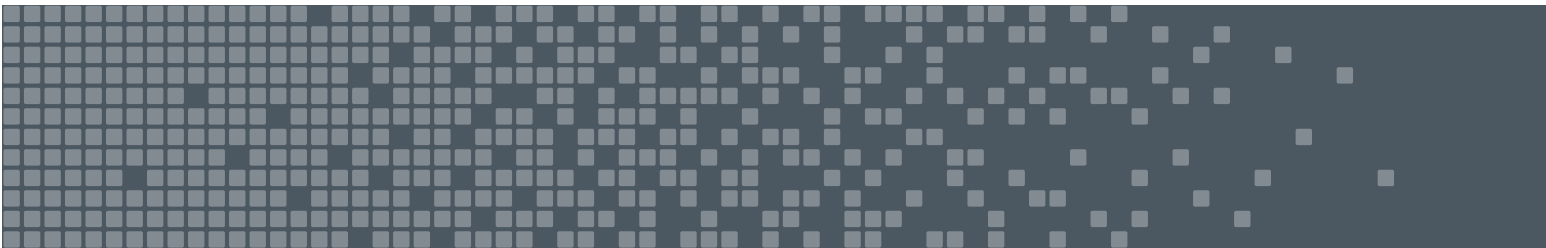


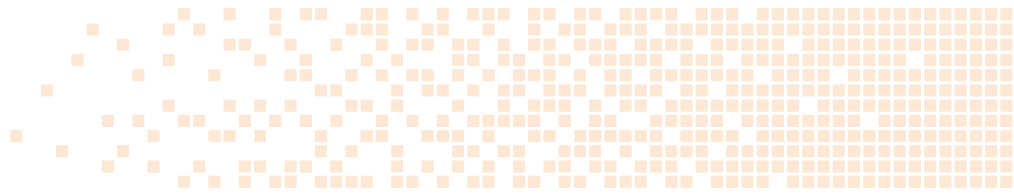
# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



JULY - SEPTEMBER  
2023

**Vol. 1**

# Table of Contents



**Editor's Note**



**Inclusive Cities**



**Innovative Cities**



**Productive Cities**



**Sustainable & Resilient Cities**



**Well-Governed Cities**



**City Focus**



**Team News & Events**

# Editor's Note



**Luncedo Njezula**  
Editor

✉ [luncedo@sacities.net](mailto:luncedo@sacities.net)

“Your support and collaboration are instrumental in driving positive change and shaping the future of urban environments in South Africa.”

## Dear Stakeholder, Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to our quarter-one edition of the South African Cities Network's online newsletter. We are excited to kick-start quarter one by keeping you updated on the latest developments and initiatives taking place within our network of cities across South Africa.

As we navigate through these challenging times, we must stay connected and informed. This newsletter aims to be a valuable source of information, providing insights into the various projects, collaborations, and research being conducted in our cities. It is our hope that this platform will foster collaboration, inspire innovative ideas, and ultimately contribute towards building stronger, more sustainable urban environments.

In this edition, we are thrilled to feature articles that delve into a wide range of topics. From urban safety to just transition dialogues and capability development initiatives, we aim to cover the diverse aspects that shape our cities. We have also included updates on key events as well as opportunities for engagement and participation.

We encourage you to explore the content of this newsletter, share it with your colleagues and networks, and actively engage with the information provided. We believe that by working together, we can make a significant impact on the development and transformation of our cities.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, researchers, and city officials who have dedicated their time and expertise to make this newsletter possible.

Without their valuable insights and support, this platform would not exist. We also want to extend our appreciation to you, our stakeholders, for your ongoing commitment to creating sustainable and inclusive cities. Your support and collaboration are instrumental in driving positive change and shaping the future of urban environments in South Africa.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and inspiring. As always, we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and contributions for future editions. Let's continue to build a network of cities that serves as a catalyst for progress and prosperity.

Thank you!

