



PROGRAMME

Register for RISE Africa 2022 Action Festival sessions below.

CREATIVITY / AGENCY / URGENCY Series

The stories of cities in Africa are tethered to the agency of its people, the rich creativity that is the hallmark of the continent, and the awareness of the urgency with which we must drive change. **RISE Africa 2022 invites you to sit in the tension points between Creativity, Agency and Urgency, to share new concepts approaches and actions that attempt to move the needle across multiple urban themes.** This series will open each morning of the RISE Africa 2022 Action Festival and aims to unpack and debate how we, as urban change agents, must hold the tension between deliberative, thoughtful process - vital for ensuring that all voices are properly supported and that creative and innovative practice is embedded in our society and institutions - and the need for swift action. How are we harnessing the immense creativity and expression available to us to act with purpose? The three sessions are:

- **Creativity / Re-embedding imagination into the everyday**
Monday, 23 May 2022, 10:00 AM Central African Time
- **Agency / Realising Human Rights in African Cities**
Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 10:00 AM Central African Time
- **Urgency / Acting Now for Better Futures**
Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 10:00 AM Central African Time

REGISTER FOR THE SERIES

Creativity / Re-embedding imagination into the everyday

On Africa Day 2021, RISE Africa convened a discussion on 'Shaping and owning African urban narratives through literature, art and movement building' which articulated the immense creative potential held in African cities, the need to embrace diverse African identities, and the imperative to include artists, poets, musicians and other creatives in development processes. This session broadens the conversation to on creativity to reflect on how innovation, reflection and creative expression manifest in multiple sectors and organisations in our cities. It critiques what may be perceived as a fundamental lack of imagination in addressing the overwhelming societal, economic and environmental pressures that our cities are facing. This lack of imagination is not malicious, but potentially driven by inherited institutional structures, adoption of acontextual development paradigms and a privileging of external knowledge over traditional, indigenous, embedded or practice-based knowledge. The session explores how we can embrace and champion imagination in our everyday activities, to support better decision making, social life, public space, economic development and more. [REGISTER](#)

Agency / Realising Human Rights in African Cities

Most discussions on the origin of human rights refer to the global North, the formation of the UN in 1945 and the adoption of the first international human rights instrument - the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), three years later. Today, the UDHR remains one of the most influential human rights instruments across the world, having influenced the inclusion of human rights provisions in many national constitutions, and further human rights instruments. However, there is debate around viewing various elements of human rights as indigenous to many societies in the global South, including African societies, albeit articulated differently. In recent years, there is increasing criticism of the exclusion of global South countries in the processes to develop the UDHR, which thereby excluded perspectives and iterations from these contexts. This has led to the tension between advocates for universalism and cultural relativists. This debate is a reminder of the need to reflect from an African centered lens about the origin of human rights. Doing

this requires asking difficult and uncomfortable questions. Are human rights foreign to Africa? Did the fabric of pre-colonial African societies and cities have elements of human rights embedded in them? Was there observance of human rights which predated colonial Africa in our cities? Is it true that the historical evolution of human rights can be traced only to the North? What contribution has Africa made to the evolution and understanding of human rights in today's cities and societies? This session attempts to spotlight these questions through multiple lenses in today's African cities. It brings on board advocates of varied voices in today's African cities including women, children and persons with disabilities, to share different processes by which champions are enabling both differing and collective voice in urban development. [REGISTER](#)

Urgency / Acting Now for Better Futures

The pace of urbanization, growing inequality, rising unemployment, food insecurity, ecological degradation, and the climate crisis are all intertwined and present us with a frightening vision of the future. Indeed, the latest global reports show reinforcing impacts of natural degradation, inequity and climate crisis, which are and will be particularly severe in the African continent. These different concerns require a form of urgency to act, in order to set the basis for sustainable, equitable and resilient societies. These actions must avoid lock-in to unsustainable practices, which are often more expensive and require deeper participation and collaboration across sectors. The scale of change and the urgency required is often overwhelming for societal actors, who are compelled to take action in contexts of increasing uncertainty. There is an urgent need for funding and the establishment of stronger governance systems to drive change, while retaining agency in these processes. Yet, if we are to make the right development decisions and build the right coalitions for change, we cannot lose sight of deliberative, creative and inclusive processes that support reflection, innovation and community voice, and require time. This session presents a debate on realising the urgency articulated in the Decade of Action for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: one position articulates the need to speed up action for realising inclusive and sustainable African cities, while the other suggests that to meet this urgency, we must actually slow down. This session aims to weave the articulation of creative voice and human rights into this tension point to 'act now', and explore potential ways in which we can do so, meaningfully. [REGISTER](#)

