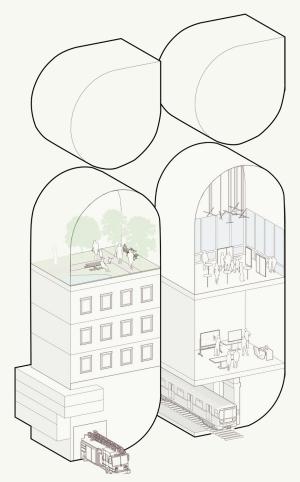


# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022





### **Director's Letter**

It's exciting that we've reached a point where we need an annual report to capture the full breadth of our team's activity. Our organization emerged in the midst of a pandemic, which exposed the systemic gaps in how social services, housing and transit infrastructure are currently delivered. These sectors have been stretched thin for decades, but the pandemic amplified an urgency for change, and a demand for creative urban solutions.

The pivotal opportunity that arose was receiving the support needed to kick-start the Infrastructure Institute. While we have operated as the Creative Mixed-Use Building Initiative under the School of Cities since 2019, 2021 was the year of significant growth. With the Institute's establishment came the hiring of a full multidisciplinary team, the expansion of our social purpose real estate initiatives, a focus on transit-oriented communities, and engagement in the realm of exhibitions. Overall, our approach is to see high quality infrastructure as a cornerstone of complete communities.

I'm proud to present to you the first ever annual report of the Infrastructure Institute, which has been a long-time in the making. We are very much a start-up, piloting creative solutions to providing infrastructure that have been proven to work and exploring promising new strategies. I hope that this annual report is both an inspiration and invitation to move forward in building our cities together.

Sincerely,

matt horton

**Matti Siemiatycki, Director** Infrastructure Institute, School of Cities University of Toronto

## CONTENTS

6 Annual Highlights

> 8 Our Story

17 Strategic Priorities

42 Making Headlines

44 Growing Networks



# Infrastr Institut

+(plus) An exhibition of unexpected creative mixed-use buildings that foster community

World Urban Pavilion Regent Park 2022

TORONTO POTES IN HIMANACUM

## ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2022



**Our team** grew by over

with 7 new multi-disciplinary staff members

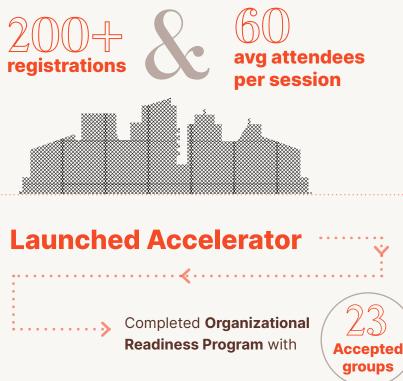


New visitors to our



from over 3()) countries

Ran second year of the **social purpose** real estate (SPRE) training modules with



of which continued on to ◎ the Accelerator Program <</p>



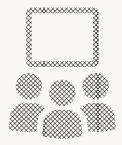


PHASE 2 EMERGENCY MIXED-USE STUDY PHASE 3 EMERGENCY MIXED-USE STUDY LAND VALUE CAPTURE CIB STUDY RETAIL LAND STUDY ESRI PARTNERSHIP BRIDGING GAPS REPORT - CMHC DIXON HALL REDEVELOPMENT





#### Infrastructure Institute



1.5

### public exhibitions

including the launch of the World Urban Pavilion 2022

International virtual panel with

......







**~** 



**Trans-Atlantic Dialogue** International conference in Denmark featuring

creative mixed-use

## OUR STORY

### Mission

The Infrastructure Institute is a training, advisory, and interdisciplinary research hub at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. We seek to build local and global expertise in integrated planning for civil and social infrastructure, decision-making, and project delivery.

15

### **Guiding Principles**

Listen first, create together.

We convene and empower our partners, clients, and program participants from various sectors to succeed in building more resilient cities and communities.

Evidence-based intervention.

We develop urban solutions based on critical thinking and a deep foundation of research, openminded to promising new ideas and technologies.

Building communities up.

We strive for impact in our local communities by supporting city-building activities where all voices are heard, particularly traditionally excluded groups.

Sharing knowledge.

We seek to share best practices and resources in an accessible manner to ensure the practical application of valuable knowledge and learnings.

# Infrastr ucture nstaut

#### Team

We are passionate city-builders who combine interdisciplinary research and engagement into practice. Our talented team comprises academics, researchers, and urban practitioners. This year, we tripled in size.

#### **Extended Team: Fellows & Advisors**

Drew Fagan Shoshanna Saxe Leonard Mwesigwa

Zannah Matson Steven Farber Enid Slack

Astrid Haas **Prentiss Dantzler** Nidhi Subramanyam





Matti Siemiatycki DIRECTOR



Phat Le ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER



Alexandra Lambropoulos PROJECT OFFICER

Helen Ketema PROJECT LEAD



Sarah Chan URBAN DESIGN ASSOCIATE

Alix Aylen PROGRAM LEAD



**Maddie Barnes Planer** PROJECT OFFICER



Yinnon Geva POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW



**Robert Arku RESEARCH FELLOW** 

### **Becoming the Infrastructure Institute**

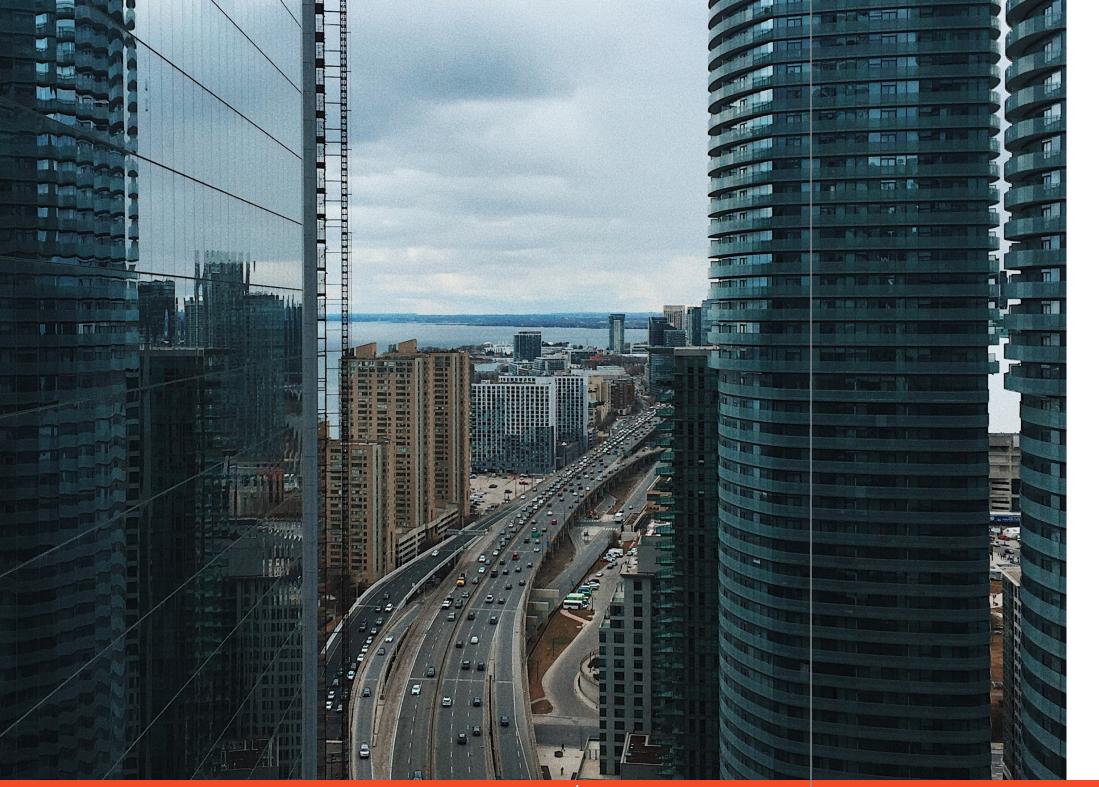
2021 saw the formation of the Infrastructure Institute. We currently operate as a subcentre within the School of Cities, University of Toronto. However, our story began in 2019, where we started as the Creative Mixed-Use (CMU) Initiative at the School of Cities.

#### **Starting Out: Creative Mixed-Use Initiative**

In addition to our project work, engagement with diverse city-builders was between public, private, and not-for-(and still remains) a key part of the CMU profit organizations to deliver mixed-use Initiative. This included over 60 interviews projects that responded to the needs of with key stakeholders involved in real estate, revealing that many non-profit organizations desire to secure their own Our practice under the CMU Initiative was future by building equity into their own informed by years of research on mixedbuildings while real estate developers often see non-profits as lacking the real Under the initiative, our work comprised estate knowledge and capacity required convening and matchmaking stakeholders for successful partnerships. These findings in the non-profit, public, and private led to the formation of the first Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE) Training non-profit and public sector clients. Modules in winter of 2021, a program Early projects included the creation designed to enhance the capacity of nonprofit organizations in becoming partnerintended to connect potential real estate ready for development partnerships.

The objective of the Creative Mixed-Use Initiative was to accelerate partnerships the community. use cases within the Greater Toronto Area. sectors in addition to advisory work for of Parcel, a matchmaking platform

development partners together, early The Infrastructure Institute's role of costudies on integrating emergency facilities chair for the regional Social Purpose Real into creative mixed-use facilities, and Estate Reference Group, in partnership the development of an implementation with the United Way and the City of framework for the City of Brampton's Toronto, also began under the CMU Community Hubs model. We continue Initiative. to collaborate with many of our early partners today.



With significant funding secured in the late 2021, the Infrastructure Institute was founded. This has allowed a fluorishing of activity, which has mostly been an expansion the work pursued under the CMU Initiative. Since the establishment of the Institute, the work has now been structured into three Strategic Priorities:

- 3. Engagement

Within this structure, we continue to carry out advisory work with non-profit and public-sector clients, have expanded much of our social purpose real estate programming, and have begun a series of exhibitions for widespread sharing of our key learnings. The remainder of this annual report celebrates the Infrastructure Institute's first year, highlighting achievements, current work, and future ambitions.

#### **Establishing the Institute**

- 1. Advisory & Research
- 2. Training & Capacity Building





## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

All three of our strategic priorities have made significant progress. This section provides a summary of the achievements made in addition to the future outlook for the year ahead.





Training & **Capacity Building** 



Engagement

# Advisory & Research

The past year of advisory and research work included both a continuation of collaborations with existing partners and new partnerships.

#### Completed

- Phase 2 & 3 of Emergency Mixed-Use Concept Study
- CMHC Bridging Gaps Report
- CIB Study: Paying for Transit-Oriented Communities through Land Value Capture Mechanisms
- Rethinking Retail Land Portfolios
  Partnership Study

#### Projects in progress

- Ongoing CreateTO partnership
- Dixon Hall Site Redevelopment
- New Infrastructure Fellowship



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5 Projects completed

**5** New & ongoing partnerships

**60+** Stakeholders engaged in project work



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ADVISORY & RESEARCH

#### **Emergency Mixed-Use Concept Study**

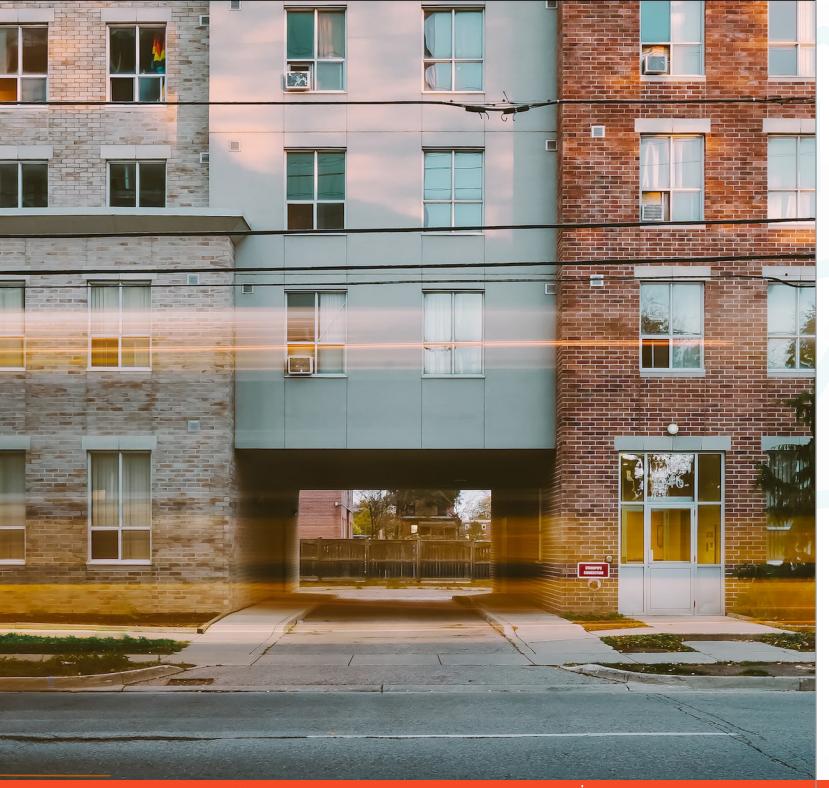
Ongoing work with CreateTO, the City of Toronto's real estate agency, moved into the realm of conceptual design as two high development potential sites were selected for Phase 3 of the study. Our team produced six demonstration concepts between the selected sites. The demonstration concepts varied in scale and complexity, with all proposals integrating a new fire hall designed to contemporary fire hall standards while holding various levels of affordable housing units. Some concepts, when the site configuration and design allowed, also introduced new public space interventions and community uses.

The emergency mixed-use demonstration concepts were presented to leadership at Toronto Fire and received much enthusiasm. Similarly, one round table among City Planning was held, with a consensus among attendees that the emergency mixed-use model has promising potential. The demonstration concepts were also shown to the general public for the first time at the World Urban Pavilion launch in Regent Park, where it was also well-received.

Our team has pushed this project closer to implementation through the design of six thoughtful development scenario. Potential next steps include socializing the demonstration concepts with key stakeholders at the City of Toronto, led by CreateTO. Please visit our work <u>webpage</u> for updated news. **6** Demonstration Concepts Developed

2 Exhibition Displays

**4** Media Appearances



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 ADVISORY & RESEARCH

#### **CMHC Bridging Gaps: Exploring opportunities to connect capital** with affordable housing

Our team at the Infrastructure Institute was retained by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and pursued a research project in a new partnership with Social Venture Connexion (SvX). Through issuing a survey completed by over 30 Canadian affordable housing developers, conducting in-depth interviews with 24 stakeholders (17 of whom belonged to the non-profit housing sector), and case studies, our team produced a 'developer journey map'. This journey map outlined the key capacity and capital barriers faced by developers of affordable housing and when they occurred in the development process.

The report provides recommendations on how to support the ecosystem of players involved in the delivery of affordable housing. They include the wrap-around services identified by the interviewees, such as matchmaking, networking, and various capacity supports.

Read full report here.

Stakeholders consulted

Non-profit housing sector informants

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT • PAGE 23



#### CIB Study: Paying for Transit-Oriented Communities through Land Value Capture Mechanisms

The Infrastructure Institute was also retained by the Canada Infrastructure Bank to conduct a study on the potential of capturing increased land value from new transit infrastructure. This model can accelerate the development of critical public infrastructure at the heart of transit-oriented communities. Land value capture allows governments to reclaim a portion of increases in land value due to public investment and to reinvest the revenue for community benefit.

The study identified various land value capture tools, documented the policy landscape, and examined what's possible in terms of revenue flows to fund high-quality public services. Canadian cities are engaged in the biggest transit infrastructure development boom in a generation. These projects should lead to communities that are dense and mixed use, with affordable housing, schools, recreation centres, libraries, daycares, and parks, and that feature employment opportunities both during construction and after completion.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ADVISORY & RESEARCH



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ADVISORY & RESEARCH

#### **Rethinking Retail Land Portfolios: How to Grow Housing Supply**

In a partnership with Esri Canada, the Infrastructure Institute explored the potential of private land portfolios towards the delivery of affordable housing and other social infrastructure. We took six major retail chains that operate across Toronto, and using Esri ArcGIS software, generated hypothetical development scenario on their underused sites in the city. The results were stunning, revealing enormous potential to build housing and to provide spaces for social infrastructure. Sites occupied by these six large retail chains alone could deliver a total of 68,576 housing units. If even 10% were affordable units, this would translate into approximately 7,000 units.

We produced both a paper and an interactive Storymap to present our findings and recommendations on how public bodies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners can work together to mobilize private owners of large real estate portfolios. Private landowners can significantly expand their role in the delivery of housing supply, including affordable housing, without compromising public needs or their interests.

To read the full report or to view the Storymap please visit our <u>project page</u>.



### **Training & Capacity Building**

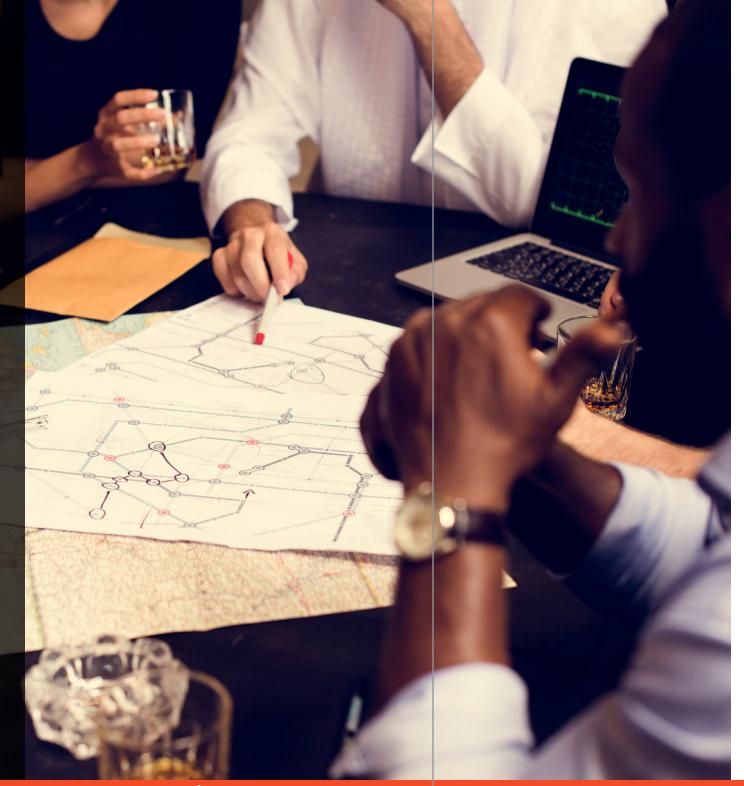
The focus of the Training & Capacity Building Strategic Priority focused primarily on social purpose real estate (SPRE), with returning programming and one new major initiative.

#### Completed

- Second consecutive year running the SPRE Training Modules
- Organizational Readiness Program (Accelerator)

#### Programming in progress

Accelerator Program



"

#### It was eye opening to see the differences similarities and between organizations, and lots of food for thought in terms of organizational readiness...as part of an organization that is growing right now, that's evolving over time, and at what point are we ready with the structure that we have... I'm really glad there was a space to ask questions and get answers

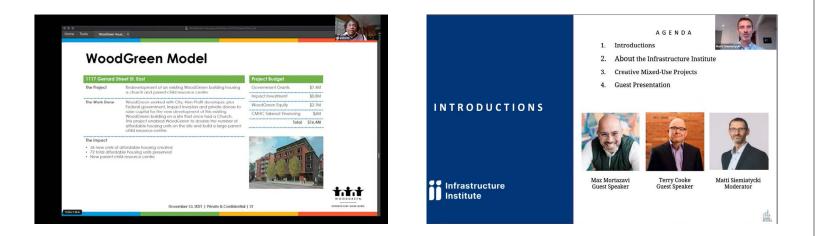
#### PARTICIPANT OF ORGANIZATIONAL **READINESS PROGRAM, NON-PROFIT** ORGANIZATION











STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

#### Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE) Training Modules

The Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE) Training Modules were hosted for the second consecutive year, funded by United Way. Similar to the 2021 launch year, the modules were extremely popular, with over 200 registrants and an average of 60 attendees per session. This year, however, the modules were expanded into six sessions (previously four). All participants who completed the end survey rated the program 4 or 5 stars on level of satisfaction.

[We are] a volunteer run non-profit but not a developer so I'm a bit of an interloper. I came to learn and to understand. We've been looking at for profit rental developments to find affordable housing for senior women... I've learned so much and have so many ideas buzzing around my head as to new avenues to pursue and how we might look to improve our organizational structure. Thank you!

PARTICIPANT, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Registrations

6 Average participants per session

4-5 star rating given by all participants on level of satisfaction



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

#### **Social Purpose Real Estate Accelerator**

The Infrastructure Institute launched the Accelerator this year, a major initiative to help groups pursuing a SPRE project through the challenging pre-development phase. It comprises two parts: The Organizational Readiness Program and the Accelerator Program.

The Organizational Readiness Program was completed this past year, which was intended to help participants assess their organization's capacity to develop a SPRE project. It was designed as a preparatory course to complement the Accelerator Program. The program was popular, with 23 organizations accepted and 33 applications. Participants largely regarded the program as successful; in the feedback survey, all participants gave high satisfaction ratings and would recommend the program to other similar groups. 89% of the participants also reported feeling ready to pursue a SPRE project at program completion, in contrast to only 32% of participants at the beginning of program.

The next area of work in the Training & Capacity Strategic Priority is the much-anticipated launch of the core Accelerator Program. 8 non-profit groups have been accepted into the first Accelerator cohort. **30+** Applications

**89%** Participants feeling ready to pursue SPRE at program end (Org Readiness)

## Engagement

This past year, the Infrastructure Institute undertook the planning, curation, and content development of exhibitions as a new Strategic Priority.

#### Exhibitions

- April 21 2022 Grand Opening World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park
- July 7 2022 Infrastructure Institute +(Plus) Exhibition Launch
- June 22 2022 Infrastructure Institute +(Plus) International Panel Discussion

#### Conferences

2022 Trans-Atlantic Dialogue, Roskilde University, Denmark

Ongoing / Initiatives in progress

- 2022/2023 Major Exhibition
- Co-chair of Regional SPRE Network









STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ENGAGEMENT

#### Grand Opening - World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park

APRIL 21 2022

The Infrastructure Institute was honoured to have worked on the launch exhibition of the World Urban Pavilion's grand opening, a collaboration between the UN Habitat, the Urban Economy Forum, and CMHC, powered by Daniels.



THE WORLD URBAN PAVILION IN REGENT PARK







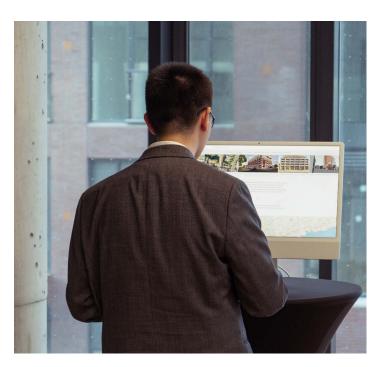


STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ENGAGEMENT

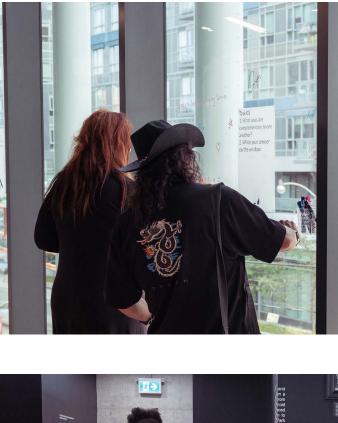
### Infrastructure Institute + (Plus) Exhibition Launch

