

# The World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park

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FORUM



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# A JOURNEY TOWARDS URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Global Dialogues, Innovations, and Solutions

A blue-tinted photograph of a presentation or workshop. A woman in a white shirt is standing at the front, pointing at a screen that displays a "PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT" slide. An audience of people is seated in chairs, facing the presenter. The room has large windows and a modern interior.

2022-2023

*World Urban Pavilion  
in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels  
A Global Hub for SDG Cities*



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# FOREWORD



**Forward by Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat and & Co-Chair, International Board of the World Urban Pavilion**



It is my great pleasure to present the World Urban Pavilion Impact Report. This report highlights the remarkable progress and achievements we have made in the past year in our mission to accelerate global urban development agendas, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

When the Pavilion opened its doors on April 21, 2021, it marked the beginning of a new era of international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Located in Regent Park, Toronto, a neighborhood with a rich history and an inspiring transformation, the Pavilion stands as a symbol of inclusivity, revitalization, and resilience. In just one year, we have established ourselves as an effective initiative, capable of understanding the complex challenges and opportunities of urbanization and responding with innovative solutions, practices, and policies.

Our journey began even before the Pavilion's inauguration. Our partner the Urban Economy Forum recognized the need for a global knowledge exchange hub to share best practices, innovation, and research in urban development and revitalization. Through strategic partnerships with UN-Habitat, the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation, and the Daniels Corporation, we have formed an partnership that brings together multilateral, public, and private organizations to achieve our common goal of creating a greener, healthier, and fairer planet.

The Pavilion takes a strong programmatic approach, grounded in people-oriented and innovative solutions. Our three objectives—becoming a global hub for knowledge exchange, a creative and innovative platform, and an agent for advancing the sustainability agenda—guide our work and drive our impact.

As a global hub for knowledge exchange, we have made significant strides in generating urban knowledge, supporting city-to-city and community learning, and fostering networking and capacity building. The Pavilion supports SDG Cities, a flagship programme of UN-Habitat, representing a powerful force in driving sustainable urban transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Urban Pavilion is dedicated to promoting SDG Cities and supporting cities worldwide in their journey towards sustainable development. Through knowledge exchange, collaborative partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives, we empower cities to integrate the principles of the SDGs into their urban planning, policies, and actions. By embracing the SDGs, cities become catalysts for positive change, fostering inclusive communities, resilient infrastructure, and environmentally conscious practices.

The World Urban Pavilion also serves as a creative and innovative platform, promoting transformative solutions for positive urban change. The Pavilions Sister Neighborhood initiative links marginalized communities such as Regent Park with similar communities in the developing world, facilitating knowledge exchange and inspiration, and assuring that no one is left behind. The Canada Frontrunner Urban SDG Initiative aims to identify, systematize, and disseminate best practices and innovative solutions, contributing to the global discourse on sustainable urban development.

The World Urban Pavilion Impact Report showcases the tangible outcomes of our efforts. It is a testament to the dedication and collective action of our partners, collaborators, and team members. Together, we are driving change, creating sustainable urban environments, and working towards a better future for all.

I invite you to delve into the report and be inspired by the progress we have made. Let us continue to build on these achievements and work together to transform our cities into inclusive, resilient, and sustainable places for generations to come.

**Foreword by Romy Bowers, President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation & Co-Chair, International Board of the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels**



Housing is, at the same time, both local and global.

For the one who lives there, a home is as local as it gets. But the essential need for a home, and the challenges we all face in housing ourselves and our neighbours, are global phenomena.

The World Urban Pavilion and its work embody this concept. The Pavilion is a place where we can bring our local experiences with urban development and share them globally, and in doing so seek new ideas, best practices and solutions that can help us all.

In the past year, the Pavilion has shaped itself into place where knowledge, innovation and urban solutions are created and shared. It has come to be recognized as a global hub for UN-Habitat's SDG Cities initiative, contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that will guide us all to a better future.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been honoured to be part of this transformation. As a founder of the Pavilion, we are part of the Steering Committee and the International Board, and we collaborate on the programming that takes place there. We look forward, now, to seeing the Pavilion continue to grow and thrive, and to help lead us further toward a better urban future.

I'm honoured to write this foreword – partly because of the pride CMHC takes in our role within the Pavilion, but also because I recognize that we were one partner among many. I write this in full awareness of how many others could equally be holding this pen.

It's been a pleasure working with the Urban Economy Forum, UN-Habitat, The Daniels Corporation and the Regent Park Community to build the Pavilion and actively participate in its success.

And so I wish to congratulate the Pavilion, and all involved on an amazing year, and to wish even more success in the future.

## **Forward by Reza Pourvaziry, Chair, Urban Economy Forum & Member, International Board of the World Urban Pavilion**



Since our inception one year ago, the World Urban Pavilion has transformed from a visionary concept into a dynamic reality. During this time, we have honed our vision and identified vast opportunities for our Pavilion to play a significant role in the realm of sustainable urban development.

Collaboration has emerged as a central theme in our journey. This first year report of activities underscores the crucial role of partnerships and alliances in the progress made and our achievements to date, and the pivotal role they will continue to play in our future endeavors.

Our world faces numerous pressing challenges, from climate change to unsustainable urbanization and inequality. The World Urban Pavilion has embraced its responsibility as a platform to confront these global issues head-on, recognizing the profound impact our efforts can have on the future of cities and the planet.

Among our key initiatives, "Canada Frontrunner on Urban SDGs" stands out. We consider this country as an emerging leader in urban sustainability, and as a catalyst for global transformation. Collaborating with the Canadian government and the society is of paramount importance as we strive to enhance sustainability within the country and, at the same time, influencing global urban development practices.

While our achievements are significant, we acknowledge that the challenges ahead demand more efforts and increased support. We call upon governments and development partners at all levels to recognize the pivotal role of the Pavilion and contribute their resources and expertise to advance our initiatives.

In this report, we reflect on our accomplishments with optimism. The World Urban Pavilion is poised for growth and evolution, with the potential to extend its reach and influence. We are convinced that with continued support and engagement, the Pavilion will play an increasingly vital role in shaping the future of our cities.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our key funding partners, UN-Habitat, CMHC, and Daniels Corporation, for their invaluable and unwavering support. Their commitment has been instrumental in advancing our mission for sustainable urban development. Thanks to these organizations for being integral part of our success.

Our new action plan focuses on fostering dynamic cross-sector collaborations and launching impactful urban sustainability initiatives. Through these transformative actions, we aim to infuse the Pavilion with renewed hope and drive toward a more sustainable urban future.

As you delve into the pages of this report, we invite you to join us in celebrating our journey, understanding our progress, and embracing the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, we can work towards resilient, equitable, and sustainable urban environments that inspire hope for generations to come.















# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*A history of achievements.*

This has been a year of realizations. The 21st of April 2021, the World Urban Pavilion opened its doors to a global audience whose first houses, streets and buildings are in Regent Park. A neighborhood in Toronto downtown with an old recent history, an impressive transformation, and a very promising future. An inclusive community that is a world example of revitalization, vitality, and resilience.

One year may seem a short span of time, but the World Urban Pavilion used every day to build an effective international organization, fit for purpose and with the capacity to understand the changing nature of urbanization – its challenges and opportunities – and respond with appropriate practices, solutions, and policies.

In reality, the work started much before April 2021, the Urban Economy Forum decided in its 1st annual conference to create **a global knowledge exchange hub to share best practices, innovation and research in urban development and revitalization from around the world.** Strategic partnerships were sought with UN-Habitat, the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation and Daniels, endorsing an alliance that unites in an organic and creative way multilateral, public and private organizations around a common goal: accelerate the achievement of global urban development agendas, particularly SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, and contribute towards the transition to a greener, healthier, and fairer planet.

## *The necessary institution building.*

From the beginning, the Pavilion devoted all energy and efforts to its internal organizational development building the physical, institutional, and human capital needed to create a strong environment for organizational performance and managerial levels. This is not a blueprint, but a continuous process that allow in parallel to design and implement programmatic activities as per the Pavilion's mandate.

In 2022, the Pavilion constituted an **International Board** made of city and national government officials, reputed academicians, well-known professionals, rep-

resentatives of civil society and communities from different regions of the world to provide strategic direction, elevate the image of the organization, expand its reach, and facilitate networking activities with partners and contacts with other countries. The same year, a **Steering Committee** was created with high-level advisors, authority figures and representatives of the founding organizations to provide direction, strengthen internal unity and collaboration, provide advice, and establish goals and prioritize deliverables. This governance structure ensures the efficient use of resources, stimulate investments, and guarantee key deliverables of programmes and projects.

## *A strong programmatic approach*

The World Urban Pavilion is a global platform to inspire action and advocate for urban SDGs with urban stakeholders. It does that by using urban data to support evidence-based policy decision and action priorities.

People-oriented and innovative solutions support the Pavilion's approach that has a strong programme structured around three objectives with their specific components. The interconnected, interdependent, and mutually reinforcing nature of these objectives will allow the Pavilion to become: 1) A global hub for knowledge exchange; 2) A creative and innovative platform; 3) An agent to advance the sustainability agenda.

### *1) A global hub for knowledge exchange:*

In 2022/2023, the World Urban Pavilion advanced its objective of becoming a knowledge-based organization by using data and scientific information to guide and inform public policies. Pushing knowledge frontier with analytical and technical advisory services, the Pavilion has facilitated cross-sectoral partnerships, to advance in innovative and transformative solutions for the urban sustainable agenda. The numbers to characterize success are self-evident: more than 15 partnership agreements with 70 collaborators, active



collaboration with numerous universities, organization of 3 in-house exhibitions, interaction with more than 1,000 cities from 7 regions of the globe through events, programming and networking.

The Pavilion has structured three components to deliver its mandate as a knowledge hub: a) generation of urban knowledge; b) support to city-to-city and community learning; c) networking and capacity building.

a) *Generation of urban knowledge.* Numerous partnerships have been established with universities, as it is the case with Toronto Metro University for urban data and with the School of Cities to collaborate and deliver 4 exhibitions on major issues facing urban centers. These exhibitions have been important knowledge tools for the Pavilion to further involve local partners, attracting hundreds of people and over 1,000 virtual visitors around the following themes: mixed-use buildings to foster community development, housing multitudes 2.0, and the Regent Park Social Development Plan.

Remarkable is the association with Harvard University for the creation of the Virtual Pavilion, a technologically mediated space of communication to expand networks, share information and establish a continuous dialogue, as well as the collaboration with Oxford University to prepare international guidelines on the "Sustainable Bill of Rights".

b) *Support to city-to-city and community learning.* This component is basically delivered through the **Virtual Pavilion** that has the capacity to reach out to communities and cities for learning processes and knowledge exchange. The Pavilion and development partners can co-produce and share information and knowledge on how to localize the global urban development agendas congregating cities, various stakeholders, and communities. More than 20 Canadian cities and universities have presented best practices through the "Made in Canada" initiative, 5 virtual exhibitions took place and additional collaborations are being designed, namely with Buro Happold, and international development firm.

c) *Capacity building.* The Pavilion has been working in the development of tools and strategies to improve the individual's and organization's skills and capacities to better produce, perform and deploy their resources to deliver their mandate. As a critical component of knowledge management, the Pavilion seeks to foster synergy for enhanced forms of cooperation to facil-

itate the necessary changes, facilitating learning on collaborative mechanisms and promoting an integrated approach to sustainable urban development.

## 2) *A creative and innovative platform*

The Pavilion has advanced in its objective of becoming a creative and innovative platform to promote sustainable urban development by proposing transformative solutions for positive urban change. It serves as a knowledge and innovation hub that through strategic alliances, networking and capacity building creates innovative solutions to support urban transformations.

The Pavilion has structured three components to deliver its mandate as an innovation platform: a) Canada Frontrunner Urban SDG Initiative; b) Expanding international networks; c) Promotion of pilot projects.

a) *Canada Frontrunner Urban SDG Initiative.* In line and to some extent in response to the nomination of the Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, as Co-chair of the UN SDG Advocates, the Pavilion ambitions to become a sort of an 'operational arm' to advance the sustainability agenda in the country and abroad. For that purpose, it has created the '**Canada frontrunner of urban SDG program**', which aims to identify, systematize, and disseminate best practices and innovative solutions that Canada and the city of Toronto are creating to advance on the Sustainable Development Goals. Through this program, institutional relations were established with various organizations further developing the Pavilion's partnership with additional 30 new partners with the objective to build a network of fellowship institutions who share the same interest with regards to the promotion of Canada as a leader in the sustainability agenda.

b) *Expanding international networks.* Over the past year, the Pavilion has expanded its reach and operational and substantive footprint. Guidelines presenting the Pavilion's mandate, strategic vision, and programmatic approach were created and distributed. Various agreements were signed with cities, countries, and development organizations. Noteworthy are the agreements that are being prepared with Oman and the State of Qatar to assist in preparing an urban component to the vision of the future of the Sultanate and a strategy to advance on a post-SDG Agenda for the Qatari country.

The Pavilion has been working with international organizations in promoting a global debate and setting up a discourse on sustainable urban development theory and practices, particularly important is the organization with the **G7 of an inter-ministerial conference** to exchange ideas and resources and create an international platform to examine the importance of national and regional housing strategies to realize the urban SDGs. In collaboration with the Urban Economy Forum, the Pavilion hosted the Fourth Annual Conference on sustainable finance that focused on the use of urban resources and the use of financial instruments for cities.

c) *Promotion of pilot projects.* Through the development of global discourse, projects, programs, and operational pilots, the Pavilion is addressing the most pressing challenges that cities are facing today, particularly with regards to climate change, energy, and inequality. Through the development of strategic partnerships and international cooperation, the Pavilion strive to promote innovative, effective, dynamic, and context-based solutions to these issues, systematizing and disseminating global pilot projects.

### **3) An agent to advance the sustainability agenda.**

The Pavilion has strengthened its capacities to support cities and communities to localize and implement global agendas and respond to the various challenges that cities are facing with regards to poverty, growing inequalities, devastating effects from climate change, and health threats. It has instigated global dialogue and work with partners to prepare innovative and transformative solutions, encourage more investments and partnerships. The Pavilion has structured three components to reinforce its capacities to advance the urban sustainable agenda: a) Advocating Cities as Transformational Forces for the SDGs; b) Consolidating Urban Innovations and Transformations; c) Implementing applied solutions to localize the SDGs.

a) *Advocating Cities as Transformational Forces for the SDGs.* In 2022, the Pavilion hosted the 4th Annual Urban Economy Forum that has helped to reposition cities as vehicle for achieving global sustainability and strengthen its presence in United States by organizing a Mayoral Roundtable with 9 cities. It is also preparing a G7 Ministerial Roundtable on Housing and Urban SDGs and partnered with major organizations like

Mastercard Foundation, United Way Greater Toronto, and the Canadian Institute to seek for more innovative solutions.

