



Youth Initiatives & Emerging Voices THE MEGA-CITIES PROJECT

HABITAT III

Towards a New Urban Agenda

Networking Session

Oct.18, 2016 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm | Room R3
Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamín Carrión"
Quito, Ecuador

MEGA-CITIES PROJECT & MC² LAUNCH

NETWORKING SESSION

PROGRAM Youth Initiatives for Urban Inclusion: Emerging Voices

2:00pm **Commonalities within Differences**

Brian English Global Communities (USA)

2:10pm **Shortening the time lag between ideas and implementation:
The Mega-Cities Strategy**

Janice Perlman Mega-Cities Project (USA)

2:25pm **Emerging Leaders Roundtable**

Gizele de Oliveira Martins Youth Forum (Brazil)

Francisco Rankin Observatory of Human and Autonomous Rights (Nicaragua)

Mercedes Bidart CIPPEC/MetroLab (Argentina)

Jules Dumas Nguebou ASSOAL Local Development Network (Cameroon)

Dan Koon-hong Chan Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Youth (HK, China)

Ray Boyle Our City (USA)

3:25pm **Open Discussion: Conflict and consensus**

3:40pm **MC² Vision for the Future - Multi-issue, multi-generational, multi-cultural**

3:50pm **Mega-Cities Project Awards Celebration**

4:00pm **Closing**



Habitat III - United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
17 – 20 October 2016 | Quito, Ecuador

The Mega-Cities Project and MC²

Now in its 30th year, the Mega Cities Project was founded to “shorten the lag time between urban innovations and their implementation.” We use a dual strategy: we share solutions among cities and put the lessons of experience in the hands of policy-makers and practitioners in real time; and we do research and tap into community knowledge to gain a deeper understanding of the process of deliberate social change in cities.



MCP has created a collaborative network among 21 of the largest cities in the world. Our focus is on livelihoods, voice and environmental justice for informal communities and marginalized groups. We are now launching: Mega-Cities 2 or MC² (pure energy) - bringing in the next generation of urban change agents and utilizing the next generation of technologies.

Our original project participants, who now hold senior positions nationally and internationally, have agreed to mentor these young people in order to “shorten the lag time between promising new leaders and their ability to make a difference.” MC² is the fusion of the accumulated wisdom, credibility and trust of our founding network with the creativity, passion and technological sophistication of the next generation.

We invite you to join us in charting the course for the next 30 years!

THE MEGA-CITIES PROJECT NY Global Headquarters

jperlman@megacitiesproject.org | Follow us @MegaCitiesSpeak | www.megacitiesproject.org

Habitat III Networking Session

At Habitat I, Perlman's just-published book, *The Myth of Marginality*, contested the prevailing stereotypes of migrants and squatters, and argued against squatter eradication that was the policy implication of the misconceptions. At Habitat II, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Mega-Cities Project, hosting the Local Coordinators from each of the 20 mega-cities in our network as well as the community participants who were part of the first ever Grassroots Innovation Exposition. Our Project Coordinators 20 years ago are now in mature leadership positions. At Habitat III, our goal is to accelerate the effectiveness of the next generation of young and emerging leaders by connecting them with this first cohort of leaders.

Our most recent research findings on “Winners and Losers in the Struggle for the Right to the City” in Rio de Janeiro, funded by the Tinker Foundation, point us to the multiple creative initiatives that are being developed under the radar. We found youth from informal and peripheral neighborhoods building new alliances, turning garbage into income, inventing new ways to assert their identity, and taking action to promote transparency and hold government accountable.



We cannot even begin to solve the challenges of urbanization, without giving voice to those who have been stigmatized and ignored because they are young and poor. Policy and practice can be transformed by converting the collective knowledge of “invisible” marginalized people into action. Just as the abundant creative energy in cities today is stymied by the lack of access to the policy making process, there are many emerging leaders who cannot fulfill their potential or advance their new initiatives for lack of bonding and bridging networks.

Mega-Cities Team



Janice Perlman

Janice Perlman is the author of *The Myth of Marginality* (1976) and *Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro* (2010).

She is the Founder and President of the Mega-Cities Project, a global non-profit organization now in its 30th year.

She was a tenured Professor at UC Berkeley and is currently a Senior Fellow at UPennIUR. She won Guggenheim and C Wright Mills Awards.



Carla Zorzanelli

Carla Zorzanelli is the coordinator for Mega-Cities' research project: "Mega-Events, Public Policies and the Future of Rio's favelas".

She also works with a sharing economy initiative called "Tem Açúcar?".



Cintia Borba Hoskinson

Cintia Borba Hoskinson works for the UN-Habitat in the Rio+Social Program, a partnership with the Rio city government.

For the past year she has been part of the Mega-Cities research team in Rio de Janeiro.



Yiling Pan

Yiling Pan is helping Mega-Cities manage communications including social media outreach, website development, and organizing this MCP Networking Session at Habitat III.

Mega-Cities Project Award Winners



Gizele de Oliveira Martins

Gizele de Oliveira Martins is a journalist and organizes courses regarding community communication and the historical resistance of the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. She collaborates with organizations in communication media based in slums, and with the Youth Forum in Rio, which aims to discuss communication, gender, and ways to fight the genocide of black people and removals.



Francisco Sequeira Rankin

Francisco Sequeira Rankin is the Director of the Observatory of Human and Autonomous Rights (ODHA), founded by the Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU). The Observatory addresses issues related to autonomous rights and indigenous populations. He has coordinated projects in different municipalities and worked to promote the participation of young people in policy design at local levels.

Panelists



Mercedes Bidart

Mercedes Bidart coordinates project development at CIPPEC's Cities Program, a Think Tank based in Argentina. She is a political scientist creating innovative strategies to improve metropolitan governance, beginning with better coordination and cooperation among city leaders from territories facing similar challenges. She has participated in MIT's MetroLab and worked towards smarter, more resilient and more equitable metropolises across the region.



Ray Boyle

Ray Boyle, co-founder of Our City, brings together residents, city agencies, and cultural catalysts to design and build the future of their cities - together. Since 2010, she has been creating participatory urban design experiences that help bridge the divide between "us" and "other," to ultimately design communities that are more inclusive, healthier, and happier.



Jules Dumas Nguebou

Jules Dumas Nguebou is the President of the Executive Board of ASSOAL, a non-profit in Yaoundé, Cameroon. It fosters citizen mobilization for economic, social and cultural rights through ITC and participatory budgeting. They use collective action to help young people and women access basic social services and local development committees to set priorities.



Dan Koon-hong Chan

Dan Koon-hong Chan, based in Hong Kong, is the Co-convenor of the Local Pathways Fellowship at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth. He will be inaugurating "Local Pathways Fellowship" for young urban innovators at H3, that will include training on local implementation of the SDGs and the role of city networks; and will provide them with the tools and resources to mobilize local support from youth and civil society.

Moderator



Brian English

Brian English is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and the Global Cities Initiative at Global Communities. For the past 14 years, Brian has managed inter-disciplinary teams on urban development projects in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. Brian's work has been featured in New York Times, Scientific American, Business Week and Harvard Business Review.

Janice Perlman: Author of *The Myth of Marginality* (1976) and *Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro* (2010).

Signed copies of book "Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro" will be available for purchase during the event.