



15th - 16th June 2016
Edinburgh, Scotland

Join international town and urban leaders for a world first, taking place in Scotland in June 2016. Organised by ATCM, BIDs Scotland, IDA and Scotland's Towns Partnership, the World Towns Leadership Summit will discuss the evolving nature of civic governance and the changing economic drivers for successful place-making.

Across the world, the State is shrinking. Urgent action is essential if we are to make our places better. What are the new alliances and approaches we need to develop to achieve a strong competitive economy combined with a fairer, more equal society?

Discussing this will be the **First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon**, leading on what a fairer Scotland should look like in 2030 and how to make this vision a reality. We will also hear from a range of internationally recognised leaders and thinkers including, **Mayor George Ferguson, Bristol City Council, Bulelwa Makalima-Ngewana, CEO, The Cape Town Partnership, Tina Saaby, Copenhagen's City Architect, international economist Michael Shuman and Michael Smith, Chair of the International Downtown Association.**

This global conversation will result in a **published World Towns Agreement – 'A Public-Private-Social Vision for Urban Centres'**. Issued in advance to delegates and further refined at the Summit, it will have input from the **United Nations Habitat Future of Places Programme, the World Economic Forum, URBACT, the International Economic Development Council, the Academy of Urbanism and the OECD.**

This call to action is now vital. Towns are a key element of global urban infrastructure. At the scale of nations, they are nodes of labour force, distinct local production and tourism. Towns, while distinct from entire cities, share many traits with urban neighbourhoods outside the city centre. Across regions, networks of towns connect people and infrastructure at scale. Towns and neighbourhoods matter to the transformation of modern economies, promising value; blending local and global opportunities. But, the town narrative is less well articulated than cities. Towns suffer. Transformation is stalled. The promise of a networked urban system, with choices, to support an increasingly diverse society is not met with the support and investment to deliver the reality. Towns are dealing with social migration at a scale previously even unknown to cities; the supporting infrastructure is not there and the response has been chaotic. Amongst the challenge lies opportunity. Across the world, towns and neighbourhoods are in this struggle. They are the largest scale for community, and the smallest scale for urbanity.

So, what can we learn from each other and how do we collaborate on shared areas of concern?

Join our global discussion in Scotland, 15 – 16 June 2016. [Further Information and Booking](#)



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE

Evening Welcome Reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Edinburgh City Chambers

WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE

Host – Ross Martin, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Development and Industry

MORNING SESSION: THE ROLE OF TOWNS IN URBAN GROWTH

Visit Scotland's global film, *Scotland. A Spirit of its Own.*

Shaping the World Towns Agreement with the World Economic Forum, URBACT, CLES and Architecture and Design Scotland [continues in each session].

Featuring, The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, Michael Smith, Chair of the International Downtown Association, internationally recognised and respected towns and retail expert and Chair of Scotland's Towns Partnership, Professor Leigh Sparks, Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council, international economist Michael Shuman and Tina Saaby, Copenhagen's City Architect, Denmark.

Fringe Events

- Sustainable and Low Carbon Economies. John Lauder, National Director, Sustrans Scotland
- Healthy places = Healthy people. Michael Berne, international retail expert discussing healthy retailing practices from multiple socio-economic perspectives.
- Voices for the Future, the Next Generation Leaders. Led by a Scottish collective, features a young Swedish delegation, with input from Kris Larson, CEO of Downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA, a professional planner, and leader in innovative public engagement approaches aimed at reaching younger, more diverse, stakeholders.

AFTERNOON SESSION: EMPOWERING AND CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE

Localism and towns: Councillor Stephen Hagan, Spokesperson for Development, Economy and Sustainability at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Mark Garner, Executive Director and Chief Staff Officer, Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area, Toronto, Canada.

Urban Connectivity – Growth and Inclusion: Dominic Booth UK Managing Director for North European transport operator Abellio; Brendan Dick, Managing Director for Regions and Scotland with global communications company BT; Caroline Stuart, Scotland Director, Oracle – provider of industry-leading cloud-based and on-premises solutions to 420,000 customers across 145 countries; and Kathleen Rawson, CEO, Downtown Santa Monica, California, USA - expert in BID growth, the value of the tech industry, dark fibre and local transport solutions, Kathleen will share great examples of both digital and physical improvements.

Transforming Place: Mayor George Ferguson, Bristol City Council, UK. Award winning architect, co-founder of the Academy of Urbanism, Mayor George Ferguson led Bristol into winning European Green Capital 2015 and has joined the elite ranks of Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities. He continues to lead on making Bristol one of Europe's most liveable and creative cities, delivering a long awaited 12,000 capacity arena and the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone aimed at attracting 17,000 new jobs. His efforts have not gone unnoticed in Europe; George Ferguson made the shortlist for the World Mayor's Award in 2014.

EVENING: CONFERENCE RECEPTION

THURSDAY, 16TH JUNE

MORNING SESSION: THE NEW ALLIANCES, HARNESSING COMMUNITIES

Premiere of Scotland's film collaboration with the Venice Biennale, celebrating Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016.

A New Model of Civic Governance Andy Godfrey, Public Policy Manager, Alliance Boots; Alexander Nicoll, Corporate Responsibility Director at Intu Properties and Chair of ATCM, Sarah Porter, Chief Executive, Heart of London Business Alliance, UK, and Tim Tompkins, President, Times Square Alliance, NYC, USA.

Delivering the New Economic Vision: Deputy First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney MSP

Revolutionary Changes in Elected Leadership: Bulelwa Makalima-Ngewana, CEO, Cape Town Partnership, South Africa

Harnessing the Private and Social Sector – A New Alliance: Gerry Higgins, Chief Executive, CEIS Group and Director, Social Enterprise World Forum; Fraser Kelly, Chief Executive, Social Enterprise Scotland

Fringe Events

- Creativity, Culture and Heritage – Barbara Cummins, Director of Heritage Management, Historic Environment Scotland; Joanne Orr, Chief Executive, Museums Galleries Scotland; Janet Archer, Chief Executive, Creative Scotland; Jamie Licko – UK and US BIDs expert, currently managing the State of Colorado's Creative District Programme.
- Social Integration and Migration – John Wilkes, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council

AFTERNOON SESSION: TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION – STUDY TOURS

In association with Scotland's local authorities, Business Improvement Districts and major transport operators, choose from a diverse range of study tours showcasing a variety of economic, social, cultural and geographic environments.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING

