
**REPORT BACK ON MAYORAL TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE AND
SAN FRANCISCO IN JULY 2012**

1. Purpose of report

To report back on Mayor Wade-Brown's visit to Singapore to attend the World Cities Summit, 1 – 4 July and San Francisco to meet with Mayor Ed Lee, 24 – 27 July 2012.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*

3. Background

As Mayor of Wellington I was invited to attend the World Cities Summit in Singapore. As I was planning to go to England to see family and friends around this time I arranged for my travel to be through Singapore on the way. I also arranged to travel home via San Francisco to investigate opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Wellington and San Francisco as outlined in the Digital Strategy adopted by Council in September 2011.

I paid for all my flights and accommodation in England and San Francisco myself and my hotel accommodation in Singapore was fully funded by the World Cities Summit.

4. Discussion

4.1 Singapore

The overwhelming impression of Singapore is a combination of efficiency with the sense of being in a garden. The open spaces, the sides of flyovers, the reclaimed land is beautifully planted and there are significant plantings in streets, foyers, roofs and walls.

I attended the World Cities Summit on the invitation of the organisers and largely thanks to the encouragement of Justice Rubin, the previous Singapore High Commissioner to New Zealand.

The summit was a terrific opportunity to meet Mayors from around the world. Our common issues included the balance between citizen engagement and traditional civic leadership, traffic management with a view to increasing walking, cycling and public transport, development and retention of “a sense of place” and, for many, pressing matters of water shortages, sewage and waste treatment and air quality. Use of technology to increase engagement, monitor pollution, manage demand and promote vents was pervasive. There was a parallel set of expos and I have brought back material to share with staff.

New York received the Lee Kuan Yew World City prize and it was inspiring to see how modest interventions in street design and reprioritising transport modes made significant and popular improvements. The High Line linear park is a terrific example.

While I was there I met with a small group of New Zealand ex-pats who have businesses in Singapore. They believe Singapore has excellent opportunities but offered a gentle criticism that too many visiting NZ businesses weren't adequately prepared in terms of their research into potential business partners.

I also attended a breakfast meeting held by the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Singapore, where Hon. Steven Joyce delivered a speech on the government's economic development plans. It was useful to update some ex-pats with current Wellington advantages. There is considerable opportunity for both secondary and tertiary education growth for NZ from Singapore. A strong message was that different NZ universities and polytechnics could usefully take a NZ Inc approach overseas. NZTE is working with Education NZ to look at better NZ branding. There are also opportunities for our Destination Wellington initiative to provide up to date Wellington promotional material to institutes based here.

In addition I met with Mr. Rolf Alter, Director of Public Governance and Territorial Development - OECD, and Mr. Joaquim Oliveira-Martins, Head of the Regional Development Policy Division – OECD.

Site visits included an island that serves as their municipal landfill after incineration, a cycling tour of a new suburban development and the Marina Bay gardens. I spent a further couple of days there, exploring the Botanic Gardens including the Orchid Garden, the different quarters and going on the Zoo's Night Safari. There are many attractive pieces of public art and new buildings are individual and generally attractive.

Botanic Gardens

Due to personal friendship with Professor Peter Newman, I was invited to his lecture at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, on “Biophilic Cities” which extended the WCS talk. The concept is that humans need daily contact with nature. Examples of green walls, green roofs, better healing rates with a new green hospital and reduced infrastructure costs were fascinating. Given the increasing urbanisation of the world, the drive to incorporate habitats for other species, rather than regard them as always requiring pristine reserves far away is a great opportunity. WCC, VUW, Zealandia and the Wellington Zoo, among others, are working on the concept here.

Singapore and New Zealand have similar sized populations. Singapore is a gateway to SE Asia and parallel markets to China. As a commonwealth country and a city-state that has developed an advanced economy without significant natural resources, Singapore deserves our attention. They have managed infrastructure development and demand management well – there was little traffic congestion, excellent metro services and the tap water is potable. New urban planning integrates leisure and physical activity with housing and transport. A downside is that significant built heritage has been lost, such as traditional fishing villages.

