



The *Art of* Citymaking

*A day on how cities are made — through
lived experience, creativity, and the
forces shaping their future.*

VENUE

Glass Dome — *Landmark of Good*

PROGRAMME

Singapore 2026

A one-day international festival exploring how cities evolve as places to live, connect, and participate.

Cities are shaped every day — through people, culture, and the rhythms of lived experience. The Art of Citymaking brings together urban leaders, creatives, policymakers and practitioners to explore how cities evolve as places to live, connect, and participate. The festival focuses on creativity and innovation as essential forces in citymaking — revealing how neighbourhoods adapt, how participation deepens, and how the experience of place is shaped.

THREE THEMES

The Potential of Places — *Adaptive Neighbourhoods*

Next Cities — *Urban Software*

Culture in Action — *Placemaking & Legacy*

“The city is the greatest collective work of art we make. Its true measure is how well it lets people live, connect, and become.”

— CHARLES LANDRY · FESTIVAL PRESIDENT

Programme details are subject to change.

The organiser reserves the right to amend the programme.

Current as of 31 May 2026.

TICKETS & DETAILS

leadershipforcities.com

The day, in four acts.

ACT I	<i>The Standard</i>	05
ACT II	<i>Improvisation</i>	07
ACT III	<i>The Crescendo</i>	09
ACT IV	<i>After Hours</i>	11

Each act opens on a new page. Sessions follow in order of appearance.

09:00

Sound Check

Doors, coffee & breakfast

Coffee and breakfast by Kopi Boy. Doors open at the Glass Dome — arrive, caffeinate, find your people.

The Standard

The day begins by setting the bar. A new way to measure the city is unveiled, Charles Landry returns with a masterclass and a book, and two practitioners — from a Sicilian palace and a Rajasthani habitat — show what citymaking looks like when it is lived, not theorised.

10:00 — 10:25 **A New Way to Measure the City**

Film, findings & response

- Clare Inkster, Founder, The Curiosity Experiment
- Jakob Norman-Hansen, Director of Partnerships, Bloxhub
- Ann-Britt Elvin Andersen, Head of Communications, Bloxhub
- Moderator: Stuart Mercier, CEO, Cairdrow Capital

We open the day with a short film, then six years of quiet work — opened to the room and pressure-tested by people who measure cities for a living. A spotlight on Copenhagen, the Capital of Cool, which tops the Conscious Cities Index (an XDG Labs initiative).

10:25 — 11:30 **The Art of Citymaking: A Masterclass with Charles Landry**

Masterclass — keynote, book launch & dialogue

- Charles Landry, Author, The Creative City
- Mich Goh, Director of Public Policy, APAC, Airbnb
- Moderator: Chris Law, Founding Director, The Oval Partnership

A masterclass with Charles Landry, woven in three movements.

11:30 — 12:30 **Habitat, Remade: Regenerative Urbanism ×
Radical Ruralism**

Presentations & moderated conversation

- Digvijay Singh Kathiwada, Chairperson, Kathiwada Foundation
- Manvendra Singh Shekhawat, Founder, Dhun Life
- Moderator: Aimee Witteman, Chief Impact Officer, Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Two practitioners who aren't theorising habitat — they're remaking it on the ground. Neither urban nor rural, their work sits in a third space and quietly rearranges what we expect places to be.

12:30 — 13:30 *Lunch — long table · catered by Kaz Bar*

A full hour to eat well, wander and meet someone new. Lunch is catered by Kaz Bar. The best ideas of the day usually start between the first plate and the second helping.

Improvisation

After lunch, the room loosens. A rapid-fire Pecha Kucha on the Experience Improvement District. The 100-year city — designed for the full arc of a long life. A silent revolution of slowing down. A deliberate breath before the Crescendo.

13:30 — 13:55 **Conscious Urbanism: From Place to Experience**

Pecha Kucha

- Mei Chou, Group Director, Conservation & Urban Design, URA
- Elinor Seath, Founder & CEO, Remixd CIC
- Tulsi Grover, Senior Partner, weareMIXD & Founder, re.vorG
- Moderator: Dr Samantha Hayes, Bioneering Australia

Three speakers, twenty slides each, twenty seconds a slide — a rapid-fire Pecha Kucha on the Experience Improvement District: where it's applied, what it measures, and what it would take to make wellbeing the standard metric of urban success.

13:55 — 14:20 **The Long View: The 100-Year City with WSDM Haus**

Moderated conversation

- Raj Ahuja, Founder, WSDM Haus
- Orlando Woods, Director, SMU Urban Institute
- Moderator: Tita Larasati, Co-founder, Bandung Creative City Forum & ICCN

The 15-minute city measures distance. The 100-year city measures life. A moderated conversation on designing cities for the full arc of a long human life — across housing, mobility and belonging — and what platforms, planners and policymakers need to get there.

