



# City Life After Coronavirus

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Call for Ideas

Released  
April 27  
2020

Due  
May 20  
2020

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## Program ↓

# The coronavirus pandemic has upended urban life. The coming months will have an enduring impact on the way we live, work, and gather in cities.

While social distancing is a critical tool to limit the health crisis, it also runs counter to the very reasons we love and live in cities – collision, coincidence, cultural exchange and togetherness.

While we collectively work to end the pandemic, we have an unprecedented opportunity to interrogate our assumptions about our urban systems and society.

We must better value and support the people who operate and sustain our city in normal times and in crisis moments. Frontline workers and communities of color are especially vulnerable to the health risks posed by coronavirus, and are least able to access economic relief.

During this historic moment, the Urban Design Forum is launching a new inquiry, City Life After Coronavirus. We plan to convene international experts to document global responses to the crisis and strategize a road to recovery for New York City.

**We want to hear from you: what does the pandemic reveal about urban design, infrastructure, and governance? How can we build a more just city for New Yorkers hardest hit by the public health and economic crisis?**



## Key Questions ↓

### Response

- **Knowledge Exchange:** What can New York learn from city leaders around the world responding to coronavirus?
- **Small Business:** As businesses shutter, how can we support workers and small business owners during the crisis?
- **Local Industry:** How can we retool local industrial zones to address supply shortages?
- **Fair Share:** How should we address the uneven distribution of healthcare facilities, jobs, and food security across the five boroughs?
- **Labor:** How should we support the health and well-being of “essential workers” as they continue to serve our city?
- **Digital Access:** How can we minimize the digital divide exacerbated by the increase in remote work, education and recreation?
- **Housing:** How will crisis response legislation on mortgage payments, rent, and evictions impact New York City neighborhoods?

### Recovery

- **Economic Recovery:** How can New York City focus economic recovery efforts in Black and Latino communities impacted most by the pandemic?
- **Health & Wellness:** What investments in health care systems are necessary to prepare our city for future threats?
- **Aging in Place:** How can we design a city that better serves seniors and mitigates their health risks?
- **Culture:** How can New York City rebuild its tourism and cultural sectors and support cultural producers harmed by the crisis?
- **Climate Action:** Could our response to the pandemic inform new climate actions?
- **Housing:** How could the epidemic open up housing options to the most vulnerable New Yorkers due to changes in the real estate, hospitality and short-term rental markets?
- **Mobility:** As New Yorkers stay off transit, how can we plan future investments and envision alternative patterns of mobility?

## How to Contribute ↓

### Your contributions will inform us about potential ideas to showcase, ongoing initiatives to study, and rising leaders to invite.

We will invite select contributors to expand their submissions into features shared through our website, social media platforms, and a publication distributed to elected officials, city agencies, and leading civic and community organizations this summer. Special attention will be given to submissions that reflect on the hardest-hit communities or make forecasts focused on a just and equitable recovery.

Text-based submissions can be as short as 2-3 sentence pitch or as long as a cover story. We also welcome sketches, photos, visualizations, and videos.



City Life After Coronavirus  
Urban Design Forum

#### 1. Nominate a Speaker

Introduce us to community leaders on the frontlines of New York City's response effort, or government leaders from cities around the world as we foster comparative dialogue on crisis response and systems transformation.

#### 2. Contribute a Reflection

Submit an idea or reflection on how cities are responding to and impacted by the pandemic in the short term.

#### 3. Make a Forecast

Propose how cities will recover from the pandemic in the years ahead. We welcome speculative forecasts for urban restructuring or specific proposals for policy and design shifts.

**Our deadline is May 20, 2020 at 6:00pm.**

Please direct all submissions and questions to:

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Program & Development Associate

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## About Us ↓

**We mobilize civic leaders to confront the defining issues facing New York City's built environment.**

The Urban Design Forum is an independent membership organization that empowers professionals of diverse backgrounds, industries, and perspectives to shape a better future for all New Yorkers. We investigate complex challenges in the built environment, study alternative approaches from cities around the world, and advance progressive strategies to build a more dynamic and democratic city.

## Sponsorship ↓

**In this historic moment, the financial support of our Fellows and friends is more important than ever.**

Please consider supporting our work with a contribution of \$50, \$100, or \$250. Your generous support will make this project possible.

Please direct all inquiries to:

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