Daily debrief

23-25 May 2022, 18:00 - 19:00 Central African Time

At the end of each day, we sit with our keynotes and provocateurs to reflect on the themes and ideas emerging from the day's deliberations, and to weave them together with our theme of CREATIVITY / AGENCY / URGENCY - join us in these informal conversations and share your reflections - facilitators and speakers to be announced in May. [REGISTER](#)

Keynote lectures

DAY ONE
MONDAY 23 MAY 2022

How cities can lead the transition to clean energy in Africa

Hastings Chikoko, Managing Director of Regions and Mayoral Engagement & Regional Director for Africa at C40



Revolution through creativity in African cities - Thoughts

Vida Madighi-Oghu, Artist and Writer



Re-imagining Narratives: The Documentation of Africa's Architectural Landscapes

Livingstone Mukasa & Adil Dalbai,



DAY TWO
TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022

Liminality in West African Architecture

Dominique Petit-Frère, Founder & Vision Director of Limbo Accra



Finding the city, one sketchbook at a time

Arthur Adeya, Director of Projects and Technical, Centum Real Estate (Centum RE)



Lost and Found: Crises, Emergence and Possibilities

Geci Karuri-Sebina, Professor, SA Cities Network, African Centre for Cities, University of the Witwatersrand & Paul Currie, Associate Director: Urban Systems, ICLEI Africa



DAY THREE
WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022

A New Material Public Realm

Papa Omotayo, Creative Director, MOE+ Architecture



Lamu Space Station - narratives of the African future

Ajax Phillips, Abdul Rop, Joseph Chege and Lincoln Mwangi



Lectures will be broadcast at 12-1pm Central African Time (GMT+2) - [REGISTER HERE](#)
Then join us for the Daily Digest, at 6pm CAT, for Q&A with lecturers and to discuss the themes of the day - [REGISTER HERE](#) - hosted by:

Funmi Adeniyi, Senior Professional Officer: Human Rights Approches, ICLEI Africa & Tunde Onakoyo, Founder, Chess in Slums Africa TBC



Rashiq Fataar, Director, Our Future Cities & Rim Menia, Pan African Feminist, Architect & Researcher



Edgar Pieterse, Director, African Centre for Cities & Tosin Oshinowo, Principal Architect, CMDesign Atelier



Parallel Sessions

DAY ONE

MONDAY 23 MAY 2022

Shifting systems: Infrastructure innovation for sustainable African cities

Hosted by: Urban Futures Studio, Utrecht University & African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town
Monday, 23 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Africa's cities are amongst the fastest growing in the world, and present an unprecedented opportunity to leapfrog unsustainable urban development patterns. This requires an ability by decision makers to break inertia and imagine innovative possibilities for sustainable urban futures. This session will spark discussion and explore tools and techniques for African cities to lead the way in innovative thinking. This forms part of a new two-year project building a network of academics and decision-makers to foster learning around innovation and urban sustainability in Africa. [REGISTER](#)

Photographer lenses on African urban dynamics

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa
Monday, 23 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

African cities experience an array of pressures, drivers and changes that shape the quality of our lived experiences. These competing causes and effects give the cities a dynamic and emergent quality which may best be captured through photography and storytelling. This session will follow a problem-posing pedagogy (form of teaching and learning) using photographs to evoke our thoughts, experiences and feelings about the urban Africa we experience and know, before the artists share insights about the contexts shared in their photographs. The emerging discussion will reflect on how photography can reveal nuances and stories vital for engaging with African urban issues and opportunities. Join us to reflect on African Urban Dynamics through photographers from various African Cities. [REGISTER](#)

Does evidence justify Circular Economy as the path for development for Africa?

Hosted by: Footprints Africa & ICLEI Africa
Monday, 23 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

With only 8 years to cut emissions by 50% to reach the 1.5* target, decision-makers in cities and businesses need to take decisive steps and fast. Data is critical for effective decision-making and needed to measure the impact of materials and processes throughout their lifetimes. In this session, Footprints Africa and ICLEI Africa invite entrepreneurs and municipal practitioners to explore 2 tools:

- Ganbatte, an online platform which allows for initial screening of a local government's metabolism and better understanding of its circularity
- A Measurement Framework for Circular Economy, which can be adopted by entrepreneurs to measure how circular a business is.

[REGISTER](#)

Using Civic Technology to unlock Africa's Urban Opportunities

Hosted by: Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIN)
Monday, 23 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Building on our previous conversations and engagement at Urban Festival in 2020 and #DIYAFRICA in 2021, this session will highlight the intersection of civic technologies and African urban challenges as well as offer examples of how civic tech can be leveraged even more effectively around Africa's urbanisation challenges and opportunities. It will be led by a panel discussion supplemented by content from previous conferences. [REGISTER](#)

Design for Innovation: Creativity at the forefront of housing, public space and mobility solutions

Hosted by: Our Future Cities
Monday, 23 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Urban areas are hubs for creativity and innovation and the solutions to challenges in housing, public space and mobility sectors abound. This session will explore projects at the forefront of innovation in each of these areas, that are coming up with creative solutions to our urban challenges. [REGISTER](#)

How fast-growing African cities are developing economic plans to build more climate resilient futures

Hosted by: Tetra Tech International Development- Sustainable Urban Economic Development Programme (SUED)
Monday, 23 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

The SUED programme, funded by the UK Government is supporting 12 fast-growing municipalities to develop sustainable urban economic plans and attract investment for critical infrastructure and value chain projects. The programme is demonstrating that it is possible to leverage scarce resources through collaborations and partnerships with the private sector, local governments, and other like-minded organisations. This session will explore how SUED has collaborated with municipalities to develop responsive urban economic plans that identify viable economic sectors and is partnering with them to attract investors to support identified value chain and climate-resilient infrastructure projects. [REGISTER](#)

Gender rights in UNA: Why it is important

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa
Monday, 23 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Gender responsive nature and resilience initiatives aim to identify the drivers that can aid in building an enabling environment, improve access to resources and facilitate an individuals ability to fully participate - this session aims to examine what are some of these drivers and how we can mainstream them to build resilience and sustainability at the local level. [REGISTER](#)

Where Business and Circularity Intersect: Meet the ACE Africa Entrepreneurs Pushing the Boundaries of Sustainability in African Cities

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa and Stellenbosch Launch Lab
Monday, 23 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

In a world where the negative and limiting impacts resulting from the linear economy are increasingly magnified, the circular economy is gaining traction as a model to promote sustainability-oriented innovation and to accelerate resource sustainability. Accelerating Circular Economy Innovation in Africa (ACE Africa) is an initiative that aims to unlock the potential of the circular economy by supporting and upskilling start-up companies and small businesses that show promising circular economy contributions in African cities. It also aims to facilitate the creation of enabling environments for the uptake of circular economy innovation in cities. The circular economy offers a great deal of possibilities and opportunities for businesses, and it is noteworthy that businesses are already leading the way in the circularity transition. In this session, we will showcase ACE Africa businesses implementing circular economy solutions in African cities. Our entrepreneurs will share their uniquely circular business approaches, highlighting their different journeys towards a circular economy. Join us to get inspired about their Creativity, Agency and Urgency towards more sustainable African cities. [REGISTER](#)

DAY TWO

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022

Africa's leadership in nature-based solutions: Is language creating a barrier in showcasing the continent's best efforts?

