

LEE KUAN YEW  
WORLD CITY ○  
PRIZE 2024



PRIZE LAUREATES 2010:2020



VIENNA | SEOUL | MEDELLÍN | SUZHOU | NEW YORK CITY | BILBAO

# Vienna

2020 PRIZE LAUREATE | 2016 SPECIAL MENTION | EUROPE

Mayors	Michael Ludwig   2018 – date
City area	414.87 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	1,888,766
Density	4,553/km <sup>2</sup>

Key projects	New Danube & Danube Island Smart City Wien Framework Strategy Social housing Grätzloase neighbourhood oases Aspern Seestadt & Nordbahnhof
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Directory	<i>City website</i> <a href="http://www.wien.gv.at/english/">www.wien.gv.at/english/</a>  <i>Smart City Wien</i> <a href="http://smartcity.wien.gv.at/site/en/">smartcity.wien.gv.at/site/en/</a>
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Watch the short film	<a href="http://go.gov.sg/vienna">go.gov.sg/vienna</a>
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**Vienna is recognised for reinventing itself for success in the 21st century without losing its distinctive identity as a capital of culture, music & history.**

Vienna's remarkable success is achieved through steadfast dedication to constant and consistent improvements that are skilfully woven together to sustain the highest quality of life for all its inhabitants now and into the future.

## MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Vienna has taken on a leading role in addressing climate change, and exemplifies a holistic planning approach with a clear and shared vision as shown in STEP 2025 – its Urban Development Plan. Before this, the city had completed a 21-kilometre flood protection channel in 1989 that doubles as a closed water body for recreational activities during non-flood times and a large public park in the heart of the city.

The environmental stewardship improved the flow and water quality of the Danube for both the city and its surrounding region. This led to stronger regional links in meeting environmental goals while generating a more competitive regional position in international markets.

## COMMITTING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Beginning in the mid-19th century, Vienna's commitment to social housing saw the creation of a variety of affordable housing choices and new communities as seen in the redevelopment of Aspern Seestadt and Nordbahnhof.

The active promotion of cycling and walking is complemented by an extensive public transit network comprising metro, trams, and buses. An annual public transportation ticket at 365 Euros, or 1 Euro per day, has encouraged more people to give up their cars. Today, 28 percent of inhabitants walk, seven percent cycle and 38 percent use public transport.

## ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

The Smart City Wien Framework Strategy initiated in 2011 is an exceptional, overarching blueprint that guides the sustenance and advancement of Vienna's distinctive high quality of life. The city has taken an enlightened view in integrating emerging technologies within the goals of the Strategy – which emphasises quality of life, resource efficiency and innovation – by harnessing technology as an enabling tool to achieve long term social and environmental objectives.

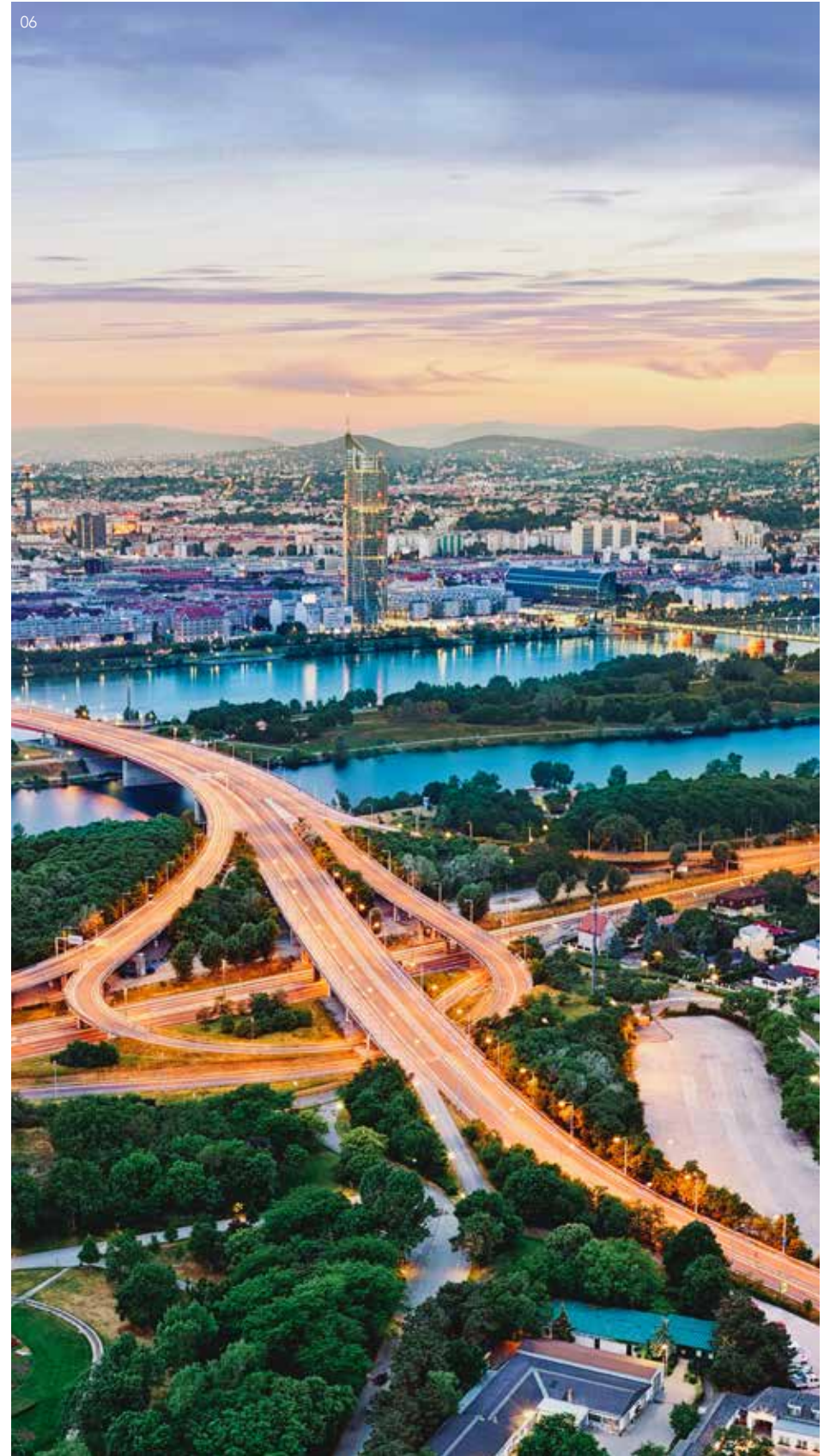
Vienna recognises the importance of social integration and prioritises the needs of its inhabitants. The city involves its citizens and stakeholders in its development process from an early stage. Creative ground-up efforts such as the Grätzloase initiative (Neighbourhood Oasis) allow citizens to shape public spaces, such as transforming parking lanes into parklets. The modest scale of these projects has considerable impact in establishing a culture of cooperation that complements the broad vision for Vienna and its region.

