



CAIRO URBAN WEEK

أسبوع القاهرة الحضرى

CORE PROGRAM | DETAILED AGENDA



Cairo Urban Week is planned and designed to build momentum for the upcoming World Urban Forum in Cairo this November, spotlighting the city's rich cultural diversity and unique heritage. It aims to foster a vibrant discussions on sustainable urbanization, bringing together experts, policymakers, and local communities to share insights and engage in several activities and experiences

CAIRO TALKS

During the talks leading experts in the urban field will be featured. From Academia, private sector, and government agents, to professional urban planners. The conversations will provoke conversations about important urban topics that are shaping the future of Cairo.

CAIRO NARRATIVES

A Journey Through the Lens of Cairo's Local Talents. It aims to capture the stories of different local brands , their work and products leaving the audience with a renewed appreciation for the city.

CAIRO WALKS

Through these unique walks, people will experience the heart of Cairo's Architecture, arts and heritage scene of Old Cairo and Downtown.

SPACE ACTIVATION

Using placemaking approaches to encourage people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to engage in interactive activities and explore innovative solutions for Cairo's urban spaces.

CAIRO FILMS

A cinematography celebration in Cairo through showcasing series of documentary films about the neighborhoods and historical paths of the city of cairo

LEGACY PROJECT

As part of Cairo Urban Week and a legacy to WUF12, an initiative is launched to increase the access of public open spaces in Egypt. Part of the initiative is to implement a pilot intervention will be inaugurated in "Al- Asmarat Neighbourhood".

PERFORMANCE

Cairo Urban Week will feature two captivating musical performances that celebrate the city's rich cultural heritage. These performances promise to be unforgettable experiences that highlight artistic talents

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

An exhibition that bridges the historical significance of public spaces with its modern interpretation within the context of Cairo, aiming to build upon the WUF12 public space initiative legacy to further advocate for the cause.

WORKSHOPS

Through some interactive workshops people will get the chance to explore urban analysis techniques, experience sustainable practices like recycling, and unleash your creativity with jewelry making. an opportunity to gain practical skills and contribute to Cairo's sustainable future.





Full Agenda

27th of October - 3rd of November

27th of October	31st of October	1st of November	2nd of November	3rd of November
<div>WELCOME NOTES KEYNOTE SPEECH FOR THE OPENING OF CAIRO URBAN WEEK</div> <div>PANEL DISCUSSION: "SUSTAINABILITY IN ART FROM ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION TO OUR MODERN ERA"</div> <div>EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION, CAIRO</div>	<div>CAIRO WALKS CURATED BY QAHRAWEYA Droob Heritage Tour, El Khalifa</div> <div>WELCOME REMARKS & OPENING SPEECHES BY UN-HABITAT AND LEGACY</div> <div>DECADES OF INSIGHT: BUILDING TOMORROW'S CAIRO KEYNOTE SPEECH</div> <div>THE FATE OF MODERN HERITAGE, PANEL</div> <div>THE URBAN SPACES OF CAIRO: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE SPECIAL EXHIBITION OPENING</div> <div>GROWING UP URBAN: SHAPING CAIRO FOR OUR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING, PANEL</div> <div>A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND SOUND CELEBRATING THE CITY OF CAIRO SINGING PERFORMANCE BY NESMA HERKY</div> <div>CAIRO FILMS AT ZAWYA CINEMA CURATED BY CAIRO BIOGRAPHY "شارع الركنة - Sharaa El-Rakna" Documentary Screening "شارع النخبة - Sharaa El-Nakha" Documentary Screening</div>	<div>CAIRO WALKS CURATED BY QAHRAWEYA Cosmos Cinema Tour, Downtown Mounira</div> <div>WELCOME REMARKS & RETHINKING URBAN PLANNING: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF BASIC SERVICES IN CAIRO'S INFORMAL AREAS, INTERVIEW</div> <div>HOUSING CAIRO: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE, PANEL</div> <div>INCLUSIVE MOBILITY: BUILDING AN ACCESSIBLE CAIRO, PANEL</div> <div>SCREENING FILM: CAIRO BETWEEN TWO PALACES</div> <div>LEVERAGING PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN WORKSHOP- OBSERVATIONS FOR SCALABILITY IN THE CITY</div> <div>A PERFORMANCE BY NOURAN ABU TALEB</div>	<div>KIDS ACTIVATION</div> <div>WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY</div> <div>ALASMARAT NEIGHBORHOOD STORY AND HISTORY PANEL</div> <div>PRESENTATION OF ASMARAT CHILDREN OUTCOME REVEALING THE ORIGAMI INSTALLATION</div> <div>GUIDED TOUR OF THE PUBLIC SPACE & NEIGHBORHOOD</div> <div>CAIRO FILMS AT ZAWYA CINEMA CURATED BY CAIRO BIOGRAPHY "Mahrusa Ya Quaheriah محروسة القاهرة" "Darb Gormoz, Intro" "درب غرموز، مقدمة" Documentary Screening</div>	