*Luncedo Njezula*





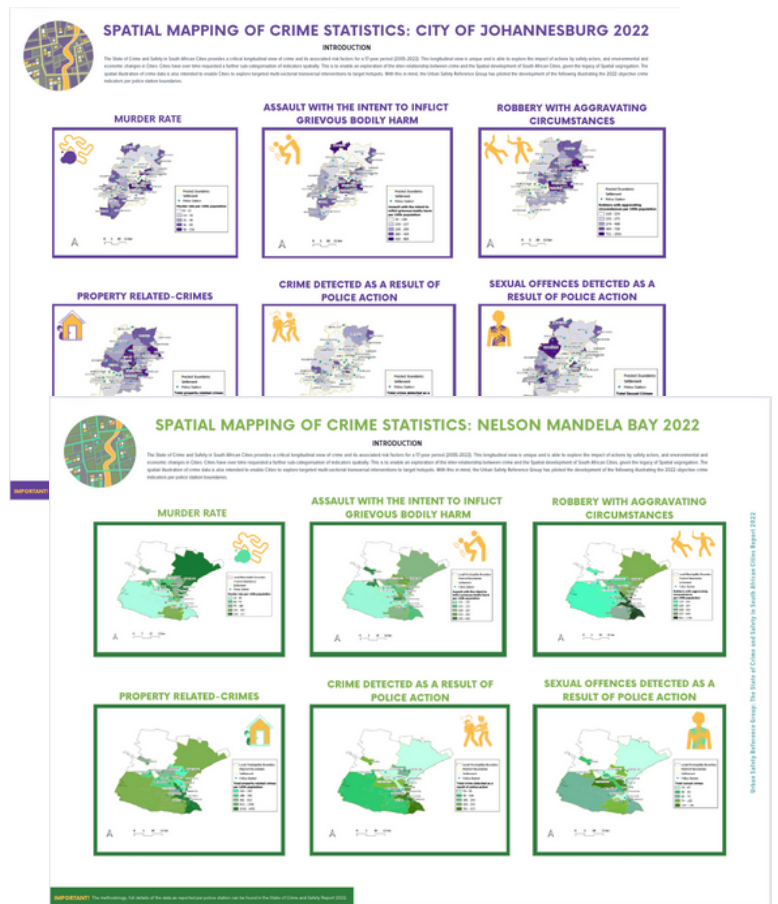
**Kayla Brown**  
Project Manager:  
Programmes  
✉ [kayla@sacities.net](mailto:kayla@sacities.net)



**Sipehele Ngobese**  
Senior  
Researcher  
✉ [sipehele@sacities.net](mailto:sipehele@sacities.net)

## Completion and launch of the State of Crime and Safety Report 2022

As part of its commitment to providing a regular and reliable database on city-level crime, the USRG has developed the State of Crime and Safety in SA Cities Report 2022 through the Institute for Security Studies. This is a truncated crime statistics update in anticipation of the fully-fledged 2023 State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report, which will mark 10 years of the USRG. Report 2022 introduces an exciting new feature to USRG reporting: spatialised city-level crime statistics showing the true distribution of each crime type or indicator across a city. These maps were created in collaboration with the SACN's Innovative Cities programme. Report 2022, together with the recently completed GBV Prevention advocacy pieces, was launched by the USRG on the 5th of October, 2023.



## Development of a policy brief on city and sub-city level safety audits

Over and above annual reporting, the Urban Safety Reference Group develops regular, smaller products such as policy briefs and how-to tools and guides with the aim of bringing awareness about the link to the safety of non-policing sector functions. In recent months, the USRG has produced policy brief no.1/2023 titled The Case for Safety Audits for Community Safety at City Level. This brief considers the utility of city and sub-city-level data collection to inform partnered interventions informed by local challenges and realities. It highlights the need for integrating safety audit data with crime statistics and other tools/data sets and gives practical examples of how safety audits can be conducted, especially when cities are strained for resources. Among other conclusions and recommendations, the brief calls for enhanced institutional capacity to institutionalize safety audits for tangible impacts on crime prevention.

## Advocacy pieces on Transversal Management of GBV

The perception exists that safety violence and crime prevention are the work of the police alone. This often prevents the necessary partnerships and some critical contributors in cities and across government from recognizing their role. It also prevents efficiencies that are essential in the constrained budget climate, whereas cross-silo partnering could be a solution. The USRG has developed a series of visual tools supporting multistakeholder partnerships on GBV prevention at the city level.

