



South African

CitiesNetwork

QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER | 2020-2021



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK

QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER | 2020-2021





CONTENTS

Editor's Note	1
Chairperson of the Council's Note	3
Built Environment	6
City Development Strategy	9
City Focus	10
Inclusive Cities	12
Productive Cities	15
Sustainable Cities	18
Well Governed Cities	23



Dear Stakeholder,

Welcome to our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter.

2020 has arguably been the worst year we have had in almost a century, but just as the 1930s Great Depression sunk cities and countries into a deep and long economic decline, and millions lost their jobs after the infamous stock market crash, the world did recover - and we will too. This is not likely to be soon and it will take collective action from NGOs, civil society, and government but it will happen. This incredibly challenging year follows 2019, which itself was riddled with hardship and difficulties: our Q4 economic performance stood at a measly -1.4%, we were experiencing load-shedding, had entered a technical recession, and were downgraded by Fitch and Moody's. By all accounts, things were not looking good this time a year ago either - or many of us hoped for the now ironic "20Plenty".

There is no need to rehash what has happened since, or wallow in it. We have all felt the impact of a decimated economy, the loss of jobs and livelihoods, and in some cases the lives of family and friends. Instead, we need to keep looking forward, even if the road ahead looks relentlessly hard. Referring again to the Great Depression, if President Franklin D. Roosevelt had not taken office in 1933 and announced major regime changes to try and counterbalance what can only be described as an economic avalanche, who knows where we would be today. This takes leadership and courage, which is what we will be looking for come the 2021 Local Elections in Q3 or Q4. It is not only the political parties who will be responsible for enabling change; everyday citizens have as much power and right to have their say and play their role.

The mutant second wave is doubling in numbers daily, our hospitals are over-flowing, and our people are dying. Yet as citizens, some of us are going about our daily lives as if nothing is wrong; we must wear our masks, we must sanitise and wash our hands properly, we must socially distance. These things are not hard to do, but we see recurring instances of this not happening and there are major spikes in infections. As a collective, if we all do these few simple acts, we can play our part in arresting this pandemic from causing more economic and personal carnage in 2021. Similarly, just as citizens can help arrest the virus's voracious spread, so too can they change how our country is governed. We have seen many mayors come and go across our nine largest cities, which has led to widespread instability, but citizens have an opportunity in the next election to be forthright about what

EDITOR'S NOTE



they demand, and hopefully the outcomes will deliver on the needs of our citizens.

We as the South African Cities Network will also release our State of Cities Report, which purposely aligns with the elections. In 2016 we said that while our cities have been effective drivers of local and national development, all actors must pull together. No truer is that than now. Of course, this second wave is aggressive and there is no crystal ball that will accurately tell us where to from here. But with good governance, active participation from civil society and a willingness across all stakeholders to take control of our situation, we can get a grip on ourselves to turn the tide and once again have cities that thrive, playing their critical role in the economic development and sustainability of our country.

In this edition of our newsletter, we showcase some of the key SACN activities of what could be defined as the most difficult work environment quarter since inception in 2002. These include the sessions which our programmes team participated in during the Urban Festival 2020. The Built Environment's Co-creating the Future City: Visualisation Studios for Spatial Transformation work was virtually exhibited. Under the City Development Strategy we highlight the Learning from the eThekweni EDGE Open Data Portal: Evidence-based decision-making in action. Under our Inclusive Cities programme we feature the Youth and City Space Webinar and our participation in the City of Ekurhuleni's World Planning Month Festivities in November. The Productive Cities Programme participated by hosting two sessions: the Lekgotla which was an engagement around the Gauteng Township Economies Draft Bill, and then the Imbizo: Urban Economies Table Talk which saw the launch of the Urban Economies Paper Series.

The Sustainable Cities Programme looked at Remembering Our Relationship with Water. We also showcase the two sessions hosted by the Well-Governed Cities Programme: Partnering During the Pandemic and Creative Procurement for Empowering the Civic. All the sessions are available on our YouTube Channel @SACitiesNetwork TV. We also highlight the City of Tshwane in our City Focus section which looks at the Inter-University Challenge which aimed at positioning the city as the innovation capital of SA.

We hope you will enjoy this latest edition of our quarterly online stakeholder newsletter. Thank you for being our loyal reader.

Best Wishes,

Sithole Mbanga (CEO)



CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

Let us better advance the Urban Agenda to ensure full access and inclusivity in our Cities!

By Xola Pakati

The month of October for 2020 arrived at a time where the cases of COVID-19 were seeing a new alarming rise, a start of the second wave of infections which is continuously proving to be deadlier than the first wave. With October being the Urban Month, we were supposed to collectively consider the milestones of our Urban Agenda and review some of its shortcomings, but we found ourselves having to worry about the rising infections.

We had to opt for this approach because the impact of COVID-19 on life and livelihoods has stretched all facets of governance to the brink. Despite this fact, the virus continues to offer us lessons on the efficacy of the New Urban Agenda and on why there is a need to advance it with dedication and zeal.

One concept that springs to mind when thinking about the New Urban Agenda and COVID-19 lessons is the notion of the 'Right to the City' which was first used by the French urban theorist, Henri Lefebvre, in 1968. The notion of inclusivity and access to the city is highly aligned to the evolving thinking on the 'Right to the City' for everyone and this is inclusive of what citizens can offer to the city and what the city can in turn offer to them. The notion of the 'Right to the City' as a key facet of advancing the Urban Agenda has gained enough traction that it was a key theme in the 2010 UN-Habitat World Urban Forum and the main argument was that it is a suitable theoretical understanding that can help 'bridge the urban divide'.

Ensuring that people have a 'Right to the City' in South Africa includes firstly making it clear that everyone has the right to be in the city. This means that the city should be welcoming to all its inhabitants without any form of alienation or attempts at seeking to dispose of people because of their race, gender or economic circumstances.

It secondly includes giving all people the right to access opportunities and the resources of a city without any discrimination. This means that the priorities of cities should be in investing in socio-economic infrastructure and mobilising investment to create an economic environment that allows people to explore their talents without limitations. The concept also involves having a right to define the policies and programmes of cities, with all citizens taking part in shaping the content of our urban reality. Our country's Integrated Urban Development Framework is a key method of localising the New Urban Agenda and it is steeped towards guaranteeing access and inclusion to all in the city. The Framework has eight policy levers, each intended to address a challenge of our urban reality in

CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



a manner that fundamentally alters it for the better. The policy levers are intended to address all the matters related to integrated spatial planning which also encompass integrated transport systems and human settlements anchored by an integrated urban infrastructure. It also contains measures that are intended to create effectively governed cities with active citizen participation and an inclusive economy. It is my understanding that most cities have to a greater degree aligned their development policies with the Integrated Urban Development Framework and are thus advancing the New Urban Agenda.

The reflection given above is indicative of the nobleness of the policy intentions of cities but, unfortunately, the outbreak of COVID-19 has exposed several shortcomings in advancing the New Urban Agenda and I want to single out the reality of the homeless who stay in our cities, more particularly the central business districts and the people who stay in informal settlements. When President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a hard lockdown with effect from the 27th of March 2020, it was apparent to many of us in the cities that the idea of having people stay at home was an impossibility for some as they do not have houses. Most municipalities had to devise means of ensuring that the homeless are protected from the virus and that they were safe in municipal halls and other buildings.

In addition to this, the difficulty of telling a shack-dweller who has tested positive with COVID-19 to self-isolate at home became apparent. A huge number of the households in our cities consist of many people staying in a single shack and most of the shacks are near each other with some sharing sidewalls. This creates an almost impossible situation for the containment of the spread of the virus in these communities. The virus has thus exposed us to the fact that there was a generally slow pace in the de-densification of many of our informal settlements and most cities are now moving with speed in addressing this, working with the National Department of Human Settlements.

It is a fact that de-densification should be an ongoing programme which is not only necessitated by the need to contain the spread of a particular virus. Some of the settlements that exist in our cities are in sharp contradiction to the objective of creating dignified human settlements as envisaged in the New Urban Agenda. COVID-19 has therefore exposed us to the reality that there were these citizens of our country who are in the fringes of our policy advances, a situation that needs a decisive relook. The sharp inequalities and other disparities which have been revealed by the prevalence of



CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

COVID-19 in our cities should serve as a warning for us to correct our approaches to governance with particular focus on better advancing and strengthening the New Urban Agenda. In his Lectures on the Philosophy of History, originally published in 1837, Friedrich Hegel makes a point that: “What experience and history teach us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history or acted on principles deduced from it.”

We should therefore take a deliberate decision to recognise the lesson we have been offered by COVID-19 and not be defensive about the inadequacies it has revealed in some of our approaches in advancing the Urban Agenda. We should now more than ever push our cities towards greater urban resilience, inclusive growth and shared prosperity, spatial integration, inclusion and sustainable development. Advancing the New Urban Agenda is essential for creating inclusivity and access to our cities for all our residents.

Let us make 2021 the year where we will be advancing the Urban Agenda with sheer precision and decisiveness.



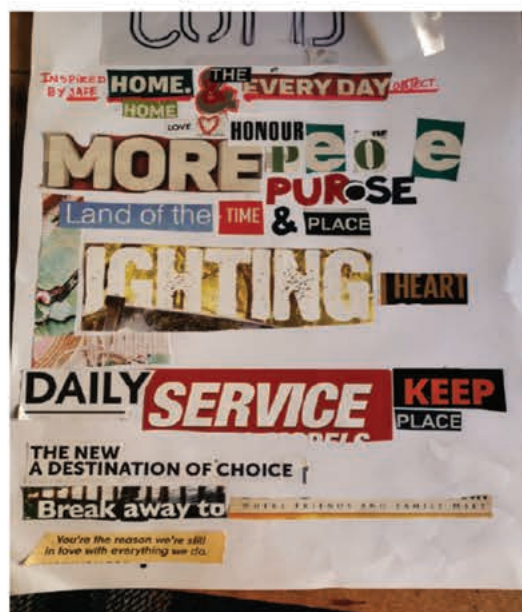
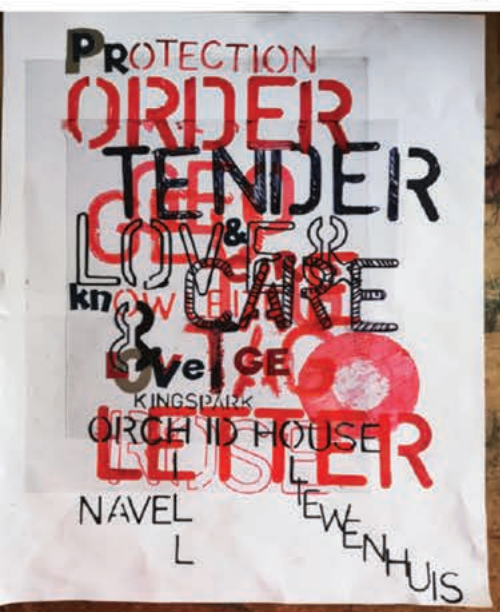
Councillor Xola Pakati is the Chairperson of the South African Cities Network Council, an NEC Member of SALGA, and the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In each of the nine city studios held, we were able to hear from students, entrepreneurs, artists, city officials, members of NGOs, teachers, professionals and other active citizens. Debates, conversations and home exercises were captured visually by a team of artists working in the background, who were listening in on the conversations to develop images, models, maps and sketches from the conversations of the participants.



Some of the main outcomes of the Visualisation Studios from the participants across cities were that our cities already have many resources and infrastructure that we need to build on instead of developing new projects; our governance system needs to be reconfigured to give more power to communities who can have an impact on the ground; our cities should decentralise creative spaces and invest more in the creative economy to improve opportunities for the youth in cities; and our spaces need to be prioritised and the economy should be geared more towards supporting small businesses instead of large-scale enterprises.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The outcomes and visual products were launched at the 2020 Urban Festival under the theme “Empowering the Civic” in October. The attendees of the launch were also taken through some of the exercises from the studios which were incorporated into the launch programme. The virtual exhibition is still available on the urban festival website at <https://www.urbanfestival.co/visualisation-studios>

Spatially transformed cities relate to the objective of having livable, safe, resource efficient cities and towns that are socially integrated, economically inclusive and globally competitive, where residents actively participate in urban life, as indicated in the IUDF



CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Learning from the eThekweni EDGE Open Data Portal:
Evidence-based decision-making in action

During the month of October, SACN hosted the first Urban Festival 2020, which was a month long series of virtual events and the CDS team hosted our own session “Learning from the eThekweni Edge Open Data portal: Evidence based decision-making in action”.

eThekweni Municipality has become the first South African city to make its data open and accessible to the public on an interactive platform. This was made possible through a successful partnership between the City, Open Cities Lab and the South African Cities Network. Our session was an information sharing and screening of insights gained from the project process. We looked at the success of the project, the challenges, and the value the data portal has created for the City.

