

Future Cities Talks Speaker - Bios & Headshots



Images left to right: *Eberhard Zeidler, Margie Zeidler, Vass Bednar, Lisa Tziona Switkin, Katerina Cizek. Not pictured:* Karen Carter, Susan Blight.

Eberhard Zeidler - Senior Partner, Emeritus – Zeidler Partnership Architects

Eberhard has a background of over 50 years of architectural practice. His innovative work spans three continents and includes virtually every project type, such as the Eaton Centre in Toronto, Canada Place in Vancouver, Torre Mayor in Mexico and BNI City in Jakarta. He is the author of *Healing the Hospital* (Zeidler, 1974) *Multi-Use Architecture in the Urban Context* (Van Nostrand Reinhol, 1997) and the subject of *Eberhard Zeidler: IN Search of Human Space* (Ernst & Sohn, 1992) and *Zeidler Roberts Partnership: Ethics and Architecture* (L'Arca Edizioni, 1999). Among the many awards and honours he has received is the Gold Medal of the RAIC. From 1984 to 2000, Eberhard was an Adjunct Professor of Architectural Design at the University of Toronto.

Margie Zeidler – Founder & President, Urbanspace Property Group

Margie is the Founder and President of mission-driven developer Urbanspace Property Group. Its first project, 401 Richmond (1996), contains a vibrant and diverse urban community of artists and cultural entrepreneurs, located in the old garment district of downtown Toronto. Her Robertson Building project at 215 Spadina Avenue gave birth to the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) in 2004. She is also the Co-founder of Jane's Walk, Centre for City Ecology, and the Urbanspace Gallery. Margie was awarded the Jane Jacobs Prize in 2003, established to honour Toronto residents who are actively contributing to Toronto's vibrancy. She has also received the Order of Ontario, and was named Best Friend of the Arts by the Toronto Untitled Arts Awards. She has received Lifetime Achievement awards from Sustainable Buildings Canada and the Canadian Urban Institute.

Vass Bednar, Associate Director, Cities, Martin Prosperity Institute

Vass is an Action Canada Fellow and the Associate Director of the Cities research program at the University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity Institute at the Rotman School of Management. This year she is a Civic Action DiverseCity Fellow, where she is working on a child care loan pilot project. Vass' spirited playfulness is her edge in the policy world, where she uses humour to

make complicated ideas more accessible. In 2012, she opened TEDxToronto with a talk about Making Public Policy More Fun and co-hosted the event the following year after reading an article about TED's challenge engaging women and leaning in. In early 2014, she delivered the annual Hancock lecture, about how to be a policy "player." She was previously a senior advisor to the Wynne government and is active in public policy debates as a member of the Banff Forum, Equal Voice, Better Budgets Toronto and board member of the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs. Her work has been published in the Ottawa Citizen, the Globe and Mail and the IRPP Policy Options blog. Vass holds her Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy & Governance and is a graduate of McMaster's Arts & Science program where she earned the President's Medal for Leadership.

Lisa Tziona Switkin, High Line (James Corner Field Operations)

As the Principal-in-Charge of many of New-York based [Field Operations'](#) most complex public realm design projects, Lisa has led the design and delivery of the High Line in New York since 2004; the award-winning seven-acre Tongva Park in Santa Monica; and Race Street Pier in Philadelphia. She is currently overseeing the final section of the High Line, South Street Seaport, Domino Sugar Waterfront, and Greenpoint Landing, all in New York; Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis; and the implementation of our Master Plans for the Lincoln Road District in Miami Beach and The Underline in Miami. She also worked on the Navy Yards Central Green in Philadelphia, Shelby Farms Park in Memphis, and the Masterplans for Staten Island's Freshkills Park and Seattle's Central Waterfront. Lisa currently serves on the Board of the Landscape Architecture Foundation. In 2007-2008, Lisa received the Rome Prize and was a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome. She has a BA in Urban Planning with a focus on Community Development Planning from the University of Illinois, and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, where she received the Faculty medal for Excellence. She has taught graduate level design studios and has lectured at universities, symposiums, foundations and institutions around the world.

Karen Carter, Executive Director of Myseum

Karen Carter is the Executive Director of the [Myseum of Toronto](#), an innovative approach to the museum experience, and a new way to experience Toronto's natural spaces, cultures, history, archaeology and architecture. She has over 20 years of experience working and volunteering in a variety of cultural and educational settings in Toronto. She is the co-founder and Chair of [Black Artists' Networks Dialogue](#) (BAND), an organization dedicated to the promotion of Black arts and culture in Canada and abroad. Karen is also the Program Coordinator and faculty member for the Culture and Heritage Site Management program at Centennial College's Story Arts Centre.

Susan Blight, Ogimaa Mikana Project

Susan is a visual artist, filmmaker and arts educator, radio host, and committed student of the Ojibwe language. Blight's research interests include areas of resistance in popular hip hop, issues of Indigenous nationhood and decolonization, and the problematization of the colonial gaze in visual art. Along with Hayden King, she instigated the [Ogimaa Mikana Project](#), an effort

to restore Anishinaabemowin place-names to the streets, avenues, roads, paths, and trails of Gichi Kiiwenging (Toronto).

Katerina Cizek, documentary filmmaker, MIT Open Documentary Lab

Katerina Cizek is a two-time Emmy-winning director and pioneer in digital media: documentary, interactive and journalism. Her work has documented the Digital Revolution, and has itself become part of the movement. At the National Film Board of Canada, she helped redefine the organization as one of the world's leading digital content hubs. She is the director and creative force behind the NFB's award-winning digital documentary project [HIGHRISE](#), and she realized the acclaimed NFB Filmmaker-in-Residence program at St. Michael's Hospital. She is currently working with [MIT's Open Documentary Lab](#). She has travelled the world with her projects, teaching and lecturing about her innovative approaches to the documentary genre and digital media.