

20  
South African  
CitiesNetwork  
2002 - 2022  
YEARS  
OF CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

# Urban Festival 2022

"Transforming Cities through  
Research & Practice"

## REPORT



**cooperative  
governance**  
Department:  
Cooperative Governance  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
**SALGA**  
*Inspiring service delivery*



**GPF**  
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Catalyst for delivering sustainable human settlements

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary  
2002 - 2022  
20 years in Building Sustainable  
Human Settlements Delivery Partnerships

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# INTRODUCTION

The Urban Festival took place on 26–28 October 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was convened by the South African Cities Network (SACN) in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG), the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF).

Under the theme of “Transforming cities through research and practice”, the 2022 Urban Festival sought to ignite conversation and action around the desired future state of South Africa’s cities, showcase the SACN’s contribution to South Africa’s urban development agenda, profile and celebrate the role of cities in the country’s transformation journey, and acknowledge and celebrate partners and collaborators over the years.

Today, more people than ever live in cities. In South Africa, two-thirds of the population live in urban areas. Cities are spaces where people come together, to share experiences and ideas and to shape new systems; they are places of social, economic and political opportunities and intense social interactions. Cities are also central to development and at the forefront of the country’s economic, social, environmental and cultural life.

Since 2002, the SACN has been the custodian of South Africa’s urban story and at the heart of urban research and practice, through its flagship publications and urban conferences and events. The Urban Festival 2022 was an opportunity to celebrate the SACN’s 20-year anniversary, through telling the story of the past two decades. It was also an occasion to reflect on the future and how to achieve the vision of the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) of “liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life”.

The 2022 Urban Festival took place in the spirit of partnership, collaboration and dialogue, discussing what is needed to tackle complex urban challenges. It brought together diverse voices, from whole-of-government and all-of-society, and covered issues ranging from city governance, finance and economies to sustainability and resilience, and inclusion and innovation. The programme was structured around the recommendations that emerged from the SACN’s fifth State of Cities Report (SOCR 2021) under the thematic areas of well-governed cities, inclusive cities, sustainable & resilient cities, productive cities and innovative cities, as well as communications. [1] The conversations took the form of panel discussions (collaborative action-oriented sessions) and masterclasses (speakers sharing real-world experiences)



**MASTER CLASSES**



**PANEL DISCUSSIONS**



**TAKEAWAYS**



**KEY POINTS**

Message of support videos were shown throughout the Urban Festival.[2]

[1] See Annexure A for the full programme.

[2] See Annexure B for the list of message of support videos, with links.

# URBAN FESTIVAL STATISTICS



## EVENT



**541 attendees - 232 in person and 309 online**

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**69 897**  
COMBINED  
REACH



**1 694**  
COMBINED  
ENGAGEMENT



**10 735**  
REACH  
**345**  
ENGAGEMENT



**40 900**  
REACH  
**937**  
ENGAGEMENT



**18 262**  
REACH  
**412**  
ENGAGEMENT

## WEBSITE



**4 468**

TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS TO THE URBAN FESTIVAL MICROSITE

## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



The 2022 Urban Festival was made possible thanks to the support from:



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Department:  
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# SACN HOSTED URBAN CONFERENCES



## November 2008

Urban Conference: Towards a collective vision for the growth and development of South Africa's towns, cities and city-regions

## March 2014

Urban Conference: Spatial transformation of cities

## October 2017

Urban Conference: Liveable, inclusive, safe, resilient cities: Implementing SA's urban agenda

## October 2019

World Cities Day event: Better city, Better life

## October 2021

Virtual Urban Festival: The Rebuilt City

## November 2009

Urban Conference: To consult urban development experts about the National Urban Development Framework

## March 2015

Urban Conference: Are cities driving local and national development?

## October 2018

Urban Conference Activating an all-of-society approach to implementing the urban agenda

## October 2020

Virtual Urban Festival: Empowering the civic

## October 2022

Urban Festival: Transforming cities through research and practice

### 2008 URBAN CONFERENCE



### 2017 URBAN CONFERENCE



### 2018 URBAN CONFERENCE



### 2022 URBAN FESTIVAL





## The President of the South African Local Government Association, Cllr Bheke Stofile

Councillor Bheke Stofile, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) welcomed speakers and participants from whole of government and all of society to the 2022 Urban Festival, which coincides with the 20-year anniversary of the South African Cities Network (SACN). He spoke of the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanisation (67% of South Africa's population live in cities), how cities need to be at the forefront of driving impactful social and economic change, and the importance of partnership, collaboration and dialogue. In conclusion, he expressed his hope that the discussions at the Urban Festival will result in a common agenda for cities and congratulated the SACN on its 20 years of existence.



## Deputy Minister Thembisile Nkadimeng, Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Deputy Minister Thembisile Nkadimeng was unable to attend the Urban Festival in person but was there virtually. She began by highlighting how the month of October, or urban month, is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by rapid urbanisation. Given the importance of cities for development, it was fitting that the Urban Festival was structured around the recommendations that emerged from the SACN's State of Cities 2021.

She compared South Africa's Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) to global developments, noting that the IUDF was influenced and informed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN Assembly in 2015 (specifically Goal 11: 'Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable') and, at a continental level, by the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its strategic goals. Premised on the National Development Plan, (NDP), the IUDF's objective is to ensure spatial integration, improve access to services and promote social and economic inclusion. She acknowledged that a shared understanding across government and society is needed of how best to manage urbanisation to create resilient and inclusive cities and towns, and highlighted the IUDF project that seed funds creative projects across the country that address urban issues and contribute towards the vision espoused in the IUDF.

She also raised the importance of all stakeholders working together, in partnership, and contributing towards developing communities and cities. Cooperative governance and all-of-society approaches underpin the NDP, IUDF and international instruments, such as the SDGs, and are central concerns that the District Development Model (DDM) is trying to address. She concluded by saying what an honour it was to be part of the festival that joins global movements led by UN-Habitat dating back to World Habitat Day (which was first convened in 1986) and that she was looking forward to hearing a range of diverse voices, from whole-of-government to all-of-society, discuss a spectrum of issues affecting all aspects of city decision-making and social and economic investments.





## SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION

Cities continue to starkly reflect the apartheid legacies of segregation, and the places where people live still determine access to opportunities and thus their life outcomes. Increased responsibility needs to be given to other role-players, apart from government, since spatial transformation requires coordination and the active intervention of government, the private sector, knowledge institutions and civil society.

As representatives of all-of-society and whole-of-government, today we pledge our commitment to spatial transformation as follows:

1. To continue to pursue equality for all, irrespective of the challenging landscape
2. To promote awareness of the principles of good governance
3. To de-racialise urban spaces and reduce distance to economic and social opportunities
4. To identify and address opportunities to improve cities
5. To work towards safety and security in transforming cities
6. To undertake high quality research on the release of public land to accommodate social housing in well-located parts of cities
7. To conduct collaborative community-based planning
8. To promote social cohesion
9. To co-create public spaces that are safe and inclusive
10. To conduct research to assess the rate of racial transformation in property ownership
11. To provide spatial biodiversity information to municipalities
12. To do more with less in so far as consumption of water, energy and space is concerned.

As Professor Harrison indicated, spatial transformation is a continuous and evolving process. Our commitment to it should, in turn, foster cooperative spaces for mutual engagement as well as the realisation of goals and to the expectations of all role-players.

## SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITIES

Urban development is characterised by rapid urbanisation, unplanned city growth, urban sprawl and environmental degradation. If not adequately addressed, climate change will severely impact resources, livelihoods, the economy, the environment, and people's wellbeing.

As representatives of all-of-society and whole-of-government, today we pledge our commitment to sustainability and resilience in cities as follows:

1. To incorporate green thinking into all city planning initiatives
2. To ensure sustainable service delivery that enables communities to adapt to challenges and change
3. To ensure sustainability by reducing fossil fuel consumption and using more renewables
4. To ensure we plan and execute our plans on managing our spaces and urban sprawl
5. To fund and finance resilient infrastructure
6. To support innovative initiatives to achieve our just energy transition
7. To co-create public spaces that are safe and inclusive
8. To conduct research that assesses the rate of racial transformation in property ownership
9. To provide spatial biodiversity information to municipalities
10. To do more with less in so far as consumption of water, energy and space is concerned.

As Professor Pieterse articulated, "In the Global South, we need to address climate-change impacts, together with multi-dimensional inequality and too few jobs".



