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The Nature of Cities (TNOC) Summit

A movement for transdisciplinary & collaborative green cities

Overview: How can we collaborate across disciplines, ways of knowing, and modes of action to create green cities—cities that are better for both people and nature? The Nature of Cities will create the first of a series of global meetings called “**The Nature of Cities Summit**”, the inaugural event to be held 4-6 June 2019 in Paris, France. Green design and nature based solutions are fundamental to cities that are just, livable, resilient, and sustainable; a unified vision and collaboration across disciplines and modes of action will be required to achieve such cities. We aspire to change the process of city building through events that join thought leaders, knowledge creators, practitioners, and stakeholders from diverse disciplines, ways of knowing, and modes of action into unified, truly transdisciplinary and visionary gatherings. We aspire to create a movement for collaborative green cities.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Where will the Summit be held?

In Paris, 4-7 June 2019. The venue is the Sorbonne Jussieu campus (5th Arrondissement).

Who are the key partners in the event? (as of 1 September 2018)

*The list of key partners is growing, and already includes: **Agence Régional de la l'Agence Régionale de la Biodiversité en Île-de-France (Paris)** ; **l'Institut de la Transition Environnementale de Sorbonne Université (Paris)** ; **la Ville de Paris** ; **la Délégation régionale de l'UICN pour l'Europe (Bruxelles)** ; **U.S. Forest Service (Washington)** ; **Mistra Urban Futures (Gothenburg)** ; **The Nature Conservancy (Washington)** ; **le Service des Forêts des Etats-Unis (New York)** ; **l'Institut Humboldt (Bogota)** ; **The Biophilic Cities Network (Charlottesville)**; **le Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires (Paris)**; **PUCA (Plan, Urbanisme, Construction, Architecture; Paris)**. A full (and latest) list is available on request.*

Why is the event happening?

How can we collaborate across disciplines, ways of knowing, and modes of action to create green cities—cities that are better for both people and nature? Developing methods of design for livable, resilient, sustainable, healthy, and just cities must be multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and collaborative. The TNOC Summit will explore new modes of sharing knowledge about and planning for green, biodiverse, and ecologically rich cities, and be a novel assembly of academics and practitioners from multiple points of view and ways of knowing. It will bring together representatives of cities, civil society, business, and academia from the global north and south.

Partners and sponsors



Contact: TNOCSummit@thenatureofcities.eu

What is the program of the Summit?

The program is in development, but the core idea of the meeting is a mixture of disciplines and ways of knowing. It won't be a "regular" conference: it will host an innovative diversity of workshops and interactive events focused on sharing ideas on catalytic ideas and urban challenges. Day 1 and 2 will be multi-disciplinary workshops we call "Seed Sessions" on ideas or projects specific enough to dive into, and broad enough to be of interest to multiple points of view; ideas that people from multiple disciplines and home cities will want to talk about. Day 3 will be workshops on specific problems, techniques, and ideas lead by partner organizations. There will also be skills workshops (e.g., writing for diverse audiences), thematic networking sessions, and workshop outside, in green Paris.

What happens after the Summit? What are the expected outcomes?

We want attendees to be inspired by the TNOCSummit to return home and create more collaborative green cities. The connections made during the Summit can be a foundation for new partnerships. The lessons of the Summit can also continue to live and be available at TheNatureofCities.com. Specific outputs include:

- *We plan that individual Seed Sessions (see the "Program" note above) and their ideas will be captured by rapporteurs and written as case studies for publication at TheNatureofCities.com.*
- *We intend for small roving film crews—two students and a camera—to create micro-interviews of participants, asking for short responses to key questions; these can be shown individually and in collage at the venue and at TheNatureofCities.com.*
- *We plan that individual Seed Session and their ideas will be captures and written as case studies for publication at TheNatureofCities.com.*
- *We will plan a number of framework and white papers on what was learned from the Summit that can be applied to collaborative projects in green cities.*
- *We*
- *We'll create a TNOCSummit Network database of the participants in this and future TNOCSummit that can serve as a resource for collaboration.*
- *We plan future events in other cities: smaller, city- and challenge-based events that build on the ideas of the Summit and apply them locally. The first of these is being planned for Colombia, in 2019, in partnership with Instituto Humboldt (Bogotá). A follow-up full Summit would take place in a city in the Global South.*

Will there be partner events at the Summit?

Various partners will organize day-long events on Day 3 (6 June 2019). Are you interested in organizing one? Contact us. There will also be vendor booths and artisans selling their creations.

Will elected officials participate in the Summit / are part of TNOCSummit?

A wide variety of elected officials (former, current, and future) have contributed to TNOCSummit. It

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is early in the TNOC Summit planning process, but some invitations to elected officials have been made, and we plan for a robust engagement with both civil society and elected governments.

Who will be keynotes at the Summit? We call them “Dialogues”.

We actually we will not have traditional “keynotes”, but rather pairs short talks by pairs of people, who then interview each other on stage. The pairs will be contrasting types of people: a planner & ecologist; a developer & artist; a social scientist & landscape architect; an elected official &...you get the idea. It’s too soon to report a complete list, but a diverse group will be invited.

How many persons will attend the summit (an estimation)?

We expect approximately 500 participants from around the world, from many ways of knowing and modes of action.

How many people are part of TNOC and its sister organization, The Nature of Cities-Europe?

TNOC is a collective of almost 700 contributors from around the world, from architects to scientists to designers, from practitioners to planners to entrepreneurs, artists, and activists. In fact, many of the Summit’s participants will be from this diverse pool.

How many practitioners will attend the summit or are part of TNOC? How many academics will attend the summit or are part of TNOC?

Of the almost 700 contributors to TNOC, about 45% are academics and 65% are practitioners, or part of civil society organizations or government. These percentages reflect our expectations for the Summit: it will be a vibrant mixture of academics and practitioners. Based on surveys of TNOC readers, this is similar to the proportions among the readership.

How many NGOs will attend the summit / are part of TNOC?

The contributors and readers of TNOC represent many NGOs and civil society, from small tree-planting programs and community gardens to large international organizations. It is too soon to say exactly who will be there, but it is expected that there will be broad and diverse participation by civil society organizations, large and small.

How do we plan to finance the summit / how is financed TNOC?

The Summit will be financed through a mixed strategy of individual registration fees, in-kind contributions, partnerships with organizations, and grants. The latter two sources will help fund the participation of practitioners from around the world. We will also depend on in-kind donations of various types and sources. We plan to develop a robust scholarship program for people who need financial help to attend—this is a major focus of our fund raising.

Where can I read more about The Nature of Cities and The Nature of Cities—Europe?

Visit us at www.thenatureofcities.com and www.thenatureofcities.eu.

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Is there a website for the TNOC Summit?

A website for the TNOC Summit can be found at www.TNOC-Summit.org