Agenda

27th of October

AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION, CAIRO

27
OCTOBER

TIME

EVENT

3:00 - 5:00 PM

WELCOME NOTES

Ms. Randa Fouad | Founder / President of the World Art Forum for Development Foundation (WAFDF)
Mr. Ahmed Rezk | Egypt Country Director - UN-Habitat

KEYNOTE SPEECH FOR THE OPENING OF CAIRO URBAN WEEK

Mr. Ibrahim Saber Khalil | H.E. D, Cairo Governor

PANEL DISCUSSION: "SUSTAINABILITY IN ART FROM ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION TO OUR MODERN ERA"

Moderator:

Ms. Randa Fouad | Founder/President of WAFDF

Speakers:

H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (tbc)

H.E. Dr. Manal Awad, Minister of Local Development (tbc)

H.E. Eng. Sherif El Sherbiny, Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities (tbc)

Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim | Managing Executive Director of the Authority of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

Ms. Elena Panova, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt

Ms. Rania Hedaya, Regional Representative for Arab States, UN Habitat

Master of Ceremony:

Dr. Zeina El Zein, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University and UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board.

5:00 - 7:00 PM

EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION, CAIRO



Agenda

1st of November

AT THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSUEM (GEM)

01
NOVEMBER

TIME	EVENT
1:30 - 2:00 PM	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE BREAK
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<p>Master of Ceremony Salma Mousallem, Cairo Urban Week Technical Lead</p> <p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <p>Mr. Ahmed Rezk UN-Habitat Country Manager, Egypt office</p> <p>OPENING NOTES</p> <p>Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim CEO of Grand Egyptian Museum Authority</p>
2:15 - 3:00 PM	<p>DECADES OF INSIGHT: BUILDING TOMORROW'S CAIRO KEYNOTE SPEECH</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ismail Serageldin Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA)</p>
3:15 - 4:15 PM	<p>THE FATE OF MODERN HERITAGE, PANEL</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Rahmy Director - Private Sector Engagement, AUC-UCCD Heritage Enthusiast</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Alaa El Habashy Professor & Owner of Beit Yakan Dr. Nuria Sanz UNESCO Regional Director Dr. Nairy Hampikian Architect Historian Mr. Karim Shafei Chairman of El- Ismaleiya Real Estate Investment</p>
4:15 - 4:30 PM	BREAK
4:30 - 5:30 PM	<p>THE URBAN SPACES OF CAIRO - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE SPECIAL EXHIBITION OPENING</p> <p>An exhibition that bridges the historical significance of public spaces with its modern interpretation within the context of Cairo.</p>
5:30 - 6:30 PM	<p>GROWING UP URBAN: SHAPING CAIRO FOR OUR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING, PANEL</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Dina K. Shehayeab Founding Program Director, Architecture and Urban Design, Nile University</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Michal Mlynár Deputy Executive Director, UN Habitat Dr. Sarah Sabry Global Lead – Urban Save the Children & Chair Global Alliance – Cities4Children Mr. Jose Chong Lead of the UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme Ms. Victoria Chavez Van Leer Foundation, Senior Urban Advisor Dr. Sara Khalifa Ph.D. in Urban Development & Community Design from Cairo University</p>
7:00 - 8:00 PM	<p>A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND SOUND CELEBRATING THE CITY OF CAIRO SINGING PERFORMANCE</p> <p>Ms. Nesma Herky</p>