## Creating Capability in Cities Prof. Trevor Fowler: Wits School of Governance

Trust in government in general has declined, and the credibility of local government is at its lowest in 22 years due to poor governance and a stagnant economy and jobless growth. The masterclass provided an explanation for this decline in trust, examined the governance rules within local government (political vs. administrative) and looked at what is required to create capability within cities.

### Key Points from the Presentation

#### Declining Trust in Local Government

- The growing perception is that government's focus is no longer on the people but on self-enrichment and party politics, as reflected in the State Capture Report. Government's capacity has been hollowed out both by design and by action. This mistrust became apparent in 2016, when coalitions emerged in cities after the local government elections, which was repeated to a greater degree in the 2021 elections.
- The governance implication is a shift from a stable government that delivers services to power mongering and brokerage, as well as the emergence of a spatially and economically separated society based on class and colour that is more pronounced in smaller cities than in metros. Systemic racism needs to be addressed.
- Creating a professional local government needs to be understood at a political level, as service delivery is not possible when government changes every few years.

#### Creating Capability

- The governance framework. Local government will not change without proper oversight and accountability, but national government has insufficient capacity to support provincial government, and provincial departments of cooperative governance and traditional affairs (COGTA) have insufficient capacity to support and hold local government accountable.
- The governance rules. The political executive is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of policy, while the administration is responsible for ensuring sufficient resources and efficient systems are available for implementing policies and achieving goals. Legal responsibility rests with the administration, based on policy decisions made by Council.
- The 50/50 balance between proportional and ward representation produces anomalies. The more wards a party wins, the fewer proportional representation (PR) seats it receives, but political parties tend to put their more important people on the PR list, whereas ward councillors often have little to no experience.
- Negotiations in coalition governments are not about achieving a common vision but about agreeing on positions. This results in situations where a party with less than 1% of the vote can collapse a government by switching coalitions because they have been promised positions for their party members.

#### Does South Africa have a government system for a democratic and developmental state?

- Achieving South Africa's developmental goals requires a long-term plan, driven by the political-administrative leadership in partnership with all-of-society (government, business, labour and civil society) and implemented by a capable, efficient and effective bureaucracy.
- Key obstacles that need to be overcome include inequality (a catalyst for political instability), nation-building and poverty.
- Government needs to reflect the people, but 99.9% of government comprises black men – if people do not see themselves in government, they are likely to mistrust it. In contrast, the private sector is largely white, and the few, strategically selected black people do not want to raise racial inequality issues within the company and management. The situation has worsened, and yet the country ascribes to non-racialism.
- Accountability requires responsibility, responsiveness and transparency.

#### A Radical Approach is Required

South Africa's democratic government is based on the will of the people (SA Constitution) but is this possible in an era of coalition governments? Given the country's dire economy and trust deficit, political parties need to be bold and hold each other to account. In particular, they need:

- To be transparent – agree on direction, not only power sharing.
- To have a common approach, as the executive, towards the administration.
- To build the stability that has eluded governments since 2016, through cooperating, not mudslinging and being adversarial.



# City Governance and Rethinking Urban Development

## Moderator:

Pam Yako: Executive Coach

## Panellists:

- Cllr. Nkosenhle Innocent Madlala: eThekweni Municipality,
- Sibongile Mazibuko: National Treasury CSP
- Johann Mettler: City of Tshwane



## Key Points from the Discussion

### Lack of Leadership

- The most pressing issue is the lack of leadership at both the political and administrative level. It creates a vacuum that is filled by 'interests', which neither put local government's objectives and the people first, nor have the integrity needed to engage with the public purse first. Urban centres have become spaces of extraction for political benefit and personal interests, whatever the political party.
- A certain type of leadership is needed to create relationships and balance or moderate contending interests. For example, 60% of eThekweni is rural land owned by 16 amakhosi, which means that when the municipality wants to take decisions about development on this land, it needs to negotiate with the amakhosi.
- Part of the problem is the 'juniorisation' of the urban space. Despite cities being central to South Africa's development (if cities don't work, the country doesn't work) and some metros having bigger budgets than provinces, political parties, businesses and other spheres of government do not view cities as important partners.

### Develop Political Maturity

- Irrespective of the system, political maturity is needed. Political parties have to understand that what works for the party in a particular area may not work in another area, and political leaders need to accept that they cannot have it all.
- Many of the elected councillors are new to politics. Communities are allowed to choose candidates other than those selected and presented by political parties, and about 70% of councillors are not from selections. Those with access to technology and who are English-speaking tend to be prioritised over those in rural areas who speak broken English.

### Increase Community Agency

- Some citizens enjoy and have agency that they use as power to force government to deliver services to them. Other citizens don't have such access. For example, ratepayers' associations may threaten to withdraw rates, whereas some poorer areas don't pay rates and so don't have agency.
- Community-grounded leaders are needed, rather than those that only visit the area at election time.

### Introduce an Ombudsman in Metros or Districts

Some cities have an ombudsman office (e.g., City of Johannesburg) or similar entities. This is something that all cities could consider – even at ward level, while recognising that not all local government problems can be solved by an ombudsman.

### Change the System

- The system of local government can work and has worked previously, but it has been manipulated by people who ignore the local government legislative and policy framework.
- The status quo of the economy is a very powerful interest, and the state exists to maintain a particular status quo mostly. For spatial transformation or densification to work requires political will and absolute commitment from the leaders, to enable the administration to do what needs to be done. However, there will be push back from existing status quo interests.



## Takeaways from the Discussion

### Change the System

- The problem is not the system. Servant, ethical leadership is needed.
- Administrators must lead by example, be ethical and uncompromising (do not tolerate mediocrity). They need to execute the plan in a non-partisan manner and hold their staff to account.
- Politicians should have performance indicators and be rewarded based on performance as judged by the community.
- Minimum standards are needed not only for the administration but also for politicians.

## The State of City Finances

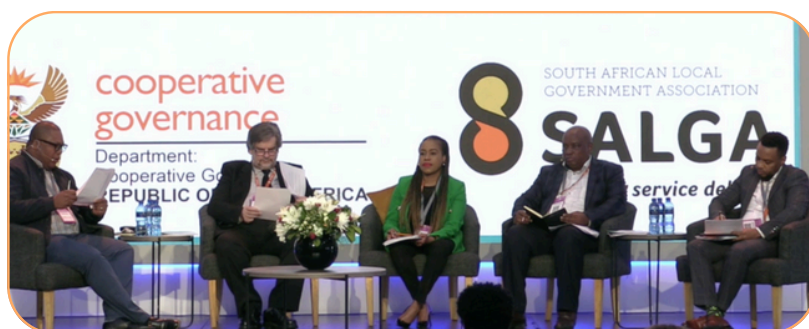
The session opened with a [video](#) giving the overview of the State of City Finances (SoCF) Report

### Moderator:

Sipho Nxasane

### Panellists:

- Jan Hattingh: National Treasury,
- Khomotso Letsatsi: SALGA
- Mbulelo Sigaba: DCOG
- Ben Mokheseng: DBSA



## Key Points from the Discussion

The SOCF Report's findings are useful information for new local government administrations, providing an analysis of two terms of office (2011–2015 and 2016–2021). Metros are the engines of economic growth, accounting for about 40% of South Africa's population and generating almost 60% of the country's GDP. What makes cities work is the underlying economy and their ability to collect adequate revenue. Especially post-Covid-19, cities have been struggling to collect revenue and to raise debt finance.

### The Local Government Fiscal Model

The White Paper on Local Government (1998) identified three sources of revenue: the levying of property rates and taxes, an equitable allocation of nationally raised revenue, and the ability to raise financing for capital investments through debt. However, according to the Municipal Finance Management Act, local government can only raise long-term finances for capital expenditure and cannot run a deficit (which national government can do).

### Capital Financing post-Covid-19

Cities have been financing their capital expenditure in a balanced way, accessing debt markets for financing revenue-generating assets (e.g., electricity infrastructure). However, since 2016 and especially post-Covid-19, cities have been struggling to access capital markets for debt financing due to the deterioration of the city balance sheets.

### Getting the basics right before innovating

- Collect what's due, by having up-to-date indigent registers, digitalising revenue-collection systems (e.g., allow people to pay using their phone) and integrating systems.
- Provide the right services, e.g., collect refuse on time.
- Promote active citizenship, so people understand how paying for services contributes to the city.
- Have cost-reflective tariffs – if a city does not have sufficient revenues from electricity to invest in electrical infrastructure, then either the tariff is too low or the city is not collecting all revenue owed.
- Contain distribution losses (non-revenue electricity and water) by maintaining infrastructure.
- Avoid non-authorized expenditure.

