

Cairo 5–7 November 2015

Universities and their Neighborhoods

An AUC-AUB Conversation

Program

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Introduction

Urban universities in the Arab world, like their counterparts around the world, possess intellectual and economic resources that can be channeled to make a positive difference to their 'place.' In the wake of the Arab uprisings, many institutions in this region are asking how they can contribute to the wider social good beyond their distinctive mission to educate the next generation of citizens.

The question is not just about meaningful engagement but how an urban university might play a potentially transformative role in its neighborhood and city.

The aim of the meeting is two-fold: to raise awareness in Egypt about urban universities and their roles in their neighborhoods and cities, and to recommend specific next steps for AUC and AUB. The symposium will have two parts: a public keynote address and panel discussion, and a smaller two-day "ideas lab."

For the public opening event, at 6pm on Thursday November 5th, Hilary Pennington, Vice-President for Education, Creativity and Free

Expression at the Ford Foundation in New York, will give the keynote address, followed by a panel composed of leading Egyptian government, academic and business leaders.

The smaller ideas lab will take place over two days, Friday November 6th and Saturday November 7th. The ideas lab format encourages the intensive discussion of cases studies and the generation of creative solutions to their challenges.

The ideas lab will consider three dramatically different cases: the 'old campus' of AUC at Tahrir Square in central Cairo; the new campus of AUC in New Cairo, a developing desert suburb to the east of the city; and the walled campus of AUB in Ras Beirut, a gentrifying neighborhood overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Beirut, Lebanon.

Ideas lab participants will include a team AUC and other Egyptian scholars, planners and activists; a team from AUB composed of leaders of Neighborhood Initiative projects, all of whom reside in Ras Beirut; and a number of international resource persons who bring the best current thinking about urban community development and university-neighborhood engagement.

Thematic lenses

Each case will be considered through four themes and associated questions.

Theme 1 **Rationale for neighborhood engagement**

- What does the university want from its neighborhood?
- What does the neighborhood want, in general, and from the university?

Theme 2 **The edge: physical, social and economic relationships between campus and neighborhood**

- How does the physical design of the campus encourage or hinder connections?
- How do members of the university community (faculty, staff, students, hospital patients) 'use' the neighborhood, and how could this be strengthened for mutual benefit?

Theme 3 **The external context: legal frameworks and planning and building regulations**

- What national and local laws shape current physical and economic development in the city?
- What national laws constrain AUB and AUC as foreign entities in Beirut and Cairo, and how precisely?
- How might the legal, planning and regulatory contexts be employed constructively for positive change in the universities' neighborhoods? Which tools could be deployed?

Theme 4 **Ingredients for a university anchor strategy**

- Do the university's core values, mission and organizational structure embody engagement with the neighborhood?
- What is the status quo in terms of university-neighborhood relations?
- What institutional set up is required for the university to have a place-based, comprehensive and institutionally-embedded strategy vis à vis its neighborhood(s)?

Schedule

Thursday
November

5

Tour, Keynote and Reception

10:00 am	Walking tour of Tahrir Square and downtown led by Mona Abaza
6:00 pm	Public keynote by Hillary Pennington followed by panel discussion: Lisa Anderson, Omar Blaik, and Deputy Governors Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir
8:00 pm	Reception

Friday
November

6

Preserving a just/livable/diverse city Focus on AUB and AUC Tahrir **Ideas Lab** AUC Tahrir Square

8:30 am	Coffee
9:00 am	Overview and international cases – Session Chair: Alex Feldman Overview on anchor strategies (Omar Blaik) Case One - University of Chicago: William Towns Case Two - Tecnológico de Monterrey: Dennis Pieprz
10:00 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am	Presentations of AUC Tahrir and AUB background research – Session Chair: Omar Blaik AUB Background: Souheir Mabsout and Cynthia Myntti AUC Tahrir Background: Magda Mostafa
12:00 noon	Friday prayers and lunch
2:00 pm	AUB and Ras Beirut case – Session Chair: Alex Feldman Round table discussion
4:00 pm	Coffee Break
4:30 – 6:30 pm	AUC Tahrir Square case – Session Chair: Carol Coletta Round table discussion
8:00 pm	Dinner at the Cairo Capital Club

