

# SCHOOL OF CITIES ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

SCHOOL  
OF CITIES



**The School of Cities is a unique multidisciplinary hub for urban research, education, and engagement -- an institution that is creating new and just ways for cities and their residents to thrive. Based in a fast-growing, culturally diverse, and economically dynamic urban region, the University of Toronto's School of Cities supports leading scholars, practitioners, and community members spanning disciplines and lived experiences to co-create new understandings, policies, and practices.**



Why Cities? The future is urban. Close to 70% of the world's population is expected to be situated in cities by the year 2050<sup>1</sup>; as cities go, so goes the planet. The School of Cities fosters opportunity, collaboration, insight, and knowledge exchange with a global reach, playing a critical role in addressing climate change and justice, migration and belonging, inequality and democracy, and the world's collective ability to address urgent urban challenges.

Launched in 2018 following extensive consultation with faculty, staff, and students the School of Cities was championed by U of T President Meric Gertler and is distinguished by its disciplinary breadth, commitment to research, teaching, and outreach, as well as its dedication to transforming research insights into practice.

During our initial growth phase, the School saw a flurry of activity that provided valuable lessons for us to reflect on. This period set the foundation upon which the School is charting its path forward, with the leadership of our first appointed Director, Karen Chapple.

The year covered by this annual report (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) saw an expansion of our programmatic initiatives and productivity. The School supported leading research into climate justice and pandemic recovery; built partnerships with community leaders, policy experts and practitioners; grew educational programming and support for students across the tri-campuses; and welcomed affiliated initiatives at the leading edge of work on infrastructure, mobility, municipal finance, community and culture, and urban data. We feel excited by and proud of the work of our small but mighty team, and are committed to continuing our outreach and output in pursuit of our broader mandate.

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<sup>1</sup> Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser (2018) - "Urbanization". Published online at OurWorldInData.org. Retrieved from: '<https://ourworldindata.org/urbanization>' [Online Resource]

# KAREN CHAPPLE JOINS AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF CITIES

On July 1, 2021 the School of Cities formally welcomed Karen Chapple as its first appointed Director. Prof. Chapple joins the University of Toronto's academic faculty as a professor in the Department of Geography & Planning. She comes to U of T from the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as Chair of the Department of City & Regional Planning and held the Carmel P. Friesen Chair in Urban Studies.



Renowned for her community engagement and innovative uses of analytic methods including data science, Prof. Chapple's research focuses on inequalities in the planning, structure and governance of regions in the Americas, with a particular interest in economic development and housing. Her recent books include *Transit-Oriented Displacement or Community Dividends? Understanding the Effects of Smarter Growth on Communities* (with Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, MIT Press, 2019); *Fragile Governance and Local Economic Development: Theory and Evidence from Peripheral Regions in Latin America* (with Sergio Montero, Routledge, 2018); and *Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions: Towards More Equitable Development* (Routledge, 2015). Prof. Chapple has also served as a Visiting Scholar at New York University's Center for Urban Science and Progress, University College London's Centre for Advanced Spatial Analytics, Polytechnic University of Madrid, the University of Sydney, the University of Buenos Aires, and the Universidad de los Andes.

The School of Cities, the Faculty of Arts & Science and the University of Toronto were all thrilled to welcome Prof. Chapple – an enthusiasm which has been fully realized by her first year of leadership, collegiality, and productivity.

# THE SCHOOL OF CITIES 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

On June 1, 2022, the School of Cities launched a five-year Strategic Plan at an event attended by over 65 people, including University President Meric Gertler and Dean Melanie Woodin, leading urban researchers, community partners, and donors. Informed by consultations with faculty, staff, students, and external leaders, the Strategic Plan is rooted in lessons gleaned from the School's first three years and represents a collective vision of where we intend to go next.