## Alternative Revenue Sources

- Mobilise development charges from property developers.
- Build partnerships, so private sector capital flows into the city.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has started exploring different financing and delivery models for infrastructure – project financing is one of these models. A municipality that is on-selling electricity should be looking at project finance, not corporate finance. Unlike provincial governments, which provide free services, local government sells something for a fee and not collecting the fees for services provided undermines it.



## Takeaways from the Discussion

- Cities need leadership, decisive decision-making and to make the right choices – and to learn from mistakes.
- Cities need efficient and effective systems to be agile, but many are still manual in nature.
- One-size-fits-all is not the answer because cities are different, with different customer profiles and different needs.
- Certain national grants need to be restructured, to reduce the administrative burden on cities.
- Lenders look at a city's ability to collect revenue, so cities need to get the basics right.
- Cities need to increase the infrastructure maintenance budget, not use it as an easy way to cut costs.
- Metros need to generate operating surpluses, which would enable them to augment their capital budget (infrastructure-led growth is the ability to invest), and to set aside funding to pay debt (e.g., to Eskom).
- Political stability is needed, as the administration cannot function if the Council doesn't sit regularly.

# EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING





## Why Spatial Governance cannot be achieved only by Government Prof. Phil Harrison, Wits University

### Urban Transformation is incremental, elusive and complex

- The built environment may change by 2–3% in one year and 40–60% over 20 years. Therefore, a long-term perspective, steadiness and consistent action are needed, as the city is in perpetual motion, always transforming at different speeds and driven by different forces without an end in sight.
- The definition and meaning of transformation keep changing. In 1994, post-apartheid transformation did not include much about resource scarcity and climate change, whereas today it is frequently framed within the context of a just transition. The discourse around transformation can also be framed around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 10–15 years, the framing is likely to be different again.

### Cities in South African have changes in the last 27 years

Cities are bigger, denser, more informal and are governed in different ways. Transformation is not just about change but about the nature and quality of the change. It is too simplistic to say that cities have not transformed.

### Is Spatial Inequality a cause or symptom of inequality?

Inequality is deep and structural, and where people live and work matters. Yet inequalities would remain even if spatial transformation were achieved.

### Real Transformation has an impact on everyday life

To have meaning, transformation should make a substantial and positive impact on daily life. The large spatial scale (e.g., spatial development framework (SDF) level) matters but must connect to daily life at the local scale: the design of precincts, public safety interventions, cycling infrastructure, public parks and children-friendly spaces.

### Transformation cannot be achieved by Government alone

- A stable, well-functioning, capable State operating within a social compact is needed.
- The State does not currently have the capacity to deliver on the developmental agenda and is being distracted by programmes that seem likely to fail. Instead of building a state for the public good, the evidence is that public institutions are being repurposed to serve the interests of a small elite.
- Systemic problems in government persist, and the planning function is fragmenting and splintering. We need to fix what we have got rather than build another city – hopefully the District Development Model (DDM) will work and is not just another distraction.
- Co-production (of visions, plans and strategies) leads to greater buy-in and sustainability. Broad-based and personalised relationships between the State and society is needed, but civil society is weak and fragmented.
- Spatial transformation processes are happening beyond state policy and frameworks. The State has played a role with SDFs and inclusive housing/nodal views. The private sector has shifted toward medium density, but much of the densification has happened in back-yarding and micro developers. These processes are happening in spite of the State, but many of the changes have been suboptimum. If the State is ambivalent towards these changes, the most likely outcome would be criminalisation. The pro-active State would accept its limitations and engage these processes in a positive way, shaping them towards appropriate standards and goals, or try to do things through its own structures.
- A collective imagination can take us forward during difficult circumstances. We need to reactivate the informal networks of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s and to follow a radical, progressive and incremental path towards socially distributive goals.
- Network-led alternatives to the State are emerging, such as the SACN's Built Environment Task's work on the policy-practice gap, or the African Centre for Cities' Integration Syndicate.

- Civil society is fragmented and change is hard and slow, but we need to continue to push for change.
- There are SDFs but also scenario plans around what could happen in certain spaces. SDFs do not really show contextually what is shaping space and could be more effective.
- We need to respond proactively to the failings of the State by leveraging what's underway and by reactivating the informal network, possibly through the SACN.

## Greening and Regulating the Informal Economy

The session examined how government can enhance the performance of the informal sector in cities – through an enabling approach rather than punitive regulations and controls, and ways of linking the informal sector to the growing interest and funding opportunities in the circular economy.

**Moderator:**  
Prof. Ivan Turok - UFS

### Panellists:

- Dr. Tanya Zack: Author and Independent Researcher
- Dr. Sarah Charlton: Wits CUBES
- Oupa Nkoane: Joburg Development Agency
- Elis Kodisang: African Reclaimers Organisation



## Key Points from the Discussion

### The Informal Economy in Johannesburg

- A study found that cross-border shoppers spend R10-billion in Johannesburg's inner city, an annual turnover that is bigger than that of Sandton City. In one instance, a shopper from Zambia spends R25,000 on each of her two trips per month.
- The common perception is that the informal sector is random shopping for Chinese goods dumped on the market, whereas the informal economy is a sophisticated business model. It is a multifaceted distribution network, with traders bringing material to a depot where packing takes place, and is connected to guesthouses in the city, where shoppers stay, linked by runners and taxis.
- Johannesburg could maximise the economic potential of the shoppers, by maintaining the pedestrian environment and addressing crime – the fear of crime means people stay in their rooms rather than using the cities facilities.
- Evidence from Jeppe shows economic activity in the 3000 shops located on three blocks. Here, small-scale informality has evolved into formality without being pre-planned or driven by large private sectors. Rentals have increased, and are R400/m<sup>2</sup> compared to R180/m<sup>2</sup> in other parts of the inner city.

### The Informal Waste Management Economy

- The waste management economy is over R25-billion in size. South Africa recycles 44% of post-consumer plastics (compared to 31% in Europe), saving R750-million in landfill space due to the activities of the informal sector, which is one of the least researched sectors.
- Over 15,000 people are involved in recycling, with the reclaimers ranging from professionals fallen on hard times to people who have never had jobs. Since Covid-19, unregulated settlements have exploded. It is time to stop criminalising poverty and rather support the infrastructure set up by informal economies and deal with safety, crime and grime.
- The informal sector exists out of necessity and is part of the circular economy. Possible synergies in the inner city of Johannesburg, which have not been explored, include providing reclaimers with access to organic waste that would be turned into power. However, the City is not interested.

### The Informal Housing Supply

- Informal housing is not just informal settlements and backyard shacks, but also subdivided spaces and additions in the inner city, Yeoville and Rosettenville, and sleeping outside and informally in parks.
- Many forms of informal housing make use of existing materials, i.e., re-use, adaptation and intensification
- Informal settlements represent an attempt to minimise or eliminate transport costs, being places where people have to live in search of an income. As their livelihoods cannot sustain renting, they are living as cheaply as possible
- These informal arrangements provide opportunities for learning and are examples of innovation. Micromanagement of spaces is an innovation, whereas the local authority attitude is one of neglect or regulation.

### Informality is a permanent feature of cities

- Cities need to be driving placemaking. For example, look at backyard zoning in Diepsloot and invest in infrastructure that supports informality.
- Cities should not be punitive when dealing with informality. Regularisation must form part of the discourse about responding to shack farming, land invasions and abandoned buildings.
- Laws should promote and integrate informal trading at key strategic nodes, similar to what happens in Soweto. Informal trading could be integrated at key strategic nodes. The lawfare that characterises the relationship between the city and informal traders needs to be minimised.
- A solution needs to be found to zoning policies, as developers do not want informal traders near their anchor developments, and these disputes often end up going to court.



## Takeaways from the Discussion

- Informal activities have some really positive qualities, including dynamism, adaptability, creativity and resource efficiencies. These qualities are not found in the formal economy.
- The mindset in relation to the informal economy needs to shift, as social and environmental outcomes are good.
- The role of government is to stay out of the courts and get out of the way, and rather strengthen and support informal activities, by addressing vulnerabilities and unintended associations (safety).
- Government should work with civil society to figure out the appropriate ways of support for the informal sector.

