



## Event Details

### Title of Event

Launching a Market Cities Network: Linking government, market leaders and NGOs to preserve food cultures, traditions, and economies

### Organization Details

**Organization:** HealthBridge Foundation of Canada

**Organization Country:** Canada

### Summary

Public markets have played a critical role in cities for centuries as key cultural public spaces. Public markets help preserve local food culture and traditions, foster cultural diversity, and create social spaces where all types of people within cities can interact. Markets are also the places in the city that link rural and urban communities and economies, and showcase local arts and heritage. Unfortunately, the true value of the public markets has not been harnessed in many cities. “Market Cities” is a new vision for public markets. Market Cities recognize the unique magnetism of markets as public spaces and develop supportive policies that leverage market assets and build human capital to address a wide array of challenges. Market Cities value and invest in their market eco-systems to tackle economic, social, and gender inequality; advance markets’ role as innovation hubs that spur regional economic development; create job opportunities, especially for women, low-income and minority populations; establish critical social and economic infrastructure for communities facing climate-related risks; and promote community health. The purpose of the event is to highlight the important role that local public markets play in the culture of cities and to bring together a diverse group of city leaders, market leaders, and civil society to discuss the development of a “Market Cities Network”. This session will build on dialogue and recommendations from the 10th International Public Markets Conference. We will use this networking event to continue to discuss the ways we can create a platform for other cities to share experiences that recognizes the different contexts and geographies of the Global North and Global South. The session will begin with presentations discussing: ways that markets contribute to culture, the economy, health and the environment; ways cities can identify their market assets and recognize their endangered markets; ways to map out the types of markets, recognizing where ones compete versus compliment each other; and models of market investments that can help improve capacity, physical infrastructure, and support to vendors. We will create a gallery of examples in the meeting room solicited from participants prior to the event. Their purpose is to help participants identify common successes and challenges. However, the bulk of our session will be focused on encouraging audience networking and we will use a variety of tools such shared storytelling, polling the audience, and networking roundtables to ensure that participants have an opportunity to meet and share experiences.

### Other Organization name

**Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Kristie	Daniel	Moderator	HealthBridge
2	Steve	Davies	Speaker	Project for Public Spaces
3	Tran Kieu Thanh	Ha	Speaker	HealthBridge Vietnam
4	Richard	McCarthy	Speaker	Slow Foods International
5	Hien	Le Thu	Speaker	Vietnam Ministry of Trade
6	Setha	Low	Speaker	City University of New York
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