Appendix One includes a report from the World Cities Summit, reproduced with the permission of the conference organisers.

4.2 San Francisco

Kiwi Landing Pad - KEA Event

I spoke at a KEA event held at Kiwi Landing pad (KLP), which gave me an opportunity to see Kiwi Landing Pad and understand how it works, as well as meet and talk to some of our technology ex-pats about Wellington and promote it as a destination for when they want to head home. They enjoyed the images of Wellington and we were able to emphasise economic opportunities and welcoming attitude.

Kiwi Landing Pad (KLP) is a shared office space that was set up to help New Zealand tech companies establish and grow their business in the USA. It is supported by investors including K1W1 (Stephen Tindall), MOVAC Jasmine (Sam Morgan), Valar (Peter Thiel), and by government through the then Ministry for Science and Innovation.

CEO of KLP is John Holt from Wellington. James Reid is the on-site Manager and he is also runs KEA San Francisco. KLP's current residents include Xero, V-Work, Datacom, Vend, NZTE, Magritek, Streamtime, TranscribeMe, Auckland Uniservices Ltd, SMX, Power by Proxi, The Mako Sytem, EventFinders, Roleplay and BioMatters.

I have subsequently met with John to follow up on strengthening ties between Wellington and San Francisco.

San Francisco Ports

Carbon War Room

I met with Josha Kagan and Murat Armbruster of Carbon War Room.

Joshua and Murat had visited Wellington early last year. At that time I briefed them on the clean tech initiatives being undertaken in Wellington. This was an opportunity to understand what initiatives are underway in Northern California and in particular what financing models are used to fund them.

They talked about progress with the PACE Commercial Consortium that the Carbon War Room team have developed. The PACE Commercial Consortium allows for commercial property owners to pay for energy retrofits through property taxes. The lending, project management and insurance for the programme is managed by the private sector (the city council merely acts as a facilitator). Pilot schemes are now being implemented in Sacramento, California and Miami, Florida.

Note: WCC is actively looking a similar model to PACE. There are legislative barriers that we are looking to address with Government. To date, the PACE model is being investigated in relation to earthquake strengthening but it could be applied to energy retrofits if the legislation allowed for it to do so.

City Officials from the Mayor's Office

I met with Daniel Homsey, Neighbourhood Empowerment Network and Jay Nath, Chief Innovation Officer.

Jay Nath is the Mayor's Chief Innovation Officer. Jay is working with the tech community and the public to "help reinvent government in the digital age". As part of this effort, a partnership announced in 2012 with Code For America's Civic Accelerator to open the doors of government to the tech community to drive new solutions and spin off new businesses.

In 2010, Jay established the nation's first open source software policy for city government, and in the same year authored Open Data Legislation requiring City departments to make all non-confidential datasets under their authority available on DataSF.org, the city's web site for government data. He launched DataSF in August 2009 using open source technology. The initial phase of DataSF includes nearly 200 datasets, from a range of city departments, including Police, Public Works, and the Municipal Transportation Agency. More than 60 software applications have already been created from the City's data and are featured in the DataSF App Showcase. This includes San Francisco Crimespotting, an interactive crime map, EcoFinder, an iPhone app that helps residents recycle, and Routesy, an app that helps people find their way around the Bay Area's transit systems.

Daniel runs the San Francisco Neighbourhood Empowerment Network and is point person on Community Resilience. Daniel updated me on progress with San Francisco's Neighbourhood preparedness initiatives, and in the engagement of tools and resources that can be used at community level to achieve independence. This is where his role works closely with the Chief Innovation Officer role. An example is that they are working together to engage the 'smarts' of the technology community to try to resolve the issue of how the 3000+ homeless in the city can get access to, store and prepare fresh food.