## The Incomplete City - Unshackling the Apartheid Spatial Form

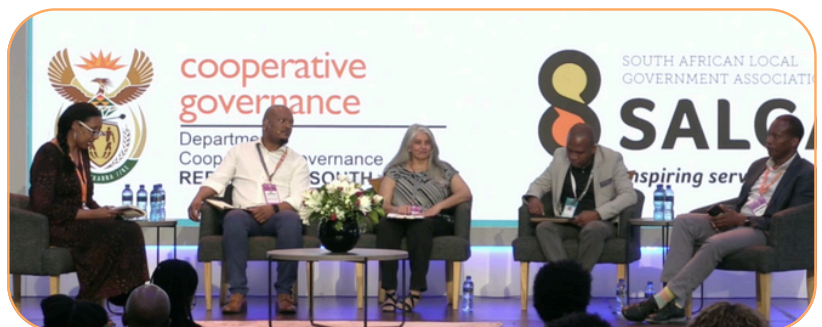
This session discussed key barriers to spatial transformation and opportunities that could be optimised to unlock the apartheid city, which is inefficient, sprawling, and difficult to service and maintain bulk infrastructure. The panellists brought their diverse experiences of working with different aspects of spatial transformation. Audience members were also asked to provide their reflections on spatial transformation.

### Moderator:

Prof. Amira Osman - TUT

### Panellists:

- Sammy Dibate: TUHF
- Eric Raboshakgha: CoJ
- Seanna Nkhahle: SALGA
- Yasmin Coovadia: Independent Researcher



## Key Points from the Discussion

### The Apartheid form persists

- Post-apartheid planning has not offered anything to rival the power and vision of apartheid planning, and the result has been entrenched spatial development.
- Policies are progressive, but implementation falls short – 40% of the population live 40 km from their place of employment and spend 40% of their income on transport costs.
- Between 1996 and early 2000s, places such as Diepsloot were far removed from the inner city, and the city planners did not anticipate that these places would develop in the way and to the size that they have. Places, such as Cosmo City, were far out and authorities didn't worry about public transport because the minibus taxis served those areas. More attention should have been paid to making the property work, supporting micro-developers and backyard rental units.
- A mindset shift is needed, so that spatial transformation is at the centre of growth and development strategies.

- A common set of indicators, as proposed by SALGA, could measure progress in achieving spatial transformation. For example, in exchange for land, the developers must include a proportion of affordable housing.

#### Planning processes do not accommodate informality

- Backyard rentals provide more housing stock than government is able to provide through subsidised housing developments. The informal sector has risen to fill the vacuum due to the absence of a formal response to what is happening in townships.
- The regulatory burden and required standards (e.g., rezoning, need for architect's plans) make formalising very expensive for micro-developers in townships. Regulations are impeding the emerging informal and semi-formal markets in the townships, including the backyard rentals and micro-developers.
- The thinking around how to engage with communities needs to shift to one of co-creating plans with communities.

#### Audience reflections on Spatial Transformation

- Need innovations around location, and government ultimately has to play the role of driving the co-created vision, and all the regulations should support this vision.
- Regulations may be a barrier to affordable housing.
- Participation is not about asking people what they want (having a conversation once-off) but about having ongoing participation. The design process can encourage ongoing participation that is not a ticked-box exercise.
- If participation is done right, informality and informal processes can be accommodated during the lifetime of the building stock.



## Takeaways from the Discussion

- Meaningful participation of communities throughout the process and co-creation with communities will ensure innovative solutions and community ownership, but such an approach requires patience, resources and building trust.
- Compact and denser cities are necessary for efficient services, business development and transport systems. More innovation is needed around accessing land for affordable housing in well-located areas, with mixed and multiple uses. For example, build affordable housing on top of shopping malls. Government should be at the centre of driving access to well-located land for affordable housing through policies and incentives, such as identifying and gazetted priority housing development areas and using planning/zoning regulations to incentivise developers.
- The role of backyard rentals and micro-developers in providing affordable accommodation to millions of people needs to be recognised. However, in some cases, these forms of accommodation are badly built. Therefore, regulations and standards are necessary but should not be applied uniformly across all areas in cities in order to support this market.
- Cities should work with what people are doing and change their mindset around informality. Informal settlements and the informal economy need to be included as part of addressing spatial injustices in cities, e.g., in-situ-upgrading. The proliferation of backyard shacks is an indication of entrepreneurship that should be supported.

# GOOD HOOD STORIES

finding inspiration in my city



# SEASON 1



**Langa Bicycle Hub,**  
Cape Town



**Urban Agriculture Initiative**  
Johannesburg



**Helenvale SPUU,**  
Gqeberha



**Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre,**  
Durban



# SEASON 2



**GOOD HOOD** STORIES  
finding inspiration in my city



**Masakhe Ladies' Stokvel,**  
Cape Town



**GOOD HOOD** STORIES  
finding inspiration in my city



**Durban Crisis Map,**  
Durban



**GOOD HOOD** STORIES  
finding inspiration in my city



**Park Activation Coordination**  
**(PAC) Programme**  
Johannesburg, Durban



**GOOD HOOD** STORIES  
finding inspiration in my city



**Community Oriented**  
**Substance Use Programme**  
**(COSUP)**  
Tshwane



## An All-of-Society Approach to the Just Transition Prof. Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities , UCT

The session opened with two videos about the climate emergency, one explaining climate change and one highlighting the importance of the upcoming COP27

### Key Points from the Presentation

#### A Global Climate Emergency

- According to the last IPCC report, the world has less than 1000 days to prevent climate disaster.
- Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions need to peak before 2025 (latest) and reduce by 43% by 2030, but nothing indicates that the world is doing enough.
- In 2016, world leaders signed the Paris Agreement, but three years after the agreement CO2 levels are increasing. In some ways, the world is going backwards.
- The top 10% contribute more per-capita emissions than the bottom 50% in all world regions.
- The system has to change: the current model of extractive capitalism is obsolete and unable to address the cascading effects of multiple and intersecting crises.

#### Africa and Climate Change

- Africa has three big questions: (1) climate change impacts, (2) multi-dimensional inequality (not just income but also health, education and spatial inequalities) and (3) too few jobs (Africa has very little bargaining power to change the nature and structure of the economy).
- Africa has 17.5% of the global population but accounts for less than 5% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). Africa needs to figure out a low-carbon development pathway. through pursuing green industrialisation and sustainable settlement investment and maintenance.
- Trade-offs will need to be made in order to achieve the climate-change commitments.

#### The Just Transition

- Intervenes between the National Development Plan and the Growth and Development Strategy
- Creates a space to confront what happens to winners, losers, especially at-risk value chains and workers.
- Provides a shared platform to forge a new social imaginary and narrative to address environmental catastrophe, unemployment, inequality, insecurity and frustrated citizenship.
- Has a constitutional starting point: restorative justice, distributive justice and procedural justice.
- Focuses on how to decarbonise and rebalance the energy mix over the next few years, as well as how to build resilient infrastructure.

#### The Just Urban Transition

With a population that is almost two-thirds urban, South African cities have a disproportionate role to play in the just transition. Metros have the chance:

- To buffer the impact (particularly on the most vulnerable).
- To drive national decarbonisation (if metros meet their targets, South Africa attains at least 40% of net zero).
- To provide alternative engines of growth of the next (post fossil fuels) economy.
- To harness the finance, partnerships, technology and political support for a just transition to improve infrastructure and service delivery.

However, the way in which infrastructure is planned and financed will be very different. There is a need to rethink risk and whether the fiscal system is fit for purpose.

## Reality Check

- Due to urbanisation, high unemployment and multi-dimensional inequality, the demand for public services continues to rise while available resources decline, and existing infrastructure is in a state of disrepair.
- Revenue growth is not keeping pace with demand, especially at local level, and made worse by endemic corruption.
- Immature coalition governments result in unstable, indecisive and inconsistent urban management.
- Disabling institutional framework for making (local) government fit for purpose (the District Development Model, DDM).

Change comes from social pressure, from citizenship, which doesn't happen without accountability. There is the authorising environment (e.g., various tiers of government) and the activating environment (e.g., non-governmental organisations (NGOs), communities, business, interest groups).

## Innovation = The Difference

- A fundamental rethink is needed of how regulation works (regulation stacking) and how risk is ring-fenced.
- Just transition principles offer tools to prioritise infrastructure modalities and investments, and navigate the difficult frameworks

## Responses to reflections from audience

- It is not possible to use the steam generated by power stations to produce alternative energy because producing steam has already emitted emissions.
- More can be achieved through retrofitting existing cities rather than building new cities in South Africa – this is where the SACN could take on a convening role.
- There is a need to invest in neighbourhood-scale, community-driven forms of planning, so citizens can be more empowered and part of the implementation solution, as the current local committee structures (ward committees) have been politicised. This will require building the institutional structure that enables this form of planning, e.g., civic academies.
- As the framework shows, start with existing competencies and mandates of city government, and review infrastructure and other plans through the lens of the just transition.
- South Africa can learn from what other African countries are doing, and vice versa.
- There needs to be a net resource transfer from the North to the South, to enable and finance the mitigation, which will require solidarity and much political noise from the South.

