

# Webinar

## ULI Toronto: Free Cities: The Growing Movement to Make Cities More Joyful, Equitable and Affordable

Date: September 15, 2022

00:00:02 --> 00:00:05: As I just noted in the in the chat, we're  
 00:00:05 --> 00:00:09: allowing people to load in. So all that's happening we're  
 00:00:09 --> 00:00:12: going to run a short video to help announce you  
 00:00:12 --> 00:00:16: all I the Urban Land Institute's major Spring meeting  
 conference  
 00:00:16 --> 00:00:19: that for the first time ever will be in the  
 00:00:19 --> 00:00:23: City of Toronto. You could run that for me. Thank  
 00:00:23 --> 00:00:23: you.  
 00:02:42 --> 00:02:45: Thank you for those of you who may have caught  
 00:02:46 --> 00:02:50: that video mid midstream, this is a video that announces  
 00:02:50 --> 00:02:53: that in 20 May of 16th to the 18th of  
 00:02:53 --> 00:02:53: 2020.  
 00:02:53 --> 00:02:57: Three, for the first time ever, the Urban Land Institute  
 00:02:57 --> 00:03:01: major Spring Meeting conference will be in Toronto. And that  
 00:03:01 --> 00:03:05: is your invitation to get involved in any number of  
 00:03:05 --> 00:03:10: ways, including submitting program ideas before the October  
 7th deadline,  
 00:03:10 --> 00:03:13: which seems very soon, but it is upon us so  
 00:03:13 --> 00:03:15: and that would be shared in the chat.  
 00:03:17 --> 00:03:21: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Richard Joy,  
 executive director  
 00:03:21 --> 00:03:24: of the Urban Land Institute, Toronto, USLI, Toronto, and I'm  
 00:03:24 --> 00:03:27: pleased to be hosting today's sessions. Free cities, the  
 growing  
 00:03:27 --> 00:03:31: movement to make cities more joyful, equitable and  
 affordable, hiding  
 00:03:31 --> 00:03:34: in plain sight, are some of the most essential building  
 00:03:34 --> 00:03:37: blocks of a joyful, equitable and affordable city. But these  
 00:03:37 --> 00:03:40: urban assets that make the city a vibrant habitat for

00:03:40 --> 00:03:44: the human spirit are often neglected and inaccessible, or threatened

00:03:44 --> 00:03:47: by competing demands of urban growth and prosperity. Are there.

00:03:47 --> 00:03:50: New ways to protect and foster what we call social

00:03:50 --> 00:03:53: purpose real estate. Is it time to embrace the free

00:03:53 --> 00:03:56: city movement before we get into this? As always, we'll

00:03:56 --> 00:03:58: begin with the land acknowledgement.

00:03:58 --> 00:04:02: As the Toronto Region based organization, we acknowledged that the

00:04:02 --> 00:04:05: land that we are meeting on virtually is the traditional

00:04:05 --> 00:04:09: territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the credit,

00:04:09 --> 00:04:13: the Osnabruck, the Chippewa, Hodina, Shoni, the Wendat people and

00:04:13 --> 00:04:16: is now home to many diverse, First Nation, Inuit and

00:04:16 --> 00:04:17: mighty people.

00:04:18 --> 00:04:20: We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Tree 13

00:04:20 --> 00:04:23: of the Mississippi with the Mississaugas of the credit. We

00:04:23 --> 00:04:26: are all treating people. Many of us have come here

00:04:26 --> 00:04:29: as settlers, immigrants and newcomers in this generation and in

00:04:29 --> 00:04:30: generations past.

00:04:30 --> 00:04:34: Yuli stands in solidarity with the indigenous communities, demanding action

00:04:34 --> 00:04:38: and accountability for the ongoing legacy of the residential school

00:04:38 --> 00:04:41: system. We also acknowledge and honor those who've come here

00:04:41 --> 00:04:45: involuntarily, particularly descendants from those who brought here through enslavement.

00:04:46 --> 00:04:50: To better understand the meaning behind this land acknowledgement, we

00:04:50 --> 00:04:54: recommend for programs that we will have uploaded to YouTube

00:04:54 --> 00:04:57: and will make available in the chat for future viewing.

00:04:58 --> 00:05:02: Today's events and all other UI program would simply not

00:05:02 --> 00:05:06: be possible without the support of URI's annual sponsors. We'd

00:05:06 --> 00:05:10: like to thank all the sponsors for that support.

00:05:11 --> 00:05:13: Now more than ever, you and I relies on the

00:05:13 --> 00:05:17: support of our sponsors to put on high quality programs

00:05:17 --> 00:05:19: to drive our mission to shape the future of the

00:05:19 --> 00:05:24: built environment for transformative impact in communities locally and worldwide.

00:05:25 --> 00:05:28: To all of our sponsors, we say thank you.

00:05:30 --> 00:05:33: Next one to just quickly put a plug in for

00:05:33 --> 00:05:36: our soon to be 7th annual Curtner Urban Leadership program

00:05:36 --> 00:05:41: which is designed to challenge multidisciplinary emerging industry leaders, mid

00:05:41 --> 00:05:45: career professionals to work with communities and with each other

00:05:45 --> 00:05:50: to advance responsible, transformative and positive city building.

00:05:50 --> 00:05:55: The program has had a deadline extension to Friday, September

00:05:55 --> 00:05:58: the 23rd, so that's coming soon. And it very strongly

00:05:58 --> 00:06:02: relates to today's program, which is partly why I'm also

00:06:02 --> 00:06:05: putting a plug into it. If you are a mid

00:06:05 --> 00:06:09: career professional or no one, or perhaps have one working

00:06:09 --> 00:06:13: in your company that might be interested in what is

00:06:13 --> 00:06:17: an amazing networking and city building exercise running from about

00:06:17 --> 00:06:20: October through to May of next year, one day a

00:06:20 --> 00:06:21: month.

00:06:21 --> 00:06:24: Please take a note of the link and we would

00:06:24 --> 00:06:28: be very, very happy to entertain your application.

00:06:29 --> 00:06:32: Lastly, onward, it is now my pleasure to introduce today's

00:06:32 --> 00:06:34: moderator. I couldn't be more thrilled and honored to have

00:06:35 --> 00:06:38: Ken Greenberg, principal at Greenberg Consultants, take take the helm

00:06:38 --> 00:06:40: from here on in. It's a packed agenda, so we

00:06:40 --> 00:06:43: may not have time to get to questions and answers

00:06:43 --> 00:06:46: from the audience, but we'd still encourage you to submit

00:06:46 --> 00:06:50: them. Nonetheless, these will very likely inform future programming, including

00:06:50 --> 00:06:53: that current urban leadership program that I just mentioned. So

00:06:53 --> 00:06:56: please actively put in your questions or vote up the

00:06:56 --> 00:06:59: questions you see best. We appreciate them. We may have.

00:06:59 --> 00:07:01: Time to get to one or two of them. And

00:07:01 --> 00:07:03: with that, Ken, I'll ask you to take over.

00:07:03 --> 00:07:07: Thank you very much, Richard. Welcome everyone to what I

00:07:07 --> 00:07:10: think will be a very exciting panel. We have some

00:07:10 --> 00:07:12: great panelists with us this morning.

00:07:13 --> 00:07:17: And a really important topic and just a few words.

00:07:19 --> 00:07:23: At the top first, a disclaimer. When we talk about

00:07:23 --> 00:07:28: Free City, we are absolutely not using the term free

00:07:28 --> 00:07:33: in the sense of libertarianism as is currently seen in

**00:07:33 --> 00:07:38:** much of our political dialogue. What we're talking about is  
**00:07:38 --> 00:07:41:** how do you take the measure of a city in  
**00:07:41 --> 00:07:45:** a different way? What can you do in the city  
**00:07:45 --> 00:07:49:** for free or for almost free, and how can?  
**00:07:49 --> 00:07:53:** Of the city be experienced that way, a couple of  
**00:07:53 --> 00:07:54:** terms come to mind.  
**00:07:56 --> 00:08:00:** Dolce far niente from Italian for the sweetness of doing  
**00:08:00 --> 00:08:05:** nothing in particular, either alone or with company, in a  
**00:08:05 --> 00:08:11:** world where everything has become some purposeful and  
 task oriented  
**00:08:11 --> 00:08:15:** kind of activity and not feel guilty about it. The  
**00:08:15 --> 00:08:18:** 2nd is a French term used in the mid 19th  
**00:08:18 --> 00:08:23:** century, the flenaugh, that means or refers to a person,  
**00:08:23 --> 00:08:25:** literally a stroller.  
**00:08:25 --> 00:08:28:** A longer saunter who freely wanders in the city for  
**00:08:28 --> 00:08:31:** no other reason than to discover and enjoy it, and  
**00:08:32 --> 00:08:35:** that that characteristic of a city is not something that  
**00:08:35 --> 00:08:39:** normally shows up in these surveys that we've become  
 familiar  
**00:08:39 --> 00:08:42:** with. How do you measure that quality? How do you  
**00:08:43 --> 00:08:43:** talk about it?  
**00:08:44 --> 00:08:49:** This is in the context of two competing ideas that  
**00:08:49 --> 00:08:53:** are now in play in our discourse. One, that life  
**00:08:53 --> 00:08:57:** in public is a public good, and the other that  
**00:08:57 --> 00:09:01:** it is a commodity and a product. And so you're  
**00:09:02 --> 00:09:08:** probably familiar in Toronto with the whole discussion around  
 Ontario  
**00:09:08 --> 00:09:11:** place. Is it a park or is it a paid  
**00:09:11 --> 00:09:15:** attraction? Are there paywalls? User fees?  
**00:09:15 --> 00:09:19:** How steep are they? Who can get access to that  
**00:09:19 --> 00:09:21:** space and beyond that?  
**00:09:22 --> 00:09:25:** What is public space and who is it for? What  
**00:09:25 --> 00:09:29:** is the obligation of the city or other public actors?  
**00:09:29 --> 00:09:35:** What other actors, community, philanthropic, private sector  
 are involved in  
**00:09:35 --> 00:09:40:** delivering and maintaining public space? What are the roles  
 that  
**00:09:40 --> 00:09:42:** the Free City plays in our health?  
**00:09:43 --> 00:09:47:** Physical and mental and in our self actualization.  
**00:09:48 --> 00:09:51:** What have we learned from COVID, and why is it  
**00:09:51 --> 00:09:52:** so crucial?  
**00:09:53 --> 00:09:57:** On the panel today we have Perry King, the author  
**00:09:57 --> 00:10:02:** of rebound, Alana Altman, the Co executive director of the