The promotion of the SDGs through creativity and art, and the creation of a platform for creative partnerships are important developments in 2022. In collaboration with Child Press, youth voices were heard in urban issues and training was provided to them.

b) *Consolidating Urban Innovations and Transformations.* The Pavilion created a programme to identify, collect, assess, catalogue and disseminate Canadian innovations and best practices with an initiative entitled 100+ Canada's Profile on Urban SDGs. This initiative is connecting with cities globally to share and learn from cutting-edge approaches and cases studies. In the long-term, the 100+ project will attract financial investment opportunities for Canadian cities to support their programs and projects.

To learn from Canadian best practices, the Pavilion partnered with the Daniels Corporation and Access Now, an accessibility technology company, to map the accessibility of Regent Park and a collation was created composed of 32 members. Under the umbrella of the Canada Frontrunner Programme, the Pavilion is establishing the Global Hall for Indigenous Habitats to create inter- governmental dialogue with other indigenous communities, countries, and the United Nations.

c) *Implementing applied solutions to localize the SDGs.* The Pavilion is deploying technical capacities and knowledge with the collaboration of in-house and external partners, and a network of professionals and universities, creating a critical mass of city specialists to rethink urban systems, develop plans and actions to build the capacities of cities.

The Pavilion is recognized by United Nations as a global hub for UN-Habitat SDGs Cities Initiative, which aims to facilitate global collaborative action to localize and accelerate SDGs implementation and improve quality of life. Through the Pavilion's technical advisory services different forms of collaboration have been established with several cities, countries, universities, and other relevant partners to reinforce their vision about urban development and community strengthening.

The Pavilion reinforced its capacity to deliver its mandate with accountability, efficiency, and responsibility, working closely with strategic partners. It has

expanded its reach and work horizon, pushing for new knowledge frontiers. It has better considered time, money, and institutional resources to advance with innovative solutions for transformative change. The image and presence of the Pavilion has noticeably raised, adding value to the organization. This has been a year of realizations and 2023 will certainly come with more determination, purpose, and direction reaffirming the Pavilion has a major global player in the sustainability agenda.



# **A HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENTS**



# The World Urban Pavilion Launches As A Joint Initiative Between Urban Economy Forum And Un-Habitat On April 21, 2022



Photo of the Grand Opening of the World Urban Pavilion. Photo Participants (from left to right): Romy Bowers (President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), Marlene DeGenova (Regent Park Community Member), Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Lieutenant Governor of Ontario), Reza Pourvaziry (Chair, Urban Economy Forum), Mitchell Cohen (President and CEO, The Daniels Corporation), Rafael Tuts (Director of Global Solutions, UN-Habitat), Ibrahim Afrah (Regent Park Community Member), Kamran Hassani (Executive Director, Urban Economy Forum)



“The Pavilion will act as a knowledge exchange hub to share best practices, innovation, and research in urban development and revitalization from countries around the world. It will provide an interactive channel for the UN to create a global network to realize the #GlobalGoals”

– **Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat**

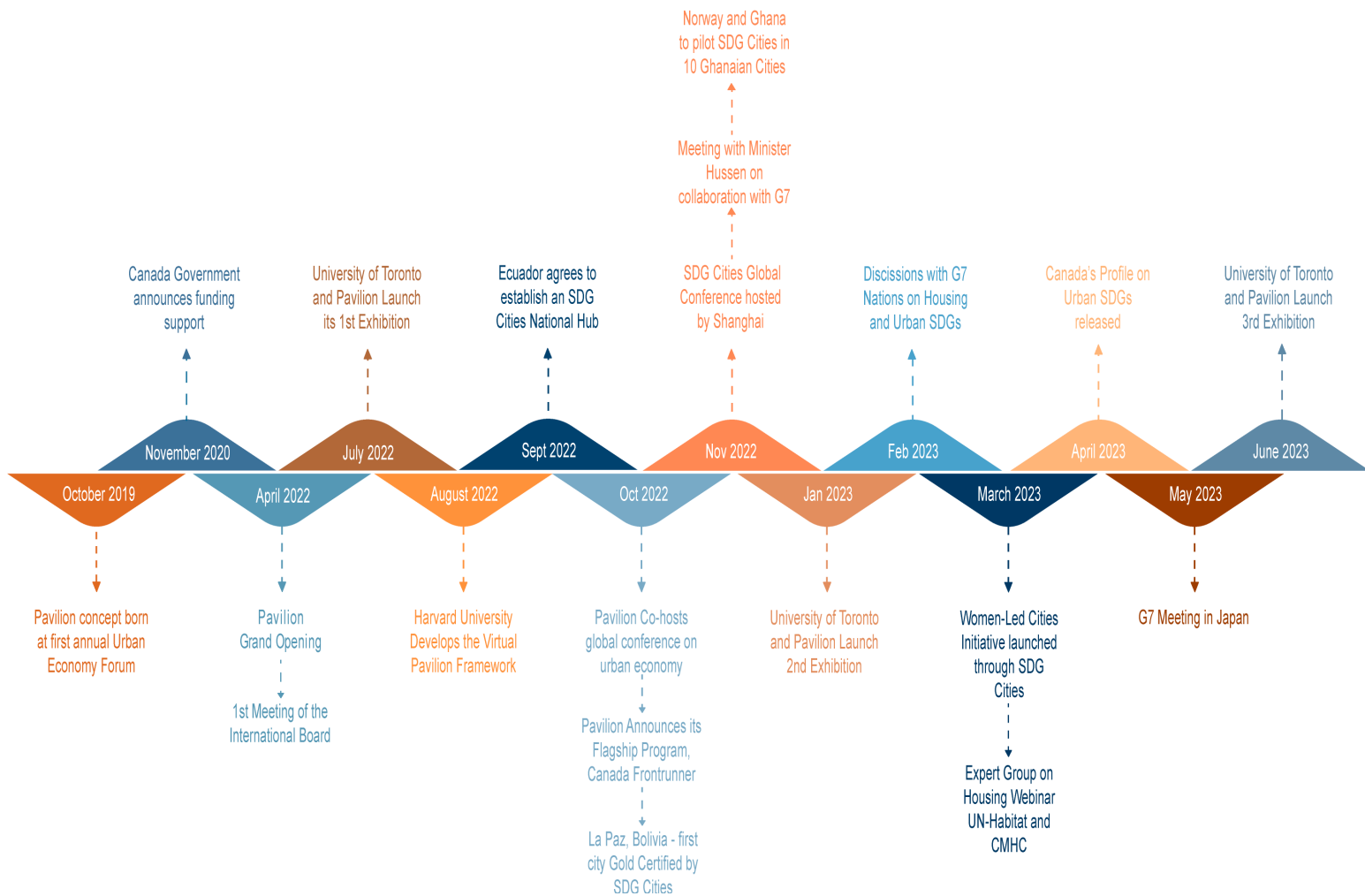


“There is much we can learn from each other in terms of urban development, and the World Urban Pavilion will be an opportunity to showcase our own practices while learning from others around the globe”

– **Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion**

# The Story Of The Pavilion And Looking Ahead

## A Journey Founded In Partnerships



# Snapshot of the Pavilion's Progress and Results

## 1 Platform

To initiate urban development programs

A Global Hub for UN SDG Cities  
Canada Frontrunner & 100+  
Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs  
Global Hall for Indigenous Habitat

## 1 Network

To consolidate a network of networks

21 International Board Members  
15 Partnership Agreements  
70+ Collaborators

## 1 Voice

to advancing a global scenario

Aligning SDGs and NUA  
Housing and Urban SDGs  
Strengthening urban development practices  
Virtual Pavilion to Showcase innovation  
Technical Advisory Services

## 1 Place

To unite sustainable dialogue

3 Physical Exhibitions  
100+ Meetings and Events  
5 Virtual Exhibitions  
10+ external programs integrated

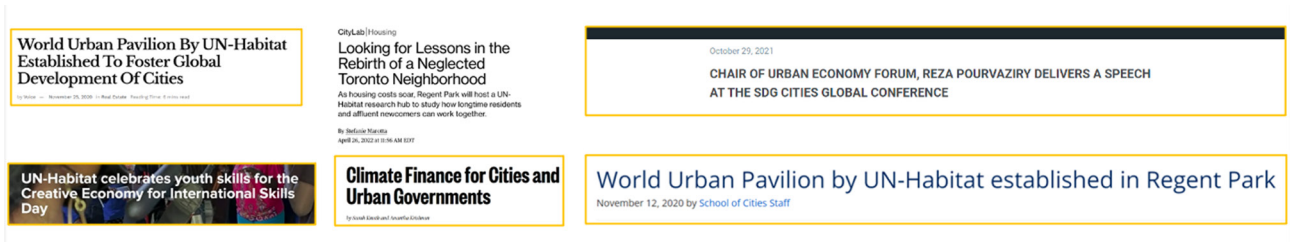


Possibilities for a better urban future...



# Becoming a Global Player

The Pavilion has been featured in dozens of news outlets, including major media firms, such as Bloomberg, Forbes, and Canadian national media firms CBC News and City News



**United Nations bringing global project to Toronto's Regent Park**  
 World Urban Pavilion to support development of sustainable cities  
NEWS Nov 12, 2020 by Queenik\_Kuruc Toronto.com

**Grand Opening of the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park**  
*The World Urban Pavilion in Toronto's Regent Park is a collaborative initiative between founding partners, Urban Economy Forum, UN-Habitat, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and The Daniels Corporation*

**Regent Park showcased at launch of World Urban Pavilion**  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS  
 DMW April 27, 2022

March 11, 2022  
  
**URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS – TRANSFORMING CITIES TO BE INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND JUST THROUGH A PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY**

**Earth and Environmental Sciences**  
 Localizing the Circular Economy: short green value chains for protecting the environment while catering for a growing population

**Building A Sustainable Urban Future Through Global Discourse**



## More present in the World's Cities

The Pavilion has directly interacted with more than 1000 cities through events, programming, and networking. These cities stretch across all 7 regions of the globe. The image below is a map of the Pavilion's reach across the globe.



Figure 1: Map of the Pavilion's Interaction with Cities across the Globe

# The Necessary Institutional Capacity Building

The Pavilion has spent a considerable, but necessary, amount of energy and efforts to its internal organisational development building, including the physical, institutional, and human capital needed to create a strong environment for organisational performance and managerial levels. This is the beginning of the Pavilion's foundation that is also a continuous process that supports the design and implementation of programmatic activities aligned with the Pavilion's mandate.

## **An International Board to provide strategic guidance.**

In 2022, the Pavilion constituted an International Board made of city and national government officials, reputed academicians, well-known professionals, representatives of civil society and communities from different regions of the world to provide strategic direction, elevate the image of the organization, expand its reach, and facilitate networking activities with partners and contacts with other countries. Over the past year, the Pavilion has held at least 1-2 meetings with more than 80% of the board members, who have demonstrated a high interest, know-how and capacity to facilitate the implementation of joint programs and various global pilots. Based on this strategic thinking and supported action, it will be possible to further develop joint projects with partners in various development fields, enriching the Pavilion's experience to address multiple urban development challenges in a sustainable manner.

## **A Steering Committee to assist in setting direction.**

In 2021, to support the establishment of the Pavilion, a Steering Committee was created with high-level advisors, authority figures and representatives of the founding organizations to provide direction, strengthen internal unity and collaboration, provide advice, and establish goals and prioritize deliverables. The Steering Committee has increased value, assisting in making the right decisions in close collaboration with the Pavilion's Secretariat that join forces with the Urban Economy Forum.

This governance model is crucial to monitor the Pavilion's processes and plans, come with problem-solving ideas, provide expert inputs, and reinforce internal

communication mechanisms.

## **Connecting with the Regent Park community**

The Pavilion is located at the heart of a very successful neighbourhood rehabilitation programme in Regent Park, Toronto. Members of this community are representatives of the Steering Committee, and this has contributed to further develop relations with local groups that in turn has leverage the Pavilion's capacity to assist in the development of Regent Park. Community members participate in most of the programs and activities of the Pavilion, and this has helped to recognize community's preferences and values, integrating them into the Pavilion's work as a significant experience. This enables the Pavilion to advance programs in collaboration with community members, as it is the case with the new development phases of Regent Park. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed with TRIDEL, it will be possible to remain connected with the upcoming phases of Regent Park.

The Pavilion has been able to share lessons learned and experiences from Regent Park with other cities and communities around the world, and vice versa, share global knowledge and experience with Regent Park. This important collaboration is at the bottom of the decision to select the location of the Pavilion in this strategic neighbourhood that is becoming an example of best practices of urban transformation. A proposal of the Pavilion for Regent Park to become a long-term research project conducted by UN-Habitat and connected to the World Urban Forum is in its final preparation stage that will give visibility and recognition to Regent Park's revitalization as a successful experience in the realization of SDGs. To advance on this idea, the Urban Economy Forum 4 was

physically held in the Pavilion's premises, creating a strong connection between discourse and practice in urban planning solutions that strengthen accessibility with mixed-use exhibitions, gathering indigenous, youth, and women. Based on Regent Park experience, the Pavilion has enhanced collaboration between research centers, institutes and organization working in urban development in Toronto and Canada. *The Pavilion's goal is to become an organization that plays a coordinating role in urban development with strong convening power.*

### ***A strong programmatic approach***

*The Pavilion is a global platform to inspire action and advocate for urban Sustainable Development Goals with urban stakeholders. It does that by using urban data to support evidence-based policy decision and action priorities.*

People-oriented and innovative solutions support the Pavilion's approach that has a strong programme structured around three objectives with their specific components that are further elaborated in the next sections of the report. The interconnected, interdependent, and mutually reinforcing nature of these objectives will allow the Pavilion to become: 1) *A global hub for knowledge exchange;* 2) *A creative and innovative platform;* 3) *An agent to advance the sustainability agenda.*



*Photo of the consultative meeting with the Regent Park Community on the Pavilion's program titled, Past , Present, Future of Regent Park. Held in November 2022*



# A Global Celebration – Pavilion’s 1st Year Anniversary

On April 24, 2023 the Pavilion hosted a celebration of its 1st year anniversary, over 70 partners joined in person with over 100 participating in the online event. This concluded the activities for the first year and set the tone for the year to come. In true Pavilion fashion, the celebrations hosted presentations from global and Canadian partners to feature urban knowledge, innovations, and solutions. The event was sponsored by International United Muscat.

