

2013 Remaking Cities Congress
Concluding Plenary
18 October 2013
Propositions



Introduction

The international 2013 Remaking Cities Congress was held October 15-18 in Pittsburgh. Over 300 invited urbanists from North America and Europe convened to discuss the future of post-industrial cities. The Honorary Chair was His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, who also delivered the Keynote Address via pre-recorded video. The major partners in the Congress were the Remaking Cities Institute of Carnegie Mellon University and The American Institute of Architects.

Delegates heard from leading urbanists and toured in Mobile Workshops to experience the transformation of Pittsburgh from a heavy manufacturing economy to a knowledge economy. Ten city case studies were presented in pairs -- one European city paired with one North American city: Bilbao and Milwaukee; Ruhr Valley and Buffalo; Manchester/Liverpool and Toronto/Hamilton; Rotterdam and New Orleans; and Turin and Detroit. Two special presentations were featured, "The Pittsburgh Story," and "Designer Democracy."

Theme Workshops

The core of the Congress was spent in all-day Theme Workshops on Thursday, October 17, that dealt with post-industrial cities in five areas of concern: 1) Re-Positioning the City in the Global Economy; 2) The Physical city; 3) The City as an Innovation Hub; 4) Urban Systems and Infrastructure; and 5) Planning and Social Innovations.

Four common themes permeated all five Theme Workshops: sustainability; wise allocation of resources; equity; and public engagement. **Equity emerged as the over-riding theme of the Congress** -- equity in all its manifestations: social; economic; and environmental.

Each Theme Workshop met first as a group of sixty for presentations of two city case studies and two thought leader talks. They then broke into three smaller Study Teams of twenty persons each for two facilitated working sessions. The sixty person Theme Workshops re-convened at the end of the afternoon for report-outs and deliberations.

In the final session of the Congress on Friday, 18 October, the delegates voted on the below twenty-seven propositions that came out of the five Theme Workshops.

Theme Workshop #1: Re-Positioning the Post-Industrial City in the Global Economy

1. Use Education as Economic Development Strategy.

Post-industrial cities' greatest economic development strategy should be to invest in education to cultivate the talent of their people.

Strongly Agree	58%
Agree	36%
No Opinion	3%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	1%
	<u>100%</u>

2. Invest in Neighborhoods for Equity.

Post-industrial cities need to commit to sustained investment in under-valued and blighted neighborhoods over the long-term. They must demonstrate measurable strategies to achieve social and economic equity.

Strongly Agree	54%
Agree	29%
No Opinion	9%
Disagree	6%
Strongly Disagree	<u>2%</u>
	100%

3. Redesign Urban Accounting for Sustainability.

Make post-industrial cities more accountable to the principles of sustainability through a new system of urban triple-bottom-line accounting.

Strongly Agree	36%
Agree	30%
No Opinion	22%
Disagree	9%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

4. Create Innovation Districts.

Cities should create local innovation districts that leverage existing assets, attract investment, benefit investors, and create equity for the proximate community, encouraging diverse uses and activities that support innovation.

Strongly Agree	35%
Agree	34%
No Opinion	13%
Disagree	14%
Strongly Disagree	<u>4%</u>
	100%

5. Form Municipal Leagues.

Post-industrial cities around the world should form municipal leagues in order to consolidate their power, resources, and ability to affect change.

Strongly Agree	28%
Agree	24%
No Opinion	23%
Disagree	20%
Strongly Disagree	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Theme Workshop #2: Post-Industrialism and the Physical City

6. Develop Adaptive and Flexible Housing.

The Post Industrial Cities of the Future must develop housing and policies that allow for adaptive and changing communities and demographics with the goal of providing different opportunities over multiple life stages.

Strongly Agree	58%
Agree	33%
No Opinion	7%
Disagree	1%
Strongly Disagree	<u>1%</u>
	100%

7. Commit to All Cost Accounting.

The Post Industrial Cities of the Future must change the paradigm of economic development to include full and complete public costs in decisions.

Strongly Agree	58%
Agree	25%
No Opinion	12%
Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	<u>1%</u>
	100

8. Provide Financial Incentives for Reuse.

The Post Industrial Cities of the Future must develop a wider range of creative financial incentives to encourage residents and small developers to reuse existing lands, buildings and neighborhoods.

Strongly Agree	69%
Agree	21%
No Opinion	4%
Disagree	3%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

9. Provide Wealth-Building Investments at the Community Scale.

The Post Industrial Cities of the Future must create innovative financial and wealth building strategies for development of the physical city. (community-invested development, community land banking, micro-loans, rent-to-own programs, etc.)

Strongly Agree	59%
Agree	30%
No Opinion	6%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

10. "No More Funds for Coffee Houses."

The Post Industrial Cities of the Future must limit public funding of communities that have tipped in the positive direction.

Strongly Agree	26%
Agree	21%
No Opinion	26%
Disagree	12%
Strongly Disagree	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Theme Workshop #3: The 21st Century City as an Innovation Hub

11. Create 21st Century Cottage Industries.

Cities must create street-level incubators that respond to local needs and aspirations and generate economic growth by accelerating the cycle from invention to innovation to production.