00:10:02 --> 00:10:06: Betway, Scott Higgins, one of the authors of the Joy  
00:10:06 --> 00:10:11: Experiments, and a developer, Jordana Wright, the  
managing director of  
00:10:11 --> 00:10:13: activate Space Churches.  
00:10:14 --> 00:10:20: Leah Houston, the executive director of Marabel Arts, Parks,  
and  
00:10:20 --> 00:10:21: finally Paul Call.  
00:10:22 --> 00:10:27: Call Flash principal consultant and co-author of the Joy  
Experiments.  
00:10:27 --> 00:10:31: So I'm gonna go right to our panel. Their BIOS  
00:10:31 --> 00:10:35: are available on the chat. And Perry, I'm going to  
00:10:35 --> 00:10:36: start with you.  
00:10:38 --> 00:10:38: Hey, Ken, how you doing?  
00:10:39 --> 00:10:43: Great. I really, really resonated with your book. Enjoyed it  
00:10:44 --> 00:10:45: tremendously.  
00:10:45 --> 00:10:49: Your chapter one jumps right in why sports matter and  
00:10:49 --> 00:10:52: what they do, the free city. So can you tell  
00:10:53 --> 00:10:56: us what you meant by that and what you were  
00:10:56 --> 00:10:57: trying to get across?  
00:10:59 --> 00:11:01: And, and I hope everyone is having a really good  
00:11:01 --> 00:11:05: day. This is going to be a great conversation. And  
00:11:05 --> 00:11:07: I know that when folks pick up the book and  
00:11:07 --> 00:11:11: understand the the Serpentine path that it takes from  
beginning  
00:11:11 --> 00:11:14: to end, I think they'll get an idea. So I  
00:11:14 --> 00:11:17: wanted to write a sports book that went beyond maybe  
00:11:17 --> 00:11:20: what the pros talk about and wanted to take it  
00:11:20 --> 00:11:24: back to communities. Because ultimately, I think pro athletes  
come  
00:11:24 --> 00:11:28: from communities. They come from somewhere, they begin  
somewhere and  
00:11:28 --> 00:11:28: then.  
00:11:29 --> 00:11:32: By extension, communities come from somewhere and they  
function in  
00:11:32 --> 00:11:34: a certain way and I really wanted to to get  
00:11:35 --> 00:11:38: a better understanding of what sports means, but what sports  
00:11:38 --> 00:11:40: can mean on this local level and then kind of  
00:11:40 --> 00:11:43: ties into a lot of the bullet points here, so  
00:11:43 --> 00:11:43: basically.  
00:11:44 --> 00:11:47: Sports do several things. They do a lot of things  
00:11:47 --> 00:11:48: and I think a lot of people who have a  
00:11:48 --> 00:11:51: definition on why they do matter. But I I do  
00:11:51 --> 00:11:53: wind it down in several points that I think will  
00:11:53 --> 00:11:56: carry the discussion today. The biggest thing that sports can

00:11:56 --> 00:11:58: do, and it's demonstrated in in chapter one of this  
00:11:58 --> 00:12:00: book, is that it brings people together.  
00:12:02 --> 00:12:06: It's intergenerational. It's, um, it's from different walks of life,  
00:12:06 --> 00:12:10: different cultures. And I think there's there's something really  
00:12:10 --> 00:12:13: special  
00:12:10 --> 00:12:13: that I don't think I see in other areas as  
00:12:13 --> 00:12:16: often as I do, especially with built form in our  
00:12:16 --> 00:12:20: cities, especially in playgrounds and other spaces. But I think  
00:12:20 --> 00:12:24: people bringing people together is the most essential thing  
00:12:24 --> 00:12:28: here.  
00:12:24 --> 00:12:28: You know, it, it facilitates conversation, you socialize, you talk  
00:12:28 --> 00:12:31: about things that you otherwise wouldn't. It becomes a real  
00:12:31 --> 00:12:32: testing place.  
00:12:32 --> 00:12:35: For democracy, and I don't want to be so bold  
00:12:35 --> 00:12:39: as to suggest that it's a cornerstone of democracy, but  
00:12:39 --> 00:12:43: it's democracy impact practice honestly. So let's say for  
00:12:43 --> 00:12:47: example,  
00:12:43 --> 00:12:47: and I highlight this in rebound Chapter 1A Basketball  
00:12:47 --> 00:12:50: tournament  
00:12:47 --> 00:12:50: that is being held by Tibetan Canadians. And if you  
00:12:50 --> 00:12:55: know any background or the historical background on  
00:12:55 --> 00:12:58: Tibetans coming  
00:12:55 --> 00:12:58: to Canada, they they came in different capacities mainly as  
00:12:59 --> 00:13:01: refugees and I grew up in South Parkdale, so I  
00:13:02 --> 00:13:02: think.  
00:13:02 --> 00:13:05: Seeing Tibetan life come to life on Queen St West  
00:13:05 --> 00:13:09: and in on the side streets was a really interesting  
00:13:09 --> 00:13:11: kind of kind of story to to kind of bring  
00:13:12 --> 00:13:14: in to begin this journey with that is that is  
00:13:15 --> 00:13:18: rebound. And I found that in this tournament, in this  
00:13:18 --> 00:13:23: basketball tournament that many spent Canadians have  
00:13:23 --> 00:13:27: been organizing at  
00:13:23 --> 00:13:27: this local Community Center called Master Cowan  
00:13:27 --> 00:13:30: Community Center, which  
00:13:27 --> 00:13:30: is around the corner from Murray. I grew up pretty  
00:13:31 --> 00:13:32: much, you had older Tibetans.  
00:13:33 --> 00:13:37: Uh, it's Canadians and kids and teenagers and adults all  
00:13:37 --> 00:13:40: in the same space, sharing food, sharing stories.  
00:13:41 --> 00:13:43: And and really get into a place that.  
00:13:43 --> 00:13:46: I hadn't seen as much, sure, or maybe not as  
00:13:46 --> 00:13:49: much. And in prior years. It's something that that we  
00:13:49 --> 00:13:51: can take up later in the conversation about how we,  
00:13:51 --> 00:13:53: how we come together as a city or as a

00:13:54 --> 00:13:57: community. But I think there was something special to to,  
00:13:57 --> 00:14:00: to note there. They brought people together. The second  
point  
00:14:00 --> 00:14:02: I wanted to raise about why it matters is that  
00:14:02 --> 00:14:05: it activates a space. And I don't want to take  
00:14:05 --> 00:14:07: a phrase from Jordana as she talks about her a  
00:14:07 --> 00:14:11: part of the conversation, but you have communities, you  
have  
00:14:11 --> 00:14:14: people that live in neighborhoods, you have parents, families.  
00:14:14 --> 00:14:19: Coaches, different elements, folks. Uh, different factions of  
people taking  
00:14:19 --> 00:14:23: up space in formal spaces like community centers, libraries.  
They  
00:14:23 --> 00:14:26: don't have to be sports but they can be something  
00:14:26 --> 00:14:29: with respect to how we, you know engage with our  
00:14:29 --> 00:14:33: with public space. And I wanted to take public space  
00:14:33 --> 00:14:35: up just in just a moment. But but taking up  
00:14:35 --> 00:14:39: formal and informal spaces, parking lots, you know on the  
00:14:39 --> 00:14:43: street, you know whether it's active TO which is something  
00:14:43 --> 00:14:46: that was undertaken by the City of Toronto.  
00:14:46 --> 00:14:49: During the pandemic and it closed down some streets here  
00:14:49 --> 00:14:53: for for active play which was so essentially important. And  
00:14:53 --> 00:14:56: it it urged us to to talk about what spaces  
00:14:56 --> 00:14:59: can provide different kinds of needs for folks, whether it's  
00:14:59 --> 00:15:03: a healthy active lifestyle which is kind of part of  
00:15:03 --> 00:15:05: or one of the things I wanted to explore with  
00:15:06 --> 00:15:10: rebound. But essentially when we activate space we're  
bringing folks  
00:15:10 --> 00:15:13: in from different from different places to to explore and  
00:15:13 --> 00:15:16: to and to experiment and to socialize.  
00:15:16 --> 00:15:19: To bring about this democracy in action, to to have  
00:15:19 --> 00:15:23: these conversations that we wouldn't ordinarily have. And I  
think  
00:15:23 --> 00:15:26: part of having people come together and have these spaces  
00:15:26 --> 00:15:30: activated, another part of why this matters so much, why  
00:15:30 --> 00:15:33: about why sports can matter and why spaces like these  
00:15:33 --> 00:15:37: can matter is to encourage growth. And I'm talking about  
00:15:37 --> 00:15:40: leadership and mentorship and I'm talking about, you know,  
really  
00:15:41 --> 00:15:44: urging cornerstones of, of ways of action. I'm not talking  
00:15:44 --> 00:15:46: necessarily about activism, but.  
00:15:46 --> 00:15:49: Certainly does count here. You know, for example, in the  
00:15:49 --> 00:15:52: book I talk about how folks can come together and  
00:15:52 --> 00:15:55: create a charter of play. And the background is that

00:15:55 --> 00:15:57: a lot of folks, a lot of folks are abroad.

00:15:58 --> 00:16:00: And I'm going to use Finland as an example, I

00:16:00 --> 00:16:01: believe.

00:16:02 --> 00:16:05: Where they wanted to establish standards for folks to be

00:16:06 --> 00:16:09: active and to set safety standards and and set active

00:16:09 --> 00:16:13: standards for children as they continue to to build healthy

00:16:13 --> 00:16:18: active lifestyles and that would integrate into support systems

00:16:18 --> 00:16:21: across

00:16:18 --> 00:16:21: there across their country. So if we're talking about you

00:16:21 --> 00:16:25: know the potential for for free cities and the concept

00:16:25 --> 00:16:28: of free cities here really sinks well with with what

00:16:29 --> 00:16:32: rebound wanted to explore you know any of the.

