



METROPOLISES AND CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION

Rethinking our future together

8 / 13 NOV 2021 · GUANGZHOU CHINA

OPENING SESSION: EMBRACING CHILDREN'S VOICES TO RETHINK OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Monday 8th November, 13:00 - 13:30

2020 brought great global challenges and a difficult situation with various consequences across all population groups, including children. The crisis can –and should– be **a starting point for a paradigm shift in the way we think about our cities**. Given that nearly a third of the 4 billion people living in urban areas are children (UNICEF, Child Friendly Cities initiative), **it is undeniable that for the transformation processes of large metropolises to be successful, they must be carried out with a child-friendly approach**.



Today, more than ever, it is of great importance to **listen carefully to children's opinions and visions**, to ensure they are included in the design of public policies to face present and future challenges. To get closer to achieving this goal, last July we launched the initiative **Metropolis Through Children's Eyes**, with the objective of promoting children's creative expression through drawings and, at the same time, identifying trends in what they envision for the future of their metropolises in response to the changes caused by the pandemic.

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Since its launch, more than **500 children** between the ages of 5 and 14, who live in some of the cities belonging to the Metropolis network have sent us their vision of the city they envision for the future through their drawings, [available here](#).

During the opening session [Octavi de la Varga Mas](#) will explain in more detail why we wanted to focus on children's opinions, which cities have been represented by these children, which have been the 10 finalists per category and will announce the session that will take place on Friday 12 November where the 3 winners and their prizes will be announced.

Speakers

- Mr. Octavi de la Varga Mas, Secretary General of Metropolis
- Mr. Wen Guohui, President of Metropolis and Mayor of Guangzhou
- One representative from Educating Cities

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