



6th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Jury report





6th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation Final Assessment by the Jury

Guangzhou, December 2023

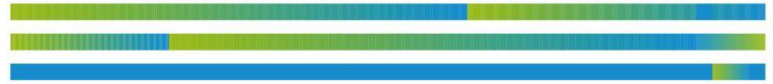
We, the members of the Jury, gathered on 7 December 2023, are pleased to announce the award-winning cities for the sixth cycle of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award). We were extremely impressed by the high quality of the submissions and had great difficulty in selecting the winners. Nonetheless, after reviewing the case materials and participating in the International Seminars on Learning from Urban Innovation in which we were able to examine each one individually, we have selected the following cities and regions. They stood out for their ability to stimulate new policies and strategies, form new partnerships engaging with multi-sector stakeholders and employ technology to their advantage. We would like to recommend that the remaining 10 shortlisted cities be discerned “Medals of Honour” for their outstanding contribution to accelerating the local implementation of the Global Agendas.

The awardees of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation are (in alphabetical order of cities/regions):

Bogotá, Colombia

Bogotá Care Blocks – How a city is reorganizing itself for women and achieving the SDGs

In 2020, the city of Bogotá, Colombia’s capital, launched its Care System to recognize, reduce and redistribute care. This initiative operates mainly through Care Blocks with an “ease-of-access” modality that provides educational,



leisure and income-generation services to caregivers, while simultaneously offering professional assistance to those being taken care of – children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

The initiative's cultural change strategy includes a "Care School for Men," promoting the equitable distribution of care responsibilities within households. Notably, caregivers have gained an additional four hours daily, empowering them to pursue education, generate income, or prioritize personal well-being. The initiative's emphasis on redistributing care responsibilities more equitably, coupled with civil society participation, contributes to its recognition as a replicable model.

The Care Blocks initiative in Bogotá represents a comprehensive approach to combat gender inequality by addressing the structural challenge of time poverty of women, offering crucial support services, and advocating for cultural shifts in caregiving dynamics within households. This initiative strives to mitigate women from disproportionate burden of unpaid care, foster economic and social empowerment among women, and acknowledging them not just as individuals with caregiving duties but as individuals deserving broader opportunities. It demonstrates a resolute commitment to alleviating women's time poverty, with a targeted focus on advancing gender equality. Noteworthy is the strategic allocation of substantial resources for the extensive implementation of the project, resulting in commendable outcomes. Functioning as a catalyst for raising awareness on a frequently overlooked issue, the initiative holds the potential for significant global impact. A notable component of the initiative is the "Care School for Men," underscoring the initiative's dedication to cultural change by prompting men to acknowledge and equitably distribute care responsibilities within households. The initiative has positively impacted more than 45,000 women in the city and is acknowledged for providing a replicable model that recognizes the vital role of care and the valuable contribution of caregivers to society.



Chalandri, Greece

Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. (Cultural Hidden IDentities ReAppear through Networks of Water) — Ancient engineering of sustainable water management meets urban innovation through citizens' participation

This initiative aims to activate local hidden heritage and resources in order to enhance citizens' well-being. It focuses on the re-introduction of the Hadrians aqueduct, a subterranean Roman-times infrastructure, into city life beyond the usual “sightseeing” offer to demonstrate and communicate its cultural heritage and ancient technical approaches alongside its role as a historic monument, contemporary landmark, unexploited water resource and piece of urban infrastructure.

Along with the repositioning of the aqueduct, the initiative promotes green urban policies and sustainable water management. It creates new quality green public spaces by regenerating four Chalandri neighborhoods, while the aqueduct, which is still operational, is re-utilized for irrigation purposes, thus replacing the use of potable water that was used before.

Through participatory and inclusive processes, Chalandri communities are revitalized by becoming active around heritage, and the local economy is strengthened via endogenous and resilient development rather than relying on tourism, which puts pressure on the city's resources and jeopardizes a sense of community and belonging.