Saturday
November

7

Creating a just/livable/diverse city Focus on AUC New Cairo **Ideas Lab, held at AUC New Cairo (CVC P022)**

9:00 am	Tour of New Cairo adjacent to AUC led by Khaled Tarabieh
10:30 am	Reflections on the previous day: Omar Blaik
11:00 am	Coffee break
11:15 am	Presentation of AUC New Cairo background research: Khaled Abdelhalim
11:45 am	AUC New Cairo - The original vision for the new campus: <i>Dennis Pieprz, Magda Mostafa, and Ashraf Salloum</i>

1:00 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm	AUC New Cairo case: Scenarios for engagement – Session Chair: Alex Feldman Round table discussion
3:45 pm	Coffee break
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Wrap up – Session Chairs: Carol Coletta and Alex Feldman Closing Remarks by Lisa Anderson

Team of Egypt

Khaled Abdelhalim

Khaled Abdelhalim, PhD is an Assistant Professor of urban policy in the Public Policy and Administration Department at AUC. He is also the director of the Local Development Observatory at the Local Administration Reform Unit in the Ministry of Local Development. His research interests include informality, participatory development, local governance and local administration reform. Khaled is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Sahar Attia

Sahar Attia, PhD is a Professor of Architecture and Urban Design. She is currently the Head of the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. Her specializations include participatory approaches in urban development and strategic planning, community development, urban regeneration, upgrading of informal areas and governance.

Hajer Awatta

Hajer Awatta, MSc is an urban researcher with particular interest in urban policies and the sustainable development of city centers. She is a senior researcher in TADAMUN: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative. She recently received her MSc in sustainable development from the AUC. Hajer is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Salma Belal

Salma Belal, Arch is an urban researcher and teaching assistant in the Architecture and Urban Design Program at the German University in Cairo. She has worked as an architect on various intervention projects related to urban upgrading and participatory-based architecture, where

she co-organized and participated in community workshops, conducted research fieldwork, and proposed design solutions. Salma is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Clarisa Bencomo

Clarisa Bencomo is Program Officer for Governance in the Ford Foundation's MENA office. Her grant making encourages innovative state-society partnerships for dignified urban living through improved planning and budgeting; research and capacity-building to advance accountability for service provision; and documentation of urban policies and practices that are inclusive of refugees.

Mohamed Elshahed

Mohamed Elshahed, Phd is an architect, independent researcher and writer. He is the founder and editor of Cairoobserver. After studying architecture at NJIT and MIT, he obtained his doctoral degree from the Middle East Studies Department at NYU. His dissertation titled Revolutionary Modernism? Architecture and the Politics of Transition in Egypt, 1936-1967, is currently under translation by the National Center for Translation to be published in Arabic.

May El-Ibrashy

May El-Ibrashy, PhD is the Chair of Egyptian NG, the Built Environment Collective, an architectural hub with a program of public talks in addition to research and community development projects in partnership with its consultation and implementation arm, Megawra (www.megawra.com); director of al-Athar Lina, a participatory initiative integrating conservation and development in Historic Caro (www.atharlina.com); an adjunct lecturer of architecture at AUC.

Moushira Elgeziri

Moushira Elgeziri, PhD has worked on higher education issues in the Ford Foundation's MENA office. Her grant making has focused on advancing social justice in higher education institutions in the Middle East and North Africa, and providing scholars with opportunities for learning and public engagement that prepare them to influence social policy and become powerful advocates for social change.