It was great to welcome so many of our partners and also new collaborations during the celebrations to reflect on the last year of realizations. Both Pavilion Co-Directors, Eduardo Moreno and Dyfed Aubrey reflected on how the Pavilion became what it is today with great determination and collaboration of all those involved, but also looking to the future and the challenges the Pavilion must be ready to address to support cities in becoming transformational forces for the SDGs.

Over the last year, the Pavilion focused its attention and strengthened its efforts on three key areas: 1) a global hub for knowledge exchange, 2) a creative and innovative platform, 3) an agent to advance the sustainability agenda. There has been a tremendous amount of effort that has gone into leveraging the Pavilion’s full capacity and opportunities.

While the opening ceremonies celebrated what the Pavilion has achieved over the last year, we also looked to the future with new partnerships and opportunities. The Pavilion welcomed remarks from both City of Toronto and District of West Vancouver to further explore collaboration with each as a global frontrunner cities. As well Pamela Robinson from Toronto Metropolitan University to create synergies between our two organisations in sustainable urbanisation, education, and the SDGs.

The Pavilion showcased its role as a global knowledge exchange hub through its collaboration with Buro Happold, Related Argent, Barnet Council, The University of Manchester. In collaboration with the Pavilion, the organisations featured their initiative in Brent Cross Town as they rethink the design and future of this northern London Borough. The flourishing index was presented as a tool to help measure the quality of life and health of those living in the community.

The session closed with looking towards the future of Canada’s role for sustainable urbanisation. Featuring several of the projects selected for the 100+: Canada’s Profile on Urban SDGs. The Pavilion aims to extend the Canadian experience to other cities and communities across the globe to address urban challenges and working towards the SDGs. The Pavilion is building urban capacities through city-to-city learning. Stay tuned as we continue to work with these inspiring examples to show case Canadian ingenuity.

The Pavilion looks toward the future as we continue on our journey towards urban transformations, together.



# 1 A Global Hub for Knowledge Exchange

The World Urban Pavilion is a knowledge-based organization that uses data and scientific information on urban development affairs to guide and inform public policies. It is also a knowledge frontier in providing analytical and technical advice, facilitating cross-sectoral partnerships, to advance in innovative and transformative solutions for the urban sustainable agenda. As a knowledge hub, the Pavilion plays a catalytic role of its programs and service delivery platforms generating the necessary evidence to mobilize

and deploy policies and operational expertise. It aims to strongly support and influence the policy agenda of cities and countries providing useful information and knowledge. For that purpose, it uses the necessary knowledge-related assets and management systems to create, share, and use information for a greater impact of policy interventions. In this sense, the Pavilion is becoming a trusted and reliable source of information facilitating knowledge sharing to increase impact on development results.

1 Generation of Knowledge Exchange

2 Supporting City-to-City & Community Learning

3 Capacity Building

# A Global Innovation & Knowledge Exchange Hub for Sustainable Urbanisation

The World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels is a knowledge exchange hub that identifies, systematizes, and shares best practices and innovations through dedicated research in urban development and revitalization programmes from cities around the world. Known as the Pavilion, this hub congregates development partners to foster dialogue and support urban solutions that are based on creativity and innovation to advance in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Urban Pavilion officially opened its doors on April 21, 2022. This Great Opening materialized collective efforts and **partnership** between Urban Economy Forum and UN-Habitat with support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and The Daniels Corporation. During the launching ceremony, The Daniels Corporation announced a financial contribution of **\$3 Million over five years** to support the Pavilion's operations and programming. Additionally, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provides **\$1,25 Million in a 5-year programme** to UN-Habitat to advance in the SDG Cities Initiative and the consolidation of the Pavilion as a global hub.

*The Pavilion envisions people-centred, sustainable cities that are planned through rigorous data analysis, driven by innovation and policies that **contribute to achieve SDGs***

## The World Urban Pavilion's Goals:



### Knowledge Exchange & Innovation:

Support cities through the mobilization and exchange of knowledge, innovation, and applied research to accelerate the realization of sustainable development and future proof cities to multiple crises.



### Best Practices and Practical Examples:

Design and implement innovative pilot actions and initiatives that are replicable and scalable as alternative models for sustainable urbanisation.



### Urban Assessment:

Evaluate cities through comprehensive urban assessments to define priorities and actions to realize SDGs by improving the use of urban data, knowledge, and innovation.



### Networking & Capacity Building:

Establish a global network of stakeholders to identify and exhibit urban practices, and to contribute to ongoing dialogue through interactive campaigns related to urbanisation.



### Youth, Women, and Public Participation:

Improve civil society participation through new opportunities for the public, including youth, women, and Indigenous Communities, for optimum civic engagement at the local, national, and global levels to realize the urban SDGs.



### Global Hub for UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Initiative:

Establish UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Program as a global hub in Canada to improve investment opportunities with high impact and long-term results.





## Generating Urban Knowledge



To support the Pavilion's mandate as a knowledge exchange hub, a partnership was established with the University of Toronto's School of Cities to collaborate and deliver four exhibitions on major issues facing urban centers. The first exhibition was launched on occasion of the Pavilion's Grand Opening on April 21, 2022, followed by the second exhibition on January 25th, 2023. These exhibitions have been important knowledge tools for the Pavilion to further involve local partners in urban dialogue while also creating opportunities for new international partnerships. The Pavilion has received hundreds of visitors for both exhibitions and over 1000 virtual guests

## Exhibition | 1 Unexpected Creative Mixed-Use Buildings that Foster Community

**Professor Matti Siemiatycki, Director  
Infrastructure Institute, University of  
Toronto**

The images above present the Pavilion's first exhibition that was prepared by the Infrastructure Institute, School of Cities, University of Toronto. The exhibition explored how mixed-use buildings can build partnerships between public, private, and non-profit sectors to offer innovative solutions to pressing urban challenges. Currently there are 50 creative mixed-use buildings in Toronto built since 1970s generating diverse community benefits amidst rapid urban housing and real estate developments taking place

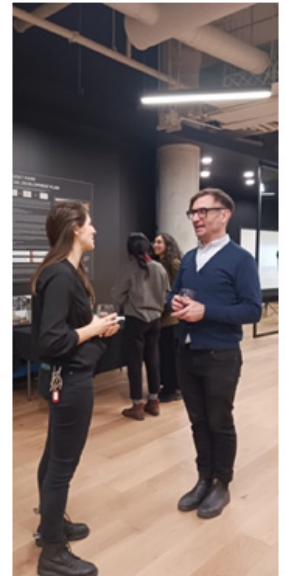


# Exhibition | 2: Housing Multitudes 2.0

## A Bigger Picture for Toronto

Professor Michael Piper & Professor Richard Sommer, The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design and faculty affiliate of School of Cities, University of Toronto

The 2nd exhibition for the World Urban Pavilion was prepared by the Daniels Faculty, School of Cities, University of Toronto. The exhibition explored the concept of urban density in the City of Toronto, analyzing how inhabitants with single family homes can become 'citizen developers', and provided several models to redevelop homes with multi-household living. The housing crisis is a growing concern across Canada, especially in Toronto, with rental pricing growing astronomically. The exhibition brought nearly 80 guests on the opening night, including the City Manager of Toronto and Richmond Hill. United Way GTA's Vice President of Community Opportunities & Mobilization Nation Cheong also joined the launching event to advocate equitable approaches to housing actions in the City of Toronto and Ontario.

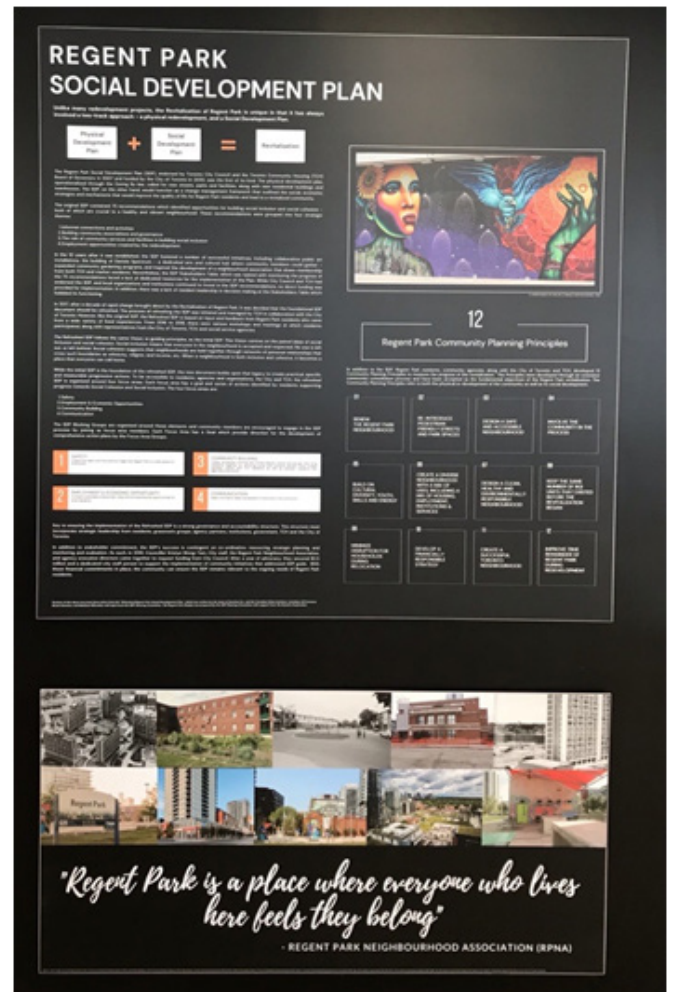




# Exhibition | 3: Regent Park Social Development Plan: Strengthening the Community

Regent Park Community & The Daniels Corporation

The Regent Park Social Development Plan (SDP), endorsed by Toronto City Council and the Toronto Community Housing (TCH) Board of Governors in 2007, with the funding support from the City of Toronto in 2020, was the first of its kind. The physical development plan, operationalized through the Zoning By-law, called for new streets, parks and facilities, along with new residential buildings and townhouses. The SDP, on the other hand, functions as a change management framework that outlined the social, economic strategies and mechanisms to improve the **quality of life for Regent Park residents** and lead to a revitalized community.



# Generating Urban Knowledge

## **Innovation Approaches to Urban Spaces: Resilient Mixed-uses that foster community development.**

*Matti Siemiatycki, Director Infrastructure Institute, UofToronto*

On June 22nd, 2022, the University of Toronto and the Pavilion partnered with the World Urban Campaign to organize a discussion on how mixed-use buildings can support resiliency in cities and contribute to achieve the UN SDGs. The Session was held virtually and brought over 100 participants to join the debate.

## **Interview with Ken Greenberg on the New Urban Agenda and Architecture**

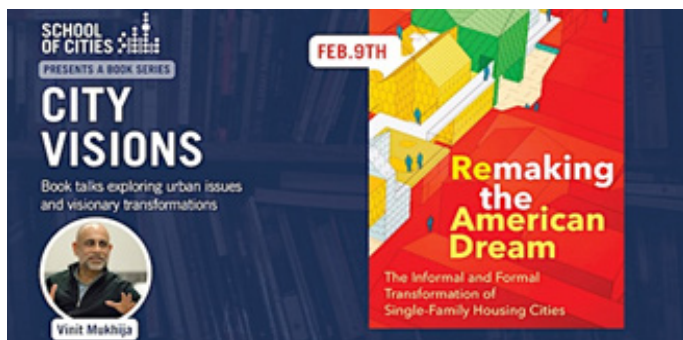
*Reza Pourvaziry, Chair, Urban Economy Forum & Ken Greenberg, Principal, Greenberg Consultants*

On August 17th, 2022, the Pavilion invited Ken Greenberg, one of the visionaries of the Regent Park Revitalization, to share his perspective on the role of architecture in supporting the realization of the New Urban Agenda.

## **Remaking the American Dream**

*Vinit Mukhija, Professor, Urban Planning, UCLA*

On February 9th, 2023, the School of Cities in collaboration with the Pavilion organized the launch of the book, remaking the American Dream. The session explored urban policies and transformations of single-family housing in cities.



## **Habitat in Towns: Collingwood World Summit**

*Urban Economy Forum & The Town of Collingwood*

On November 1st, 2022, UEF and the Town of Collingwood jointly organized the 3rd annual summit on towns and small cities. The 2-day conference explored how smaller municipalities can support the achievement of the SDGs. **Over 90 speakers, from 50**

**countries and nearly 180 international towns and small cities** discussed housing challenges, financing sustainability, climate action, and data collection for policy making.

March 31, 2023

## **Intergenerational Equity through more inclusive urban and Territorial Planning**

*Frank D'hondt, Secretary General, International Society of City and Regional Planners.*

April 4, 2023

## **Regent Park: Building Blocks of Inclusive Community**

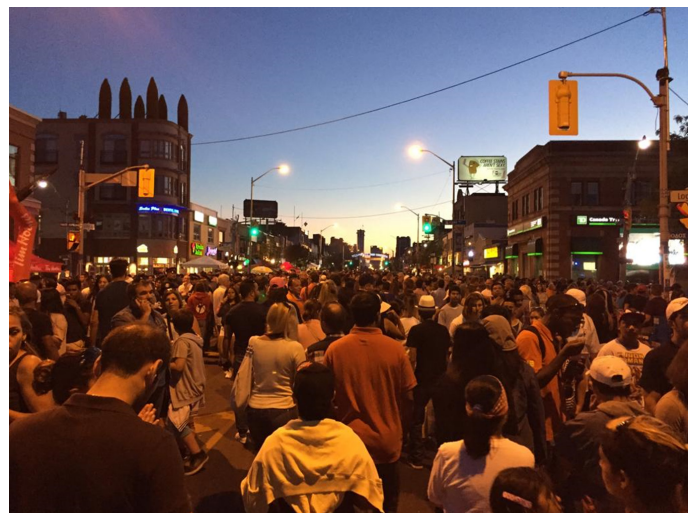
*Fatima Saya, Senior Manager, Social Impact, The Daniels Corporation*

May 9, 2023

## **Data, Knowledge & Innovation for an Urban Transformation**

*Eduardo Moreno, Former Head, Data, Knowledge, and Innovation, Un-Habitat*

Submit your urban knowledge event - [info@worldurbanpavilion.org](mailto:info@worldurbanpavilion.org)





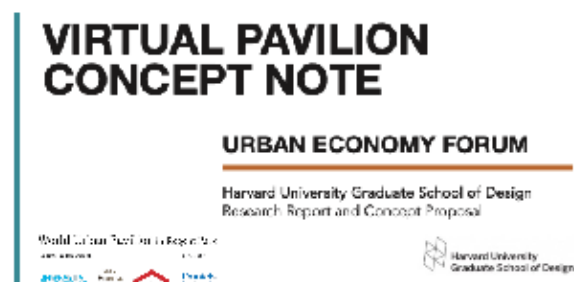


# Supporting city-to-city and community learning

The Virtual Pavilion is an online platform to support city-to-city and community-to-community learning. It was developed in collaboration with Harvard University Graduate School of Design as an opportunity to pursue, document, and share co-produced knowledge on how the localization of the SDG agenda can be achieved across levels of government – alongside the private sector and civil society. The Virtual Pavilion also advances novel frameworks for how sustainable development can be catalyzed through wider engagement with the urban realm, variously understood, including with ideas of extended urbanization and non-local/non-contiguous “urban” actors.

