

For Immediate Release

## LAUNCH OF THE NORMAN FOSTER INSTITUTE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN CITIES WORLDWIDE



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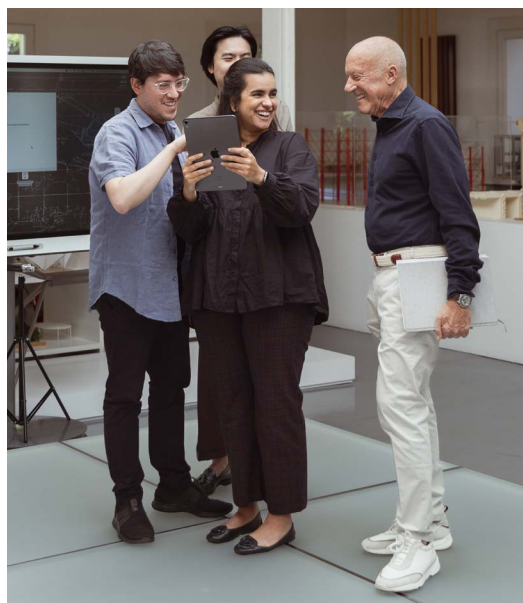
- The Norman Foster Foundation has launched the Norman Foster Institute which is accepting applications from today for its first academic Programme on Sustainable Cities, starting in Madrid in January 2024.
- The NFI has assembled an international multidisciplinary team of professors, practitioners, and civil leaders led by Co-Directors Norman Foster and Kent Larson.
- The inaugural course on Sustainable Cities will be a 36-week programme in three stages—*Foundations*, *Transformations* and *Interventions*—with time divided between classrooms, cities and studios.

Each year, scholars will visit and work in three pilot cities to engage directly with their planners and managers. They will use the most up-to-date digital tools in the quest to improve a sustainable quality of life. Towards the end of the year, the scholars will present their findings to the city administration with an emphasis on advocacy and presentation skills. On the basis that historically cities learn from each other, scholars will explore the relevance of their conclusions in the wider context of global cities.

Since the launch of the Norman Foster Foundation in 2017, its mission has been to promote interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations to anticipate the future.

### PRESS ENQUIRIES

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#### Notes to Editors

The Norman Foster Institute has assembled an integrative team of professionals from different continents to provide a global vision and a broad spectrum of expertise for those seeking a holistic approach to the future design and management of cities. **Norman Foster**, President of the Norman Foster Foundation, and **Kent Larson**, Head of the City Science group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, Co-Directors of the Programme on Sustainable Cities, will lead a body of distinguished global experts drawn from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

The Academic Council will include: **Norman Foster**, NFI Co-Director; President, Norman Foster Foundation; Founder and Executive Chairman, Foster + Partners; Advocate to the United Nations Forum of Mayors; **Edgar Pieterse**, NFI Provost; Director, African Centre for Cities; Professor in Urban Innovation, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa. **Dava Newman**, NFI Honorary Dean; Director, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, United States; **Kent Larson**, NFI Co-Director; Director, City Science research group, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, United States; **Alejandro Aravena**, Executive Director, ELEMENTAL; ELEMENTAL Copec Chair, Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile; **Deborah Berke**, Dean, School of Architecture, Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States; **Vishaan Chakrabarti**, Founder and Creative Director, Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU), New York, NY, United States; **Beatriz Corredor**, Chairwoman, Redeia; Former Ministry of Housing, Madrid, Spain; **Óscar Fanjul**, Vice President, Ferrovial; Former Chairman and CEO, Repsol Madrid, Spain; **Elena Foster**, Vice President, Norman Foster Foundation; Founder and CEO, Ivorypress, Madrid, Spain; **Ian Goldin**, Director, Oxford Martin Research Programme, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom; **Francis Kéré**, Founder and Principal, Kéré Architecture and Kéré Foundation, Berlin, Germany.

The Academic Chairs will include: **Joseph G. Allen**, Director, Healthy Buildings Program, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States; **Luis M.A. Bettencourt**, Inaugural Director, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, United States; **Frédéric Bordry**, CERN Honorary Member, Special Advisor to the CERN DG and Former CERN Director for Accelerators and Technology, Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland; **Laila Iskandar**, Co-Founder, CID CONSULTING; Former Minister of State in the Government of Egypt, Egypt; **Mitchell Joachim**, Co-founder of Terreform ONE; Associate Professor of Practice, New York University (NYU), New York, NY, United States; **Sarah Kenderdine**, Professor of Digital Museology, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; **Peter B. de Menocal**, President and Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), Falmouth, MA, United States; **Gil (Guillermo) Penalosa**, Founder and Chair, 8 80 Cities and Cities for Everyone, Toronto, ON, Canada; **Stuart Smith**, Director, Arup, Berlin, Germany; Board Member, Holcim Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland; **Tim Stonor**, Managing Director of Space Syntax, London, United Kingdom; **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries, London, United Kingdom; **Maria Vassilakou**, Founder, Vienna Solutions; Former Vice Mayor, Vienna, Austria.

The full list of academic faculty and team will be announced later this year.



Norman Foster, President of the Norman Foster Foundation, and Kent Larson, Head of the City Science group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, Co-Directors of the Norman Foster Institute Programme on Sustainable Cities.

### **Norman Foster Foundation**

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future. The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to make visible the centrality of architecture, infrastructure, and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries in order to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, the foundation speaks to those professionals who are concerned with the environment: architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners, and artists. This is at the heart of the foundation's holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

The foundation holds the Norman Foster Archive and Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster. This is complemented and supported by drawings and models from other significant architects such as Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Charles and Ray Eames, Buckminster Fuller, Richard Rogers, Zaha Hadid and Tadao Ando. Through its research initiatives and programmes, the Norman Foster Foundation encourages the transfer of advanced knowledge in a wide range of design fields. The foundation's educational initiatives are structured around research, workshops, fellowships and forums, built around the foundation's core objectives.

The Norman Foster Foundation operates from the United Kingdom, the United States and Spain with its headquarters based in Madrid.

Visit [www.normanfosterfoundation.org](http://www.normanfosterfoundation.org) for more information or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Vimeo.