Agenda

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

TIME	EVENT
11:30 - 12:00 PM	WELCOME AND REGISTRATION
12:00 - 12:30 PM	<p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <p>Master of Ceremony Ms. Salma Mousallem, Cairo Urban Week Technical Lead</p> <p>RETHINKING URBAN PLANNING: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF BASIC SERVICES IN CAIRO'S INFORMAL AREAS, INTERVIEW</p> <p>Host: Dr. Ayman Ismail Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, AUC School of Business</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Laila Iskandar Former Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements</p>
12:30 - 1:30 PM	<p>HOUSING CAIRO: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE, PANEL</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Amr Abdelkawi Professor of Architecture at The American University in Cairo (AUC)</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Khalil Shaat GIZ Senior Policy Advisor, Cairo Governor Advisor Dr. Dina K. Shehaye Founding Program Director, Architecture & Urban Design, Nile University Ms. Zeinab Nadeem Development Analyst Master of Public Policy Mr. Hussein Refai Co-founder, and Chairman of Ventures Developments</p>
1:30 - 2:00 PM	<p>BREAK</p> <p>Networking & Featuring UNHCR Short Movie : Thread of Hope</p>
2:00 - 3:00 PM	<p>INCLUSIVE MOBILITY: BUILDING AN ACCESSIBLE CAIRO, PANEL</p> <p>Moderator: Eng. Fady ElSadek Design and Creative Director, Legacy by Hassan Allam</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Mohamed Hegazy Principal & Managing Director, Transport for Cairo L.L.P. Eng. Samy Abozeid Advisor to the Ministry of Housing for Roads and Transport Eng. Mohsen Sabra Planning and Business Development Director, Mowasalat Misr Group Ms. Nour El-Deeb Urban Mobility Expert Dr. Philipp Rode Executive Director, LSE Cities</p>
3:00 - 3:30 PM	BREAK
4:30 - 5:30 PM	<p>PUBLIC SPACE SCALABILITY IN THE CITY : A DISCUSSION OF GEHL WORKSHOP RESULTS</p> <p>Conversation Led by: Ms. Salma Mousallem</p> <p>Dr. Dina K. Shehaye Founding Program Director, Architecture & Urban Design, Nile University Eng. Ibrahim Mohasseb Founder and CEO of Die Stadt Mr. Karim Shafei Chairman and CEO of Al-Ismaelia Real Estate Investment Ms. Marwa Alameldeen UN Women Head of Programmes Ms. Amira Badran Urban Designer & placemaker, Senior Project Manager at GEHL</p>
5:30 - 6:30 PM	<p>A BLEND OF A MODERN REINTERPRETATION OF CLASSIC EGYPTIAN SONGS SINGING PERFORMANCE</p> <p>By Nouran Abu Taleb</p>



Agenda

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

ACTIVATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

TIME	EVENT		
10:30 AM	A PEOPLE-FIRST PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN WORKSHOP IN DOWNTOWN CAIRO, EGYPT		
1:00 PM	By Gehl Architects An interactive workshop applying Gehl design principles in Cairo's context	CARICATURE DRAWING SESSION By Hani Ibrahim LEGO FURNITURE WORKSHOP By Reblox	CAIRO NARRATIVES Featuring Maramzy N&L Arts Doors of Cairo Habashtakanat Mashtal Doodle Factory Very Nile Shop
3:30 PM	SCREENING FILM: CAIRO BETWEEN TWO PALACES Dr. Nezar AlSayyad Distinguished Professor, U.C Berkeley & President Emeritus, IASTE	INTERACTIVE ART WALL By Darwisha Studio	
4:00 PM		POTTERY, POT PLANTING AND PAINTING WORKSHOPS By Noon by Fagnoon	
4:30 PM			
5:30 PM	SUSTAINABLE JEWELRY WORKSHOP By Very Nile & Tazgah		
6:00 PM			

Agenda

3rd of November

AT AL-ASMARAT

03
NOVEMBER

TIME	EVENT
2:00 - 2:15 PM	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
2:15 - 2:45 PM	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY Ms. Rania Hedeya UN-Habitat Regional Representative of Arab States (ar) Dr. Ibrahim Saber Cairo Governor Mr. Khaled Seddik Chairman of the Urban Development Fund
2:45 - 3:45 PM	AL-ASMARAT NEIGHBORHOOD STORY AND HISTORY, PANEL Dr. Sahar Attia Design Consultant Mr. Khalil Shaath Cairo Governorate Dr. Marwa Ahmed Soliman General manager of international Cooperation and Community participation Eng. Ahmed Ibrahim Al Asmarat District Authority Dr. Salma Yoursy Urban Development Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Egypt
3:45 - 4:00 PM	BREAK Public engagement and networking
4:00 - 4:45 PM	PRESENTATION OF ASMARAT CHILDREN OUTCOME REVEALING THE ORIGAMI INSTALLATION Ms. Yasmeen Khamis CEO Doodle Factory Dr. Salma Yoursy Urban Development Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Egypt
4:45 - 5:15 PM	GUIDED TOUR OF THE PUBLIC SPACE & NEIGHBORHOOD
5:15 - 5:20 PM	KIDS PERFORMANCE

**KIDS
ACTIVATION**

**ORIGAMI SPACE
ACTIVATION
FOR KIDS**

By Doodle Factory

Origami art installation during the inauguration that brings together children and local artists, to raise awareness about public spaces through collective creativity



