



Cynthia Nikitin has led numerous large-scale multi-sectoral projects during her twenty three years with Project for Public Spaces. Cynthia's technical expertise stretches from the development of downtown master plans, transit facility and station area enhancement projects, to the creation of corridor-wide transportation and land use strategies, to the development of public art master plans for major cities, and the coalescing of government buildings, libraries and cultural institutions into civic centers. Cynthia is currently directing the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design, a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts focused on providing technical design assistance to rural communities and small towns across the United States. She is also a regular keynote speaker at public forums, training sessions, and public workshops around the world.

Cynthia is an expert in using placemaking to create safer cities and upgrade informal settlements in the developing world. She is currently spearheading PPS's alliance with UN-HABITAT and the Ax:son Johnson Foundation to create 300 great public spaces in cities across the developing world in fulfillment of a UN Habitat General Resolution that seeks to incorporate public space planning and programming as part of slum upgrading, gender mainstreaming, and urban regeneration projects. She has lead placemaking training initiatives for the City Council of Nairobi and the City of Johannesburg. Cynthia is also PPS's representative on the UN Habitat's Global Network for Safer Cities.

Cynthia is also a leader on using investments in walking and transit to leverage livability goals. She authored one of the first books on transportation and livable communities, has run more than 30 comprehensive transit and corridor planning projects, and recently completed a research project for the US Federal Transit Administration aimed at developing evaluation and engagement tools to assist low-income communities in becoming involved in the transportation planning process. Under contract to NYS DOT, she managed a three year TOD education and planning initiative for 8 communities along the Tappan Zee Bridge Corridor. Currently she is working to help revitalize two of New Jersey's most distressed cities using safer places and creative placemaking techniques.

Cynthia has delivered keynote addresses at many US and Canadian Library Association events and the Alberta Museum and Americans for the Arts annual conferences. She is an adjunct faculty member of Clark University in Worcester, MA and guest lectures at universities across North America, in Moscow, Russia, and South Korea.

# Speaker's Profile

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## Cynthia Nikitin

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