

COUNCIL ON URBAN INITIATIVES

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Institute for Innovation
and Public Purpose

LSE Cities

THE JUST CITY
THE HEALTHY CITY
THE GREEN CITY

COUNCIL ON **URBAN** INITIATIVES

The Council is an independent body established as a collaboration between UN-Habitat, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, and LSE Cities.

Constituted initially by an international group of eighteen pioneering mayors, practitioners, designers, activists and academics, the Council's mission is to position urban issues at the heart of global debates; influence agendas at the highest levels of the UN and international community; and promote experimentation to overcome barriers to innovation and progressive policymaking at the city level.

The Council's work will be organized around three ambitious challenges: the just city, the healthy city, and the green city.

Council Members

The initial membership will be expanded to ensure wider diversity, regional and professional representation.



Yvonne Aki-Sawyer

is the Mayor of Freetown in Sierra Leone with a commitment to transform the city using an inclusive data driven approach to address urban challenges.

Her public sector engagement began during the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic and continued post-Ebola, where she worked towards the socio-economic recovery of Sierra Leone. Aki-Sawyer is dedicated to transforming Sierra Leone with a three-year 'Transform Freetown' plan, that details 19 concrete objectives across 11 sectors ranging from environmental degradation to job creation in the tourism sector.



Chan Heng Chee

is a Singaporean academic and diplomat currently serving as a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, Ambassador-at-Large at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities in the Singapore University of Technology and Design. She is also a Member of the Yale-NUS Governing Board, and a Council Member of the Asia Society Policy Institute. Heng Chee was formerly Singapore's Ambassador to the United States and Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to Canada.



Leilani Farha

is the Global Director of The Shift, a platform to promote the right to housing. Farha is the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, having over 20

years of experience both internationally and domestically on the implementation of the right to adequate housing for marginalised groups. Farha has assisted the development of global human rights standards on housing through the first UN Guidelines for the implementation of the right to housing and reports on homelessness, and the financialisation of housing.



is the founder and director of the African Futures Institute (AFI) in Accra, Ghana, an independent postgraduate school of architecture and public events platform. She

was the founder and director of the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg (2014–2019) and the Dean of Architecture at the Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture (2019–2020). She is the editor of White Papers, Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture (University of Minnesota Press, 2000) and the editor-in-chief of FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture.



is a Professor of Urban Design and Planning and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. He is the founder principal of RMA Architects which

designs and executes government, private, and unsolicited projects driven by the firm's advocacy in Mumbai. In 2018 RMA Architects were awarded the Venice Biennale juror's 'Special Mention' for three projects that address issues of intimacy and empathy, gently diffusing social boundaries and hierarchies. Mehrotra's most recent book titled 'Working in Mumbai' (2020) reflects on his practice's work with cities.



is an Honorary Professor at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose and the Bartlett School of Architecture, and a Senior Fellow at the Center on

Capitalism and Society at Columbia University. Previously, he founded the New York Institute for the Humanities and served as President of the American Council on Work. Sennett's work focuses on social life in cities, changes in labour, and social theory. Sennett has received multiple awards including the Hegel Prize, the Spinoza Prize, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University.



Ricky Burdett (co-chair)

is a Professor of Urban Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Director of LSE Cities. He is

a Trustee of the Norman Foster Foundation, and a member of the London Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board. Burdett was formerly the Director of the Venice International Architecture Biennale and Chief Adviser on Architecture and Urbanism for the 2012 London Olympics. He is the co-editor of several books, including 'Shaping Cities in an Urban Age' (2018) and 'The Endless City' (2007).



Ada Colau Ballano

is the Mayor of Barcelona, and the United Cities and Local Governments special envoy for relations between cities and the United Nations. Colau is a human

rights activist with an emphasis on housing rights. In 2009 she co-founded the Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca (Platform for People Affected by Mortgage) in response to the rise in evictions caused by unpaid mortgage loans during the 2008 financial crisis. Under Colau's leadership, Barcelona has achieved several awards including the European Responsible Housing Award (2019).



is the Director of Strategic Design at Vinnova, the Swedish government's innovation agency. He is also a Professor at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, and Visiting

Professor at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. Dan has led strategic urban planning projects worldwide, occupying leadership roles in Arup, and Future Cities Catapult. He is currently a Design Advocate for the Mayor of London, and the author of numerous publications including 'Dark Matter & Trojan horses: A strategic design playbook' (2012).



Claudia López Hernández

is the Mayor of Bogotá, holding focus on issues relating to social inclusion, sustainability and anti-corruption. She previously served as

Senator for the Republic of Colombia from 2014–2019, during which time she led the fight against corruption and was recognised for her dedication to collective action. Prior to her political career, López worked as a journalist, researcher and political analyst. She has been a consultant to the United Nations and was named one of BBC's 100 Women 2020.



is the Mayor of Gaziantep and President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey. Şahin has taken a leading role in international city networks, serving as

President of the Middle East and Western Asia division of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG-MEWA), and President of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF). In 2001, Şahin became the Gaziantep Provincial Founding Member of the Justice and Development Party, and during her tenure, she became chairman of Morals and Decency Murders Commission and Research Commission of Violence against Children.



Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo

is a scientist and the Mayor of Mexico City. In June 2019, Sheinbaum announced a new six-year environmental plan for the city which included

reducing air pollution by 30%, planting 15 million trees, providing water service to every home, and constructing solar water heaters. Sheinbaum has a PhD in energy engineering and is the author of over 100 articles that discuss the environment and sustainable development. She is a joint Nobel Peace Prize winner on Climate Change and was named one of BBC's 100 Women



LaToya Cantrell

is the Mayor of New Orleans. Cantrell rose to local prominence through her work to recover the Broadmoor neighbourhood following Hurricane Katrina

in 2005. In her first term as mayor, Cantrell was involved in negotiations to secure \$50 million for the Sewerage & Water Board, and as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee, she focused on the effectiveness of citywide anti-gun-violence campaigns, and the understaffing at the New Orleans Police Department. Cantrell was previously a board member of the Neighbourhood Partnership Network and Salvation Army of Greater New Orleans.



Liz Diller

is an Architecture professor at Princeton University, and co-founder of the award-winning architecture practice Diller Scofidio + Renfro. Diller is interested in

democracy and the public realm, realising spatially and socially progressive projects such as the High-Line in New York City. Diller was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People (2018) and received the first MacArthur Foundation fellowship in architecture. She is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



is a leading scholar on youth, protests and social change in Africa who has greatly contributed to shaping current youth studies in the global South. Honwana is

currently an Adviser on social development policy at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. She was Centennial Professor and the Strategic Director of the Centre for Africa at London School of Economics and Political Science. Her most notable books include 'The Time of Youth: Work, Social Change and Politics in Africa' (2012), 'Youth and Revolution in Tunisia' (2013) and 'Makers & Breakers: Children and Youth in Post-colonial Africa' (2005).



Mariana Mazzucato (co-chair)

is a Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, where she directs the UCL Institute for

Innovation and Public Purpose. Mazzucato's work challenges orthodox thinking about the role of the state and the private sector in driving innovation; how economic value is created, measured and shared; and how marketshaping policy can become 'mission-oriented' to solve global challenges. Mazzucato has won several awards including the 2020 John von Neumann Award, and is the author of several books, including 'Mission Economy A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism' (2021).



is a Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, and a member of the university's Committee on Global Thought, which she chaired until 2015. Sassen studies

cities, immigration, and states in the world economy, with inequality, gendering and digitisation being three key variables running through her work. She has received multiple awards and honours, including multiple doctor honoris causa and the 2013 Principe de Asturias Prize in the Social Sciences. Her books include 'Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy' (2014), and 'The Global City' (1991).



Maria Soledad Nuñez Mendez

was formerly Paraguay's Minister of Housing and Habitat. Nuñez transformed the ministry from a housing-focused

institution into a technical institution and oversaw the increased production of social housing by working with more than 30,000 families in her country. Nuñez belongs to the Advisory Board of the World Bank's initiative 'Paraguay Ahora' devoted to promoting social dialogues among young people. She recently founded a Public Leadership Academy named 'Alma Cívica' and is currently leading a training programme for 300 public servants in Paraguay.

Changing the Trajectory

Mariana Mazzucato and Ricky Burdett, Co-chairs, Council on Urban Initiatives

The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly revealed and accelerated the pressures facing cities – home to the majority of the global population, leading drivers of social development and engines of economic growth. Cities were on the frontline of the pandemic, crippled by the highest infection rates, and restricted in their response to the crisis by inadequate resources and contracting economic activity.

The challenges cities faced throughout the pandemic were exacerbated by decades-long trends that have led urban areas to become increasingly spatially fragmented, more socially divisive and environmentally damaged. This trajectory must be altered, and a bold new narrative is needed to reshape the future of cities. With its diverse membership of urban leaders, activists, designers and thinkers, the *Council on Urban Initiatives* will help inform and promote this paradigm shift.

Despite the overwhelming challenges they experienced, cities demonstrated their significant capacity to respond to the crisis at the political, spatial and human level. Many cities demonstrated an ability to innovate, responding proactively to overlapping health, social, economic and environmental stresses. Access to services, open space and community support sustained fragile groups and individuals in some of the world's largest and densest conurbations.

