

The logo for ASLA 2024 INSIGHT. 'ASLA 2024' is in a dark blue, sans-serif font. 'INSIGHT' is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font, with 'IN' in dark blue and 'SIGHT' in red. A thin blue horizontal line is positioned below the text.

# ASLA 2024 INSIGHT

Conference on Landscape Architecture  
OCTOBER 6-9 | Washington, DC

## All Are Welcome: Integrating Equity in Civic Spaces

Sunday, October 6, 2024

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

SUN-C02

### Session Overview

As essential democratic public spaces and centers of civic engagement, civic landscapes must be created as spaces inclusive to all. This session will assist designers in understanding how to integrate equity into various scales of civic spaces by exploring strategies in Boston, Philadelphia, and Vancouver.

### Learning Outcomes

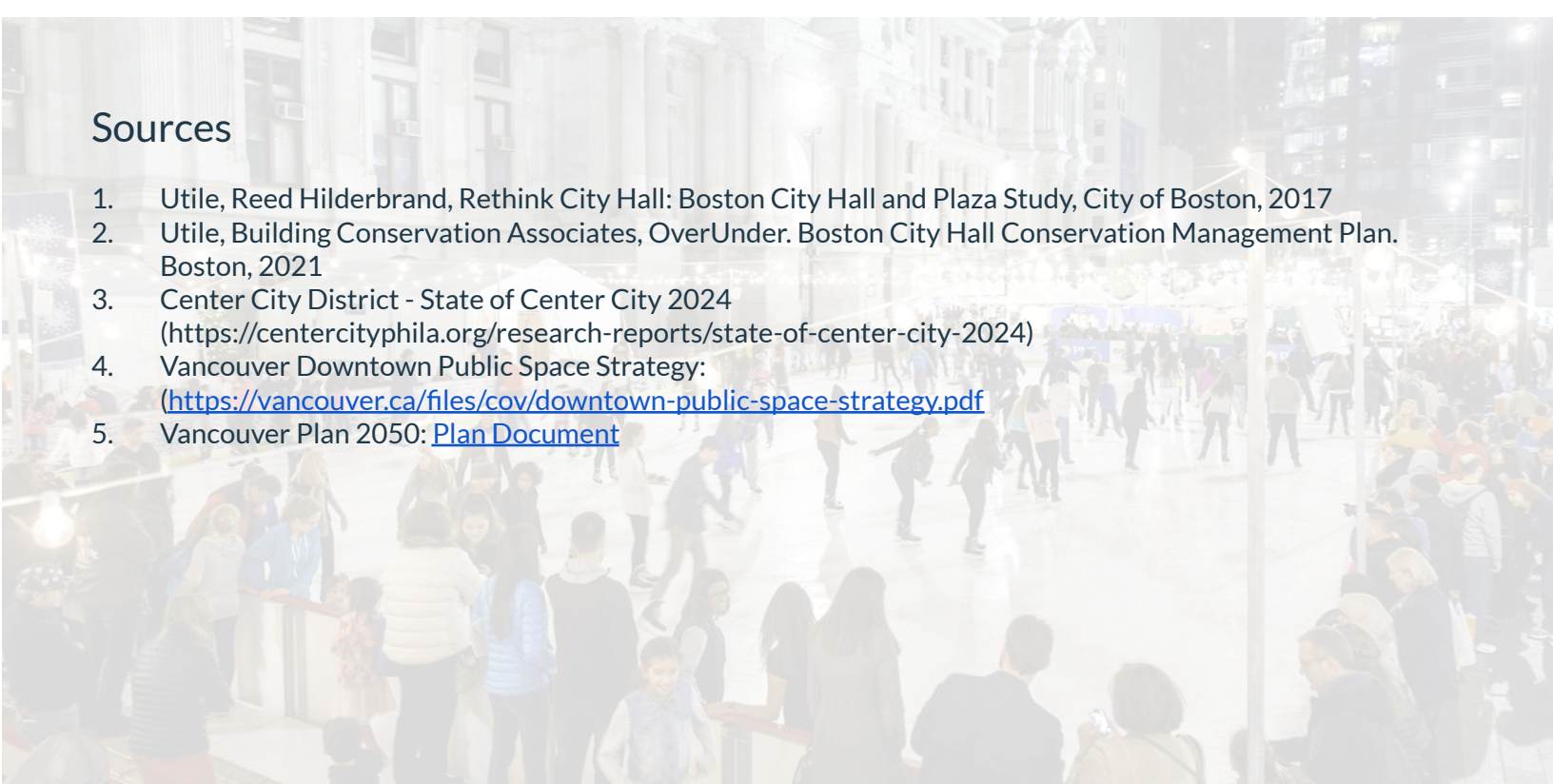
- **Understanding Civic Environments:** Learn strategies for building equity into the physical and social fabrics of downtown spaces and neighborhoods.
- **Solicit a diversity of voices:** Understand strategies for engaging and designing for a diversity of stakeholders and those typically not heard from.
- **Provide for fundamental needs:** Learn how inclusivity comes in many forms, physical and ephemeral, and must be addressed in the design, management, and programming of a space.
- **Make welcoming places:** Identify the elements that underpin the integration of universal access as the cornerstone of inclusive environments and civic spaces.