Sina Hbous

Assistant Director, Gerhart Centre, AUC

Mohamed El Mikawi

Mohamed El Mikawi, PhD joined Al Futtaim Group Real Estate – Egypt in 2008 as the Managing Director for the development of Cairo Festival City. Before joining Al Futtaim he was the General Manager of Aga Khan Cultural Services Egypt from 2000 to 2008. He is also an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Engineering – Ain Shams University since 1998.

Abdelhalim Ibrahim

Abdelhalim Ibrahim, PhD is the Principal of Abdelhalim Community Design Collaborative (CDC), a private architectural/planning and community development consultancy firm.

Barbara Lethem Ibrahim

Barbara Lethem Ibrahim, PhD is founding director of the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement (2006-2014) at the American University in Cairo, currently Advisor to the President, AUC. She currently supports the Alliance of Arab Universities for Civic Engagement, and serves on the Board of Directors of Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) and the International Center for Non-Profit Law.

Kareem Ibrahim

Kareem Ibrahim, Arch is the co-founder of Takween Integrated Community Development and has been working on a range of issues including participatory planning and urban revitalization throughout Egypt with a number of local and international organizations. He is also the Co-Leader of TADAMUN: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative aiming

at encouraging citizens to claim their Right to the City.

Hussam Salama

Hussam Salama, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the German University in Cairo. His research focuses on urban transformation in the Middle East during the era of globalization with emphasis on new trends of development. He also investigates the nature of public spaces in cities across the region and their role in promoting socio-political discourse.

Ashraf Salloum

Ashraf Salloum, Arch has more than 33 years of experience in architectural programming, design and planning. He joined the American University in Cairo in 1990. In 1999, he became the design and planning manager of the AUC new campus project – 2009 ULI Award for Excellence. Salloum has been the head of Architectural Design Department at EHAF Consulting Engineers since May 2014.

Amr Shalakany

Amr Shalakany, PhD is associate professor of law and founding director of the Law & Society Research Unit at the AUC. He served earlier as founding director of the LLM degree program.

Christina Jimenez Mattsson

Christina Jimenez Mattsson, Dipl. Ing. Architecture Technical University Berlin, is a consultant in public planning processes. She currently works at the AUC. In her research and teaching she focuses on regional identity and neighbourly cooperation. As a member of Jugend-Architektur-Stadt e.V. she develops participatory strategies and workshop formats for municipalities. Christina is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Brian Mac Dougall

Brian Mac Dougall is the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance at the AUC. His responsibilities include the planning and management of all University facilities and campus services. Mr. MacDougall has worked in university administration for thirty years in Canada and Egypt and has had previous experience in aligning University campuses within their community settings.

Susan Morris

Events and Venue Director, The GrEEK Campus

Magda Mostafa

Magda Mostafa, PhD is an Associate Professor of Architecture at AUC and Design Associate at Progressive Architects, Cairo. Her research interests include design pedagogy, informal urbanism and special needs design. She is co-author of "Learning from Cairo" (www.learningfromcairo.org) and has developed the Juxtopolis[®] Pedagogy which she follows in her studio at AUC. Magda is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Omar Nagati

Omar Nagati, Arch is a Co-Founder of CLUSTER (Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research) (www.cluster-cairo.org).

Nagati adopts an interdisciplinary approach to questions of urban history and design, and engages in a comparative analysis of urbanization in developing countries.

Khaled Tarabieh

Khaled Tarabieh, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Design at AUC. He is a LEED AP with expertise in high performance building design. In addition to the academic work, he has fifteen years experience as a professional architect and project manager in the US. Khaled is part of the AUC Neighborhood research team.

Team from Lebanon

Maria Bashshur Abunnasr

Maria Bashshur Abunnasr, PhD History (Massachusetts Amherst), is a research associate at the Neighborhood Initiative and an oral historian at the American University of Beirut. Her forthcoming book, *We Are In this Together; The Ras Beirut Oral History Project* captures a sense of place through interviews with Ras Beirut's oldest generation.