Neighbourhood Empowerment Network operates on the basis that the top down problem solving isn't working and that facilitating collaboration between the people experiencing the issues and others in the city with the ability to solve issues, may be a better way to resolve the city's problems.

AECOM – Central Subway Project

AECOM Technology Corporation was awarded the \$147-million contract to provide program-management services to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for Phase II of its Central Subway project. It is a joint venture with EPC Consultants.

Phase II construction began in 2010 with service to the public expected to start in 2016. Once this phase is complete, the subway will extend from AT&T Park to North Beach, passing under San Francisco's famous Chinatown. Phase III of the project is expected to take the subway through North Beach to Fisherman's Wharf.

AECOM presented on the progress of the project, and most interestingly stated that seismic issues have not been a big factor in their planning. Their experience has been that well designed tunnels typically perform well in a seismic event.

Mayor Ed Lee

Mayor Edwin M. Lee, 60, was sworn in on January 8, 2012 as the 43rd Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. He is the first Asian-American mayor in San Francisco history.

Mayor Lee is focusing on economic development and job creation, taking responsibility for building San Francisco's future, taking responsibility for helping each other and making City government more responsive, efficient and accountable through innovation and technology.

Mayor Prendergast visited San Francisco in 2008 and discussed a sister-city relationship with the then Mayor, Gavin Newsom. The sister city relationship did not proceed, but we entered into a Digital Cities agreement with San Francisco instead. As this relationship is not run as part of our formal international management, the agreement appears not to have been given much attention. There is strong support for a closer relationship from a number of businesses and individuals here, both Kiwis and ex-pat Americans as well as the current

The Mayor indicated that they are happy to start discussing a stronger relationship with Wellington based on the many similarities we noted:

- high numbers of technology companies, especially new apps, use of Cloud
- film and animation
- ethnic diversity
 - their first peoples, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, are few in number but offer possible connections for tangata whenua relationship – Maori are internationally respected for leadership in indigenous issues.
 - SF's significant Chinese population and our Chinese New Year celebrations
- Socially and politically liberal views
- Strongly expressed concern for climate change, biodiversity loss and other environmental issues

- a vocal GLBTI sector
- well regarded tertiary sector
- earthquake vulnerability, engineering knowledge and community resilience initiatives
- great wine and food
- creative communities
- institutions of creative status e.g. SF's MOMA and our Te Papa
- world renowned events
- walkable cities
- bays and hills
- ports and people-focussed waterfront
- a harbour cycleway, mixing urban areas and parks, connected by ferries
- marine reserves
- water sports – kayak, kitesurfing, ocean swimming, sailing etc
- maritime climate
- even similar city colours (SF colours are black and gold)

This year is a really special opportunity because of the visibility New Zealand will get from the America's Cup Race in 2013. There will be a significant NZ presence on the waterfront.

There are real opportunities to connect, offering Wellington a stronger connection with the West Coast of America. Auckland's sister city is Los Angeles.

I have written to Mayor Lee proposing that our officers work together to establish what that stronger relationship should be and what activities it might entail with the intention of gaining advice on whether a sister city relationship is mutually beneficial and whether that should be put to our respective Council's early next year.

sf.citi

I met with Director of External Affairs, Jeremy Wallenberg and Principal, Alex Tourk.

San Francisco Citizens Initiative for Technology and Innovation (sf.citi) was created to leverage the power of the technology community around civic action in San Francisco. sf.citi supports innovative policies and works collaboratively with government to find new solutions to historic problems facing San Francisco, and consolidate a voice in promotion of tech sector interests and growth.

sf.citi currently partners with over 280 member companies and organizations.