We were joined by Tshegang Chipeya (eThekweni Municipality), Joanne Parker (Lumec), Tsholofelo Koopedi (City of Ekurhuleni) and Luke Boyle (Urban Real Estate Research Unit - URERU at the University of Cape Town).

The panellists also shared how similar processes can be run in other cities and improve evidence-based decision making in South African Cities.



LEARNING FROM THE ETHEKWINI EDGE DATA PORTAL

Evidence-based decision making in action



Tshegang Chipeya
Senior Research Advisor
Economic Development
Unit
eThekweni Municipality



Tsholofelo Koopedi
Divisional Head: City
Intelligence & Long
Term Planning
City of Ekurhuleni



Joanne Parker
Director
Lumec



Luke Boyle
Researcher
Urban Real Estate
Research Unit, UCT

20 OCTOBER 2020 10AM-12PM



To view the full session, check out our YouTube channel @SACitiesNetwork TV and check out the official EDGE portal at www.edge.durban

Tshwane Inter-University Innovation Challenge positions the city as the "innovation capital of South Africa"

The Inter-University Innovation Challenge was born as a mechanism aimed at developing highly competent and confident student entrepreneurs who have the capacity to conceptualise and implement innovative solutions that could solve service delivery challenges that the City of Tshwane is facing, thus improving the quality of life of the residents of Tshwane. As a ripple effect, the quality of life of residents beyond the borders of Tshwane could also be improved. The programme also seeks to build a vibrant, competitive community of entrepreneurship in Tshwane.

The Inter-University Innovation Challenge provides a platform for innovators at tertiary institutions to devise innovative solutions to assist the City in solving service delivery challenges. For the City to achieve its innovation vision, it is important to create avenues within the innovation ecosystem where all the role players can innovate, collaborate, and test their solutions. It is also important to provide innovators and entrepreneurs with opportunities to showcase, upscale and commercialise their solutions. This innovation challenge is a collaboration between the City of Tshwane, Eskom, The Innovation Hub, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), University of South Africa (Unisa), University of Pretoria (UP), TuksNovation, Universities South Africa (USAf) and the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA).

To qualify as a participant, a few requirements must be met. One of these requirements is that, at the time of the application, participants (individuals or teams) must be enrolled at UP, TUT or Unisa for the academic year when the challenge is running, for either an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification. All entrants must go through a few stages of selection to make it to the last round. Students from various universities in Tshwane are encouraged to think outside the box, and to generate and implement innovative solutions that can solve some of the City's most pressing service delivery challenges. The first Inter-University Innovation Challenge was unleashed on students for the first time in 2020. Individual students or groups were subjected to a screening process as well as several pre-selection activities. Finally, on 27 November 2020, the Inter-University Innovation Challenge awards took place where the winners of the challenge were announced. This gave the City of Tshwane a perfect opportunity to achieve a significant milestone in its quest to position itself as the "innovation capital of South Africa".



CITY FOCUS

Tshwane Inter-University Innovation Challenge positions the city as the "innovation capital of South Africa"

For the 2020 challenge, participants were required to conceptualise and implement innovative solutions that can solve service delivery challenges, with specific focus on the following core service delivery areas:

- Water and energy
- Waste
- Finance (revenue generation and/or collection)
- Clean transport and/or mobility

The prize money awarded to the students will go towards business support and prototype development for their respective innovations. Applications for the Inter-University Innovation Challenge will be called for once a year. This noble initiative will go a long way in remodelling and transforming Tshwane into Africa's innovation capital.

Tshwane has a young population that constantly takes advantage of technological advancement, and they are rapidly moving to an era where, instead of seeking employment, they seek innovative ways in which they can solve service delivery challenges.

Winners of the 2020 Tshwane Inter-University Innovation Challenge:



INCLUSIVE CITIES

Over the last quarter, the Inclusion and Wellbeing Programme has actively engaged with and explored synergies with other urban actors to collectively support the shared objectives of empowering youth and youth development interventions.

The Programme participated spiritedly in the 2020 Urban Festival during the month of October. Through the Metro Youth Strategies project, we invited a panel to deeply engage on co-created urban futures and the role of young people in realising them. The Youth & City Space Webinar connected a cross-section of youth in a facilitated conversation around their experiences of cities, the urban agenda, and dispelling myths about youth's (dis)interest in governance processes.

Urban Festival 2020

YOUTH & CITY SPACE

JOIN US: **9 Oct 2020 9am-11am**

// Young people engaging on mainstreaming youth participation in city-making//

MODERATOR:

PEARL PILLAY

PANELLISTS:

KHANYISA MHLONGO | **LEMOHANG CINDI**

ALSO IN CONVERSATION WITH

TLHOLOGELLO SESANA & MICHELLE MLATI

MPUMELELO "FRYPAN" MFULA | **NKOSILENHLE MAVUSO**

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The Paradox of Planning Implementation Across the Globe #WorldTownPlanningMonth

A City of Ekurhuleni Webinar

Theme: Youth Voices in Spatial Transformation

Tuesday, 24 November at 10:00

Siwe Ntombela, Researcher, SACN

Siphelele Ngobese, Researcher, SACN

Zubeida Lawton, PhD candidate, University of Glasgow

Monyake Moteane, Urban Specialist, World Bank

Kayla Brown, Project Manager, SACN

Marcus Neustetter, Co-director, The Trinity Session

Rudzani Mabaso, Senior Manager, City Planning, City of Ekurhuleni

Sinqobile Dakile, Masters candidate, Florence Design Academy

Palesa Tsita, Head of Department, City Planning, City Of Ekurhuleni

Tlholohelo Mokgere, Research Intern, SACN

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a partnership that works www.ekurhuleni.gov.za

City of Ekurhuleni

In November, the winners of the 2018 and 2020 Young Planners and Designers competitions joined the City of Ekurhuleni's World Planning Month festivities, as part of the "Youth Voices in Spatial Transformation" session. This was co-hosted by the SACN's Built Environment Integration Task Team (BEITT), as the first foray into inter-generational exchange on this important topic.

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Within the urban safety component, engagements looked at ways to support city practitioners in institutionalising and mainstreaming violence and crime prevention, so that city spaces are safe and user-responsive settlements that promote social cohesion. The Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) further participated in:

- The World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace where it shared its programme of work and exhibited best practices from member cities and other partners. This engagement is part of the USRG's South-South cooperation work stream, which seeks shared advocacy and knowledge exchange for safer cities across the global south.
- The Uber Tech for Safety Summit 2020, which explored the role of technology and innovation in supporting safer mobility and overall safety of city residents in their day-to-day lives.
- UN-Habitat session on Global Indicators for Child Safety. This has inspired the exploration of a city level indicator set for South African cities: based partly on children's responses to be harvested through the Visualisation Studios methodology.
- The Expert Group on Global Urban Safety Indicators and Monitoring Tool. The USRG presented its own and the Southern African experience in tracking and consolidating a city level indicator set since 2014. The Expert Group was hosted by UN-Habitat, Spain.

YOUNG PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS COMPETITION



SACN wants to know how you envision future South African Cities in an essay, poster, photo-essay and or 3D model.



For more information visit www.sacities.net



This competition is aimed at young planning and design scholars and professionals (aged 18-35)

INCLUSIVE CITIES

What to look forward to in 2021

1

The USRG welcomes the Nantso Holdings team, which has been appointed to provide facilitation services to the USRG until June 2021. Nantso Holdings has so far facilitated the second Joint Session of the Urban Safety and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Reference Groups, held on 3 December 2020. This 2nd joint session builds on the first (held in September 2020) to further identify synergies, facilitate connections among practitioners and find opportunities to collaborate.

2

The mini “How-to Guide on Community Engagement for Safety Planning” is currently being finalised. This guide was co-created with USRG members through two virtual sessions and a draft review process. The guide will include worksheets and other tools to assist practitioners in engaging communities for safety planning, particularly those in vulnerable or unsafe contexts.

3

The adaptation of the existing Guidebook on Municipal Safety Planning is currently underway, to include an additional chapter that addresses the metropolitan city context. This process is in response to city practitioners’ requests for a tool that recognises the specific challenges of metros such as rapid urbanisation, migration flows, unemployment, informality, etc. and their impact on community safety planning and crime prevention.

4

A digital publication synthesising the Young Planners and Designers Competition 2020 entries into an interactive and accessible report will be published in the 3rd quarter. This publication will showcase young urban development scholars and practitioners’ ideas on participatory city making and their perspectives on decolonising academic curricula to reflect dynamics, cultures and practices in African cities.

PRODUCTIVE CITIES

As the SACN and partners held the Urban Festival under the theme ‘Empowering the Civic’, the Productive Cities team took the opportunity to share their work and engage stakeholders across the month, with three key events held.