Short-term tactical interventions in cities – turning hotels into safe refuges for the homeless, closing streets to traffic to enable outdoor eating, protecting public transport for keyworkers, implementing a district care system or addressing food security – highlights their dynamism and ability to confront challenges boldly and solve problems adaptively. The swift response of many cities across diverse contexts, each facing distinct challenges resulting from the pandemic, has provided front-line urban workers and decision-makers with new practices and alternative thinking to explore.

The *Council* provides a platform to showcase these local initiatives and to replicate and scale them. Many of these stopgap solutions were temporary, however, designed as a new layer within a weak system rather than an opportunity to recast and rebuild. Existing governance structures and economic reasoning have put cities at a severe disadvantage. There is, therefore, an opportunity to both expose the fragility of existing forms of governance and investment and advocate for new and more sustainable tools, frameworks and partnerships that deliver real change on the ground for the people who need it most.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a clear direction for improving the relationship between the built environment and patterns of habitation. The *Council on Urban Initiatives* will not only promote experimental initiatives that respond to the urban SDGs but also identify barriers to innovation and progressive policymaking that hold cities back.

The tactical solutions cities implemented in response to the pandemic provide a crucial opportunity to inform long-term strategic change that should not be missed. It is clear that cities are constrained by the inadequate distribution of resources, and an imbalance in the legal powers between local and national institutions. Yet they are tasked with generating the tools and frameworks needed to navigate the complexities of governance, policy and design at the city-level. The pandemic has shown that for cities to be drivers of change on the 21st century's grand challenges, the role of 'the urban' within regional, national and international politics must be recalibrated.

To begin tackling these challenges and exploring positive examples of new practices and experimental thinking on how cities can do things differently, the Council will focus on three related thematic entry points for urban development: health, social justice and sustainability. Drawing together global expertise, the Council will contribute renewed thinking on urban values and paradigms. The trajectory of cities must change, and the Council will shine a light to support urban change-makers to remake our urban age.

The Council has been established to centre the urban in global debates, about how to redirect our economies and societies towards ambitious social goals, to influence agendas in international fora including at the highest levels of the UN, and to help to lay the groundwork for a renewed prominence of cities in the international arena.

This will enable cities to better respond to the global challenges of the 2020s and beyond.

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HEALTHY: Building on its unique urban DNA, the City of Barcelona's Superblock initiative is transforming traffic junctions into largely car-free public spaces used by local residents. In addition to reducing emissions, these radical interventions create more space for greening and contribute to cooling the environment in peak summer periods.
Photography: Rio Bani



JUST: Gaziantep, on the Turkish border with Syria, has integrated 500,000 refugees and grown its population by 25 percent since 2014. The Ensar Community Centre is an initiative led by the municipality to promote cultural exchange between residents of different backgrounds and to provide services to vulnerable members of the community.
Photography: ©IOM/Nadine Al Lahham



GREEN: At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city administration of Freetown in Sierra Leone accelerated initiatives to increase water provision across the city, installing hand washing stations in public spaces and introducing rainwater harvesting systems.
Photography: Michael Duff.

Rethinking Cities

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has made it clear that our planet is facing a red alert when it comes to the global climate emergency. He identified the pandemic as an 'opportunity to reflect and reset how we live, interact and rebuild our cities'. The work of the *Council on Urban Initiatives* can help shape that, drawing on the latest research and the impressive expertise gathered here.

The pandemic has exposed the growing inequalities in cities which forces us to focus more on issues of social justice. Moreover, the least well off in cities and communities will bear the brunt of climate change in the form of floods, landslides and extreme heat. There are more than one billion people living in informal settlements, with 70 per cent highly vulnerable to climate change – a poverty multiplier that traps the poor further in the absence of a pro-poor approach to planning, building and managing our cities.

The impact of climate change is likely to increase sudden migration to cities, which already host 60 percent of migrants. The influx of new migrants into cities which are already experiencing a multitude of pressures will add to the complexities of urban planning, management and governance. UN-Habitat is seeing this first-hand in the Sahel, which is destabilizing a whole region and likely to spill over into other places.

The success of society in the 21st century depends on our collective response to interlinked global crises. Already the climate crisis, the social justice crisis, the impact on biodiversity and our environment, and the ongoing health crisis have exposed the fragility in the design and governance of our cities and eco-systems.

Mayors have been shown to be bold practical visionaries, imagining new ways of living that are more inclusive and sustainable: reclaiming streets for public use, reclaiming assets to house the homeless, preventing evictions of the most vulnerable and expanding social

safety nets. National governments need to create the conditions in which this innovation and experimentation can scale up and become enduring policy.

I have asked global thought leaders such as Richard Sennett, Saskia Sassen, Ricky Burdett and Mariana Mazzucato, to set up the *Council on Urban Initiatives*, in order to bring together visionary mayors, creative thinkers and practitioners to the table to help address these interlinked global crises and reframe the discourse on the role of cities, urban governance, design and planning. This is a true collaboration between UN-Habitat, the Institute for Innovation and Public Policy at University College London, and LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science. It will provide big-picture insight to frontline urban decision-makers around the world.

The public sector, both at national and local level, has to define the mission for all investments large and small and set ambitious targets. However, ambitious targets alone will not do the trick. We need fundamental shifts in the way we live, work and consume; and in the way we plan and design our cities to be healthy, green and inclusive. In doing so we should leave no person or place behind.

We need leadership in thought that turns the latest science into practice at scale, supported by the right kinds of policies. I look forward to the work of the Council, as we ask ourselves critical questions, think outside the box, and find solutions at scale. UN-Habitat, as focal point within the UN system, will use the work of the *Council on Urban Initiatives* to raise the bar within the United Nations and inform progressive policymaking, with a view to designing cities that are healthier, more sustainable and more equitable.



Climate change disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable urban residents. Without systematic safeguards and significant wealth redistribution, both within and between cities, climate change will exacerbate existing inequalities and divisions.
Photography: Rajesh Vora

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What forms of governance, public finance tools and policymaking best support sustainable urban growth?

How do urban form and innovative design make urban lives healthier, fairer and greener?

Have existing governance structures and economic reasoning put cities at a severe disadvantage?

What are the political and economic barriers to lasting urban change?

How do we bring together different kinds of urban knowledge, expertise and practice to deliver real change on the ground for the people who need it most?

What kind of experimentation, risk-taking and failure create the preconditions for innovation in progressive cities?