Since the Pavilion’s launch, the Virtual Pavilion has **hosted 5 virtual exhibitions** with partners and is currently working with additional national and international partners to create innovative ways to share urban transformations. The Pavilion strives to ensure all physical exhibitions are available through a virtual format to strengthen global connections and knowledge sharing. The Virtual Pavilion continues to act as a valuable platform to develop new partnerships with globally renowned organisations, as it is the case with the Pavilion’s 100+: Canada’s profile on urban SDGs project.

The **Virtual Pavilion has partnered with 20 Canadian cities, organisations, institutions, and universities** to share their ‘Made in Canada’ Urban transformations. Another major outcome resulting from the Virtual Pavilion is a **collaboration with Buro Happold, an international urban development consulting firm**. The Pavilion and Buro Happold are exploring a partnership to showcase their work through the Virtual Pavilion on occasion of the Pavilion’s 1st year anniversary.



Sharing Indigenous Experiences worldwide  
A Virtual Exhibit on First Nations Housing

## Batchewana First Nation

Implemented a ‘housing as a business’ approach resulting in several local employment opportunities (over 50 jobs) and houses. Council commitment, better building standards, and broader focus on community needs all contributed to the success of this program.

## Kasabonkia First Nation

Community members share the challenges and realities of living in their community: lack of water, electricity, and building standards. New builds employ local community members providing ownership and skills.

## Couchiching First Nation

A community with a rapidly evolving housing portfolio becoming its strongest economic driver, leading to the development of community assets. Housing policy, job creation, rent collection, and protection of investment of maintenance all contributed to these successes.

## Carcross Tagish First Nation Yukon Territory

Built pride and ownership in community, this was the first community to sign an Aboriginal Capacity Development agreement with CMCH to help members become homeowners through education and training

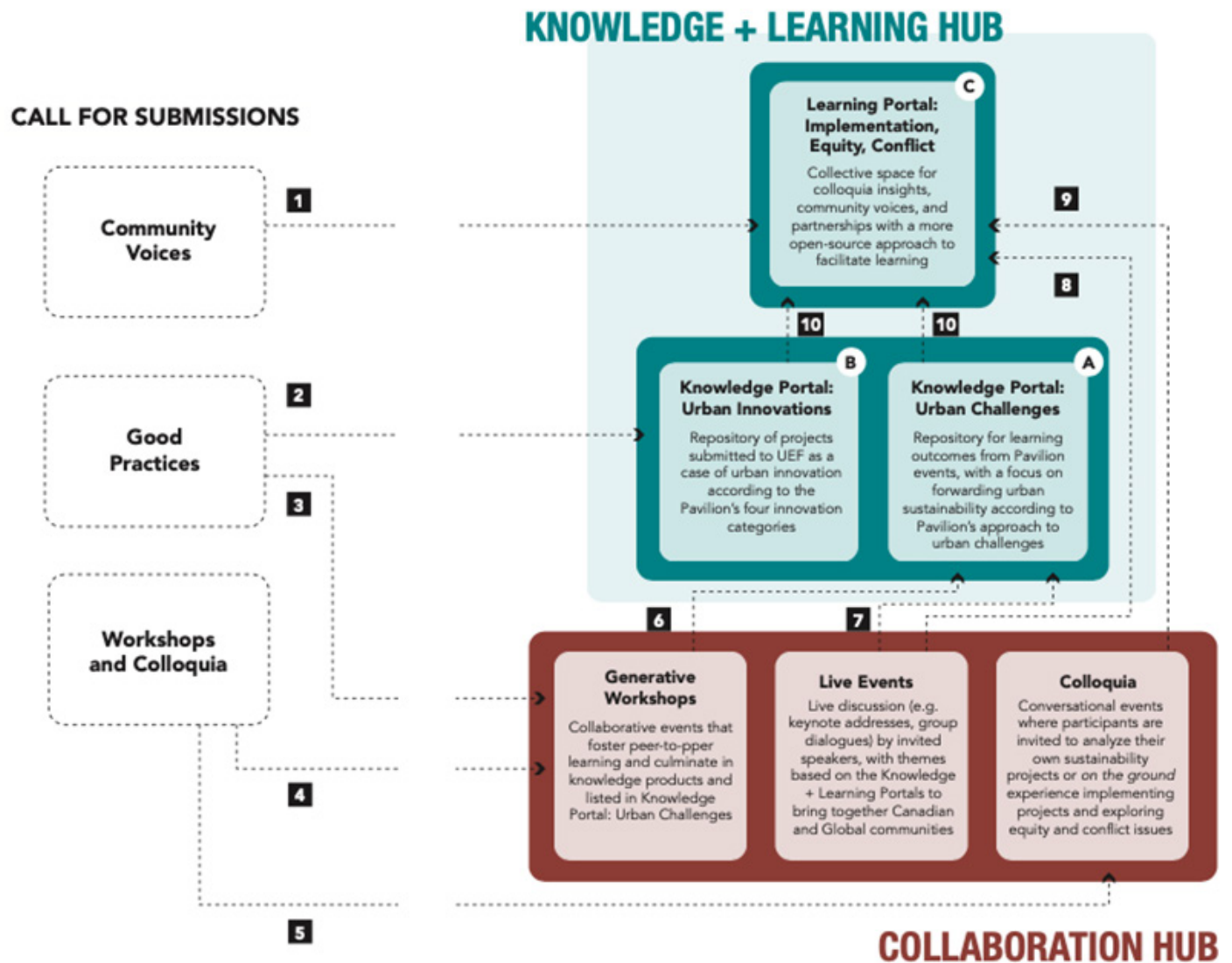
## Kitigan Zibi First Nations

Working with CMHC and First Nation managed assisted programs, community members were empowered to own homes and lang

## Moose Factory- Saugeen- Wikwemikong First Nations

Building capacity in the local housing sector through training, education, partnership, and IT solutions resulting in more resilient community.

The diagram on the right is the framework of the Virtual Pavilion prepared by Harvard University. The model was designed based on a process to integrate and translate dialogue and conversation on urban development into tangible practices and examples. The top of the diagram outlines a learning portal that aims to be the final stage of knowledge generation to provide opportunities for community input and city-to-city learning based on the two lower tiers of the model.



# SDG Cities- Creating Global Networks for Knowledge Exchange

The SDG Cities Global Initiative supports the accelerated implementation of the SDGs by local authorities through ongoing peer-to-peer learning and creating spaces for multilateral dialogue. As a global initiative, SDG Cities provides a platform for cities around the world to share their innovative ideas and methodologies for sustainable development. These spaces have included international conferences (both in-person and online), webinars, and peer-to-peer learning sessions between cities.

## Conferences

The World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland in June 2022, was significant in bringing together local and national government representatives from around the world to participate in six different side events where topics such as mobilizing implementation partners, women-led cities, and financing the SDGs were discussed. There were conversations between cities already participating in the SDG Cities program on how to enhance their SDG achievement. Many other interested cities wanted to understand how to join SDG Cities and what resources were available.



## Webinars

The SDG Cities Conference, held later in the year in November 2022, served as a forum for cities to highlight their achievements and innovative approaches to creating SDG impact. This event included 19 panelists and 223 participants from 55 different countries. The local authorities presenting were all in different stages of the SDG Cities process and came from diverse

contexts, and so added their nuanced perspectives to the discussion. The conversations generated increased interest for SDG Cities, and with SDG Cities National Support Hub model was promoted as the preferred model for cities with fewer resources to participate in the program.

In addition, SDG Cities also hosted thematic webinars based on interest from partners. Most recently, a webinar was held for Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Expert Group on Housing was held to increase awareness of the relationship of the Sustainable Development Goals to housing development. There were panelists from Canada who provided a specific lens on sustainable strategies for Canadian housing, but also included international panelists who offered examples and approaches from around the world. The discussion session interrogated the multifaceted challenge of housing, and how the multiple intersecting goals within the SDGs can benefit housing policy and practice.



## City-to-City Knowledge Exchange

SDG Cities promotes the exchange of knowledge and experiences between cities. La Paz, Bolivia was the first city to achieve Gold Certification from SDG Cities and created a methodology for integrating the Urban Monitoring Framework into the Voluntary Local Review. La Paz was given a platform to share its best practices and offer advice for cities in the country, region, and even internationally who are keen to learn from them. It is through the eagerness of La Paz to share its experiences that other cities are also encouraged to make a measurable impact on the SDGs.





1

November

2022

11:00-14:00 GMT

Language:

English, 中文

Français, Español

Hosted by:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government, China

UN@HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

C40 CITIES

Registration:

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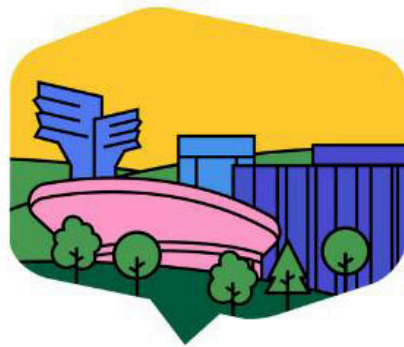
More information:  
[www.sdg-cities.org](http://www.sdg-cities.org)

# SDG CITIES GLOBAL CONFERENCE ONLINE EVENT



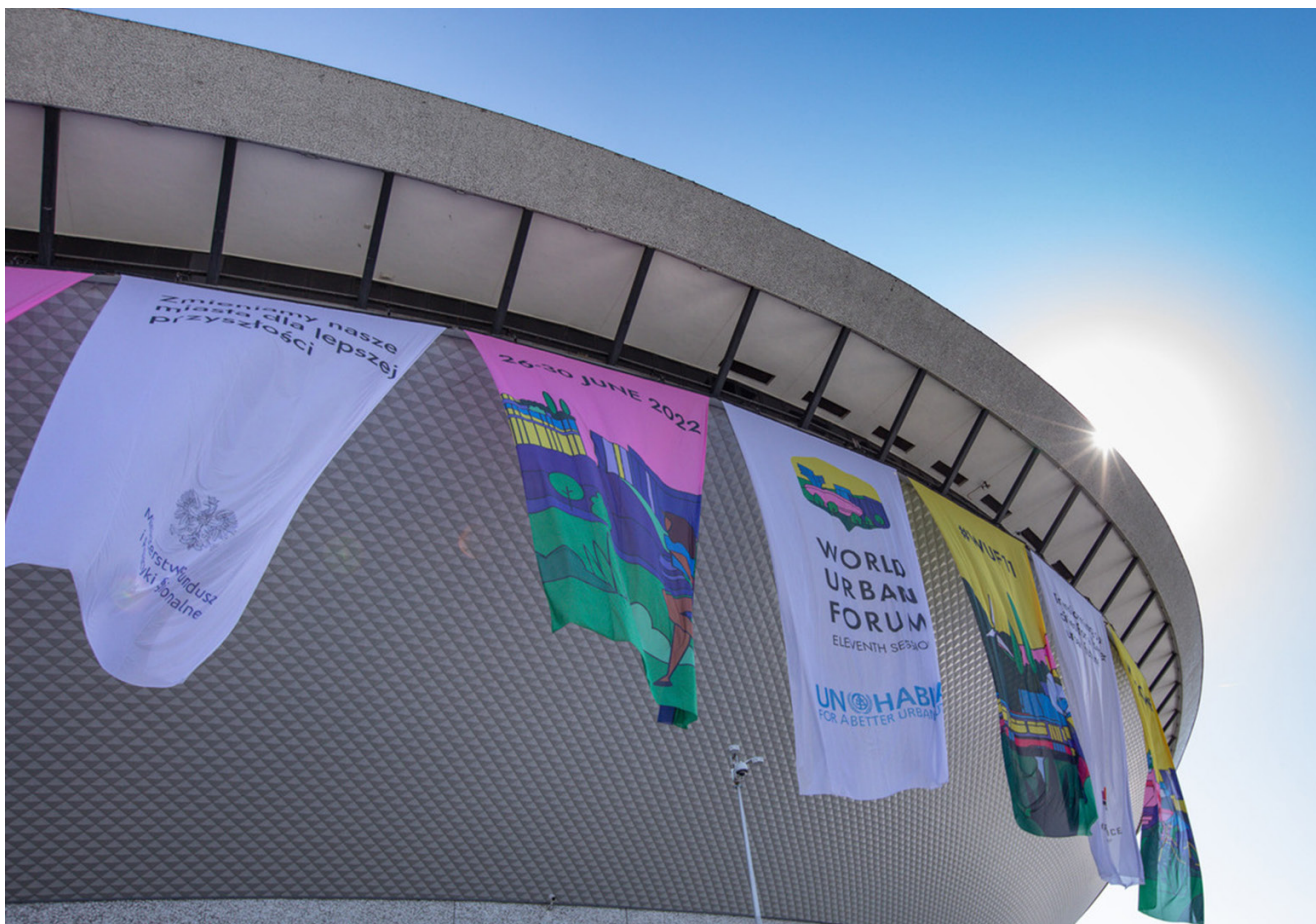
Accelerating Local Implementation of the SDGs

Following last year's SDG Cities Conference and events at WUF 11, we are pleased to announce the UN-Habitat SDG Cities Online Event on the 1st of November, 2022. The 2<sup>nd</sup> SDG Cities Global Conference (Online Event) will be hosted by the Municipality of Shanghai, UN-Habitat, and C40 Cities as part of World Cities Day and Urban October. The event offers a space for cities participating in SDG Cities to share best practices, innovations and success stories on their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



## WORLD URBAN FORUM

ELEVENTH SESSION



# Networking and Capacity Building

The Pavilion seeks to foster synergy for enhanced forms of cooperation to facilitate the necessary changes. By working collaboratively with a range of actors, it is possible to build momentum and catalyze actions towards sustainable and equitable urban development. The Pavilion promotes a holistic and integrated development to ensure that diverse perspectives and interests that are common in the planning and management of cities – such as an urban department that has the mandate to build infrastructure, another one that regulates new urban expansions, and yet another one that works in the transport and energy sector – can develop improved forms of cooperation keeping in mind long-term perspectives of growth and development based on a common good.

