

2020 -
2021

Five Good Ideas

to build a city



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Canada

**Mary W. Rowe, President and CEO,
Canadian Urban Institute**

Thursday, December 3, 2020 - 1:00 to 1:45 p.m.

Cities are the fundamental building block of contemporary society, certainly in Canada where almost 90 per cent of our population lives in a community of 5,000 or more. COVID-19 – and the various measures governments have taken to cope with it – is having a dramatic impact on the future of urban life now, and will potentially alter fundamentally how we plan, design, manage, and govern cities in the future. The non-profit sector will play an important role in this process. Join Mary W. Rowe, President & CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute, and the host of CityTalkCanada, to consider five good ideas for the non-profit sector to build a city, now and in the wake of a global pandemic.

Mary is no stranger to how cities recover from disasters, having worked in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and New York City during and following Hurricane Sandy. For several years she worked closely with Maytree Chair Alan Broadbent on Ideas that Matter, a convening and publishing program focused on the core areas of Jane Jacobs' work: cities, economies, and values. Her work continues to be focused on how cities enable self-organization, cultivate innovation, and build social, economic, environmental, and cultural resilience. This Five Good Ideas session is organized in partnership with the Canadian Urban Institute.



Mary is President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute. An impassioned civic leader with diverse experience in the business, government, non-profit, and philanthropy sectors in Canada and the United States for over 30 years, Mary has been a steady advocate and champion for place-based approaches to building livable and resilient cities, and community-driven local economies. She has led local, national, and international urban initiatives from Toronto and New York City. In addition to her role leading CUI, Mary is currently a Senior Fellow with Evergreen, Future Cities Canada, and Shorefast, Lead Facilitator for the National Urban Project, and serves on the Advisory and Governing Boards of the New Cities Foundation and The Bentway.



Five Good Ideas

1. Everything important really does start, and is, local
2. Now's the time to start sleeping with your enemies
3. Lead with improvisation, experimentation, and risk-taking
4. Do not assume, do not wait: Say goodbye to "Big Daddy"
5. Watch, share, talk, act

Resources

- *The Third Pillar* by Raghuram Rajan – <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/566369/the-third-pillar-by-raghuram-rajan/>; read a review here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/27/books/review/raghuram-rajan-third-pillar.html>
- "Rolling up our sleeves" (conference keynote by Mary Rowe) – <http://historyabovewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Rowe-Mary-repaired.pdf>
- "Granular Resilience: Paying Attention to the Local" (article by Mary Rowe) – <https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2013/06/12/granular-resilience-paying-attention-to-the-local/> –
- "New Orleans speaks: We are the ones we've been waiting for" (video) – <https://vimeo.com/2271931>
- CUI websites: www.citywatchcanada.ca, www.citysharecanada.ca, www.citytalkcanada.ca and www.bringbackmainstreet.ca



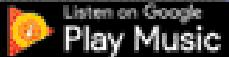
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FIVE GOOD IDEAS

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Edited by ALAN BROADBENT AND RATNA OMIDVAR

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