00:16:32 --> 00:16:35: Growing movement to to make cities more joyful and

00:16:35 --> 00:16:39: equitable,

00:16:35 --> 00:16:39: affordable. I think you know rebounds conversation is exactly

00:16:39 --> 00:16:43: about

00:16:39 --> 00:16:43: this. It's about engaging with the city in new ways

00:16:43 --> 00:16:45: in order to to bring about better ways to to

00:16:45 --> 00:16:48: live in it you know and one thing that I

00:16:48 --> 00:16:50: wanted to to raise is that you know I think

00:16:50 --> 00:16:54: a lot of folks were wondering why it's called rebound.

00:16:55 --> 00:16:58: Exactly. We live in a time where we're we're kind

00:16:58 --> 00:17:01: of trying to answer the question about how we respond.

00:17:01 --> 00:17:04: That is, how we rebound from the situation that we've

00:17:04 --> 00:17:08: been in and how we respond to ongoing crises, perpetual

00:17:08 --> 00:17:09: ones that happen.

00:17:10 --> 00:17:14: You know more broadly globally but have more local impacts.

00:17:14 --> 00:17:17: And how we respond as communities, as families, as groups

00:17:17 --> 00:17:21: of people looking to find answers and when things have

00:17:21 --> 00:17:25: become somewhat so complicated we can actually find ways

00:17:25 --> 00:17:28: locally

00:17:25 --> 00:17:28: to implement this action and create a network of of

00:17:28 --> 00:17:32: local action that not just you know better addresses the

00:17:32 --> 00:17:35: these problems but you know addresses a lot of things

00:17:35 --> 00:17:38: in cities that I I find that we're having difficulty

00:17:38 --> 00:17:40: kind of managing and you know.

00:17:40 --> 00:17:43: When it comes to managing this activity or program in

00:17:43 --> 00:17:46: the City of Toronto and whether or not it should

00:17:46 --> 00:17:49: exist or whether or not we were building enough

00:17:49 --> 00:17:52: infrastructure

00:17:49 --> 00:17:52: for active play. Here's a question that has come up.

00:17:52 --> 00:17:54: And it kind of forms a small part of a

00:17:54 --> 00:17:58: very larger conversation about active play but also about you



00:17:58 --> 00:18:01: know infrastructure use and and and public building. And I  
00:18:01 --> 00:18:04: think public space comes into this so well because I  
00:18:04 --> 00:18:06: think and I'll use an example in the moment, I  
00:18:06 --> 00:18:09: think public space is is precisely the site where we  
00:18:09 --> 00:18:10: can experiment and.  
00:18:10 --> 00:18:14: Provide an equal opportunity for folks to demonstrate or talk  
00:18:14 --> 00:18:18: about or or to actively implement something that that creates  
00:18:18 --> 00:18:19: better action.  
00:18:21 --> 00:18:24: There's so much that you're saying that's so valuable. I  
00:18:24 --> 00:18:27: given all the panelists we have, I want to move  
00:18:27 --> 00:18:30: on. We can come back to some of these things,  
00:18:30 --> 00:18:34: but I'm going to take forward this idea of rebound.  
00:18:34 --> 00:18:37: What have we learned from being shut in for the  
00:18:37 --> 00:18:40: last 2 1/2 years and that other sense of the  
00:18:40 --> 00:18:43: word, rebound. How do we recover? How do we move  
00:18:43 --> 00:18:46: on, and what do we take from what we've learned?  
00:18:46 --> 00:18:49: And let me go to Ilana. Keep your themes in  
00:18:49 --> 00:18:50: mind and Alana.  
00:18:50 --> 00:18:52: The the question.  
00:18:53 --> 00:18:56: I would like you to speak to is.  
00:18:57 --> 00:19:01: The mission of the Betway and how is the Betway  
00:19:01 --> 00:19:06: contributing to expanding the free territory of the city?  
00:19:07 --> 00:19:10: Yeah. Well, thank you so much, Ken. And and Perry,  
00:19:10 --> 00:19:13: I think share so many of the the lines of  
00:19:13 --> 00:19:16: thinking that you were expressing. I think it's all very  
00:19:17 --> 00:19:20: relevant to the Beltway project. For those of you who  
00:19:20 --> 00:19:23: are not familiar with the Beltway, we're a public space  
00:19:23 --> 00:19:28: and programming platform located underneath an active  
Expressway in Toronto,  
00:19:28 --> 00:19:31: the Gardner Expressway, which is a structure that for as  
00:19:31 --> 00:19:34: long as I can remember has been a point of  
00:19:34 --> 00:19:37: division between the city and its waterfront.  
00:19:37 --> 00:19:41: And just five short years ago, the the project, which  
00:19:41 --> 00:19:44: is the project first opened. It's the bold vision of  
00:19:44 --> 00:19:48: our moderator, Ken Greenberg, as well as Judy and Will  
00:19:48 --> 00:19:53: Matthews and designers public work who collectively and in  
partnership  
00:19:53 --> 00:19:56: with the City of Toronto set out this bold new  
00:19:56 --> 00:20:00: vision for Toronto by acknowledging, demonstrating and you  
know, to  
00:20:00 --> 00:20:05: some degree demanding that our infrastructure must be  
more, must  
00:20:05 --> 00:20:07: do more, must serve a broader purpose.

00:20:07 --> 00:20:11: Server broader population and that this point of division in  
00:20:11 --> 00:20:14: the city could be reimagined as a point of connection  
00:20:14 --> 00:20:17: the same way that the highway was serving to connect  
00:20:17 --> 00:20:20: vehicles above. It could, it could say, serve that same  
00:20:20 --> 00:20:22: social purpose for the population below.  
00:20:23 --> 00:20:26: I think what's most exciting to me about the project  
00:20:26 --> 00:20:30: is the ways in which it has embedded contemporary values  
00:20:30 --> 00:20:34: into a mid structure, mid century piece of infrastructure. And  
00:20:34 --> 00:20:37: I would say among these values the most central and  
00:20:37 --> 00:20:41: probably the most critical is our commitment to accessibility.  
Much  
00:20:41 --> 00:20:45: like Perry expressed, we believe that public space is plays  
00:20:45 --> 00:20:48: an essential role in our cities. It's not a nice  
00:20:48 --> 00:20:51: to have, it's a need to have and I think  
00:20:51 --> 00:20:53: that was evidenced by COVID and.  
00:20:53 --> 00:20:56: And by all of our shared experiences, public space was  
00:20:56 --> 00:21:01: the space that sustained our health and well-being, that  
provided  
00:21:01 --> 00:21:06: necessary refuge and restorative opportunities. And  
increasingly, it's becoming essential  
00:21:06 --> 00:21:11: creative platforms. It's the connective tissue that connects  
critical civic  
00:21:11 --> 00:21:14: assets. It's where our city converges.  
00:21:14 --> 00:21:17: And it's for all of those reasons that some perative  
00:21:17 --> 00:21:21: that spaces like the Betway, whether they're managed by the  
00:21:21 --> 00:21:24: city or in our case by an independent Conservancy, remain  
00:21:24 --> 00:21:27: open and accessible to the city at large. That we  
00:21:27 --> 00:21:30: as a city, as we're in search of these essential  
00:21:30 --> 00:21:33: public spaces, that we open up our minds to spaces  
00:21:33 --> 00:21:36: that we have long disregarded like the underside of a  
00:21:36 --> 00:21:37: highway.  
00:21:38 --> 00:21:40: I think the point that I I want to stress  
00:21:40 --> 00:21:44: in these opening remarks is that they're financial accessibility  
is  
00:21:44 --> 00:21:48: paramount. What we have quickly learned is that being free  
00:21:48 --> 00:21:51: is a starting point and not an end point and  
00:21:51 --> 00:21:53: not a guarantee of accessibility.  
00:21:54 --> 00:21:57: And to be truly accessible requires an ongoing commitment  
to  
00:21:57 --> 00:22:01: the communities that you're working with. And for us, it  
00:22:01 --> 00:22:04: has meant a series of questions that we've continually posed  
00:22:04 --> 00:22:08: to ourselves that lead to very deliberate decisions. How do  
00:22:08 --> 00:22:12: we Createspace that's wholly integrated with its  
surroundings? How do

00:22:12 --> 00:22:16: we defeat, reject defensive architecture tactics? How do we signal

00:22:16 --> 00:22:19: an open invitation to all the various communities who use

00:22:19 --> 00:22:20: our space?

00:22:21 --> 00:22:25: Really importantly, it's it's very essential questions about governance. How

00:22:25 --> 00:22:28: do you create a governance model that's enabling rather than

00:22:28 --> 00:22:32: restrictive and how do we balance the necessity for oversight

00:22:32 --> 00:22:35: and public safety with our accessibility goals? And then from

00:22:35 --> 00:22:39: a programming perspective, beyond removing financial barriers, how do we

00:22:39 --> 00:22:42: make sure that people see themselves represented in this space

00:22:42 --> 00:22:45: and the programs that we're offered because this these that

00:22:45 --> 00:22:48: I think is, is really the the critical ingredient to

00:22:48 --> 00:22:51: making people feel welcome and making people feel.

00:22:51 --> 00:22:51: Included.

00:22:54 --> 00:22:56: A lot of this, uh, the images that you've put

00:22:56 --> 00:23:00: on the screen are so powerful, and they demonstrate the

00:23:00 --> 00:23:01: betway's commitment.

00:23:02 --> 00:23:07: To keeping things relatively free, highly accessible, this is.

00:23:08 --> 00:23:11: A really challenging thing to do as I know well

00:23:11 --> 00:23:14: and you are certainly dealing with everyday. And I think

00:23:14 --> 00:23:17: one of the things we want to bring into the

00:23:17 --> 00:23:20: discussion later is how can this model be replicated elsewhere?

00:23:21 --> 00:23:23: How can we find more of these great spaces that

00:23:23 --> 00:23:26: are literally hiding in plain sight?