Collaboration is crucial for a common understanding that breaks with individual preferences and silos supported by appropriate tools and training programmes for capacity development reinforced by adequate networking activities with various development partners.

## **Young People are Drivers of Change – archiKID.**

Children and Youth are the present and the future of humanity. Thinking in generational terms for the sustainability of the programs, the Pavilion has opened a space for them to listen, understand, engage, and contribute to specific actions. The Pavilion, in collaboration with archiKID, provides a platform to create bridges between children, youth and their families, ensuring that their right to a meaningful participation is realized through formal activities and capacity building projects tailored to their needs and interest. This Programme sensitizes on the UN development agenda, particularly SDGs, and the operational projects of the Pavilion.

## **Collaboration with Top Universities**

We are particularly proud of the success of the Virtual Pavilion, which has been designed and operationalized by Harvard University with very few resources and has already become an asset for the future. A technologically mediated space of communication is critical to expand networks, share information and establish a continuous dialogue. The Virtual Pavilion will facilitate engagement and collaboration in remote workplaces entirely through online systems, using a well-established method of participation that creates new capacities for international cooperation. We believe that this type of collaboration is of great impor-

tance for the advancement of ideas, solutions, and innovations in the sustainable urban development field, and we look forward to continuing to develop new partnerships and collaborations in the future. Furthermore, we are excited to share that we are collaborating with Oxford University and the Department of Sustainable Development on an international guideline titled the “Sustainable Bill of Rights”. These guidelines will certainly make a significant impact on global sustainability efforts and look forward to sharing more details about this program in the future.

## **Consultative and Collaboration Meetings**

The Pavilion adopts a consultative and collaborative process in the development of all Pavilion programs and many of its activities. The aim of this approach is to not only build a network with organisations working in the relevant fields, but also to build capacity of the program and these organisations. The Pavilion’s program development goes well beyond informing and consulting, but also providing opportunities to truly involve and collaborate with these organisations. The long-term aim is that these programs become platforms of empowerment beyond the Pavilion. For example, during the development of the Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs, the Pavilion organized several consultative meetings with Canadian urban organisations. While these organisations provided significant input in developing the concept note of the program, they were also later involved in the roll out of the program to involve their networks in identifying and submitting urban innovations and transformations to the program. The involvement of these organisations set the foundation to support knowledge exchange between partner organisations and their network, empowering them to better address urban challenges and achievement of the SDGs.



## **Cities and Local Governments**

**The Pavilion is actively seeking partnerships with cities and local governments across the globe.**

**There are many cities already part of the Pavilion's network involved in varying degrees of collaboration. Through the Pavilion's technical and advisory component, the Pavilion provides opportunities for the city to collaborate more deeply to address critical urban challenges. For example, it has reached out to several cities to establish an urban data dashboard to help index and set baselines of city needs. This is based on local contexts and it is a valuable tool to help prioritize local actions that will have the most significant impact.**

## 2 A Creative and Innovative Platform

By Reza Pourvaziry, Chair, Urban Economy Forum & Dyfed Aubrey, Inter-Regional Advisor, United Nations Human Settlement Programme

Need to act now' The World Urban Pavilion is a global hub established in Regent Park, Toronto, with the aim of promoting sustainable urban development and proposing innovative and transformative solutions for urban change. The Pavilion serves as a platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and innovation, and to accelerate evidence-based decision-making. Through networking and capacity building, the Pavilion seeks to foster collaboration and coordination among diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable and equitable urban development. The Pavilion's audience

includes different local and national governments, and diverse stakeholders and development partners, with the aim to foster mutual learning and collaboration. It endeavours to create unity among the funding partners, and to disseminate ideas and solutions to address mutual development challenges. The Pavilion aims to create a discourse on the sense of urgency to act now, driving medium- and long-term fundamental changes in lifestyle, urbanization, and quality of life worldwide.

- 1 Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs
- 2 Expanding International Networks
- 3 Promotion of Pilot Projects

## Role of Pavilion in Urban Transformation

The Pavilion has found remarkable opportunities to accelerate urban changes in collaboration with its founding and financial partners. During its first year, the Pavilion has promoted global dialogue and created networking relations with academia, research centres and operational organizations working in housing and sustainable urban development. It has also initiated collaboration with cities in support of their efforts to achieve the SDGs and other global and national development agendas. Central to the work of the Pavilion is the creative and efficient use of urban resources and financial assets, and the limitations and constraints for their use. The main question is how creative initiatives, knowledge, and solutions are being produced and shared with development organizations and governmental bodies. It is also critical to respond to the question on how to operate change in urban living conditions, shifting to a more sustainable mode with the use of emerging technologies? A review from Habitat I in Vancouver, Canada to Habitat II in Istanbul, Turkey and Habitat III in Quito, Equator, shows important changes in housing financing and production that is not benefiting all inhabitants in the same manner. Despite innovations in some areas, housing is far from being an equalizer of society and it is not fully playing its role in the green and circular economy and climate change. Over time, this discourse and practice will become increasingly prominent, reflecting the growing recognition of the need to address urban development challenges through a different lens where urban economy plays a fundamental role, associated to housing strategies.

## Canada Frontrunner Urban SDGs Initiative.

In line with Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, who is co-chair of the UN SDG Advocates, the Pavilion has launched the 'Canada frontrunner of urban SDG program', which aims to identify, systematize, and disseminate projects and actions that demonstrate the critical role that Canada and Toronto play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through this program, institutional relations were established with various organizations further developing the Pavilion's partnership with additional 30 new partners. The objective of this is to build a network of fellowship institutions who share the same interest and similar positions with regards to the promotion of sustainable urban development in Toronto and Canada. Over the past year, the Pavilion made significant progress in building this nexus, increasing the visibility and outreach of urban development institu-

tions and universities. In addition to building strategic partnerships with local institutions, the Pavilion has also been working to develop international collaborations with other organizations, as it is the case with prestigious universities like Oxford and Harvard, particularly with the creation of the Virtual Pavilion, a joint collaboration that works as a world-class platform to bring together a variety of partners through on-line connections with enormous potential to drive global programs that reinforce the knowledge and innovation exchange nature of the Pavilion.

## Canada, a strategic partner.

Toronto is the home of the Pavilion, but also a strategic partner, as it is the case with the Federal Government. The Pavilion is collaborating with the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion and the Pavilion's Honorary Chair of its International Board. The Minister's support is paramount to advance on the initiative 'Canada as a frontrunner of urban SDGs', working closely with universities, cities, urban developers, and civil society organisations.

The Frontrunner initiative is connected to various Canadian cities, based on their best practices and successful projects and actions on urban development. The Pavilion will systemize them and produce pilot projects to be scaled up at global level.



## Expanding the international networks

Over the past year, we have worked hard to strengthen the role of the Pavilion in promoting urban sustainable development worldwide by developing guidelines to facilitate the understanding of its mandate, strategic vision, and programmatic reach. We have also collaborated with several international organizations to introduce the Pavilion to new possible partners and audiences. One such collaboration has been with Buro Happold, a highly respected organization with top global consultants, with whom we have shared knowledge and information on our projects and theirs with the purpose of integrating them in our work. This has been an incredibly valuable collaboration and one that we hope to replicate with other leading international consultants in the future.

While considering the global scale in the introduction of pilot projects, we have entered into negotiations with various countries, municipalities, and organizations, and over the past few years, effective communication has been established and agreements have been signed. This is the case with Oman regarding a strategy for the urban future of the Sultanate and with the State of Qatar to advance on a post-SDG agenda. As member of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) of UN-Habitat, the Pavilion can actively participate in some of its programs, as it is the case with the 2-day joint conference about “The City we need” in March 2022. Further activities and programmes are being designed with the WUC.

### The G7 and the Pavilion.

The Pavilion has been working with international organizations in promoting a global debate and setting up a discourse on sustainable urban development theory and practices. As a part of this effort, we have organized various forms of collaboration with key development partners, and particularly with the countries that are part of the G7. This is important, since these countries have the necessary resources, capacities, political and economic influence to pave the way to realizing the SDGs, the Pavilion has proposed the organization of an inter-ministerial conference to exchange ideas and resources and create an international platform to examine the importance of national and regional housing strategies to realize the urban SDGs. This platform will accelerate and catalyze investments in housing to strengthen G7 countries’ response to the ongoing housing challenges. In parallel to this, the Pavilion is actively involving other countries in this

initiative to ensure a wider impact with a particular focus on Canada’s role in these housing programs. This will contribute to leverage the country’s expertise and experience to create effective and impactful initiatives that address global challenges related to urban development. The success of our pilot projects and programs hinges on our ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with international partners, and we are committed to leveraging our resources and capacities to achieve these goals in the most efficient manner.

### Annual Urban Economy Forums

The Urban Economy Forum is not only the founding entity of the Pavilion, but also a strategic partner, with whom the Fourth Annual Conferences was organized. These annual conferences have focused on the use of urban resources, the creation of financial instruments and the importance of urban economy in the sustainable urban development agenda both at theoretical and practical level. Last year, our efforts focused on the physical creation of the Pavilion, equipping, and enhancing its communications, and building new networks and partnerships in different parts of the world. In addition to specific programmes, we placed great emphasis on strengthening Canada’s role on the global stage, documenting domestic best practices, launching a global programme, giving more visibility, and creating new capacities around a new brand on the Canada Frontrunner for the SDGs agenda. The Pavilion’s goal is to give a global voice to Canada’s experience and leadership in driving change.

### Pilot Projects

Another critical area of work of the Pavilion is lifestyle and its potential to contribute to sustainable development. Through the development of global discourse, projects, programs, and operational pilots, **the Pavilion is addressing the most pressing challenges that cities are facing today, particularly with regards to climate change, energy, migration, peace, and inequality.** Through the development of strategic partnerships and international cooperation mechanisms, we strive to create innovative, effective, dynamic, and context-based solutions to these issues.

The pavilion serves as a space for the development of scientific knowledge and the connection to operational experiences and concrete projects with the international community. Multidimensional and multifaceted development requires cooperation be-

tween cities in various dimensions, such as fighting spatial inequality, which necessitates close collaboration between cities, another tiers of government, local communities, and key stakeholders. As a coordinating center, the Pavilion can connect different sectors and dimensions, working as a solutions agency, but also as a facilitator of transactions, making matches and synergy between various development actors.



# 3 An Agent to Advance the Sustainability Agenda

- 1 Facilitating global dialogue and multidisciplinary partnerships
- 2 Consolidating Urban Innovations and Transformations
- 3 Implementing Applied Solutions to Localize the SDGs



# 1 Facilitating Global Dialogue and Multidisciplinary Partnerships

Local and regional governments and communities have tremendous potential to achieve in their territory global agendas related to sustainability and climate change. Many cities, however, are facing unprecedented challenges like poverty, growing inequalities, devastating effects from climate change, and health threats and pandemics, as well as specific problems related to their own contexts. The World Urban Pavilion is supporting cities and communities by instigating global dialogue to take advantage of urban opportunities, preparing innovative and transformative solutions, encouraging greater investment in cities and communities and building multi-sector partnerships.

# Advocating Cities as Transformational Forces for the SDGs

Since the grand opening in 2022, the Pavilion launched two major projects: Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs and its Global Hub for UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Initiative. Both projects build and strengthen international dialogue on the role of cities and communities contributing to the realization of the 17 SDGs. The 4th Urban Economy Forum have helped to reposition cities globally as vehicles of achieving global sustainability objectives, which is in line with the preparation of the G7 Ministerial Roundtable on Housing and Urban SDGs. The Pavilion's ambitious and inspiring mandate has attracted many governments, private sector, and civil society partners to join forces to address common challenges and create new development opportunities. Major organisations like Mastercard Foundation, Canadian Institute of Planners, and United Way Greater Toronto are all examples of how the Pavilion is engaging to seek for more innovative solutions to advance in the realization of the SDGs.

The Pavilion has also established a large network of networks through its international and local partners. Globally, it is now connected to **7 UN regions through its 21 members of the International Board**, creating stronger regional and global linkages, and strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations. In total, 15 organisations have signed a formal agreement or partnership with the Pavilion to develop joint actions and explore collaborative programs and projects.

The Pavilion has established a hybrid platform for all its programming and events, creating a flexible space to meet the needs of various audiences and build connections between organisations. **The Pavilion has reached over 10,000 people from nearly 500 cities from 91 countries.**



21 International Board Members



15 Partnership Agreements



2 Major Projects Launch



1 International Conference



+10,000 Visitors to Virtual Pavilion and Website



+4000 Participants in Virtual Events



+475 Cities Engaged



+90 Countries Engaged



23 Virtual Events

## Connecting Local Experiences to the Globe

### *Regent Park Community Tours*

Benefiting from its physical location in Regent Park, the Pavilion has established a collaboration with its community and organized neighborhood-led tours called 'Visions of Tomorrow'. Representatives from universities, private sector, cities, and international guests have participated in these tours, with a first-hand experience and knowledge about the revitalization in Regent Park. The Pavilion has also become the main meeting point to organize community tours lead by Toronto Community Housing Corporation and The Daniels Corporation.

# Prioritizing Housing: A vehicle to realize the 17 SDGs - G7 Ministerial Roundtable on Housing and Urban SDGs.

Adequate housing drives access to basic services, contributes towards inclusive growth and prosperity and supports the development of a sustainable future. Housing has a direct impact on the factors that contribute or mediate the effects of climate change and it also plays a critical role in addressing health conditions at the neighborhood level by reducing vulnerabilities to future health problems, including pandemics. Investments in innovative housing programs and financial mechanisms, supported by the G7, can have a profound and direct impact on the sustainable development agenda.