This initiative demonstrated an innovative approach to urban development, heritage preservation, and sustainable water management. The initiative's ingenuity is evident in its distinctive blend of solutions addressing a spectrum of challenges. It stands out for its success in enhancing the quality of public green spaces, emphasizing the city's cultural heritage, and nurturing a sense of



belonging among its citizens. The development of a citizen-focused sustainable water infrastructure based on a circular economic model is worth noting, demonstrating the initiative's commitment to environmental sustainability. The establishment of participatory processes and institutions for managing urban resources underscores its comprehensive and forward-thinking approach. The initiative's originality in creating a more conducive environment for residential communities, promoting local agriculture, and unlocking the potential of underutilized assets. Through a cross-sectoral integration that spans cultural, social, environmental, and economic domains, the initiative not only addresses immediate challenges but also empowers communities to take ownership of public assets, fostering a sense of collective identity and unity. It successfully bridges the ancient with the modern, serving an educational purpose and bringing cultural heritage to the forefront, exemplifying how ancient infrastructure can be repurposed to strengthen community bonds and educate future generations.

Gwangju, Republic of Korea

GwangJunes Community Care

The previous caregiving system in Korea selected beneficiaries based on age and income, and only supported those who were eligible to make an application. To address this gap, Gwangju has created an innovative care model, GwangJunes Community Care, for anyone who needs care. Dong-office (smallest administrative division) care managers visit individuals in their homes, check their situation, and apply for needed services.

Gwangju has launched 16 new care services and plans to inject US\$7.74 million annually to encourage citizens facing economic hardship to take advantage of these care services. “Care Call” has been launched as a single application channel to increase convenience. To ensure implementation, Gwangju has established a “dedicated division,” designated 320 care managers, and selected



38 private sector care service providers.

GwangJuness Community Care initiative, unlike the previous model in Korea, which selected beneficiaries based on age and income, ensures that anyone in need of care is covered. This initiative offers care coverage for all ages and income levels and truly reflects the “Leave No One Behind” ideology, the totally voiceless population who does not fit the previous criteria for care services are now being cared for under the initiative. The initiative is operated at large scale and has benefited a large number of population in the city. It is a well-organized, robust, comprehensive platform that successfully delivered. It offers a systems approach with community engagement and various stakeholders involvement to address the aging issue, which are commonly faced by many societies in the world. It has brought a new perspective to the mechanisms of the welfare system, to actively help those in need. With its potential to serve as a reference for other cities grappling with similar issues, the initiative is poised to achieve a wider impact and contribute significantly to the advancement of inclusive and effective caregiving systems worldwide.

Kampala, Uganda

An innovation for pit-emptying services using a GIS-enabled application

Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, has a resident population of 1,738,000, but it fluctuates to over 4,000,000 during the day as people from surrounding areas commute for work, business, and various activities in the city. Over 60% of this population lives in informal housing, while only between 10% and 15% of the city is connected to the formal sewerage system. 90% of the population relies on the on-site sanitation model, making waste-emptying services unavoidable for many residents. Accessing emptying services was a challenge as many had to visit the offices physically to receive the service which was offered on



first-come first-serve basis after proof of payment submission. Pit latrines and septic tanks are often emptied haphazardly into the environment by unregulated vendors providing these services.

It is within this context that the Weyonje App was developed and introduced. Citizens can use the app on their mobile phones to order emptying services that are monitored until the sludge is successfully delivered to the regulated dumpsite. Citizens without smartphones, especially those living in poor informal settlements, have the option to contact the Village Health Team (VHT), which requests the service on their behalf using the Weyonje Village Health Team Application. The App ensures that the faecal sludge is safely transported and managed at the treatment plant. Data from the app feeds digitally into the city's data management dashboard enabling the city to track progress and gaps in the emptying service.

This initiative used technology to their advantage to find creatively solution to address the needs of the urban poor population. The creative approach taken by this initiative, especially in the face of challenging circumstances, demonstrates a commitment to overcoming obstacles and finding inventive resolutions. Treating technology as a facilitator in the efficient emptying of septic tanks, the initiative showcases the potential of local communities to find innovative solutions to pressing challenges. The initiative serves as a revolutionary data management innovation, fostering positive change in the community while concurrently creating local employment opportunities through the Weyonje Village Health Team. The positive impact of this initiative extends beyond efficient waste management. It has led to significant behavioral changes and improved environmental practices, contributing to the prevention of public health crises. Its unique approach to inclusivity, particularly in addressing the needs of the urban poor who lack mobile phones, is commendable. The Weyonje App not only facilitates the emptying of septic tanks but also addresses various SDGs simultaneously. It aligns with multiple Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs), tackling issues related to health (SDG 3), sanitation (SDG 6), and sustainable cities (SDG 11).

