



Event Details

Title of Event

The Hidden Wealth of Cities: Creating, Financing, and Managing Public Spaces

Organization Details

Organization: The World Bank Group

Organization Country: United States of America

Summary

In every city, the urban spaces that form the public realm—ranging from city streets, neighborhood squares, and parks to public facilities such as libraries and markets account for about one-third of the city's total land area, on average. Despite this significance, the potential for these public-space assets—typically owned and managed by local governments—to transform urban life and city functioning is often overlooked for many reasons: other pressing city priorities arising from rapid urbanization, poor urban planning, and financial constraints. The resulting degradation of public spaces into congested, vehicle-centric, and polluted places often becomes a liability, creating a downward spiral that leads to a continuous drain on public resources and exacerbating various city problems. In contrast, the cities that invest in the creation of human-centered, environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially inclusive places—in partnership with government entities, communities, and other private stakeholders—perform better. They implement smart and sustainable strategies across their public-space asset life cycles to yield returns on investment far exceeding monetary costs, ultimately enhancing city livability, resilience, and competitiveness. The Hidden Wealth of Cities: Creating, Financing, and Managing Public Spaces discusses the complexities that surround the creation and management of successful public spaces and draws on the analyses and experiences from city case studies from around the globe. This book identifies—through the lens of asset management—a rich palette of creative and innovative strategies that every city can undertake to plan, finance, and manage both government-owned and privately owned public spaces. The event will focus on the following topics: (a) effective urban development and asset management strategies to plan, fund, and manage government and privately owned public spaces, so that they can become financially sustainable assets; (b) innovative strategies that cities have undertaken to leverage public-space assets to build city livability, resilience and competitiveness; and (c) the use of urban technology and innovations in urban planning to shape urban form and places.

Other Organization name

UN-Habitat, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements; and Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore

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

	First Name	Last Name	Role	Organization
1	Laura	Petrella	Moderator	UN-Habitat
2	Jon Kher	Kaw	Speaker/Panelist	The World Bank Group
3	Sameh	Wahba	Speaker/Panelist	The World Bank Group
4	Wanli	Fang	Speaker	The World Bank Group
5	Andrew	Rudd	Speaker/Panelist	UN-Habitat
6	Michael	Koh	Speaker/Panelist	Centre for Liveable Cities
7	Se Hoon	Park	Speaker/Panelist	Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
8	Tomas	Soukup	Speaker/Panelist	Gisat/ European Space Agency
9	Ethan	Kent	Speaker/Panelist	Project for Public Spaces
10	TBC	TBC	Speaker/Panelist	IADB
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