This toolset focuses on the role and contribution of municipalities, unearthing the practical and multisectoral ways they can contribute to making a city safer (leveraging their existing functions around lighting and electrification, waste management, economic development spatial design, transport, etc.), inclusive and more livable.

The tools comprise a short video profiling women's experiences working to end GBV across the institutional landscape. Together, they make a compelling call for collaboration. A poster also highlights the relevant policies, key actors and their particular roles.



[View the full poster here](#)



**Rebecca Gatang'i**  
Programme Manager:  
Innovative Cities  
rebecca@sacities.net



**Majaha Dlamini**  
Urban Data  
Manager  
majaha@sacities.net

## C4IR Digital Transformation Expo 2023



### Join us at the C4IR South Africa Digital Transformation Expo 2023!

Theme: Enabling Digital Transformation for All, a Human-Centred Approach



The C4IR Digital Transformation Expo 2023 took place from the 19-20 of September 2023, under the theme “Enabling Digital Transformation for All, A Human Centred-Approach” at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. Rebecca Gatang'i, Programme Manager: Innovative Cities, joined a panel discussion focusing on Open Data.

The panel's objectives were:



#### Knowledge Sharing:

Facilitate the exchange of insights, experiences, and challenges faced by the different stakeholders.



#### Promote Collaboration:

Foster a collaborative environment among participants, encouraging cross-sector and cross-country cooperation to address common challenges.



#### Best Practices & Recommendations:

Gather and share best practices and actionable recommendations for promoting OPEN DATA policies.



#### Networking Opportunities:

Facilitate networking opportunities for participants to establish meaningful connections and collaborations that can drive positive change in their respective fields.





## Meaningful Responses and Targeted Interventions, specifically for Youth Unemployment, are urgent

Youth unemployment is a pressing issue in South Africa, with over half of the working-age population being youths aged 15-34. The national absorption rate is low, with only 40.1% of the population employed, and young people are worse off, with only 10.7% of those aged between 15 and 24 employed. Out of 10 million plus young people aged 15-24, only 2.78 million are employed or actively seeking employment. The largest share (72.7%) are inactive, and discouragement is the main reason for their inactivity.

Youth employment declined rapidly at -5.4% per annum for ages 15-24 and -2.6% per annum for ages 25-34 between 2018-2022. This highlights a potential pool for a future Public Employment Programme (PEP). Public Employment Programs are short-term but address persistent issues that impact those who may rely on them their entire working lives. This is especially true in high youth unemployment.

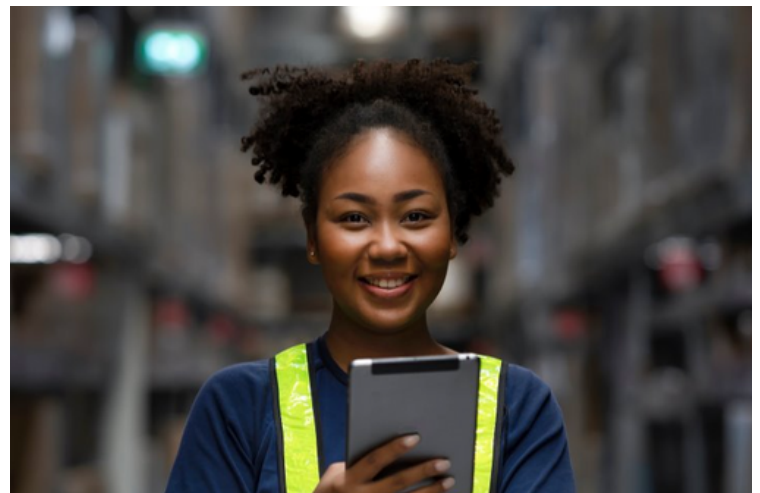
Youth unemployment is a pressing issue in South Africa that requires urgent attention. Despite the efforts to tackle the problem, it continues to persist, and there is a need for more innovative approaches to address it effectively. While some progress has been made, there is still much work to be done to enhance the effectiveness of youth employment organizations and expand their reach.

