



ULI Curtner Urban Leadership Program
Program Trip (2022-2023)

Thursday July 27, 2023 (6:45-10:00)

Friday July 28, 2023 (8:00-4:30)

An invitation to enjoy the
JOY experiment
of
The Gaslight District
Kitchener-Waterloo

THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT

“DISRUPTING THE CITY BUILDING PROCESSES WITH JOY”

The Gaslight District is a 1-acre public square with a permanent stage, the largest outdoor video screen this side of just about anywhere, and a 12-month calendar full of free community events.





Philip Beesley – A Canadian architect and artist known for his interdisciplinary approach to sculpture and installation, Philip Beesley creates immersive environments that blur the line between the artificial and the natural. One of his notable works is Meander, a responsive architectural installation that simulates the behavior of a living organism by combining advanced digital technologies with organic materials.



Bruce Mau - World renowned designer of social change, educator and chief executive officer of Massive Change Network, a Chicago-based design consultancy. Bruce, born in Sudbury, is known for his work in defining a new cultural identity for the country of Guatemala and several books including “Massive Change”.



Ken Greenberg – Canada’s most respected urban planner, placemaker and innovative creator of the Brooklyn Bridge Park in NYC and The Bentway in Toronto - a new interactive urban park stretching several kilometers beneath the Gardiner Expressway.



Daily tous les jours - DTLJ is a Montreal design firm that leads an emergent field of practice that combines interactive art, urban design, storytelling and placemaking. They are reinventing how we can live together in the 21st century. Last year, DTLJ’s “Musical Swings” was a cornerstone of the City of Waterloo’s highly successful Lumen Festival.

Cocktail reception outdoors at Gaslight District. A behind the scenes view of the final setup of Gaslight Square before the grand opening on July 28th

Meet and greet with Bruce Mau and Ken Greenberg

A performance of Meander–The world class living architecture sculpture permanently installed within Tapestry Hall with talk by Philip Beesley

Showing of the documentary film MAU-The unlikely story of design visionary Bruce Mau and his ever-optimistic push for massive change

Bruce Mau: The Redesign of WE

Ken Greenberg: The Public Realm within cities–the front lines of change

DTLJ: The Infrastructure of The Human Spirit. The power of play

Gaslight District Tour

Workshop Sessions:

Designing an inclusive Waterloo Region identity with Bruce Mau

Forging partnerships for expanding the public realm with Ken Greenberg

Playing with the fabric of our community with DTLJ

Program:

Thursday July 27, 2023

Opening Evening: An Introduction to Optimism (6:45-10:00)

- Cocktail reception outdoors at Gaslight District. A behind the scenes view of the final setup of Gaslight Square before the grand opening on July 28th.
- Meet and greet with Bruce Mau and Ken Greenberg
- A performance of Meander–The world class living architecture sculpture permanently installed within Tapestry Hall.
- Showing of the documentary film MAU-The unlikely story of design visionary Bruce Mau and his ever-optimistic push for massive change.

Friday July 28

8:00 – 8:45 Coffee, continental breakfast/networking

8:45 – 9:30 Kickoff Session with Paul Born

9:30 – 10:20 Bruce Mau talk: The Redesign of WE

Most of what we experience in the world has been designed by humans—including cities. If we don't like we see, we can change it. But in a deeply divided society, we must first redesign WE into a unified movement. And, that starts with inclusive community identities.

10:20 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:20 Ken Greenberg: The Public Realm within cities—the front lines of change

How we socially gather is changing rapidly. Social infrastructure such as clubs, churches and corner stores have been thinned out. Even shopping malls are in decline. The public realm holds the promise of social congregation, inclusive fun and a sense of connection that can improve mental health—if we prioritize differently

11:20 – 12:10: DTLJ: The Infrastructure of The Human Spirit. The power of play.

The act of playing in groups, even with strangers, is a powerfully complex social act. It creates collaborative and shared experiences. We are vulnerable, united and energized all at once. Could play be the measure of a city's health and prosperity?

12:10 – 1:15 Lunch

81:15 – 2:00 Gaslight District Tour

2:00 – 4:00 Workshop Sessions

Main Hall: Designing an inclusive Waterloo Region identity with Bruce Mau

Tap Room: Forging partnerships for expanding the public realm with Ken Greenberg

Lookout Room: Playing with the fabric of our community with DTLJ

4:00 – 4:30: Closing Remarks – Changing Cities Changes The World

4:30 – An invitation to enjoy the JOY of The Gaslight District

Transportation Options:

Car pool entire trip OR GO Bus + Grand River Transit/Uber:

GOING

Westbound - Square One to Hespler Road @ Pinebush:

Depart 15:50 or 16:50. Arrive 17:04 or 18:04

Then, Grand River Transit bus #51 to Ainslie Terminal and a short walk across river, or Uber.

RETURN

Eastbound - Hespler Road @ Pinebush to Square One:

Bus #51 or Uber to Hespler Road stop. GO bus depart 19:30, 20:30, 21:30, or 22:35. Arrive 21:15, 22:10, 23:20, or 00:10. Transit, Uber, or car pool home from Square One.

Accommodations:

Boutique hotel condos

<https://thelaundryrooms.ca/location/cambridge/>