1. The Lekgotla: Facilitated public engagements on the Gauteng Township Economic Development Draft Bill.



2. The Imbizo: Urban Economies Table Talk, featuring the Launch of the Urban Economies Paper Series, available on the SACN website.

For the Productive Cities programme, the stance has always been that of advocating for an inclusive and resilient economic growth, hence the theme ‘empowering the civic’ was timely. Held on October 6th 2020, the SACN, the Gauteng Office of the Premier and Gauteng Department of Economic Development facilitated stakeholder engagements and discussions on the Bill through the Lekgotla and successfully solicited inputs from participants who identified gaps and augmented and provided opportunities for the draft Bill to be enhanced.

This event did not only serve as an educational platform for all participants, but it encouraged the public to make submissions on the Bill.

PRODUCTIVE CITIES

The Imbizo: Urban Economies Table Talk was also held on October 21st, 2020 as part of the Urban Festival. The session looked at improving local conditions for enterprise, the urban space economy, the informal economy, township economies, and ensuring inclusive economic infrastructure and services, as well as building innovation-driven economies. The Imbizo was a conversation with authors and contributors on the Urban Economies Paper Series, launched on the same day.

The panel discussion is also made available on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCmfRYqpak4&t=484s>

The Imbizo featured contributions from authors who took the platform to discuss their work that culminated into the paper series. The panel made recommendations on post COVID-19 innovations and systems to strengthen our urban economies and foster inclusive economic growth.

The Paper Series covers a range of related themes including but not limited to diversity across space, sector and skills, the informal economy, and issues around inclusivity and sustainability. It provides a good starting point for where focus could be centralised and what opportunities exist as the country looks to grow urban economies now and beyond COVID-19. It emerged that we need to make the case more clearly to government, for our urban agenda to become an African urban agenda, in line with empowering the civic. There seems to be no coherent urban vision for how South Africa sees the trading relationships with the rest of Africa.



PRODUCTIVE CITIES

What could be expected in the near future?

Beyond the urban month, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Reference Group convenes on December 3rd, 2020. On the same day, the Urban Safety Reference Group continues exploration of synergies and joint activities leveraging EPWP for safety programmes, while creating jobs. The joint session between the two RGs seeks to facilitate connections, collaboration and knowledge sharing among Urban Safety and EPWP practitioners at the city level. The session also considers the Stepping-Stones 'Creating Futures' project as a model for inter-RG collaboration on Gender-Based Violence and joint exploration of funding opportunities.

What could be expected in the near future?

Launch of the Township Economies Papers

1. Township Economic Development in Gauteng Province: National and Provincial Law Perspectives.
2. Municipal Bylaws as Instruments for Township Economic Development in Gauteng.

Intermediate Cities Report

1. Profiling of Intermediate Cities in South Africa, 2021.

Research Papers for EPWP RG

1. A Meta-Analysis of EPWP Case Studies in Cities.
2. A How-to-Guide on Implementing EPWP in Cities.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Remembering our relationship with water

As the water crisis in cities and towns across the country unfolds, we undoubtedly have an endless list of reasons why it has come to this, yet again. We can blame municipal incompetence or lack of proper planning and general system failures; we can lament the lack of infrastructure maintenance and funding challenges; or we can attribute the crisis to the impacts of climate change and extended periods of drought. Or, all of the above.

As part of efforts to refresh our memories, to help us re-ignite, re-think and re-establish our human relationship with water, our Programme Manager: Sustainable Cities, Liteboho Makhele, had the opportunity to host a webinar titled: Remembering Our Relationship with Water. The webinar was held at the Urban Festival 2020, and drew on indigenous knowledge, history and cultural perspectives on the sacredness and value of water. It explored our relationship with it as consumers, as well as the use and management of it through the architectural and engineering lens and brought into focus the role of technology, innovation and social entrepreneurship. It also highlighted the power of language and the spoken word to:

Urban Festival 2020

REMEMBERING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH WATER

JOIN US: 14 Oct 2020 11am-1pm

The event is intended to draw on indigenous knowledge, environmental stewardship, history and cultural perspectives to help us remember, re-think and re-establish our human relationship with water. It will explore different ways of empowering citizens – the civic – to take active measures to protect and preserve this precious resource for ourselves and future generations.

