social Innovation Centre). She aims to bring together entrepreneurs, citizens, academics, technology experts and investors across the province of Québec with the purpose of maximizing the collective impacts of initiatives for equitable and sustainable development.

Naomi Doerner is a racial justice advocate and urban planner. She recently co-founded Seneca Planning, a transportation equity consultancy. For over a decade, her work has centered on building cultural competency and galvanizing national support for inclusive advocacy.
and equitable mobility planning practices. Naomi co-organizes the Untokening, a new mobility justice leadership development network. She earned her M.U.P. from NYU, serves on the boards of ioby and PlayBuild, and lives in New Orleans.

STEPHANIE DUNCKER
- Portland, OR
- Program Manager, Portland Incubator Experiment

Stephanie Duncker is a digital strategist currently working as a freelance designer and consultant. She’s passionate about designing positive change in society, whether that be by increasing digital & economic access or promoting accessibility in design.

KIA ERVIN
- Wilmington, DE
- Executive Director, Accelerate Delaware- The Longwood Foundation

Kia Ervin is a branding expert with nearly 15 years of experience. She specializes in developing unique opportunities for industry leaders in a myriad of professions. Her work expands their brand by developing strategic partnerships and increasing their philanthropic engagement. Currently, she is the executive director of Accelerate Delaware where she is responsible for retaining millennials in the state through social and professional engagement strategies.

DIANA FLORA
- Detroit, MI
- Director of Strategy Development; Kresge Mayor’s Fellow, City of Detroit Police Department

Diana Flora is a Kresge mayor’s fellow for the city of Detroit, working specifically with the Detroit Police Department to implement strategic initiatives that advance the department’s crime reduction, operational efficiency and community service goals. In her role, she uses data-driven strategies to stimulate a discussion about the needs and challenges of public safety in Detroit.

SEYRON FOO
- Los Angeles, CA
- Senior Manager, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Southern California Grantmakers

Seyron Foo leads public policy and government relations at Southern California Grantmakers and Philanthropy California, bringing best practices learned from philanthropy’s investments to better inform policymaking that strengthens communities. Previously, he spent time in state and local government, successfully
enacting banking reforms to protect vulnerable Californians, managing citywide infrastructure projects, and overseeing press and community relations.

Cristina Garza, as program director of the Mission Economic Development Corporation, curates and leads all STEAM and entrepreneurship initiatives for the city of Mission, Texas, which is located along U.S.-Mexico border. Cristina is committed to fostering community and economic development through technology and art.

Darnell Grisby is an expert on the emerging urban mobility landscape and its impact on economic development. He is a sought-after speaker whose work has been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio and numerous other media outlets. He is an experienced practitioner of the complete set of tools to influence policy: thought leadership, independent expenditure campaigns, philanthropic giving, political action committee strategy, diversity initiatives, direct lobbying, and grassroots and grassstogs organizing. He was named among the “Top 40 Under 40” by Mass Transit magazine, and has degrees from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and the University of California, Los Angeles. He is a native of Riverside, California, and currently resides in the walkable core of Washington, D.C.

Mauricio, a Mexican architect, works at the Municipal Planning Institute (IMPLAN). Through interinstitucional planning and sustainable interventions, he works to accomplish a better city for all while preserving regional heritage and traditions for future generations. As co-director in binational urban labs between Matamoros and Brownsville, he pursues tearing down barriers and promoting a vibrant and competitive region.
MOJAN JIANFAR  
› Toronto, Ontario  
    *Culture Planner, City of Mississauga.*

Mojan is an urban planner and public engagement specialist driven to find opportunities where planning can support cultural development. She designs and facilitates participatory workshops, and is passionate about the intersection between psychology and built form. Prior to working for the city of Mississauga, Mojan directed large-scale public art installations in Toronto.

MATTHEW KENNEDY  
› Calgary, Alberta  
    *Owner, Studio North*

Matthew’s is the co-owner of Studio North, an emerging design + build practice. His ambitious nature as a designer, artist and maker has driven him to realize projects of a variety of scales across Canada. His process of designing and making facilitate a logical process of composing ideas into built works.