The Strategic Plan lays out four strategic objectives, which will inform and infuse the School's work through 2026:

**Cities-in-all:** we will examine and highlight the urban aspects of knowledge creation and policy generation for all disciplines

**Knowledge mobilization:** we will aim to make new urban knowledge accessible for a broad audience beyond the academic realm

**Capacity-building:** we will deliver programs that build the skills of faculty, students, urban leaders & practitioners, and the general public

**Network-expansion:** we will build local, national and global networks and become a collaboration hub for diverse stakeholders that are focused on urban issues

The strategic plan also outlines three thematic priorities that will be the foundation of the programs offered and supported over the five-year period:

**Climate and justice (July 2021-)**

**Belonging, migration, and thriving (January 2023-)**

**Inequality, data, and democracy (July 2024-)**

What follows is a brief overview of our key achievements from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, organized according to these strategic objectives. This year, during which consultations were ongoing on what would become the strategic plan, we focused on our priority programs and on steadily growing our capacity. We also launched new programs and initiatives around which we will continue to build connections across campus and in the community; audiences for events and research activities; and engagement at all levels and in all arenas of urban- and city-related work.



## **CITIES-IN-ALL APPROACH**

To address the growing demands of global urbanization requires disciplinary diversity and multiple kinds of knowledge production. The School of Cities supports cities across and within all disciplines by encouraging, sustaining, spearheading and promoting urban-relevant work in the social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, arts and in professional schools. This cluster of projects encourages a cities-in-all approach to work underway across the University.

## **Urban Challenge Grant 2.0: Climate, Justice, and Cities**

The latest iteration of the Urban Challenge Grant program funded research teams from across the University of Toronto to advance multidisciplinary research into complex urban challenges and the differential impact of climate change on neighbourhoods and communities.

Urban Challenge Grants fund timely research, knowledge dissemination and community engagement to address emerging research questions, and provide seed funding for pilot studies that could ultimately lead to transformative or high-impact research.



**This year the School funded 12 new proposals on the theme of Climate, Justice, and Cities, awarding \$577,000 in grants to interdisciplinary research teams representing 20 departments across the three University of Toronto campuses. Each initiative focused on a different aspect of climate change and its impact on urban spaces and disadvantaged groups:**

- Predicting the impact of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies on premature deaths in Canadian urban centres
- Modelling just stormwater infrastructures for a flood-resilient Toronto
- Examining climate change, extreme heat, and human mortality in the City of Toronto
- Using anonymized movement data to determine access and equity
- Studying urban form pathways, affordable housing, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Urban climate justice: Policymaking for transformative resilience
- Launching the “Reconciling Racial Justice and Climate Resilience Project”
- Adopting a grassroots approach to ecotechnology and climate change adaption: A participatory study of rainwater harvesting initiatives in Mexico City
- Designing for climate justice education in a Canadian city: Learning with Black ecologies
- Scrutinizing air quality and environmental justice: The growing impact of climate change on disproportionate air quality exposure
- Evolving cities: Access to nature in Toronto over three generations
- Developing remote sensing tools for monitoring the success of Toronto’s green roofs



# Multidisciplinary Urban Capstone Project

The School of Cities hosted its third capstone course in 2021-22.

The Multidisciplinary Urban Capstone Project (MUCP) is a full-year course where teams of senior undergraduate students are paired with community groups and non-governmental organizations to undertake a project that addresses a real urban need and requires a multidisciplinary approach.

This year, 42 students from engineering, architecture, geography & planning, management, urban studies, sociology, computer science, environment and information studies worked on nine community projects.

Student teams collaborate with faculty supervisors and community partners to frame and suggest solutions for local, real-world problems, utilizing multidisciplinary and mixed-methods problem-solving approaches. This year, the teams tackled the following issues:

**-Revitalization of commercial buildings**

**-Accessibility to broadband internet, public art & music venues**

**-Registration of remote sensors**

**-Homelessness in parks**

**-Walkability for seniors**

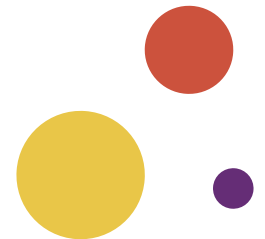
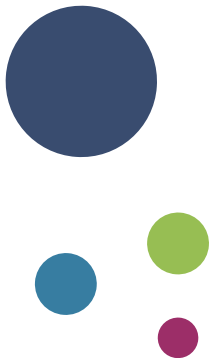
**-Reimagined school**