Working with the Honorary Chair of the Pavilion's International Board, the Canadian Minister of Housing, it is possible to build a consensus with the Group of 7 Countries to exchange ideas and resources and create an **international platform** to examine the importance of national and regional housing strategies to realize the urban SDGs. **This platform will accelerate and catalyze investment and prepare concrete projects to address ongoing development and sustainability challenges.**

In view of the preparation of this platform, nearly **30 representatives from Canadian and International organisations, universities, private sector, and the community** were gathered for a collective discussion to examine housing challenges and outline how to move forward collectively.

*This initiative was presented to the Canadian Minister of Housing to organize working relations with each of the G7 countries and to prepare for an inter-ministerial conference*



Photo of the meeting held on November 24th, 2022, with several Pavilion partner organisations: Urban Economy Forum, UN-Habitat, The Daniels Corporation, ICLEI – Canada, Canadian Institute of Planners, and University of Toronto met with Minister Hussen to strengthen Canada's role for housing and the urban SDGs.

*The idea of highlighting progress made in the housing sector and bringing it to the G7 Leaders Table is a great idea. It is important to share not only our best practices but also our challenges to learn from our G7 partners... I can't think of a better medium than the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park, which I am so proud to be a part of, to really showcase the best of Canada.*

*-Minister Hussen, Canadian Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion*

## KEY OUTCOMES

# 30

Partnerships

# 7

Countries onboarded

# 3

Platform to mobilize funds



# Strengthening The Pavilion's Global Footprint through an International Board

The Pavilion's International Board (IB) was established to support the Pavilion's reach to various regions across the globe. The IB is made up of influential ministers, mayors, and private sector and civil society leaders. Currently, the **IB's structure consists of 25 members**, which has currently filled 21 seats. A list of the IB members can be found [here](#). The first meeting of the IB was organized on April 21, 2022, immediately prior to the grand opening of the Pavilion.

The IB provides the Pavilion with strategic guidance on current issues facing urban areas within their jurisdictions and emerging trends. Many of the IB members facilitate contacts with potential partners for the Pavilion based on their networks and efforts. IB mem-

bers also shared their aspirations to support stronger urban development within their regions and how the Pavilion could support their efforts to implement these actions.

Among the 21 IB current members, they collectively advocate for 100s of millions of people, laying the foundation for the Pavilion to have significant impact on communities across the globe in collaboration with these members.

IB members expressed interest in better understanding how to overcome urban challenges, such as urban resilience to climate change and other factors, such as war and global pandemics. How cities can influence national and international policy change was also brought up as a major topic during the IB meetings.

## Identifying New Opportunities Across the Globe

- 7 Regions Represented
- 13 Countries Participating
- 40+ New Organisational Partners Identified
- 20+ Good Examples Acknowledged
- 15 Urban Challenges Being Overcome

# Building multi-disciplinary partnerships between governments, private sector, and civil society

The physical space of the Pavilion is a welcoming, collaborative, and capacity building environment for stakeholders who are committed to advancing sustainable urbanization. This “knowledge hub” serves to present and discuss best practices, debate about innovations and transformations on urban development and revitalization. The Pavilion is also a platform to

build strong partnerships across all sectors and development partners with interest in the sustainability agenda. Since its opening, *the Pavilion has been working as an attractive space to bring communities, governments, and private sector leaders to exchange ideas, build bridges on sustainable urbanisation and push forward the boundaries of urban solutions*

## Building Partnerships with Governments, Private Sector, and Civil Society

### Mastercard Foundation – Center for Inclusive Growth & Munk School for Global Affairs and Public Policy

On January 13th, the Pavilion organized a joint session on Public Private Partnerships in collaboration with the University of Toronto Munk School for Global Affairs and Public Policy and the Center for Inclusive Growth Master Card Foundation. This special event gathered more than 50 students in Regent Park who debated on the index for inclusive growth of this corporation.

### United Way Greater Toronto

On September 16th, the Pavilion welcome United Way Greater Toronto and its Board Members to the Pavilion. This was a great opportunity to build collaboration with an internationally recognized organisation focusing on realizing the SDGs by supporting local communities and civil society organisations in the fight against poverty. This session opened new opportunities to bring United Way to the Pavilion’s programming, including the possibility to submit projects from their Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity Programmes to the Pavilion’s 100+: Canada’s profile on urban SDGs initiative.

### Canadian Urban Institute

On September 29th, the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) organized a full day workshop at the Pavilion. CUI has been advocating cities since 1990 for smart urbanism for city building and community development. The collaboration was an important partnership for the Pavilion considering the expertise and collection CUI has in relation to urban innovations, place making and transformations.

### Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)

TASSC represents more than 30 urban indigenous organisations across Toronto. The Council affiliates 18 local indigenous organizations with over 11,500 clients in several different urban challenges facing Indigenous Communities. TASSC joined the Pavilion in September 2022 for their annual general meeting. Since then, it has become a partner of the Pavilion and a member for the Global Hall for Indigenous Habitat that is being established by the Pavilion.

### Minister of Housing, Nova Scotia

On June 6th, the Pavilion welcomed the Minister of Housing, Nova Scotia, to further share insights on the Regent Park Revitalization. This meeting was organized by the Pavilion’s founding partner, The Daniels Corporation, to know more about the programs, grants, and funding that the Department of Municipal Affairs and housing provides and to explain about the Pavilion’s activities.

# Strengthening partnerships with financial institutions

On October 4th & 5th, the World Urban Pavilion hosted the 4th Urban Economy Forum annual conference. This was a great opportunity to enhance the Pavilion's profile with a global audience. The annual forum focused on Sustainable Urban Finance and aimed to strengthen partnerships between cities and financial institutions.

Over 260 speakers from 51 countries and over 170 cities participated in the two-day forum. In addition, more than 35 financial institutions from Canada and the globe joined the hybrid forum to work collectively on financing the sustainable future of cities

## Project Results

Strengthened the Pavilion's profile in United States' cities through the organisations of a Mayoral Roundtable with nine cities participating, including Baltimore, Oakland, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Philadelphia, and San Jose. These U.S. cities are committed to advocating sustainable urban development. The session opened new opportunities to collaborate with U.S. cities and new collaborative mechanisms are to be defined to involve these cities in future programming of the Pavilion.

Showcased the Virtual Pavilion Framework prepared by Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. The session was presented by Harvard University and demonstrated how the Virtual Pavilion can share best practices and support city-to-city learning through online connections. The Mayor of the City of Kingston, Jamaica, participated in this session which led to the drafting of a Letter of Intent to establish collaboration between Kingston and the Pavilion.

Empowered youth voices and prioritized urban issues with local communities through training and opening opportunities to conduct interviews to forum speakers. The Pavilion, in collaboration with Child Press, an international youth journalist organisation, provided training to local youth in Regent Park Community and Bayview Glen School for these interviews. A final report written and prepared by the youth, was launched at the end of the event.

Launched the publication 'Artificial Intelligence and Cities: Risks, Applications, and Governance' prepared by UN-Habitat and MILA. The publication provides a strategy for local authorities in adopting policies and practices that are people-centered while integrating digital technologies.

- **Oscar Requena**, Minister of Labor, Local Government and Rural Development, Belize

*All hands approach must be the answer, the engagement of the public, private, and civil society is a must, including that of climate financing institutions.*

- **Guy Cormier**, President & CEO, Desjardin Group

*Social and economic challenges are connected to each other. If we are to thrive as a society, we cannot pretend that they are mutually exclusive, they go hand in hand. We've an opportunity to build sustainability collaboratively*







Photo taken at UEF4 with UEF team and participants

# Promoting Public Participation and Community Collaboration

## Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals through Creativity and Art – A Platform for Creative Partnerships

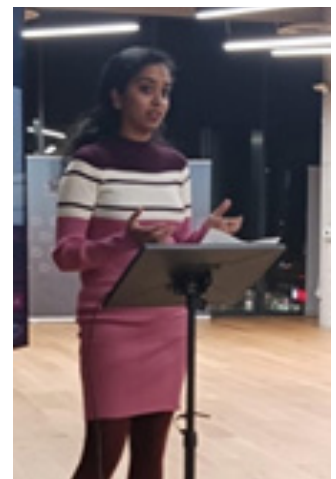
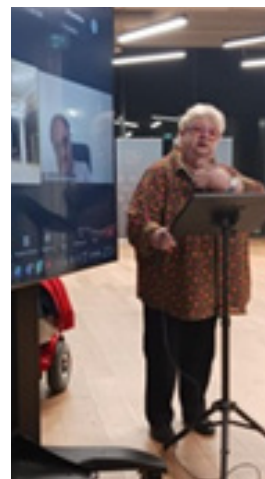
The Pavilion Consciousness Agora (CA) uses the creativity and communication capacity of art to bring human challenges and realities across the globe to life. Connecting information and promoting the Sustainability Development Goals, the CA elicits emotional and empathic responses to diverse urban realities to create more awareness and attention to the importance of the ‘common good’. Working with global and local community’ artists, the CA opens new opportunities of collaboration and builds new partnerships through a creative program. The first exhibition will open in Toronto later in 2023.



## Strengthen Partnership with the Local Regent Park Community-BOX9

The Pavilion was strategically established in the Regent Park Community in Toronto due to the unique history of revitalization of this neighborhood. This community has undergone an exceptional transformation through community-led advocacy and actions that ultimately led to actions by the City of Toronto. Leveraging the experience of the Regent Park Community, The Pavilion is supporting other cities and communities globally by sharing Regent Park’s successful story and lessons learned and to facilitate peer-to-peer learning.

On November 29th, 2022, the Pavilion and the Regent Park Community gathered to discuss Regent Park as a ‘Global SDG Neighbourhood’. Local community members, entrepreneurs, community organisations, and urban activists joined the Pavilion to share their view of Regent Park’s strengths, priorities, and collaboration with the Pavilion moving forward. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Toronto Community Housing also actively participated in this event.



“We need true participatory decision making – it is the only way you are going to get the local voice heard. People matter!”

– Marlene DeGenova, Regent Park Community Member & World Urban Pavilion Steering Committee Member

“The global knowledge hub from the Pavilion platform is a great opportunity to share sustainable development practices. It is an important opportunity for Regent Park to be part of this process”

- Pavithra Sukanthar, Coordinator, Regent Park Neighbourhood Association

## 2 Consolidating Urban Innovations and Transformations

One of the Pavilion's focus areas over the last year was to establish the foundation to identify, collect, assess, and catalogue urban innovations. Both the success and failures of urban innovations are valuable assets to share among cities and communities globally. Considerations for local contexts, regional interactions, and geography can help cities navigate similar challenges based on the past experiences of urban centers at world level.

*The Pavilion is consolidating these practices and has a high priority for those that are considered as internationally inspiring experiences to support city-to-city and community learning.*

“The work of a revitalization is long, slow and intentional and the process of building social cohesion and community capital remains at the top of our collective agenda here in Regent Park, an agenda driven from day one by local residents.”

- Mitchell Cohen, President and CEO, The Daniels Corporation



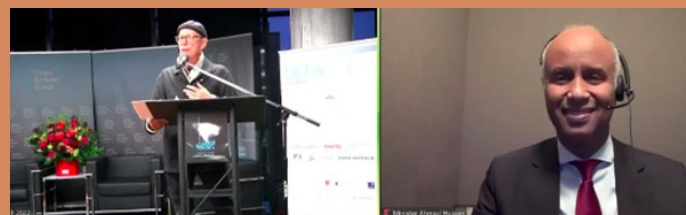


# Fostering Innovation through a Multi-Disciplinary Approach in Institutions

## Canada Frontrunner of Urban SDGs

On October 3rd, the Pavilion launched one of its flagship programs, known as the ‘Canada Frontrunner of Urban SDGs’. In consultation with nearly 100 organizations and individuals in Canada and abroad, the Frontrunner program lays the foundation to take a Canada-wide comprehensive and strategic approach to integrating urban sustainability in all sectors. The approach provides a platform to involve all sectors of urban society to come together to work on key aspects of city growth and development adopting a common agenda using smart indicators that are transformed into knowledge and then in informed policies to define transformative actions for sustainable development.

Through the 100+: Canada’s profile on urban SDGs, the Frontrunner program is building on existing initiatives by identifying, assessing, and cataloguing ‘Made in Canada’ programs, policies, and financial solutions to address significant urban challenges, such as affordability, accessibility, energy, transportation, income inequality, inclusion, and resilience. The 100+ program has established partnerships with 20 cities and organisations to integrate their innovative programs in a national catalogue that will be ready later in 2023. These initiatives are cutting-edge urban innovations and transformations that provide examples for other cities when addressing similar challenges.



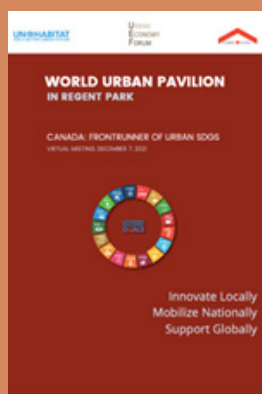
This is an ongoing annual program to build the Pavilion’s database of good practices and provide knowledge products and new tools to strengthen urban resiliency and response to global challenges

“I encourage all Canadian urban society to join the 100+ project and submit your ‘Made in Canada’ urban innovations and transformations on sustainable urban development. This will build Canada’s urban profile to showcase our ingenuity and help support other cities across the globe to achieve the SDGs.”

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion

### KEY RESULTS

- Established 50+ urban networks
- Consulted 40+ gender-focused networks
- Collected 20 Urban innovations & transformations
- Advised by 12 Academic & professional organisations



Consultative Meeting Report on Canada Frontrunner of Urban SDGs initiative



Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs – Incorporating a Gendered Approach



100+: Canada’s Profile on Urban SDGs – Identifying, Collecting, and Assessing Urban Innovations in Canada

# Canadian Frontrunners

The Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs program is working with various development partners that support cities in achieving the SDGs. This is an aspirational program where cities, organisations, communities, private sector, and civil society at large all play an important role in the advancement of the objective by working toward becoming frontrunners in the sustainability agenda.

