



FutureTalks Design Workshop: Best Practices in Citizen Engagement for a Sustainable Future

**The second annual Beatrice and Arthur Minden Symposium on the Environment
hosted by the University of Toronto's School of the Environment**

Final Program

Dates: Wednesday, October 12, and Thursday, October 13, 2016

Location: Upper Dining Room, Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks Street, St. George Campus,
University of Toronto

The Minden Symposium

The Beatrice and Arthur Minden Symposium on the Environment, made possible by the generous support of the Beatrice and Arthur Minden Foundation, is intended to serve as a forum for discussion and debate on urgent environmental issues of the day.

This year, the Minden Symposium will bring together academic researchers, and professionals in government, business, and environmental organizations, to explore the potential for creating a large-scale community engagement program—FutureTalks—which we hope to undertake in partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, connected to the development of TransformTO, Toronto's new climate change plan. We are pleased to acknowledge additional sponsorship of the 2016 Minden Symposium by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, a FutureTalks partner. The results of the Symposium will feed directly into the development of a proposal for the FutureTalks program to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Partnership Development Grant program.

Background

Crucial to achieving the kinds of major changes required for a sustainable future is the engagement of citizens in participatory processes intended not simply to inform participants, but to co-construct pictures of the future that reflect the values, aspirations and preferences of those involved. To that end, we propose, in partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, to tap the visionary energy of 100,000 to 200,000 Toronto citizens through a dynamic and interactive community engagement process that enables participants to express their views on the desired future of their city. Achieving such a bold vision requires an engagement process that goes beyond traditional approaches, such as public education programs, or social marketing campaigns. Through such a process, we intend to ignite the rapid shifts in collective thinking and behaviour that will support and accelerate the city's trajectory to a sustainable, low carbon future.

We propose an interactive engagement strategy, co-created and co-managed with a number of partner organizations and collaborators across the City, that will feature a variety of channels (social media, mobile apps, computer games, simulations, pop-up kiosks, art interaction, landscape visualization tools, simulation workshops, etc.) and creative tactics (appreciative inquiry, play, reflection, story-telling and dialogue), enabling participants from diverse backgrounds to explore the concept of sustainability in a novel manner. The goal is to engage a wide cross-section of Toronto citizens in processes of exploring sustainable futures, and expressing their preferences and views as to the choices and trade-offs that confront us.

By employing a comprehensive suite of engagement methods, we expect to better connect with and yield scenarios from a broad spectrum of participants representing a wide cross section of Toronto, while generating a cohesive overall picture of what the city could look like in the future. Our process will allow us to paint a picture of what kinds of futures different citizens want, what their main concerns are, and what sorts of trade-offs are acceptable or problematic. It will also enable us to test the efficacy of different approaches and tools in engaging different audiences, and determine how input coming from different channels and different demographics can be successfully aggregated. The resulting database of participants and their views will be particularly useful for informing climate change and sustainability policy and for developing future engagement processes, and will help to expand the city's network of sustainability champions and engaged citizens. Ultimately, FutureTalks is intended to foster a sense of enchantment, possibility and connectedness with other participants in co-creating a sustainable future for the city.

Program and Speakers

We encourage our invited participants to participate in both days of the Minden Symposium, as the activities in day two will build on the dialogue developed by the group on day one.

Day One:

The focus of Day One is surfacing the key challenges in developing large-scale public engagement programs. All of our invited participants have experience and expertise in these issues so we want to hear from you along with our invited experts. The day will start with welcoming remarks and setting the context for our discussions. We will then move into a series of interactive sessions where we will hear from all participants on the key lessons, from their experience, on large-scale public engagement. We will also hear from our invited experts who will share their experience in community engagement processes. The day closes with a seated dinner event for speakers and participants, with a keynote address.

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Opening and Welcoming Remarks: *Kimberly Strong, Jo-Ann Minden, and Mary Pickering*

8:45 Context Setting: *John Robinson*

- 9:00 Participant Comments: *All participants have three minutes to provide their views on the question, “What do you think is the biggest challenge and/or opportunity in trying to achieve meaningful community engagement about the future of the city across the diversity of citizens in Toronto?”*
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Participant Comments *resumed*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Expert Session: *Each invited expert (see below) has 15 minutes to answer the same question, with reference to their experience in community engagement processes*
- 2:30 Break
- 3:00 Open Discussion: *What are the three most important things you have heard today?*
- 4:30 End of daytime session
- 6:00 Seated dinner event for speakers and participants with keynote speaker Sylvia Cheuy: *Please join us for dinner at Bodega Restaurant, 30 Baldwin Street*

Day Two:

The focus of Day Two is synthesizing the discussion from Day One and coming up with proposed solutions to the challenges of public engagement at scale. We will then move into a conversation about how to actually put some of these proposed solutions into practice with the FutureTalks proposal. To close the day, the research team will explain the follow-up to the Minden Symposium and SSHRC grant, and discuss opportunities for participants to engage with FutureTalks as partners and collaborators

- 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Opening and Welcoming Remarks: *Steve Williams*
- 8:40 Presentation of SSHRC research proposal by research team
- 9:00 “World Café”: *Participants are invited to split into groups and discuss six key topics related to design of the FutureTalks program*
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Invited speakers respond to the results of the World Café
- 11:00 Final comments from participants
- 12:00 Concluding Session: *Research team will discuss the follow-up to the Minden Symposium and SSHRC grant, and make requests to participants for FutureTalks partners and collaborators*
- 12:30 Closing remarks: *Kimberly Strong, Steve Williams*
- 12:40 Networking lunch
- 1:30 - 4:30 Optional FutureTalks SSHRC proposal working session with project team and invited experts

Speakers

Mr. Dave Biggs

Chief Engagement Officer, MetroQuest

Dave Biggs is an internationally recognized expert in stakeholder engagement, public outreach and the use of software tools to enhance community participation for planning projects. As a co-founder of MetroQuest, he has authored several books and papers on planning, sustainability and stakeholder engagement and has facilitated over 200 workshops and community forums for planning and visioning projects on four continents.

Ms. Sylvia Cheuy

Director, Deepening Community, Tamarack Institute

Sylvia is passionate about community engagement and the unique role that citizens play in creating dynamic and well-connected neighbourhoods and communities. She delights in delivering learning opportunities that profile, disseminate and share the resources, tools and experiences to Tamarack's vast network of learners primarily via the Tamarack Deepening Community Learning Community. From 2005 until 2013 Sylvia was the founding Executive Director to Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA), a grassroots citizen initiative that fosters collaborative leadership and action in support of a long-term vision of well-being for Ontario's Headwaters region. Tamarack played a key role in launching HCIA and it has given Sylvia first-hand experience implementing a collective impact initiative. Sylvia recently completed her Masters Diploma in Social Innovation at the University of Waterloo where she explored opportunities to create change within regional food systems.

Mr. James Goldstein

Senior Fellow, Tellus Institute, Boston, USA

James Goldstein is a Senior Fellow at Tellus Institute, where he directs the Sustainable Communities Program. His research centers on the development of analytic methods and stakeholder processes for community-based initiatives to integrate environmental protection, economic development, and social well-being. He has over thirty years of experience in the assessment of environmental problems and policies, with a particular emphasis on integrated approaches for water resource planning, solid waste/materials management, and long-range scenario analysis. His current focus is incorporating a global perspective in the design of local and regional sustainability efforts. He has developed sustainability scenarios for the Boston metropolitan area, advised on integrated resource planning for provision of regional water management, and advanced sustainable urbanization as a key component of the future UN Development Agenda

Prof. Dr. Patrizia Nanz

Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany

Patrizia Nanz is Scientific Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and Professor of Transformative Sustainability Studies at the University Potsdam as well as Chair of the European Institute for Public Participation (EIPP). After her doctoral studies at the European University Institute in Florence, she was researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute

(Bonn) and at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, Westminster University (London). Since 2002 she holds a professorship in Political Theory at the University Bremen. Patrizia Nanz has also been Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies/Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin as well as at MIT (Cambridge, Mass.), and is a member of the Executive and Research Committee of the Wiki-Platform Participedia.net, a database on democratic innovations worldwide initiated at Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Arnim Wiek

Senior Sustainability Scientist, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, Associate Professor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University, Arizona, USA

Arnim Wiek is an Associate Professor in the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. His research group focuses on participatory solution-oriented sustainability research and education. Main topics are water, food, urban development, and climate change. All projects are conducted in close collaboration with government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the public. Dr. Wiek was the Principal Investigator of the Phoenix General Plan Update 2009-2011 and the Reinvent Phoenix grant 2012-2014 – two undertakings with broad public engagement in future visioning and scenario building. Dr. Wiek holds a Ph.D. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, and had research and teaching engagements at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, the University of Tokyo, and Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany.

Minden Symposium Organizing Committee

- Prof. Kimberly Strong, *Professor and Director, School of the Environment, University of Toronto*, director.environment@utoronto.ca
- Prof. John Robinson, *Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs and School of the Environment, University of Toronto*, johnb.robinson@utoronto.ca
- Prof. Tamer El-Diraby, *Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, and Director, Center for Civil Informatics, University of Toronto*
- Prof. Wendy Wong, *Director, Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict and Justice*
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
- Ms Kim Slater, *PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto*
- Mr. Steve Williams, *PhD Candidate, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia*
- Ms. Mary Pickering, *VP Programs and Partnerships, Toronto Atmospheric Fund*
- Ms Aubyn O'Grady, *Minden Symposium Coordinator, University of Toronto, 416-458-2907*, aogrady@atmosph.physics.utoronto.ca

Participants

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Principal, Ehl Harrison Consulting Inc.

Forman, Gideon

Climate Change and Transportation Policy Analyst, David Suzuki Foundation

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Executive Director, Toronto Youth Cabinet

Hartmann, Franz

Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance

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Former Director of the Beatrice and Arthur Minden Foundation

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Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW)

Ouellette, Robert
Editor, Mesh Cities

Paz, Peter
Manager, Regional Partnerships, Metrolinx

Powell, Rosemarie
Executive Director, Community Benefits Network

Root-McCaig, Braden
Director of Insights, CARROT Insights, Social Change Rewards

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Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto

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Toronto Environmental Alliance

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Solid Waste Management Services, City of Toronto

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Senior Program and Engagement Lead, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

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Health promoter, South Riverdale Community Health Centre