00:23:26 --> 00:23:29: Scott, I'm not gonna move to you.

00:23:33 --> 00:23:34: Again.

00:23:36 --> 00:23:39: Good to see you. You and Paul have written a

00:23:39 --> 00:23:42: fascinating book, The Joy Experiments.

00:23:43 --> 00:23:47: And I am very excited about the work that you

00:23:47 --> 00:23:51: are doing. And in Chapter 11 of your book you

00:23:51 --> 00:23:56: describe a free streets strategy, the idea that brings free

00:23:56 --> 00:24:00: not just in terms of social activity, but also for

00:24:00 --> 00:24:05: innovation in the arts, business and invention in general. Can

00:24:05 --> 00:24:06: you explain that?

00:24:07 --> 00:24:11: Yeah. Thanks for having me on today. And I think

00:24:11 --> 00:24:14: the Betway project probably started.

00:24:14 --> 00:24:16: Us down a little bit of a path here. We

00:24:16 --> 00:24:19: I'm I run a large development company based in Southern

00:24:19 --> 00:24:23: Ontario and some of the urban thinking and urban strategies  
00:24:23 --> 00:24:26: that were being done in Toronto and other major centers.  
00:24:26 --> 00:24:26: Hadn't.  
00:24:27 --> 00:24:31: Proliferated mid sized towns throughout Ontario and and we  
fundamentally  
00:24:31 --> 00:24:35: believe if you can change 1000 mid sized towns throughout  
00:24:35 --> 00:24:38: the world, you've effectively probably changed the world. And  
so  
00:24:38 --> 00:24:41: we wanted to bring a fresh perspective to this area  
00:24:41 --> 00:24:44: and I'm from this is home, so I've got a  
00:24:44 --> 00:24:45: couple of kids.  
00:24:45 --> 00:24:47: And and so we spend our days in public realm  
00:24:47 --> 00:24:50: and we know some of the lacking investments that have  
00:24:50 --> 00:24:54: not been made in mid sized jurisdictions. You know the  
00:24:54 --> 00:24:57: basic premise for for us and our company is building  
00:24:57 --> 00:24:59: more than real estate. I think a developer has an  
00:25:00 --> 00:25:03: obligation to contribute to the ecosystem we participate in. I  
00:25:03 --> 00:25:06: there's not an ecosystem in nature where you can take  
00:25:06 --> 00:25:10: from it constantly without adding to it that survives. And  
00:25:10 --> 00:25:12: so I think I'd like to say the greatest irony  
00:25:12 --> 00:25:15: that I found is people love their cities and they  
00:25:15 --> 00:25:16: hate.  
00:25:16 --> 00:25:19: Developers. But perhaps that's not an irony. Maybe we just  
00:25:19 --> 00:25:23: have to do a better job of participating within, building  
00:25:23 --> 00:25:27: the fabric of community beyond bedrooms in the sky and  
00:25:27 --> 00:25:30: and private amenity spaces. So we started to consider what  
00:25:30 --> 00:25:33: is free for a city and the need for.  
00:25:34 --> 00:25:39: Localism. The need for unique and independent cultures  
within neighborhoods  
00:25:39 --> 00:25:42: and within cities, and what are the best tools to  
00:25:42 --> 00:25:45: create that. So at the starting gate, we simply said  
00:25:45 --> 00:25:47: Soho had a cool vibe, Detroit had a good vibe.  
00:25:48 --> 00:25:51: Why did these places have such unique neighborhoods? And  
it  
00:25:51 --> 00:25:55: was generally around cost effectiveness. They were cheap,  
they were  
00:25:55 --> 00:25:58: free, and as a result they opened their doors to  
00:25:58 --> 00:26:01: as many people could participate, be it a social enterprise,  
00:26:01 --> 00:26:05: be it a small business owner that had something unique  
00:26:05 --> 00:26:05: to offer.  
00:26:05 --> 00:26:08: And and really over the last 10 or 15 years,  
00:26:08 --> 00:26:13: things became very expensive. Gentrification was real in  
development. The

00:26:13 --> 00:26:17: small business owner was rents were quite high. Fundamentally, the

00:26:17 --> 00:26:20: retail fabric was changing to less shopping downtown and more

00:26:20 --> 00:26:24: experiences. And then you had a proliferation of national or

00:26:24 --> 00:26:28: multinational tendencies because they were the only ones that could

00:26:28 --> 00:26:31: afford the rents and that was dividing cities of any

00:26:31 --> 00:26:34: uniqueness or culture because it became a chain and a

00:26:35 --> 00:26:36: chain and a chain.

00:26:36 --> 00:26:38: Chamber. And so we started to look at I think

00:26:38 --> 00:26:42: innovation comes from just a different perspective and and remixing

00:26:42 --> 00:26:45: the bits that already exist. So we went into our

00:26:45 --> 00:26:47: own projects and said how do we make our streets

00:26:47 --> 00:26:50: free because we think we should have a lot more

00:26:50 --> 00:26:52: free space both in public realm and in in the

00:26:52 --> 00:26:55: type of commercial spaces and think there's a lot of

00:26:55 --> 00:26:59: planners on the call that will understand St activation as

00:26:59 --> 00:27:01: a planning policy and 2025 years ago we thought that

00:27:01 --> 00:27:04: mandating CU or retail space on the ground floor of

00:27:04 --> 00:27:06: residential podiums was.

00:27:06 --> 00:27:09: Was the means to activate a street. But what COVID

00:27:09 --> 00:27:12: taught us and what the shift to online commerce taught

00:27:12 --> 00:27:15: us is perhaps we need less more expensive retail that

00:27:15 --> 00:27:18: sits empty and because an empty storefront with a for

00:27:18 --> 00:27:21: lease sign or another business sign sterilizes your street and

00:27:21 --> 00:27:24: doesn't add to your street. And so is there a

00:27:24 --> 00:27:26: way to make that cheap and free? The other mistake

00:27:26 --> 00:27:29: I thought we were making is as a result of

00:27:29 --> 00:27:31: the planning policy to put CU on the street. We

00:27:31 --> 00:27:35: were also mandating more and more amenity spaces and the

00:27:35 --> 00:27:36: buildings we were building.

00:27:36 --> 00:27:39: Whether that we thought that was a marketing trend and

00:27:39 --> 00:27:42: people wanted to live in a condo with more amenity

00:27:42 --> 00:27:45: spaces or whether it was a planning trend to make

00:27:45 --> 00:27:48: sure that we planned for amenity spaces. We were building

00:27:48 --> 00:27:51: 10s of thousands of square feet of private amenity space

00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: in the sky. And in my view, that organization of

00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: space led to a really negative impact of is the

00:27:57 --> 00:28:00: neighborhood your amenity or is the building your amenity?

00:28:00 --> 00:28:03: Do you go outside and engage with your neighbors in a

00:28:03 --> 00:28:06: small business or a gymnasium or do you have a  
00:28:06 --> 00:28:07: private coffee shop?  
00:28:07 --> 00:28:10: A private gym in your own building to which you're  
00:28:10 --> 00:28:13: not even participating in the neighborhood. And I think our  
00:28:13 --> 00:28:16: planning policies let us down a path that had the  
00:28:16 --> 00:28:18: opposite effect of St activation. So we started at a  
00:28:18 --> 00:28:22: trend called free streets and our projects where we lobbied  
00:28:22 --> 00:28:24: the city to allow us to move the amenity space  
00:28:24 --> 00:28:27: from an upper level down to the ground plane and  
00:28:27 --> 00:28:30: effectively give it away for free. Because if you think  
00:28:30 --> 00:28:33: of an amenity space in the building, that's 1020 thirty  
00:28:33 --> 00:28:36: thousand feet of free space. And on the slide you'll  
00:28:36 --> 00:28:37: see the bottom image.  
00:28:37 --> 00:28:40: How many of these amenity rooms exist in the City  
00:28:40 --> 00:28:43: of Toronto that are underutilized, that don't add anything to  
00:28:43 --> 00:28:46: the urban fabric and in fact, encourage residents not to  
00:28:46 --> 00:28:49: participate in the urban fabric of your city? If we  
00:28:49 --> 00:28:52: took that same investment as a developer, and I gave  
00:28:52 --> 00:28:54: it to a small business, I gave it to a  
00:28:54 --> 00:28:57: Cultural Center, I gave it to the arts community, I  
00:28:57 --> 00:29:00: gave it to a social enterprise. I'm already creating that  
00:29:00 --> 00:29:02: space for free. I'm paying to fit it out, and  
00:29:02 --> 00:29:05: I'm burdening the residents of the building who don't use  
00:29:05 --> 00:29:07: the space to pay for it. And in turn, I'm  
00:29:07 --> 00:29:08: building.  
00:29:08 --> 00:29:11: Are you retail on the ground floor that I'm charging  
00:29:11 --> 00:29:14: 40 something dollars a foot for that no small business  
00:29:14 --> 00:29:17: can afford and it doesn't add anything to a diverse  
00:29:17 --> 00:29:20: and cultural urban fabric? What if we just swapped the  
00:29:20 --> 00:29:23: positions of those and put that amenity space on the  
00:29:23 --> 00:29:26: ground plane and entered into a 203050 year free lease?  
00:29:26 --> 00:29:30: Could we manufacture free streets? And if we did that  
00:29:30 --> 00:29:33: could we encourage neighborhoods as you're amenities not  
building as  
00:29:33 --> 00:29:36: your amenities? And if we did that in 50 buildings  
00:29:36 --> 00:29:38: in Toronto, imagine the.  
00:29:38 --> 00:29:41: The uniqueness of the opportunity at a street level to  
00:29:41 --> 00:29:45: provide free space and and doesn't cost the developer  
anything,  
00:29:45 --> 00:29:48: doesn't cost the community anything. It's just simply a  
reshuffling  
00:29:48 --> 00:29:51: of the investment already being made to get to an  
00:29:51 --> 00:29:54: outcome. And if we could combine those areas with free

