



LINK: <https://www.futureofsmallcities.org/about>

CT.org...It is always a treat to find grassroots organizations devoted to the success of small cities and towns. The Future of the Cities Institute located in upstate New York is such a group. Their work, with excerpts from their website below, is useful as described below from their website. FoSCI is a great model to use when designing a local initiative. A great example for others to emulate.

MISSION

The Future of Small Cities Institute cultivates resilient communities by offering just and sustainable solutions for small and mid-sized metro areas. We do this by fostering local community partnerships and a regional city network, producing cross-platform resources and publications, hosting a dynamic urbanism event series, and by building a tangible knowledge-base of best practices for small cities.

OUR WORK

What do we value in our communities and what do we want our cities to look like in the future?

EVENTS

The Institute curates the Future of Small Cities event series, bringing in internationally recognized speakers to discuss case studies in urbanism. The Institute also hosts workshops and conferences on topics centered around cultivating sustainability, pushing and funding green infrastructure projects in the region, promoting environmental justice, and combating institutionalized racism and inequality in the community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In partnership with local community groups, the Institute provides outreach into neighborhoods and schools that aren't usually a part of urban planning discussions and empowers community members to engage in a conversation about the kinds of places we want our cities to be. In tandem with academic institutions, we engage in community-lead qualitative surveys that lead to action items.

REGIONAL CITY NETWORKS

The Institute offers a knowledge-based network for the small cities of the Northeast, facilitating connections and building up a body of actionable items for small metros that sometimes lack traditional planning departments but also possess an engaged and motivated citizenry.

PUBLICATIONS

The Institute produces cross-platform publications and resources, including the Future of Small Cities Podcast, around a variety of topics including community green infrastructure, sustainable development, fostering and sustaining pedestrian and cyclist culture, reimagining our highways, activating waterfronts, and facilitating community and government partnership in small cities.

INTERVENTIONS

In partnership with local organizations, academic institutions, and city governments, the Institute helps implement carefully designed infrastructure interventions like pocket parks, traffic calming measures, bicycle lanes, renewable energy infrastructure, composting systems, rapid transit, art installations, and dynamic community spaces.

COMMUNITY SPACE

The Institute will engage with the sidewalk culture of the city by maintaining a brick and mortar community space at the street level. This space will host an exhibition room that will feature revolving installations by artists, architects, planners, and students. The Institute will also host a library on climate change, urbanism, and social justice.

READ A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THIS ORGANIZATION AT:

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