Strongly Agree	56%
Agree	30%
No Opinion	7%
Disagree	6%
Strongly Disagree	<u>1%</u>
	100%

12. Reconceive the Library as Infothèque.

We must reinvent libraries as critical hubs in urban neighborhoods that act as portals for life-long learning and providing access to information and places for social interaction in the 21st century.

Strongly Agree	47%
Agree	32%
No Opinion	10%
Disagree	8%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

13. Create Sticky Cities.

Communities must identify and harness the unique assets of place (physical, cultural, technological, human, and natural) to attract and retain people who will invest and grow new businesses.

Strongly Agree	56%
Agree	29%
No Opinion	8%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	<u>2%</u>
	100%

14. Direct Innovation Funding to Underserved Communities.

Cities should direct innovation funding to include a portion of the resources invested to training, education, mentoring, and participation for underserved communities.

Strongly Agree	59%
Agree	22%
No Opinion	9%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	<u>5%</u>
	100%

15. "Blow Up Education."

Cities must reinvent a neighborhood-based education system that grows from the values and aspirations of citizens. Discard the current administrative structure and adapt to local context.

Strongly Agree	38%
Agree	24%
No Opinion	7%
Disagree	15%
Strongly Disagree	<u>16%</u>
	100%

Theme Workshop #4: Urban Systems, Infrastructure, and the Post-Industrial City

16. Shift Infrastructure Decision-Making.

Revolutionize infrastructure decision-making to ensure integrated, ecologically, economically and socially brilliant futures. Integrate soft/hard and local/regional water, food, heat, power, mobility (instead of transportation) and data/voice (connectivity) infrastructures to ensure quality of life and equity.

Strongly Agree	51%
Agree	32%
No Opinion	11%
Disagree	3%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

17. Prioritize Natural Systems.

Prioritize geography and natural systems and their contributions to ensuring resiliency in the face of resource shortages and climate change. Balance natural and engineered infrastructure solutions at each scale -- the building, the community, and the region.

Strongly Agree	60%
Agree	25%
No Opinion	10%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

18. Use Infrastructure to Empower People.

Invest in infrastructure through public engagement to create inspiring places that catalyze grassroots creativity and provide a ladder to equity.

Strongly Agree	47%
Agree	26%
No Opinion	17%
Disagree	7%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

19. Align Governance with System Scale.

Reconceptualize governance to align with the scale of each infrastructure system, and create visionary alliances to futurize infrastructures. Alliances will be based on regions, resources, amenities, conditions, and the capacity of citizens, professionals, government, foundations, and corporations.

Strongly Agree	40%
Agree	28%
No Opinion	17%
Disagree	10%
Strongly Disagree	<u>5%</u>
	100%

20. Redirect National Security Investments.

Redirect investments in climate change, resilience, and national security into infrastructure innovation and economic development to benefit the greatest number of citizens.

Strongly Agree	40%
Agree	26%
No Opinion	18%
Disagree	9%
Strongly Disagree	<u>7%</u>
	100%

Theme Workshop #5: Planning and Social Innovations for the Post-Industrial City

21. Grow Entrepreneurial Capacity.

The city of tomorrow must cultivate the dormant entrepreneurial capacity of its people in order to rebuild rich, vibrant, adaptable communities thus creating a strong sense of place.

Strongly Agree	65%
Agree	27%
No Opinion	5%
Disagree	3%
Strongly Disagree	<u>0%</u>
	100%

22. Cultivate the Soul of the City.

We've got soul. We need urban justice. The city of tomorrow starts from the understanding of its soul: its people, identity and values.

Strongly Agree	71%
Agree	17%
No Opinion	7%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	<u>3%</u>
	100%

23. Connect the City.

The city of tomorrow must provide transit and alternative modes of transportation to ensure all communities have access and connectivity to jobs, education, food, housing and services.

Strongly Agree	78%
Agree	18%
No Opinion	2%
Disagree	1%
Strongly Disagree	<u>1%</u>
	100%

24. Balance Subjective and Objective Understandings.

The city of tomorrow must equate the importance of subjective and objective data in decision making to inform its plan.

Strongly Agree	42%
Agree	31%
No Opinion	18%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	<u>4%</u>
	100%

25. Redefine Government.

We must redefine government to respond more efficiently to its people and economic opportunities, then target resources to the equitable vision and will of the people.

Strongly Agree	41%
Agree	34%
No Opinion	13%
Disagree	10%
Strongly Disagree	<u>2%</u>
	100%

26. Stop Displacement.

Permanent displacement from one's community creates economic and social fractures. We must place a twenty-five year moratorium on displacement.

Strongly Agree	17%
Agree	19%
No Opinion	18%
Disagree	24%
Strongly Disagree	<u>22%</u>
	100%

27. Confront Racism and Marginalization.

We need to muster the courage to confront and expose racism and other forms of marginalization within ourselves, the economy, the criminal justice system, the education system and throughout society to truly create cities with liberty and justice for all.

Strongly Agree	78%
Agree	10%
No Opinion	9%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	<u>1%</u>
	100%

We invite feedback and comments.

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