JULY 07 2022

Our feature exhibition was also held at the World Urban Pavilion. Our theme explored the unique stories and partnerships leading to creative mixeduse, which often bring unexpected public, private, and non-profit uses in the same building. View online exhibit <u>here</u>.











STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ENGAGEMENT

#### Trans-Atlantic Dialogue Conference, Roskilde University, Denmark

JUNE 09-11 2022

The Infrastructure Institute supports scholarship on various topics in infrastructure and urbanism through our network of researchers and fellows who work across both local and global contexts. This year saw the continuation of research on creative mixed use. Yinnon Geva, postdoctoral fellow at the Institute, presented his work examining 54 Creative Mixed-Use projects in Toronto at the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue conference at Roskilde University, Denmark. By mapping common motivations for collaboration, how they are supported by risk mitigation strategies and spatial solutions, this paper examined how collaboration can help create more social purpose uses in contemporary cities.

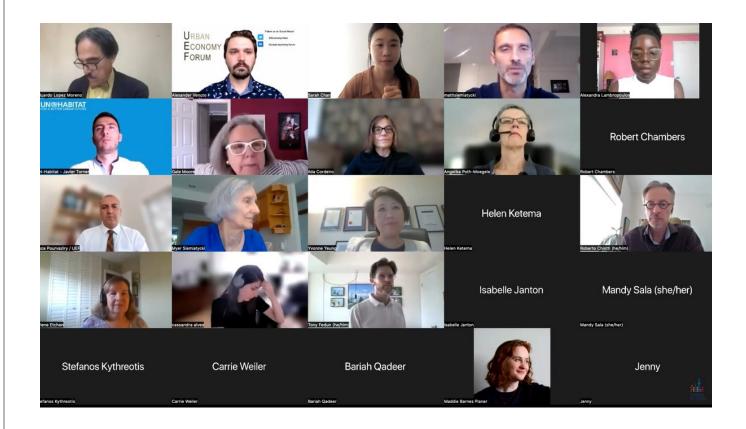


STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ENGAGEMENT

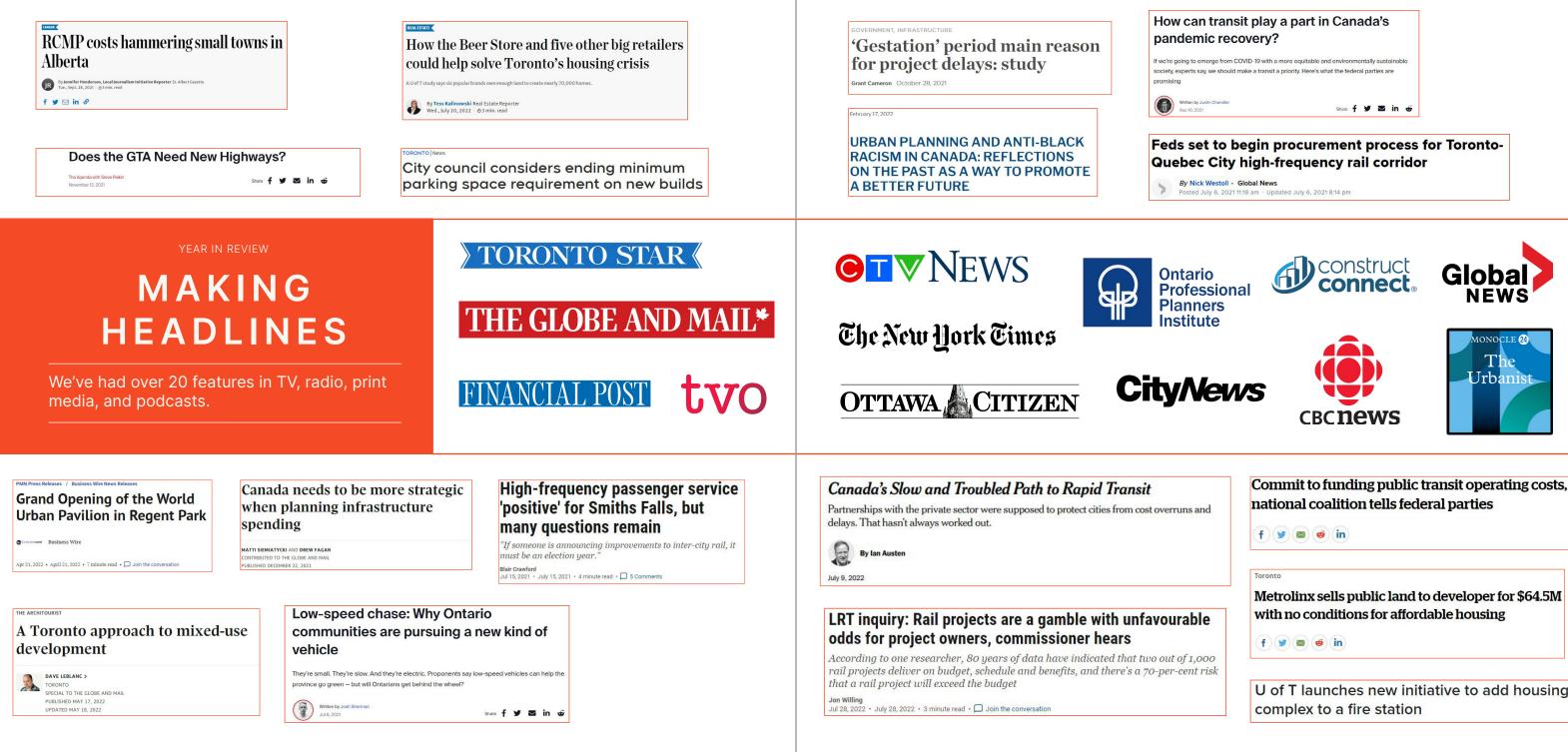
#### Infrastructure Institute +(Plus) International Panel Discussion

JUNE 22 2022

The +(Plus) Exhibition Launch was planned in two parts, including an international panel discussion on innovative approaches to urban spaces. To watch the recording of the event, please click <u>here</u>.







U of T launches new initiative to add housing

#### YEAR IN REVIEW

### GROWING NETWORKS

Fostering an ecosystem of mission-aligned real estate professionals, non-profits, and public players is essential to our work. Our network has significantly grown this past year through both informal and formal initiatives, including new programs, events, and our launch of online engagement.



### **Deepened Partnerships**

In addition to the continuation of current partnerships, we have also grown a network of social purpose real estate stakeholders. They include real estate professionals, capital intermediaries, non-profit and charity organizations, developers, and public bodies. We are eager to build out an ecosystem of players that can help address the key challenges faced by those pursing SPRE.



### **Online Engagement**

This past year, we took massive steps forward in building a virtual presence. This included the launch of our new website, sharing the SPRE training sessions publicly, and establishing a newsletter while simultaneously building a mailing list.

Our efforts have resulted in significant expansion of our local and global reach. Despite the recent arrival into the online realm, our website has had 593 unique visitors from over 30 different countries and over 1000 views on the SPRE training sessions.

#### WEBSITE LAUNCH



593 New Visitors

30+

Countries

Reached

#### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

1000 +Views on SPRE Training Modules

#### NEWSLETTER LAUNCH

Newsletter signups



# Infrastr ucture Institut e

#### +(plus)

An exhibition of unexpected creative mixed-use buildings that foster community

World Urban Pavilion Regent Park 2022

TORONTO SCHOOL

10 frastructureinstitute.ca

INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTE • SCHOOL OF CITIES

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