We need to identify the most vulnerable individuals and understand local labour markets to tackle unemployment. This will help us provide tailored support to job seekers at different stages of the job search process. With this in mind, the SACN and NDPWI EPWP Reference Group undertook a research assignment which sought to:

✔ **Support the ecosystem approach to job creation articulated in various literature related to public employment programmes and labour markets.**

✔ **Identify the labour market needs to which programmes such as the EPWP and other interventions can "hook onto".**

Most working-age people in Gauteng still need to complete secondary education. Unemployment rates were 38.3% and 35.2% for these groups in Q2 2023. This contrasts with 20.2% for some tertiary education and 9.6% for graduates. Initiatives to improve education access and quality are needed. Identifying priority sectors at the local level offers suggestions for work opportunities providing training to improve job prospects. In 2021, administrative and support services, manufacturing, wholesale retail, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles created the most job opportunities for youth. The EPWP databases list NEET individuals, connecting them to education, training, WBL, entrepreneurship, and career development programs within these sectors



The report shows a significant decline in employment among people with low education levels. Women were disproportionately impacted. The EPWP RG hopes the report will help identify support and intervention points for job seekers in the City of Ekurhuleni. It also aims to encourage more deliberate interventions, especially for the benefit of South Africa's youth. The research will be available on the SACN website in October 2023.

# Sustainable and Resilient Cities



**Liteboho Makhele**  
Programme Manager  
Sustainable and  
Resilient Cities  
liteboho@sacities.net

## City of Ekurhuleni Just Transition Dialogues

The City of Ekurhuleni, supported by C40 Cities as part of the C40 Cities Inclusive Climate Action Programme, hosted a series of Just Transition Dialogues from 15th August to 26th September 2023. The dialogues, which the SA Cities Network facilitated, brought together various internal and some external City stakeholders to discuss pathways toward a low-carbon, sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy in the City of Ekurhuleni.

The dialogues aimed to foster constructive exchange between city officials with a view to:

- Enhance understanding of what the service delivery considerations of the just transition might be for the City;
- Identify the potential benefits of transitioning to a low-carbon economy as well as the opportunities for green jobs in various sectors;
- Discuss the anticipated impact of the just transition on workers, and in particular, strategies or initiatives that could be put in place to ensure a smooth transition for workers who may need to shift to different sectors;
- Foster and strengthen linkages among key institutional stakeholders, particularly across departments and practitioners; and
- Generate the momentum to take forward actions and recommendations in relation to implementing Ekurhuleni's Green City Action Plan.



The Dialogues were structured to start with high-level inputs from Divisional Heads, followed by panel discussions comprising Ekurhuleni City officials, officials from neighbouring cities in the Gauteng City Region, experts from various city support organisations, followed by focused breakaway group discussions among city officials.

This series of Dialogues was a primer for the City to prepare for engagements and multi-stakeholder dialogues with the broader community of stakeholders within the City – civil society organisations, the youth and vulnerable communities, worker organisations, the private sector and academia – which will be aimed at ensuring that multiple perspectives are taken into account in charting pathways for the just transition in the City. These pathways will be linked to actions and targets set in the City's Green City Action Plan. In addition, the City will use the dialogues to feed into provincial and national just transition dialogues and planning to ensure that those processes are more inclusive and consider the local context.





## Piloting a capability development approach called Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) in the City of Johannesburg

Through its research and programmes, the SACN is focused on enabling cities to be well-governed, productive, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Addressing the gap between the capability of the state and its functions and developmental mandate was identified as a priority in the extensive SACN 2016 – 2021 stakeholder review that informed the current SACN’s strategic business plan.

This year, the Well Governed Cities Programme is piloting a capability development approach called Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) in Johannesburg. This innovative approach to solving “wicked” or seemingly intractable public problems has been developed by the Building State Capability Programme at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. PDIA works by forming teams focused on a priority problem, who work step by step over 6-7 months to understand the problem deeply and then develop and trial practical solutions that are closely adapted to the context. PDIA understands that solving complex problems requires learning, experimentation, adaptation, consensus-building, and maintaining support and authorisation.