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa
Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Does language matter? The use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as nature-based solutions to build urban sustainability and resilience has grown significantly. The concept of Nature based solutions (NbS) forms part of many climate change adaptation strategies. However, its multifunctionality has caused much confusion and has led to a wider language gap between residents, researchers, practitioners and policy makers globally. Even though Africa has a long history of using solutions dependent on nature to solve human and societal challenges, the language used is not always consistent with global terminology. This creates the assumption that most parts of Africa have no knowledge of NbS or the role of nature as an adaptive measure to global challenges. This session asks whether language is creating a barrier to showcasing Africa's strides towards sustainable communities, and reflects on the implications this may have on the willingness to take up these concepts. [REGISTER](#)

Scenarios for Africa's Circular Economy Future: A view from students and young professionals

Hosted by: Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

In a Cape Town workshop in March 2022, a collection of young African professionals and students contemplated various futures for how the circular economy might play out in Africa. Having spent a week reading, watching, debating and refining, they are ready to share their experiences with us now. Join us in this session to discover what they have to say. [REGISTER](#)

Taste the change; re-imagining facilitation for hybrid meetings in cities

Hosted by: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

The transition from face-to-face, to exclusively online and now hybrid has put enormous demand on city enthusiasts and actors to up their facilitation and engagement skills. In this session we will explore various tips and tops for facilitating in an ever changing world. Participants will practice some cutting-edge methods that engage the audience in a meaningful and productive way. [REGISTER](#)

Futures and possibilities for our cities - in conversation with Rashiq Fataar

Hosted by: Our Future Cities

Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Rashiq Fataar, Director of Our Future Cities, interviews leading designers, urbanists and creatives launching creative projects putting a spotlight on emerging practises and future focussed interventions across the African continent. [REGISTER](#)

Sustainable development research that matters: Crafting new research approaches for uptake by local government and actors

Hosted by: ICLEI

Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Local governments have become imperative in society's transformation towards more sustainable forms of development. Local actors need to be at the forefront of sustainable development research, however research uptake and the seamless connection between scientific domains of study and urban practice is often lacking. How can research approaches and strategies be adapted or redesigned to ensure research uptake in local policies and strategies? This session is based on the uptake strategies used across the continent at various stages of research. It explores learnings on how to bridge political and research processes and ensure collaborative design in sustainable development research. [REGISTER](#)

Building Africa's Climate Action movements: Designing collaboration between civil society and local government

Hosted by: ICLEI Africa

Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Resilient climate solutions form the basis of urban planning and need to draw on the experience and knowledge of people who will be most affected by climate change. In cities, this requires multi-level governance processes that build systems for collective change through improving collaboration between local authorities, national governments, urban residents (particularly the urban poor) and civil society organisations in their various approaches to climate action. This session forms part of the Scaling up and Empowering Movements for Climate Change Advocacy (SEMCCA) project and shares critical lessons learned from various African cities as well as key recommendations and methodologies from the project. [REGISTER](#)

DAY THREE

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2021 - AFRICA DAY

The art and poetics of urgency: blending emotional agency into our storytelling of urban research

Hosted by: TMG/FACT

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Without art, statistical data lacks agency in the corridors of the soul: our processes become clinical and our responses half-hearted, disconnected and unoriginal. How can we 'story' our research in new ways and probe

the interplay between the deeply subjective or emotive and the more traditional forms of qualitative and quantitative research communication? In the tradition of oral story-telling, we invite a group of local poets into a reflective engagement with an urban food system research-process led by FACT in Cape Town. This research formed part of TMG's Urban Food Futures programme and explored the potential of community kitchens in low income areas as hubs for social cohesion. This session will include a live reading of selected poems and explorations of how emotional agency can be included in urban research and policy processes. [REGISTER](#)

Guided Organic Growth: Rethinking New City Making in Africa

Hosted by: Charter Cities Institute

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Dozens of cities are in conception, or under construction, in sub-Saharan Africa - as it stands, most of these are over-planned and often follow either the Chinese-grid planning paradigm or an American-suburban model. Those approaches leave little to no space for local adaptation, emergent market forces, and the agency of residents' to shape their cities over time. New cities can be an excellent opportunity to inject urban economic vibrancy, solve market failures, and unlock innovation. However, until a deliberate shift occurs in the planning paradigms of these new city developments, they will continue to suffer from common challenges. This session aims to rethink new city making in the Global South with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, arguing for a needed paradigm shift. It conceptualizes a paradigm with three main principles and examines the possibility of more community and bottom-up approaches in new city developments. [REGISTER](#)