The Pavilion is working with all partners and actors from their different sectors and profiles to lead urban SDGs dialogue, adopt transformative actions, and inspire others to integrate more sustainable approaches in their efforts. Universities, communities, and cities can become 'frontrunners' in their respective fields of work and together contribute to the sustainability agenda with better data, more knowledge, and innovative and transformative solutions.

The program focuses on several key areas to strengthen cities capacity to realize the urban SDGs: urban finance, urban assessment and policy guidance, housing, and interventions on urban space. The program takes a comprehensive approach by providing technical and advisory services to cities through urban data and assessment and concept development on urban pilot projects. This is further supported by facilitating knowledge exchange between cities and communities, while also providing a platform to advance dialogue on sustainable urban development.

The Canadian government also plays a critical role in this regard by providing the long-term vision, resources and strategic objectives for the country, acknowledging that cities are the transformational forces behind this vision.

Together, along with other Canadian frontrunner's partners, it is possible to contribute collectively to 'Canada: Frontrunner of Urban SDGs'. This leadership designation will bring credibility and visibility to Canada, and it will serve as a springboard for the development of progressive pilot projects that will contribute to shifting the urban paradigm toward sustainability, while also shaping the future of urban development in the international community.

## A CALL TO ACTION!

On October 4th, Minister Ahmed Hussen, President and CEO Mitchell Cohen, and Lisa Williams, Vice President of Strategy from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation called on Canada to share urban innovations and transformation with other cities in the world.

# Learning from Canadian Good Practices and Experiences

## 100+: Canada's Profile on Urban SDGs

The 100+ project is a national Canadian initiative that is working with the Pavilion's Canadian network and urban stakeholders to identify, catalogue, assess, and disseminate existing urban innovations in cities, towns, and communities across the country. The project is connecting with cities globally to share innovative and cutting-edge approaches, examples, case studies, and how these solutions can guide to solve urban challenges for other cities, while at the same time maximizing development opportunities. The Pa-

vilion is currently working closely with its partners, in particular Canadian Institute of Planners and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to identify these urban transformations. As a longer-term objective, the 100+ project will attract financial investment opportunities for Canadian cities to support their programs and projects.

The 100+ project supports knowledge transfer between cities to address urban challenges in several keyways:

**Consolidating 'Made in Canada' urban transformations to be shared globally**

**Developing implementation guides and lesson learned knowledge products**

**Establishing a platform to organize thematic discussions between cities to share practices**

**Preparing physical and virtual exhibitions, events, conferences**



The 100+ project was launched during the presentation of the Canada Frontrunner of Urban SDGs program on October 4th. Since then, the 100+ project has consolidated 20 'Made in Canada' urban transformations from different regions across the country.

**Toronto Green Development Standard**

City of Toronto  
Toronto

**Sparrow Living**

Sparrow Living Inc  
20+ Cities across Canada

**Implementing Right to Housing in Supportive Housing Sector**

Canadian Center for Housing Rights  
City of Toronto

**Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program**

Toronto Region Conversation Authority  
Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

**Lakeview Waterfront**

City of Mississauga  
Mississauga

**Mount Pleasant Community**

City of Brampton  
Brampton

**Northlands Dēnesųlīnē First Nation Renewable Energy & Remediation**

Northlands Dēnesųlīnē First Nation  
La Brochet, Manitoba

**Toronto Western Hospital Wastewater Energy System**

University Health Network, Noventa Energy Partners, Toronto  
Toronto

**Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity Initiative**

United Way Greater Toronto  
Toronto

**East Village Master Plan**

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation  
Calgary

**Regent Park Revitalization**

Toronto Community Housing Corporation  
Toronto

**Transitioning into New Mobility: Future Curb Space Design**

University of British Columbia  
Lower Mainland, British Columbia

**The Compass Project – Transforming the Social Safety Net**

HelpSeaker Technologies, University of Toronto School of Cities  
Calgary & Toronto

**LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan**

National Capital Commission  
Ottawa

**Affordable Housing Accelerator Program: Unlocking land & Capital Community-Owned**

Vancity Community Foundation  
Vancouver

**Legacy Building Apprenticeship & Guiding Lights**

Mothers to Daughters  
Toronto

**Community.Design.Initiative - East Scarborough Store Front**

MakeWay Charitable Society  
Scarborough, Toronto

**City-Data Ontologies, Models and Impacts to achieve SDG11**

Urban Data Centre, University of Toronto School of Cities  
Toronto

**A Shift to Sustainable Transport in Atlantic Quebec**

Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine  
Carleton-sur-Mer, Quebec

**Scaling Down: Creating Walkable, Sittable, and Strollable Transit Orientated Communities**

Smart Density  
Greater Toronto Area

“CMHC is pleased to participate in the 100+ project and share some of our initiatives that we have undertaken with our community partners across the country. Housing is integral to our collective work to meeting our 2030 Sustainable Development Goals”.

- Lisa Williams, Senior Vice-President, Strategy, CMHC



# Learning from Canadian Best Practices and Experiences

Urban innovations and transformations occur in various forms, from building developments to technology integration, to policy and building codes, to new financing models. The Pavilion is working with its partners to become a springboard for these innovations to gain national and international attention and identify new opportunities

## Mapping accessibility in communities leads to the establishment of an Accessibility Coalition

June 30th, 2022 & November 29th, 2022 - Access Now, The Daniels Corporation, and Urban Land Institute  
Access Now, an accessibility technology company, and the Daniels Corporation, selected the Pavilion to announce a special partnership to map the accessibility of the Regent Park Community. The app largely crowd sourced local community residents to identify areas and assets that just didn't work for those with accessibility needs. This work led to the establishment of an accessibility coalition of 32 (and growing) members that have agreed to significantly increase the supply of accessible housing.

## Affordable Home Ownership Program Summer 2022

The Daniels Corporation and Royal Bank of Canada  
The Pavilion hosted several events organized by The Daniels Corporation and the Royal Bank of Canada to support applications to their joint Affordable Home Ownership Program. The partnership provides a pathway for low-income households to own their first home. The \$5 Million program helps 10-20 people.

## Learning Series: United for Affordable Housing

March 7th, 2023 - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Impact United

Organized by CMHC and Impact United, the Pavilion hosted several organisations to learn about innovative projects and investment models being developed in response to the housing affordability crisis affecting communities across Canada. The multi-day learning series was hosted in both Toronto and Vancouver and helped to strengthen a network of impact investors across Canada.



# Building Bridges between the Global North and the Global South

The World Urban Pavilion is building networks between cities and urban development organisations both in the global north and the global south. Leveraging the tools at the Pavilion's disposal, such as the Virtual Pavilion, a comprehensive platform has been established to exchange knowledge between the hemispheres. The lessons learned, both good and bad, are shared through the Pavilion, which continues to establish local connections with different regions of the globe to strengthen its ability to identify, collect, systematize, and consolidate urban transformations. *From initiatives in tiny villages to large cities, as well as from a single partner to multi-regional partnerships, the Pavilion has established representations in United States and discussions are currently underway to establish offices in Norway and Latin America, working*

*closely with its founding partner, the Urban Economy Forum.*

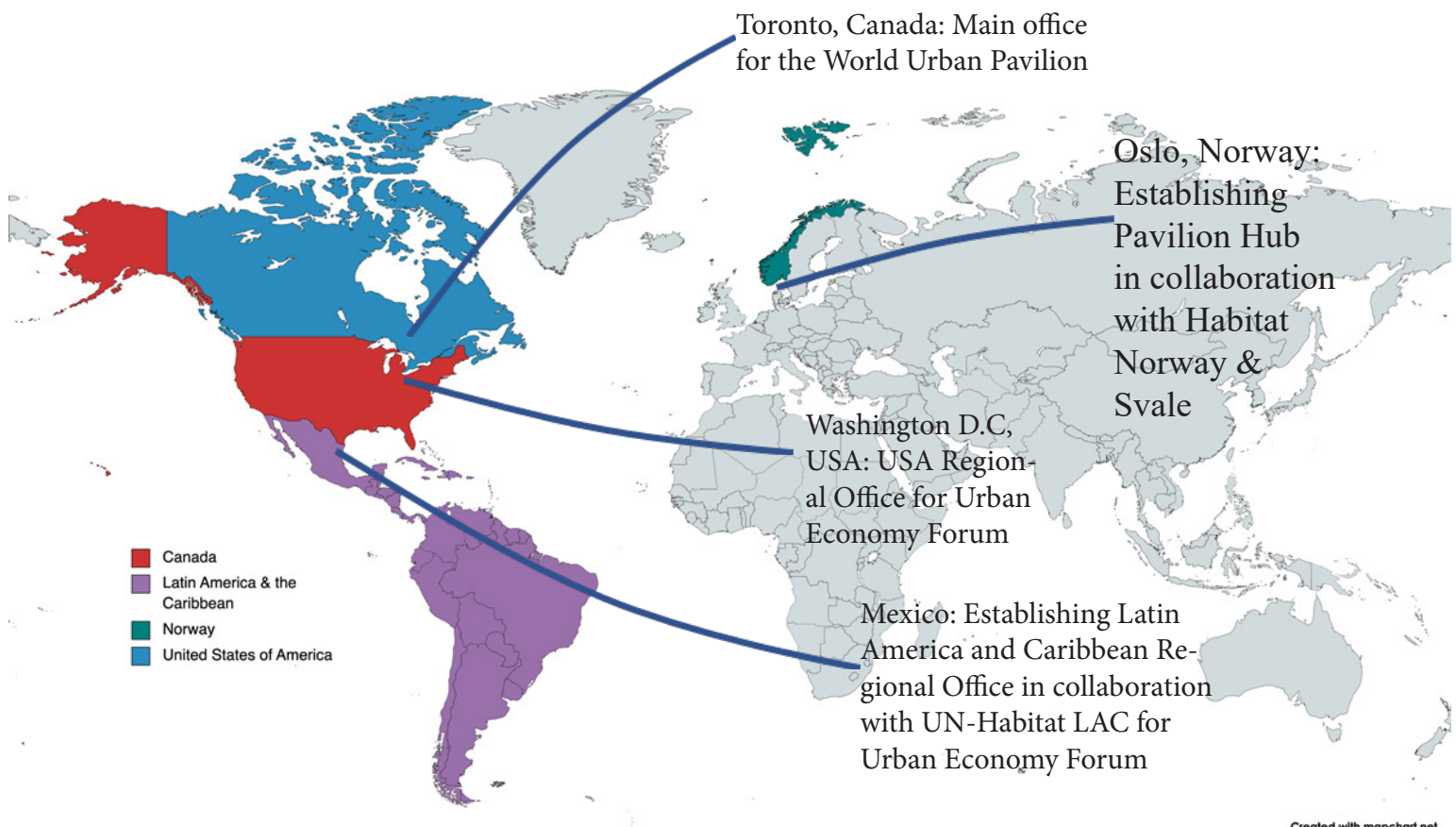


Diagram: UEF and Pavilion Office Partnerships



# Global Hall for Indigenous Habitat

The Global Hall for Indigenous Habitats is established under the umbrella of the Canada Frontrunner program in the Pavilion to create inter-governmental dialogue with other indigenous communities, countries, and the United Nations. The initiative focuses on understanding and sharing lessons learned regarding traditional and cultural identity and rethinking the future of indigenous habitats based on the experiences and innovations of indigenous people around the world. *The Global Hall is centered on activating Indigenous people's solution-based and nature-based approaches to housing for the country and the world.*

*The Pavilion responded to a call for proposals from the Government of Canada Global Affairs' Indigenous Peoples Partnering for Climate Initiative. Results from this call are to be announced later in 2023.*

Connecting Indigenous Peoples in Canada to Indigenous communities across the Globe



To support this program, Pavilion is collaborating with relevant United Nations Agencies.



On December 16th, 2022, the Pavilion held a consultative meeting with Indigenous organisations across Canada and North America to further develop this initiative. It emerged from this meeting that indigenous cultures and practices can offer valuable models and lessons to inform global and national housing policies in support of the realization of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The meeting led to signing several agreements with various indigenous organisations from India, Kenya, Mexico, and Canada, including the First Nations University of Canada as a co-collaborator, that will participate to develop and implement the Global Hall for Indigenous Habitat.



Photo: 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations visits the Pavilion during its Annual General Meeting



# 3 Implementing Applied Solutions to Localize the SDGs

The Pavilion deploys its global knowledge platform to develop innovative and transformative solutions to address the most pressing urban challenges. Supported by in-house and external experts, networks of professionals and universities, the Pavilion has created a critical mass of city specialists with a tremendous capacity to rethink urban systems, develop plans, policies, and actions to build strategic and technical capacities of cities. *The Pavilion is documenting and systematizing pilot projects in different cities to create an ecosystem of urban innovations to be deployed and applied in urban settings beyond current technical understandings, using state-of-the-art solutions and explaining how these innovations can achieve success*

## Supporting Cities through Technical Advisory Services

The World Urban Pavilion is recognized by United Nations as a Global Hub for UN-Habitat SDG Cities Global Initiative

UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Flagship Initiative facilitates global collaborative action to enable cities to localize and accelerate the global achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and improve quality of life. SDG Cities aims to reach 1000 cities and impact 1 billion lives - at least 60% in developing and least developed countries - by offering a systematic way to support cities to become sustainable and resilient. Through a partnership approach it accompanies cities and local governments in each step of the localization process - from data, though vision, to planning then project design, financing, and implementation. It reinforces this process by strengthening local systems and capacities in the drivers of sustainable urban development - inclusive urban governance, long term urban and territorial planning, and municipal finance - as foundations of transformation.

Global Hub supports cities in several key areas:

1. Global and Local Monitoring Framework
2. Strategic Planning
3. Voluntary Local Review
4. Transformative Actions
5. Financial
6. Certification
7. Capacity Development
8. Advocacy
9. Best Practice

Key Activities resulting from SDG Cities Global Hub

### October 2022

La Paz, Bolivia becomes the first city to be awarded Gold Certification by SDG Cities

### November 2022

Agreement between Ghana and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pilot the SDG Cities program in 10 Ghanaian cities.

### November 2022

SDG Cities Global Conference hosted by Shanghai

### February 2023

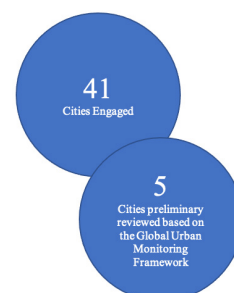
SDG Cities completed piloting the City Scan Data Tool in Mombasa, Kenya

### March 2023

Official launch of the Women-Led Cities initiative developed through SDG Cities

### March 2023

Expert Group on Housing Webinar hosted by UN-Habitat SDG Cities and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation





The SDG Cities piloting phase began in 2022 and has resulted in the roll-out of the programme in 41 cities across 6 continents, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, North America, and South America. Taking into consideration income, scale, and geography, SDG Cities is being implemented in cities of various levels, allowing for the programme to adapt to the needs of the local context.

