



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

No.	2019-C12
To	Board
Date	2019-09-17

For INFORMATION

Subject/Title

Presentation of the 2019-2020 NCC Urbanism Lab program of activities.

Summary

The NCC Urbanism Lab is launching its sixth season of innovative and engaging capital-building discussions with an exciting lecture series program for 2019-2020. We are pleased to present the program to the Board, as well as the Student ideas competition.

Risk Summary

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

Submitted by:

Natalie Page, Vice-President, Public and Corporate Affairs
Name

Signature

1. Strategic Priorities

Each event is linked to a different strategic priority, relevant to the theme that is explored through the discussions and presentations.

2. Authority

Not applicable.

3. Context

- Over the course of the past 6 years, an average of 10 lecture-series events were held each year. It is estimated that over 27,500 people participated in or viewed the events over this period. The lab space itself is also used every year for well over 500 other events, such as conferences, inter-governmental meetings, staff events, workshops and training as well as internal consultations. The Urbanism Lab, not only the lecture-series program, but the actual space, became part of the NCC branding. This initiative plays an important role in bringing together, experts of different fields, staff from the corporation and people from the communities of the National Capital as well as Canadians across the country.
- The Urbanism Lab's objectives are to identify existing and emerging trends and challenges in building Canada's Capital Region; expand the NCC's capacity as a creative partner to develop solutions and best practices for addressing these challenges; and to bring together partners to support and promote excellence in Canada's Capital.
- Feedback from the 2018-19 season post-event questionnaires confirmed that participants were highly satisfied with the format (96%) and the opportunity to voice their opinions (91%).
- A full season (10 lectures) of programming is planned for the 2019-20 Urbanism Lab Lecture Series, with each month focused on a different theme.
- We are also pleased to be organizing another student competition similar to that hosted by the NCC during the 2018-19 season.
- Themes were chosen through extensive discussions with partners and consultations with staff, as well as current emerging trends, and operational priorities aligned with the Corporate Plan.
- Speakers for the series will be selected and confirmed throughout the beginning of fall. Other events and speaker confirmations may be added throughout the year.
- For each event we request that our speakers offer a daytime professional development session for our staff. In almost all cases, we have been successful at organizing these informal sessions. Other external partners may be invited to these events, depending on the format and topic.
- It is important to note that NCC outreach and engagement activities, including public

consultations, stakeholder meetings and community relations are separate from this program of activities.

4. Urbanism Lab Programming 2019-20

September 26, 2019

Title: From point A to B, intelligently

Topic: Public transportation success stories

[Ralph Buehler](#), Associate Professor and Chair of Urban Affairs and Planning in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech's Research Center in Arlington, VA

[Amer Shalaby](#), Professor, Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering, University of Toronto and Associate Director, iCity Centre for Automated and Transformative Transportation Systems (iCity-CATTS)

Description: In the minds of many, one of the most attractive features of a city is how easy it is to get from point A to point B. Public transit lies at the heart of this equation. As most urban residents are well aware, the growth of the transit network is riddled with opportunities and challenges. This Urbanism Lab event takes you behind the scenes of public transit expansion and modernization to learn about the pitfalls and triumphs you might not read about in the morning news.

October 24, 2019

Title: The most sustainable buildings in North America

Topic: Excellence in sustainable building design

Description: Take a trip around the continent to visit some of the most visually stunning, innovative and environmentally conscious buildings ever built. At this Urbanism Lab event, speakers from across Canada and the United States will walk you through award-winning designs that elevate sustainability to new heights, and provide a roadmap to making our cities smarter, more livable and resilient.

November 6, 2019

Title: Scientific research in Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt

Topic: Scientific research on NCC lands

Description: Did you know that, every year, NCC lands attract scientists from around the world who are working to advance our knowledge of biodiversity and climate change? At this special Urbanism Lab event, scientists will present their research, and discuss some of

their findings from Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt and the Capital's urban lands.

November 20, 2019

Title: Inclusive urbanism

Topic: Perspectives on age, socio-economic status, gender and accessibility in planning

Description: Depending on how they are conceived and allowed to evolve, cities have the terrific potential to bring people together, and the terrible ability to exclude and marginalize. This Urbanism Lab event asks what role urban planning can play in reducing inequities and creating more inclusive neighbourhoods.

January 2020

Title: Adapting to extremes

Topic: Climate change projections and urban adaptation

Description: Climate change is compelling communities around the world to rethink how they build for the future. Part of this process involves mapping out how the climate will affect landscapes and critical infrastructure in the near term and short term. This Urbanism Lab event explores how cities are using climate forecasting to make themselves more resilient to sudden and gradual changes in the natural environment.

February 2020

Title: The urban geography of race and culture

Topic: Ethnic segregation from a historical and a policy perspective

Description: Why do some ethnicities end up geographically segregated from other populations? This Urbanism Lab event explores the history and dynamics of ethnic segregation in the city, from ghettos to ethnic neighbourhoods.

March 3, 2020

Title: Nature as neighbour

Topic: Urban coexistence with wildlife

Description: The story of urban wildlife is one of challenges and adaptation, whose outcomes continue to have an outsized effect on the well-being of all city dwellers. This Lab event explores why and how some cities are trying to make themselves more livable for humans and animals alike. Come learn about efforts (such as bat boxes, rooftop apiaries and wildlife crossings) undertaken in Ottawa and elsewhere to forge safe and

sustainable partnerships with nature.

April 2020

Title: Student ideas competition: The 2020 challenge

Description: This year, the NCC is pleased to be once again launching its national competition, challenging students to be innovative and create a design solution for an NCC site. More information will be published on our website and sent to colleges and universities across the country.

May 2020

Title: The changing face of public commemoration

Topic: Tracking the evolution of public commemoration as art and event

Description: In the biggest cities and the smallest towns, commemorative symbols occupy spaces from which they remind passersby not to forget. On the 75th anniversary of the Dutch royal family's first dispatch of 100,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa, this Lab event turns to the interface between memory and public spaces, and examines how commemoration has evolved over time.

June 2020

Title: Reconciliation and the city

Topic: Working toward reconciliation from an urban perspective

Description: How can cities embrace reconciliation? From placemaking to commemorations, employment opportunities and conservation, this Urbanism Lab event explores opportunities to make reconciliation a part of how cities grow and evolve.

4. Options Analysis

Not applicable.

5. Financial Details

A yearly budget of \$130K is allocated to cover logistics, technical requirements, catering, equipment, and advertising.

6. Opportunities and Expected Results

We are exploring new topics, such as reconciliation, ethnic segregation and urban co-existence with wildlife to reach a wider audience and demonstrate NCC's thought

leadership. Also exploring new ways and format to hold and present the lecture-series, to attract a newer, more diverse and broader audience.

7. Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Planned Response
Speakers are unable to attend	Min.	Min.	Ensure speakers are invited to participate early in the season.
Low pre-registration or registered guests not attending	Min.	Min.	Ensure social media and marketing campaign target a wide-audience. Send a reminder and update the registration process to include automated tickets and confirmations.
Some topics could be more sensitive	Med.	Med.	Follow a communication plan that will take into consideration these new topics.

8. Consultations and Communications

- The Lab Steering Committee provided strategic advice on the program.
- The Urbanism Lab Working group, which includes staff from across the Commission, contributed to the themes and potential speakers.
- Members of the NCC's social media team will contribute in developing engaging digital content to engage audiences online.
- The speakers will be leveraged for professional development activities and will include stakeholders and partners as appropriate.

9. Next Steps

Implement the 2019-20 program of activities.

10. List of Appendices

Not applicable.

11. Authors of the Submission

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