Despite its many successes, Vienna continues to build on the strong foundations to become an attractive city where businesses and young people are settling in. With a clear vision and strategies for the short, medium, and long term, Vienna is poised for success and is an exemplary role model for cities looking to develop comprehensive and sustainable urban ecosystems. ○





- 01 | Nordbahnhof redevelopment  
© Chang Jun Biao
- 02 | Grätzloase neighbourhood pop-up park  
© Christian Fürthner
- 03 | 50 Grüne Häuser  
© Isabel Muehlbauer
- 04 | Stephansplatz  
© Christian Fürthner
- 05 | Cycling along the Danube  
© Balakate/Shutterstock
- 06 | View over Danube river  
© creativemarc/123rf





# Seoul

2018 PRIZE LAUREATE | ASIA PACIFIC

Mayors	Oh Se-hoon   2021 – date Seo Jung-hyup   2020 – 2021 Late Park Won-soon   2013 – 2020
City area	605.24 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	10,041,574
Density	16,591/km <sup>2</sup>
Key projects	Seoul Master Plan 2030 Cheonggyecheon Dongdaemun area regeneration Yonsei-ro transit mall Seoullo 7017 Mapo Culture Depot Makercity Sewoon Nodeulseom Island Gyeongchun Line Forest Park
Directory	<i>City website</i> <a href="http://english.seoul.go.kr">english.seoul.go.kr</a>
Watch the short film	<a href="http://go.gov.sg/seoul">go.gov.sg/seoul</a>



**Seoul is recognised for its successful transformation from a bureaucratic top-down city, into one today that is inclusive, socially stable & highly innovative.**

With a leadership that dares to take bold decisions and a government that devises innovative problem-solving methods, Seoul has demonstrated that it could transform the built environment, add vibrancy, and improve quality of life.

#### MANAGING CONFLICTS WITH THE PEOPLE

Seoul's pursuit of economic success in the past came at the cost of quality of life. Following a rapid urbanisation phase, Seoul faced increasing resistance from its people largely left out of development decisions and a burgeoning car-based society.

The election of successive visionary leaders who demonstrated strong political will to overcome challenges, saw the implementation of a series of catalytic projects that benefited the entire city, such as the Dongdaemun area regeneration to shift the city's focus from manufacturing to design.

Under the new circumstances, proper communication became the modus operandi to achieve buy-in from the city's stakeholders. Seoul formulated conflict management strategies and formed a team of negotiators to engage with conflicting parties in urban development projects. This helped the city achieve impactful and effective results, and in turn win over citizens to align their aspirations with the city's vision.

The Seoul Plan 2030 is a remarkable turning point in the city's planning processes. The city made citizen participation the norm of all plans, incorporated ground-up processes in day-to-day operations and published results regularly on official channels and in the press. As such, Seoul not only built trust with the

citizens, but assured that their engagement is genuine and will shape the future of the city.

#### TRANSITING TO PEOPLE SPACES

Seoul's paradigm shift from car-oriented transportation to people-centric spaces is exemplary for other cities with the same struggles. Notable projects, such as the removal of an elevated highway to restore the former stream at Cheonggyecheon, the pedestrianisation of Yonsei-ro, and the conversion of the Seoul Station Overpass into Seoullo 7017 – a one-kilometre lushly planted elevated walkway, the city sends a strong signal that its future is one where people come first.

#### PRESERVING COLLECTIVE MEMORIES

As cities continue to mature and age, so does its urban infrastructure. Seoul is highly innovative in its rejuvenation of modern heritage. The projects Makercity Sewoon – the sensitive insertion of interventions and new uses to rehabilitate seven ageing commercial superblocks, and Mapo Culture Depot – the conversion of disused oil tanks into a cultural venue and public space, offer new perspectives in adaptive reuse and preserving collective memories.

As cities become larger and more difficult to manage, achieving social sustainability may be a bigger challenge than extending economic and environmental sustainability. By turning the people into active participants of the city's development, Seoul demonstrated that an inclusive city is possible, and serves as an inspiring role model of a megacity with a will to change. ○





- 01 | Mapo Culture Depot
- 02 | Makercity Sewoon
- 03 | Mass citizen engagement session
- 04 | Cheonggyecheon
- 05 | Gyeongchun Line Forest Park
- 06 | Seoulo 7017

All photos © Seoul Metropolitan Government





# Medellín

2016 PRIZE LAUREATE | 2014 SPECIAL MENTION | SOUTH AMERICA

Mayors	Daniel Quintero   2020 – date Federico Gutiérrez   2016 – 2020 Aníbal Gaviria   2012 – 2016
City area	382 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	2,376,337
Density	6,220/km <sup>2</sup>
Key projects	Medellín Metro MetroCable Circumvent Garden Life Articulated Units (UVA) Electric escalators at Comuna 13 Medellín River Parks Green corridors Ayachucho Tram
Directory	ACI Medellín <a href="http://acimedellin.org">acimedellin.org</a>
Watch the short film	<a href="http://go.gov.sg/medellin">go.gov.sg/medellin</a>



## Medellín is recognised for overcoming challenges of uncontrolled urban expansion & years of violence due to social inequalities over the past two decades.

Through bold leadership, long-term plans, and social innovation, Medellín has tackled its most pressing issues, improved the economy, and increased its citizens' employability and quality of life.

Over a sustained period, successive leaders have recognised and taken on deep-rooted problems – the wealth division, lack of equity and opportunities for its citizens – and continued efforts to rehabilitate neighbourhoods and improve living conditions in informal hillside settlements.

### MAXIMISING LIMITED RESOURCES

With limited resources, Medellín has devised alternative means of generating funds. The public utilities company EPM is a profitable entity that channels about 30 percent of its annual profits to social investment projects. Catalytic projects implemented in strategic areas also brought about the greatest impact.

The Circumvent Garden along the city's urban–rural edge helped to control urban expansion, mitigate risks of landslides, improve settlements, generate new public spaces, and improve connectivity and accessibility to jobs and education. Residents are equipped with skills in construction and agriculture to enable a self-sufficient community.

The city took the unusual step to assess and legalise most of the informal housing found to be structurally sound. This removes the need for relocation, while making the settlers feel welcomed and allowing them to start contributing as a valued member of the larger community.

The Unidades de Vida Articulada (Life Articulated Units) project actively involves citizens in the building of sports, recreational and cultural venues, many of which are adapted from existing utility water tanks that occupied large plots of previously inaccessible land. The new communal spaces host activities that are decided by the communities themselves.