00:29:54 --> 00:29:57: public realm and you know we're really keen on that  
00:29:57 --> 00:29:59: as well, can you know that's the best of both  
00:29:59 --> 00:30:02: worlds because then you get an engaging St presence and  
00:30:02 --> 00:30:06: public ground within the neighborhood tied to space that can  
00:30:06 --> 00:30:08: actually then be utilized and activated inside.  
00:30:09 --> 00:30:11: Now all of a sudden you can get into quite  
00:30:11 --> 00:30:14: an interesting neighborhood and I believe as a developer  
those  
00:30:14 --> 00:30:17: are the neighborhoods that people want to buy condos in  
00:30:17 --> 00:30:20: anyway. So self-interest takes over and if we can help  
00:30:20 --> 00:30:24: manufacture better and better neighborhoods that have a  
chance not  
00:30:24 --> 00:30:28: to gentrify overtime those become the best neighborhoods  
that people  
00:30:28 --> 00:30:30: want to live in or work in or.  
00:30:30 --> 00:30:31: Participate in so.  
00:30:32 --> 00:30:36: These are incredibly powerful ideas. I hope we have a  
00:30:36 --> 00:30:38: lot of your fellow developers and.  
00:30:39 --> 00:30:44: Officials on this webinar because I think your concept  
basically  
00:30:44 --> 00:30:49: liberates resources that we have and we're not using very  
00:30:49 --> 00:30:53: well. I can't help but mention Jane Jacobs observation that  
00:30:54 --> 00:30:57: the most interesting ideas in cities.  
00:30:57 --> 00:31:03: Emerge in relatively cheap spaces and how much we  
actually  
00:31:03 --> 00:31:08: need them. Jordanna, I'm going to now move to you.  
00:31:10 --> 00:31:10: Hi, Ken.  
00:31:11 --> 00:31:15: How are you? And and this is about reusing an  
00:31:16 --> 00:31:20: incredible asset we have in society in a new and  
00:31:21 --> 00:31:26: very significant way and that is the churches in which  
00:31:26 --> 00:31:32: we have invested so much social capital and and quite  
00:31:32 --> 00:31:38: literally created great works of architecture which were no  
longer  
00:31:38 --> 00:31:39: in all.  
00:31:39 --> 00:31:43: Please of serving their originally intended purposes and  
could be  
00:31:43 --> 00:31:46: repurposed. So tell us how you're going about that.  
00:31:47 --> 00:31:50: Well, my name is Jordana Wright and I lead a  
00:31:50 --> 00:31:54: tech startup called activate Space. And essentially what we  
do  
00:31:54 --> 00:31:58: is we provide access to really thousands and thousands of  
00:31:58 --> 00:32:03: affordable rental spaces and community across Canada and  
now around  
00:32:03 --> 00:32:07: the world. And these are spaces that are primarily located

00:32:07 --> 00:32:11: in churches. So these are spaces like for example, affordable  
00:32:11 --> 00:32:16: thousand seat performance venues and communities where  
performance venues are  
00:32:16 --> 00:32:18: closing left and right.  
00:32:18 --> 00:32:21: They're affordable commercial kitchens and communities  
where.  
00:32:22 --> 00:32:26: Kitchen spaces are quite expensive, so there's all of these  
00:32:26 --> 00:32:31: wonderful, beautiful, affordable spaces that people aren't  
quite aware of  
00:32:32 --> 00:32:36: because they're located in churches. And I'll kind of let  
00:32:36 --> 00:32:39: you all in on a secret that not many people  
00:32:39 --> 00:32:42: know who work in real estate and development is that  
00:32:42 --> 00:32:45: churches are actually amongst the largest.  
00:32:46 --> 00:32:49: Land owners in this country and a lot of people  
00:32:49 --> 00:32:52: don't even think of churches as real estate actors. So  
00:32:52 --> 00:32:54: if you are someone who works in real estate or  
00:32:54 --> 00:32:58: development and you're kind of thinking like, why should I  
00:32:58 --> 00:33:01: care about what churches are up to, it's because you're  
00:33:01 --> 00:33:03: leaving a lot on the table in terms of your  
00:33:03 --> 00:33:06: own impact in city building, your own engagement with city  
00:33:06 --> 00:33:08: building if you have no idea what.  
00:33:09 --> 00:33:12: One of the largest land owners in this country is  
00:33:12 --> 00:33:14: is doing so I'd encourage you all to get engaged  
00:33:14 --> 00:33:18: with issues that pertain to churches and what they're doing  
00:33:18 --> 00:33:20: and visit the website that filming is just put in  
00:33:21 --> 00:33:23: the chat to kind of get a sense of what  
00:33:23 --> 00:33:25: these spaces look like and what it is the work  
00:33:25 --> 00:33:28: that we're doing. So I just want you all to  
00:33:28 --> 00:33:30: kind of put yourself in the position of like a  
00:33:31 --> 00:33:33: young person in the city, maybe a young artist and  
00:33:33 --> 00:33:37: emerging musician and you're looking for like a large  
performance  
00:33:37 --> 00:33:39: venue to help fuel your career and.  
00:33:39 --> 00:33:42: Fueled the local art scene, where would you go that  
00:33:42 --> 00:33:45: you could kind of afford a large performance venue?  
00:33:45 --> 00:33:49: To contribute to the local vibrancy of the community and  
00:33:49 --> 00:33:53: the local arts scene, there are very few places where  
00:33:53 --> 00:33:56: you can access spaces like that. But churches, there are  
00:33:56 --> 00:33:59: some that are as low as like \$20.00 an hour  
00:33:59 --> 00:34:04: for spaces that are just architecturally stunning, incredible,  
beautiful. Or  
00:34:04 --> 00:34:09: if you're someone who's like an an emerging restaurant  
entrepreneur



00:34:09 --> 00:34:11: in the city and you want to start a food  
00:34:11 --> 00:34:15: business, you it's very difficult as someone starting out to  
00:34:15 --> 00:34:16: like lock.  
00:34:16 --> 00:34:19: Into a multi year commercial lease for a restaurant space.  
00:34:20 --> 00:34:23: But you can access an affordable commercial kitchen within  
a  
00:34:23 --> 00:34:26: church. And there are churches all around the city who  
00:34:26 --> 00:34:30: have these spaces available, but not many people know  
about  
00:34:30 --> 00:34:33: them. Or if you're someone who's a young person, you're  
00:34:33 --> 00:34:36: looking for rec space in your community where you can  
00:34:37 --> 00:34:39: get together and play and just be in a sport,  
00:34:39 --> 00:34:42: a space of joy with your friends. Where do you  
00:34:42 --> 00:34:44: go? You may be in a city, in a community  
00:34:44 --> 00:34:46: where the only available.  
00:34:46 --> 00:34:49: Places like in an expensive, I don't know, private gym,  
00:34:49 --> 00:34:53: like a good life fitness churches have affordable recreation  
facilities.  
00:34:53 --> 00:34:56: There are churches that I work with that have bowling  
00:34:56 --> 00:35:00: alleys inside their buildings that people don't know about.  
They  
00:35:00 --> 00:35:04: have massive basketball courts, all kinds of wonderful  
facilities. And  
00:35:04 --> 00:35:07: so it activates space, really focuses on, at least right  
00:35:07 --> 00:35:11: now, is to highlight for people where those facilities are  
00:35:11 --> 00:35:14: located in their own local neighborhood, because there are  
churches  
00:35:14 --> 00:35:16: that you may walk by every day.  
00:35:16 --> 00:35:18: On your way to work or just in your own  
00:35:18 --> 00:35:22: neighborhood, and you don't realize that within that building  
is  
00:35:22 --> 00:35:25: a commercial kitchen you can access. There's a large  
performance  
00:35:25 --> 00:35:28: venue where you can hold community meetings. Is a rec  
00:35:28 --> 00:35:31: facility a large green space that you can help activate.  
00:35:31 --> 00:35:35: There's churches with massive parking lots that are trying to  
00:35:35 --> 00:35:38: do all sorts of exciting activations for their local community.  
00:35:38 --> 00:35:40: So one thing that I'm hoping that you all will  
00:35:41 --> 00:35:43: keep in mind now that you're more aware of this  
00:35:43 --> 00:35:46: work that activate space is doing, is just think about  
00:35:46 --> 00:35:47: ways that you can.  
00:35:48 --> 00:35:51: Join in and support churches that are looking to activate  
00:35:51 --> 00:35:55: this really large portfolio all across Canada to help contribute  
00:35:55 --> 00:35:58: to the vibrancy of their local communities. So this is

00:35:58 --> 00:36:02: something that you're interested in as a city builder. I'm  
00:36:02 --> 00:36:05: sure we'll get more into this as the event continues,  
00:36:05 --> 00:36:07: but I would encourage you to get in touch my  
00:36:07 --> 00:36:10: emails up on this slide. This is a very, very  
00:36:10 --> 00:36:14: massive undertaking with large implications for cities like  
Toronto. I  
00:36:14 --> 00:36:17: mean, think about a space that you love that is  
00:36:17 --> 00:36:18: an activated space.  
00:36:18 --> 00:36:21: This community like think about the bent way, this is  
00:36:21 --> 00:36:24: 3000 bent ways that we're talking about that we're working  
00:36:24 --> 00:36:27: with right now. So that's the the scale and the  
00:36:27 --> 00:36:29: size of this impact. So do you get in touch  
00:36:29 --> 00:36:32: if you're interested in this sort of work and working  
00:36:32 --> 00:36:35: more with churches and learning about these spaces or if  
00:36:35 --> 00:36:38: you are someone who is a city builder who has  
00:36:38 --> 00:36:40: ideas around how you can use tech and apps like  
00:36:40 --> 00:36:44: activate Spaces app to highlight affordable spaces and local  
communities  
00:36:44 --> 00:36:47: to enhance your work right now? Like those are two  
00:36:47 --> 00:36:48: things I'm really big on is.  
00:36:49 --> 00:36:52: Expanding access to affordable space and then also using  
tech  
00:36:53 --> 00:36:56: within the problem space of city building and real estate,  
00:36:56 --> 00:36:58: I'm sure we all see little gaps in the way  
00:36:58 --> 00:37:01: that we do things that can be enhanced by apps  
00:37:01 --> 00:37:03: and tech tools. So yeah, those are two things that  
00:37:04 --> 00:37:07: I'm very, very passionate about and I'd encourage you all  
00:37:07 --> 00:37:09: to learn more about opportunities with churches.  
00:37:11 --> 00:37:14: So thank you so much Jordan. I I think your  
00:37:14 --> 00:37:18: reference to the these indoor vent ways, it's something that  
00:37:18 --> 00:37:21: I was thinking about as well. What I love about  
00:37:21 --> 00:37:24: this is the most significant thing we can do from  
00:37:24 --> 00:37:28: the standpoint of sustainability is to use the resources that  
00:37:28 --> 00:37:29: we already have.  
00:37:30 --> 00:37:34: For new purposes and and this is a magnificent example.  
00:37:35 --> 00:37:37: Leah, I will now turn to you.  
00:37:41 --> 00:37:46: Good to have you. You're doing amazing work through Mabel  
00:37:46 --> 00:37:50: in a local neighborhood park and adding a whole new  
00:37:50 --> 00:37:55: dimension to the role it plays in people's lives. So  
00:37:55 --> 00:37:57: tell us how that's working.  
00:37:58 --> 00:38:02: Oh, sure. Well, hi, everybody. Hello, audience. We can't see  
00:38:02 --> 00:38:04: you, but I know you're there.  
00:38:05 --> 00:38:09: Thanks so much Ulli for having me. And lovely to

00:38:09 --> 00:38:13: be here. Maybelle parked oh what a jewel of a  
00:38:13 --> 00:38:17: place nestled in the center of a high density tower  
00:38:17 --> 00:38:23: community, predominantly Toronto Community Housing  
launchpad for landed immigrants and  
00:38:23 --> 00:38:26: refugees building new lives in Canada.  
00:38:28 --> 00:38:33: Incredibly tightly knit community where, you know, kids run  
around  
00:38:33 --> 00:38:37: all day, older cousins taking care of younger cousins, and  
00:38:37 --> 00:38:42: this is the context through which Maybelle Arts was born.  
00:38:42 --> 00:38:46: We're an arts organization, but very early on we got  
00:38:46 --> 00:38:49: excited about the park as a place that was both  
00:38:49 --> 00:38:55: very intriguing and also quite neglected, owned by Toronto  
Community  
00:38:55 --> 00:38:58: Housing, a thoroughfare for the community.  
00:38:58 --> 00:39:01: To get to school and work. And so in the  
00:39:01 --> 00:39:05: early days, myself and some other artists started offering  
activities  
00:39:05 --> 00:39:09: out there just to see what was possible, you know?  
00:39:09 --> 00:39:12: And through the years, starting with the kids and then  
00:39:12 --> 00:39:16: meeting the parents and then meeting the grandparents, we  
found  
00:39:17 --> 00:39:20: ourselves interconnected to a web of people who were  
maybe  
00:39:20 --> 00:39:24: we didn't know it, but we were. We were building  
00:39:24 --> 00:39:28: social infrastructure together and and that social  
infrastructure.  
00:39:28 --> 00:39:32: Was going to prove to be incredibly important. And this  
00:39:32 --> 00:39:34: is where I hope we we get into talking a  
00:39:34 --> 00:39:37: bit more about joy. But it starts in a not  
00:39:37 --> 00:39:40: so joyful place, which is COVID-19. When COVID hit, we  
00:39:40 --> 00:39:44: weren't sure, and I know a lot of organizations felt  
00:39:44 --> 00:39:47: this way. We didn't know what our role was supposed  
00:39:47 --> 00:39:50: to be and we didn't really know what was going  
00:39:50 --> 00:39:53: to happen. But because of the connections we had in  
00:39:53 --> 00:39:56: the community, we were able to put together a list  
00:39:56 --> 00:39:58: of about 100 households and we just.  
00:39:58 --> 00:40:01: Old people. And we said you know, how are you  
00:40:01 --> 00:40:05: doing, what are you thinking and and what we learned  
00:40:05 --> 00:40:08: really fast was that food security was going to be  
00:40:08 --> 00:40:12: a massive issue in terms of how communities grappled with  
00:40:12 --> 00:40:15: COVID-19. So we were able to quickly mobilize. We started  
00:40:16 --> 00:40:19: a delivery to the door program for who we'd identified  
00:40:19 --> 00:40:22: as sort of the 10 most vulnerable households on the  
00:40:22 --> 00:40:26: block. And through the two plus years of COVID that

00:40:26 --> 00:40:29: has evolved rapidly into a weekly multi pronged.  
00:40:29 --> 00:40:32: Food security response and what I like to call a  
00:40:32 --> 00:40:36: block party. And this is where joy comes in. And  
00:40:36 --> 00:40:39: I think what we learned through COVID and and what  
00:40:40 --> 00:40:43: we always knew as an arts organization is that there  
00:40:43 --> 00:40:45: is such a profound role.  
00:40:46 --> 00:40:49: For beauty and joy in all aspects of our lives,  
00:40:49 --> 00:40:53: even when we're in the emergency zone, even when things  
00:40:53 --> 00:40:56: are going about as terribly as they could. And what  
00:40:56 --> 00:41:00: we learned really early on, you know, we used the  
00:41:00 --> 00:41:03: park, we identified the park as the launchpad for all  
00:41:03 --> 00:41:07: the emergency work we were doing because we had control  
00:41:07 --> 00:41:10: and ownership over it. It was in the center of  
00:41:10 --> 00:41:14: the community and we had some ability to transform it  
00:41:14 --> 00:41:16: to meet our needs, but also.  
00:41:16 --> 00:41:19: To make it beautiful and accessible to the people who  
00:41:19 --> 00:41:22: needed it. And so for us, you know, the park,  
00:41:22 --> 00:41:26: it really showed us in that moment of need. First,  
00:41:26 --> 00:41:29: it showed us the level of social capital that had  
00:41:29 --> 00:41:32: been built already because so many in the people in  
00:41:32 --> 00:41:36: the neighborhood had already been a part of Maybel  
00:41:36 --> 00:41:40: projects,  
00:41:36 --> 00:41:40: had themselves contributed to the development of the park.  
00:41:40 --> 00:41:43: They  
00:41:40 --> 00:41:43: felt, and they rightly so, they felt ownership over the  
00:41:43 --> 00:41:46: park. They knew it was a place that could help  
00:41:46 --> 00:41:48: them when they needed it.  
00:41:48 --> 00:41:52: And so there wasn't that sort of charitable sense of,  
00:41:52 --> 00:41:55: oh, I'm the person in trouble and you're the person  
00:41:55 --> 00:41:58: with the stuff, and you're going to help me. We  
00:41:58 --> 00:42:02: really, truly came together to help each other. And then,  
00:42:02 --> 00:42:05: you know, today as we're grappling with what do we  
00:42:05 --> 00:42:08: do with this now, you know, now what we call  
00:42:08 --> 00:42:12: Maybelle Pantry serves over 800 individuals on Maybelle  
00:42:12 --> 00:42:15: Ave, you  
00:42:12 --> 00:42:15: know? And so when we think about today, what we  
00:42:15 --> 00:42:18: want to do with that, it's really become about.  
00:42:19 --> 00:42:23: What can we do in terms of stimulating the local  
00:42:23 --> 00:42:26: economy? So 80% of the folks who work at the  
00:42:26 --> 00:42:30: pantry are actually residents and Pantry users, which is  
00:42:30 --> 00:42:33: pretty  
00:42:30 --> 00:42:33: cool. And then the second question for us really is  
00:42:33 --> 00:42:36: how do we bring this back to the joy place?

00:42:36 --> 00:42:40: How do we make this about joy and interconnection? And  
00:42:40 --> 00:42:43: so that's been about, you know, seeing it less as  
00:42:44 --> 00:42:46: a food bank and and more as a block party.  
00:42:47 --> 00:42:49: And I think that's where we'll take it in the  
00:42:49 --> 00:42:50: future.  
00:42:51 --> 00:42:54: Thank you so much Leah, I I think.  
00:42:54 --> 00:42:59: Listening to all of you so far, what is remarkable  
00:42:59 --> 00:43:04: for me is you each come from a completely different.  
00:43:04 --> 00:43:08: Area of life you do different things in in your  
00:43:08 --> 00:43:13: professions, and yet there's really a strong shared impulse  
that  
00:43:13 --> 00:43:17: I think has guided all of the things that you've  
00:43:17 --> 00:43:19: described to us.  
00:43:20 --> 00:43:24: Leah, I what I loved about your description and what  
00:43:24 --> 00:43:28: was doing is that interaction between the physical place and  
00:43:28 --> 00:43:32: I love this wonderful image that I'm looking at and  
00:43:32 --> 00:43:37: how it liberates people and their ability to connect with  
00:43:37 --> 00:43:41: each other. And you've kind of anticipated what I'm now  
00:43:41 --> 00:43:44: going to ask Paul, if we can switch to Paul,  
00:43:44 --> 00:43:48: which is in your wonderful book The Joy experiments that  
00:43:48 --> 00:43:50: you did with Scott.  
00:43:50 --> 00:43:54: Which I found so inspiring. I was really struck by  
00:43:54 --> 00:43:58: this word joy and so listening. Talking about the book  
00:43:58 --> 00:44:02: but also listening to the others. Maybe you can talk  
00:44:03 --> 00:44:06: to us a little bit more about what joy has  
00:44:06 --> 00:44:07: to do with it.  
00:44:09 --> 00:44:13: Thanks. Thanks, Ken. And and thank you to everybody who's  
00:44:13 --> 00:44:18: been talking thus far because it's fascinating how different all  
00:44:18 --> 00:44:23: these activities and projects and thoughts are and yet how  
00:44:23 --> 00:44:27: similar they are as well. And I think the word  
00:44:27 --> 00:44:30: joy is, is probably where we get to the point  
00:44:30 --> 00:44:34: where we can talk about things that are similar. So  
00:44:34 --> 00:44:38: Scott and I had written a book called The Joy  
00:44:38 --> 00:44:39: Experiments.  
00:44:39 --> 00:44:41: And it was a it is an overview of a  
00:44:41 --> 00:44:45: lot of the philosophies hip developments has on city building  
00:44:45 --> 00:44:49: and uses the word experiments, because we go through it  
00:44:49 --> 00:44:52: and we talk a lot about the things we've attempted  
00:44:52 --> 00:44:55: to do and what we've learned from them. And the  
00:44:55 --> 00:44:58: goal of the book was to start a new conversation  
00:44:59 --> 00:45:02: about city building, a city building that sort of focuses  
00:45:02 --> 00:45:06: a lot on the things that you're everyone's hearing today.

00:45:08 --> 00:45:10: But as we were working on it, the word joy  
00:45:10 --> 00:45:13: kept coming up. As you know the city built building  
00:45:13 --> 00:45:15: goal we had in mind and and and part of  
00:45:15 --> 00:45:18: the reason why the word joy came up is because  
00:45:18 --> 00:45:20: it's kind of an audacious word to throw out as  
00:45:20 --> 00:45:22: as sort of a city building goal.  
00:45:24 --> 00:45:27: That Scott has a way of of.  
00:45:27 --> 00:45:31: Of being sort of positively audacious and and it sort  
00:45:32 --> 00:45:35: of crept into into the to the book. But it  
00:45:35 --> 00:45:38: wasn't as if we had a precise definition of it  
00:45:39 --> 00:45:43: at first, other than it felt like a clear antithesis  
00:45:43 --> 00:45:47: of the objectives most cities have when they're planning on  
00:45:47 --> 00:45:49: doing pretty much anything.  
00:45:51 --> 00:45:54: But as we worked on the book further, our our  
00:45:54 --> 00:45:58: definition did start to evolve. And it started to evolve  
00:45:59 --> 00:46:03: in a way that really underlines everything you're hearing  
today.  
00:46:04 --> 00:46:07: And that means that, you know, joy, joy comes from  
00:46:07 --> 00:46:12: being connected to other people and other things. It's a  
00:46:12 --> 00:46:14: moment where you feel.  
00:46:16 --> 00:46:19: You're you're outside your own mind and you're and you  
00:46:20 --> 00:46:23: and you're involved with other people. You know it comes  
00:46:23 --> 00:46:27: from that spontaneity of interacting with something that's not  
just  
00:46:28 --> 00:46:31: you and the feeling that your life can be bigger  
00:46:31 --> 00:46:34: and richer as a result of that interaction. The the  
00:46:34 --> 00:46:37: the word joy that you see up on the screen  
00:46:37 --> 00:46:39: right now is Lou is the is the design that  
00:46:40 --> 00:46:43: covers our book. But it really wasn't just sort of  
00:46:43 --> 00:46:46: a random thing. We were we love the idea of.  
00:46:46 --> 00:46:49: The whole being that thing that embraces the other two  
00:46:49 --> 00:46:53: letters and really, really does sort of underline that idea  
00:46:53 --> 00:46:57: that joy is really about connection and joy doesn't necessarily  
00:46:58 --> 00:46:58: have to mean.  
00:47:01 --> 00:47:05: Happy dancing and, you know, sunshine as as as illustrated  
00:47:05 --> 00:47:09: with the the the the Maybelle work. Joy comes from  
00:47:09 --> 00:47:14: coming together, perhaps in a moment of crisis, but feeling  
00:47:14 --> 00:47:19: like you are connected to something, feeling like your life  
00:47:19 --> 00:47:23: is bigger and richer. You know? Joyce suddenly swells out  
00:47:23 --> 00:47:28: of the sudden realization that you're just not alone anymore.  
00:47:29 --> 00:47:32: Um, even if that thing that you're connected to is  
00:47:32 --> 00:47:36: just sort of a universal feeling, the collaborative sharing of  
00:47:36 --> 00:47:41: ideas and talent, or even just strangers laughing together,

those  
00:47:41 --> 00:47:44: are our moments of joy. And I stress the idea  
00:47:44 --> 00:47:47: of, you know, collaborative sharing of ideas.  
00:47:49 --> 00:47:53: Because that's what drives innovation in the arts. That just  
00:47:53 --> 00:47:58: drives innovation in business. And and most cities now are  
00:47:58 --> 00:48:02: running on the innovation economy. And so cities need to  
00:48:02 --> 00:48:06: sort of start to figure out how can they structure  
00:48:06 --> 00:48:10: themselves so that they can align with this idea of  
00:48:10 --> 00:48:13: this is a city built for collaboration.  
00:48:15 --> 00:48:18: And when we consider that there is, we are in  
00:48:18 --> 00:48:22: a social decline or social recession with our divided societies.  
00:48:24 --> 00:48:28: So these moments of of communal joy are critical to  
00:48:28 --> 00:48:33: mental health. They're critical to our quality of lives. And,  
00:48:33 --> 00:48:37: and as Perry sort of touched on, perhaps it's, you  
00:48:37 --> 00:48:41: know, it's critical to our sense of democracy. I don't  
00:48:41 --> 00:48:44: think it's too outlandish to say that.  
00:48:46 --> 00:48:48: Where are we going to start putting society back together?  
00:48:49 --> 00:48:52: It's probably going to be on the streets of cities  
00:48:52 --> 00:48:55: and it's probably going to be in the form of  
00:48:55 --> 00:48:59: play plays, a pretty complex social activity. I'm certainly don't  
00:48:59 --> 00:49:02: think it's going to happen on social media or political,  
00:49:02 --> 00:49:06: national political parties, both of which are designed to divide  
00:49:06 --> 00:49:10: us. And I doubt that it'll come from Davos, Switzerland.  
00:49:10 --> 00:49:13: It's going to come from the stuff, the stuff that  
00:49:13 --> 00:49:16: we're talking about here today. So knowing that.  
00:49:18 --> 00:49:22: You know, this is important. City builders need to  
acknowledge  
00:49:22 --> 00:49:25: that we don't really have a lot of those communal  
00:49:25 --> 00:49:29: spaces that we once had, such as corner stores, pool  
00:49:29 --> 00:49:33: halls, bowling alleys, bustling main streets with shops, or  
even  
00:49:34 --> 00:49:37: that sort of late night FM DJ that everyone listened  
00:49:37 --> 00:49:39: to all at the same time.  
00:49:40 --> 00:49:44: Our cities really do need these new forms of infrastructure  
00:49:44 --> 00:49:47: to replace those those those moments of the past. In  
00:49:47 --> 00:49:50: the book, Scott and I referred to these spaces as  
00:49:50 --> 00:49:53: infrastructure for the human spirit.  
00:49:54 --> 00:49:58: And Joy really is sort of the the the source  
00:49:58 --> 00:50:01: of the resilience of our human spirit.  
00:50:03 --> 00:50:07: So, you know, infrastructure for the human spirit, if it's  
00:50:07 --> 00:50:08: this important.  
00:50:09 --> 00:50:14: Really should not require a wristband to participate in, and  
00:50:14 --> 00:50:19: that's redrive towards and demand more inclusive societies.

It's all  
00:50:19 --> 00:50:21: these places and the.  
00:50:22 --> 00:50:25: Feeling of collaborative joy.  
00:50:26 --> 00:50:30: That is going to help drive our cities into something  
00:50:30 --> 00:50:35: far more appealing, far more healthy and really I think  
00:50:35 --> 00:50:35: the the.  
00:50:37 --> 00:50:40: Important thing is in in one of the pages of  
00:50:40 --> 00:50:43: our book the Joy experiments is a phrase that if  
00:50:43 --> 00:50:46: we can change cities, we can change the world.  
00:50:48 --> 00:50:50: But if we can't change cities, how are we ever  
00:50:50 --> 00:50:53: going to change the world? So this is really, really  
00:50:53 --> 00:50:55: important in terms of what our futures are going to  
00:50:55 --> 00:50:56: be like.  
00:50:57 --> 00:50:59: This stuff is the front line as far as I'm  
00:50:59 --> 00:51:00: concerned.  
00:51:02 --> 00:51:06: Paul, thank you so much for real inspiration. I'll go  
00:51:06 --> 00:51:11: right back to the title of Perry's book rebound because  
00:51:11 --> 00:51:12: I think one of the.  
00:51:13 --> 00:51:17: Lessons from all of this after 2 1/2 plus years  
00:51:17 --> 00:51:20: of forced isolation from each other.  
00:51:20 --> 00:51:24: How we actually come back out of this and the  
00:51:24 --> 00:51:27: emphasis we put on that kind of face to face  
00:51:27 --> 00:51:33: real-world interpersonal connection being with our our fellow  
human beings  
00:51:33 --> 00:51:38: and not just virtually, is just incredibly important.  
00:51:38 --> 00:51:42: Everyone one has been really disciplined. Thank you so  
much  
00:51:42 --> 00:51:46: for these incredible thoughts. We've carved out a little bit  
00:51:46 --> 00:51:50: of time. And Richard, I know you've been monitoring the  
00:51:50 --> 00:51:53: chat. Are there questions that we have time to put  
00:51:53 --> 00:51:54: to the balance?  
00:51:54 --> 00:51:58: Yeah, there's there's at least one big question that I  
00:51:59 --> 00:52:04: think Scott and hip developments you've, you've you've  
clearly peaked  
00:52:04 --> 00:52:08: some interest in this idea of of creating a ground  
00:52:08 --> 00:52:09: floor amenity.  
00:52:09 --> 00:52:12: Um, in a in a configuration that's different than the  
00:52:12 --> 00:52:15: kind of traditional condo amenity space that.  
00:52:16 --> 00:52:19: Is you know sort of the normal protocol for for  
00:52:19 --> 00:52:24: a development condo tech development and and they want  
to  
00:52:24 --> 00:52:28: questions sort of around how what kind of reaction have  
00:52:28 --> 00:52:33: you been getting in maybe Kitchener, Waterloo Cambridge or



wherever

00:52:33 --> 00:52:37: you've been developing is it from from from municipalities from

00:52:37 --> 00:52:41: from the folks who who would receive your idea that

00:52:41 --> 00:52:43: is somewhat unusual.

00:52:43 --> 00:52:44: And delightful.

00:52:46 --> 00:52:50: That's kind of been the reaction, Richard, to all my

00:52:50 --> 00:52:53: municipal partners. Please leave the webinar now.

