



2019 WINTER CITIES SHAKE UP CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Conference Vision

Imagine living in a place that is world-renowned for celebrating its winter climate. A city where people enjoy and relish coming out to engage with each other in public spaces, including and particularly, on the darkest, cold days of winter. A city where streets, spaces and buildings are designed with a winter view point, where light is used to create warmth and luminescence during winter days, a place where snow is considered and treated as a valued resource. This is what the true vision of the 2019 Winter Cities Shake-Up is. It is the realization of that vision brought about by bringing together people from across the globe, who represent a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds to discuss, explore and share best practices, and to explore creative and innovative approaches for enhancing the quality of life in winter cities.

Key Principles Explored Through the Program

- **Authenticity** – To quote Arne Bergh (ice sculptor and artistic director for IceHotel in Sweden), “Start Where You Stand”. We must use local resources, talent, ideas, etc. to help people connect more strongly to their home ‘place’.
- **Mindfulness** – We must tackle the winter mindset for success.
- **Inclusive** – We must reach deep and wide to identify and include citizens broadly in the process and conference.
- **Engaging** – We must engage people, not just expose them to new thoughts and ideas but immerse them in the dialogue and thinking to explore takeaways and action commitments.
- **Sustainable** – We must include sustainability as a key element of our thinking, planning, dialogue and presentations throughout the conference, from planning to execution and through sessions, events and activities.

This would give us a Theme of ‘AMIES’ which stands for: person with an enthusiastic personality; or French baby name meaning Beloved; or French word AMIE(S) meaning friend(s).

Program Overview

The conference program will be organized around three main themes:

1. **Designing for Winter** – topics to include climate sensitive urban design, place-making, lighting, wind modelling (creating micro-climates in response to wind), compact cities, winter design attributes.

2. Operating in Winter – topics to include snow management (snow as a resource), getting around/mobility, winter-friendly technology, four-season policies, the science of snow.
3. Active in Winter – topics to include attitudes to winter, celebration, recreation, health/mental health, cultural traditions/perspectives, creating active outdoor spaces, outdoor education.

To engage conference delegates in learning and discussion, the conference will make use of a number of different opportunities including:

- **Deep Dive Sessions** - Deep Dive sessions will be designed to be intense, richer conversations and exploration of topics. In some cases, these will be workshops led by content experts. In others, they will be a discussion on projects implemented in various parts of the world, with an opportunity for conference attendees to learn about results and impacts, as well as explore ways in which they can take the experiences and learning back to their home jurisdiction for action. Speakers and facilitators for these sessions will be specifically recruited to the largest extent.
- **Concurrent Sessions** - Concurrent sessions will be a series of shorter presentations and discussion topics led by subject matter experts in the related theme and topic. A general call for submissions will be managed for the selection and inclusion of concurrent sessions.
- **Experiential – Facilitator Led Opportunities** - A series of Facilitator led experiential opportunities will be arranged for conference attendees to explore. An expert with inside information on the particular opportunity will accompany conference attendees to the location and provide orientation and information. This will allow attendees the opportunity to experience firsthand events, activities and operations in action.
- **Ideas Lab** – A dedicated space for delegates to share learnings and ideas.
- **Other Voluntary Activities** - Conference delegates will be able to participate in a number of voluntary community led activities including some WintercityYXE Grant funded activities.