Agenda

31st of October & 3rd of November

CAIRO FILMS AT **ZAWYA CINEMA** CURATED BY **CAIRO BIOGRAPHY**

31 & 3
OCTOBER NOVEMBER

About Cairo Biography

Founded by Abdel Azim Fahmy, The initiative aims to document all of Cairo's historical neighborhoods and paths and to have a stock of documentary films to introduce them, especially since a city the size of Cairo does not have quality documentaries about its various neighborhoods

عن كايرو بيوغرافى

تهدف المبادرة التي أسسها عبد العظيم فهمي، إلى توثيق كافة أحياء ودروب القاهرة التاريخية وان يكون لها رصيد من الافلام الوثائقية للتعريف بها خاصة وان مدينة بحجم القاهرة لا تمتلك وثائقيات نوعية عن أحيائها المختلفة

Day One 31st of October

TIME	EVENT
9:00 - 10:00 PM	"Sharea El-Rakiba - شارع الركبة" Documentary Screening "Sharea El-Helmeya - شارع الحلمية" Documentary Screening Movie reflection hosting Abdelazim Fahmy Cairo Biography Initiative Founder

Day Two 3rd of November

TIME	EVENT
9:00 - 10:00 PM	"Mahrousa Ya Quaherah محروسة يا قاهرة" Intro "Darb Qormoz درب قرمز" Documentary Screening Movie reflection hosting Abdelazim Fahmy Cairo Biography Initiative Founder

Agenda

31st of October - 3rd of November

CAIRO WALKS CURATED BY QAHRAWYA

31 - 2

OCTOBER NOVEMBER

Day One 31st of October

TIME

EVENT

9:00 - 12:00 AM

Droob Heritage Tour, El Khalifa

Exploring the visual and artistic heritage of this side of Cairo in the area of Khalifa and Darb El Ahmar

Day Two 1st of November

TIME

EVENT

9:00 - 12:00 AM

Cosmos Cinema Tour, Downtown

Discovering the golden age of film in Egypt around historic cinemas and film studios.

Day Three 2nd of November

TIME

EVENT

9:00 - 12:00 AM

Nouma & Lamba Heritage Tour, Garden City

Exploring one of Cairo's oldest districts, El Mounira, a living archive of Egypt's intangible heritage. During the tour, we will share captivating tales of Cairo's history while delving into its artistic legacy.

Keynote Speech

1st of November

AT THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM)

01
NOVEMBER

Decades of Insight: Building Tomorrow's Cairo

DR. ISMAIL SERAGELDIN

Founding Director of
the Bibliotheca
Alexandrina (BA)



Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the new Library of Alexandria, inaugurated in 2002, is currently, Emeritus Librarian, and member of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Alexandria. He serves as Chair and Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions, including as co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), and serves as Patron of the International Science Council (ISC). He has held many international positions including as Vice President of the World Bank (1993–2000). He also co-chaired the African Union's high level panel for Biotechnology (2006) and again for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in 2012-2013, and was a member of the ICANN Panel for the review of the internet future (2013).

Dr. Serageldin has received many awards including: First recipient of Grameen Foundation (USA) Award for a lifetime commitment to combating poverty, (1999); Pablo Neruda Medal of Honor, awarded by the Government of Chile (2004); The Bajaj Award for promoting Gandhian values outside India (2006); Order of the Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Star awarded by the Emperor of Japan (2008); Champion of Youth Award by the World Youth Congress, Quebec (2008); Knight of the French Legion of Honor awarded by the President of France (2008); Africa Millennium Excellence Award for Lifetime Achievement Prize, Ghana (2010); The Public Welfare Medal, by the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC (2011); Commander of the Order of Arts & Letters awarded by the government of France (2011); and the presidential medals from the republics of Azerbaijan (2015), Montenegro (2016); Albania (2017) and Macedonia (2019).

He has lectured widely all over the world including delivering the Mandela Lecture (Johannesburg, 2011), the Nexus Lecture (Netherlands, 2011), the Keynote Address to the First International Summit of the Book (Washington DC, 2012). He was distinguished professor at Wageningen University and at the College de France.

He has published over 100 books and monographs and over 500 papers on a variety of topics including biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, and the value of science to society. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Cairo University and Master's degree and a PhD from Harvard University and has received 40 honorary doctorates.