ALLIE KAST  
› Indianapolis, IN  
    *Mayor’s Neighborhood Advocate, City of Indianapolis, Office of the Mayor*

Allie serves as a mayor’s neighborhood advocate for the city of Indianapolis where she leads collaboration efforts between local government, community stakeholders and residents to create safe, connected and inclusive neighborhoods where all residents can thrive. Driven by a passion for community development and engagement, Allie has also worked on neighborhood streets and the halls of Washington on issues from quality of life planning to education policy.

DEREK KITCHEN  
› Salt Lake City, UT  
    *Owner, Kitchen Food Group*

Derek Kitchen is a council member in Salt Lake City. He is using collaboration and collective impact to help direct sustained solutions to the complicated urban problems of homelessness & affordable housing, transportation & connectivity, and urban development. He operates two small businesses, and views economic development as a tool to help drive social justice.
MICAH KOTCH  
→ Brooklyn, NY  
Managing Director, Urban-X, BMW  

Micah Kotch serves as the managing director for Urban-X, an accelerator by MINI and SOSV that makes equity investments in early-stage startups shaping the future of cities through technology, passion and design. Headquartered within A/D/O in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, Urban-X is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs turn compelling ideas into viable solutions for urban life. Micah previously served as the director of NY Prize and strategic adviser for innovation at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), where was responsible for the design and execution of the nation’s first community microgrid competition and worked to transform the electric utility business model and help commercialize new clean energy technology.

LAURENT LEVESQUE  
→ Montréal, Québec  
Cofounder and Executive Coordinator, UTILE  

Laurent Levesque co-founded and coordinates UTILE, a nonprofit business developing self-financed, affordable student housing. He is also a radio columnist on economics and chair of the youth wing of the social economy movement. He is an organizer of Transformer Montréal, a conference on democratizing the economy. He has studied urban planning, urban economic development and management.

MARIAN LIOU  
→ Atlanta, GA  
Founder, We Love BuHi  

Marian Liou is the founder of We Love BuHi, a social enterprise that supports a livable, inclusive, thriving Buford Highway corridor, the diverse, multicultural heart of metro Atlanta, through community-based creative placemaking.

JEREMY LOVEDAY  
→ Victoria, British Columbia  
City Councillor, City of Victoria / Capital Regional District  

Jeremy Loveday is a performance poet, community builder and Victoria city councillor. Jeremy is the founder of the Victorious Voices youth spoken word festival and has toured internationally as a performer and public speaker. Jeremy is a passionate advocate for people-centred communities that are affordable, sustainable and vibrant.
ANDRÉANNE MALTAIS-TREMBLAY

Montréal, Québec
Political advisor in urban planning, Ville de Montréal (City of Montréal)

Andréanne Maltais-Tremblay is an urban planner who advises Montréal city councilors on a diverse set of urban planning issues, including: urban policies, town planning regulations, transportation issues, housing, and commercial and public spaces projects.

LEVON MANZIE

Mobile, AL
Council Member, Mobile City Council

Rev. Levon Manzie’s diverse district spans historic neighborhoods to the downtown Entertainment Quarter. Under his leadership, it’s undergoing a major renaissance with initiatives focusing on infrastructure and blight issues. He serves as assistant pastor of St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church and previously served on the Mobile County School Board.

CARLA MAYS

San Francisco, CA
CEO & Founder, Mays Civic Innovation

Carla Mays is founder and CEO of Mays Civic Innovation, a San Francisco-based advising and strategy firm on innovation economy and smart cities. Clients include various state agencies in California; public officials in California, Florida and Washington, D.C.; and impact funds. She is currently a columnist for the American Society for Public Administration’s PA Times focused on “21st Century Public Administration: Managing the Smart City.” She is an award-winning civic-hacker and has been recognized by the California State Legislature for civic engagement and inclusive gov-tech platforms on affordable housing and voter protection.

MICHAEL MENDEZ

New Haven, CT
Pinchot Faculty Fellow, Yale University

Michael is a Pinchot faculty fellow and associate research scientist at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has more than a decade of senior-level experience in urban sustainability policy. This included working for the California State Legislature as a senior consultant, lobbyist, gubernatorial appointee, and as vice chair of the city planning commission. Michael’s
research agenda investigates how the built environment, policymaking process and social movements influence sustainability and population health in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

RYAN MIELCAREK

- Seattle, WA
- Director of Strategic Initiatives, Compass Housing Alliance

Ryan E. Mielcarek is director of strategic initiatives for Compass Housing Alliance, chair of the King County Veterans Consortium, and a proud member of the ShelterBox international disaster response network. He leads community resilience and empowerment initiatives powered through radical compassion, inclusiveness and collective impact.

LAURA SOFIA MONTOYA

- Medellin, Antioquia
- Architect, Proyecto NN

Laura was born in Medellín-Colombia in 1987. She studied architecture at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana where she also finished her master's degree in architecture, criticism and projects. Since 2011, she has been a member of the collective NN Project and has participated in projects related to local cultural circulation, ephemeral architecture and urban activism.

VICTORIA OKOYE

- Accra, Ghana
- Urban Advocacy Specialist, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing

Victoria is an urban planner and researcher based in Accra, Ghana. As urban advocacy specialist with the research-action network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Victoria specializes in inclusive public space design, access and informal economy work. She’s also the founder of African Urbanism, which leverages research, planning and engagement to document, reenvision and revitalize community public spaces.

JONATHAN QUARLES

- Grosse Pointe Park, MI
- Founder / CEO, The BTL Group

Jonathan Quarles is a serial entrepreneur, angel investor and global citizen diplomat. As founder and CEO of the BTLGroup, Jonathan has helped transform organizations in the private and public sector by elevating their financial and social impact. One of the country’s most well-known connectors, he has developed and managed strategic partnerships for multibillion-dollar corporations and social impact organizations alike, while also positioning them for sustainable growth.
Jessica Robinson is director of city solutions at Ford Smart Mobility where she works with cities to understand local priorities and to identify new mobility solutions to meet current and future transportation needs. Jessica previously scaled Zipcar’s innovative car-sharing model as marketing manager, locations manager and market launch manager.

Kirk Rose is the CEO of the Anchorage Community Land Trust ( ACLT) in Anchorage, Alaska. Under his leadership, ACLT was named the National Development Council’s “Most Innovative Community Development Project” in the United States. His family resides in Anchorage, but is equally at home exploring Alaska’s wild places.

Stephanie works to expand community development lending opportunities for small businesses, MWDBEs and nonprofit organizations for TruFund Financial Services, Inc. She plays a key role in managing strategic relationships with various community stakeholders, municipal partners and elected officials to support financial empowerment and inclusion, capital access, and community development efforts.

Stratton Tingle is executive director of SoundCorps, a nonprofit focused on building the music economy of Chattanooga, Tennessee, through initiatives that help local music industry professionals start businesses, expand existing music industry infrastructure and recruit new business to town. Tingle is also a musician who performs with many music projects.
Hani White is deputy director of Philadelphia’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. She is an economic development professional with 12 years of experience in asset building, business development and nonprofit program management. Previously, Hani served as director of asset building and immigrant services for Women’s Opportunities Resource Center (WORC). She is an Indonesian immigrant and fluent in three languages.

Omar Woodard is the executive director of the GreenLight Fund Philadelphia working in philanthropy to end extreme poverty in Philadelphia.

Lilith is a co-founder of Roots of Renewal, a neighborhood development nonprofit that provides construction work training for formerly incarcerated young adults. Born in Munich, Germany, raised in Seattle, and currently living in New Orleans, Lilith has a deep interest in cities. She is trained in social policy and studio art and her research focuses on public housing, incarceration and poverty.
Alumni

PAOLA AGUIRRE (2015)
› Chicago, IL
Founder, Borderless Studio | Workshop

Paola Aguirre is an architectural and urban designer, educator and founder of Borderless Studio, a Chicago-based collaborative and interdisciplinary design consultancy. Her professional experience includes working with government, universities and architecture/urban design offices in Mexico and the United States. Paola’s transnational background and strong collaborative approach focuses her research and design practice on interdisciplinary exchange, urban systems integration and participatory processes.

KAREESHLMA ALI (2013)
› Chicago, IL
Design Researcher, Greater Good Studio

Kareeshma Ali is a human-centered designer, researcher and planner. Kareeshma’s social impact design work is informed by her experience in architecture, urban design, and planning and deep interest in communications, art and culture, and graphic design. She most recently joined Greater Good Studio, a social impact design agency, to bridge her experience in the built environment with the practice of human-centered design, and use design research to create positive social and environmental impact.