This focus on learning also builds problem-solving capability among team members. We are indebted to the senior authorities in the City of Joburg who listened to our pitch and enthusiastically signed up for the pilot: Ms Liziwe Makoro, Regional Director: E, Ms Irene Mafune, Regional Director: F and Mr Harvey Phalatse, Director: Innovation & Knowledge Management, Group Strategy, Policy and Community Relations (GSPCR). Starting in July, three City of Joburg PDIA teams from Region E, Region F and GSPCR have been meeting every week, under the supervision and guidance of Harvard-trained PDIA coach and facilitator, Peter Harrington, to work on the problems nominated by their authorisers, namely illegal recycling, illegal dumping, and hijacked properties.

The expected outcomes of this initiative include measurable progress made by the City of Johannesburg teams to solve or mitigate their nominated problems, a clear path toward the positive transformation of the targeted issue, and the City of Johannesburg team’s understanding of how to use the PDIA and other methodologies and approaches to policy deliberations that yield results; increased understanding of how to reach decisions and create achievable policies; greater ability to utilize data in the policymaking and implementation process; improved strategic communications skills and increased awareness of the importance of actively informing and engaging citizens. Amongst the senior City of Johannesburg authorities, a deepened understanding of innovative methods and problem-solving processes. Peter Harrington is also delivering a ‘Training of Trainers’ curriculum to three SACN staff so that they can facilitate future PDIA processes, both within Joburg and in other SACN participating cities. While PDIA has been applied in many countries and contexts, including the National Treasury Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) and the Department of Small Business Development in South Africa, it has not been applied at a city level. The City of Joburg PDIA pilot will run for six months.



## Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Conducts Successful Media Protocol Training for Mayoral and Executive Committee Members

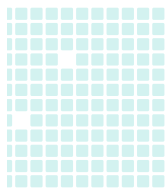
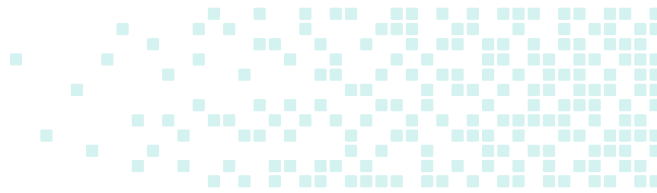
Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium was the venue for the two-day Media Protocol Training, which took place on July 25 and 26, 2023. This training aimed to empower key decision-makers with practical communication skills, media handling techniques, and strategies that promote transparency, public engagement, and constructive relationships with the media.

Day one's training began with an official opening and welcome by the Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Cllr Gary Van Niekerk. The first session of the day discussed "Government Communication as a Strategic Tool for Local Service Delivery", with insights shared by Ms. Ndllelantle Pinyana from the Provincial GCIS Department. Participants received hands-on media training in the second session, focusing on effective interview and press conference presentation skills.

On Day two, Mr Mamnkeli Ngam, the Provincial Head of Communications at Eastern Cape CoGTA, presented on Crisis Communication in Local Government, followed by a presentation on public speaking and conduct for elected public representatives by Mr Lihle Mhlwana from the Eastern Cape Premier's Office. The second session featured a Media Panel Discussion & Networking Session.

The two-day Media Protocol Training for Mayoral and Executive Committee Members of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality proved successful. Attendees left the training equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to engage proactively with the media and effectively communicate the municipality's vision and achievements to the public. This investment in media training will enhance transparency and increase public trust. The newly acquired skills will empower the city's leadership to confidently navigate media challenges and foster an environment of open communication in the years to come.





## Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality elects Cllr Gregory Nthatsi as Executive Mayor

On behalf of the South African Cities Network, we would like to congratulate Cllr Gregory Nthatsi on his election as the Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.



**Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality  
Mayoral Committee - [Click Here](#)**

# Team News & Events

Cities have been facing a range of crises for over a decade, from economic downturns to droughts caused by climate change to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and even social unrest leading to looting and destruction. Unfortunately, these will not be the last challenges that cities will encounter. Cities play a vital role in people's lives by providing essential services and influencing local economic development, but many cities are struggling with systemic problems and are in a vulnerable state, making them ill-prepared for unexpected shocks. The pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of many municipalities. To build resilience, it is crucial to address the underlying systemic and structural problems of local government. However, these issues are complex and entrenched, requiring an all-of-society approach to find sustainable solutions.