## National Programmes

The first SDG Cities National Program is being implemented in 10 cities in Ghana and will provide the assist cities with the technical capacity to participate. It builds on Norway's previous support to the Ministry of Finance to advance the achievement of Smart Sustainable Development Goals (Smart SDGs). The project is unique in that it brings together the traditional leaders and the political and administrative leadership of the local government. Traditional leaders such as paramount kings and chiefs, are crucial to solve issues related to land and thus are key players in spatial planning and development in the Ghanaian context. The Ghanaian Country program represents a laboratory for a paradigm shift in how sustainability projects can give voice to traditional/indigenous authorities. National ownership of the project is ensured by an advisory committee composed of national and local government institutions, civil society, and other relevant actors. SDG Cities is working to establish an additional national programme in the coming year to support 45 cities in Tunisia. This programme builds on the existing pilot in Ennour, with plans for 45 cities to be supported by a consortium of international organizations already funding supporting sustainable development in Tunisian cities. The consortium will include UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, German International Cooperation (GIZ), UN Development Program (UNDP), and UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

## Women-led Cities

UN-Habitat is supporting the goal of gender equality through the SDG Cities Women-led Cities (WLC) window. SDG Cities windows are learning, and advocacy networks based around specific SDG themes. The Women-led Cities window seeks to strengthen the role of and advocate for women leaders in, cities in all administrative and political roles at all levels. It is led by a network of women business and political leaders, who are keen to inspire and empower current and future women leaders. It is supported by the UN-Habitat and the United Nations Capital Investment Fund (UNCDF) along with the EllaImpacta

Alliance, a new consortium of women-led companies and philanthropies.

Programmatically the Women-led Cities window will also focus on advancing gender equality through increased economic opportunities, safer urban spaces, and political empowerment of women. It will do this through knowledge transfer on promising practices and policies to improve economic opportunities for women through inclusive regulatory frameworks, increased investments in urban infrastructure (including markets, processing units/factories, transport, and energy projects), and incubating and financing women-led businesses through grants, loans, and guarantees. As well it will focus on safer cities free of violence and harassment through women and child-friendly spaces, shelter homes, safe mobility with affordable and efficient public transportation, accessible and affordable housing and health facilities, clean water and sanitation, and overall higher standards of living for women. And finally, it will seek to assist cities to improve the engagement of women in local decision-making processes, including empowering women mayors as agents of transformative change.



## Global Discussion of SDG Cities Certification:

In March 2023, the executive board of UN-Habitat's Executive Board undertook a deliberation on the need for and possible benefits of the further development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Cities certification programme. SDG Cities Certification responds to the need we have experienced from some cities for the political and public validation that such a third-party certification gives. This form of recognition can have transformative potential as not all cities are aware of the SDGs and other global frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda, and are not incentivized to engage them. During the Executive Board meeting Brisbane, Costa Rica, Mafra, and the government of Ghana highlighted the role the certification plays within the implementation of SDG Cities in their jurisdiction. The testimonials were followed by interventions from Executive Board Members, Member States, and Observer States, including Costa Rica, Spain, Nigeria, Egypt, Portugal, Senegal, Germany, Argentina, South Korea, United States of America, France, India, Brazil, Kenya, Morocco, Botswana, Switzerland, Finland, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and League of Arab States. Overall, the concept of an SDG Cities Certification Programme was welcomed, while there were reservations regarding the certification cost, possible sources of financing, capacity building needs, and potential risks to its implementation. Ultimately, further discussions on the certification were encouraged.



## SDG Cities Toolkit Platform:

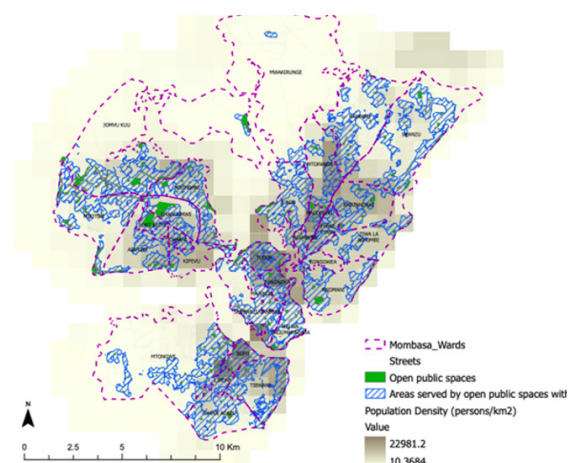
With funding from CMHC and technical support from the Global CEO Alliance, SDG Cities has developed a range of digital tools to support cities worldwide in advancing toward their SDG goals. These tools include the City Scan Tool and the Digital Diagnostic Tools.

### City Scan Tool:

The City Scan Tool is both simple and cost-efficient to implement, enabling cities to conduct a comprehensive baseline assessment in line with the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. This allows them to identify priority areas for achieving SDGs and monitor progress towards their goals. The City Scan Tool has already been piloted in Mombasa, Kenya, where youth collected over 4,000 spatial data points within one week through the tool, generating a comprehensive baseline data report for the city.

### Digital Diagnostic Tools:

A custom suite of digital diagnostic tools has been developed that enables cities to self-assess the state of their capacity to achieve their sustainable urban development goals. These diagnostic tools assess both the functionality of their systems and the capacities of municipal and subnational institutions across a range of key functions. Cities that participate in SDG Cities have access to diagnostic tools in the areas of urban planning, urban governance, own-source revenue, and basic urban services delivery, including solid waste management, water utilities, and urban mobility. This will enable cities to group themselves into “learning communities” for more efficient capacity development support, ultimately accelerating their progress toward achieving the SDGs.





# Supporting Cities through Technical Advisory Services

Through the Pavilion's technical advisory services and different forms of collaboration have been established with several cities, countries, universities, and other relevant partners to strengthen their vision about urban development and community strengthening. These technical services are in response to major urban challenges facing cities by proposing an integrated approach to urban development and planning that can also leverage existing opportunities. Services include building strategic and technical capacities through data analysis, creating knowledge based on information, preparing for dialogue and policy formulation, and advancing on strategic partnerships and funding prospects.

## Supporting Oman to become a global pilot on Blue Urban Economy:

The Pavilion is working with the national government of Oman and local organisations to establish a pilot project on blue urban economy in Muscat, the capital city. The project takes a multi-disciplinary and multi-level approach to develop new discourse on the topic, establish new partnerships, propose innovative solutions and understanding about current challenges and opportunities. Working with the Private sector both national and international, the pilot project will generate state-of-the-art innovative products and services to further advance the blue economy concept in the country.

## Integrating an Urban Component on Doha Vision 2050:

Drawing on the intellectual resources of Harvard University, Liverpool University, Urban Economy Forum, and local civic organizations, academic, business leaders and experts, the Pavilion hosted a visioning exercise on the power of collective and private action. The workshop set out a provocation that invited dialogue among multi-actor stakeholders to establish the visionary scenarios for sustainable urbanism for the Gulf region, featuring the City of Doha.





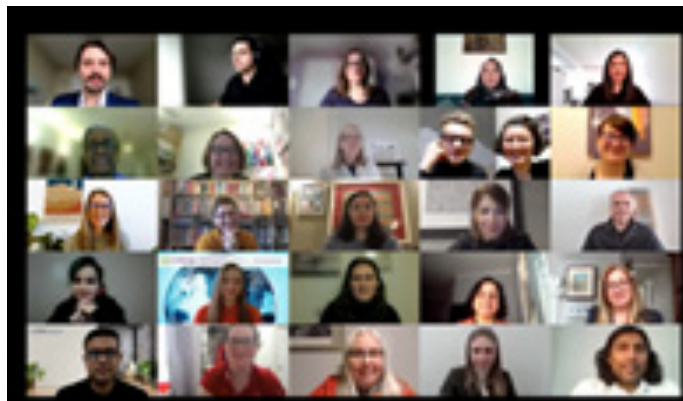
# Empowering a Very Present & Future Generation

## Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child applies to all children up to the age of eighteen years old and we believe that no matter the age or social background, all kids should be part of the SDGs.

**The Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs** program was officially launched during the Pavilion's Grand opening on April 21, 2022. The Program connects kids and children to the global development agendas through education, activities, and work opportunities. *Taking a whole of family approach, the program is supporting countries and urban societies to make the transition toward more sustainable lifestyles by mobilizing kits and the family unit as the model to encourage change.*

**Prior to the release of the Eight-year Strategic Plan, 3 consultative meetings were held with youth-based organisations across Canada and the globe. Over 40 organisations based in different countries participated in the development of the Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs, sharing their insights and models to support the development of this program focused on youth and SDGs.**



**February 10th, 2022** – International Consultative meeting with Youth and Sustainability Organisations



**April 21, 2022**– Official launch of the Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs Program during the Pavilion's Grand Opening

## Partnering with Universities on Education and Work Training Programs

### Climate Solutions Park

The Pavilion is collaborating with York University and the International Renewable Energy Academy on the Climate Solutions Park. The program is empowering local communities and offer pragmatic educational opportunities to implement ad hoc solutions to address the climate emergency.

Currently, the program has established two physical locations in Toronto and Penetanguishene, Canada. It has engaged over 700 students to provide practical education and training experiences, partnering with 23 organisations from the private sector and civil society.

The program has also established partnerships with organisations in Chile, Denmark, and Spain to provide additional training and education to implement climate actions in their localities.



**August 22nd, 2022** – Call for collaboration on the Kids Awareness on Urban SDGs Program

# Prospects for Change

The Pavilion has been very active producing concept notes, initiating briefs, project proposals, and various other initiatives that are yet to be formalized and make them operational. These initiatives show the innovative capacity of the Pavilion, and they constitute a catalogue of technical advisory services, which some of them are presented below.

**G20lobal Platform for Urban Finance** - A platform that connects existing global, regional, and national financial mechanisms (global) and brings them to the level where they can have the high benefits and opportunities (local). This global/local (glocal) platform will connect the dots of local responses that address local and global problems with these financial mechanisms and will create the conditions to have access to the necessary financial mechanisms. **Cities need an urban finance platform that operates glocally.**

The proposed *G20lobal Urban Finance Agenda* will support cities in accessing and navigating these financial mechanisms, advocating the strong role that cities play and bringing key stakeholders together. The G20lobal Platform provides technical advisory services to localize global and national agendas with proper funding, testing, and adopting innovative solutions on urban finance. The G20lobal Agenda facilitates and leads dialogue on how cities can provide adequate solutions to their own problems, but also to global challenges. Creating the necessary networks and mechanisms to catalyze knowledge and share practices, lobby for the needs and understanding of cities with national governments and international organizations.

**City Dashboard for Urban Transformation** - The Dashboard is a strategic tool to design and present transformative actions based on urban data assessments derived from an integrated index that can also help to monitor progress and present results. The Dashboard can connect to the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda and the urban SDGs in local territories. This tool articulates neighborhoods' needs and risks with opportunities using a bottom-up approach.

The Dashboard also works as an effective framework to promote synergies among sectoral policies to overcome existing silos and fragmentation, be-

**cause of the index and the dashboard interconnected nature. The Dashboard** reinforces the political mandate and commitment of the city to contribute to its sense of mission and strategy.

**Urban Canada – A Series of Exhibitions** - Urban Canada is an exhibition campaign that compiles and displays a collection of projects, innovations, and knowledge pertaining to sustainable urban development from the context of Canadian urbanization while facilitating a global dialogue on this important topic. Using various tools, activities and mediums of communication, the exhibition campaign introduces, promotes, and endorses the World Urban Pavilion programs and Canadian urban innovations to advocate cities as vehicles for realizing the SDGs.

# Looking to the Future

The World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels has an ambitious vision of the future of urbanisation and cities. While many cities around the globe are already economic, environmental, social, and cultural hubs that are engines of innovations or support their creation, the Pavilion also envisions cities as transformative hubs that can redefine systems and structures that are rooted in data and strategic planning connected to key investments in the most impactful areas.

The Pavilion has made considerable progress in building its international network and global reach poised to better understand the urban situation globally. As the Pavilion continues to evolve and grow in various regions throughout the world, there will be more and more opportunities to develop new processes and approaches to sustainable urban development.

The journey on this path will not be easy; the climate emergency, housing crisis, global pandemics, growing inequalities, and ongoing war all pose a threat to cities' ability to transform. Building up a more equitable urban resilience will be critical to deal with external and internal shocks. By establishing a global virtual platform – the Virtual Pavilion –, it is possible to foresee the growth of urban diplomacy across the globe that is rooted in local leadership, knowledge co-creation, long-term vision on the role of cities and city-to-city knowledge exchange. An environment where urban centers are interacting globally and sharing their local practices to support the collective endeavors of solving complex urban challenges is critical to advance in this process. Many cities have incredible opportunity to realize this urban transformation with the proper investments, technical and advisory support, and strategic partnerships with a whole of society approach.

Investment in cities continues to be one of the focus areas of the Pavilion. Cities equipped with proper tools and capacity, innovative financial instruments, can become platforms to attract investment in sustainable urban innovation and transformations. New products and services can be realized through this process to create tailor made approaches and integrate urban data and technologies to address urban challenges and maximize opportunities. The Pavilion will be recognized globally as a platform to allow ideas to grow and blossom and continues to make consider-

able progress on this by working with local and national governments, the private sector, universities, and civil society organisations, to establish pilot projects in cities. These pilot projects are the foundation for investment and ultimately urban transformations.

The Pavilion aims to become an inherent part of Canadian urban development. Advocating the role of Canadian cities as transformational forces for sustainability. It also seeks to share lessons learned from excellent and inspiring practices from Canadian examples around the world. Programs will need to be creative and interactive to encourage people to participate and interrelate with each other. Both UN SDG Cities Initiative and the Canada Frontrunner of Urban SDGs is already working towards this by providing cities with new channels to interact, collaborate and engage with the Pavilion, the international community, and the United Nations.

Together, the Pavilion and Cities around the world will come together to help realize global agendas in specific territories and positively push forward society's collective understanding on urbanisation as we work towards a more sustainable urban future.

Sustainable cities are the future.







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