

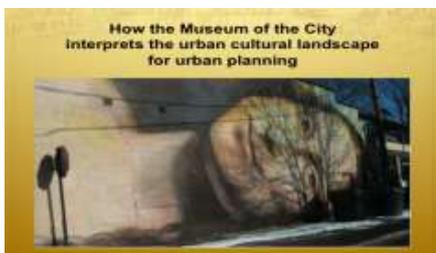


*The City as Seen Through the Eyes of its Citizens*

By informing citizens about their cities, city museums prepare citizens to take the lead in managing the present and planning the future of their cities – and of cities worldwide. City museums connect urban cultures with urban planning. Look at the Museum of the City.



Responsible city museums explain not only their own city, but other cities. Nations claim ethnic, religious or historical identity, often excluding outsiders; cities are more inclusive, and their museums expand understanding of their urban cultural landscape.



City museums should be leading participants in planning their own cities AND other cities worldwide. They do this by serving as the trusted organization where citizens can learn about urban cultural landscapes – the foundation of good urban planning.



The web-based, virtual Museum of the City is cosmopolitan. It is worldly. Look at our galleries. It takes a global view of cities and at their many, diverse features, just as good urban planning must look at the diverse experiences of many cities.



Like encyclopedic museums—the Uffizi, the Louvre, the British Museum, the Smithsonian—the Museum of the City, though small, has a mission to present the large cultural landscape of cities **worldwide**, and a landscape that is broadly **inclusive**.



Ancient cities have much to tell us about contemporary cities, including their plans, design, and culture. When planning cities, you need to understand the depth of their histories. The Museum of the City presents exhibits about ancient cities on all continents.



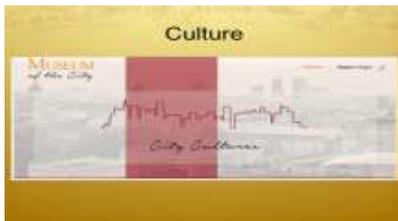
When the Museum of the City looks at ancient cities, we are also looking at what they can tell us about sustaining cities today and tomorrow. We ask: How did cities *yesterday* provide water? Endure natural disasters? Organize their economies? And, plan their own futures?



When citizens plan the future of their cities, where can they get their knowledge? Certainly, they can read books and journals, watch television, and meet planners. But what museums can they visit to help them understand cities? *Ours*, of course!



We know that the cultural landscape of a city is much more than its history, much more than its heritage. What do city museums tell their citizens about the future? The Museum of the City presents as many exhibits about cities of today and tomorrow as of yesterday.



What is the urban cultural landscape that citizens must know, that city museums might exhibit? Street life, celebrations, history, food, health, nature, architecture, and so much more. All things that we must exhibit if we are to help our visitors, our citizens, plan our cities.



Here are the titles of just two of the hundreds of exhibits in the Museum of the City that inform citizens about the culture of cities worldwide. Music is elemental to the cultural landscape. Music explores and explains the rhythm of cities.



The mission of the city museum is to help citizens understand the meaning of cultural landscape. We ask questions: what is art? What is vandalism? What is politics? Here is an exhibit that explores urban graffiti, where the Museum of the City suggests some answers.



Cities are places where innovation has shaped the cultural landscape. In this exhibit, the Museum of the City illustrates how Japanese bullet trains, like those in Europe and Asia, are shaping the connections between cities and reshaping the physical and cultural landscape.



Three years ago, our colleague Layla Betti submitted an exhibit to the Museum of the City on the Clinker Motel, exploring new uses for Trento's industrial space. It illustrated collaboration among CAMOC members as well as innovative urban development.



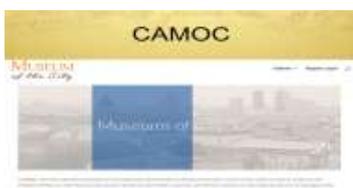
CAMOC founder Ian Jones' exhibit on cycling in London presents a great English cultural landscape on two wheels. Cycling in cities is big business and big for planning. It is also a way to tour the city as a museum itself. As a cyclist, Ian Jones curates his city.



Like other city museums, the Museum of the City describes how cities are changing – by innovation, war, economics, climate change. Citizens want to know how their own cities are changing, and how they can positively effect changes. The Museum shows them examples.



Younger and older elements of cultural landscapes—language, architecture, transportation, even behavior—must be clearly understood. We grow as individuals and as communities, and as museums, when we begin to understand the urban landscape in new ways.



**7.5 seconds** The Museum of the City was created to serve as a collaborative platform for CAMOC museums.



**7.5 seconds** One role of the Museum of the City is to be a web-based access point for other CAMOC member museums.



The Museum of the City can be used to teach classes about cities, about city museums, and about museum studies. It can also be a way to help expand the geographic scope of CAMOC member museums, allowing them to present information to audiences worldwide.



**7.5 seconds** I invite you to create exhibits for the Museum of the City. I would be glad to work with you and your own museum.



**7.5 seconds** I have left cards with my email address. Please write me. THANK YOU!