14:20 — 14:40 **A Silent Revolution**

In conversation

- Erin Lee, Founder, The Big Sit
- Shradha Biyani, Founder, Tashi Press

Two women, two practices, one quiet insistence: cities change when we slow down enough to sit, listen and write it down. Erin Lee convenes strangers in public space through The Big Sit. Shradha Biyani — journalist, Harvard-trained planner — helps citymakers find the words for what they're building. A deliberate breath before the Crescendo.

14:40 — 15:00 **Break — refreshments**

A 20-minute pause before the Crescendo — coffee, conversation and a moment to reset.

The Crescendo

The afternoon builds. India's urban century meets Singapore's compact discipline. Two young Sicilians debut Countless Cities Asia from the festival stage. Helen Marriage on wonder as infrastructure. Brisbane 2032 as a citymaking question. And, from inside the Glass Dome, what it takes to build a City of Good.

15:00 — 15:45 Cities at Scale

Keynote & moderated conversation

- Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India
- Yu-Ning Hwang, Chief, Urban Innovation & Excellence, Ministry of National Development
- Moderator: Peter Hyland, Chair, Leadership for Cities & Industry Fellow, University of Queensland

Two of the most consequential urban stories of our century — a billion-strong India urbanising at unprecedented pace, and a city-state that rewrote the playbook — in the same room, in the same hour.

15:45 — 16:10 Can Art Reinvent a City?

Presentation & moderated conversation

- Carla Bartoli, Farm Cultural Park / Countless Cities — Young Creator in Residence
- Viola Bartoli, Farm Cultural Park / Countless Cities — Young Creator in Residence
- Moderator: Chevon Low, Strategic Engagement & Policy Media Lead, Airbnb

Twenty years ago Charles Landry gave the world a phrase — the Creative City. In a half-forgotten Sicilian town called Favara, a notary and a lawyer took it literally. What followed — Farm Cultural Park, the Countless Cities Biennial, a Museum of the Cities of the World — became one of the most quietly radical experiments in urban regeneration on the planet. The next-generation Bartolis bring the story to Asia for the first time — and unveil what comes next: Countless Cities Asia.

16:10 — 16:35 **What Is a City For?**

Keynote

- Saurabh Mangla, Founder, ipse ipsa ipsum & Lumatera
- Helen Marriage, Founder, Artichoke — Anchor Resident, 2026

The festival's quiet question — what is the role of the creator in the life of a city? — answered by the Anchor Resident for 2026. Helen Marriage has spent two decades answering it in public: closing London's streets for a sultan's elephant, lighting Durham with Lumiere, turning whole cities into playgrounds of the imagination. A keynote on wonder as infrastructure, and on what cities are actually for.

16:35 — 16:55 **Postcards from the Future**

Moderated conversation

- Jen Williams, CEO, Committee for Brisbane
- Prantik Mazumdar, Investor and President, TiE Singapore
- Moderator: Cheryl Chung, Futurist

The Games are not the legacy — the city after the Games is. A conversation on Brisbane 2032 as a citymaking question before a sporting one, and what it takes for a generational moment to leave a generational mark.

16:55 — 17:15 **The City of Good**

Fireside chat

- Melissa Kwee, Civic leader & social entrepreneur
- Moderator: Anupam Yog, Festival Director

From inside the Glass Dome — Landmark of Good — a conversation with Melissa Kwee on what it takes to build a City of Good: the quiet civic architecture of giving, volunteering and belonging that turns a high-performing city into a kinder one. A fitting close to the on-stage day, in the room that carries the idea in its name.

After Hours

The afternoon spills off-stage. Charles Landry hosts Dunbar's Mixer with the SEQ mayoral delegation; three toasts are raised. The New York Times takes the floor for an Oxford-style debate on the motion the day has been circling. Then the room moves to Offbeat — and the night belongs to the citymakers.

17:15 — 18:00 Dunbar's Mixer hosted by Festival President, Charles Landry

Mayoral postcards, drinks & three toasts

The afternoon spills off-stage. The SEQ mayoral delegation opens the hour with short postcards on what each city is carrying into the run-up to 2032 — framed by Charles Landry on what the rest of the Asia-Pacific might learn. Drinks follow, with three toasts raised — to the Custodians, to the Stewards, and to a Patron's surprise.

18:00 — 19:00 The New York Times Debate

Oxford-style debate · The motion: “The way we measure city success is fundamentally wrong.”

— Moderator: Lily Kuo, Journalist, The New York Times

— Jury members and speakers to be announced soon

A live Oxford-style debate presented by The New York Times, moderated by Lily Kuo.

19:00 — 20:00 The Citymakers' Social

Open hour · hosted by The Citymaking Circle at Offbeat

The day spills out of the Glass Dome and over to Offbeat for an open, unhurried hour. By the end of the day, everyone in the room is a citymaker — carry it into the night.

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