## Financing The Just Transition - Gaps and Opportunities for cities

The session examined the financing of the just transition, including how countries access finance, the type of finance available and how cities – and all of society – work together to forge a consensus for the just transition.

### Moderator:

Anthea Stephens: National Treasury CSP

### Panellists:

- Aklilu Fikresilassie: WRI
- Ariane Labat: EU
- Kevin Foster: Centre for Sustainability Transition, Stellenbosch University
- Heather Jackson: RBN Fund Managers



## Key Points from the Discussion

### The EU-South Africa Partnership on three levels

- At national level, the EU has joined with the USA, Germany and the UK, in supporting South Africa. The two components are: 1-billion euros from the EU investment bank, to assist South Africa in accessing low cost capital for infrastructure developments – South Africa will provide another 1-billion euros (co-funders); and grants for cities to use for greening municipal services, through innovations that transform practices and deliver services that citizens require. A simple example is that once South Africa stops relying on coal, more water will be available to use more productively. In Europe, 30 regions are in transition from coal-based economies and, like South Africa, struggling with unemployment and finding new industries and jobs.
- The EU wants to learn from South Africa's rich research capability and innovations. In particular, innovations that can assist cities to withstand droughts and floods.
- The EU partners with civil society organisations and communities, which are the activation part of society. Partnerships include with an NGO in the water sector, GreenCape and WWF.

### Impact Investors

- Impact investors marry financial returns with high economic and social impacts. A fundamental shift is needed in the financing world, to align the just transition principles: advance climate action, improve socioeconomic benefits and integrate community voices and needs.
- A new framing and new solutions are needed, as market forces with their 'efficient allocation' and the idea of rational investors are not working. The financial needs to be married to the socio-economic, creating blended financing solutions, which will require collaboration and partnerships across all society, solid input from civil society and a capable leadership (government). Impact investors are uniquely positioned to navigate and coordinate these partnerships.
- A crisis can drive transformation and result in growth, as happened in Vietnam. South Africa faces multiple crises: the fiscal budget, poor credit rating (affects ability to raise finance), crippling inequality, and crippling power (and water) systems. Solutions are needed to these four issues, by inviting innovation from the private sector (e.g., drawing in development finance investors to de-risk the infrastructure facilities), redeveloping mining land (reskilling workers), and incentivising long-term investors to provide this form of financing.

### Urban Water Resilience

- Urban water resilience risks are linked to either too much water (floods) or too little water (droughts and increased demand). Demand for water is expected to grow by 300% in African cities.
- Only 1% of climate investment goes to the water sector, and yet by 2050, Africa will have added 950 million people to the world's population. The financial gap is \$66-billion.
- Cities need to look at investing in different nature-based solutions that cross borders and to plan beyond territorial borders, address vulnerability (nearly 60% of residents live in informal settlements) and get the finance right (based on a plan with identified city projects).
- The World Resources Institute (WRI) plays the important role of bringing different cities together, providing a platform for all stakeholders, supports small-scale pilots and has a fund that supports cities in investing in nature-based solutions.
- At COP27, the WRI will be launching the African Cities Water Adaptation Fund (ACWA Fund) aimed at incentivising innovation and investing in strategic projects in cities.

### What Investors Look For

- Cities with good governance, political stability and well-maintained assets and financial systems.
- Simple and fast regulatory environment, as investors do not want to wait 18 months because of the supply chain management process.
- The best return at the lowest risk, so cities need to offer competitive returns. However, not all financial models are purely about returns, as more and more investors no longer view social challenges, such as unemployment and the environment, as externalities because they affect everyone.

# PRODUCTIVE CITIES



## Nothing Small About the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises: How cities can facilitate the market value chains to build the economy the Just Transition

Edwell Gumbo, Tshimologong Precinct

### Key Points from the Presentation

#### Nothing Small about SMMEs

- SMMEs are incubators for growth and development, as they create new businesses and jobs (very low barriers of entry in most sectors), whereas big businesses have been shrinking and shedding jobs; provide people with products and services; intensify competition (good for consumers); and increase productivity.
- SMMEs contribute 40% of the country's GDP (excluding informal), 50% of manufacturing jobs, 60% of exports and 90% of export earnings.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the contribution of SMMEs to the economy grew from 18% to 40% of GDP.
- SMMEs are mostly found in cities (85%), are informal (about 60%) and micro-enterprises (about 55%).

#### SMMEs and Employment

- Two-thirds do not have employees – they employ the owner – and don't have insurance, so when the owner falls sick, there is no income.
- About a third employ 1–10 people. Based on a conservative figure of 2.5 million SMMEs in the country, assuming that 1000 of these SMMEs each employed three people, that's a total of 3000 jobs.

#### The economy of SMMEs

- SMMEs are spread across sectors, with largest share (39%) in trade and accommodation.
- Estimates of SMMEs vary from two to six million SMMEs.
- The data is national, so cities will need to do local research to establish number of SMMEs in different sectors. Certain townships are characterised by over-concentration, e.g., five of the same type of business in one street.

#### Challenges facing SMMEs

- Access to finance and capital, as the lack of capital or collateral means that they are unable to borrow money.
- Operating space, with a lack of facilities, impact of load-shedding and compliance barriers.
- Access to market is difficult due to compliance and other issues.

#### City Support for SMMEs

- Create a supportive environment for SMMEs, which will open up economic participation and activities, thereby growing the economy.
- Understand the dynamics of SMMEs in the informal economy, e.g., set up meetings outside of their trading hours.
- Have a dynamic SMME development strategy that considers the needs of the SMMEs and is developed in consultation with them.
- Implement SMME support programmes, remembering that SMMEs contribute almost half of the country's GDP, including preferential procurement.
- Provide early-stage funding because financial institutions and venture capitalists are only willing to fund SMMEs once their concept has been validated and they have potential for scaling up.
- Create an ecosystem in conjunction with local universities, which can provide access to skills and research, and involve young people who come up with practical solutions to everyday problems. For example, one of the winners of the City of Joburg Innovation Challenge invented a smart manhole cover that prevents tampering (real-time reporting) and warns of increased sewage levels.
- Find ways to support small interventions and incorporate SMMEs, especially micro-enterprises, into the city's Independent Power Producer (IPP) programmes.

## Leveraging Regional Integration to Transform and Strengthen City Economies

The session considered how cities are currently engaging with regional opportunities, strategies that could be used to improve regional linkages, and interrogated factors that enable/disable the development and strengthening of these linkages.

### Moderator:

Dr. Nasiphi Moya: Independent Advisor

### Panellists:

- Karen Harrison: National Treasury CSP
- Shabari Shaily-Gerber: FCDO
- Lael Bethlehem: Sedibelo Platinum
- Peter Varndell: NEPAD Business Foundation and SADC Business Council



## Key Points from the Discussion

### African free trade area

- Continental free trade area focuses on key value chains, pharmaceutical, agri-processing.
- Efficient regional infrastructure, especially transport, is needed.
- South Africa is a regional economic powerhouse in terms of imports and exports, but needs to be conscious of developments in other countries (e.g., oil found in Mozambique and gas in Namibia; Maputo competing with Durban as a regional port).
- Cities are part of the regional value chain, as they are industrial, trade and development areas as well as markets. Each city needs to recognise and optimise opportunities within their sector strengths.

### South African Integration

- Cities in South Africa need to move towards comparative advantage, away from competing.
- Physical connectivity is needed between cities, as successful cities in Africa form part of physical/information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructures.
- Economic diversification, e.g., energy sector does not have to be the only sector to absorb jobs lost from mining due to the just transition.

### What is required

- Well-functioning metros are important for flows across the country and the SACN region, and so they need resources, such as land for expansion and investment.
- A competitive and reliable logistics value chain is crucial, but South Africa is facing a crisis in logistics infrastructure, including underperforming freight rail (putting pressure on roads), poorly performing ports, border delays and lack of management in special development zones.
- National government needs to fulfil its role and responsibilities, and recognise that cities are major economic players in the logistics value chain.
- Infrastructure planning and budgets need to be aligned across spheres of government, especially ports, technological, and safety and security infrastructure.
- Cities must work proactively with the private sector and other players, develop a strategy and put in place policies and planning.