### CO-CREATING WITH THE PEOPLE

Social integration is a massive challenge for many cities. Medellín has found the key to effective governance through social innovation. By empowering every member of society and giving them a stake in the city, the city gained public trust and confidence in the process. The Good Start programme centred on early childhood education articulates the city's investment in the future.

Medellín has put the needs of the people at the forefront of planning and policies and inculcated a culture of open dialogue and cooperation between government, private entities, and the people. Proantioquia, a non–profit organisation, bridges the government and private companies in formulating policies and implementing initiatives, based on the principles of social responsibility and fairness.

### MANAGING EVOLVING EXPECTATIONS

Medellín has demonstrated that inclusive governance can overturn the most difficult circumstances. Building on what had been put in place, continuing urban solutions, and creating jobs in tandem with growth will help to prevent the resurgence of past problems. As the wave of positive change settles, the city will have to manage the evolving expectations of its people. Medellín's achievements serve as an inspiration for cities looking to overcome similar challenges. ○



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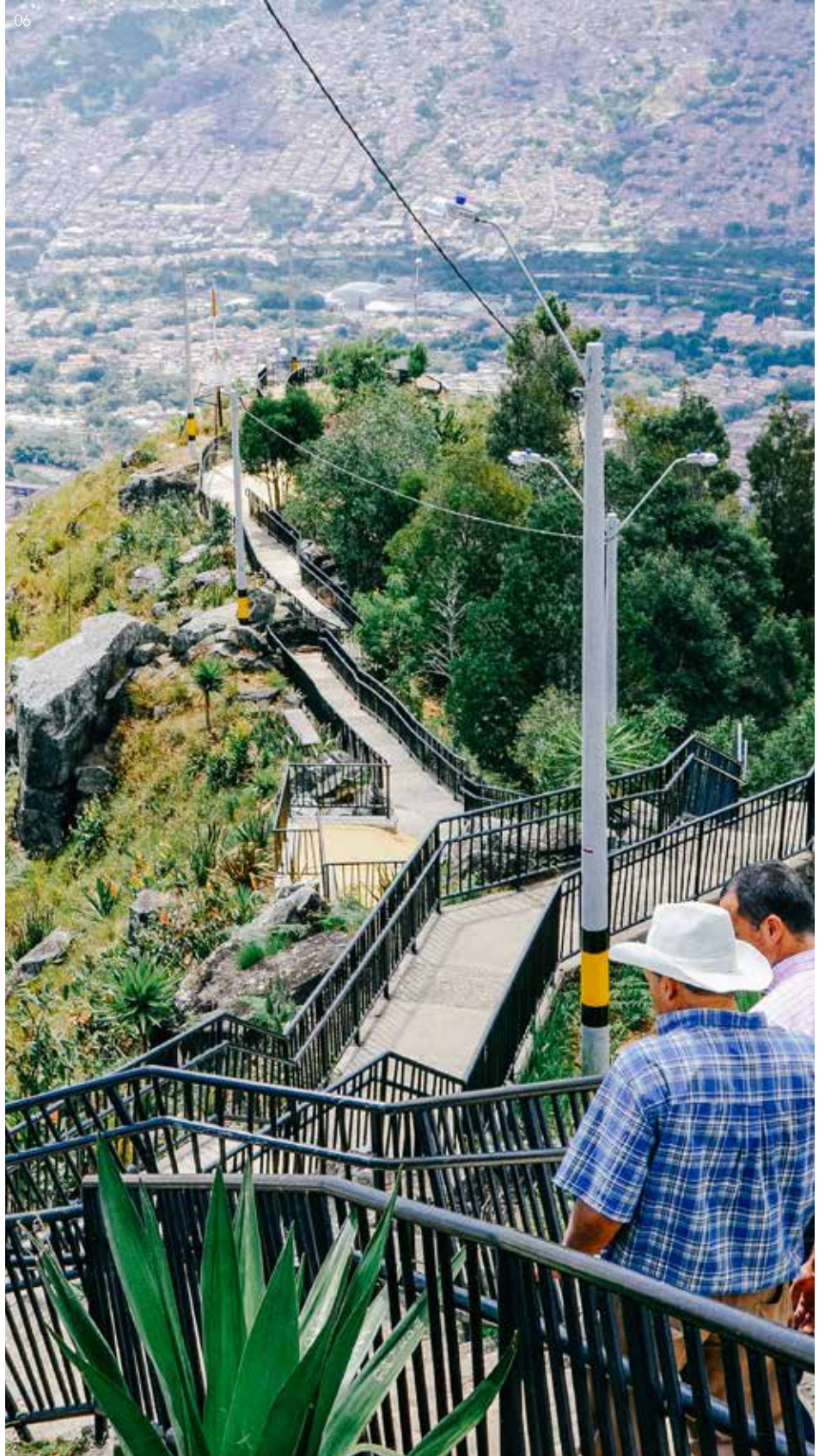
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- 01 | Escalators at Comuna 13  
© Damien Woon
- 02 | Life Articulated Unit  
© ACI Medellín
- 03 | Good start programme  
© Damien Woon
- 04 | MetroCable  
© ACI Medellín
- 05 | Medellín River Parks  
© Oscar Garces/Shutterstock
- 06 | Circumvent Garden  
© ACI Medellín



# Suzhou

2014 PRIZE LAUREATE | ASIA PACIFIC

Mayors	Wu Qingwen   2021 – date Li Yaping   2017 – 2021 Qu Futian   2016 – 2017 Zhou Naixiang   2012 – 2016
City area	8,657.32 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	10,700,000
Density	1,238/km <sup>2</sup>
Key projects	Jinji Lake Central Business District Pingjiang Historic District Stone Lake Scenic District Suzhou High-Speed Railway New City Wujiang Taihu Lake New City Suzhou International Financial Square
Directory	<i>City website</i> <a href="http://suzhou.gov.cn/szsenglish/">suzhou.gov.cn/szsenglish/</a>
Watch the short film	<a href="http://go.gov.sg/suzhou">go.gov.sg/suzhou</a>



## Suzhou is recognised for its remarkable transformation over the past two decades, balancing culture and nature with economic growth.

Suzhou demonstrates success in achieving economic growth to create jobs and living standards for its people, balancing rapid urban growth while protecting its cultural and built heritage, and coping with influx of migrant workers while maintaining social stability.

Suzhou initially benefitted from Singapore's experience and contributions in the 1990s when it set up its first industrial estate and prepared a master plan of the industrial township and city centre. Since then, Suzhou has independently put in place many initiatives that propelled the city forward.

### TRANSITING TO A SERVICE ECONOMY

Firstly, Suzhou successfully transitioned from an agricultural, manufacturing and export-oriented economy to one that is innovative, high-value and service-oriented. The city carried out proper planning and made deliberate efforts to invest in physical infrastructure to support its economic objectives.

