

# Acknowledgments

We are confident that the urban leaders and activists from across the hemispheres who participated in the Rockefeller Foundation Global Urban Summit of 2007—in four weeks of sessions that sparked the ideas this book reflects—join us in thanking the Rockefeller Foundation for its extraordinary initiative.

Not only was the array of participants remarkable: officials, scholars, and grassroots leaders from cities as diverse as Seattle and Kampala, Mumbai and São Paulo. So was the Foundation's vision in seeing that today's new urban-majority world needs an actual agenda. The Rockefeller Foundation leaders insisted that the panelists not simply identify the most pressing problems facing global cities, but also explore varieties of specific ways to address them.

Our job was to capture those ideas and illuminate the threads that connected them, identifying elements of a specific action agenda. The Summit participants, both in the sessions and in follow-up conversations (face-to-face and later electronic), helped us immensely in that task.

We are grateful to our colleagues (and their colleagues) from the partner organizations of the Global Urban Summit for their day-to-day efforts during the Summit, their assistance in elucidating ideas, and their comments on our manuscript drafts—particularly Elliott Sclar, Nicole Volavka, and Gabriella Carolini of the Columbia University Center for Sustainable Urban Development; Eugenie Birch, Susan Wachter, and Kendra Goldbas of the University of Pennsylvania Institute for Urban Research; Robert Yaro and Petra Todorovich of the Regional Plan Association; and Bruce Katz, Mark Muro, Robert Puentes, Alan Berube, Amy Liu, and Julie Wagner of the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program. Bill Cote and John Cheshire of BC Video, who filmed the Global South sessions, also kindly shared their footage with us, allowing us to get more direct quotations from participants.

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through an alpine mountain of our session computer notes, interviews, and background materials, organizing everything so that themes emerged for us to write around. She also checked all our manuscripts for thoroughness and balance, and was our principal liaison with the Rockefeller Foundation in the conference planning stages.

We also greatly appreciated the assistance of Lenneal Henderson, a Citistates group associate and professor of Government and Public Administration at the University of Baltimore. He monitored all the Global South sessions, applying his own international consulting experience to several vital interviews with panelists and later lending his insights to building this book's narrative.

The magic of the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center setting, and the thoughtfulness of the staff there led by Pilar Palacia, will remain with all of us for years to come.

We wish to recognize stalwart allies on the Rockefeller Foundation staff who assisted in our endeavors, including research associate Anna Brown, Rachel Christmas Derrick, editor of this volume, and Katherine Snider, who coordinated the book's design and production. The engagement of Maria Blair and Ariel Pablos-Mendez also proved invaluable.

Finally, all who read this book should know that without the vision of Judith Rodin, recognizing the emergence of an intensely urban world, and of Darren Walker, who conceptualized and led the entire effort, the new light of Century of the City would never have been lit.

Neal R. Peirce

Curtis W. Johnson

# Authors

## neal r. peirce

A journalist and speaker, Neal R. Peirce focuses on the national and global roles of cities and metropolitan regions. With Curtis W. Johnson, he has co-authored 26 newspaper series—"Citistates Reports"—on strategic issues facing individual metropolitan regions, including articles for the *Seattle Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Miami Herald*, *Charlotte Observer*, and *Phoenix Republic*. Together, Peirce and Johnson wrote *Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World* (Seven Lochs Press, 1993). With Farley Peters, they organized and lead the Citistates Group, a network of journalists, speakers, and civic leaders committed to building competitive and sustainable 21st century regions ([www.citistates.com](http://www.citistates.com)).

Peirce's ten-volume series on the states and regions of the United States culminated in *The Book of America* (W.W. Norton, 1983). He also wrote *The People's President*, on the electoral college in U.S. history and the direct vote alternative (Simon & Schuster, 1968), *Corrective Capitalism*, on the rise of community development corporations (Ford Foundation, 1987), *Breakthroughs: Re-Creating the American City* (Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research, 1993), and (with Johnson) *Boundary Crossers: Community Leadership for a Global Age*, a project in partnership with John W. Gardner (The Academy of Leadership Press, University of Maryland, 1997).

Since 1975, Peirce has written the United States' first national newspaper column on city and state local themes (Washington Post Writers Group syndication and Citiwire.net). Peirce was a founder of *National Journal* and served in the 1960s as political editor of *Congressional Quarterly*. He has been a trustee of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, member of the executive committee of the National Civic League, and three-time faculty member of the Salzburg Seminar.

## curtis w. johnson

Curtis W. Johnson's career plays on a split screen—half devoted to being a leader in the public sector and the other half as analyst and commentator. His public service culminated with four years in the mid-1990s as chairman of the Metropolitan Council, which coordinates land use and operates wastewater and transit systems in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul) region of Minnesota.

Following ten years as a college president in the 1970s, Johnson for 11 years led the Citizens League, a well-known public affairs research organization in the Twin Cities; and then spent three years as policy adviser to Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson, including a period as chief of staff.

He co-authored *Disrupting Class* (McGraw Hill, 2008), with Clayton Christensen of Harvard Business School and Michael Horn. The book lays out why and how the process of learning will see fundamental changes in the 21st century.

With columnist Neal R. Peirce, Johnson has written "Citistates Reports," published in leading newspapers in 26 American regions since 1987. Covering locally significant challenges ranging from regional collaboration to land use and growth practices, these reports have consistently demonstrated an agenda-setting impact. He co-authored with Peirce *Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World* (Seven Locks Press, 1993) and *Boundary Crossers: Community Leadership for a Global Age* (The Academy of Leadership Press, University of Maryland, 1997), showcasing ten lessons learned from citizens making an impact on public policy. Johnson is president of the Citistates Group, a former Salzburg Seminar faculty member, and a frequent public speaker.

