

Innovation Plazas, Project Factsheet

With 100 people from 10 cities across the USA and Latin America, the UREx SRN has a lot of moving parts. The goal of Innovation Plazas is to set up discussion spaces to address a core question: what needs to change in how cities approach resilience? Your answers – as practitioners, researchers, and city change-makers – will help support network-wide learning, capacity-building, and innovation.

Building networked capacity for transforming future cities

Innovation Plazas are intended to help respond to certain identified needs for:

- greater network connectivity and coordination
- different spaces for collective learning and knowledge sharing
- exploring researcher-practitioner collaboration through critical inquiry

What is an innovation plaza? In many cities, especially in Latin American and the Caribbean, plazas are part of the urban imaginary – a public space for expressing collective aspirations through dialogue, deliberation, and creativity. We thought it an appropriate name for where we come together in new ways that push beyond the current working groups and task forces, often in conversation with expertise from outside the SRN.

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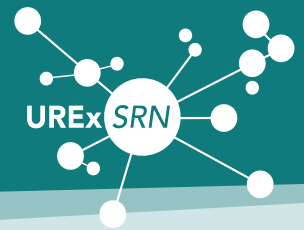
Innovation Plazas can take on different forms – **virtual workshops, webinars, panel discussions, on-site skill development workshops, blog entries and podcasts**

– offering a suite of creative processes for collective inquiry and intervention (sessions can be recorded for later streaming on demand). Upcoming innovation plazas include:

- + **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** why do these terms matter for UREx scenario workshop planning? Moderated by Kristin Baja, Robert Hobbins, and Matt Feagan. Sept 14, 10:45am-12pm MST, at Arizona State University, Wrigley Hall 481.



- + **Financing Urban Resilience in a Climate of Fiscal Restraint:** what needs to change in how we're approaching infrastructure finance to increase urban resilience? Moderated by Joyce Coffee, with guests Shalini Vajjhala and Stacy Swan. Oct 18, 12-1pm MST, by Vidyo link.
- + **Practitioner Reflections on Scenario Planning.** What are scenario cities (San Juan, New York, Valdivia) learning from their experiences? With Cristóbal Lamarca, Shaun Williams, and Ingrid Vila. Date TBS, by Vidyo.
- + **The Future Cities** podcasts with interviews, discussions, and 'dispatches' from graduate students, practitioners, and the general public across our network cities
 - Introductory episode: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/future-cities/id1285788731?mt=2>
 - Urban resilience and social equity to be released October 1 2017
 - And more...
- + Other Innovation Plazas are in planning around themes of equity, green infrastructure, updating codes & standards, FEMA flood maps, asset management, and more..



About the Urban Resilience to Extreme Events Sustainability Research Network (UREx SRN)

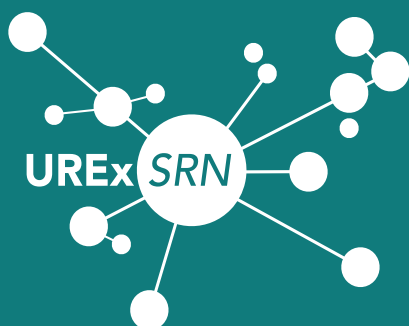
The Urban Resilience to Extreme Events Sustainability Research Network (UREx SRN) is a multi-city project funded through the National Science Foundation. Starting in 2015, the goal of the UREx SRN project is to enhance urban resilience of coupled social, ecological, and built infrastructure systems in the face of rising challenges to cities from global climate change. The UREx SRN includes ten cities from Latin America and the United States that are impacted by coastal storms, flooding, drought, and/or heat waves. The network brings together a rich array of researchers from universities in the North and in the South, as well as a variety of city-level practitioners, members of civil society, and residents.



UREx SRN CITIES

- [Baltimore, Maryland](#)
- [Hermosillo, México](#)
- [Mexico City, México](#)
- [Miami, Florida](#)
- [New York, New York](#)
- [Phoenix, Arizona](#)
- [Portland, Oregon](#)
- [San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)
- [Syracuse, New York](#)
- [Valdivia, Chile](#)

Participating Institutions & Organizations



UREx SRN's Mission

Our mission is to link scholars with city and community practitioners to produce resilient infrastructure data, models, images, maps, stories, and on-the-ground projects in 10 cities, to accelerate innovative urban sustainability knowledge and application.