

4th WeGO Awards Judging Panel



Renata Avila

Executive Director
Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente



Philip Bane

Managing Director
Smart Cities Council



Jean-Francois Habeau

Executive Director
Global Fund for Cities Development



Donovan Storey

Deputy Director & Urban Lead, Green Cities
Global Green Growth Institute



Shipra Narang Suri

Chief, Urban Practices-Branch
UN-Habitat



Javier Vergara-Petrescu

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Ciudad Emergente

Renata Avila

Executive Director, Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente

Renata Avila, Executive Director of Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente, is an international Human Rights lawyer, specialising in the next wave of technological challenges to preserve and advance our rights, and better understand the politics of data and their implications on trade, democracy, and society. She is a 2020 Stanford Race and Technology Fellow at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity in partnership with the Stanford Institute of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. She is a Board member for Creative Commons. She also serves as a Board Member of the Common Action Forum and a Global Trustee of the Think Tank Digital Future Society. She is an advisory member of the initiative Cities for Digital Rights and also an advisory Board Member for Article 19 Mexico & Central America.

Philip Bane

Managing Director, Smart Cities Council

The Smart Cities Council is an industry coalition led by some of the world's top technology companies. Its goal is to accelerate the move to smart, sustainable cities. The Council offers an online marketplace for planning city projects called Smart Cities Activator. Cities can plan projects, see what other cities are doing globally and learn from experts. In 2020, the Council will add a financing marketplace for cities and financing entities to further help cities accelerate project implementation.

Since 2016, the Council delivered its Readiness Program to over 100 cities in Europe, North America, India and Australia. These cities increased their capacity to deploy smart technologies and intelligent design to make their cities livable, workable and sustainable.

Philip Bane has an extensive background in technology development and sales. For the last ten years, he has actively pursued developing data solutions for sustainability and resilience. Trained as a tax and business lawyer, Philip has completed a great number of business transactions, owned businesses in the US, Russia and India and took First Virtual public in 1996 as its General Counsel (later purchased by Softbank.) Philip was also a US Army Ranger while serving in the military. He also studied to be a Zen Buddhist Chaplain and today teaches Vinyasa Yoga at Down Dog in Herndon, VA.

Philip has keynoted events for the Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Smart Cities Network, GITEX, Smart Cities Week and others. He also moderates over 15 panels a year on smart city topics.

Jean-François Habeau

Executive Director, Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)

Jean-François Habeau is the Executive Director of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), an International Alliance providing financing solutions to local governments.

With his 15 years of experience working with Central & Local Governments from all over the world, he has an extensive expertise in local finance and local investment, including PPPs, Climate Finance and Smart technologies' impacts and has a strong experience in working with Public entities and financial & technical partners.

FMDV is the leading organisation providing financing solutions to local governments. Its operational activities consist in organizing appropriate environments and instruments on a regional, national, or local scale for local finance and investments. It also facilitates the connection between local governments and financial and technical partners to ensure an integrated and sustainable development of their urban development. It also promotes and encourages innovative and inspiring solutions by organising workshops, international conferences, trainings, publications, and study tours.

Donovan Storey

Deputy Director & Urban Lead, Green Cities, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Dr. Donovan Storey is currently Deputy Director and Urban Lead – Green Cities, at the Global Green Growth Institute, Seoul. In this role, he leads the Global Green Cities Team and works with 33 country teams and key stakeholders to identify and implement policies and projects in support of green transformations related to the built environment, waste management, urban planning, sustainable mobility, and resource efficiency in cities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Prior to joining GGGI, Dr. Storey worked for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). Previous to his work in international organisations, Dr. Storey taught urban planning, environment management, and development management at several universities. Dr. Storey has qualifications in political science, history, development studies, and law. He is a full member of the Planning Institute of Australia, and ISOCARP.

Shipra Narang Suri

Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat

Dr. Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a Ph.D. in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, UK. She leads UN-Habitat's Urban Practices Branch, which is the hub for UN-Habitat's normative work and the home of its entire portfolio of global programmes. The work of the Branch covers all major areas of UN-Habitat's work such as national urban policies; policy, legislation and governance; urban planning and design; public space; urban regeneration; land, housing and shelter; urban economy and finance; urban basic services; safer cities; human rights and social inclusion, with extensive normative work and operational activities in nearly 80 countries. Shipra is also the senior advisor within UN-Habitat for local governments and their networks.

Shipra has extensive experience in advising national and local governments, as well as private sector organisations and networks, on issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, livability and sustainability of cities, urban safety, women and cities, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. She is the former co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign, a platform that brings together a large array of global organisations to advocate for sustainable urbanisation, and the former Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners, a platform established to bring stakeholder voices to Habitat III and in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. She is also a former Vice-President of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

Shipra has worked with the United Nations, specifically, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and UNESCO, as well as international NGOs and private sector organisations, for over two decades. She has worked across Asia, Africa, South Eastern Europe, and the Middle-East. She has been involved in the development and execution of a variety of development, research and training projects and programmes, is a regular public speaker at national and international fora, and has several publications to her credit.

Javier Vergara Petrescu

Co-Founder & Executive Director, Ciudad Emergente

Javier Vergara Petrescu is the Co-founder and Executive Director at Ciudad Emergente, a Lab of Tactics and Tools for Human Centered Cities. He works to combine social innovation and new technologies to improve quality of life in cities. He has an MSc in City Design & Social Sciences from the London School of Economics, and a degree in architecture from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He lives in Santiago de Chile and is a regular lecturer at several universities in the region.