## Recovery and Resilience of South African City Economies

The session sought to unpack strategies and approaches for building resilience within cities in a South African context, and how to fund them. It also interrogated how South African cities have previously responded to shocks and stresses, whether or not they had recovered and how to improve their response.

### Moderator:

Prof. Michael Sachs: Wits University

### Panellists:

- Thulisiwe Hanganana: BCMDA
- Eric Dickson: World Bank
- Caroline Poschl: PwC
- Lindiwe Kwele: GPF



## Key Points from the Discussion

### Cities need to address exclusion

- Exclusionary cities, where the poorest bear the brunt of climate-related shocks, cannot become resilient. Therefore, cities need to intentionally create inclusive cities, i.e., spaces where people can live, work and play, using state-owned land closer to economic opportunities to create liveable places, formalising informal settlements, and making doing business easier.

### Buffalo City post-Covid economic recovery focus

- Integrated beachfront programme, creating facilities that include spaces for informal traders, has created jobs and offered opportunities to SMMEs.
- Business improvement districts in East London, employing security guards, has seen a reduction in crime.
- Transport improvements, including the N2 Settlers Way construction project, which aims to improve access to the airport, and traffic management in the city.
- Duncan Village Waste Project, to be expanded to include a buy-back centre with processing plants.
- Tourism development, including a tourist route and story lines about the different areas

### Building urban resilience

- The World Bank considers urban resilience to be a priority because of the cost of disasters. Comparing the periods 1970–1979 and 2000–2020, drought events tripled and flood events increased tenfold in Africa. A four-day flood in Dar es Salaam resulted in more than US\$1-million losses. Over the last 10 years, weather-related disaster events have increased by 57%.
- Investing in risk reduction is crucial, as the cost is lower than funding disaster relief (US\$1 vs. US\$15).
- A differentiated approach works, as interventions need to be customised to different parts of the city.
- Risk and disaster management should be elevated, e.g., to fall under city manager

### Response to disasters

- South Africa needs to take a multi-sectoral approach and invest in robust data for decision-making (e.g., facilities and what they contain) and adequately trained personnel (routine training and drills). eThekweni has some exemplary dashboards.
- Affected communities must be consulted in identifying and reducing risks.
- Infrastructure and assets must be maintained, as poor design and inadequate maintenance of infrastructure contributed to the impact of the Durban floods.
- Investing in selective sectors, such as construction/infrastructure, creates many short-term jobs and spurs quick economic recovery.
- All departments in the city need to understand their role in the recovery plan (e.g., turnaround to pass building plans, concessions and support to struggling sectors).
- Important to invest time in ensuring that early warning systems (from national down to communities) are effective and understood.

### Support Available

- The GPF has various funds to assist previously disadvantaged property developers and support integration/densification projects.
- The City can advise about ownership of properties in Johannesburg.
- Incentives are available from various spheres of government for inner-city rehabilitation projects.

### A resilient city

- Has a diversified economy (different sectors, large participation of populations in the economy). For instance, in Cape Town call centres helped to offset the impact of Covid-19 on the hospitality sector.
- Invests in greening and housing design, especially in poorer areas that are most vulnerable.
- Is financially sustainable, with a buffer that enables it to respond without waiting for external resources.

## INNOVATIVE CITIES

### Leveraging Data for Decision Making: The key to city sustainability of South African City Economies

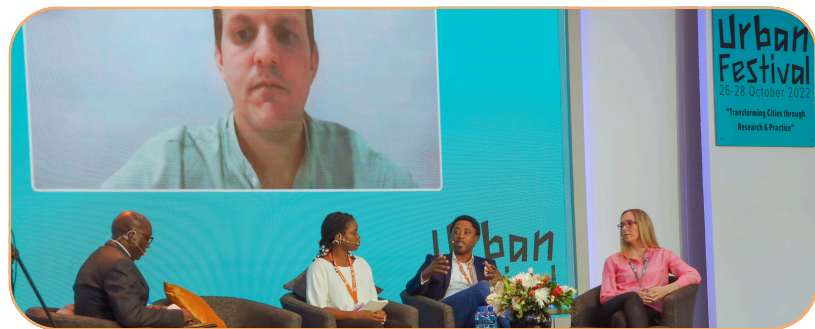
The session opened with two videos, on the SACN's SCODA programme and on the Vulekamali website that provides budget and financial information to the public and was developed through a partnership between National Treasury, Imali Yethu and OpenUp.

#### Moderator:

Dr. Kambidima Wotela: Wits School of Governance

#### Panellists:

- Ayanda Ngcebetscha: Microsoft SA
- Tshegang Chipeya: eThekweni Municipality
- Siobhain O'Mahony: SACN Board Member
- Dr. Justin Visagie: HSRC



### Key Points from the Discussion

#### Durban EDGE

- This is a programme that the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality co-created with the SACN and OCL and uses to provide intelligence to economic decision-makers.
- The municipality used to produce quarterly publications but realised the need for a repository of data.
- Initially, it was a challenge because the municipality did not have a central hub for data and had to ask individual departments for data – and persuade them of the need to digitise their data. In the beginning, the programme had two datasets and now has 23 datasets. As data is provided, the portal is updated.

#### Data-base decision-making

- With so much data being generated and collected, and datasets becoming larger, people want to know what to do based on the data.
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning simplify the process of getting insights from the data and where to deploy resources based on patterns in the data. For instance, understanding the driving factors of water losses, or pinpointing crime hotspots.
- This enables decision-making based on data not in response to the loudest voices in the community.



### The Importance of the right partners

- Cities operate in a heavily regulated environment, which may make it difficult to partner with the right people, but strategic partners (as opposed to service providers) are crucial.
- Critical thinkers help inform and shape the agenda and questions that decision-makers should be asking.
- Cities have an important role to play in advocating for more city-level data. Currently, economic data from Stats SA is subnational, while much of the other available data is from commercial companies.

### The Importance of leadership

- Leadership sets the tone and the culture and drives the intersection of people, process and technology.
- A successful data analytical team produces data that is used, as it is linked to the strategic objectives and translated into insights for the end user. A fancy dashboard is useless if the information is not used.
- The right leaders are technical proficient (not necessarily the best data scientists); have strong communication and collaboration skills; foster innovation, curiosity and safety (especially if the data is controversial or contradicts public sentiment); and ethical (especially in a culture of decision-making based on fact and where there are issues around bias and mistrust).

### The role of practitioners

- To educate and drive ownership by leaders, through providing data linked to outcomes and connecting the outcomes to the political agenda, and guiding them to ask the right questions (create demand for data).
- To be self-aware and conscious about the political economy, their own approach and subjectivity, especially as with a more open-access environment, different civil organisations will be able to use the data to lobby.

### Decisions using data

- Some municipalities make decisions based on poor data, e.g., thin historical economic data that does not reflect economic trends.
- However, there are pockets of excellence, with cities that use spatialised economic data to make decisions.
- Gaps include data about informality (informal settlements and the informal economy) and qualitative data – most data for reporting upwards tends to be quantitative.

## COMMUNICATIONS



### City Branding and its Importance in the Development of Cities Thebe Ikalafeng, Brand Leadership South Africa

## Key Points from the Presentation

#### What is a brand?

- It identifies and distinguishes your goods or service from that of others.
- Brands have nothing to do about what you think.
- A brand is a gut feeling about a product, service, organisation or person.
- A brand is message and identity, whereas a logo is an entry point to a brand.

#### The power of branding

- People are willing to pay for the power of a strong brand.
- When a city has a strong brand, it draws people in.
- Building a strong brand requires trust, colour, values and consistency

### The seven attributes of strong brands

1. Clarity: a clear, simple message, e.g., Apple, Starbucks, helps you find your competitive advantages.
2. Credibility: deliver on what you promise, which must be believable.
3. Consistency
4. Change: move with the times and innovate. The rate of change inside an organisation must be the same as the rate of change outside it.
5. Conscience
6. Culture: culturally connect to the people being served by reflecting how they speak.
7. Country: what we do in our work builds the country.

### City branding

- Highlights a city's best characteristics, so that it is perceived positively by its citizens, tourists, investors, and other key stakeholders.
- Strong brands make and keep promises, provide value, deliver benefits, are unique, have a loyal following.

### The importance of city branding

- Builds an identity with distinguishing features that differentiates the place from others.
- Clearly communicates its benefits and strengths to attract investors, visitors, skilled labour and residents.
- Provides a blueprint to guide decisions around city planning, retaining/attracting capital, investing in infrastructure and creating/reforming public policy.
- Focuses on the strengths of a place.
- Brings a city or region to life.

### Reflections on leadership

From Ellen Johnson Sirleaf:

“Africa is not poor; it is poorly managed.”

“For the sake of the planet and particularly for Africa, leaders must seize the moral imperative and commit to decisive action.”

### Responses from the reflections of the audience

- The city value proposition need to be created through collaboration, as cities are often too top-down and don't engage the citizens.
- A strong vision is important, but people need to be part of the journey to achieve the vision, so consider a stepped promise.
- The value of culture as an anchor for a city needs to be demonstrated to city leaders, so that they take the cultural industries seriously. Case studies can help leaders to see the light – and let leaders take the credit.
- Many problems (littering, drugs, traffic congestion) are the consequence of not fulfilling promises for clean cities (provide litter bins) and efficient public transport.
- Part of building a city is getting everyone to support the same set of values and unifying vision.

## CLOSING REMARKS



Sithole Mbanga, CEO of the SACN, thanked everyone for attending the Urban Festival. Even after 12 years, these events continue to be important because the problems to be solved multiply and change. Through sharing thoughts and experiences, practitioners are able to find solutions to the ever-changing problems and be inspired by examples of best practices to take actions (both large and small) that change the lives of South Africans. Local government problems are complex and require practitioners to find ways of talking to each other and resolving problems. He concluded by hoping that everyone leaves the Urban Festival inspired, having bonded, and eager to take actions that uplift the lives of citizens.

# ANNEXURE A

## FULL PROGRAMME OF THE URBAN FESTIVAL

### Day 1 : Themes - Well-Governed Cities, Inclusive Cities

Time	Item	Participant/Lead
09:00-09:30	Opening by MC Entertainment	Ms Gugulethu Mfuphi
09:30-09:40	Welcome and Official Opening	Cllr. Bheke Stofile: SALGA President
09:40-10:00	Opening Address	Deputy Minister Thembi Nkadimeng: DCOG
10:00-10:15	Message of Support Video	SACN
10:15-11:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> City governance and Rethinking Urban Development	<b>Moderator: Pam Yako</b> <b>Panellists:</b> Cllr. Nkosenhle Innocent Madlala: eThekweni Municipality Sibongile Mazibuko: National Treasury CSP Johann Mettler: City of Tshwane
<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
11:30-12:30	<b>Master Class</b> Creating Capability in Cities: How the administration and executive should work to achieve results	Prof. Trevor Fowler: Wits School of Governance
12:30-12:45	Urban Feature Film	SACN Good Hood Stories
<b>LUNCH AND EXHIBITION</b>		
13:45-14:00	Message of Support Video	SACN

Time	Item	Participant/Lead
14:00-14:30	<b>Master Class</b> Why spatial transformation cannot be achieved only by government	<b>Professor Phil Harrison: Wits University</b>
14:30-15:30	<b>Parallel Sessions focusing on Inclusive Cities</b>  <b>Theme 1:</b> Greening and regulating the informal economy  <b>Theme 2:</b> The Incomplete City- unshackling the apartheid spatial form	<b>Moderated by: Professor Ivan Turok , UFS</b> <b>Panellists:</b> Dr. Tanya Zack: Author and Independent Researcher Dr Sarah Charlton: Wits CUBES Oupa Nkoane: Joburg Development Agency Elis Kodisang: African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO)  <b>Moderated by: Professor Amira Osman (TUT)</b> <b>Panellists:</b> Sammy Dibate: TUHF Eric Raboshakga: COJ Seana Nkhahle: SALGA Yasmin Coovadia: Independent Researcher
15:30-15:45	<b>Urban Feature Film</b>	<b>SACN Good Hood Stories</b>
15:45-16:00	<b>Festival Pledge on Cities' Commitment to Spatial Transformation</b>	
16:00-16:15	<b>Closing remarks &amp; announcements</b>	<b>Ms Gugulethu Mfuphi</b>
<b>DAY 1 ENDS</b>		

## Day 2: Themes - Well-Governed Cities, Sustainable & Resilient Cities, Productive Cities

Time	Item	Participant/Lead
09:00-09:30	Opening by MC Entertainment	Ms Gugulethu Mfuphi
09:30-10:15	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> The State of Cities Finances	<b>Moderator: Sipho Nxasane</b> <b>Panelists:</b> Jan Hattingh: National Treasury Khomotso Letsatsi: SALGA Mbulelo Sigaba: DCOG Ben Mokheseng: DBSA
10:15-10:30	Message of Support Video	SACN
10:30-11:15	<b>Master Class</b> An all-of-society approach to the Just-Transition	<b>Professor Edgar Pieterse: African Centre for Cities, UCT</b>
<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
11:30-11:45	Urban Feature Film	SACN Good Hood Stories
11:45 - 12:30	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Financing the Just Transition - gaps and opportunities for cities	<b>Moderator: Anthea Stephens: National Treasury CSP</b> <b>Panellists:</b> Aklilu Fikresilassie: WRI Ariane Labat: EU Kevin Foster: Stellenbosch University Heather Jackson: RBN Fund Managers
<b>LUNCH AND EXHIBITION</b>		
13:30 - 13:45	Message of Support Video	SACN
13:45 - 14:00	Urban Feature Film	SACN Good Hood Stories

Time	Item	Participant/Lead
14:00-14:45	<p><b>Master Class:</b> Nothing Small About the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises - how cities can facilitate the market value chains to build the economy</p>	Edwell Gumbo: Tshimologong Precinct
14:45-15:30	<p><b>Parallel Sessions focusing on Productive Cities</b></p> <p><b>Theme 1:</b> Leveraging Regional Integration to Transform and Strengthen City Economies</p> <p><b>Theme 2:</b> Recovery and Resilience of South African City Economies</p>	<p><b>Facilitated by: Dr. Nasiphi Moya: Independent Advisor</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Karen Harrison: National Treasury CSP Shabari Shaily-Gerber: FCDO Lael Bethlehem: Sedibelo Platinum Peter Varndell: NEPAD Business Foundation &amp; SADC Business Council</p> <p><b>Facilitated by: Prof. Michael Sachs: Wits University</b></p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Thulisiwe Hangana: BCMDA Eric Dickson: World Bank Caroline Poschl: PwC Lindiwe Kwele: GPF</p>
15:30-15:45	<b>Festival Pledge on Cities' Commitment to Sustainable and Resilient Cities</b>	
15:45-16:00	Closing remarks & announcements	Ms Gugulethu Mfuphi
<b>DAY 2 ENDS</b>		

## Day 3: Themes - Innovative Cities & Communication

Time	Item	Participant/Lead
09:00-09:30	Opening by MC Entertainment	Ms Gugulethu Mfuphi
09:30-09:45	Opening Remarks	Cllr. Xolani Sotashe: SALGA NEC
09:45-10:00	SCODA Video Openup - Vulekamali	SACN & Partners
10:00-10:45	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Leveraging on Data for Decision Making - the key to city sustainability	<b>Facilitated by: Dr Kambidima Wotela: Wits School of Governance</b> <b>Panellists</b> Ayanda Ngcebetsha: Microsoft South Africa Tshegang Chipeya: eThekweni Municipality Siobhain O'Mahony: SACN Board Member Dr. Justin Visagie: HSRC
<b>TEA BREAK</b>		
11:00-13:00	<b>Master Class:</b> City Branding and its importance in the development of cities	<b>Thebe Ikalafeng:</b> Brand Leadership South Africa
13:00-13:30	Conference Closure and Commitments	<b>CEO: SACN</b>
<b>LUNCH AND EXHIBITION</b>		

# ANNEXURE B

## MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

### Ms. Avril Williamson, Director General: Department of Cooperative Governance



On behalf of the DCOG, I am proud to congratulate SACN on its 20 years of strengthening Cities. I am further pleased that both DCOG and SACN remain committed and continue to play important roles in urban improvements, as is demonstrated through the critical alignment of their Visions, Missions and Mandates to strengthen such collaboration for Cities to play an active role in addressing society's most pressing challenges. The New vision and mission for DCOG are articulated as follows,

A functional and developmental local government system delivers on its Constitutional and legislative mandates within a cooperative governance system. This vision is in line with the objectives of Chapter 13 of the National Development Plan: 'Building a capable and developmental State.

