Resilience: Key Learning Points From WCS 2016

"We need to take the resilience discussion beyond the political discussion. [...] The way to take resilience beyond the political cycle is to institutionalise it and make it part of the reason for the city to be there. That’s when the community truly understands it, owns it, and interprets it in a way that is of benefit to them. There’s got to be a ‘What’s in it for me?’ factor."

- - Lord Mayor Martin Haese, Mayor, Adelaide at the WCS 2016 Thematic Track: Building Resilient Cities and Communities

Performance outside the restored Victoria Theatre & Concert Hall at 2016’s Closing Dinner

LEARNING POINT 1 Social cohesion holds everything together. Social cohesion is interweaved with cultural identity. Incorporating local cultural and historical elements to the urban landscape is one way to encourage a sense of community in a concrete and prominent manner. The role of art and preserved heritage can activate communities, bring the people together, and imbue a sense of ownership.

LEARNING POINT 2 Inclusive development brings everyone along. With the disruptive, restructuring impact of globalisation and technology, government intervention and a strong social compact are required to fill in the gaps that the market system has left and will continue to leave.

Read the full WCS 2016 report here.

What to Expect at WCS 2018 Thematic Tracks: Resilience

What Does It Take to Be an Environmentally and Economically Resilient City?

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Climate change being one of the biggest global challenges today. Cities are exploring and pulling together innovative urban solutions, building robust and flexible infrastructure, and working out new financing and risk transfer arrangements in a bid to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.

What should mayors and city leaders do to ensure that cities are protected, are equipped to recover from short-term shocks and even take advantage of new opportunities from these threats?

Henk Ovink
Dutch Special Envoy, International Water Affairs, The Netherlands

Social Resilience - A Critical Component of a Liveable and Sustainable City?

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Urban resilience is about the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive despite chronic stresses and acute shocks. Often, the appropriate social networks and capital are both the first and last lines of defence in times of crisis - be it terrorist attacks, financial crisis or natural disasters. How can cities cultivate and build up the social resilience through innovation?

Erion Veliaj
Mayor, Tirana
Social fragmentation and technological disruptions are increasingly prevalent challenges faced by cities and their residents. For cities of the future to be liveable and sustainable, innovative and collaborative urban solutions will be needed. These may go beyond existing practices of good governance and sound planning by authorities, to involve innovative uses of culture in collaboration with key stakeholders. How can we meaningfully weave cultural elements into our urban landscape, to maximise their positive impact and the social benefits for our residents?
Site Visits: How Arts and Heritage Contribute to Liveability

Tour this unique visual art cluster, surrounded by lush tropical greenery and set in conserved, former military barracks. Gillman Barracks is home to international and Singapore art galleries, research centre NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore, and a children’s centre for creativity. Highlights include public art by leading and emerging SEA artists on display throughout the compound and a visit to the studios of artists-in-residence at NTU CCA Singapore. Through this tour, delegates will gain an understanding of how collaborations in art and culture, between the public, private and people sectors, can help enhance a city.

Sunday, 8 July 2018

The Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) is the first and only tropical botanic garden on the UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Established in 1859, SBG is a leading international institution of tropical botany and horticulture, and contributes greatly to the implementation of Singapore’s Garden City vision. Highlights of this learning journey include the Gardens’ majestic Heritage Trees, the iconic Bandstand gazebo, SBG Heritage Museum and the newly opened SBG Learning Forest.

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

See all site visits

Early Bird Rates for World Cities Summit 2018!
As population density climbs, cities are facing ever more complex problems. Conversely, they are also the perfect testbeds for the concerted development of smart solutions. With the advent of fast-paced digitalization, novel ideas for tackling urban problems are developing rapidly.

Siemens’ new Smart City Digital Hub at Hong Kong Science Park is an “open urban laboratory” where infrastructure operators and start-ups can implement digital portfolios of Smart City applications that would be applicable around the world.

More on Siemens’ Smart City Digital Hub

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