In celebration of Detroit’s recent UNESCO City of Design designation, the Detroit Design Festival will kick off with a panel discussion featuring international guests from the United Nations Creative Cities Network. Panelists from Canada, France, Austria, and the United Kingdom will join moderator Maurice Cox, planning director for the city of Detroit for this exciting conversation. This event is free and open to the public.

Register at https://ddf2016unescoconversation.eventbrite.com
OPENING PANEL
Leveraging Detroit’s UNESCO Designation
Wed, September 21, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

MAURICE COX, MODERATOR
CITY OF DETROIT
Maurice Cox, a nationally respected community designer and leader of the public interest design movement, is planning director for the city of Detroit. Prior to moving to Michigan, he was director of Tulane City Center and associate dean for Community Engagement at the Tulane University School of Architecture in New Orleans.

SYLVIE CHAMPEAU
CITY OF MONTREAL, BUREAU DE DESIGN
Sylvie Champeau has worked for over twenty years in the areas of administration, management and communication for the benefit of Montreal’s design and architecture community. Sylvie currently works with the City of Montreal, splitting time between the Bureau du Design and management of the Economic Development Department.

CÉZANNE CHARLES, MODERATOR
CREATIVE MANY MICHIGAN
Cézanne Charles, Director of Creative Industries, is responsible for co-leading the design and implementation of Creative Many’s creative industries research, reporting and supporting efforts to define public policy strategies, sector supports and investment priorities. Charles also co-directs rootoftwo, LLC, a hybrid design studio founded with John Marshall in 1998. rootoftwo, based in metro Detroit, makes hybrid design projects, social objects, experiences and works for the public realm to encourage interaction and engagement.

JOSYANE FRANC
CITE DU DESIGN AND THE SAINT-ETIENNE HIGHER SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN EDUCATION
Josyane Franc is the director of the department of international relations for the Cité du design and the Saint-Etienne Higher School of Art and Design (ESADSE), and was also a founding member of the Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial in 1998. She prepared the application for Saint-Etienne UNESCO City of Design, and has coordinated its program since the designation in 2010.

ANYA SIROTA
AKOAKI
Anya Sirota is an award-winning architectural designer and principal of Akoaki, a Detroit-based practice with a reputation for innovative and resonant projects that critically engage the social, spatial, and material realities of place. She teaches architecture at the University of Michigan’s A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning.

SUSTAINABILITY
Thurs, September 22
9:00am – 10:30am

GARLIN GILCHRIST
CITY OF DETROIT
Native Detroiter. Proud husband and father of twins. Detroit’s Director of Innovation & Emerging Technology.

JOSH MCMANUS
QUICKEN LOANS
Josh McManus leads operations at Detroit-based Rock Ventures LLC, the organization that serves and connects entrepreneur and Quicken Loans Founder and Chairman and majority owner of the NBA Champion Cleveland Cavaliers Dan Gilbert’s Family of more than 100 companies, as well as his investments, real estate purchases and community activities. McManus is a regular public speaker with emphasis on informed urban action, talent attraction and retention, innovation and entrepreneurial development.

SIGRID BÜRSTMAYR
FH JOANNEUM
Sigrid Bürstmayr (*1983) from Graz is working part time as a research assistant at the University of Applied Sciences, FH JOANNEUM. Furthermore she works as an exhibition designer and the Atelier Thuemmel. Sigrid studied Design and Product Management and finished the study programme Exhibition Design With a master thesis about a shop concept including the branding for an upcycling store.
RYAN GRAVEL
SIXPITCH
Ryan Gravel, AICP, LEED AP, is an urban planner, designer, and author working on site design, infrastructure, concept development, and public policy as the founding principal at Sixpitch. His master’s thesis in 1999 was the original vision for the Atlanta Beltline, a 22-mile transit greenway that is changing both the physical form of his city and the decisions people make about living there.

JENNY LEE
ALLIED MEDIA PROJECTS
Jenny Lee is the Executive Director of Allied Media Projects. She has been working at the intersection of media, art, technology, and social justice in Detroit for the entirety of her adult life.

NINA BIANCHI
THE WORK DEPARTMENT
Nina is an entrepreneur and founding partner at The Work Department, a social innovation firm that uses people-centered and participatory systems design to empower businesses and organizations to realize greater impact. Based in Detroit since 2000, her passion for technology, inclusive urban development, and public education has led her to collaborate with over 160 local, national, and international partners to advance accessible solutions that more effectively communicate and inspire others to act.

PETER D. CUMMINGS
THE PLATFORM
Peter Cummings is a developer and philanthropist who has been active in the Detroit community for 25 years. He and his colleagues create residential and retail communities that reflect Peter’s passion for the arts and commitment to neighborhood revitalization.

ESTHER YANG
CITY OF DETROIT
Esther Yang is the Eastern District Design Director (Council Districts 3 and 4) for the City of Detroit’s Planning and Development Department.

WENDY LEWIS JACKSON
KRESGE FOUNDATION
Wendy Lewis Jackson is interim co-managing director for the Detroit Program. She co-leads The Kresge Foundation’s efforts to revitalize Detroit and to strengthen its social and economic fabric. Her work supports organizations providing economic opportunity for low-income people and addresses the needs of vulnerable children and families.

MICHAEL FORD
BRANDNU DESIGN
The Hip Hop Architect, aka Michael Ford, lectures across the nation using hip hop culture as a catalyst to revisit architectural history and theory and expose underrepresented populations to architecture as a career choice. Ford is currently working with legendary, pioneering hip hop icons including Kurtis Blow, The Sugar Hill Gang and Grand Wizard Theodore to design The Universal Hip Hop Museum.

Sommer Woods is the vice president of external relations & marketing for M-1 Rail, a 3.3-mile light rail circulator that will strengthen the backbone of the Detroit region by downtown Detroit to Midtown to New Center/North End.
PAMELA LEWIS, NEW ECONOMY INITIATIVE
Pamela Lewis was named Director of the New Economy Initiative in January 2016. She is responsible for helping to build a network of high technology commercialization and business acceleration services within Southeast Michigan.

TERRI TAHOOSE, MODERATOR, LEAR CORPORATION
As Vice President of Marketing and Global Affairs for Lear Corporation, Terri has been involved in design & development for over two decades.

CEZANNE CHARLES, SUSTAINABILITY, CITY OF DETROIT

ANDREW BLAUVELT, CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM
Andrew Blauvelt is a designer, educator, and curator and Director of the Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Prior to Cranbrook, Blauvelt was a design director, a curator of architecture and design, and a senior administrator at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis for 18 years, where he led the development of the museum’s progressive brand identity and innovative public engagement initiatives.

INGRID VAN DER WACHT, CAPITAL D, DUTCH DESIGN WEEK
Ingrid works as independent project manager and concept developer out of her company Factor-i with a special assignment for Dutch Design Foundation (organizer Dutch Design Week). The focus of her work lies on initiating design innovation projects to bring social and economic change for and by all.

DAN KINKEAD, ADAPTATION, SMITH GROUP JJR

LAUREN HOOD, EQUITY, LIVE6 DETROIT

JOHN WALLER, MODERATOR, GENSLER
John Waller, Managing Director of Gensler Detroit, sits at the rare intersection of business & design. As a trusted guide and strategic connector, John has led many revitalization efforts transforming both organizations and communities.

TERRI TAHOOSE, INNOVATION, LEAR CORPORATION

DETROIT CITY OF DESIGN SUMMIT

INNOVATION
Thurs, September 22
3:30pm - 5:00pm

CLOSING PANEL
Fri, September 23
9:00am - 10:00am