Coupled with innovative incentives and international marketing, Suzhou attracted international businesses in the Suzhou Industrial Park and Jinji Lake Central Business District (CBD). The city continues to invest in infrastructure while expanding, such as a new metro system linking new development areas.

### BALANCING ECONOMY WITH CULTURE

Secondly, Suzhou recognised the importance of cultural conservation, even as the drive for modernisation gained momentum. To maintain and preserve its historical and cultural core, Suzhou redirected urban growth to a new mixed-use CBD. Meanwhile, the city invested in its rich heritage, such as Pingjiang Historic District, for its residents, small businesses, and tourists alike.

Suzhou has continually enhanced its living environment and made their water-rich landscape more accessible, consistent with the Chinese value of 'water' forming linkages with settlements. In the Stone Lake Scenic District that was previously contaminated by pig farming activities, an innovative '1-for-3' relocation policy helped to resettle rural farmers to urban areas in just four months. The farmers were offered three units of urban housing for one unit of farm residence, with the first unit for the farmers, the second for family members and the third as income property.

### FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Thirdly, Suzhou's economic growth is complemented by inclusive social policies that advance community integration. Migrant workers are given equal opportunities to access health and education benefits as the locals. These policies have facilitated their integration into the city and brought about greater social stability.

Despite rapid growth, Suzhou has maintained its distinctive identity and culture, created a high quality of life, and attracted visitors. The city leaders have demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to develop the city, guided by good governance and structured processes. The clearly articulated long-term vision and planning approach that Suzhou has put in place, combined with competent leadership and strong political support, enabled the city to tackle urban challenges effectively. Suzhou provides many good lessons for the many rapidly urbanising cities in China as well as in other developing nations. ○





- 01 | International Financial Square  
© Chen Yuhe
- 02 | Suzhou Metro  
© Gui Hua
- 03 | Stone Lake Scenic District  
© Jin Liming
- 04 | Fitness track along ancient moat  
© City of Suzhou
- 05 | Jinji Lake Central Business District  
© Zha Zhengfeng
- 06 | Pingjiang Historic District  
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# New York City

2012 PRIZE LAUREATE | NORTH AMERICA

Mayors	Eric Leroy Adams   2022 – date Bill de Blasio   2014 – 2021 Michael Bloomberg   2002 – 2013
City area	783.84 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	8,398,748
Density	10,714/km <sup>2</sup>
Key projects	OneNYC PlaNYC West Chelsea & High Line Plan Brooklyn Bridge Park Times Square pedestrianisation Sunnyside Yard redevelopment Lower Manhattan Climate Resilience Study
Directory	<i>City website</i> nyc.gov
Watch the short film	go.gov.sg/nyc



## New York City is recognised for strategically orchestrating its remarkable transformation over the decade of the 2000s.

2001 was a traumatic point in which New York City suffered loss and uncertainty. Under the city's visionary leadership, New York City faced that adversity by defining a bold vision for its future. Within years the city had not only recovered but grown better than before.

Embracing its complexity, density and diversity, New York City witnessed a marked increase in its quality of life. Building on crime reduction and other earlier urban initiatives, the city has altered the landscape and renewed confidence and optimism among New Yorkers for their collective future.

### PLANNING FOR A GREATER CITY

New York City's successful reinvention and rejuvenation is framed by the effective implementation of PlaNYC<sup>1</sup> – a holistic and interdisciplinary blueprint for a greater and greener city. This forward-looking set of strategies charts the city's future to 2030 by integrating areas such as land use, transportation, environment, and public health in one document. It addresses the challenges of population growth and jobs creation, physical infrastructure renewal, and climate change adaptation.

PlaNYC focused on outcomes for 2030 with shorter-term milestones for various aspects such as trees planting to remediation of contaminated land to energy efficiency benchmarks. Many of these initiatives contribute towards the overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Institutionalising key processes and mandating their continual measurement ensures longevity of the plan and that strategic objectives will be met over the long run.

### GENERATING CATALYTIC BENEFITS

New York City recognises the importance of improving existing public infrastructure and creating new ones. It takes the lead in strategic capital investment to generate catalytic benefits for the city. Today more than 700 acres of parks and 450 kilometres of bicycles lanes have been installed. The Brooklyn Bridge Park is an example of reusing and repurposing the city's industrial waterfront as a vibrant and sustainable park. These investments helped to restore business confidence and citizens' faith in their city.

### ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DIALOGUE

New York City's strong political will spearheaded change in the city and in the mindset of its residents. The capacity for dialogue between government and civic groups also synergises efforts and allows creative ideas to take root. This is exemplified in bottom-up, high-impact initiatives such as the High Line, where neighbourhoods are renewed, and beneficial effects stimulate the city's economy. Underutilised spaces and roads are transformed with limited funds into public plazas. Partnerships with community and business groups not only help to maintain the spaces but foster a sense of ownership.

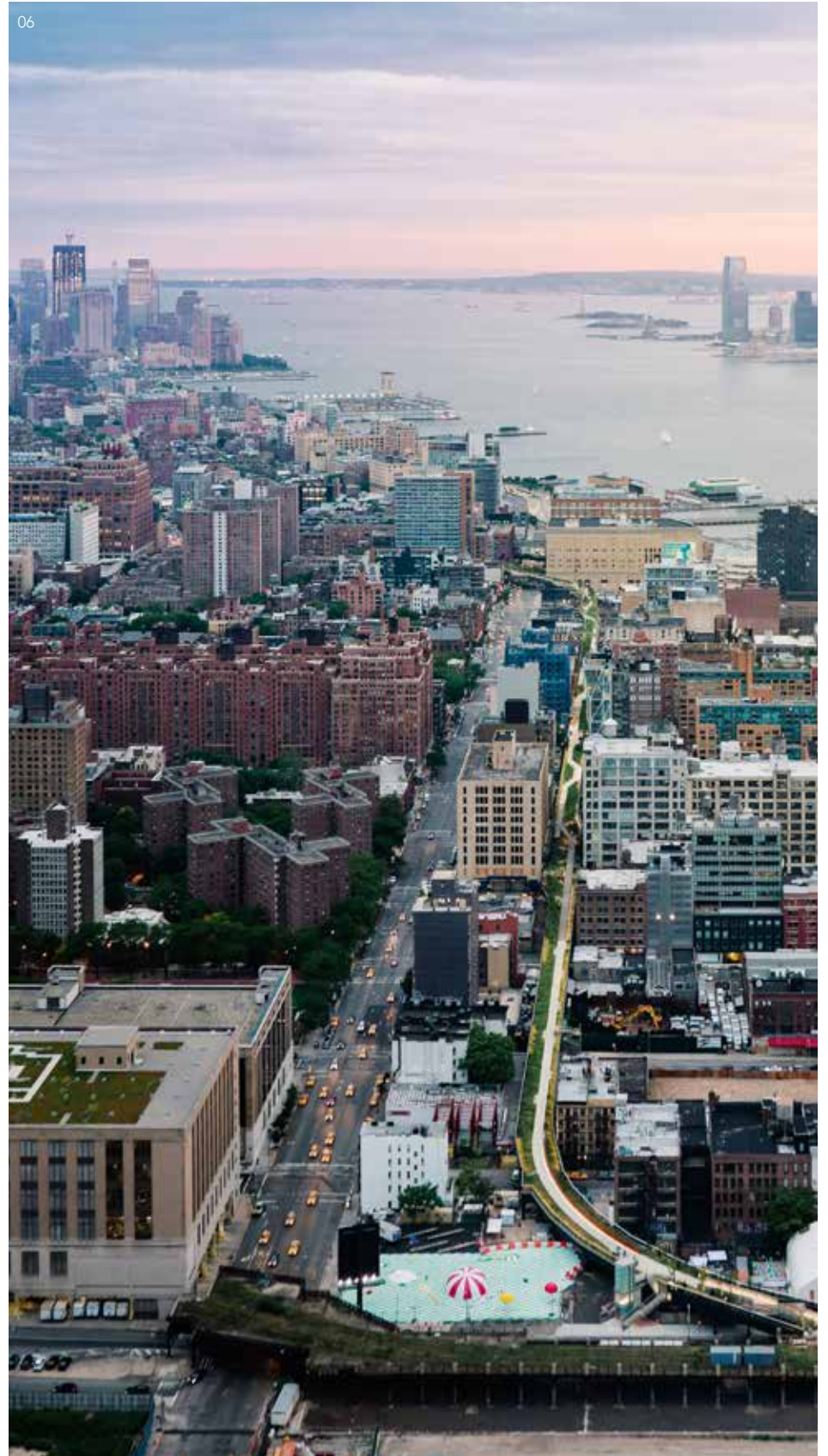
New York City's transformation is a testament to the dynamic partnership between the city and its stakeholders to implement a shared vision, and serves as an inspiring model for other mature, high-density cities. ○