**-Affordable rental housing**

42  
STUDENTS

9 DIVISIONS  
OF U of T

8 CLIENTS





# Graduate Multidisciplinary Urban Project

24 STUDENTS

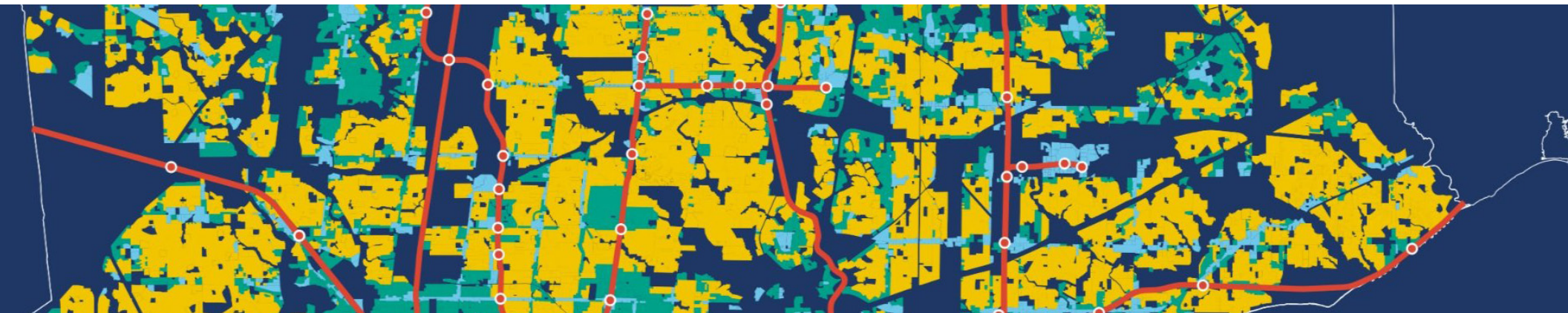
7 DIVISIONS  
OF U of T



This year, the School of Cities launched the Graduate Multidisciplinary Urban Project (GMUP) with a course taught by professors Karen Chapple and Michael Piper, called Implementing the Missing Middle.

GMUP will see the School co-host a series of courses each year developed in partnership with other faculties and departments and offered to graduate students enrolled in a Masters or PhD program at the University of Toronto. Students will learn in class from faculty and guest lecturers, and also form multidisciplinary teams that collaborate with local organizations, NGOs and governments on innovative solutions to urban challenges.

The inaugural GMUP course attracted graduate students with a strong interest in city-building, with a particular focus on the so-called “missing middle” in the Greater Toronto Area. They worked in groups to research co-ownership and co-living options, visualize and design implementation scenarios, and collaborate with service providers and the City of Toronto to understand the development, permitting and approvals processes for multiplexes and small apartment buildings.



## Small Grants Program

**10** DIVISIONS  
OF U of T

**\$18,215** TOTAL  
FUNDING

**\$1,822** AVERAGE  
FUNDING

This year, the School of Cities supported nine initiatives across the University with small grants to encourage knowledge mobilization and translation, public policy engagement, curricular innovations, and other activities that address urban issues with a particular focus on climate and justice.

Small grant applications are open year-round, and provide support of up to \$5,000 to faculty members, departments, programs or recognized student groups. Some examples of projects that were supported with a small grant this year include:



+



Students from the Computer Science department collaborated with the MIT Media Lab to develop a digital map of Boston featuring community models and organizations that address community safety, violence and harm without policing or incarceration



The U of T Trash Team worked with local stakeholders to deploy trash capture devices on Toronto's waterfront and quantify and characterize the litter caught in the traps to determine the sources, pathways and sinks of plastic pollution



The Black Students Association hosted the Black High School Conference, to connect Black communities at U of T and in the GTA



The University's Engineers Without Borders team examined transit access and equity for youth experiencing homelessness

Work was underway this year amongst the thirteen projects that received funding as part of the Anti-Black Racism/Black Lives and Anti-Indigenous Racism/Indigenous Lives Funding Initiative. The initiative was created to support anti-racism education and policy-oriented research projects undertaken by faculty and student associations across the University of Toronto and in the wider community. In addition to financial support, the School of Cities also funded promotional support and assistance in convening conversations with diverse audiences beyond academia.

