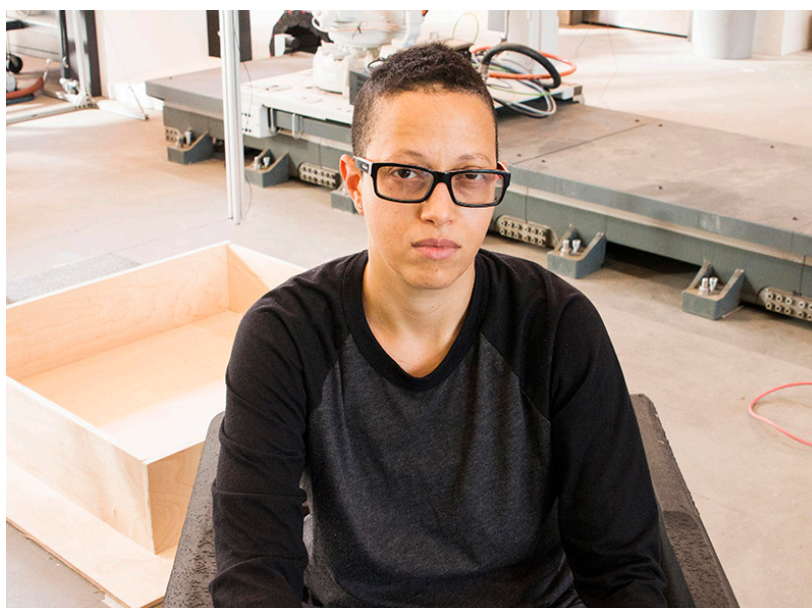


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NEW MUSEUM APPOINTS V. MITCH MCEWEN AS CURATOR OF IDEASCITY AND ANNOUNCES NEXT CITIES: TORONTO AND NEW ORLEANS



Courtesy A(n)other Lab, Princeton SOA

New York, NY...Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director*, and Karen Wong, Deputy Director of the New Museum, cofounders of IdeasCity, today announced the appointment of **V. Mitch McEwen** as Curator of IdeasCity, the institution's high-profile, multi-pronged initiative that explores the future of cities with culture as a driving force. [IdeasCity](#) is a collaborative, creative enterprise that—through conferences, workshops, commissions, projects, and exhibitions—investigates key issues, proposes solutions, and seeds concrete actions around a convening of an international network of thought leaders and cultural activists. IdeasCity builds on the New Museum's mission of "New Art, New Ideas" by expanding the Museum beyond its walls into the civic realm. The Curator is a two-year appointment linked to the biennial presentation of IdeasCity in New York and is responsible for the two-year cycle leading up to this presentation. As Curator of IdeasCity, McEwen will steer the framework for the 2018–19 cities and launch an open call for cities around the world to apply for the 2020–21 cycle.

When IdeasCity began in 2011, there were few conferences on urban futures and none sponsored by a museum. During its relatively short life span, IdeasCity has grown into a unique and robust

platform that addresses some of the major challenges and opportunities facing cities around the world today. IdeasCity partners with like-minded cities that believe culture is fundamental to urban growth and innovation; the initiative has taken place in New York (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017), Istanbul (2012), São Paulo (2013), Detroit (2016), Athens (2016), and Arles (2017).

The next IdeasCity will take place in Toronto on September 15, 2018, in partnership with the Bentway. In the spring of 2019, IdeasCity will be in New Orleans.

V. Mitch McEwen is principal and cofounder of A(n) Office, a collaborative of design studios in Detroit and New York. McEwen's work has been awarded grants from the Graham Foundation, the Knight Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts. A(n) Office and McEwen have been commissioned by the US Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, and the Istanbul Design Biennial. McEwen's work in urban design and architecture began at Bernard Tschumi Architects and the New York City Department of City Planning; she also founded the Brooklyn-based nonprofit SUPERFRONT. Since 2017, she has been Assistant Professor at Princeton University School of Architecture, having previously taught at the University of Michigan and Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. McEwen serves as a board member of the Van Alen Institute in New York.

"We are delighted that McEwen will join the stellar IdeasCity team at the New Museum for the next two-year cycle. As a practicing urban designer and professor of architecture, she is keenly attuned to the built environment and will bring intellectual rigor to thinking about urban design and planning as we continue to engage with cities who believe in culture's capacity to affect progress," said Lisa Phillips.

McEwen stated, "The New Museum, an institution founded by curators, has consistently advocated for artists as idea leaders. IdeasCity brings that ethos to the streets and a broader public to accelerate the kind of creative knowledge-sharing that opens new possibilities in our everyday lives. There's a responsibility right now—at this seemingly precarious moment—to not be shy or afraid, but to be bolder than ever and make the most of the connections we have with each other."

McEwen begins this month and reports to Karen Wong. She will work closely with the core IdeasCity team, which includes Vere van Gool, Associate Director; Gabe Gordon, Assistant Producer; and Richard Flood, the New Museum's Director of Special Projects & Curator at Large.

ABOUT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

ABOUT IDEASCITY

IdeasCity is a collaborative, civic, and creative platform that starts from the premise that art and culture are essential to the future vitality of cities. This international initiative provides a forum for designers, artists, technologists, and policymakers to exchange ideas, identify challenges, propose solutions, and engage the public's participation. The initiative was cofounded at the New Museum by Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director*, and Karen Wong, Deputy Director. For more information, visit ideas-city.org.

SUPPORT

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