The Just City

The Healthy City

The Green City

	 Population (thousands)	 Average annual growth rate (%)	 Birth rates per '000 population	 Young Population (%) (under 14s, 18s, or 19s)	 Homicide rate per 100,000 people	 Gini coefficient	 Foreign born population (as % of total)	 % of population with access to internet	 Unemployment rate pre-COVID-19 (%)	 % of the population with higher education	 Life expectancy	 Average annual particulate matter (PM2.5 µg/m³)	 Active physicians per 1,000 population	 Obesity rate (% of adult population)	 Diabetes rate (% of adult population)	 Emissions per capita (t CO2/cap)	 Renewable energy as percentage of total electricity (%)	 Car registrations (per 1,000 population)	 Daily water consumption (litres per capita)	 % of trips made by public transport	 Share of waste recycled (%)	 % of trips made by walking and cycling
Asunción	521 <small>2020</small>	1.9 <small>2018</small>	17.3 <small>2017</small>	26.8 <small>2020</small>	5.7 <small>2015</small>	44 <small>2019 / Country</small>	2.3 <small>2015 / Country</small>	88 <small>2020</small>	6.8 <small>2019</small>	13 <small>2018 / Country</small>	74.3 <small>2018</small>	12 <small>2016 / Urban, Country</small>	1.3 <small>2018 / Country</small>	25.2 <small>2016 / Urban, Country</small>	9.6 <small>2019 / Country</small>	7.5 <small>2019</small>	47 <small>2017 / Country</small>	70.3 <small>2018</small>	175 <small>2015</small>	54.1 <small>2015</small>	5 <small>2017 / Country</small>	6.4 <small>2015</small>
Bogotá	7,835 <small>2021</small>	1.6 <small>2018</small>	9.4 <small>2020</small>	22.6 <small>2021</small>	13.1 <small>2020</small>	55.9 <small>2020</small>	2.9 <small>2018</small>	77 <small>2018</small>	10.9 <small>2019</small>	35 <small>2018</small>	78 <small>2021</small>	25 <small>2020</small>	2.1 <small>2015 / Country</small>	16.7 <small>2015</small>	2.6 <small>2017</small>	2.2 <small>2018</small>	88.3 <small>2020</small>	326 <small>2018</small>	74.9 <small>2015</small>	35.8 <small>2019</small>	29.5 <small>2021</small>	30.5 <small>2019</small>
Mexico City	21,804 <small>2020 / Region</small>	0.8 <small>2018</small>	5.5 <small>2020</small>	16.3 <small>2020</small>	12.3 <small>2020</small>	34.1 <small>2020</small>	36.6 <small>2020</small>	39.6 <small>2016</small>	5 <small>2019</small>	20.5 <small>2020</small>	76.1 <small>2014</small>	20.5 <small>2019</small>	0.4 <small>2019</small>	34 <small>2018</small>	13.9 <small>2015</small>	3.6 <small>2018</small>	12.4 <small>2017</small>	284.9 <small>2018</small>	177 <small>2019</small>	44 <small>2019</small>	1.3 <small>2018</small>	27 <small>2019</small>
New Orleans	384 <small>2020</small>	0.8 <small>2018</small>	12.1 <small>2019</small>	20.1 <small>2019</small>	9.5 <small>2019</small>	41 <small>2016</small>	12.4 <small>2019</small>	73.4 <small>2015-2019</small>	4.2 <small>2019</small>	37.6 <small>2015-2019</small>	75.8 <small>2020</small>	21 <small>2020</small>	8.4 <small>2018</small>	30 <small>2020</small>	10.3 <small>2019</small>	8.8 <small>2017</small>	5 <small>2019</small>	312.5 <small>2019</small>	1412 <small>2019</small>	8.2 <small>2019</small>	3 <small>2019</small>	8.3 <small>2019</small>
New York	8,337 <small>2019</small>	0.5 <small>2018</small>	11.8 <small>2019</small>	20.8 <small>2019</small>	5.1 <small>2020</small>	50.2 <small>2020</small>	36.8 <small>2015-2019</small>	88.4 <small>2020</small>	3.7 <small>2019</small>	49.3 <small>2020</small>	81.3 <small>2018</small>	7 <small>2019</small>	5.2 <small>2018</small>	22 <small>2021</small>	9.6 <small>2019</small>	5.8 <small>2016</small>	7.6 <small>2019</small>	248 <small>2015</small>	446.6 <small>2020</small>	32 <small>2019</small>	16.8 <small>2018</small>	30.3 <small>2019</small>
Ottawa	970 <small>2016</small>	1.1 <small>2018</small>	9.8 <small>2018</small>	22.7 <small>2016</small>	1.4 <small>2018</small>	37 <small>2016</small>	23.6 <small>2016</small>	96.2 <small>2020</small>	7.2 <small>2016</small>	37.6 <small>2016</small>	83.5 <small>2014-2016</small>	7.3 <small>2019</small>	3.3 <small>2019</small>	23.4 <small>2015-2016</small>	5.5 <small>2015-2016</small>	6 <small>2018</small>	22.6 <small>2020 / State</small>	530.7 <small>2013</small>	178 <small>2015</small>	19.6 <small>2016</small>	43 <small>2015</small>	9.6 <small>2016</small>
Hong Kong	7,395 <small>2021</small>	0.7 <small>2018</small>	5.8 <small>2020</small>	13.6 <small>2021</small>	0.4 <small>2020</small>	54 <small>2017</small>	39.3 <small>2016</small>	93.9 <small>2020</small>	2.9 <small>2019</small>	34.5 <small>2020</small>	85.4 <small>2020</small>	20.3 <small>2020</small>	2.1 <small>2020</small>	29.9 <small>2015</small>	8.4 <small>2014-2015</small>	5.3 <small>2019</small>	0.2 <small>2017</small>	108.1 <small>2020</small>	137.5 <small>2020</small>	88 <small>2018</small>	34 <small>2019</small>	5 <small>2018</small>
Seoul	9,963 <small>2020</small>	0.2 <small>2018</small>	4.7 <small>2021</small>	14.2 <small>2021</small>	1.3 <small>2017</small>	37.2 <small>2020</small>	3.8 <small>2020</small>	99.8 <small>2020</small>	3.5 <small>2019</small>	35.6 <small>2020</small>	84.1 <small>2017</small>	24.8 <small>2019</small>	2.3 <small>2019 / Country</small>	33 <small>2019 / Urban, Country</small>	11.3 <small>2019 / Urban, Country</small>	4.5 <small>2017</small>	1.9 <small>2019</small>	295.1 <small>2020</small>	306 <small>2019</small>	65 <small>2019</small>	36 <small>2018</small>	20.7 <small>2020</small>
Shanghai	24,871 <small>2020</small>	2.3 <small>2018</small>	3.6 <small>2019</small>	12.2 <small>2019</small>	0.5 <small>2019</small>	32.4 <small>2020</small>	0.6 <small>2020</small>	74.6 <small>2018 / Urban, Country</small>	2.3 <small>2019</small>	29.7 <small>2020</small>	83.7 <small>2019</small>	35.4 <small>2019</small>	3 <small>2013 / Country</small>	20 <small>2013</small>	11.9 <small>2020 / Country</small>	10.9 <small>2012</small>	28 <small>2020 / Country</small>	129.1 <small>2019</small>	207.5 <small>2019</small>	33 <small>2020</small>	21.3 <small>2019-2020</small>	40 <small>2020</small>
Singapore	5,454 <small>2021</small>	0.9 <small>2018</small>	8.5 <small>2020</small>	19.6 <small>2020</small>	0.1 <small>2020</small>	37.5 <small>2020</small>	28.9 <small>2020</small>	89 <small>2019</small>	2.3 <small>2019</small>	58.3 <small>2020</small>	83.9 <small>2020</small>	19 <small>2019</small>	2.5 <small>2020</small>	8.7 <small>2017</small>	8.6 <small>2017</small>	9.2 <small>2017</small>	0.5 <small>2020</small>	171.2 <small>2020</small>	141 <small>2018 / Region</small>	44 <small>2018 / Region</small>	59 <small>2019</small>	23 <small>2018 / Region</small>
Jakarta	10,517 <small>2018</small>	1.5 <small>2018</small>	17 <small>2019</small>	23.8 <small>2020 / Region</small>	0.3 <small>2014</small>	40.1 <small>2020</small>	1.9 <small>2020 / Region</small>	63.4 <small>2015</small>	6.2 <small>2019 / Region</small>	14.8 <small>2020</small>	70.8 <small>2015</small>	49.4 <small>2020</small>	0.2 <small>2015</small>	30 <small>2018</small>	6.3 <small>2019 / Country</small>	2.7 <small>2014</small>	0 <small>2019</small>	406.6 <small>2017-2019</small>	130.4 <small>2014-2018 / Region</small>	10 <small>2020</small>	7.5 <small>2018</small>	N/A
Kuala Lumpur	7,564 <small>2018 / Region</small>	2.4 <small>2018</small>	15.2 <small>2019</small>	20.1 <small>2019</small>	1.7 <small>2019</small>	45.2 <small>2020</small>	12.3 <small>2019</small>	95.5 <small>2020</small>	2.6 <small>2019</small>	25.8 <small>2020</small>	77 <small>2019 / Region</small>	21.6 <small>2020</small>	1.5 <small>2015 / Country</small>	19.7 <small>2019 / Country</small>	17.4 <small>2015</small>	3.3 <small>2017</small>	8.8 <small>2015</small>	534.9 <small>2019 / Region</small>	288 <small>2015 / Region</small>	22.5 <small>2018</small>	10.4 <small>2018</small>	N/A
Mumbai	19,980 <small>2018 / Region</small>	1.6 <small>2018</small>	15.3 <small>2019</small>	20.3 <small>2020</small>	2.2 <small>2019</small>	24.5 <small>2020</small>	0.6 <small>2011</small>	61 <small>2020 / State</small>	1.9 <small>2019</small>	18.7 <small>2020</small>	73.5 <small>2010-2014</small>	45.3 <small>2019</small>	0.8 <small>2018 / Country</small>	23.6 <small>2015-2016 / State</small>	11.8 <small>2015-2019 / Country</small>	1.8 <small>2015</small>	26 <small>2010 / State</small>	248 <small>2017</small>	165.7 <small>2014</small>	70 <small>2018</small>	N/A	33 <small>2013</small>
Accra	5,055 <small>2020 / Region</small>	2.2 <small>2018</small>	20.3 <small>2020 / Region</small>	26.8 <small>2020 / Region</small>	2 <small>2017 / Country</small>	35 <small>2016/2017</small>	1.7 <small>2020 / Region</small>	17.3 <small>2016</small>	16.3 <small>2019</small>	11.2 <small>2010 / Region</small>	61.1 <small>2015</small>	30.3 <small>2019</small>	0.1 <small>2015</small>	25.1 <small>2006-2016 / Country</small>	1.8 <small>2020</small>	1.1 <small>2015</small>	0.3 <small>2019 / Country</small>	70 <small>2015 / Region</small>	134.6 <small>2000 / Country</small>	30 <small>2019</small>	5 <small>2018</small>	54.4 <small>2019</small>
Addis Ababa	4,794 <small>2020</small>	4.4 <small>2018</small>	22.3 <small>2018</small>	25.9 <small>2018</small>	4.6 <small>2019</small>	32.4 <small>2015</small>	1 <small>2017 / Country</small>	87.4 <small>2019</small>	14.5 <small>2019</small>	20 <small>2014-2015</small>	65.5 <small>2021</small>	20.1 <small>2019</small>	0.08 <small>2018</small>	1 <small>2016</small>	6.5 <small>2019</small>	5.6 <small>2016</small>	25.8 <small>2021</small>	81 <small>2021</small>	110 <small>2021</small>	31 <small>2019</small>	6.3 <small>2021</small>	54 <small>2019</small>
Freetown	1,202 <small>2020</small>	2.9 <small>2018</small>	26 <small>2019 / Urban, Country</small>	32.6 <small>2015 / Region</small>	1.7 <small>2015 / Country</small>	18 <small>2019 / Region</small>	1.3 <small>2015 / Region</small>	51.4 <small>2019 / Region</small>	4.7 <small>2019 / Country</small>	15.8 <small>2019 / Region</small>	57.2 <small>2015 / Region</small>	56 <small>2016 / Urban, Country</small>	0.02 <small>2006-2013 / Country</small>	8.7 <small>2020</small>	2.4 <small>2017 / Country</small>	1.1 <small>2018</small>	58 <small>2018</small>	25 <small>2015, 2017 / Country</small>	96.1 <small>2005 / Country</small>	48 <small>N/A</small>	N/A <small>2019</small>	N/A <small>2019</small>
Barcelona	1,664 <small>2020</small>	0.6 <small>2018</small>	8.2 <small>2019</small>	20.2 <small>2020</small>	0.6 <small>2018 / State</small>	31.7 <small>2020</small>	20.1 <small>2020</small>	96.5 <small>2020</small>	10.7 <small>2019</small>	31.8 <small>2020</small>	82.7 <small>2015</small>	16.6 <small>2019-2020</small>	3.16 <small>2015</small>	14.2 <small>2017 / State</small>	12.2 <small>2019 / State</small>	1.7 <small>2019</small>	18 <small>2018</small>	273 <small>2018</small>	107 <small>2016</small>	40.1 <small>2017</small>	21.2 <small>2018</small>	35.2 <small>2019</small>
Istanbul	15,462 <small>2020</small>	1.3 <small>2018</small>	12.3 <small>2021</small>	28 <small>2021</small>	1.8 <small>2019</small>	45.1 <small>2021</small>	1.3 <small>2014 / Country</small>	96.4 <small>2021</small>	23 <small>2021</small>	19.8 <small>2021</small>	78.7 <small>2021</small>	16.5 <small>2021</small>	2 <small>2019 / Province</small>	21.1 <small>2019 / Country</small>	11.1 <small>2019 / Country</small>	3.2 <small>2021</small>	18 <small>2021</small>	195 <small>2020</small>	190 <small>2021</small>	28 <small>2021</small>	6 <small>2021</small>	45 <small>2021</small>
London	9,002 <small>2020</small>	1.1 <small>2018</small>	12.8 <small>2019</small>	23.7 <small>2019</small>	1.3 <small>2020</small>	31.9 <small>2020</small>	37 <small>2020</small>	99.4 <small>2020</small>	4.6 <small>2019</small>	37.6 <small>2020</small>	82.5 <small>2017-2019</small>	11.4 <small>2019</small>	3.6 <small>2019 / State</small>	22.5 <small>2019</small>	6.5 <small>2017</small>	3.7 <small>2018</small>	24.6 <small>2016</small>	308 <small>2013</small>	164 <small>2013</small>	35.2 <small>2017-2018</small>	33.6 <small>2018</small>	26.8 <small>2017-2018</small>
Paris	12,213 <small>2018 / Region</small>	0.6 <small>2018</small>	12 <small>2020</small>	16.4 <small>2018</small>	1.2 <small>2017</small>	44.3 <small>2018</small>	20.2 <small>2018</small>	95.9 <small>2020</small>	6.3 <small>2019</small>	63 <small>2018</small>	82.8 <small>2020</small>	14.7 <small>2019</small>	4.2 <small>2019</small>	10.7 <small>2016</small>	4.1 <small>2013</small>	2.5 <small>2018</small>	26.9 <small>2020</small>	197 <small>2018</small>	120 <small>2020</small>	26 <small>2018</small>	20.7 <small>2019</small>	67 <small>2018</small>
Stockholm	976 <small>2020</small>	1.3 <small>2018</small>	12.1 <small>2019</small>	22.9 <small>2020 / Region</small>	1.1 <small>2018 / Region</small>	43.3 <small>2020</small>	25.5 <small>2020</small>	95.5 <small>2020</small>	3.6 <small>2019</small>	38.4 <small>2020</small>	82.8 <small>2020</small>	6.1 <small>2019</small>	4.5 <small>2015</small>	10 <small>2018</small>	4.8 <small>2019 / Country</small>	1.5 <small>2018</small>	63 <small>2018</small>	361 <small>2019</small>	94.6 <small>2015</small>	29 <small>2019 / Region</small>	19.1 <small>2018</small>	28 <small>2019</small>

Measurement years and methodologies used to calculate indicator values may vary between cities and are not always comparable. For information on sources, please contact LSEcities@lse.ac.uk

City Analytics

Governance

This section analysis explores the overall urban form and administrative boundaries of 22 selected cities. Urban leadership depends on the extent of the powers of city administrations, how de-centralised those powers are, and on how much of the urban area extends beyond its administrative boundaries. The maps below illustrate the 2015 urban footprint, illustrating the relationship between the metropolitan, city and sub-city administrative boundaries and the built-up area in which people live. Jakarta, Paris or New York City are examples with a significant proportion of the urban growth occurring outside the official city limits, while in Istanbul or London growth is contained within the city's official limits.

Density

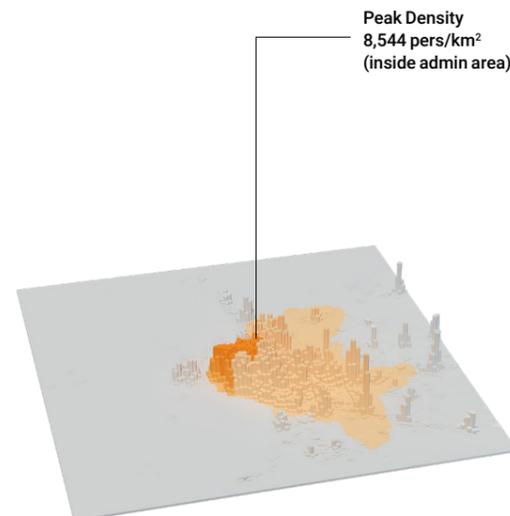
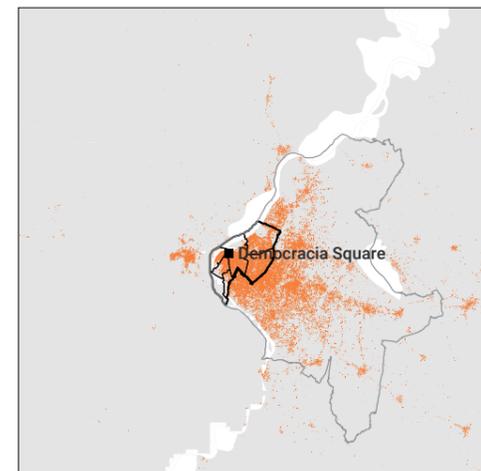
Residential density is one of the key tools to determine the efficiency of the urban footprint. The 3D density diagrams illustrate the number of people living in each square kilometre (hexagon) of a 100 x 100 kilometre area. The taller the spikes the higher the density in any given area. The darker orange indicates the density at which people live within the city limits, the light orange indicates the metropolitan area and all areas beyond are shown in grey. The diagrams show that density differs widely in the 22 cities, with Shanghai and Bogota with higher and more concentrated densities in the city core, Seoul and Asuncion with the surrounding outskirts densities as high as the city core densities, or Stockholm and London presenting lower and more balanced distribution of densities.



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018); Joint Research Centre (2015) GHS population grid, derived from GPW4, multitemporal (1975-2015); Joint Research Centre (2015) GHS built-up grid, derived from Landsat, multitemporal (1975-1990-2000-2014); The Humanitarian Data Exchange, DIVA-GIS; Institutional data (see acknowledgements page) and LSE Cities

Asunción

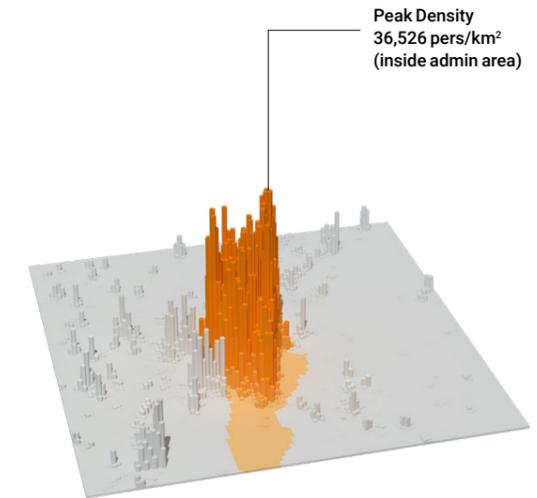
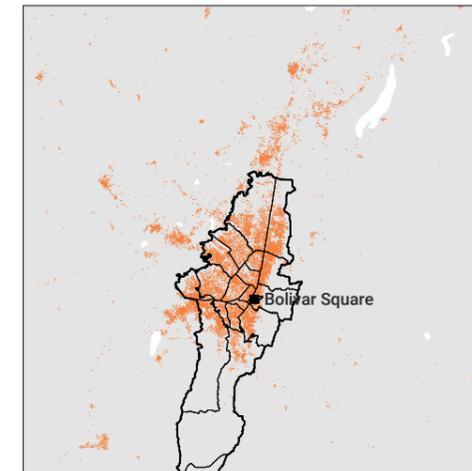
Total Population: 3,337,000
Average density (inside admin area): 3,705 pers/km²



The labels on the density maps denote the peak density within the city administrative area

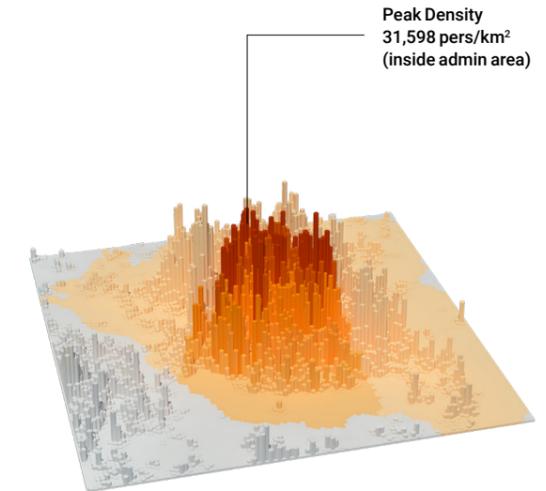
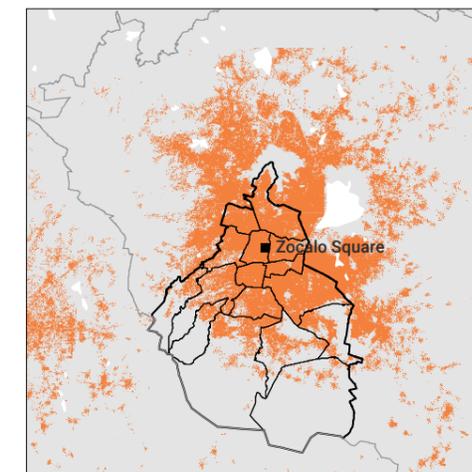
Bogotá

Total Population: 10,574,000
Average density (inside admin area): 7,148 pers/km²



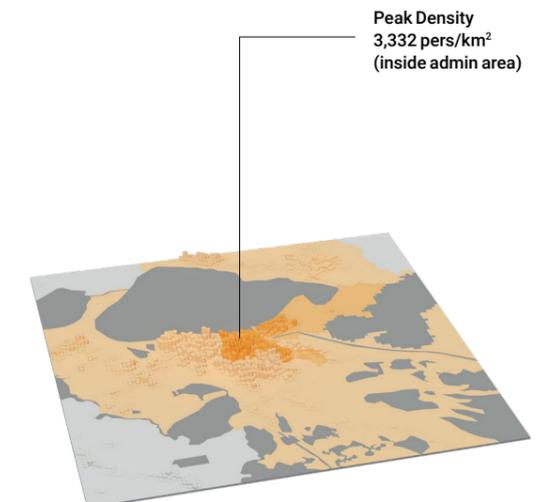
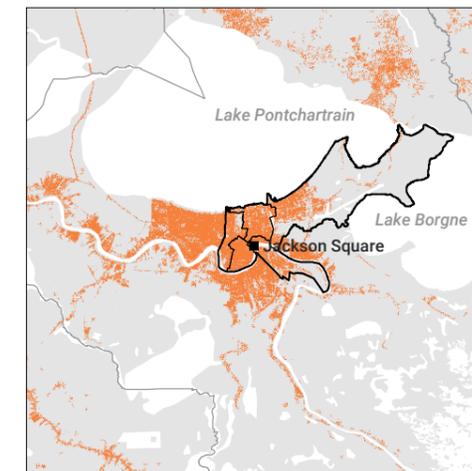
Mexico City

Total Population: 21,581,000
Average density (inside admin area): 5,576 pers/km²



New Orleans

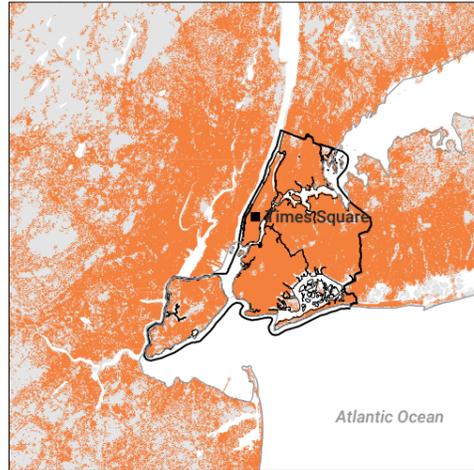
Total Population: 383,000
Average density (inside admin area): 406 pers/km²



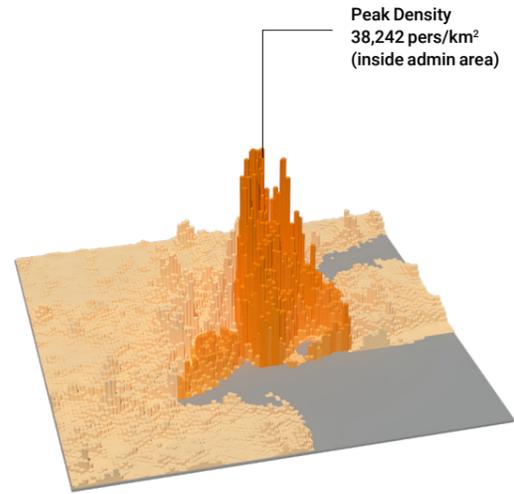
New York

Total Population: 8,337,000

Average density (inside admin area): 8,725 pers/km²



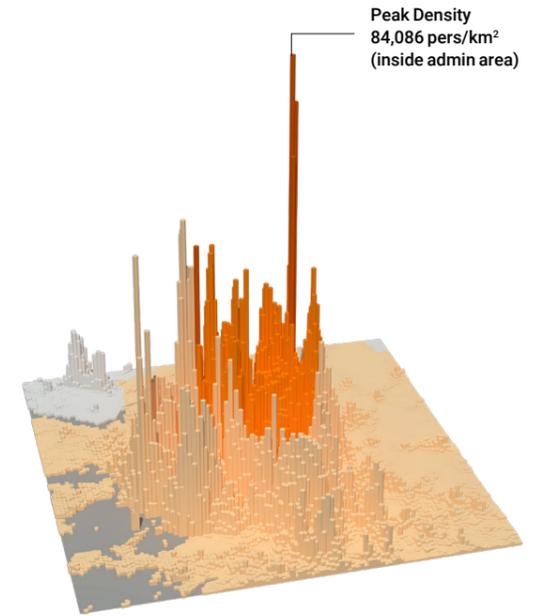
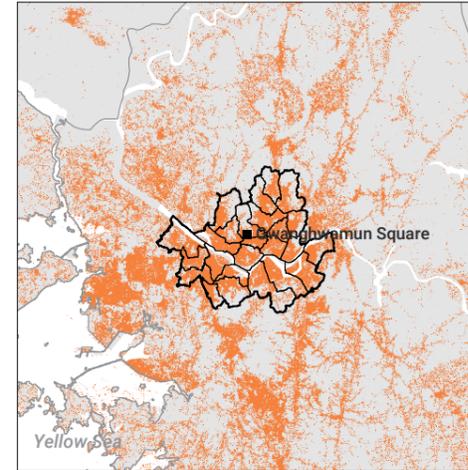
Urban footprint City boundaries 0 20 Km
Land Sub-city boundaries
Metropolitan boundaries Central landmark



Seoul

Total Population: 9,963,000

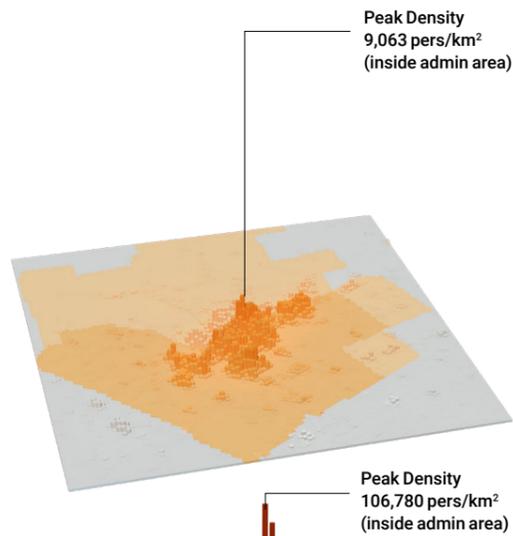
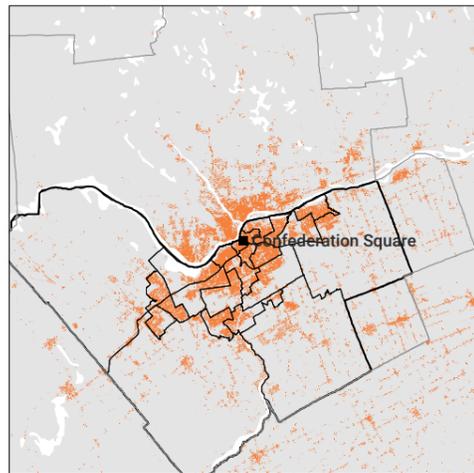
Average density (inside admin area): 13,569 pers/km²