The funded projects demonstrated prior engagement and substantive work on the broader scope of Anti-Black Racism & Black Lives and Anti-Indigenous Racism & Indigenous Lives interventions. They were chosen with the help of an Award Committee comprised of faculty and student members from the Black and Indigenous communities at the University of Toronto. Due to an overwhelming response from the university community and the appraisal of the Award Committee, the initial round of funding was extended beyond its original budget to provide support to more projects.



## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Through a focus on innovative knowledge mobilization, the School of Cities aims to integrate research, education, and outreach and to support the transfer of information from academia into the community and from the community into academia. These events and publications reflect some of the tools we deployed this year in an effort to build a culture of collaboration and exchange.

Our Director, affiliated faculty and visiting experts also often provide comment to the media on the most pressing issues facing cities. Some highlights of the media coverage from this year include:

**School of Cities  
cited in over  
50 media stories**

### Outlets include

New York Times	Fast Company
L.A. Times	CBC
WSJ	Globe and Mail
Slate	Toronto Star
S.F. Chronicle	TVO
	Montreal Gazette

**School of Cities cited in  
16 media stories in U.S.**





# Knowledge Café

The Knowledge Café is a monthly opportunity for University of Toronto faculty and researchers to present analyses and highlights of their urban-related research to the wider community via online presentations and conversations. The Knowledge Café provides a welcoming space and an engaged audience for lively discussions about research from a range of disciplines into a broad array of urban-focused questions and solutions.

## The themes for the 2021-22 Knowledge Café events were climate, justice and belonging in cities, and the presentations included:

**Karen Chapple** | Director, School of Cities and Professor, Department of Geography & Planning on The Unintended Consequences of Climate Change Mitigation

**Danijela Puric-Mladenovic** | Assistant Professor, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design on Natural Climate Solutions for Canada

**Joanna Kocsis** | PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Planning on Urban Climate Justice: Rights and Resilience in Southeast Asia

**Yue Yu** | Assistant Professor, Economics, Department of Management, UTSC and Rotman School of Management on The Value of Cleaner Waterways

**Jill Carter** | Assistant Professor, Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies on Written in the Land: Do You Know Where You are Standing?

**Marianne Touchie** | Assistant Professor, Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering on The Power of Tower Retrofits: Exploring concurrent improvements to inhabitant experience and energy efficiency

**Karen Smith** | Assistant Professor, Department of Physical and Environmental Science on Training and Education for Climate Resilience

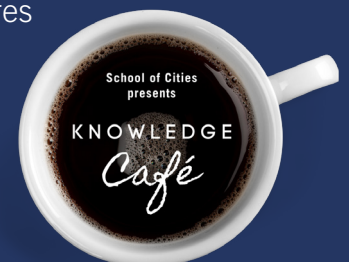
**Fadi Masoud** | Assistant Professor, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Design on Towers in the Park: A Prospect for Equitable Resilience

**Suzi Lima** | Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics on A sociolinguistics survey of Lingala, Kirundi and Tshiluba in Toronto

**Danielle Kwan-Lafond** | Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology on Nurturing Indigenous Community Partnerships

**Prentiss Dantzler** | Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology on Social Housing: Lessons from the United States and Canada

**Nidhi Subramanyam** | Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Planning on Lived, not ideal: Planning resilient water infrastructures at the street-level in middle India





# City Research Insights

City Research Insights is a research brief series that makes scholarly work more broadly accessible to policymakers, city-builders, and residents. The briefs highlight contemporary urban research for decision-makers and the wider public. With this series, the School of Cities seeks to leverage our extraordinary community of urbanists and urban-oriented researchers to expand the reach of our scholarly work, and to inform the work of city-builders.