In line with the theme of World Habitat Day 2023, the South African Cities Network's Urban Festival 2023 will focus on resilient urban economies and cities as drivers of growth and recovery. The virtual festival, taking place on 31 October, will explore how data can enable resilience and actions for growth and recovery in "The Working City." Cities have been facing a range of crises for more than a decade, from economic downturns to droughts caused by climate change to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,

and even social unrest, leading to looting and destruction. Unfortunately, these will not be the last challenges that cities will encounter. Cities play a vital role in people's lives by providing essential services and influencing local economic development. Still, many cities struggle with systemic problems and are vulnerable, making them ill-prepared for unexpected shocks. Experts and practitioners from various sectors, including government, private sector, and civil society, will gather to discuss

a wide range of topics related to city governance, finance, sustainability, resilience, inclusion, and innovation. SACN and its partners invite civil society, organisations, designers, planners, storytellers, civil servants, and city-dwellers to join the conversation. The goal is to preserve stories, research, and voices to foster greater understanding and better solutions.

**For more information and to register, go to [www.sacities.net/urban-festival-2023](http://www.sacities.net/urban-festival-2023)**

For media queries, please get in touch with **Lebogang Lechuba** at [lebogang@sacities.net](mailto:lebogang@sacities.net)



For Sponsorship and Partnership, please get in touch with **Pholisa Magqibelo** at [pholisa@sacities.net](mailto:pholisa@sacities.net)



# Team News & Events

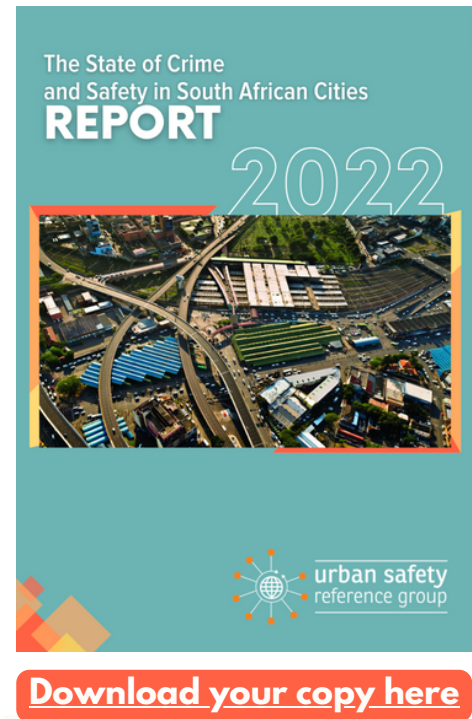
## Adaptation Futures 2023, Montréal Canada, 2-6 October 2023

SACN's Sustainable and Resilient Cities Programme Manager, Liteboho Makhele, joined the Adaptation Futures 2023 event in Canada, participating in a Panel Discussion on "Just Transitions to Water Resilience in African Cities" alongside Anna Taylor from the University of Cape Town and Leila Harris from the University of British Columbia. The session was moderated by Gina Ziervogel from the African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town. This session also sought to explore adaptation priorities and actions for building urban water resilience in African cities, from a justice and equity perspective.



## State of Crime and Safety in South African Cities Report 2022 Launch

The Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG), in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Global Affairs and Canada and the Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (VCP), launched the 2022 State of Crime and Safety in South African Cities Report at a virtual USRG Meeting on 5 October 2023.





As our loyal readers of our  
Quarterly Newsletter, we would  
love your feedback!  
Please [click here](#).



## The South African Cities Networks (SACN)

Joburg Metro Building- 16th Floor  
158 Civic Boulevard  
Braamfontein  
2017

**Tel:** +27 11 407 6471

**Fax:** +27 11 403 5230

**Email:** [info@sacities.net](mailto:info@sacities.net)

**Website:** [www.sacities.net](http://www.sacities.net)

