

**PRESS BACKGROUND  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 16, 2015 – San Francisco, CA

**Global Summit of City Innovators Gather in San Francisco**

15 US and International cities and mayors gather from around the world

*Mayor Lee to welcome over 120 speakers, city innovation experts, and urbanists*

*White House (Tom Kalil, Deputy Director of the Technology Innovation for the White House) to participate as part of the National Week of Making*

<http://cissf.org/whitehousemakes>

Consolidation of citizens into cities is expected to create 41 mega cities across the globe by the year 2030<sup>1</sup>, thus exacerbating the many problems our cities face today in terms of affordability, inclusion, economic development, justice for all of its citizens, and sustainability. In response, cities are rallying their resources to recraft the user experience of the city, by leveraging technology, open data, citizen engagement and open innovation.

**City Innovation Movement**

At the center of the open innovation movement is San Francisco, home to some of the most significant technologies, startups, and new business models of our era. The innovation, entrepreneurship and enterprise creation we see here in San Francisco is unprecedented.

According to Mayor Ed Lee (San Francisco): “We’re recognizing that San Francisco is at the forefront of the city innovation movement, where technology, open data, and the startup economy intersects. We are deeply committed to sharing what we have learned about building an entrepreneurial city and – at the same time – recognize that we have a lot to learn from other cities so we can address the significant challenges we face.”

Among the many innovations pioneered in San Francisco are:

- **Urban Prototyping.** Recently, the city came together around Market Street Prototyping Festival, a 3-day event that placed 50 examples of public art and functional prototypes on Market Street, the city’s central business corridor. Sponsored by the SF Planning Department, the goal here was to engage all San Franciscans in shaping the future of their city and its central artery.
- **Sharing economy.** In a sense, San Francisco is running an open experiment to prove out the economic and community benefits of companies like AirBnB, Lyft, and Uber, which are disrupting whole sectors of the economy.

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<sup>1</sup> UN (June, 2014). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>

International attendees and mayors coming to the City Innovate Summit have told us they are particularly eager to engage with startups and SF officials to learn how SF approaches and regulates this sector.

- **Urban Accelerators.** San Francisco is home to TUMML and Code For America's Govetech Accelerators, two prominent accelerators dedicated to building entrepreneurial ventures focused on solving urban problems.
- **Birthplace of the Maker Movement.** To build an inclusive city, we need to create jobs in the manufacturing sector. The maker movement – which started here in San Francisco and has now spread to cities in the US (Pittsburg, San Leandro, and Detroit) as well as to Asia (China) – is bringing small batch manufacturing back to cities and creating a whole new wave of economic opportunity for people using powerful and low-cost tools.

Peter Hirshberg, Chairman of the City Innovate Foundation noted that “we are learning that cities that think of themselves as a platform, become stronger, attract better talent, and become smarter from the bottom up. This completely revamps the notion of a smart city. Smart City 2.0s aren't built in isolation but as part of a global innovation network, through citizen engagement that goes way beyond what we normally think of as a public/private partnership. Open data is an obvious enabler of citizens, who can now build their own solutions to their city's problems, using the data that cities and private sector companies like Waze (now part of Google) are making available. We're proud to host the first City Innovation Summit here in San Francisco, a city deeply committed to sharing what it's knows about building an entrepreneurial city as well as – in a reciprocal fashion - learning from other cities so we can address the not insignificant challenges we face in transportation, housing, and inclusive economic development.”

### **About City Innovate Summit**

The Summit is happening on June 17-18, 2015 at the San Francisco Marriot Marquis.

### **Events on Wednesday June 17, 2015**

Mayor Lee will be opening up the Summit. Mayor Lee's remarks will be followed by a series of mayor's and cities panels, where cities across the US and the globe talk candidly about the challenges they face and what they are doing to address them. Features mayors and city leaders from:

- US: Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, New York
- International: Copenhagen (Denmark), Fukuoka (Japan), Kobe (Japan), Quezon City (Philippines), Tel Aviv (Israel)

Tumml, the urban accelerator, will showcase five (5) of its companies which are addressing problems as varied as transportation (Ride Chariot), safe water (Valor Water Analytics), homelessness (HandUp), participatory budgeting (Neighborly), and simplifying preschool admissions (KidAdmit).

The program on Wednesday, June 17 will include a hands-on exercise led by Frog – the global design firm – as it challenges the city innovators in attendance to rapidly prototype a city. The program concludes with one of America’s most distinguished inventors and scientists, Deloitte Center for the Edge Co-Chairman, John Seeley Brown presenting on how cities are becoming learning engines of innovation.

### **Events on Thursday June 18, 2015**

This day’s program is organized into 8 tracks, each track representing one of the significant challenges facing cities as they engage their citizens in innovation.

(Download complete schedule and breakout detail here:

<http://cissf.org/cistracksum>)

- **Civic Innovation Track** – led by Microsoft and featuring the innovation leads from Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Tel Aviv, and Copenhagen.
- **Maker City Track** – explores the economic development presented by local manufacturing and powerful new tools of making. Led by Institute for the Future, featuring Kate Sofis (SFMade) and representatives of Detroit, Pittsburg, and San Leandro.
- **Mobility Track.** Underscoring the importance of emerging shared mobility services in rebuilding the user experience of our cities, the use of data and pricing to manage demand, and a debate future modes of transportation. Sponsored by Lyft.
- **Open Data & Privacy Track.** The Internet of things has profound implications for the delivery of city services such as transportation, housing, and policing. At the same time, what are the privacy implications when there are millions of not billions of sensors and small cameras tracking our every move?
- **Small Business Development/Entrepreneurship.** Led by Code for America, this track will explore the impact of incubators, accelerators, and city-based innovation labs on accelerating the tech economy. The track also explores, “The Entrepreneurial City for Whom?” Can our popular and entrepreneurial cities also be inclusive and create broad-based economic opportunity for all.
- **Sustainability.** Learning from San Francisco and Copenhagen – two cities that have mastered the art of citizen engagement in green initiatives.
- **Digital Infrastructure.** Building new technology on top of the old. Presented by Silver Spring Networks.
- **Urban Planning.** Placemaking in conjunction with citizens. The importance of art and public spaces in how citizens experience the city. Can authenticity of place be maintained, and how can popular cities possibly be kept affordable?

The opening keynote speaker on Day 2 is Jennifer Pahlka, Founder and Executive Director of Code for America and previous deputy Federal CTO (chief technology officer). Code for America recently hosted more than 106 community-based hackathons across the country, to encourage citizen coders to build products and feature sets in response to the needs of city and state government.

Also as part of the opening events on Day 2, Peter Hirshberg, the Chairman of the City Innovate Foundation will talk about maker cities and economic development. Tom Kalil, Deputy Director of the Technology Innovation for President Obama will join from the White House for a session that examines urban economic development and the maker movement in America on the final day of the National Week of making (<http://cissf.org/whitehousemakes>)

To learn more about City Innovate Summit or purchase tickets please go to <http://summit.cityinnovate.org>

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