Speakers

1st of November

AT THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM)

01
NOVEMBER

The Fate of Modern Heritage



MR. MOHAMED RAHMY (Moderator)

Private Sector Engagement, AUC-UCCD | Heritage Enthusiast

Rahmy is a mid-career professional with two-decades of work experience. Originally a banker and an economist with some of the region's most prestigious financial institutions. After completing his postgraduate studies in 2012, he's made a transition to the nonprofit sector. In 2013, Rahmy joined the NY-based Seeds of Peace heading its Graduate Programs and, in 2016, he transitioned to Endeavor, the global entrepreneur-support organization, in the role of Managing Director, where he led its Egypt operations for more than five years. Today, Rahmy is the Director of Private Sector Engagement at AUC's University Centers for Career Development (UCCD) project. Outside of his professional pursuits, Rahmy is passionate about urban heritage and actively uses social media (urbanyzie_) to raise awareness about Egypt's rich legacy of modern built heritage. Rahmy holds a BA in Economics from AUC ('03) and an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from SOAS ('12).



DR. ALAA EL HABASHY

Professor & Owner of Beit Yakan

An Egyptian professor of architecture and heritage conservation at the Menoufia University. With M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, his research and practices aim at respecting the specificities of local histories and traditions. He has various conservation projects in the Arab countries developing approaches appropriate to local values, and identities. He assists in inscribing sites in the World Heritage List and in evaluating them. Through his restoration and the rehabilitation of Bayt Yakan in Historic Cairo he is assessing sustainable development in the management of urban heritage.



DR. NAIRY HAMPIKIAN

Architect Historian

An architect historian with more than 35 years of field experience in many conservation projects such as the direction of The Conservation Project of Bab Zuwayla in al-Darb al-Ahmar, The Conservation Projects of the Armenian Sourp Krikor Lousavoritch Church in Ramses Street, and The Historic Chapel at Marmina in Old Cairo. Following her bachelor degree in Architecture and Planning from Ayn Shams University, post-graduate studies include an MA in history of architecture and conservation of monuments from Polytechnic Institute in Yerevan, Armenia, an MA in Islamic art and architecture from AUC, a diploma in architectural conservation in Rome, and a PhD in archaeology from UCLA. Research accompanying teaching and practical conservation involves the production of 25 scientific articles and one monograph.



MR. KARIM SHAFEI

Chairman and CEO of AlIsmaelia Real Estate Investment

Chairman of Al Ismaelia and the master mind behind the Downtown Rehabilitation Project. Shafei is a passionate entrepreneur who has successfully founded and managed an impressive number of companies. His passion for Downtown has been the driving force behind the inception of Al Ismaelia, aimed at regaining Downtown's lost centrality as Cairo's city center, and the heart of its society.



DR. NURIA SANZ

UNESCO Regional Director

An archaeologist and anthropologist with a Ph.D. in Prehistoric Archaeology and Human Ecology and she is an international civil servant at the United Nations. She developed her career in multilateral organizations as Council of Europe, European Commission and UNESCO since 1996. Since 2022 she is the UNESCO Regional Director for Egypt, Sudan, and liaison Officer with the League of Arab States.



Speakers

1st of November

AT THE GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM)

01
NOVEMBER

Growing Up Urban: Shaping Cairo for Our Children's Wellbeing



DR. DINA K. SHEHAYEB (Moderator)

Founding Program Director, Architecture and Urban Design, Nile University

Founder and Program Director of the Architecture and Urban Design program and Executive Director of the Architecture & Urban - Design & Research Excellence Center ARU-DREC at Nile University. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, USA in human aspects in urban design. Employed for 35+ years in the Housing and Building National Research Centre in Egypt before joining Nile University in 2017, she also led her private firm Shehayeb CONSULT from 1998 till 2022. She has served as a consultant and advisory committee member with UN-Habitat from 2004-2018.



MR. MICHAL MLYNÁR

Deputy Executive Director, UN Habitat

A seasoned diplomat who served as Acting Executive Director of UN-Habitat from January to August 2024. Until April 2023, he was Slovakia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to that, he served as Director General for International Organizations, Development Cooperation, and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He was also Slovakia's Ambassador in Nairobi and served as the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the President of its Governing Council. He holds PhD and MA degrees from Comenius University in Bratislava and Slovakia.



DR. SARAH SABRY

Global Lead – Urban | Save the Children & Chair | Global Alliance – Cities4Children

Global Urban Lead at Save the Children and the founding chair of the Global Alliance – Cities4Children. Sarah has over 25 years of experience in development practice and research. Her work, research and writing has mostly addressed urban poverty, slums/informal settlements, inclusive cities, social policy, NGOs and children and youth. She holds a PhD in development studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and has taught at SOAS, the University of Zurich and the ETH.



MR. JOSE CHONG

Lead of the UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme

José Chong leads the Global Public Space Programme (GPSP) at UN-Habitat, focusing on enhancing public spaces to tackle urbanization challenges.

