Leading Communities in the Second Machine Age Stephen J. Conschafter, AICP, LEED AP ICMA Conference Presenter





# Leading Communities in the Second Machine Age

10 -19



#### **INNOVATION BRINGS UNFORSEEN CHANGES** ALONG WITH DAZZLING INNOVATIONS - NEW TECHNOLOGIES CAN BRING NEW PROBLEMS WITH THEM

Ville radieuse, Radiant City) - designed by the French-Swiss architect Le Corbusier

**VILLE RADIEUSE** 

Futurama (1939 New York World's Fair)

FUTURAMA





## CABRINI-GREEN: PUBLIC HOUSING AND POVERTY CONCENTRATION

### **"URBAN SPRAWL":** NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Cabrini–Creen, were adjacent Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) public Lousing projects

Furthe United States

ne United States av/pmc/anicles/PMC1497



### **TWO CATEGORIES OF TECHNOLOGIES DRIVING CHANGE...**



Transportation & Physical **"Hardware" Innovations** 



Labor Automation: Software & Artificial Intelligence

## CURRENT & FUTURE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS



#### Transportation & Hardware Innovations:

- Autonomous vehicles
- Drones
- Robotics
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality
- 3D Printing



# Human Labor Automation & Software Innovations:

- Machine learning
- Natural language processing
- Computer vision



### 1. HARDWARE INNOVATIONS: IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

#### Potential Changes:

- Land use disruptions
  - Changes to supply and demand of land
- Impacts on pedestrian safety
  - How do innovations affect the pedestrian realm?
- Interactivity: Potential for enhanced interaction with physical environments
- "Smart Cities" improvements in urban efficiency, operations, energy savings...



### 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

#### Decoupling Productivity and Employment

Digital technologies have boosted productivity in the United States without also spurring the expected job growth, argue Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee. A result of this decoupling is that while gross domestic product (GDP) has risen, median income has not, and inequality has grown.



#### Economic Impacts of AI & Automation:

- Increasing income inequality
- Reducing demand for physical spaces commercial office and retail real estate
- Changing traffic patterns decentralization of CBDs
- General deflationary effect on the economy



## The Path Forward for Cities?

the state



## THE FUTURE OF WORK?

#### How Automation & Tech Affect Work

- Many activities that workers carry out today have the potential to be <u>automated</u>
- About 60 percent of all occupations have at least 30 percent of activities that are <u>technically automatable</u>,

#### Productivity growth from automation

## **0.8 to 1.4%**

Adoption of robotics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning could give a bounce to the global economy, at a time of lackluster productivity growth and aging in many countries



#Automation

Source: McKinsey Global Institute analysis

McKinsey&Company

Concept for redevelopment of DC's Union Market: An office building of the future that integrates co-working and active retail space to give a "neighborhood" vibe to the workplace





## ECONOMIC & POLITICAL SOLUTIONS:

- Promoting lifelong learning which is also supported by government and private enterprise (The Economist)
- Shortening the work week (per Carlos Slim, Bloomberg article)
- Providing "social dividends" that compensate citizens for jobs lost by technology (Financial Times article)
- The World Economic Forum in Davos has been discussing "Universal Basic Income" (The Institute for New Economic Thinking
- Create incentives for private-sector investment to treat • human capital like other capital (McKinsey)

## URBAN DESIGN SOLUTIONS:

Can City Design Promote Equality?

- Walkable environments & pedestrian safety: pedestrian-only zones – sanctuaries from vehicular traffic
- Mix of uses supporting pedestrian activity adaptive reuse of buildings with outdated uses
- Affordable housing; micro units & tiny houses
- Accessible public spaces that are open to all people
- Tactical urbanism: empowering citizens to create public spaces
- Sustainable development: designed around solar & renewables
- ...and more







## City Design & Autonomous Vehicles

- LoopNYC: one lane in each direction dedicated to selfdriving cars on the highways that outline Manhattan and also turn several major cross streets into expressways for autonomous vehicles, adding pedestrian overpasses to keep people off streets
- "Public Square," by FXFOWLE, provides New York City a way to rethink its streets and reclaim space for pedestrians - winner of The Driverless Future Challenge





Increasing the amount of green infrastructure can connect people to natural resources cultural destinations employment healthy food options

## Discussion