<sup>1</sup> PlaNYC has since been updated to OneNYC 2050 in 2019.





- 01 | Central Park  
© IM\_photo/Shutterstock
- 02 | Plaza at 14th Street  
© NYC Department of Transportation
- 03 | Mass yoga session at Times Square  
Life in Pixels/Shutterstock
- 04 | Brooklyn Bridge Park  
© NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
- 05 | Protected bike lane  
© NYC Department of City Planning
- 06 | Aerial view over the High Line  
© NYC Department of City Planning





# Bilbao

2010 PRIZE LAUREATE | EUROPE

Mayors	Juan María Aburto   2015 – date Ibon Mendiguren   2014 – 2015 Late Iñaki Azkuna   1999 – 2014
City area	8,657.32 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	10,700,000
Density	1,238/km <sup>2</sup>

Key projects	Abandoibarra Waterfront Bilbao Ria 2000 Zorrotzaurre peninsula Basque Y high-speed rail network Azkuna Zentroa cultural centre
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Directory	<i>City website</i> bilbao.eus  <i>Bilbao International</i> bilbaointernational.com/en
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Watch the short film	go.gov.sg/bilbao
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**Bilbao is recognised for its integrated and holistic approach in urban transformation, and continually reinventing itself amidst dynamic changes.**

Bilbao demonstrates that urban regeneration can be a powerful social and economic driver to catalyse change, strengthen the urban fabric, inject vibrancy, and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Bilbao has been instrumental in regenerating and transforming the city of Bilbao from an obsolete and dilapidated industrial city into a knowledge-based economy. The success of Bilbao is largely attributed to its integrated and holistic approach to achieve economic, social, and physical transformations. Its emphasis on environmental clean-up, use of culture, internationalisation and design, major improvements to its infrastructure, as well as the restoration of its historic areas over some 25 years have successfully rejuvenated the city.

More significantly, the city was able to connect investment in infrastructure with social integration. The Nervion River, which was once a physical and social barrier, is now a hub for social and cultural integration and a centre for innovation and creativity.

## ALIGNING A SHARED CITY VISION

The success of Bilbao lies in its ability to achieve alignment of objectives and vision amongst government, businesses, and the community. Bilbao Ria 2000 is an effective framework that aligns the three parties towards a shared vision for the city. Bilbao Ria 2000 is a testimony to the importance of strong leadership and institutionalised processes in key decision-making and sustained implementation. The formation of Bilbao Ria 2000 demonstrated a strong public-private partnership to ensure the successful implementation of the city's plans and projects.

## RE-INVENTING AMIDST DYNAMIC CHANGES

Bilbao is also an exemplary city that continually reinvents and evolves itself amidst dynamic changes and will serve as an inspiration to cities worldwide. The experience of Bilbao as a comprehensive 'city project', incrementally executed through 25 urban projects over 25 years, has achieved a profound transformation of the city. The city has improved its environment and quality of life significantly, strengthened its social cohesiveness and cultural vibrancy and increased its economic competitiveness.

## GOING BEYOND THE GUGGENHEIM EFFECT

It is noted that the key factors underlying the success of Bilbao's transformation is more than the 'Guggenheim Effect'. It is not about achieving urban transformation and economic and social vibrancy through a few iconic buildings. Rather, Bilbao has shown that strong leadership and a commitment to a systematic and long-term plan, based on solid processes and supporting infrastructure, are key factors to the success of a city's transformation.

A total of 25 significant and broad-based urban interventions have been successively implemented/planned over the past 25 years. The systematic order of development demonstrates a visionary and long-term approach to planning, which is well-integrated and successfully executed.

- **1980s – 1990s:** Restructuring of the city and economy.
- **1990s – 2000s:** Consolidation of regeneration efforts and diversification of economies.
- **2000s onwards:** Re-invention; focus on innovation, research and knowledge-based economy. ○