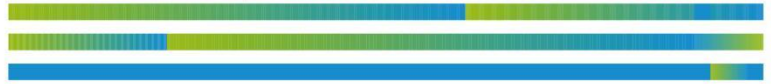
Xianning, China

Enhancing traffic safety near schools through a child-friendly collaborative construction and sharing approach

In Xianning, inadequate municipal facilities used to cause problems such as the coexistence of people and vehicles in the same way, muddy roads on rainy days, and the lack of traffic lights. To address these problems that pose safety risks for children getting to and from school, Xianning has put forward an effective and efficient “government+enterprise+community” cooperation program. It also represents a holistic approach that promotes infrastructure construction and the participation and involvement of active stakeholders at the local level.

The project was spearheaded by the municipal government of Xianning and broke down departmental silos by involving seven municipal departments, design institutes, schools, communities, and relevant companies. Through measures such as using a franchise model, adjusting land use, separating pedestrians and vehicles, introducing walking bus routes, and establishing various waiting areas, the initiative successfully transformed the streets around the school into safe and high-quality shared community spaces and co-built gardens. In addition, a series of social practice activities intended for students have been organized for the improvement of the surrounding environment of the school so as to build the ideal campus and safe roads for children.

Since the initiative started, the proportion of students walking to school has increased from 30% to 95%. One hundred parent volunteers operate four designated walking routes to school, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of nearby traffic accidents from over 50 to just one. This innovation has been rapidly extended to 20 schools, generating substantial social impact both domestically and internationally.



By implementing a child-friendly collaborative construction and sharing approach, the city has not only tackled safety issues but has also fostered a holistic and inclusive urban development model. The initiative's success lies in its innovative cooperation program that engages various stakeholders, breaking down departmental silos. With a remarkable increase in the proportion of students walking to school and a substantial reduction in traffic accidents, the initiative showcases its proven positive impact. The initiative's franchise model, land use adjustments, pedestrian and vehicle separation, and introduction of walking bus routes are elements that can be easily replicated in other urban contexts. The success of the initiative has led to its rapid extension to 20 schools, showcasing its potential for scalability. The initiative adopts a youth-centered approach, enhancing urban safety and place-making while encouraging people to view the city through children's eyes. This community-driven perspective fosters a sense of ownership and pride among residents.

Members of the Jury (in alphabetical order by last name)

1. **Ms. Eugenie L. Birch:** FAICP, RTPI (hon), FacSS; Nussdorf Chair for Urban Research, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; Chair, UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign (2014-2016); President, General Assembly of Partners (2015 to present).
2. **Ms. Ada Colau:** President of Barcelona en Comú; Mayor and President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (2015-2023); Former Co-President of UCLG & UCLG Special Envoy for relations between cities and the United Nations; Vice President of C40 Cities. (Co-Chair of the 6th Guangzhou Award Jury)
3. **Ms. Laila Iskander:** Founder & Member of the Board, CID Consulting; Minister of Environment of Egypt (2013-2014); Minister of Urban Renewal & Informal Settlements of Egypt (2014-2015).



4. **Ms. Jacqueline Moustache-Belle:** Director of the Gender and Youth Department UCLG Africa; Mayor, Victoria, Seychelles (2012-2016); Former Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments; Former Vice President, Africa Eastern Region, United Cities and Local Governments.
5. **Mr. Khoo Teng Chye:** Director, NUS Cities and Practice Professor with the College of Design and Engineering at the National University of Singapore (NUS); Executive Director, Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), Ministry of National Development of Singapore (2010 to 2020), and continues to be a Fellow at CLC.
6. **Mr. Mauricio Rodas:** Mayor of Quito, Ecuador (2014-2019), Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, Senior Fellow at the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center at the Atlantic Council (Co-Chair of the 6th Guangzhou Award Jury).
7. **Mr. Yu Keping:** Chair Professor and Director of PKU Research Centre for Chinese Politics, Peking University; Dean, School of Government, Shenzhen University
8. Convenor: **Mr. Nicholas You,** Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation