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Next City announces *the 2015 Vanguard*

The international nonprofit media organization Next City will host its sixth annual Vanguard Conference in Reno, Nevada on May 6-8.

The conference is a gathering of the top urban innovators under the age of 40 working to make change in cities. Designed to bring together professionals working across disciplines and sectors, each Vanguard class includes policymakers and politicians, architects and urban planners, artists and mediamakers, all selected through a competitive application process.

This year we received applications from across the U.S., as well as Canada, Mexico, Australia and Brazil. With 60 participants, the 2015 Vanguard will be our largest conference yet, drawn from the private sector and all levels of government, from the U.S. White House on down to the mayoral cabinets and city councils of major cities including New York, Montreal, Washington D.C., Portland and Los Angeles. This year's conference will bring together urban designers and planners working for influential organizations including Flux Factory, a startup spun out of Google[x], the award-winning Skid Row Housing Trust, Stanford University, and the National League of Cities. We will welcome civic technology entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley and Sao Paulo, Brazil as well as innovators making change through cutting-edge projects in community development, the arts and the non-profit sector.

The Vanguards will convene in Reno for a three-day series of presentations, workshops and neighborhood tours organized around the theme: Tactical Growth for a Smarter Future.

As part of Reno's ongoing revitalization efforts, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada has offered to host the 2015 conference. The Vanguards will spend their first day hearing from local and national leaders about the opportunities and challenges facing Reno, one of the fastest-growing cities in the American West. They will tour the city's downtown districts and surrounding neighborhoods to see firsthand the strides Reno has made to date, and the areas where there is still work to do.

The second day of the conference will be dedicated to the Big Idea Challenge, a design competition wherein groups of Vanguards will compete to come up with low-cost tactical urbanist interventions that could help address a challenge facing the city as it grows. The competition will end with a panel of local judges selecting one winning project to be realized in Reno. The project will leave a lasting impact on the city and create a long-term tie between our Vanguard network and the Reno community.

Vanguard 2015 Directory

Folayemi Agbede, Business Development Coordinator, Chester Engineers

Paola Aguirre, Research Analyst, University of Chicago

Sasha Ahuja, Deputy Director, Policy & Innovation Division, New York City Council

Alen Amini, Executive Director, Corps Member Education Foundation; Owner and Director, Jamshid Rug Gallery; Special Projects Manager, Kentucky Campus Compact

Tsedey Betru, Vice President, Community L.I.F.T.

Bryan Boyer, Co-Founder, Makeshift Society

Ginny Browne, Project Manager, The Participatory Budgeting Project

Brianna Bullentini, Owner/Founder, Rawbry

Caitlin Cameron, Urban Designer, City of Portland, Maine

Oscar Delgado, Vice-Mayor/Councilman, Ward 3, City of Reno, Nevada

Chris Dickersin-Prokopp, Program Analyst, D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Kate Didech, Urban Planning Consultant, Flux

Andy Durling, Partner, Wood Rodgers

Zahra Ebrahim, Principal, archiTEXT

Jonathon Ende, CEO, SeamlessDocs

Alex Feldman, Vice President, U3 Advisors

Steven Feldstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State

Gina Ford, Principal, Sasaki Associates

Rodney Foxworth, Founder/Director, Invested Impact

David France, Founder/Executive Director, Revolution of Hope

Kimberly Garza, Designer, Co-founder, Quadriga Landscape Architecture, ATLAS Lab

Lope Gutierrez Ruiz, John S. Knight Journalism Fellow, Stanford University /JSK Fellowships

Gunnar Hand, Project Planner, BNIM

Gregory Heller, CEO, American Communities Trust

Valerie Hermanson, Transportation Planner, Mid-Region Council of Governments

G. Emmanuel Hernandez, Consultant, Planeación y Desarrollo S.C.

Yianice Hernandez, Director, Green Communities, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Lakisha Hull, City Planning Associate, City of Los Angeles

Theresa Hwang, Director of Community Design and Planning, Skid Row Housing Trust

Earl Kaing, Transportation Planner, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Erin Kelly, Blue and Green Infrastructure Program Manager, Detroit Future City

Karen Kubey, Executive Director, Institute for Public Architecture

Guillaume Lavoie, City Councillor, City of Montreal

Bryan Lee, Jr., Place + Civic Design Director, Arts Council of New Orleans

Lora Lillard, City Planner, Urban Design Studio, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Anthony Ling, CEO, Bora

Zakcq Lockrem, Principal and Director of Planning, Asakura Robinson

Michael Martin, Place-Based Innovation Lead, HD MADE

Lynnette McRae, Team Lead- Rockford, IL, White House Initiative on Strong Cities, Strong Communities, HUD

Adam Meagher, Vice President, NYC Economic Development Corporation

Juan Mendive, Compliance Manager, NeighborWorks Laredo

Sara Mokuria, Senior Research Associate, UT Dallas Institute for Urban Policy Research

Myeta Moon, Director, City Initiatives, KaBOOM!

Kevin Musselman, Manager of Neighborhood & Resource Planning, People's Emergency Center

Claire Napawan, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Davis,
Department of Human Ecology

Thor Nelson, Urban Designer, DC Office of Planning

Kristina Newman-Scott, Director: Marketing, Events and Cultural Affairs, City of Hartford

Liz Okeke-Von Batten, Director, Center for Design & the City, American Architectural
Foundation

Ceara O'Leary, Senior Project Manager, Detroit Collaborative Design Center

Paul Perry, Executive Director - Bay Area, The Reset Foundation

Harold Pettigrew, Director of Entrepreneurship, Corporation for Enterprise Development
(CFED)

Paul Baker Prindle, Director, University Galleries, University of Nevada, Reno

Charles Rath, Program Lead, Resilient Cities, Sandia National Laboratories

Ranada Robinson, Research Manager, Market Street Services

Noah Silverman, Executive Director, Reno Bike Project

Alyia Smith-Parker, Senior Associate, Health and Wellness, National League of Cities

Jason Twill, Head of Sustainability, Development & Urban Regeneration, Lend Lease

Jay Wall, Creative Director, STUDIO JAYWALL

Marlon Williams, Director of Cross Agency Partnerships, NYC Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Amanda Wilson, Program Manager, Community Capital Fund /KCMO CDE (Community
Development Entity)

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