# Session Outline

1. **Intro:** Contextualization of Civic Spaces
  - a. Contextualizing the Scale of Spaces
  - b. Reflecting on Changes in the Role of Civic Spaces
  - c. Contemporary challenges and needs
  
2. **Equity at the Site Scale:** Universal Access at Boston's City Hall Plaza
  - a. Questions facing Equitable Access
  - b. Case Study: Boston City Hall Plaza project
  - c. Addressing Universal Access in the civic plaza
  
3. **Equity at the City Scale:** Programming at Philadelphia's Dilworth Park
  - a. Overview of the Plaza Design
  - b. Programming + User experience
  - c. Lessons learned from programming strategies, their evolution, and impact
  - d. Questions facing Civic spaces and their programming
  
4. **Equity at the Urban Scale:** Building Neighborhood Spaces in Vancouver
  - a. Context for Change
  - b. Neighborhoods as Civic Spaces
  - c. Toolkit to Build New Neighborhood Fabric
  - d. Transformation of Supporting Systems
  
5. **Conclusion:** Remarks and Reflections
  - a. Reflection on new and emerging challenges
  - b. The health of our urban environments is a shared responsibility
  - c. A time to reaffirm our commitment to civic space
  
6. **Q+A with Discussion**

## Sources

1. Utile, Reed Hilderbrand, Rethink City Hall: Boston City Hall and Plaza Study, City of Boston, 2017
2. Utile, Building Conservation Associates, OverUnder. Boston City Hall Conservation Management Plan. Boston, 2021
3. Center City District - State of Center City 2024 (<https://centercityphila.org/research-reports/state-of-center-city-2024>)
4. Vancouver Downtown Public Space Strategy: (<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/downtown-public-space-strategy.pdf>)
5. Vancouver Plan 2050: [Plan Document](#)



## PANELISTS



### **GREG BURRELL, ASLA OLIN**

Greg's work spans multiple typologies and scales, working both nationally and internationally. He is passionate about the creation of public landscapes that foster community, create common ground, and help re-establish towns, cities, and universities as important cultural centers. Greg recently completed two transformational public spaces: Dilworth Park adjacent to Philadelphia's City Hall and the Wyandanch Transit Plaza in Babylon, NY. In addition to these new public spaces, Greg also has significant experience in large-scale planning, including the AIA award-winning Master Plan for the Central Delaware River and the planning and implementation of the John Lewis Student Center at Georgia Tech.



### **MAURICIO GOMEZ, ASLA SASAKI**

Mauricio is a landscape architect who specializes in urban landscape projects and has over 20 years of related professional experience working on projects around the world. Mauricio's work centers on large-scale public spaces where he focuses on designing and creating places for people. His previous professional background also includes experience as a civil engineer, so he brings an interdisciplinary approach to much of his landscape practice. Mauricio has worked on a number of projects in the Boston area, and most recently led the project team for the new Boston City Hall Plaza.



### **NEIL HRUSHOWY CITY OF VANCOUVER**

Neil is the Director of Community Planning in the City of Vancouver's Department of Planning, Design and Sustainability. His team is responsible for the planning and implementation of Community Plans and Major Projects. The City Design Studio, also within Community Planning, is responsible for design policy from the city-wide to area-plan scale. Finally, the Downtown Eastside Team and Chinatown Transformation Team offer a unique model for planning and implementation of area plans within at-risk and cultural communities, respectively. Neil earned his PhD in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley and previously worked in San Francisco as the Principal Urban Designer in the Planning Department.