DANA BERNARD (2016)
› New York, NY
Citi

Dana is an experienced community development and housing professional, currently serving as vice president for Citi Inclusive Finance. Prior, she worked as a program specialist for the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development. She has a master’s in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University, and a bachelor’s in political science from the University of Delaware.

MATTHEW BERNSTINE (2016)
› Saint Louis, MO
Sr. Urban Designer & Project Manager, Washington University in St Louis

Matt is an urbanist, designer and lecturer. He is passionate about creating sustainable urbanism[s] in both practice and research. Matt is a senior urban designer at Washington University in Saint Louis where he focuses on projects that engage civic and institutional partnerships.
in the St. Louis region. As a lecturer, Matt lectures in the urban design graduate program at the Sam Fox School and Brown School of Social Work on sustainability, informality and community development. Previous to WashU, Matt worked in the private sector as a designer and planner in St. Louis, New York City, San Francisco and Charlottesville. Most recently, Matt was the project manager for one of the winning designs in the Van Alan Changing Course international design competition.

Brandy H. M. Brooks is a nonprofit professional with a design and planning background who has spent the last 10 years working on social and environmental justice. Her particular areas of focus include community engagement and empowerment; community-based design and land use planning; and just and sustainable food systems.

Cid Blanco Junior is an architect and urban planner with 16 years of experience in governmental institutions at local and national levels, especially in housing and urban development public policies, governance, strategic planning, social inclusion and citizen participation. He has more than five years of international experience (U.K., Latin American and the Caribbean), including a UN agency, with specific interdisciplinary skills, working with heterogeneous teams in the most diverse environments and cultures. He is currently working as project director for the Urban Development Strategic Plan of the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro.

Efrem Bycer is the director of economic development at Code for America. Previously, he was an economic development manager at the San Diego Regional EDC where he led public policy efforts and EDC’s engagement with the Global Cities Initiative. Additionally, Efrem is on the board of directors for Next City and is the founder of BoardNEXT, an innovative program to prepare young professionals and underrepresented groups for and connect them with nonprofit board service.
ENNIS DAVIS (2013)
- Jacksonville, FL
- Urban Planner, Modern Cities

Ennis Davis is a community activist focused on facilitating urban revitalization through social engagement and placemaking. In addition Ennis is the chair of APA Florida’s First Coast Section, a mayoral appointee to the board of the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission and co-founder of tactical urbanist group, TransformJax. Ennis holds a Bachelor in Architecture from Florida A&M University and is an urban planner with Ghyabi & Associates.

ZAHRA Ebrahim (2015)
- Toronto, Ontario
- Principal, archiTEXT

Zahra Ebrahim is a change-driven creative, deeply invested in using design and design process to explore community engagement, institutional innovation and participatory city building. As the principal of the design think tank archiTEXT, she has led innovation projects with some of Canada’s largest charities and governing bodies.

JULIE FAVREAU (2016)
- Montréal, Québec
- Project Manager, Société d’habitation et de développement de Montréal

As a specialist in urban revitalization and real estate development, Julie Favreau leverages real estate and urban planning to create shared value that benefits citizens, businesses and cities alike. Her goal is to transform the way we live together through real estate. With her background as a lawyer and in strategic management, she currently works as a project manager at Société d’habitation et de développement de Montréal, a nonprofit para-municipal corporation devoted to social and economic revitalization.

CRISTINA GARMENDIA (2014)
- Trenton, NJ
- Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Equity, Rutgers Law School

Cristina is a researcher at the Center on Law, Inequality and Metropolitan Equity at Rutgers Law School. She has degrees in architecture from Washington University and public policy from Harvard, where she founded the Harvard Journal of Real Estate. She also co-founded OpportunitySpace (now Tolemi), a real estate technology company.
A third generation Angeleno and proud Spelman College alumna, Gabrielle “Gabie” Horton is an outspoken advocate for urban communities of color. As a Rackham Merit Fellow, she is currently pursuing a master in public policy at the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Gabrielle is passionate about the intersection of public policy, storytelling and urban communities of color, with her most recent research focused on the juvenile/criminal justice systems and Detroit’s restaurant industry. Prior to graduate school, she worked at the nexus of community organizing and politics, most notably on President Obama’s re-election campaign and inauguration, Cory Booker’s U.S. Senate campaign, and in the office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Lou Huang develops open data and open source software for urban planning and civic engagement. He has previously worked as an architect and an urban designer before finding civic technology. He was a 2013 fellow at Code for America, where he created Streetmix. Currently he is a map visualization project lead at Mapzen and lives in Brooklyn.