Volume 1 dealt with some of the urgent issues that were thrown in relief by the COVID-19 pandemic and that require a collective approach to ideation and action.

## Issue 6:

The Affordable Housing Challenge Project: Community Land Trusts as a Tool for Affordable Housing Provision in Toronto with Susannah Bunce and Alan Walks

## Issue 5:

Mobilizing Justice: COVID-19 and Equitable Transportation with Steven Farber, Howaida Hassan and Meghan Winters

## Issue 4:

Urban Evolution: A New Framework for Understanding City Growth and Change with Dan Silver and Mark Fox

## Issue 3:

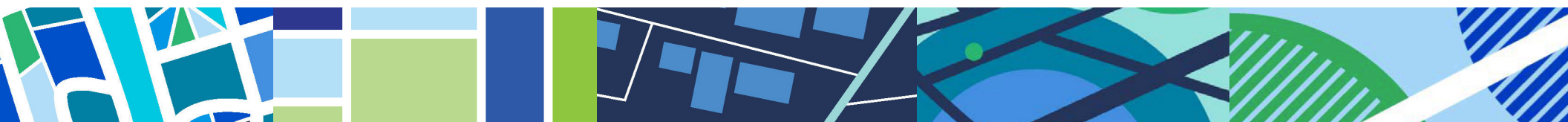
Towers in the Park: Designing equitable urban resilience in Toronto's tower neighbourhoods with Fadi Masoud

## Issue 2:

Creative Mixed-Use Building: A Made-in-Toronto Solution with Matti Siemiatycki

## Issue 1:

Building Community Resilience: A Connected Community Approach to Crises with Anne Gloger and Blake Poland



# The City Beats Blog

In September, 2021, the School of Cities launched the Cities Beats blog – an online home for resources, summaries, and announcements by and about urban experts across the University of Toronto. The blog focuses on issues pertaining to urban development research and also allows us to highlight the activities of our colleagues by cross-posting their work and related events.

## This year, blog entries included:

Holiday reading recommendations for urban-related books from faculty and staff

A look at urban issues in the 2021 federal election, in collaboration with Urban Policy Lab Graduate Fellow Sean McGowan

A photo essay by Tom Lam, Department of Historical Studies, on an urban village renewal project in the southern city of Guangzhou and what it tells us about the politics of eviction, demolition, resistance, and gentrification in China

Reflections on moving to Toronto, by School Director Karen Chapple upon her relocation from California

School Director Karen Chapple and Professor of Geography and Planning, Rolf Pendall, in response to and in conversation with a blog post by TMU researchers Frank Clayton and David Amborski on greenfield development: It does not equal sprawl: So what? We can do better

Karen Chapple's contribution to a panel discussion at the 3rd Urban Economy Forum on Revealing the Invisible: Countering Land Theft to Create Inclusive Cities

A custom handbook by UTSC researchers on a 'people-centric' approach to creating surveys and an effort to discover what residents in Scarborough valued most & their views on the policymakers that influence those decisions

Prentiss Dantzler, Assistant Professor of Sociology, on his partnership with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) on how to improve the lives of subsidized housing tenants

## Regent Park Revitalization

Since 2007, Downtown Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood has been undergoing a major revitalization effort. In December 2021, Spacing Magazine & the Metcalf Foundation released a progress report on the project, funded by the School of Cities and the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. The report drew on publicly available staff reports, academic research, and confidential interviews to examine several aspects of the project to date, including built form, social development, community benefits and the broader housing policy environment.

[Read the report](#)



## Community Voices

In June 2022, the School of Cities launched Community Voices, a community engaged, mixed methods study of seven inner-suburban Toronto neighbourhoods. Conducted in partnership with the Wellesley Institute, Community Voices examines policy options for how to improve the health and vitality of these neighbourhoods, and includes deep engagement with community members, who identified their core policy priorities as safety, transportation and mobility, and local services and amenities.

