

2. URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - UPDATE ON WORKSHOP WITH JAIME LERNER, (CURITIBA, BRAZIL)

Officer responsible Director of Information and Planning	Author Mark Bachels, Strategy and Policy Team Leader, 941-6579
--	--

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the visit from Jaime Lerner (Curitiba, Brazil) and key learning points from a community leaders workshop, a public meeting and a business leaders session

VISIT TO CHRISTCHURCH NOVEMBER 6-7

Jaime Lerner was invited to visit New Zealand by Minister Marian Hobbs; Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) and Mr John Sinclair, President of the New Zealand Institute of Architects. He came to Christchurch for Thursday 6 November and Friday 7 November 2003 where a series of meetings were held.

JAIME LERNER AND CURITIBA BACKGROUND

A profile of the City of Curitiba, compiled by members of the New Zealand Study Tour who visited Curitiba last year, can be viewed on the PCE Web site; www.pce.govt.nz listed under 'Reports' and titled 'Showing the Way Curitiba: Citizen City'.

Jaime Lerner was elected Mayor of the city for three terms: 1971-75, 1979-83 and 1989-92. During his first term as Mayor of Curitiba, he consolidated the urban transformation of the city and implemented the Integrated Mass Transportation System acknowledged worldwide for its efficiency, quality and low cost. During his two ensuing terms, in addition to pursuing his innovative urban planning, Lerner intensified social measures that place Curitiba among the capitals of the world with an excellent quality of life.

CURITIBA PRINCIPLES AND THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC MEETING

We took the opportunity of Mr Lerner's visit to focus on the Urban Development Strategy and specifically to explore:

- (a) What principles were utilised in Curitiba's success and how might these principles be applied in a Christchurch context?
- (b) What urban development challenges face Metropolitan Christchurch?
- (c) What collaboration, partnerships and leadership are needed to address these Christchurch challenges?

On 6 November 2003, we had a very successful session with Jaime Lerner exploring these questions with a workshop of about 100 invited community leaders on Thursday afternoon. This was followed by a public meeting of about 200 people on Thursday night and a business leaders meeting of about 20 on Friday morning. Overall, this provided an invaluable kick-start to the Urban Development Strategy.

Five principles which Jaime Lerner presented on Curitiba's success included:

1. Political Leadership/Will
2. Solidarity with your Community - *'Looking at the city through the eyes of every citizen'*
3. Strategic View - balancing long-term views with short-term actions
4. Co-Responsibility - between public and private to achieve community outcomes

(Jaime suggested this is the most important principle and nicely ties into both the LGA and intentions we have for the Urban Development Strategy)

5. Community Dream (or Vision)

A few paraphrased quotes from Jaime Lerner are worth noting:

- “You can change a city in two years”
- “Take Risks” - particularly those which lead in the right direction and which don’t pre-empt future outcomes
- “Take Integrated Action and Use Connected Thinking” - pursue projects which address multiple challenges/problems
- “EPOCA (Urban Institute) keeps the long term view” - An Urban Institute (EPOCA) was created in Curitiba which focuses on long-term urban planning issues, directly influencing short-term decision making. It is comprised of researchers, planners and asset managers - and acts as a powerful external advisor to key government departments.

CONCLUSIONS AND SOME ACTION POINTS

It is important to note, that although in its preliminary stages, the workshop and public meeting had very favourable feedback and support for the intentions of the Urban Development Strategy in its desire for a focused community discussion on future metropolitan urban development.

At the time of writing this report, notes from the workshop have not yet been summarised and will need to be reported to a subsequent Committee meeting for discussion.

A follow-up meeting of business leaders is scheduled for Tuesday 25 November 2003 (including the Mayor and Chief Executives of a number of local authorities and businesses). The meeting will seek a mix of short-term and long-term action points as a result of Jaime Lerner’s visit

One idea which received some initial support was to explore the establishment of a “Christchurch Urban Institute” for long-term planning as a “co-responsibility” between council(s), universities, business and key government agencies.

Staff will endeavour to update the members at the Committee meeting on ideas generated from the meeting of the business leaders to be held on 25 November 2003; and also any subsequent reports to Council as needed.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the workshop summary issues and challenges be incorporated into the Urban Development Strategy process.
 2. That the information be received.

Chairman’s

- Recommendation:**
1. That the staff recommendation be supported.
 2. That the idea of a Christchurch Urban Institute for long-term planning be investigated.