Ottawa

Total population: 1,018,000

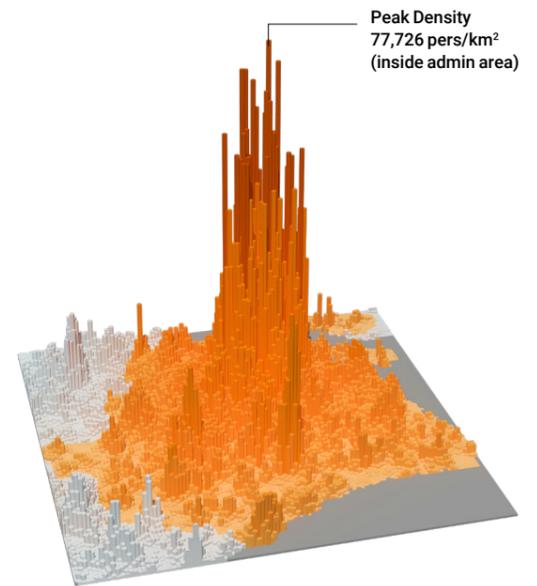
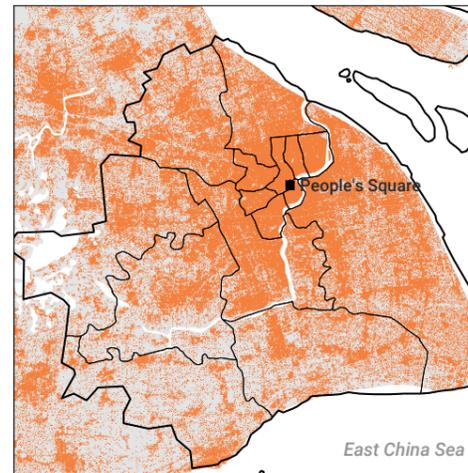
Average Density (inside admin area): 321 pers/km²



Shanghai

Total population: 24,871,000

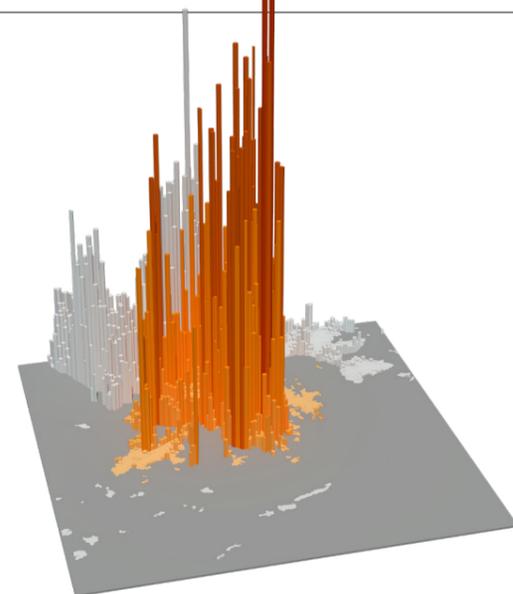
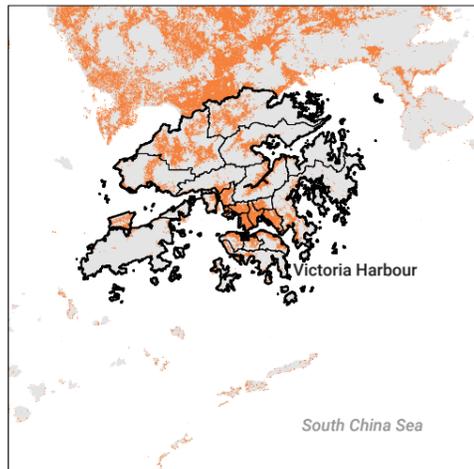
Average Density (inside admin area): 4,215 pers/km²



Hong Kong

Total Population: 7,429,000

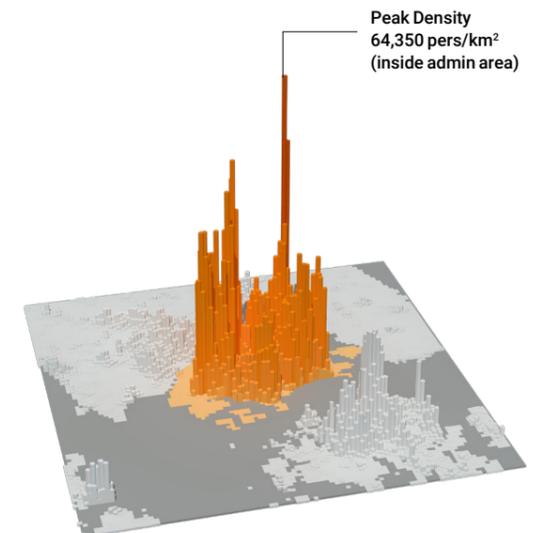
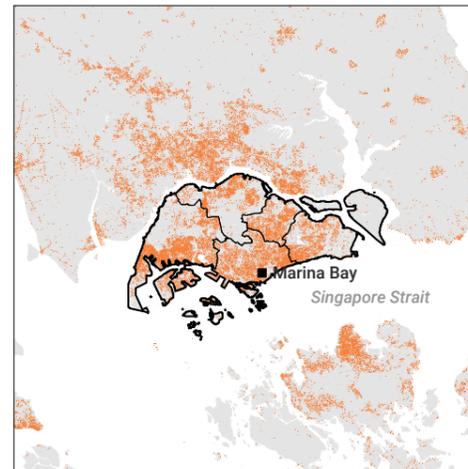
Average density (inside admin area): 6,456 pers/km²



Singapore

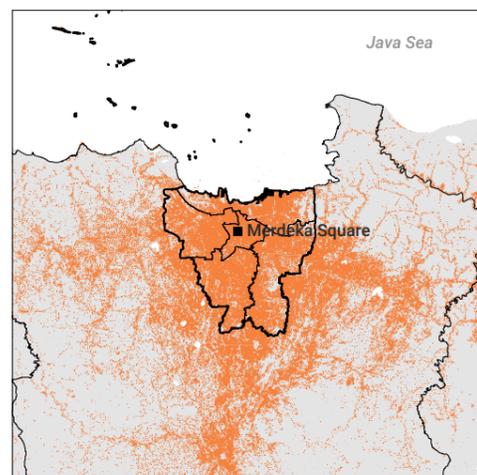
Total population: 5,792,000

Average Density: 5,169 pers/km²

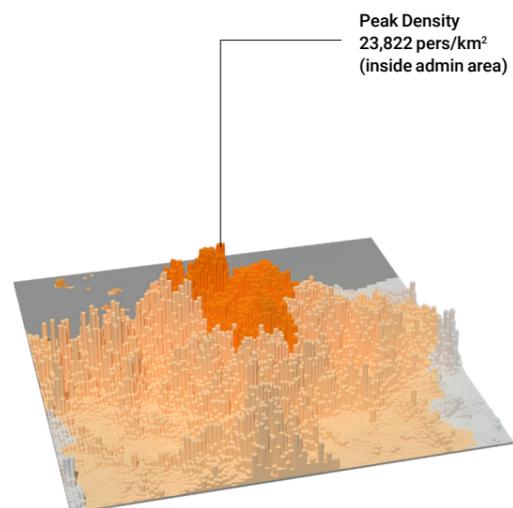


Jakarta

Total population: 10,517,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 11,310 pers/km²



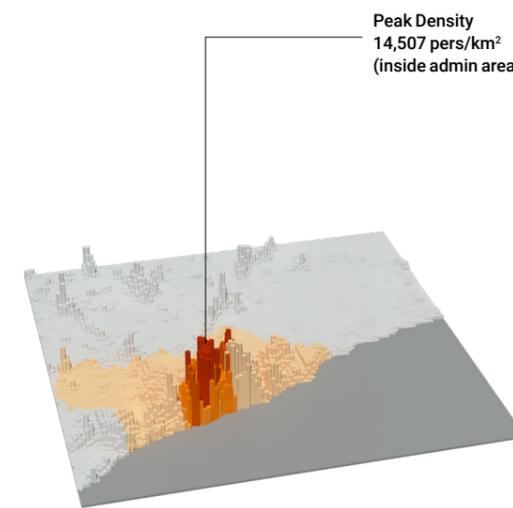
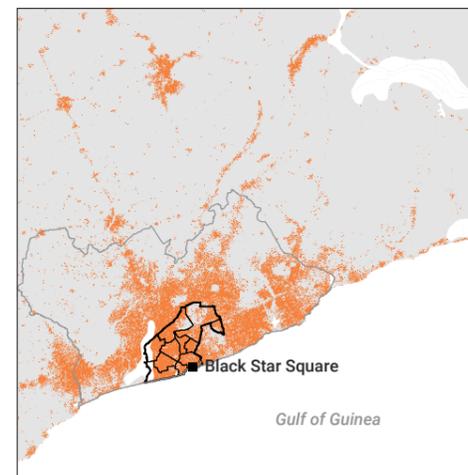
Urban footprint City boundaries 0 20 Km
Land Sub-city boundaries
Metropolitan boundaries Central landmark