00:52:55 --> 00:52:59: No, there is a tremendous amount of risk aversion and

00:52:59 --> 00:53:03: I think that has deepened itself so much into bureaucratic

00:53:03 --> 00:53:07: culture and it's so refreshing to have conversations outside of

00:53:07 --> 00:53:10: that because I think #1, you're met with our policies

00:53:10 --> 00:53:14: don't allow for this. So what's the practicality of?

00:53:15 --> 00:53:18: The space and and so you, you immediately come into

00:53:18 --> 00:53:21: roadblocks. I'll give you one fresh example. We took it

00:53:21 --> 00:53:23: to the City of Waterloo and the City of Waterloo,

00:53:23 --> 00:53:26: who was updating their zoning bylaw, said this is a

00:53:26 --> 00:53:29: neat idea. We think our bylaw probably allows for it.

00:53:29 --> 00:53:33: We're not sure. We said, well, you're updating your

00:53:33 --> 00:53:36: comprehensive

00:53:36 --> 00:53:40: bylaw. Would you think about this policy and perhaps include

00:53:40 --> 00:53:42: it because the development community also needs

00:53:42 --> 00:53:45: encouragement and so

00:53:45 --> 00:53:48: if you just say it might allow it and you

00:53:48 --> 00:53:51: hope developers bring ideas forward, you're probably not.

00:53:51 --> 00:53:53: Promoting or encouraging it, if you change your bylaw to

00:53:53 --> 00:53:56: allow for it, wouldn't that be wonderful? And they said

00:53:56 --> 00:53:58: no, that's not our job. And they updated their bylaw.

00:53:58 --> 00:54:03: Then we took it to the city of Kitchener who

00:54:03 --> 00:54:06: was updating their bylaw and what we learned was.

00:54:06 --> 00:54:09: New ideas are met with critical staffing shortages within

00:54:09 --> 00:54:12: planning

00:54:12 --> 00:54:14: departments. And so thinking outside the box and trying to

00:54:14 --> 00:54:17: turn that into policy takes a lot of time. They

00:54:17 --> 00:54:21: didn't have that level of time from a resource allocation

00:54:21 --> 00:54:23: point of view. So we hired an outside planning firm

00:54:23 --> 00:54:26: to actually write all of the policy change that would

00:54:26 --> 00:54:29: be required within their comprehensive zoning bylaw to

00:54:29 --> 00:54:29: actually allow

00:54:29 --> 00:54:32: for this to happen. So we spent about 10 or

00:54:32 --> 00:54:35: 15,000 and did the work for them and made that

00:54:35 --> 00:54:38: as a public submission to the zoning bylaw to say

00:54:38 --> 00:54:41: here.

00:54:29 --> 00:54:32: Here's all the changes you need to make. We did  
00:54:32 --> 00:54:35: the work for you, none of which was implemented in  
00:54:35 --> 00:54:37: their bylaw. So. So we did it anyways, and our  
00:54:37 --> 00:54:41: projects. But I think it's it's an important conversation to  
00:54:41 --> 00:54:44: start because it is a very simple apparatus that will  
00:54:44 --> 00:54:47: not be met with resistance from anyone because it is  
00:54:47 --> 00:54:50: simply a utilization model. It's taking money that was  
otherwise  
00:54:50 --> 00:54:53: being spent and doing something else with it. So it's  
00:54:53 --> 00:54:57: good for developers, it's good for cities. Now we just  
00:54:57 --> 00:55:00: have to get a volume of dialogue happening to where.  
00:55:00 --> 00:55:03: They'll implement it so we're the black sheep rebel in  
00:55:03 --> 00:55:05: kW and we'll see if they allow us to occupy  
00:55:05 --> 00:55:07: the spaces when we're done.  
00:55:07 --> 00:55:10: Building I'll just I'll just tie off by saying if  
00:55:10 --> 00:55:14: anybody here is in that mid career professional bracket or  
00:55:14 --> 00:55:17: know people who are who might be interested in helping  
00:55:17 --> 00:55:20: us explore this idea that that hip developments that has  
00:55:20 --> 00:55:24: advanced and that's contained in the book The Joy  
Experiments.  
00:55:26 --> 00:55:29: Please join this year's cohort. I'm going to flip to  
00:55:30 --> 00:55:34: alumni of the current urban leadership program, Jordana,  
with a  
00:55:34 --> 00:55:38: quick question. Very, very quick as we're low on time  
00:55:38 --> 00:55:42: here, but the question is where in your work have  
00:55:42 --> 00:55:46: the public schools fit in? I don't think you spoke  
00:55:46 --> 00:55:48: to that in your remarks.  
00:55:48 --> 00:55:48: And that was one.  
00:55:48 --> 00:55:52: Of the questions are they are they as a available  
00:55:52 --> 00:55:55: an asset as say the churches or or not so  
00:55:55 --> 00:55:56: much?  
00:55:56 --> 00:56:00: And so many, uh, local community groups have been for  
00:56:00 --> 00:56:04: a long time using public schools as available amenity space.  
00:56:04 --> 00:56:07: But there were a few policy changes that actually made  
00:56:07 --> 00:56:11: access to public school spaces very, very difficult for them.  
00:56:11 --> 00:56:13: So I'm seeing just this like.  
00:56:14 --> 00:56:17: Whole wave of groups who are once located in public  
00:56:17 --> 00:56:20: schools, who would like to stay in the communities they  
00:56:20 --> 00:56:23: serve, that are now seeking spaces and churches. So there's  
00:56:23 --> 00:56:25: a lot going on with the public schools that's now  
00:56:25 --> 00:56:28: making it very difficult for those groups to find space  
00:56:28 --> 00:56:28: there.  
00:56:29 --> 00:56:33: Thanks for the quick answer. Listen very quick one Perry,

00:56:33 --> 00:56:36: I know you got it, you had more to say  
00:56:36 --> 00:56:39: and you spoke first. But really quickly my question for  
00:56:39 --> 00:56:42: me, are you seeing the ideas, some of the ideas  
00:56:42 --> 00:56:46: of the informal spaces that that you've, you've eliminated in  
00:56:46 --> 00:56:51: your book that have been become such critical infrastructure  
to  
00:56:51 --> 00:56:54: the informal sports world of in our in our city.  
00:56:54 --> 00:56:58: Are you seeing that sensibility reflected in larger scale scale  
00:56:58 --> 00:57:00: developments at Regent Park?  
00:57:00 --> 00:57:02: Or or the Golden mile, or any of these things  
00:57:03 --> 00:57:05: that you that you monitor in your work as a  
00:57:05 --> 00:57:06: journalist.  
00:57:06 --> 00:57:09: Well it's certainly been the tradition of of the City  
00:57:09 --> 00:57:12: of Toronto for for groups that come together and take  
00:57:12 --> 00:57:14: up gorilla space maybe I'll use that term but you  
00:57:14 --> 00:57:18: know despite the encouragement of of communities to to  
activate  
00:57:18 --> 00:57:21: spaces that are publicly available. You know sometimes we  
just  
00:57:21 --> 00:57:24: got to take it up anyway because of the the  
00:57:24 --> 00:57:27: resistance by institutions to adjust or to bring policies that  
00:57:27 --> 00:57:30: encourage them to to use these spaces you know I  
00:57:30 --> 00:57:30: think.  
00:57:30 --> 00:57:33: One of the examples I use in the book about  
00:57:33 --> 00:57:36: nine man volleyball and just the background you it's it's  
00:57:36 --> 00:57:40: volleyball played with nine men aside mostly men but it's  
00:57:40 --> 00:57:44: Chinese Canadian folks who come together for a pretty  
widely  
00:57:44 --> 00:57:47: played tournament 10s of thousands of people play across  
North  
00:57:47 --> 00:57:51: America. You know the City of Toronto based teams have  
00:57:51 --> 00:57:54: been very good and you know they've they had no  
00:57:54 --> 00:57:56: choice but to use these spaces you know and I  
00:57:57 --> 00:58:00: think I used Kensington market and some spaces and some  
00:58:00 --> 00:58:01: playgrounds.  
00:58:01 --> 00:58:03: In that part of the city is an example of  
00:58:03 --> 00:58:06: the spaces that they would use, but you know, despite  
00:58:06 --> 00:58:09: all the encouragement to do so, they they still need  
00:58:09 --> 00:58:12: space to to actually get people together. There's only so  
00:58:12 --> 00:58:15: many spaces available in the City of Toronto for these  
00:58:15 --> 00:58:17: things to happen. So communities are going to do it  
00:58:17 --> 00:58:19: regardless of of of the resistance.  
00:58:19 --> 00:58:23: And I apologize that that we're run up against the

00:58:23 --> 00:58:26: time and I think this is where I'm going to.  
00:58:26 --> 00:58:28: I can if I can just close out the the  
00:58:28 --> 00:58:31: program because we always end on time. I do I,  
00:58:31 --> 00:58:31: I.  
00:58:31 --> 00:58:35: Wanna thank Ken? I want to thank Paul, Alana, Scott,  
00:58:35 --> 00:58:39: Perry, Leah and Jordana. What an amazing program and I  
00:58:39 --> 00:58:42: hope that the audience that's hung in, we had nearly  
00:58:42 --> 00:58:45: 200 people Tuneln today. I hope a few of you  
00:58:45 --> 00:58:49: have got some inspiration and maybe some appetite to to  
00:58:49 --> 00:58:53: dig into these these ideas with us through this curtain  
00:58:53 --> 00:58:57: urban leadership program that I've plugged now for the third  
00:58:57 --> 00:59:01: time. And also just to flag for you some amazing  
00:59:01 --> 00:59:02: upcoming programming.  
00:59:02 --> 00:59:06: A big economic analysis uh focused program next Monday at  
00:59:06 --> 00:59:10: some some prop tech, some tours and kind of prop  
00:59:10 --> 00:59:10: tech.  
00:59:12 --> 00:59:16: Mini symposium, lots going on at you, I as always  
00:59:16 --> 00:59:19: and some of it's free. So we look forward to  
00:59:19 --> 00:59:23: seeing you again in the very near future. And with  
00:59:23 --> 00:59:26: that I'll sign off and say have a great day.  
00:59:27 --> 00:59:27: Bye, bye.

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