



Press Release

Urban Festival 2021 – The Rebuilt City

The SACN Urban Festival joins global movements led by UN-Habitat dating back to World Habitat Day, first convened in 1986. The UN-Habitat theme for Urban October is *31 Days for Promoting a better urban future*. Thus, situated within that global dialogue, the SACN Urban Festival will focus on local and contextual factors under the theme, “The Rebuilt City”. The Rebuilt City, 2021 edition of the Urban Festival, aims to map new frameworks, relationships, possibilities, and designs for how our cities will recover and rebuild amidst multiple crises. Through dialogues, workshops, activations, social media and creative engagements, The Rebuilt City invites a South African and global conversation about how our cities and towns can reenergise their commitments to the new Urban Agenda by becoming more sustainable and resilient.

This year’s edition of the Urban Festival presents the second chapter to be hosted in this pandemic-era by SA Cities Network in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (DCOG), SALGA and the Department of Human Settlements (DoHs), curated by urbanist Rashid Fataar of Our Future Cities. We invite all civil society organisations, designers, planners, storytellers, civil servants, city-dwellers, and urban enthusiasts to participate in The Rebuilt City; to continue the virtual conversation toward more sustainable and resilient cities.

As CEO of South African Cities Network Sithole Mbanga notes, "South African urban areas will be defined for decades to come by how all of society unites to recover from multiple crises, ranging from environmental pressures to the Covid-pandemic. The pathway towards achieving more sustainable and resilient cities and towns will require renewed energy and more effective partnerships. The Rebuilt City aims to map new frameworks, relationships, possibilities, and designs for how our cities will recover and rebuild. This local and global conversation holds a space for the transformative and often audacious new ideas while advocating for excellent projects that have been in-the-works for quite some time but require bold advocacy."

The 3-day conference will be centred on 6 core themes ranging from Urban Governance and Smart Cities to Green Industries and Affordable Housing. You will also be exposed to the latest research coming out of South African Cities Networks and its partners.

Directors: Ms. Yolisa Kani (Board Chairperson & Non-Executive), Mr. Ashraf Adam (Non-Executive), Ms. Nontando Ngamlana (Non-Executive), Dr. Modjadji Malahlela (Non-Executive) & Mr. Sithole Mbanga (CEO)

SACN Council Chairperson: Cllr. Xola Pakati (Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality)

Company Registration Number: 2002/031754/08 / **Non-Profit Organisation Number:** 032-488-NPO

To register to attend the three-day conference please [click here](#)

Note to editors:

For more information about the Urban Festival 2021, press and interview requests, please contact:

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About South African Cities Network

The South African Cities Network (SACN) is an established network of South African cities and partners that encourages the exchange of information, experience and best practices on urban development and city management. Since 2002 the SACN's mandate has been to:

- Promote good governance and management in South African cities
- Analyse strategic challenges facing South African cities
- Collect, collate, analyse, assess, disseminate, and apply the experience of large city government in a South African context
- Encourage shared learning partnerships among all of society and spheres of government to enhance good governance of South African cities.