Peak Density
23,822 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Accra

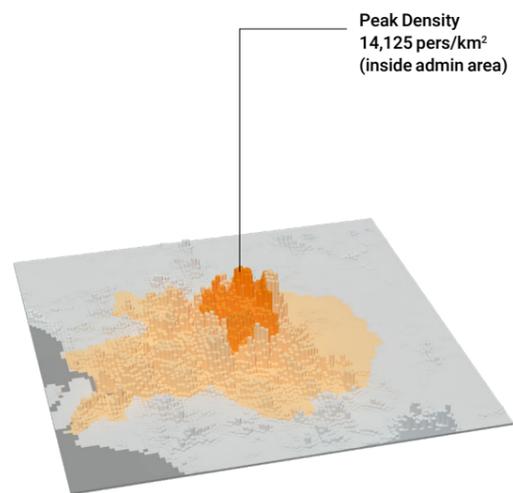
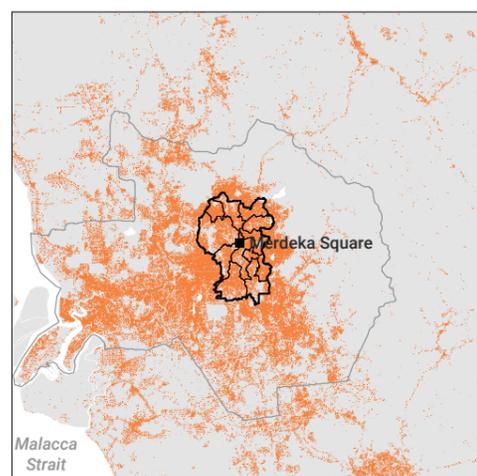
Total population: 2,514,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 5,911 pers/km²



Peak Density
14,507 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Kuala Lumpur

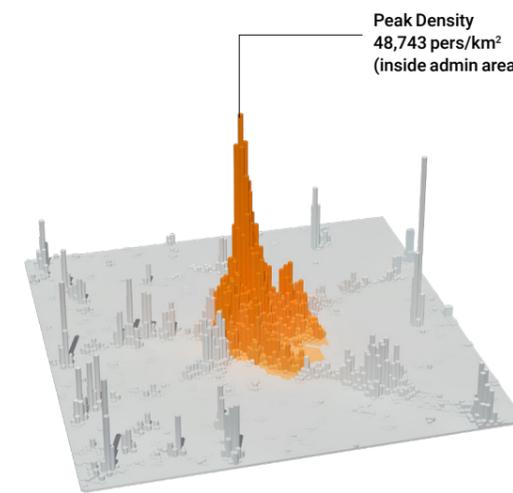
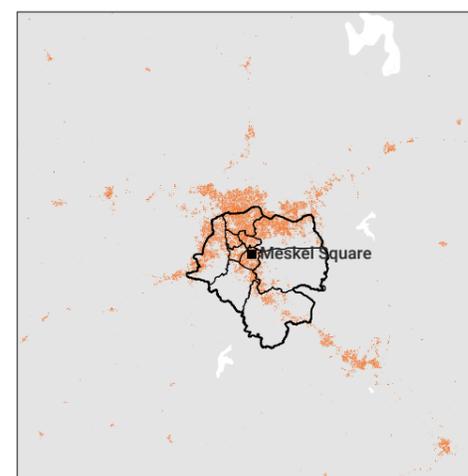
Total population: 7,564,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 6,354 pers/km²



Peak Density
14,125 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Addis Ababa

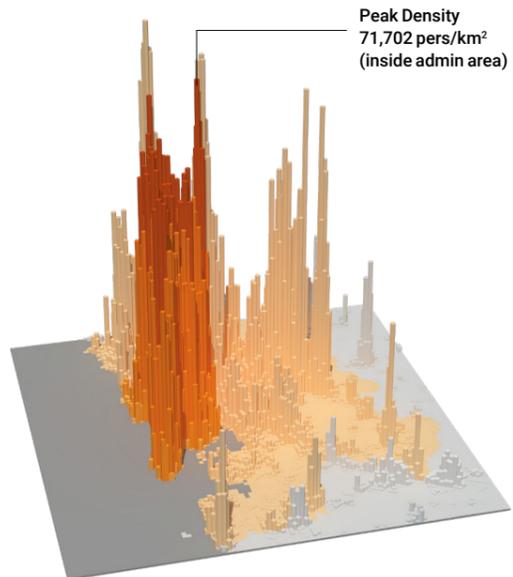
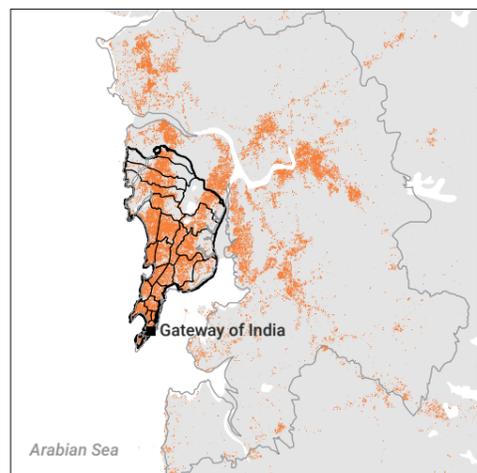
Total population: 4,794,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 5,397 pers/km²



Peak Density
48,743 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Mumbai

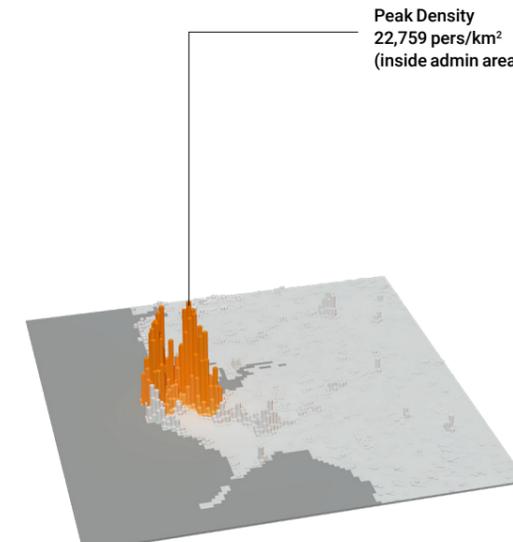
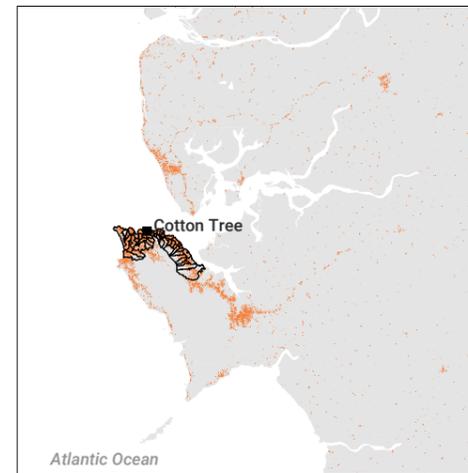
Total population: 19,980,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 20,609 pers/km²



Peak Density
71,702 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Freetown

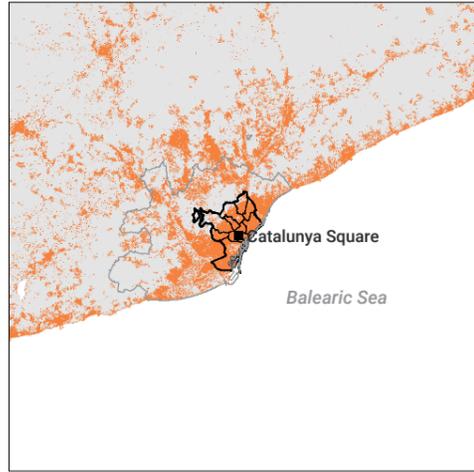
Total population: 1,202,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 7,157 pers/km²



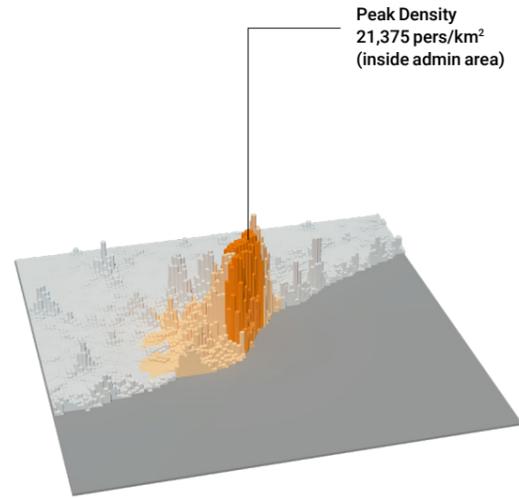
Peak Density
22,759 pers/km²
(inside admin area)

