Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University

The Bloomberg Center for Cities serves a global community committed to improving public management, leadership, and governance in cities. Harnessing Harvard’s expertise, the center advances the field of study by funding faculty research, convening scholars and practitioners, and disseminating knowledge through networks that extend around the world. The center is designed to have practical impact on the future of cities, where more than half of the world’s people now live, by informing, inspiring, and supporting local government leaders, scholars, students, and others who work to improve the lives of city residents.

Programs located at the center include the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, Civic Power Lab, Data Smart City Solutions, Local Politics Lab, and The People Lab.

The center produces peer-reviewed academic publications, research-based curricula, executive education programs, student fellowships in cities, and a wide variety of convenings for scholars and practitioners.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Any challenge that’s facing the planet is affecting cities. We have a wealth of expertise across Harvard University to help city leaders grapple with challenges as they emerge. We advance public management, leadership, and governance in cities through research, teaching, and field work. The Bloomberg Center for Cities connects faculty and students with city leaders for their mutual benefit.”

The Work of the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University

- We pursue multidisciplinary academic research to generate practical knowledge, tools, and ideas in response to real-world challenges.
- We deliver executive education for mayors, senior officials, and other local leaders, helping them make city halls more effective, efficient, equitable, responsive, and accountable in serving their residents.
- We develop and promote action-inspiring content and resources at no cost to city leaders around the world.
- We create experiential learning opportunities for students, helping them gain work experience in cities and honing their analytical and leadership skills.
- We host convenings with global reach, connecting city leaders, scholars, students, and all who come to learn and share insights, promoting the broad exchange of knowledge and ideas.

BY THE NUMBERS

All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.

52
Faculty affiliates from nine Harvard graduate schools are currently supported by the center.

110
Academic research and curriculum projects have been supported through center labs.

500+
Student participants in field courses, summer fellowships, and faculty-led research since 2017.

539
Mayors have participated in the center’s executive education programs.

Top right: Dr. Judith Tumusiime, former Deputy Executive Director of Kampala, teaching City Hall Fellows. Above: Jorrit de Jong, Director of the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University with participants.

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