City Tour: A new and reclaimed island in Lagos

Hosted by: Open House Lagos

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Take a tour of a Gracefield island in the city of Lagos, which is a purpose built island sitting on 60 hectares of land space in its early phase, with prospect of expanding to a bigger size within its designated zone on the Lekki Masterplan of Lagos State Government. Join us to explore the impact that new and reclaimed islands have on architecture and placemaking in Africa's cities. [REGISTER](#)

Heat Action Day for Cities

Hosted by: Open House Lagos

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 13:00 Central African Time

Cities around the world face losses related to deadly heat waves each year. People living in cities and towns are disproportionately impacted because urban areas are generally hotter than the surrounding countryside. Unfortunately most of the losses go unnoticed and thus heatwaves are rarely considered in policies and plans. This needs to change. As climate change makes heat waves more frequent, longer and hotter, city leaders, humanitarian agencies, and the private sector should implement measures to protect our cities from unprecedented heat risks. This session will chronicle progress and define a roadmap towards beating the heat in cities. [REGISTER](#)

Africa now! An urgent case for investment towards more sustainable cities and towns

Hosted by: Our Future Cities

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Urban Africa needs an investment strategy that responds with urgency to the needs of urban residents for more sustainable cities. So where are the investments made in Africa's cities and towns? Are these in renewables, e-mobility and transport, climate mitigation or housing? This session will host industry experts and thought leaders in a discussion on what the best investment strategy would be for local governments moving towards sustainable futures. Exploring where the funding for sustainable developments come from and how they are procured. More specifically, it asks how and where investments in housing and transport infrastructure are geared at shaping sustainable cities. [REGISTER](#)

Eko Vibes Podcast - Learn about Lagos' circularity transition!

Circular Economy Innovation Partnership

Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Hello! Welcome! Ekabo! This is Eko Circular Vibe Podcast! You will learn everything you need to know about the Circular Lagos Project and what the initiators seek to achieve through this project. What opportunities exist for Lagosians in the circular economy and how does circularity aid the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Lagos. [REGISTER](#)

Three protocols for facilitating Africa's creativity
 Hosted by: Baz-Art
 Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

An African-lead conceptualisation session of how urbanism and public art can be used to stimulate the continent's creativity. Creativity is said to be the new money in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the newly ratified African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) has designed its three protocols to facilitate, enhance and protect creativity. This active session will connect leaders in heterogenous fields across the continent to come together and imagine the possibilities of a human-centred urban design through public art to facilitate Africa's social and economic development. [REGISTER](#)

Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030): cities road to resilience
 Hosted by: UNDRR Regional Office for Africa
 Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 15:00 Central African Time

Reducing risk and building resilience is a journey. The Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) programme aims to ensure cities become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and follows a programmatic

approach built around a three-stage 'resilience roadmap' that guides cities on how to improve resilience over time. The resilience roadmap is flexible and iterative; cities can enter MCR2030 at any stage gaining access to a range of tools and technical advisory inputs delivered by different partners. Cities make commitments to demonstrate progress along the resilience roadmap. This session will welcomes participants into a training session to equip them with key tools for improving urban resilience, based around the roadmap. [REGISTER](#)

For more information about RISE Africa visit our [website](#). Sign up for the RISE Africa monthly digest [here](#).



Action festival timetable

	23 May 2022	24 May 2022	25 May 2022								
10:00 - 11:45	Opening series										
	CREATIVITY	AGENCY	URGENCY								
	BREAK										
12:00 - 12:45	Lunchtime lectures (keynotes TBC in May)										
	BREAK										
13:00 - 14:45	Parallel sessions										
	BREAK										
15:00 - 16:45	Parallel sessions										
	BREAK										
18:00 - 19:00	Daily debrief										