While the SACN aims to "Promote high-performing and innovative cities that are well-governed, productive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable" through, Building better cities by transforming policy and practice through knowledge co-creation, learning and innovation, partnerships and convening of voices."

The alignment of these visions and missions came to fruition in the co-development of the Integrated Urban Development Framework. A significant framework guiding the prioritisation of levers to enhance the lives of urban residents and the role of the urban in the growth and development of South Africa.

The SACN has continued to play a vital role as the implementing partner for the rollout of the Integrated Urban Development Framework, bringing cooperation into action through collaboration. Demonstratable success in this regard must be noted through the IUDF SEED funding programme, where we, as partners, supported innovative community innovations to tackle complex urban issues. Notably, the Slovo Park Informal Settlement community centre and community laundry facilities and the support of the Lang a Bicycle Hub illustrate the shared commitment to supporting municipalities through all of society.

In facing the enormous task in addressing the challenges, most notably poverty, inequality and unemployment, our South African Cities are and will endure over the next 20 years; DCOG and SACN will continue to enhance collaboration between City actors and government at all spheres through the District Development Model (DDM). This innovative model aims to act as a Game Changer in improving the coherence and impact of government service delivery.



## Mr. Seana Nkhahle, Portfolio Head for the Built Environment, South African Local Government Association (SALGA)



SACN is essentially a knowledge organisation established in part by SALGA. We found that a lot of the work SACN does is quite helpful in strengthening the lobbying and advocacy work of SALGA. We have utilised some of the research that was undertaken either by SACN itself or jointly with SALGA, to inform one of our key areas of work which is policy advocacy lobbying, especially in the policy and regulatory terrain.

I'd like to congratulate the SACN on their 20 years, which has been a very eventful period, a lot of good work has been done by the Cities Network, they have imparted information, knowledge and insight individually and collectively as institutions. I think we do need to continue to harness that knowledge economy that they have led on behalf of the cities and for the cities.

The review and restructuring which I have noted for a couple of years, needs to remain as an agile force of change. The agility and innovation is something that has kept it a step ahead of many others. SALGA is of course a key case in point with the constant engagement and refinement it will also be able to continue to do well over the next 20 years and beyond.

## Ms. Lindiwe Kwele, CEO: Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF)



Our partnership with the South African Cities Network (SACN) to deliver the 2022 edition of the Urban Festival was a fitting union that we could not, for many a reason, spurn.

For one, both the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF) and the SACN were amidst respective 20th-anniversary celebrations. During this period, the SACN has worked tirelessly to build a platform for knowledge exchange and drive the transformation agenda in our country. It is for this reason that, at the inception of our anniversary year, we sought to work with a partner whose mission was aligned with ours – that of realising inclusive and sustainable human settlements in Gauteng.

The GPF as an agency of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements (GDHS) is tasked with raising capital and implementing identified mega projects and other key housing delivery programmes in the province.

To be able to deliver on our mandate requires cultivating many relationships with various stakeholders – many of which include the Cities of Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, and Tshwane, as well as the various local and district municipalities across Gauteng. The Urban Festival is a congregation of stakeholders who are critical in our implementation of identified human settlement projects which continue to transform the landscape of this province.

We know that these municipalities are confronted with complex challenges, including rapid population growth, lack of adequate accommodation, the energy and water crisis threatening to cripple businesses and households, realities of climate change and other service delivery concerns.

Partnering with a knowledge leader such as the SACN for the Urban Festival 2022 - and onwards - offered an opportunity for us to look at the impact the developments we have implemented have had, as well as how we can contribute to building more sustainable and resilient cities henceforth. These are communities where residents of Gauteng can live, work, and play for generations to come.

I'd like to congratulate the SACN on their 20 years, which has been a very eventful period, a lot of good work has been done by the Cities Network, they have imparted information, knowledge and insight individually and collectively as institutions. I think we do need to continue to harness that knowledge economy that they have led on behalf of the cities and for the cities. The review and restructuring which I have noted for a couple of years, needs to remain as an agile force of change. The agility and innovation is something that has kept it a step ahead of many others. SALGA is of course a key case in point with the constant engagement and refinement it will also be able to continue to do well over the next 20 years and beyond.

We continue to look for ways to strengthen Intergovernmental Relations to help us relieve bottlenecks in the system. Partnerships such as the Urban Festival 2022 allow us to achieve this, thanks to the opportunity to connect in person with role players.

Thus, it was an absolute pleasure and an honour to partner with the SACN for the Urban Festival 2022, and to learn and share solutions on how we can bolster efforts by governments to rebuild our cities and communities.

I would like to thank the SACN Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sithole Mbanga, and his entire team for their comradeship and their devotion to galvanising engagements around addressing inequality in our societies.

We are grateful for the platform and look forward to working together again in the future.

# ANNEXURE C

## SPEAKERS AND PANELIST

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
Lael	Bethlehem	Sedibelo Platinum
Dr Sarah	Charlton	Wits CUBES
Tshegang	Chipeya	eThekwini Municipality
Yasmin	Coovadia	Independent Researcher
Sammy	Dibate	TUHF
Eric	Dickson	World Bank
Aklilu	Fikresilassie	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Kevin	Foster	Centre for Sustainability Transition, Stellenbosch University
Prof. Trevor	Fowler	Wits School of Governance
Edwell	Gumbo	Tshimologong Precinct
Thulisiwe	Hangana	BCMDA
Prof. Phil	Harrison	Wits University

<b>Karen</b>	<b>Harrison</b>	<b>National Treasury CSP</b>
<b>Jan</b>	<b>Hattingh</b>	<b>National Treasury</b>
<b>Thebe</b>	<b>Ikalafeng</b>	<b>Brand Leadership South Africa</b>
<b>Heather</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	<b>RBN Fund Managers</b>
<b>Elis</b>	<b>Kodisang</b>	<b>African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO)</b>
<b>Lindiwe</b>	<b>Kwele</b>	<b>Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF)</b>
<b>Ariane</b>	<b>Labat</b>	<b>European Union (EU)</b>
<b>Khomotso</b>	<b>Letsatsi</b>	<b>South African Local Government Association (SALGA)</b>
<b>Cllr. Nkosenhle Innocent</b>	<b>Madlala</b>	<b>eThekweni Municipality</b>
<b>Sibongile</b>	<b>Mazibuko</b>	<b>National Treasury CSP</b>
<b>Johann</b>	<b>Mettler</b>	<b>City of Tshwane</b>
<b>Ben</b>	<b>Mokheseng</b>	<b>Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)</b>
<b>Dr. Nasiphi</b>	<b>Moya</b>	<b>Independent Advisor</b>
<b>Ayanda</b>	<b>Ncgebetsha</b>	<b>Microsoft South Africa</b>
<b>Seana</b>	<b>Nkhahle</b>	<b>South African Local Government Association (SALGA)</b>

<b>Oupa</b>	<b>Nkoane</b>	<b>Joburg Development Agency (JDA)</b>
<b>Sipho</b>	<b>Nxasane</b>	<b>City of Tshwane</b>
<b>Siobhain</b>	<b>O'Mahony</b>	<b>SACN Board Member</b>
<b>Prof. Amira</b>	<b>Osman</b>	<b>Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)</b>
<b>Prof. Edgar</b>	<b>Pieterse</b>	<b>African Centre for Cities - UCT</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>Poschl</b>	<b>PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)</b>
<b>Eric</b>	<b>Raboshakga</b>	<b>City of Joburg (CoJ)</b>
<b>Prof. Michael</b>	<b>Sachs</b>	<b>Wits University</b>
<b>Shabari</b>	<b>Shaily-Gerber</b>	<b>FCDO</b>
<b>Mbulelo</b>	<b>Sigaba</b>	<b>Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG)</b>
<b>Anthea</b>	<b>Stephens</b>	<b>National Treasury CSP</b>
<b>Prof. Ivan</b>	<b>Turok</b>	<b>University of the Free State (UFS)</b>
<b>Peter</b>	<b>Varndell</b>	<b>NEPD Business Foundation and SADC Business Council</b>
<b>Dr. Justin</b>	<b>Visagie</b>	<b>HSRC</b>
<b>Dr. Kambidima</b>	<b>Wotela</b>	<b>Wits School of Governance</b>
<b>Pam</b>	<b>Yako</b>	
<b>Dr. Tanya</b>	<b>Zack</b>	<b>Author and Independent Researcher</b>



# Urban Festival 2022

"Transforming Cities through  
Research & Practice"