Victor Araman

Victor Araman, PhD in Operations Research (Stanford University), is an Associate Professor at the Olayan school of business at AUB. Before that, he was a full time faculty at Stern, NYU. His research appeared in leading academic journals. He worked for Altera Corp. and McKinsey & Co. and consulted for many companies in the US and the MENA region.

Dalia Chabarek

Dalia Chabarek, coordinator of the Neighborhood Initiative. In 2012, she received her MSc in Urban Development Planning from University College London, following a BA in Sociology and Anthropology from AUB in 2010. She is an active member of the Civil Campaign to Protect the Dalieh of Raouché.

Isam Kaysi

Isam Kaysi, PhD in Transportation Systems (MIT), is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at AUB. He is widely published, and serves on editorial boards of several prestigious international journals. He co-founded in 2005 SETS International, a regional engineering and management consultancy with offices in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and KSA.

Mona Khechen

Mona Khechen, PhD in Design (Harvard University), is a consultant on urban development and planning, a senior lecturer in landscape architecture at AUB, and a research associate at the Neighborhood Initiative leading the "Gentrification and Urban Change in Ras Beirut" research. She is a member of the Civil Campaign to protect Dalieh of Raouché.

Souheir Mabsout

Souheir Assi Mabsout, MArch in Urban Design from the University of Texas at Austin, led the Campus Master Plan study and was the head of the Planning and Design division at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is a consultant on housing studies for AUB, and an active member of the Civil Campaign to protect Dalieh of Raouché.

Cynthia Mynntti

Cynthia Mynntti has had a relationship with Ras Beirut since she was a student at AUB 1972-1974. She is Professor of Public Health Practice, and has directed the Neighborhood Initiative since it was launched at AUB in 2007. Cynthia is an anthropologist (PhD LSE) and architect (M Arch Yale), with training in public health (MPH Johns Hopkins).

International Resource Persons

Omar Blaik

CEO, U3 Advisors, Philadelphia, USA

As CEO of U3 Advisors, Omar Blaik leads advisory efforts working with university leaders, governments, non-profit foundations, and developers to provide expertise on institutional anchor strategies, economic development, and place-based real estate strategy. Prior to founding U3 Advisors, Omar served as the Senior Vice President of Facilities and Real Estate at the University of Pennsylvania.

Carol Coletta

Vice-President, Community and National Initiatives, Knight Foundation, Miami, USA

Carol Coletta, who joined Knight Foundation in 2013, is an expert on the development of cities. She was founding director of ArtPlace, a unique public-private collaboration to accelerate creative placemaking. Coletta was president of CEOs for Cities, a national network of urban leaders. She also served as executive director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design.

Deborah Cullinan

CEO, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA

Deborah's work combines the practice of contemporary art and urban community development. She was previously Executive Director of San Francisco's Intersection for the Arts. She is a founder of ArtsForum-SF, and a member of the Board of California Arts Advocates, Californians for the Arts, MissionHub, and the Community Arts Stabilization Trust.

Alex Feldman

Vice-President, U3Advisors, Philadelphia USA

Since joining U3 in 2009, Alex has managed successful Anchor Institution economic development strategies in Midtown, Detroit; Memphis, Tennessee and Chula Vista, California. He also led U3's engagement with AUB. Alex studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and urbanism at the London School of Economics.

Dennis Pieprz

Principal, Sasaki Associates, Boston USA

Dennis plays a leading role in Sasaki's planning and design practice. Educated at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, he has led and participated in remarkable teams that have been honored with more than 50 design awards. Dennis has been inducted as an Honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and served as the President of Sasaki Associates from 2004 until 2011.

William Towns

Assistant Vice President, Neighborhood Initiatives, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA

William W. Towns is an Assistant Vice President within the Office of Civic Engagement and leads the department's anchor strategy. William is an alumnus of both the Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, as well as the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business. William is currently a Ph.D. candidate in organization development at Benedictine University, with a research focus on how University's organizational structures support and impede their ability to be civically engaged.

Notes

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Credits

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