PANELLISTS:

- Dr. Sechaba Maape**
Senior Lecturer: School of Architecture and Planning
University of Witwatersrand (WITS)
- Rutendo Ngara**
Chair: Credo Mutwa Foundation
- Murendeni Mafumo**
Founder: Kusini Water
- Dr. Jeremiah Mutamba**
Senior Manager: Strategic Programmes
Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (CTTA)
- Zahrah Gamielidien**
2nd Year BA: English Literature and Media Student
University of Cape Town (UCT)

HOSTED BY:

Liteboho Makhele
Programme Manager: Sustainable Cities
South African Cities Network

FOR MORE INFO GO TO WWW.URBANFESTIVAL.CO

Partners: ICLEI, CityStewNetwork, IUDF, and others.

- Explore different ways that can empower citizens to take active measures to protect and conserve this precious resource for ourselves and future generations;
- Bring to light some of the systemic challenges and issues we are facing in the water sector;
- Propose some solutions that can ignite active citizenship and participation, as well as open up avenues of engaging and collaborating with local government.

This was done through discussions among a very dynamic and multi-disciplinary panel which consisted of Ms. Rutendo Ngara, Indigenous Knowledge Expert, Philosopher, Engineer and Healer, and Chairperson of the Credo Mutwa Foundation; Dr. Sechaba Maape, Senior Lecturer at Wits University's School of Architecture and Planning; Dr. Jeremiah Mutamba, Senior Manager: Strategic Programs at the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority; Mr. Murendeni Mafumo, a social entrepreneur and CEO and Founder of Kusini Water; Ms.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Remembering our relationship with water



Zahrah Gamieldien, a poet and writer, and a second-year BA: English Literature and Media student at the University of Cape Town.

The webinar started off with panelists and participants sharing their earliest memory of water. The water stories that emerged showed just how much water has been and still is essential to life as we know it. Rutendo Ngara reflected on the historical, cultural and indigenous knowledge aspects of water and showed that in different cultures around the world, water was always deified and associated with the feminine, which is the primordial source from which we (and all things) come. She added that different bodies of water, whether they be oceans, waterfalls, rivers, springs, etc. had different water spirits assigned to them as custodians; and custodianship meant preserving the purity and sanctity of the water.

She pointed out that indigenous cultures acknowledged that we are water and recognised the interconnectedness, interdependence and interrelatedness of all things. However, that relationship is now fractured. She linked the current scourge of gender-based violence to the way we treat our water - as the way we treat the feminine in society - we take it for granted, pollute it, waste it, and systemically abused it; we rape it, neglect it and disregard its value.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Remembering our relationship with water

Sechaba Maape confirmed that this fractured relationship is also a result of us not knowing who we are and from where our waters come from. This lack of knowledge, he said, contributes to our disconnection and sense of ungroundedness, such that we are unable to sense what our place on this earth is, in time and in space. He added that the power of naming places in relation to water can improve our relationship with it, as most of the human body and most of planet earth is made up of water.

He bemoaned the fact that we have designed water out of our cities and have built infrastructure that has little to no character, nor meaning, that hides the water and its sources, which in turn affects our relationship with it; because we do not see it, we have no sense of whether it is plentiful or diminishing. He suggested that if we bring water into our cities, it should be visible, and that our cities need to be places of water and be named in relation to water specifically.



From his engineering perspective, Jeremiah Mutumba demonstrated through some examples how water has been engineered into submission through conventional engineering practices that pipe water from sources to households. He indicated that this has further disconnected people from the sources of water - as people do not see rivers drying up, they lack appreciation of the scarcity and value of water.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Remembering our relationship with water



Murendeni Mafumo talked about the role of technology and innovation that can be used for social impact in the water sector. His company is working to improve access to safe drinking water in communities that do not have access to water. He mentioned the inequalities that exist in cities, as well as the balancing acts that city administrations need to grapple with to distribute water fairly and equitably. This balancing act involves such matters as the engineering costs of water distribution, revenue management, non-revenue water losses, and non-paying residents. Added to this is the rapid urbanisation we are seeing in our cities, which adds its own set of challenges.

He said that the expansion of infrastructure is a very nice dream to have for cities, but it is a very difficult dream to achieve. It is simply going to take too long. He suggested that local-driven innovation can solve that problem on a local, more decentralised scale through public private partnerships - decentralising to use technology to collect and clean water in very low-cost ways. He mentioned that they have designed a closed loop system that enhances water security in communities, and recycles, re-uses and reduces waste flowing into streams. He concluded that self-sustaining communities are essential as the impacts of rapid urbanisation are ever increasing and cities cannot keep up.



