



CitiesToday
Institute

Membership Charter
Innovation





Objectives and Aims of the Institute

The mission of the Cities Today Institute (CTI) is to assist cities and regions to prepare for a livable, sustainable and resilient future by defining and implementing effective innovation strategies. CTI embraces this role by putting current community leaders at the heart of any engagement or program. As such, the CTI agenda is articulated “by cities and for cities”, in partnership with academia, industry and civil society.

Becoming a member of the Cities Today Institute is a position of trust whereby the Institute Leadership and its members agree to collaborate as a peer-to-peer network to promote a shared vision, common values and mutual objectives.

Guiding principles

The Cities Today Institute and its members agree to abide by the following principles:

1. **Inclusion.** Every urban innovation strategy and its components should have inclusion as a starting point. In engaging the underprivileged, the aging, or vulnerable members of our communities through ‘smart region’ initiatives, design principles with inclusion at their core help overcome digital divides, facilitate early adoption and mitigate the negatives that may come with digitalization and innovation endeavors.
2. **Livable communities.** The CTI and members will strive to create safe and resilient communities. Through research, events, consultations and mentoring, CTI and its members will assist each other to meet targets on safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport; on air quality; on inclusive, safe and accessible green public spaces; on citizen engagement, participatory planning and equitable access to services; on resource efficiency; and on developing resilience to disasters.
3. **Digital rights.** CTI underscores the need to address democratic values and citizen rights in the digital age and actively supports the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights by providing a platform for Coalition Cities to promote the declaration on digital rights. CTI promotes an active exchange among its stakeholders on digital rights and encourages the co-creation of ethics policies by its members on Artificial Intelligence, Data Strategies and Digitalization. Everyone should have access to affordable and accessible internet and digital services on equal terms.
4. **Economic growth through community-based innovation.** CTI and its members will promote innovation-focused leadership and entrepreneurship to drive the growth of community enterprises in support of local economic development.



CitiesToday

Institute

CTI pledge

CTI will assist its members to deliver on the above principles by providing a comprehensive support network that includes a knowledge hub for thought leadership and best practice sharing; city leadership events; certified training, skills and capacity building; and mentoring and advisory services.

Membership

1. Full membership is open to any city, state, metropolitan or local government in North America or Europe.
2. Online membership is open to any city, state, metropolitan or local government which can apply through a designated Lead City Representative (LCR) for access to the Knowledge Hub and enrollment in the mentoring programme.
3. Only senior officials from city and local governments may join the institute alongside their universities or academic institutions.
4. Membership is by application to the Chair of the institute and subject to approval by the Institute Executive.
5. Members will be accepted into the CTI from the following local government positions (or their equivalents):
 - Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer or Chief Innovation/Digital Officer
 - Director or Manager of Smart City Programs
 - Director of Urban Innovation
 - City Manager
5. The Institute Executive reserves the right to withdraw membership from any member acting in contravention of this charter.

Members' responsibilities

All members are expected to:

1. Abide by the principles of this charter.
2. Agree to support their peers in sharing knowledge resources through a designated team member.
3. Commit to attend at least one City Leadership Forum per year.