Barcelona

Total population: 5,494,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 11,716 pers/km²

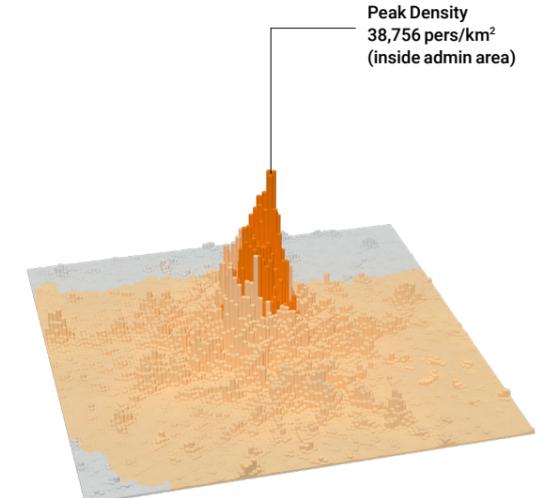
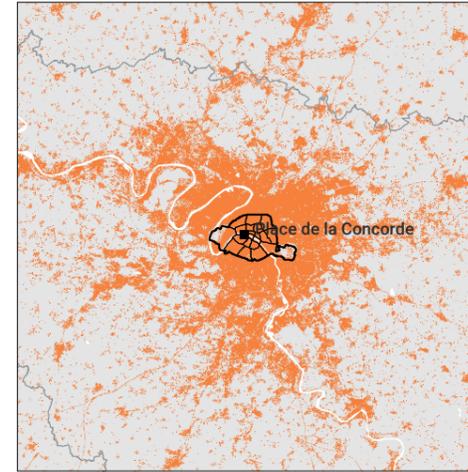


Urban footprint City boundaries 0 20 Km
Land Sub-city boundaries
Metropolitan boundaries Central landmark



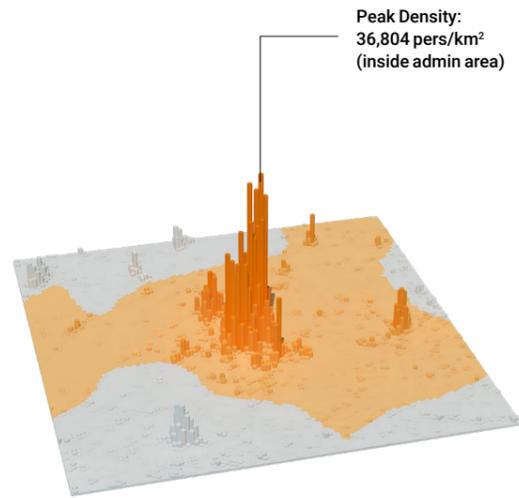
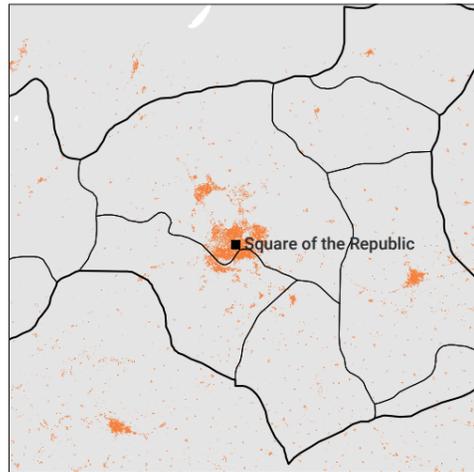
Paris

Total population: 10,901,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 18,269 pers/km²



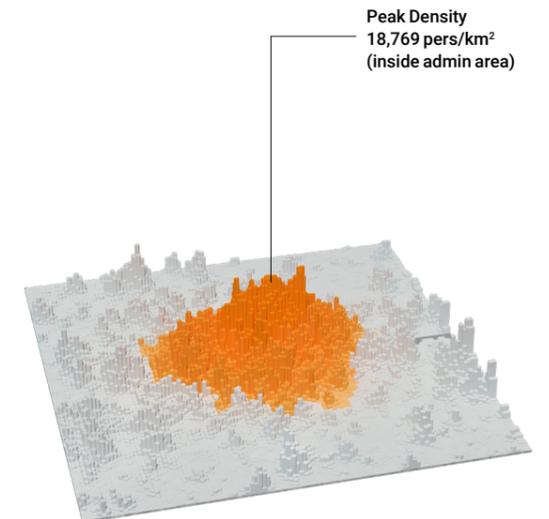
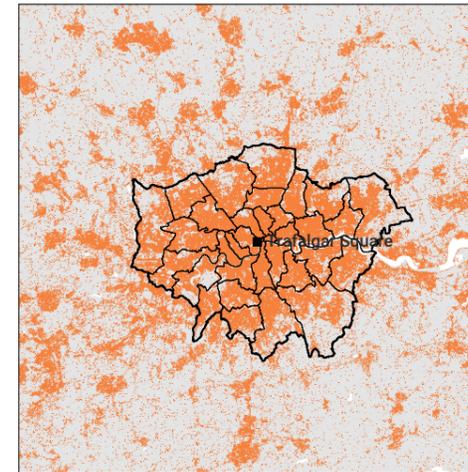
Gazientep

Total population: 1,704,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 301 pers/km²



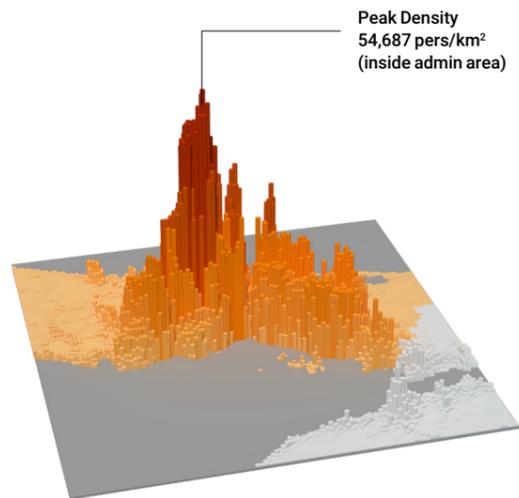
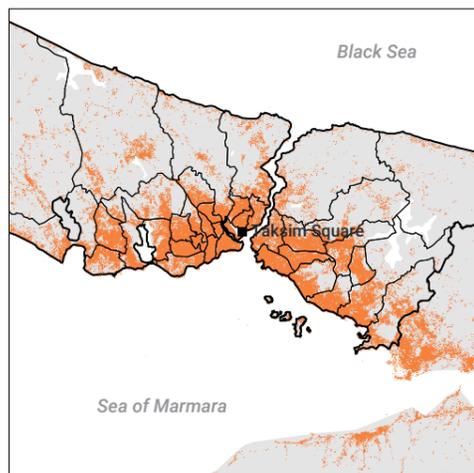
London

Total population: 9,002,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 4,697 pers/km²



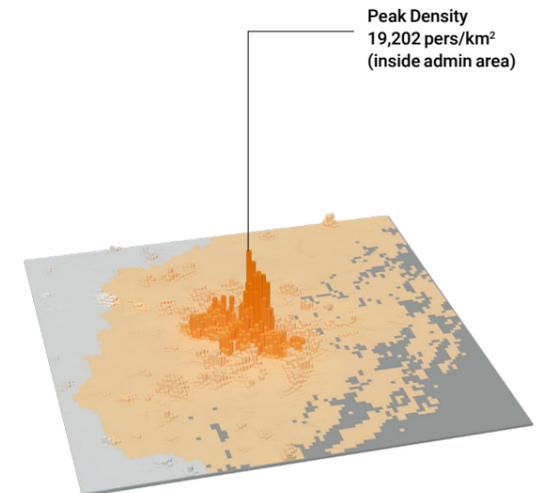
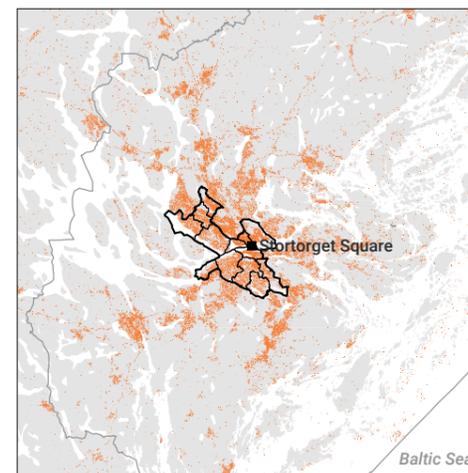
Istanbul

Total population: 14,751,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 3,906 pers/km²



Stockholm

Total population: 1,633,000
Average Density (inside admin area): 3,317 pers/km²





The creative re-imagining of an abandoned railway line into a high-level promenade has transformed an entire district in the West Side of Manhattan, bringing new life and speculative development to a previously industrial part of New York City.

Design: James Corner Field Operations, Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Piet Oudolf
Photography: Timothy Schenck, Courtesy of DS+R

Council on Urban Initiatives

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UN-Habitat
UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)
LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science

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