With over 20 years of diverse experience in the private sector, non-profits, and government, José is also an accomplished academic, having lectured in related fields and contributed to urban design education. He holds degrees in urban planning and architecture from Ricardo Palma University and has completed master's programs in Renewable Energies, Sustainable Architecture, and Urban Development in Spain and Germany.



MS. VICTORIA CHAVEZ

Van Leer Foundation, Senior Urban Advisor

A senior urban planner and architect with experience in sustainable urban development, focusing on creating child-friendly cities through policy innovation, participatory planning and community engagement. As the Urban95 Expert in the Foundation's Support & Learning team, she provides technical assistance on urban planning and strategies across programme portfolios.

Before joining the Foundation, she co-founded Huasipichanga, an organization dedicated to urban development using participatory and co-creation methodologies.



DR. SARA KHALIFA

Ph.D. in Urban Development & Community Design from Cairo University

A research assistant in urban studies at the Housing and Building National Research Centre (HBRC) in Cairo, Egypt. She earned her Ph.D. in Urban Development and Community Design from Cairo University, specializing in Environment & Behaviour Studies related to the urban design of public spaces and their socio-cultural and psychological dimensions. Sara serves on several committees focused on code and local rating system development in Egypt. Academically, she teaches architecture and urban design part-time at Nile University.

Key Interviews

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

Rethinking Urban Planning: The Critical Role Of Basic Services In Cairo's Informal Areas



DR. AYMAN ISMAIL

Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, AUC School of Business

An international expert in entrepreneurship and economic development. He is the Abdul Latif Jameel Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship at AUC School of Business and the founding director of AUC Venture Lab and AUC Innovation Hub. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Egypt Ventures and PayMob, and a co-founder, angel investor or board member in several fast-growing tech-startups and financial institutions. Previously, he was a research fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, a consultant at McKinsey & Company's New York office and the World Bank, a co-founder and managing partner at Enovio Consulting, and a Young Global Leader (YGL) at the World Economic Forum (WEF). He received his PhD in International Economic Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has other degrees in engineering, business, city planning and information technology from the American University in Cairo (AUC) and MIT.



DR. LAILA ISKANDAR

Former Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Before serving as the Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements in Egypt from July 2014-September 2015, Laila Iskandar served as Minister of State for Environmental Affairs in the two cabinets following the June 30th Revolution. Before holding public office, she was a leading civil society member both nationally and internationally, working with youth, women, and children in livelihood programs in informal urban settlements and deprived villages in Upper Egypt. She was Chairperson of CID Consulting from 1995 - 2013, which was awarded the "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award in 2006 at the World Economic Forum by the Schwab Foundation for the sustainable recycling school established in partnership with Unesco. She studied economics, political science at Cairo University, Near Eastern studies, and international education development at UC Berkeley (Masters of Arts in Teaching), California and Columbia University, N.Y (Doctorate in International Education Development). Her international assignments have included serving as a jury to UNESCO's International Literacy Prize, acting as Unesco's Resource Person for the Arab region since 2005 on the United Nations Literacy Decade - UNLD - and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Decade, and served as Canadian CIDA's Education Advisor in Egypt. She worked with the garbage collectors of Cairo for over 35 years, focusing on the informal waste sector, building on recycling SME's and value chain analysis.



Speakers

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

Housing Cairo: Navigating The Future



DR. AMR ABDELKAWI (Moderator)

Professor of Architecture at AUC

Professor of Practice in Architecture at the American University in Cairo, and Director of NextARCH Lab, an interactive research and engagement platform that empowers all stakeholders of the built environment. His tenure in education also includes extensive periods at Ain Shams University and the Arab Academy. Dr. Abdel Kawi played a role in the local and regional professional discourse in his capacity as publisher and editor in chief of two of Egypt's leading architecture and design magazines: "Medina" and "Magaz". This is in addition to over three decades of professional practice and consulting in architecture and interior design. Dr. Abdel Kawi is also one of the key experts in the field of technical education and vocational training in Egypt.



MR. KHALIL SHAAT

GIZ Senior Policy Advisor, Cairo Governor Advisor

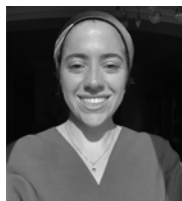
His career began in 2004 as a Team Leader for the PDP Programme at GIZ, focusing on Mansheit Nasar, one of Cairo's largest informal areas. This role emphasized participatory approaches and community engagement, shaping his commitment to inclusive urban planning. Since 2006, he has served as the Cairo Governor's Advisor for Informal Area Upgrading, establishing a dedicated unit for this purpose and actively participating in development teams and steering committees. His advocacy has consistently championed the needs of local communities. For the past eight years, he has been the focal point for Egypt's national strategy to upgrade informal areas, leading to over 50 billion Egyptian pounds invested in transforming these regions into sustainable environments. His expertise and strong community ties have been crucial in driving positive change.



DR. DINA K. SHEHAYEB

Founding Program Director, Architecture and Urban Design, Nile University

Founder and Program Director of the Architecture and Urban Design program and Executive Director of the Architecture & Urban - Design & Research Excellence Center ARU-DREC at Nile University. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, USA in human aspects in urban design. Employed for 35+ years in the Housing and Building National Research Centre in Egypt before joining Nile University in 2017, she also led her private firm Shehayeb CONSULT from 1998 till 2022. Through her firm, she consulted in community-based design projects and the development of design and planning guidelines. She has served as a consultant and advisory committee member with UN-Habitat from 2004-2018.



MS. ZEINAB NADEEM

Development Analyst at SODIC | Master of Public Policy

A Master's degree holder in Public Policy and is a Real Estate Development Analyst with an interdisciplinary background in architecture, focusing on urban and community policy design. Her academic and professional interests span urban policies, housing, urban planning and development, real estate urbanism, heritage preservation, political ecology, and conflict studies. Zeinab is currently exploring career and academic pathways in public policy and advisory, with a keen interest in addressing complex challenges at the intersection of urbanism and social equity.



MR. HUSSEIN REFAI

Co-founder, and Chairman of Ventures Developments

Hussien started his official career as a Consultant Engineer at Cegman and Assistant Professor of Construction Engineering at The American University in Cairo. In 2002, he co-founded Aura, a creative design studio delivering state of the art architectural, interior design, and landscape designs. In 2007 he co-founded INERTIA Holding a real estate developer and its construction arm; comprising of INERTIA Properties and INERTIA construction with the aim of growing it into a full fledged real estate conglomerate.



Speakers

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

Inclusive Mobility: Building an Accessible Cairo, Panel



ENG. FADY ELSADEK (Moderator)

Design and Creative Director, Legacy by Hassan Allam

An architect, urban planner, and sustainable development strategist specializing in tourism development and public spaces. As the Director of Design at Legacy, overseeing the Grand Egyptian Museum, he coordinates with public and private stakeholders to ensure the museum's operational success. Previously, he was the Managing Director and Principal Architect of a multi-disciplinary firm, supporting projects and national tourism strategies. Fady has collaborated with firms like WATG, HOK, and Buro Happold. He holds a BSc in Construction Engineering and Management from the AUC, an MA in Architecture from the Catholic University of America, and an MSt in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment from the University of Cambridge.



MS. NOUR EL-DEEB

Urban Mobility Expert

Nour is a sustainability advocate based in Cairo, Egypt, specializing in urban mobility. She has extensive experience working with multinational organizations and public sectors across Africa, focusing on mass transit, non-motorized transport, and public transport. Her projects include bus rapid transit (BRT) systems, street design, and transit-oriented development, with a emphasis on gender inclusion. In Cairo, she led the planning of a BRT corridor, supported the city's first bikeshare system and contributed to a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for Sharm El Sheikh, along with the national Non-Motorized Transport Strategy for Egypt.



ENG. SAMY ABOZEID

Advisor to the Ministry of Housing for Roads and Transport

A civil engineering expert with a Bachelor's degree obtained in May 1979, has over four decades of experience in urban infrastructure and transportation. Currently a consultant to the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities, he has collaborated with organizations like the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) and the World Bank Group on key urban mobility projects in Egypt. Previously serving as the Head of the Central Department for Planning Infrastructure, he played a pivotal role in developing Egypt's smart sustainable cities strategy.



MR. MOHAMED HEGAZY

Principal & Managing Director, Transport for Cairo L.L.P.

Founder and Director of Transport for Cairo (TfC) L.L.P. TfC provides strategic advisory consultancy services, data, tech and research to improve urban mobility in emerging cities. With TfC, I successfully led the completion of more than 60 projects in 10 countries in Africa. With 10 years of experience in project leadership, I focus on data collection, data aggregation, data science & urban computing to transform ideas into practice. Academically trained in Economics, Sociology and Public Policy design, I specialize in solving real world problems around deep decarbonisation of transport, informal system change management and digitalisation of transport using data-driven methodologies.



ENG. MOHSEN SABRA

Planning and Business Development Director, Mwasalat Misr Group

The Vice President of Business Development at Mwasalat Misr Group, a prominent public transport bus operator in Cairo, Egypt. With a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the Military Technical College and an MBA in International Trade from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, he brings a strong technical and business background to the transport sector. Prior to his current role, he served as the Planning & Business Developments Director and CEO at Mwasalat Misr, where he played a key role in the company's development and strategic growth



DR. PHILIPP RODE

Executive Director, LSE Cities

Dr Philipp Rode is Executive Director of LSE Cities and Associate Professor (Education) at the School of Public Policy. He is Co-Director of the LSE Executive MSc in Cities and Visiting Professor at University of St Gallen's Institute for Mobility. Dr Rode has been leading interdisciplinary programmes in urban development and transport, sustainable urbanism and climate change, and city policy and governance at the LSE since 2003. Across his work, he is interested in multi-dimensional aspects of global urbanisation, sustainability and urban change.



Speakers

2nd of November

AT FOUNDERS SPACES

02
NOVEMBER

Public Space Scalability in the City: Discussion of Gehl Workshop Results



MS. SALMA MOUSALLEM (Moderator)
Cairo Urban Week's Technical Lead

An urban planner and an international development expert. In Cairo Urban Week, she works to bring together a range of partners to create opportunities for dialogue around sustainable urbanization in the city. Salma held the role of Mobility Program Officer in UN-Habitat for eight years, where she advocated for sustainable transportation and introduced Bus Rapid Transit to Egypt. She received the Remarkable Woman in Transport Award from the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative for this role. She holds an Executive Master in Cities from the London School of Economics, a Master of City Planning from University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Arts and Science from McGill University. She started her career where she worked at UNAIDS on HIV programs.



DR. DINA K. SHEHAYEB
Founding Program Director, Architecture and Urban Design, Nile University

Founder and Program Director of the Architecture and Urban Design program and Executive Director of the Architecture & Urban - Design & Research Excellence Center ARU-DREC at Nile University. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, USA in human aspects in urban design. Employed for 35+ years in the Housing and Building National Research Centre in Egypt before joining Nile University in 2017, she also led her private firm Shehayeb CONSULT from 1998 till 2022. She has served as a consultant and advisory committee member with UN-Habitat from 2004-2018.



ENG. IBRAHIM MOHASSEB
Founder and CEO of Die Stadt

An Egyptian architect and urban planner based in Cairo and is the founder of our company, Die Stadt. He is a graduate of architecture from Cairo university with a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Miami, Florida. There, he worked alongside dover kohl & partners on multiple projects including Naples Park, Glenwood park, Miami springs and the Miami downtown revitalization plan. Throughout his experiences he developed his knowledge of the new urbanism, a set of principles that strive to build strong, healthy and social communities.



MR. KARIM SHAFEI
Chairman and CEO of Al-Ismailia Real Estate Investment

Chairman of Al Ismaelia and the master mind behind the Downtown Rehabilitation Project. Shafei is a passionate entrepreneur who has successfully founded and managed an impressive number of companies. His passion for Downtown has been the driving force behind the inception of Al Ismaelia, aimed at regaining Downtown's lost centrality as Cairo's city center, and the heart of its society.



DR. MARWA ALAMELDEEN
UN Women, Head of Programmes

Officer-in-Charge for UN Women Egypt Country Office. She brings close to 20 years of experience in sustainable development work in the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to joining UN Women, she had an extensive experience working within the UN Resident Coordinator System on forging partnerships, strategic planning and coordination. Marwa also managed programmes in the areas of democracy, governance, and gender equality in the Middle East and North Africa region with various international development partners including USAID, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.



MS. AMIRA BADRAN
Senior Project Manager at GEHL

Amira is a senior project manager at Gehl working on promoting people-first neighborhoods, streets and public space design across multiple cities in the Gulf region and Europe, where she employs her interdisciplinary background in architecture, urban development, placemaking, and management. Before Gehl, she worked with UN Habitat Egypt on promoting sustainable mobility and inclusive public space across the GCR and other cities of Egypt. Amira is also founder of LifetoSpaces, a local urban placemaking studio focused on bringing life to underutilized public space in Egypt.



Our Advisory board

We are deeply grateful to our Advisory Board members for their expertise, dedication, and commitment to ensuring the overall success of Cairo Urban Week

Meet our Advisors



DR. AYMAN ISMAIL
Associate Professor of
Entrepreneurship, AUC School of
Business



DR. HEBA FAROUK
Urban Historian and Educator



ENG. FADY EL SADEK
Design and Creative Director,
Legacy by Hassan Allam



MR. MOHAMED RAHMY
Private Sector Engagement,
AUC-UCCD | Heritage Enthusiast



DR. DINA K. SHEHAYEB
Founding Program Director,
Architecture and Urban Design,
Nile University



MS. SALMA MOUSSALAM
Cairo Urban Week's Technical Lead





CAIRO URBAN WEEK

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Waiting to see you in the WUF12

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR THE WUF 12!