To address these impacts, “the youth need to take personal ownership of the challenges we face today because they will be the leaders of tomorrow.” This was Zahrah Gamielien’s point of view. She added that words can be used effectively to carve out ways to engage with everything. She added that poetry and rhymes can be used to educate children and youth to ensure that they actually make a change - reminding them that they are leaders and that “it is not a me thing, but an us and we thing.”



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Remembering our relationship with water

In concluding the discussions, all panelists reiterated the need to have cross-disciplinary dialogue between indigenous knowledge holders, the science community, architects (space and built environment professionals in general), engineers and the youth, to learn from and engage with ancient wisdom; to pay conscious attention to the language we use as this can be an important factor to consider in our relationship with water; and finally, to chart modern and effective ways of using art, music and poetry to come up with a language that allows people's sense of self to be directly connected to water, the rain and the landscape. A language that reconnects us with nature today, because we are, after all, water.



WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

SACN's Well-Governed Cities Programme Urban Festival Events

There are many interesting governance lessons that have emerged over the past six months during the pandemic, where COVID-19 has both revealed the flaws in existing governance systems and exacerbated them. This year's Urban Festival theme was an exploration into how the physical and virtual world can be harnessed to engage people in reimagining and shaping their own cities, both in these strange and uncertain COVID-19 pandemic times, and into the future.

Partnering During the Pandemic

The Well-Governed Cities Programme co-hosted a session with the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP), on partnering between government and society. The session extracted broad governance lessons from EDP's experience of convening a Food Relief Forum that resulted in the establishment of new, proactive and accountable relationships between NGOs, community organisations and government officials. Coming together as partners enabled the forum members to work together to find solutions, share information and coordinate their responses to the need for food relief.

Participants in the session:

- examined why the forum succeeded in establishing effective relationships;
- identified the new forms of community mobilisation, organisation and information sharing that emerged as a result of the pandemic;
- explored the role of intermediaries in creating a positive interface between government and society; and
- discussed ways in which government and civil society can collaborate to support each other to achieve shared goals.




Urban Festival
2020

JOIN US:
19 Oct 2020
9am-11am


PARTNERING DURING THE PANDEMIC: Lessons for Building Better, Together



Danga Mughogho
Programme Manager: Well-Governed Cities
South African Cities Network



Andrew Borraine
CEO
Western Cape Economic Development Partnership



Gill Cullinan
Operations Executive
Western Cape Economic Development Partnership

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WWW.URBANFESTIVAL.CO



WELL-GOVERNED CITIES

SACN's Well-Governed Cities Programme Urban Festival Events

Creative Procurement for Empowering the Civic

In partnership with SACN's built environment team we co-hosted a session that explored ethical, transparent and creative procurement processes to allow for communities to both participate more actively in public procurement processes and hold municipalities and service providers accountable. The session was framed through an economic transformation as well as a public integrity and governance lens.

A 20 min video of contributions from Prof. Jaap De Visser (Dullah Omar Institute), Kris Doble (The Ethics Institute), Nontando Ngamlana (Afesis-corplan), Zukiswa Kota (Public Service Accountability Monitor), Bernie Dolly, Sascha Haselmayer and Prof. Steven Friedman (University of Johannesburg) was followed by a discussion facilitated by Rehana Moosajee.

Urban Festival 2020

CREATIVE PROCUREMENT FOR EMPOWERING THE CIVIC

JOIN US:
23 Oct 2020
9am-10:30am

HOSTED BY:

- Kayla Hanna Brown**
Project Manager: Built Environment
South African Cities Network
- Danga Mughogho**
Programme Manager: Well-Governed Cities
South African Cities Network
- Rehana Moosajee**
The Barefoot Facilitator

With Contributions from:

- Prof. Jaap de Visser**
Director
Dullah Omar Institute - UWC
- Kris Doble**
Senior Manager
The Ethics Institute
- Nontando Ngamlana**
Executive Director
Afesis-Corplan
- Zukiswa Kota**
Head of Monitoring & Advocacy Programme
Public Services Accountability Monitoring
- Bernie Dolly**
Director
Ikhala Trust
- Sascha Haselmayer**
Founder and CEO
CityMart
- Prof. Steven Friedman**
Political Scientist, Columnist, Academic
University of Johannesburg

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