[Read the report](#)



## CAPACITY-BUILDING

The School of Cities aims to deliver programs that strengthen and deepen the skills and capacity of faculty, students, urban leaders & practitioners, and the general public. These fellowships and training programs seek to support and expand the work and reach of our partners.

### Leading Social Justice Fellowship

**80% BIPOC  
LEARNERS**

**18 TEAMS**

**54 FELLOWS**

**34 PRIVATE,  
PUBLIC AND  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS**

The School of Cities hosted its second Leading Social Justice Fellowship this year, in partnership with United Way of Greater Toronto and Rotman Executive Programs. Participating Fellows represent the public, private, and community sectors and apply intersectional, equity, and anti-racism lenses to social justice challenges they have identified in their organizations and communities. Teams are supported by regular dialog with peers and sectoral experts with whom they work to advance their leadership skills and accountability structures, and to deepen their social justice project.

Projects included work with youth, seniors, newcomers, and sex workers; tackled issues of gun violence, homelessness, and Islamophobia; and advocated for climate justice, racial justice, and improved health and employment outcomes.





## Graduate Student Fellowships

15 DIVISIONS  
OF  
U of T

20 STUDENTS

The Graduate Student Fellows program provided support to twenty graduate students from across the University working on urban-focused projects of an applied, translational, or policy-oriented nature. Each fellow received a \$2,000 grant to support a component of their thesis or dissertation or an independent project, including a component of knowledge mobilization and/or public engagement.

## Media Camp

In August 2021 the School of Cities and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine co-hosted a 5-day media training workshop for its faculty members, PhD students and staff. Media Camp included training in the fundamentals of media relations and key message design, as well as dedicated sessions with journalists, content creators and social media mavericks. Eight hundred participants attended over the course of the week, which aimed to make subject experts at all levels more comfortable with media relations, interviews and messaging. Sessions were held on:

**Crafting op-eds | Building capacity & confidence for media work | Interviewing for television | Interviewing for radio and podcasting | Social media and the public eye**





## NETWORK EXPANSION

The School of Cities seeks to grow connections with leaders and organizations across sectors and communities. Through these programs, we are building reciprocal partnerships that will help bring expertise, innovation, and collaboration to every corner of urban- and cities-focused work.

### Visiting Experts

This year the School of Cities launched its Visiting Experts program, which invites globally influential practitioners and emerging leaders in civil society, the arts, business, media and government to join us in an active intellectual, cultural and artistic exchange.

Visiting experts nurture experimentation and new ideas, and the program supports research, collaboration and knowledge creation across geographies, disciplines and communities. The Visiting Experts program launched in Fall 2021 and includes Visiting Professors, Urbanists-in-Residence, Canadian Urban Leaders and Early Career Urban Canadian Leaders.

Urbanists-in-Residence are prominent influencers practicing in civil society, the arts, business, media or the public service. They are committed to community engagement and have a clear project focus aligned with the School of Cities. Canadian Urban Leaders are prominent global influencers who have served in government or the public service and managed a portfolio with significant urban focus. Early Career Canadian Urban Leaders demonstrate leadership potential and capacity and are in the first ten years of their current career path.

Urbanists-in-Residence and Canadian Urban and Early Career leaders are invited to propose and lead programs, events and activities; contribute to publications and knowledge products; mentor junior faculty and students; and undertake research, capacity-building, outreach, and event coordination.



In December 2021, Sergio Montero joined the School of Cities as a Visiting Professor, working on a book that analyzes the relationship between density, urban renewal and recent social and legal struggles for inclusion in Bogotá's city centre. Professor Montero is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and Development at the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, associate editor of *Regional Studies*, and director of Laboratorio de Narrativas Urbanas.



In January 2022 Don Iveson, the former Mayor of Edmonton, joined the School of Cities as our inaugural Canadian Urban Leader. During his appointment he focused on building a case for change that a visionary Canadian province could adopt to drive inclusive growth, resilience, sustainability, and prosperity for its citizens.