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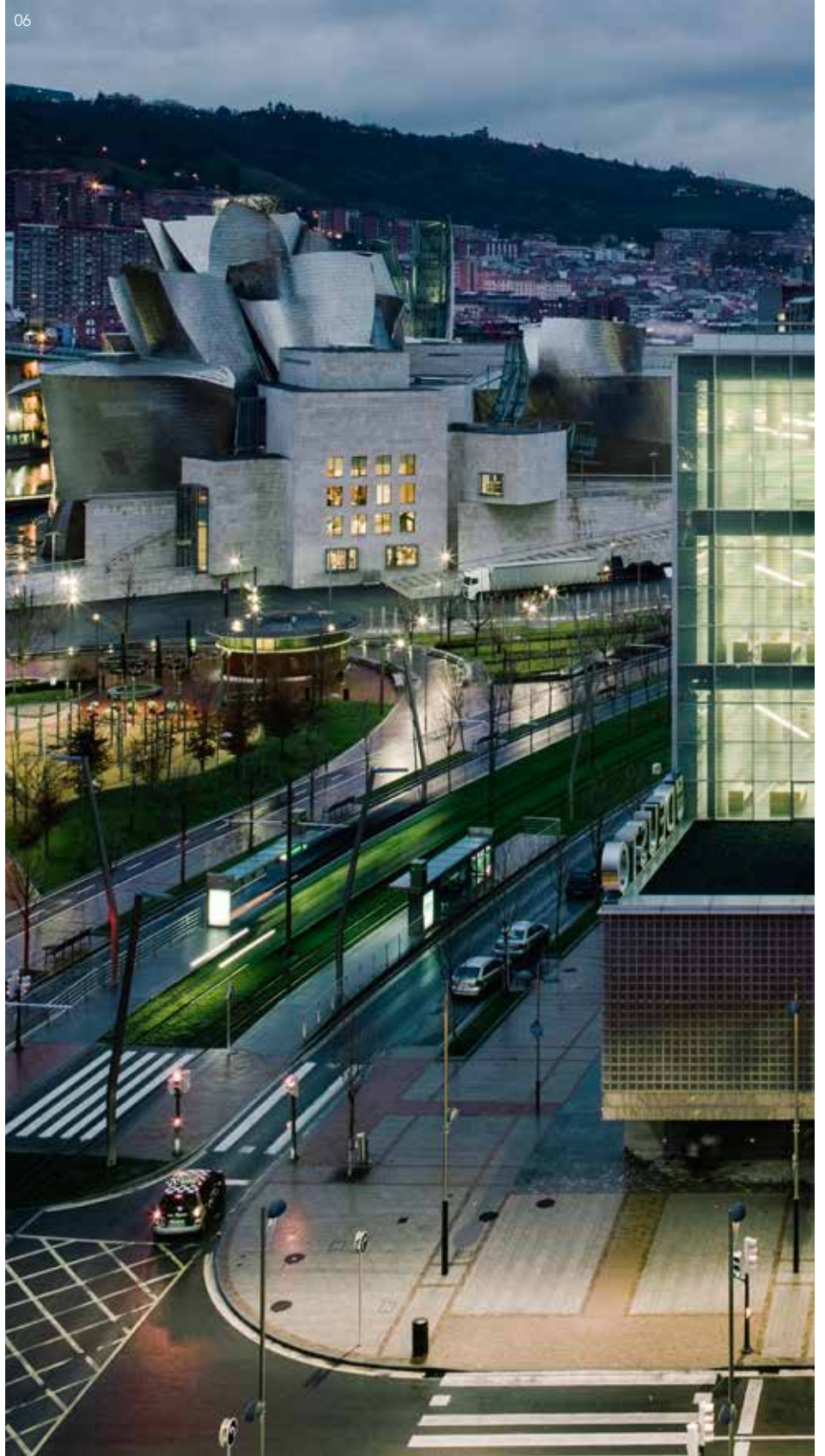
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- 01 | Zubizuri Bridge  
© Arnaud Martinez/Shutterstock
- 02 | Puente de la Merced  
© Bilbao City Council
- 03 | Bilbao Tramway  
© Noradoa/Shutterstock
- 04 | Azkuna Zentroa cultural centre  
© Bilbao City Council
- 05 | Guggenheim Museum  
© Melanie Lemahieu/Shutterstock
- 06 | Bilbao Guggenheim Museum  
© Bilbao City Council





SPECIAL MENTIONS

# Antwerp

2020 SPECIAL MENTION | EUROPE

**Antwerp is recognised for its careful & deliberate development of systematic plans & projects to rejuvenate the city, through a combination of large-scale & small-scale interventions over the long term.**

The lack of coordination in post-war development and northward expansion of Antwerp's port resulted in disused and neglected areas, particularly along the Scheldt River.

## CATALYSING REJUVENATION

The 2006 Strategic Spatial Plan helped catalyse rejuvenation using Renovatio Urbis – strategic interventions to tackle issues of climate change, affordable housing, urban mobility, and strengthen the green and blue infrastructure. Most significantly, the revitalisation of the quays along River Scheldt helped to conserve selected historic heritage, mitigate flood risks, and improve the riverfront access. The climate-neutral Blue Gate project is another major initiative with great potential.

Through the Urban Renewal Housing Programme, sites deemed unattractive by private developers are taken over by AG VESPA – an autonomous public developer – and converted into quality affordable housing. Emphasis is placed on spatial quality, while

planning processes are supported by design research guided by the City Architect. These small, surgical insertions in the urban fabric are laudable for seeding efforts to redevelop and revive neglected neighbourhoods.

## WORKING WITH CITIZENS

The city's Smart Ways to Antwerp programme addresses congestion and promotes well-integrated multi-modal travel. The ambitious Over the Ring project to cover a congested ring road will better integrate the city and increase green spaces. To address potential disamenities, Antwerp embarked on the nation's most ambitious citizen participation yet. By appointing an independent curator and design team to work with citizen groups for implementable concepts, Antwerp turned potential conflicts into long-term collaboration. This people-centric approach is also seen in the integration of migrants into the larger community.

By fate or design, Antwerp demonstrates merits to a Slow Urbanism approach – the flexibility to adapt and respond to new challenges, gain public support for long-term objectives, and grow the city organically. The breadth and depth of ongoing interventions are highly impressive and poised for success.

The sense of cooperation that transcends all levels sends a strong signal that solutions can gain widespread acceptance if governments are willing to co-create solutions with citizens. Antwerp's achievements offer lessons for cities tackling complex challenges of integrating historical infrastructure with modern city planning. ○

# Boston

2020 SPECIAL MENTION | NORTH AMERICA

**Boston is recognised for its holistic & cumulative effort on climate resilience, improving housing affordability & mobility options, & fostering civic participation.**

As a dense city with a 75-kilometre coastline, Boston's future-readiness is the innovative and tailored solutions to overcome its vulnerability to flooding. Boston's rebound from decline in the 1980s to a knowledge economy and a thought leader today backed by a highly skilled workforce and residents with a deep love for the city is also remarkable.

## GUIDING THE CITY INTO THE FUTURE

Imagine Boston 2030 is highly commended as a forwardlooking and first comprehensive citywide plan to guide the city into its next 50 years. It outlines goals in key aspects of housing, transport, and resilience. Boston's ongoing effort to provide innovative and affordable housing solutions and transport measures to shift towards active mobility is praiseworthy and yielding results. For resilience, the city formulated various strategies at multiple scales, such as Climate Ready Boston and Resilient Boston Harbor, to mitigate climate change issues.

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Boston's recent efforts to build communities at various economic levels, with residents articulating challenges, setting city goals, and generating ideas, underscore the city's

unwavering commitment to engagement and participation for win-win outcomes.

Boston is sincere in its engagement with developers and NGOs through tailored solutions for value-added development. For instance, the New Balance Headquarters, 401 Park, and Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building transformed the locales and catalysed further investment.

In the case of Rose Kennedy Greenway, after the linear green as part of the Big Dig project was completed in 1991, the city focused on activating the resultant public spaces. In the last decade, more collaborators stepped forward to install seasonal artworks, contribute programming, and fund the upkeep of the urban oasis. These efforts paid off with the Greenway remaining wellloved amongst residents and visitors alike today and is a role model for park management and placemaking.

Overall, Boston's foresight in resilience leads the way, and urges other waterfront cities to take a similar proactive approach to tackle climate change issues. The city's visionary and strategic planning, together with the close partnership and trust of its people to deliver results, places itself on a good track to achieve its goals for 2030 and beyond. ○



# Lisbon

2020 SPECIAL MENTION | EUROPE

**Lisbon is recognised for its dramatic resurgence over the past 10 years following a two-decade financial turmoil, turning itself into an attractive city with new investments, residents & visitors.**

Through innovative ideas and effective implementation, Lisbon has achieved significant results in a short period of time despite limited financial resources.

## COLLABORATING STRATEGICALLY

Lisbon collaborates with private sector investment to meet its strategic objectives. For example, incentives to developers to operate affordable homes helped address a growing population, while floor area bonuses to private landowners helped achieve conservation objectives and recover prime parking locations for pedestrian-friendly public spaces.

Lisbon is highly commended for its strategic urban interventions and mobility measures leading to significant physical transformation and improved public realm experiences. Catalytic riverfront projects, such as the Cruise Terminal, pedestrianisation of a major waterfront arterial road, and conversion of a surface carpark into the popular Comercio Square, improved riverfront access and created an attractive recreational corridor that catalyses further rejuvenation.

The integrated approach of opening up new areas enabled the city to grow while preserving its historic core. The Beato Creative Hub will transform a disused military complex into a start-up facility to foster entrepreneurship, while community nodes converted from under-utilised spaces encourage people to step out of their homes. The Lisbon Green Corridors progressively realised since 2008 helped connect communities and create attractive recreational areas and much needed green spaces.

## DOING MORE WITH LESS

The city leaders recognised that the city must act now to meet its 2050 goal of carbon neutrality. While striving for a 40 percent increase in regional public transport network, small but impactful measures such as a 40 Euro monthly metropolitan pass, improved pedestrian connectivity, and regular road closures helped encourage the adoption of more sustainable modes.

Working with the local community helped the city do more with less, such as the Participatory Budget initiative which allocates five percent of the municipal budget to citizens' proposed projects, such as the rejuvenation of the once-stigmatised Mouraria Quarter into a vibrant district today. Lisbon demonstrates resilience in the face of adversity to overcome limitations by turning crisis into opportunity. Its story of rebound should encourage other cities in similar situations. ○

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01 | Museum aan de Stroom in Antwerp

© Erik AJV/Shutterstock

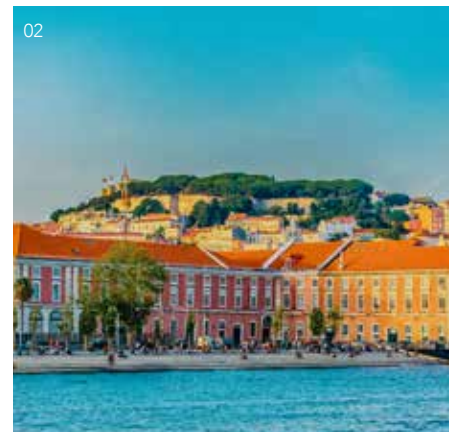
02 | Lisbon waterfront

© trabantos/Shutterstock

03 | Downtown Boston & Boston Common

© Richard Cavalleri/Shutterstock

02



03



# Hamburg

2018 SPECIAL MENTION  
EUROPE

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Hamburg is recognised as an extraordinary port city that overcame planning challenges to become an attractive and welcoming city of opportunities for a population that now includes a growing number of immigrants.

# Kazan

2018 SPECIAL MENTION  
EUROPE

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Kazan is recognised for its impressive turnaround from a formerly drab city with youth criminal gang and poor public health problems into a healthy city now known for sports and social and religious harmony.

# Surabaya

2018 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Surabaya is an emerging city that is commended for its strong appreciation of culture and for taking a bold urban development strategy to preserve and develop its kampung neighbourhoods, instead of displacing them, while also experiencing rapid economic growth.

# Tokyo

2018 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Tokyo is recognised as an exemplary megacity that works, with everything across the city appearing to be well managed despite its large and seemingly ungovernable size.

# Auckland

2016 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Auckland is recognised for overcoming its planning challenges faced over the last 20 years, notably through a highly integrated and innovative governance model.

# Sydney

2016 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Sydney is recognised for demonstrating strong leadership, relentless commitment, and an excellent model for partnership with its citizens and stakeholders in the tackling of their urban challenges.

# Toronto

2016 SPECIAL MENTION  
NORTH AMERICA

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Toronto is recognised for its outstanding social integration strategies, and reversing the trend of suburban sprawl through the revitalising of its city centre over the past 40 years.

# Yokohama

2014 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Yokohama is recognised for overcoming its urban challenges faced over the last 40 years through excellent partnership with its citizens and stakeholders.



# Ahmedabad

2012 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is recognised for its early successes in implementing a comprehensive City Development Plan, which aims to transform India's seventh largest city into a more liveable, equitable and sustainable metropolis with a dynamic multi-sector economy and an emerging auto-hub.

# Khayelitsha, Cape Town

2012 SPECIAL MENTION  
AFRICA

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AHT Group AG & Sun Development (Khayelitsha) is recognised for exceptional merit in running on a daily basis the comprehensive Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) Programme in the Township of Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa.

# Copenhagen & Malmö

2012 JOINT SPECIAL MENTION  
EUROPE

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Copenhagen & Malmö are jointly recognised for their close collaboration at government and business levels, and shared vision of a holistic set of economic, environmental and socially sustainable goals, also experiencing rapid economic growth.

# Brisbane

2012 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Urban Renewal Brisbane Agency (URB) is recognised for its significant role in transforming what was once a 'country town' blighted by economic stagnation, sprawl and urban decay into an economically, culturally and physically vibrant metropolis.

# Vancouver

2012 SPECIAL MENTION  
NORTH AMERICA

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Vancouver is recognised for being an exemplary demonstration of strong visioning, community values and long-term planning, contributing to a more liveable and vibrant city.

# Melbourne

2010 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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Melbourne is recognised for its integrated approach and commitment to strategic planning in the last 30 – 40 years, beginning with the 1974 Strategy Plan, right up to the most recent Future Melbourne plans, projecting Melbourne's urban development into the next 30 years.

# Dr Jaime Lerner

2010 SPECIAL MENTION  
SOUTH AMERICA

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The late Dr Jaime Lerner (1937 - 2021) is recognised for his achievements, particularly as mayor of Curitiba and as governor of the state of Paraná.

# Mrs Sheila Dikshit

2010 SPECIAL MENTION  
ASIA PACIFIC

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The late Mrs Sheila Dikshit (1938 - 2019) is recognised for her notable implementations in improving the living environment of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.



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LEE KUAN YEW  
WORLD CITY ○  
PRIZE 2024



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**“Through the Prize,  
we hope to draw  
inspiration, share  
experiences, & progress  
together as a global  
community.”**

DR CHEONG KOON HEAN  
Chair | Nominating Committee 2024

Co-organisers





# About the Prize

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a biennial international award that honours outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities around the world.

The Prize is awarded to cities and recognises their key leaders and organisations for displaying foresight, good governance and innovation in tackling the many urban challenges faced, to bring about social, economic and environmental benefits in a holistic way to their communities.

## PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

To facilitate the sharing of best practices in urban solutions that are easily replicable across cities, the Prize will place an emphasis on practical and cost effective solutions and ideas, for the benefit of cities around the world.

Through this Prize, Singapore hopes to promote exemplary thought-leadership and exchange of ideas among cities, so as to spur further innovation in the area of sustainable urban development.

The Prize Laureate will be presented with an award certificate, a gold medallion and a cash prize of Singapore Dollars \$300,000, sponsored by Keppel Corporation.

## A FITTING TRIBUTE

The Prize is named after Singapore's first Prime Minister. Mr Lee was instrumental in developing Singapore into a distinctive, clean and green garden city in a short span of a few decades. Under his leadership, the adoption of strategic land use, transport and environmental policies and programmes have helped Singapore to develop into a liveable city with a high quality living environment, in tandem with rapid economic growth.

The Prize is co-organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA) and the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC). The Prize Secretariat sits within URA.

## VISUAL IDENTITY

The Prize's logo and visual identity is based on the 'ring' symbol commonly used to represent cities on world maps and in atlases. It is designed by H55 Studio, an award-winning design and communication consultancy based in Singapore.

## DIRECTORY

### Prize Secretary

Mr Larry Ng Lye Hock

### Prize Secretariat

Mailing address	c/o Architecture & Urban Design Excellence 45 Maxwell Road The URA Centre, Tower, 13-01 Singapore 069118
Telephone	(+65) 6321 6532
Email	leekuan_yew_worldcityprize@ura.gov.sg
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Newsletter	go.gov.sg/newsletter
Videos	go.gov.sg/watch
Instagram	@leekuan_yew_worldcityprize

### Prize Sponsor

**Keppel Corporation**

### Prize Partners



**American Planning Association**  
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**Urban Land  
Institute**



WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

**The City Planning  
Institute of Japan**

# Nomination Process

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is awarded to cities only. Application for the Prize is in two stages as follows.

## STAGE A NOMINATION

*1 August 2022 — 31 March 2023*

Cities interested to participate should approach an independent third party (nominator) in any of the following categories to nominate them:

1. Leading academics (e.g. professors in universities) or academic institutions
2. Government officials (outside of the city administration)
3. International organisations in the fields of urban planning, housing, transport management, urban design and architecture, energy conservation, urban policy and management, and so on
4. Organisations in the public or private sectors
5. Non-government organisations (NGOs)
6. Leading industry experts in related fields

The nominator would also need to attach a short recommendation letter to make a case why the city should win the Prize to accompany the nomination.

- **Nomination form:** [go.gov.sg/nominate](https://go.gov.sg/nominate)
- **More info:** [go.gov.sg/stagea](https://go.gov.sg/stagea)

## STAGE B SUBMISSION

*1 October 2022 — 31 May 2023*

The nominated city will be informed via email to prepare and submit a detailed report using the official Stage B report template. This report comprises the following:

1. Background information on the city
2. Key city statistics comparing the city today and 10-20 years ago
3. Explanation of the city's overall master plan or developmental strategy
4. A selection of three (3) key projects covering different aspects to demonstrate the success in implementing the master plan or strategy
5. Key visuals to accompany the report
6. Optional supporting documents such as city reports, media reports, accolades, etc.

Cities should note that this report may require some time and resources to complete. An incomplete report may render the submission invalid.

- **Stage B report template & more info:** [go.gov.sg/stageb](https://go.gov.sg/stageb)

## Evaluation Process

All submissions are evaluated through a rigorous two-tier process, comprising the Nominating Committee and the Prize Council.

- The Nominating Committee reviews and examines the submissions, shortlists cities for further evaluation, and make a recommendation of the Prize Laureate to the Prize Council.
- The Prize Council reviews and selects the Prize Laureate based on the recommendation by the Nominating Committee.

Both panels comprise prominent practitioners, policy makers, academics and experts from a wide range of disciplines in the public and private sectors.

During the evaluation period, the nominated city may be contacted to make clarifications or provide further details to their submissions.

## Judging Criteria

The Prize looks at the holistic transformation of the city over at least a period of 10-20 years, and emphasises the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities within a quality built environment that incorporates the principles of sustainable development.

All submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of strong leadership and governance through vision, foresight, and commitment to achieve the objectives of the urban transformation.
2. Creativity and innovation in the overall master plan or strategy and implementation approach to establish new models and benchmarks.
3. Good replicable practices and ideas that can be adopted for the benefit of other cities.
4. How the urban initiatives implemented effected positive changes in the urban environment, local communities and the people in general.

5. Institutionalised processes to sustain the city's urban transformation that will be unaffected by changes in the city leadership, buy-in from local communities to achieve the city's vision.
6. Demonstration of successful integration or relation of plans at the regional or metropolitan level.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q What is the nominator's recommendation letter?*

A The nominator should make a case to support why the city should win the Prize in a short 600-word write-up, and could address the following:

- Outstanding leadership and governance
- Successful urban transformation or solutions with long-term impact
- Creative or innovative urban solutions
- Good learning points for other cities

*Q Is there an entry fee?*

A No. Participation in the Prize is free of charge, although the nominated city may require time and resources to complete the Stage B report.

*Q Can I get more nominators to nominate my city?*

A Yes. There is no limit to the number of nominators.

*Q What do I need to do after my city is nominated?*

A Nominated cities would need to prepare and submit a detailed Stage B report. Please refer to the details online: [go.gov.sg/stageb](https://go.gov.sg/stageb)

*Q When will the results be announced?*

A The results of the 2024 Prize will be announced in March 2024. Please keep a lookout on the Prize website [go.gov.sg/prize](https://go.gov.sg/prize) or subscribe to our mailing list for the latest news: [go.gov.sg/newsletter](https://go.gov.sg/newsletter)



# 2024 Prize Cycle



# 2024 Prize Cycle