



**INSPIRED LEADERS
SHAPING CITIES**

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Place Management Industry Convenes in San Antonio to Discuss Future of Downtowns and City Centers
The 2018 conference brings together over 900 inspired leaders shaping cities and showcases the sustainability, creativity, preservation and heritage of San Antonio.

Washington, DC – The International Downtown Association’s innovative members will convene in San Antonio this month for a three-day conference themed “Retropolitan: The New American City.” Celebrating its 300th anniversary, San Antonio exemplifies the growing “retropolitan” movement nationwide – preserving a rich and diverse cultural history, while looking toward the future.

“We are honored to host this year’s IDA Annual Conference & Tradeshow in San Antonio during the city’s Tricentennial celebration. Our event is the premier gathering for professional placemakers to be inspired by top urban thinkers while exploring a dynamic city,” said David Downey, President and CEO of IDA. “Our members bring new ideas, trends and innovative solutions to challenges in urban place management from cities all over the world to support their downtowns and make them vibrant and healthy places.”

More than 900 industry leaders from around the globe will meet to discuss topics facing downtowns and city centers such as nighttime economy; millennial and shopper engagement in the digital age; dockless bikes and scooters; innovation districts; alley activations; transportation infrastructure; and autonomous vehicles. The IDA Conference features more than 28 sessions and 9 Master Talks, short keynotes from industry leaders. Twenty tours and mobile workshops will introduce delegates to the city and offer an opportunity for study, networking and the exchanging of ideas. Attendees will explore various neighborhoods in San Antonio with tours to King William Historic District, San Pedro Creek Linear Park, Hemisfair Park, The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Urban Future Lab, Guadalupe Cultural Arts District, Historic La Villita and more.

“As co-hosts, Centro is honored to have our colleagues from around the world experience Retropolitan – San Antonio style,” said Trish DeBerry, Centro San Antonio Board Chair. “San Antonio is in demand, downtown is in demand and we are excited to have the outstanding work happening in our downtown neighborhood on display.”

Master Talks speakers this year include Colorado Governor **John Hickenlooper**; **Derreck Kayongo**, Business Visionary, Global Soap Project Founder & Former CEO of the Center for Civil and Human Rights; **Molly Cox**, President & CEO, SA2020; **Akshay Pottathil**, Co-Director, Center for Information Convergence & Strategy at San Diego State University; **Janet Marie Smith**, Senior Vice President, Planning & Development, Los Angeles Dodgers; and more.

The 2018 “Retropolitan: The New American City” conference is co-hosted by IDA and Centro San Antonio. View the full conference schedule [here](#).

About IDA

The International Downtown Association is the premier organization for urban place professionals who are shaping and activating dynamic city center districts. Our members are downtown champions who bring urban centers to life, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. We represent an industry of more than 2,500 place management organizations, employing 100,000 people throughout North America and growing

rapidly around the world. Founded in 1954, IDA is a resource center for ideas and innovative best practices in urban place management. For more information, visit downtown.org.

About Centro San Antonio

Centro San Antonio is a 501(c)3 community development corporation whose mission is to mobilize people and resources to build a more prosperous downtown through strategic partnerships, convening and facilitating around important downtown issues, advocating for members and property owners, providing thought leadership on important community issues and delivering services that improve the downtown experience. For more information, please visit www.centrosanantonio.org.

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