

Word on the Street

“If you change a street, you can change the world”: The Seaside Prize 2022

By Tom Cordi
Executive Director,
Seaside Institute

With great enthusiasm, the Seaside Institute is proud to reveal “Streets” as the central theme of this year’s Seaside Prize weekend, held March 4- 6.

Seaside is a place built upon the very concept of a life well-lived through the connectivity of communal neighborhood streets. For the 29th annual Seaside Prize, the Seaside Institute will redirect its focus to celebrating, studying and learning to enhance our walkable, connected and beautiful streets.

Join us as we hear from today’s greatest advocates for building civic life through street reform. The symposium lineup, carefully and

thoughtfully created by Prize recipient Jeff Speck, will facilitate educational and enlightening dialogues during the Seaside Prize weekend. It’s destined to be a community event you don’t want to miss.

“If you can change a street, you can change the world,” Janette Sadik-Khan said after accomplishing the seemingly impossible and transforming the streets of one of the world’s greatest and toughest cities, New York, into dynamic spaces safe for pedestrians and bikers.

Charles Marohn, leader of the Strong Towns movement, knows the pitfalls of the overdevelopment and profit driven mentality impacting the resilience and connectivity of our towns and cities. The never-ending hunger for expansion

can demolish and destroy cultures, as Houston-based Commissioner Rodney Ellis reveals in his dedicated fight to alter Houston’s 140 development. Building a “Strong Town” is truly a bottom-up revolution that starts on the streets. Transformation happens when communities focus on the improvement of the connective life-flow of the utilitarian paths uniting us all.



The provision of accessible and equitable transportation builds prosperity and unity. Comradery is forged by intermingling, which is made possible by safe and environmentally friendly pathways. These pathways have been initiated by America Walks, led by former Seattle mayor, Mike McGinn.

The attainment of a flourishing, nurturing, and healthy connected community is melodically heralded by singer-songwriter Dar Williams as streets are yet again identified as a powerful thoroughfare into a future of sustainable wellbeing.

For all the details about this highly anticipated celebration, be sure to check out the Seaside Institute website at seasideinstitute.org.



29th Annual Seaside Prize Speakers:

Janette Sadik-Khan (keynote)

Janette Sadik-Khan is one of the world’s foremost authorities on transportation and urban transformation. She served as New York City’s transportation commissioner from 2007 to 2013 under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, overseeing historic changes to the city’s streets—closing Broadway to cars in Times Square, building nearly 400 miles of bike lanes and seven rapid bus lines, launching the largest bike share program in North America and creating more than 60 plazas citywide. A founding principal with Bloomberg Associates, she works with mayors around the world to reimagine and redesign their cities. She chairs the National Association of Transportation Officials, implementing new, people-focused street design standards, including the Global Street Design Guide, which has been adopted by 100 cities and organizations around the world. She is the author of *Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution*.



Janette Sadik-Khan

while being packed full of witty and pithy wisdom.

Chuck Marohn

Charles Marohn, known as “Chuck” to friends and colleagues, is the founder and president of Strong Towns. He is a professional engineer and a land use planner with decades of experience. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Minnesota. Marohn is the author of *Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity* (Wiley, 2019), *And of Confessions of a Recovering Engineer: Transportation for a Strong Town* (Wiley, 2021). He hosts the Strong Towns Podcast and is a primary writer for Strong Towns’ web content. He has presented Strong Towns concepts in hundreds of cities and towns across North America. Planetizen named him one of the 10 Most Influential Urbanists of all time.

Mike McGinn

Mike McGinn is the current executive director of America Walks, drawing on his experiences as a community council president, Sierra Club volunteer leader, founder of an urban sustainability non-profit, congressional aide, lawyer, mayor of Seattle and member of a large family. He has worked on numerous public education, legislative, ballot measure and election campaigns – which has given him an abiding faith in the power of organizing to build power and create change. America Walks is dedicated to supporting local, state and national advocacy for equitable, accessible and walkable communities.



Mike McGinn

Rodney Ellis

Commissioner Rodney Ellis was born and raised in Houston’s Sunnyside neighborhood and attended the Texas public school system from grade school through law school. Although he is an attorney, his passion is public service. On November 8, 2016, he was elected Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, which serves approximately 1.1 million people. Previously, he represented a Houston district in the Texas Senate for more than 25 years, and Houston’s District D on the City Council for seven years. Ellis believes the role of government is to ensure that all people have the opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves. As Harris County Commissioner, he is dedicated to providing quality and accessible services and programs that will enhance the lives of the people of Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all Harris County residents. Before joining the Texas Senate in 1990, Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council and as chief of staff to the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Texas Southern University, a



Rodney Ellis



Dar Williams



Chuck Marohn