



Cities as Hubs for Innovation

6:00-8:30 pm on January 11th, 2017

Venue: Science World, 1455 Quebec St.

The sheer density of cities fosters collaborative creativity that has produced some of humanity's greatest ideas from the industrial to the digital revolutions. However, coupled with unprecedented growth, the urban centres of the 21st century are increasingly complex spaces faced with a number of challenges related to population growth, as well as resource and climate change pressures. As [more than 66% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050](#), cities around the globe will be pushed to become more efficient, intelligent and resilient ecosystems. These locales must become vanguards of technological development in order to guarantee the employment and quality of life of their citizens.

This panel will explore how Vancouver has maintained its status as a livable community accelerating clean growth, while investigating how we can further enable such centres of innovation to address the challenges that lie ahead. How can architects, government officials, and data scientists work together to drive further progress towards efficient infrastructure such as affordable housing and high-capacity transportation? How can they, and others from diverse domains, collaborate to create urban spaces that weave social inclusiveness and sustainability into their fabric? What social, policy and organizational changes must take place in order to ensure the metropolis of tomorrow remains fair and equitable?

In the context of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting theme, *Responsive and Responsible Leadership*, this evening event will aim to address affairs particular to Vancouver while remaining relevant to broader discussions taking place in Davos. Specialists from municipal leadership, industry and social enterprise will discuss these topics and engage in an audience Q&A session. The evening, moderated by Kate Subak, CEO of the Century Initiative, will bring together scholars, policy-makers, business leaders, local community members, and students.

Panelists

Bob Elton, CRO of Vancity

Suzanne Gildert, CTO of Kindred Systems Inc.

Raymond Louie, City Councillor

Sarah Lubik, Director of Entrepreneurship at SFU

Scott Sampson, CEO of Science World

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