Karen Kubey is an urbanist specializing in housing and health. She curates and produces exhibitions and designs, edits and contributes to publications, and builds and leads public programs. Karen’s recent project partners include the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the New York City Housing Authority. Trained as an architect at the University of California, Berkeley, and Columbia University, Karen began her career in affordable housing design. She co-founded both the Architecture for Humanity New York chapter (now Open Architecture/New York) and New Housing New York, the city’s first design competition for sustainable and affordable housing, and was the first executive director of the Institute for Public Architecture.

Guillaume Lavoie is a city councillor in Montréal, Québec. Elected in 2013, he is the official opposition’s spokesperson for finance, government relations and international relations. He is also vice president of the finance and administration committee at City Hall. Before entering politics, Guillaume Lavoie worked in public diplomacy, public policies and international relations.
BRYAN C LEE JR
(2015)
► New Orleans, LA
Place & Civic
Design Director,
Arts Council of New Orleans

Bryan Lee, Jr. is an architectural designer, artist, writer and devoted advocate for social justice through design. Throughout his professional career, Bryan has been dedicated to promoting diversity within the profession and relentless in his efforts to elevate the design process as an effective catalyst for community change. He is currently the place & civic design director for the Arts Council of New Orleans.

PATRICK MCDONNELL
(2012)
► Austin, TX
Project Manager & Service Designer,
Innovation Office, City of Austin

Patrick is a urbanist, designer and coder. He is currently serving as a project manager and service designer with the Innovation Office at the City of Austin. Previously, he served as a Code for America fellow bringing civic tech to local government in Long Beach. Patrick believes that government is sexy and that public spaces have power, and he loves documenting all things urban. Ask him about civic tech!

DANICIA MALONE (2016)
► Indianapolis, IN
Creative Director,
Interaction Designer and Planner,
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

Danicia Malone is a lifelong student, embarking on her PhD to research the user-experience of race. Danicia’s work investigates the context of race and space — growing critical cultural capacity in the built environment. She is a creative director, interaction designer and planner based in Indianapolis, Indiana.

LYNNETTE MCRAE (2015)
► Chicago, IL
Manager,
Metropolitan Planning Council

Lynnette is a community development practitioner with experience supporting local efforts at comprehensive community revitalization across the country. At the Metropolitan Planning Council, her work centers around the regional intersections of housing, community development, transit-oriented development and equity. She has previously led federal implementation efforts around the White House Promise Zones and Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiatives. She has received degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Michigan, and is passionate about empowering youth and traveling.
Sara Mokuria is a senior research associate with The Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she brings high-level experience in project management, program design and community engagement, combined with lifelong passions for justice, equity, and arts and culture.

David Thomas Moran is a freelance writer, geosocial photographer, mobile game designer and digital media artist. His creative work mostly focuses on public, street life, pedestrianism and community mobility throughout the Orlando metropolitan region. David is also the operations director for the Transit Interpretation Project (TriP).

Carlos Moreno is a graphic designer, community volunteer, entrepreneur, civic technologist and a magic-bean buyer. Carlos is the in-house graphic designer at CAP Tulsa, the largest anti-poverty agency in Oklahoma. An advocate for social justice and participatory government, he serves on the board of Smart Growth Tulsa, and is the co-captain of Tulsa’s Code for America brigade. He also serves on the advisory board of the city of Tulsa’s Office of Performance Strategy and Innovation.

Tara is co-founder and CEO of Numina, which empowers cities with data to become more responsive. Tara has led city-scale technology projects with Knight Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Code for America, Living Cities, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Clinton Foundation and others. Prior to civic tech, Tara worked in public health research, music media and arts administration. She also previously won the $50,000 Globalhack hackathon and organized Sloup, a monthly soup dinner that crowdfunds grassroots creative projects.
PAUL PERRY (2015)  
- Oakland, CA  
Executive Director, COLAGE

Paul Perry is the executive director of COLAGE, the only national organization that represents the over 6 million youth with LGBTQ+ parents in the U.S. He has previously worked as a teacher, school leader and nonprofit executive in various school districts and educational organizations.

GANESH RAMACHANDRAN (2012)  
- Boston, MA  
Senior Regional Planner, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Ganesh Ramachandran is an urban designer, planner and photographer, working at the intersection of planning, architecture, city-building and design communication. As an urban designer, he has led award-winning planning efforts, and facilitated community driven problem-solving exercises in more than 30 cities across the United States, India, China and the Middle East. Ganesh is currently a senior regional planner overseeing capital planning initiatives for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Ganesh holds degrees in architecture and urban design from the National Institute of Technology, India, and the University of California at Berkeley.

KATHY RISKO (2012)  
- Pittsburgh, PA  
Chief of External Affairs, Adagio Health

Kathy Risko currently serves as the chief of external affairs at Adagio Health where she oversees Adagio Health’s strategic plan focusing on positioning the organization for sustainability and future growth. She also develops and implements Adagio Health’s policy and advocacy agenda to preserve and expand access to quality healthcare for women and their families in Western Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Adagio Health, Kathy served as founding executive director of the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT). Kathy holds a Master of Public Policy and Management (with a concentration in nonprofit management) from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently running to be a member of Wilkinsburg Borough Council and has served on multiple boards and commissions.

NICOLAS M. RIVARD (2016)  
- San Antonio, TX  
Overland Partners

Nicolas is an urban designer and civic activist in San Antonio, Texas. He currently manages Place Changing — an interactive
storytelling initiative blending design and journalism. Nicolas recently helped start Public Space East, a nonprofit focused on social justice and public space in San Antonio’s near Eastside.

Emily Sadigh
(2010)
▶ Berkeley, CA
Project Manager, Alameda County Sustainability

Emily Sadigh designs strategies for the public sector and universities to go green and build learning systems for sustainability. As a local government change manager and independent consultant, she crosses sectors to connect innovators to partners and resources. She is a Harvard-trained educator and certified biomimicry specialist committed to climate action.

Will Stewart works at the intersection of community improvement and economic development. A former newspaper reporter and community organizer, he currently runs the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce. In his free time serves as co-chair of Bike Manchester, captain of his neighborhood watch, and on the Manchester Transit Authority Board of Commissioners.

John Joe Schlichtman
(2016)
▶ Chicago, IL
Urbanist, DePaul University

John Joe Schlichtman is an urbanist at DePaul University and holds a doctorate in sociology from NYU. His interests relate to addressing street-level injustices with solutions that are not only progressive in theory but feasible in practice. He’s working on two books that both relate to gentrification and community development.

Ben Stone is director of arts & culture at Smart Growth America and its program Transportation for America. Based in Detroit, Ben leads the national organizations' broad efforts to help communities across the country better integrate artistic practice into neighborhood revitalization, equitable development and transportation planning efforts. Ben holds degrees in studio art, American studies and city planning from the SMFA Boston, Tufts and MIT.
Jay is a communication designer dedicated to social change. His firm, Studio Jaywall, specializes in strategic graphic design for initiatives at the intersection of urban, environmental and societal challenges. He has designed brand identities, publications and campaigns for issues ranging from climate change to civic engagement. An advocate of equitable city-building, Jay recently helped lead a process to encourage public participation in shaping city planning policy for downtown Toronto. He is also a tactical urbanist and has been recognized by Spacing magazine as one of Canada’s top public space champions.

Matt is an Obama appointee in the U.S. Small Business Administration, where he serves as a special advisor in the Office of Investment and Innovation. He works on federal programs aimed at commercializing early-stage technology and fostering startup growth across the country. Prior to SBA, Matt worked for the city of New York where he managed citywide programs focused on developing New York’s technology sector.

Cali Williams is an urban planner and economic development specialist with experience leading the implementation of complex multimillion-dollar infrastructure projects, building consensus and convening diverse stakeholders. As vice president at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), Cali leads efforts focused on strengthening neighborhoods in the borough of Queens.

Marlon joined Living Cities in February 2017 as the assistant director of public sector innovation working on the Integration Initiative and other special projects. Marlon’s career has focused on improving the economic, social and physical well-being of all urban residents with particular emphasis on increasing access and opportunity for low-income families and communities of color. He specializes in the leadership of multi-agency and multisectoral initiatives that require the coordination and mobilization of numerous stakeholders towards achieving progress on initiatives that cannot be achieved by any one entity working in isolation.
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