Also in January, Cheryll Case – an urban planner and housing advocate, and founder of CP Planning, a non-profit organization that applies a human rights lens to community planning – became the inaugural Early Career Canadian Urban Leader. During her time with the School of Cities, she worked to shine a light on Ontario city-builders whose practice promotes the integration of social equity into cultural relationships to land and to support the development of missing-middle models, programs, and policies.



In March 2022, Adam Vaughan, former MP and Toronto City Councillor, became our second Canadian Urban Leader. Vaughan brought extensive experience in public service and policy development and implementation, gained while serving as a City Councillor for eight years and during terms as federal Parliamentary Secretary for municipal affairs and for housing. While working with School of Cities, he developed research around housing design, affordability and supply.

In May 2022, Monumental Toronto's Zahra Ebrahim and Kofi Hope joined School of Cities as our inaugural Urbanists-in-Residence. Monumental is a strategic advisory firm committed to building more fair and just cities, where social power is redistributed among local communities and where design creates significant and lasting change because it is done in collaboration with those most affected by its outcomes. Their work as Urbanists-in-Residence focused on integrating racialized voices into the real estate development industry.



## Climate + Justice + Cities

In Winter 2022, School of Cities hosted Climate + Justice + Cities, a virtual speaker series that set out to critically examine cities and climate justice through a diversity of perspectives.

Over the course of the series, researchers, city leaders, youth activists, and industry experts discussed emerging issues, ideas, and research within the themes of:

- adaptation and resilience
- infrastructure
- energy democracy
- just recovery
- racial justice
- food sovereignty



On February 3rd, Youth for Climate Justice partnered with Fridays For Future Toronto to celebrate the youth leading the discussion on climate justice and ask how they maintain hope while facing the defining challenge of our time

On February 15th Don Iveson, Canadian Urban Leader and 35th Mayor of Edmonton and Richard Florida, University Professor at the Rotman School of Management, engaged in a conversation about the global opportunity of energy transition for disadvantaged communities, leadership in times of uncertainty, and the role of cities in a just recovery

On March 10th, Professor Winston Chow from Singapore Management University hosted Cities Settlements and Key Infrastructure, during which he explored the findings of the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

On April 25th, Karen Chapple joined faculty members of UC Berkeley's new cluster in climate equity and environmental justice in conversation about the estimate that by 2050, 216 million people across South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America will need to migrate from their homes due to sudden disasters such as flooding and fire, slow-onset land degradation, and the social unrest caused by resource scarcity



## CivicLabTO

In November 2021 the CivicLabTO Academic Summit brought together students, faculty and staff from eight post-secondary institutions, including the University of Toronto, for a 2-day virtual conversation with officials from the City of Toronto on developing an equitable and inclusive pandemic recovery policy framework. The School of Cities curated a list of speakers for the event, many of whom contributed to public policy during the pandemic and are providing advice in the recovery. The sessions focused on issues such as public health, housing, transit, climate change, green recovery and the future of public space.

## Planning Cities with Young People and Schools

On December 2, 2021 the School of Cities and the Urban Studies Program at Innis College co-hosted a panel discussion on the key themes in the book *Planning Cities with Young People and Schools*, which shares a wealth of insights on environmental planning, housing, transportation, regional planning, and urban planning education.

The book's authors – Deborah McKoy, Amanda Eppley and Shirl Buss, all from UC Berkeley's Center for Cities and Schools – have honed their key findings during presentations to more than 10,000 students over two decades in schools from the San Francisco Bay Area to New York to Tohoku, Japan.

# Planning Cities With Young People and Schools

Forging Justice, Generating Joy

Deborah L. McKoy,  
Amanda Eppley,  
and Shirl Buss



## EDGE Youth Art Show!

On March 9, 2022 the School of Cities co-sponsored a celebration to mark 25 years of the EDGE: Youth Art Show! An annual show hosted by Arts Etobicoke which gives high school artists the opportunity to showcase their work alongside their peers in a professional exhibition setting. The event launched an in-person and virtual gallery – which included a section dedicated to the theme Life in the City: Movement, Gathering and Belonging – and student awards and prizes were announced at the reception.

