City leadership and place-making: lessons from abroad

Robin Hambleton
Professor of City Leadership, University of the West of England, Bristol and Director, Urban Answers
OUR URBANISING WORLD

Cities are the key drivers of change in modern society
Leading the inclusive city: a new book
Key themes in ‘Leading the Inclusive City’

• Societies, including cities, are becoming more unequal

• Place-less power has grown too much

• Place-based power needs to be boosted as a corrective

• Place-based leadership can create world-leading urban environments

• Inspiring Innovation Stories from 17 cities in 14 countries illustrate the argument
## Innovation Stories in ‘Leading the Inclusive City’

There are seventeen Innovation Stories in *Leading the Inclusive City*:

1) New York City  
2) Bristol  
3) Chicago  
4) Swindon  
5) Enschede  
6) Langrug  
7) Auckland  
8) Malmo  
9) Curitiba  
10) Guangzhou  
11) Freiburg  
12) Copenhagen  
13) Melbourne  
14) Hamamatsu  
15) Toronto  
16) Portland  
17) Ahmedabad
SUCCESSFUL PLACE-BASED LEADERSHIP
“Our planners lack the courage to bring our cities back to life”

The Age, June 1978
MELBOURNE MAKEOVER
MELBOURNE - CARS OUT, PEOPLE IN
FREIBURG – GOING GREEN
HIGH QUALITY URBAN DESIGN
IMAGINATIVE CITY PLANNING
FRAMING THE POWER OF PLACE
REALMS OF PLACE BASED LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION ZONES IN THE MODERN CITY
PLACE BASED LEADERSHIP IN CONTEXT
A PROCESS MODEL OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP
An elevated railway in Manhattan became disused in 1980.

In 2001 City Hall decided to demolish it.

The local community had other ideas and grassroots leadership managed to reverse the decision.
THE HIGH LINE – A PARK IN THE SKY
The High Line is now recognised as one of the most successful public spaces in the world
Lessons for policy and practice

• Place-less power is almost out of control

• Place-based power must be strengthened

• Successful countries understand this but the UK does not

• Effective place-based leadership involves leaders from the five realms of civic leadership working closely together

• Strong place-based leadership can create world-leading urban environments

• Property values go up when leaders deliver a very high quality public realm
THANK YOU