

Urban Festival



Press Release

Urban Festival 2022 – Transforming Cities Through Research and Practice

Today, more people than ever live in cities. Cities are spaces where people come together to share experiences and ideas and shape new systems. They are places of social, economic, and political opportunities and intense social interactions. In South Africa, where two-thirds of the population live in urban areas, cities are central to development and at the forefront of the country's economic, social, environmental, and cultural life.

In 2022, the South African Cities Network (SACN) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Established in 2002, the SACN has been the custodian of South Africa's urban story and is at the heart of urban research and practice through its flagship publications and urban conferences and events. The 20th anniversary offers the opportunity to tell the story of best practices, challenges, and lessons of the SACN. We will reflect on the future and what needs to happen over the next 20 years to achieve liveable, safe, resource-efficient cities and towns.

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, "Transforming Cities Through Research & Practice. The festival will significantly contribute to the Global South and aims to provide a platform for learning, experimentation, and knowledge exchange to implement a transformative urban agenda to enable active dialogue between various urban actors.

The festival will take place from 26-28 October 2022 The Empire Venue Parktown, Johannesburg. Urban Festival's overarching focus on inclusivity, accessibility and resilience is based on the Main Programme of speakers from independent organisations and industry. SACN and partners invite all civil society organisations, designers, planners, storytellers, civil servants, and city-dwellers to join the festival so that stories, research, and voices are preserved and used to foster greater understanding and better solutions.



Directors: Ms. Yolisa Kani (Board Chairperson and Non-Executive), Mr. Ashraf Adam (Non-Executive), Ms. Nontando Ngamlanga (Non-Executive), Dr. Modjadji Malahlela (Non-Executive) & Mr. Sithole Mbanga (CEO SACN)
SACN Council Chairperson: Cllr. Xola Pakati (Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality)
Company Secretary: Ms. Bronwyn Osman (SACN)
Company Registration Number: 2002/031754/08 / Non-Profit Organisation Number: 032-488-NPO

Visit our website for more information at <https://www.sacities.net/urban-festival-2022/>

Note to editors:

For more information about the Urban Festival 2022, 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.