These pieces were chosen by School staff as the two that best represented the theme, and they were purchased by us and now hang on our office walls. Huang's piece reflects life inside during COVID, and Choi's moves through a city with views to the past.



**Alice Huang**  
**Cat**  
**14" x 11"**  
**Acrylic on canvas board**  
**Agincourt Collegiate Institute**

Inspired by expressionist painter Alice Neel, this acrylic portrait depicts me sitting on the couch with a cat. This painting depicts the joyous moments of mundane life and human experience.



**Ashley Choi**  
**Window into Korea's Architectural Past**  
**16" x 20"**  
**Print of Original (Oil on Canvas)**  
**Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts**

This art piece is about South Korea's architecture and how it significantly evolved through time. Architecture is one of the primary aspects of Korea that developed drastically over the past century, as the materials, designs, and construction methods advanced greatly with new inventions and technology constantly being produced by Koreans. I hope to give viewers insight on the evolution of architecture in South Korea between the past and present.



## AFFILIATED INITIATIVES

This year the School of Cities welcomed the Infrastructure Institute, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, the Urban Data Centre and the Mobility Network as affiliated initiatives. With these exciting initiatives, the School of Cities strengthens its position as a hub of cutting-edge research and scholarship in key areas that impact the lives and experiences of city-dwellers - access to human-centric infrastructure design, understanding of urban data and its applications, and building of sustainable mobility systems.



### **Infrastructure Institute**

Led by Professor Matti Siemiatycki (Department of Geography & Planning), the Infrastructure Institute builds global expertise in infrastructure planning, decision-making, and delivery and creates international connections to transform the status quo, refine public-private partnerships and propose innovations in project financing and funding.

[Visit the Infrastructure Institute website >](#)



Institute on Municipal  
Finance & Governance

### **Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG)**

Led by Dr. Enid Slack, IMFG focuses on the fiscal health and governance challenges facing large cities and city-regions through independent research and the engagement of academic and policy communities around important issues of municipal finance and governance.

[Visit the IMFG website >](#)



### **Urban Data Centre**

Under the leadership of Professor Mark Fox (Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering), the Urban Data Centre seeks to enhance the design, planning and operations of cities by expanding the opportunities presented by data, and addressing the challenges inherent in data.

[Visit the Urban Data Centre website >](#)



### **Mobility Network**

Led by Professor Eric Miller (Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering), the Mobility Network convenes a multidisciplinary, collaborative network of researchers from across the University of Toronto to drive innovation in urban policy that addresses the global challenge for cities to evolve into more sustainable, equitable, and resilient urban forms and mobility systems.

[Visit the Mobility Network website >](#)

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The School of Cities' Advisory Council meets three times per year and consists of faculty members from across divisions and campuses, an undergraduate and graduate student, the directors of the School's research centres (ex-officio), and the Academic Director & Administrative Executive Director of the School (ex-officio). We extend out warmest thanks to the Council members for their guidance, ideas and support.

**Karen Chapple, Director, School of Cities**

**Ben Liu, Executive Director, School of Cities**

**Anika Munir, B.A., Public Policy and City Studies**

**Beth Coleman, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, Faculty of Information**

**Bryan Yau, JD/MBA candidate, Faculty of Law & Rotman School of Management**

**Catherine Economopoulos, B.A. candidate, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design**

**Dan Silver, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Scarborough**

**David Allens, M.Ed. candidate, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education**

**Eric Miller, Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering**

**Enid Slack, Director, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance**

**Fadi Masoud, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design**

**Heather Dorries, Department of Geography & Planning, Faculty of Arts & Science**

**Marianne Hatzopoulou, Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering**

**Marc Johnson, Department of Biology, University of Toronto Mississauga**

**Mark Fox, Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering**

**Matti Siemiatycki, Department of Geography & Planning, Faculty of Arts & Science**

**Nasim Niknafs, Music Education, Faculty of Music**

**Pat O'Campo, Dalla Lana School of Public Health**

**Richard Florida, Rotman School of Management**

**Will Strange, Rotman School of Management**

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