Since its inception in January 2012, sf.citi has been working on the following initiatives:

- Creating Jobs and Promoting San Francisco's Tech Sector
- Payroll Tax Reform
- San Francisco Tech Employment Data Aggregation & Analysis

- TECHcurriculum2.0: Education Innovation and Job Creation in San Francisco
- ChinaSF
- SF Code Sprint+ Virtual Hackathon
- Collaborative Consumption Working Group: The Sharing Economy
- HireSF: Encouraging Member Companies to Hire locally
- The Future Graduates Program
- Women and Girls Leadership Summit- May 31
- College Track + SummerQ&A Connection
- SF Mayor's Summer Jobs+ Corporate Challenge
- San Francisco Age & Disability Technology Summit - City Hall Event

SPUR

I met with Cory Marshall, Good Government Policy Director at SPUR. SPUR is a think-tank that promotes good planning and good government in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Corey Marshall is responsible for promoting an effective, well-managed public sector and nurturing a climate of civic engagement throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. His work includes research and advocacy, policy development, and engaging SPUR members and partners to provide strategic pro bono consulting assistance to help improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and governance of local government.

SPUR does a couple of things that could be interesting in a Wellington context:

Urban Centre Gallery

On the ground floor of their Urban Centre SPUR has a gallery space that is used to host exhibitions that examine issues encompassing city planning, urban design, public policy and the built environment. These exhibitions aim to address challenges and propose new points of view.

Good Government

SPUR uses their own expertise and brings together experts from within the city's best advisory & technical organisations to help the Administration in the following priority areas:

- Building an informed, engaged citizenry
- Promoting government as a force for social change
- Creating an effective public sector

They are currently undertaking a number of good government projects including:

- Ballot Analysis
- The Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee
- Annual Economic Outlook Briefing
- Good Government Awards Program
- Ballot Reform Task Force and Coalition

They host 2-3 public events per week to talk about things that have no other forum for discussion, e.g., affordable housing, public transport funding. They have expressed an interest in connecting with the Wellington Civic Trust or similar organisation as part of a stronger relationship between San Francisco and Wellington.

Anthony Mosse

Anthony is Honorary Consulate General for New Zealand in San Francisco.

Anthony is very supportive of Wellington's investigation into a stronger relationship with San Francisco and is happy to help as much as he is able.

We have also got a very strong supporter of the relationship in the Los Angeles Consulate General, Leon Grice. Leon has only been in the role a couple of weeks but has made contact to confirm his support.

Google

I met with Stephen Stuart, Alex Kozak and Josh Bailey at Google.

Stephen is Principal Engineer at Google and is a steering Committee member of MLab (a distributed server platform for measurement of internet).

Alex is Policy Associate at Google Public Policy. Google has recently established a policy advisor position in Wellington (Ross Young) and there have been signals from the NZ government that they are looking to work with Google to develop technology solutions to public sector issues. I have met with Ross and their policy goals for New Zealand align well with our Digital Strategy goals.

Stephen and Alex are keen that we encourage better internet operation in Wellington and New Zealand, particularly with respect to peering and 'real' speed with the aim of being able to support ubiquitous video. This is something that we have signalled we will look at in the Digital Strategy and plan to start next year.

Alex provided a short tour of the Google complex following the meeting.

Mayor Yiaway Yeh, Palo Alto

I met with Mayor Yeh, Councillor Patrick Burt, Economic Development Manager Thomas Fehrenbach and CIO Jonathan Reichental at the City of Palo Alto.

Palo Alto has served as an incubator city to several high-technology companies, such as Apple Inc., Google, Facebook, Logitech, Intuit, Sun Microsystems, Pinterest, and PayPal. Organisations often move on as they grow and need more office space than the small city (around 64k residents) can provide.

Palo Alto is an incubator for clean technology and green economic development. The City of Palo Alto utilities has programs to reduce greenhouse gas production. In addition, long-term plans exist to increase the percentage of renewable energy in the electric and gas portfolio, increase recycled water use, and enhance customer involvement in efficiency and renewable energy programs.

They have recently closed their landfill and entered into an agreement with other cities. They now have partial sorting with hybrid 75 – 80% diversion. They are investigating dry anaerobic digestion for food/waste/water sludge.

Palo Alto has live video feed of its meetings through 3 fixed cameras in the chamber. The video is managed, edited and produced by the MidPen Media Centre, a not-for-profit organisation that provides community media (production) training.

The city administration was seen as at the forefront of local government technology when, similar to Wellington, it rolled out fiber well ahead of other cities.

Code for America

I met with Joel Mahoney, Tech Strategist & Evangelist and Lauren Dyson, Community Coordinator.

Code for America is a non-partisan, non-political organisation founded in 2009 to bring web-industry professionals to work with city governments in the United States in order to promote openness, participation, and efficiency in municipal governments.

Code for America runs a fellowship program that connects developers and designers to local government. They also provide seed funding, office space, and mentorship to civic startups.

Under the fellowship program, a city partners with a team of five web programmer and/or designers selected for the fellowship. Over 11 months, the fellows and city government collaborate to develop a web application to solve a civic problem identified by the city in their project proposals. The completed applications are released as open-source for any city government to use or adapt.

5. Conclusion

The trip was very positive. The World Cities Summit in Singapore provided a good opportunity to learn from other cities and showcase Wellington to a number of city leaders from around the world and the San Francisco element was both informative and strengthened our relationship with the city administration.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

The policy supports Council's overall vision of Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital. The policy supports Council activities as internationally connected capital .

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

New Zealand's Maori culture is a significant benefit in developing overseas relationships.

4) Decision-making

This is a report back not a decision although future directions are explored.

5) Consultation

N/A

6) Legal implications

N/A.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This is a report back on an overseas trip agreed in April 2012. It has implications for redevelopment of our international relations policy.

World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2012: Largest-ever Gathering of City Leaders



On 1 July 2012, over 90 mayors from 93 cities/provinces discussed challenges and innovative solutions related to building liveable cities and fostering harmonious communities at the WCS Mayors Forum, a key highlight of the World Cities Summit (WCS). The forum, which was themed “Liveable and Sustainable Cities”, was chaired by Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State for National Development and Trade & Industry. Mr Lee highlighted four Cs as hallmarks of well-planned and sustainable urban development:

- **Courage** to do the right things and take risks, sometimes against public opinion
- **Capacity** of municipalities in terms of organisation, financial resources and competence
- **Continuity** to ensure consistency of policy
- **Community** engagement to connect residents and seek public support

City leaders echoed Mr Lee’s sentiments about the importance of continuity of strategic plans and policies and the need to take a long-term view. They also shared the need to involve all stakeholders such as government, civic organisations, academia and the private sector to discuss socio-economic issues in relation to transparency and trade-offs in the planning process. Compact cities, rather than sprawling cities, represent a good model for achieving economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability as they promote connectivity and mobility. Lastly, officials agreed that community engagement is required to build trust between people and the government through feedback and ideas from residents.

Held for the third year, the WCS Mayors Forum 2012 saw a more diverse gathering of mayors with a threefold increase in participation from 2011. It was the largest gathering ever of top city leaders from around the world, and half of the attendees were new participants from ASEAN, Africa, South America, India and Russia. Also present were dozens of leaders and experts from international organisations such as the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN-Habitat, and Asian Development Bank.

APPENDIX ONE

Concluding the half-day session, Mr Lee said, “The challenges facing governors and mayors today are many. Every city is different and based on its needs, priorities and stages of development, it requires customised solutions. With our collective wisdom distilled in this forum, I hope we can continue to interact as a group by mutual visits and bilateral communications beyond the physical and time limit of this forum. Singapore remains committed to this process of mutual learning and exchange of views. I invite all to continue to visit Singapore so that we can further our bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of sustainable development.”

Commenting on how the forum is an excellent platform for sharing innovative ideas, Trac Thai Sieng, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh Municipality, said, “Phnom Penh faces a pressing challenge of providing 10,000 new housing units annually. We expanded the capital, built six satellite cities and more high-rise buildings to meet the housing needs of our growing population. This is the third time we are attending the Mayors Forum and hearing from the various mayors on how they solved the public housing challenges in their various cities had provided useful ideas for us in planning for our city.”

Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, Canada, said, “The natural setting of Vancouver informs every aspect of planning, design and liveability in our city. The boldness of policy-making allows us to strive for an ever better city, focusing on sustainability and liveability, with the goal of becoming the world’s greenest city by 2020.”

To capture and share best practices from participating cities, the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) provided the event’s participants with a publication titled *City Portraits*. In addition, city leaders who wish to remain in touch with their peers or solution providers after the forum can do so via a new virtual network called Connect@WCS.

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During the event Mr Lee announced that next year’s WCS Mayors Forum will be held in Bilbao, Spain. The city was the winner for the inaugural Lee Kuan YewWorld City Prize in 2010. Mr Lee said, “Bilbao City Hall has been instrumental in regenerating and transforming the city of Bilbao from an obsolete and dilapidated industrial city into a knowledge-based economy. The success of Bilbao is largely attributed to its integrated and holistic approach to achieve economic, social and physical transformations. I am sure we will learn a lot from the experience of Bilbao. And the best way to learn is to go and see for ourselves what they have done.” The WCS Mayors Forum will return to Singapore in 2014.

Greg Clark, Chairman of the OECD LEED Forum and Senior Fellow at the Urban Land Institute, who was also the moderator for the forum, said, “Over the years, the WCS Mayors Forum has gradually evolved and established itself as one of the most important platforms in the world for city leaders to come together to discuss urban issues. Next year’s session at Bilbao will elevate the forum to another level.”

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LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE LECTURE 2012

The Prize Lecture is one of the key highlights at the [World Cities Summit 2012](#). Delivered by the [Laureate](#), it is a platform that celebrates the Laureate's achievements in the creation of liveable, vibrant, and sustainable urban communities with a high quality of life.

“Government plays an important role, but it’s the people who will ensure this initiative continues after this mayor and this administration leave office.”

– Commissioner of Parks & Recreation Adrian Benepe, on PlaNYC

Transforming New York City

The biennial Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize was awarded to New York City in 2012 for its remarkable transformation over the past decade. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the city’s Departments of Transportation, City Planning, and Parks and Recreation were recognised for their outstanding contribution towards making New York a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city. At his acceptance speech in March 2012 in Singapore, Mayor Bloomberg said, “Receiving the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is not only a great honour, it is an affirmation of our vision for New York as a global leader of sustainable development and innovative public spaces.”

RELATED LINKS

[Award Ceremony & Banquet 2012](#)

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[2012 Prize Laureate: City of New York](#)

During the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Lecture, Adrian Benepe, New York City's Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, detailed how this vision is embodied in PlaNYC, New York's sustainability agenda. "As an action oriented agenda, it addresses the city and its potential and includes solutions for improving our air quality, upgrading our energy infrastructure, reducing water pollution, cleaning up contaminated land and creating more affordable and sustainable housing."

Amongst PlaNYC's goals are the planting of one million new trees, making streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians, and ensuring that every resident lives no more than a 10-minute walk from a park. Progress has been encouraging, with 600,000 trees planted and the development of over 400 kilometres of new bike lanes.

New parks, including the High Line, developed on a 1.5 kilometre-long unused elevated railway track, and Brooklyn Bridge Park, are transforming New York's public spaces. Based on sustainable design principles, these parks are rejuvenating once abandoned waterfront areas and making use of innovative technologies and recycled materials.

Mr Benepe stressed that PlaNYC was developed in a very public process, and that this is part of its strength and durability. He noted, "We have many big problems to solve. Government plays an important role, but it's the people who will ensure this initiative continues after this mayor and this administration leave office."

This article was adapted from Solutions Issue 3 July 2012, a World Cities Summit Show Daily. Writer: Steinar Cramer. Read the full issue [here](#).

Presentations

- ***Building a Greener and Greater New York City for the 21st Century*** ([Presentation slides](#))
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation