

Press release
European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017
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Jan Gehl will be a keynote speaker at Creativity World Forum in Aarhus

Legendary urban planner Jan Gehl will be a keynote speaker at the forthcoming Creativity World Forum, which takes place in Aarhus, Denmark, November 1-2. Gehl is known worldwide for his visionary re-designing of city places, with an emphasis on spaces for people. He will inspire delegates with his human-centric approach to making sustainable, liveable cities built upon community and connectivity.

Creativity World Forum is a two-day worldwide conference bringing together around 2,000 top creative minds each year. This is the 13th edition, and will be Europe's largest forum on entrepreneurial creativity in 2017. Over the course of two days, the conference will present high-level talks, master classes, co-creative activities, and satellite events all over the city.

The city of the future

"We are thrilled to welcome Jan Gehl to Aarhus to lead discussions about liveability and to bring focus to the importance of putting people first in urban planning. The Gehl practice is world renowned for its ground-breaking and paradigm-shifting ideas, which have transformed hostile urban environments into user-friendly community hubs and flows," says Rebecca Matthews, Chief Executive Officer of Aarhus 2017.

"Gehl is a legend in his field, so it's with great pleasure that we can present him as a part of our strong speaker lineup," adds Martin Thim, one of the conference organisers. "The theme for Creativity World Forum 2017 is how to use creativity and innovation to create the city of the future, and Jan Gehl is one of the most notable voices in the transformation towards the resilient city of tomorrow."

A more creative Central Denmark Region

Creativity World Forum takes place on Danish shores for the first time this year, because Central Denmark Region has a special focus on creative industries, and is a member of the global network 'Districts of Creativity'. Creativity World Forum is the network's summit gathering. Coinciding with the announcement of Jan Gehl, Central Denmark Region and Aarhus 2017 launches its book *More Creative Events*, including interviews and articles on creative industries in the region and detailing some of the exciting projects included in the Aarhus 2017 programme. In addition to Jan Gehl, the book includes interviews with Christian Stadil, Thornico, Kristian Skovbakke Villadsen, Nadia Kløvedal Reich, European Film College and Adrian Matthew Fey, Culture Works, and many more. *More Creative Events* is available online at <http://bit.ly/2k6xmv0>.

Juliana Engberg, Programme Director of Aarhus 2017, comments, "Our year has a multitude of creative talents to interact with, drawn from the Central Denmark Region. In this book we speak with some of the people behind these exciting enterprises, and we profile some of the brilliant talent among the pioneering grassroots and industry leading giants who are creating beacons of insight and inspiration across the region."

For further information, please contact:

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Photo1:

Visionary urbanist, Jan Gehl, will be a keynote speaker at Creativity World Forum in Aarhus in November.



Biography of Jan Gehl

Founding Partner, Professor, D.Litt., Architect MAA, Int. FRIBA, Hon. FAIA Hon. FRAIC, Hon. FPIA

Architect, Professor (ret.) of Urban Design, The School of Architecture, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, and founding Partner of Gehl Architects, Copenhagen.

Major city improvement projects include: Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Rotterdam, Riga, Edinburgh, London, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Amman, Seattle, New York, Moscow, and Shanghai.

Publications include: *Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space* (first Danish edition 1971, various publishers, available in 24 languages), *Public Spaces Public Life* (with Lars Gemzøe, Danish Architectural Press, 1996), *New City Spaces* (with Lars Gemzøe, Danish Architectural Press, 2008), *Cities for People* (with Richard Rogers, Island Press, 2010, available in 20 languages), and *How to Study Public Life* (with Birgitte Svarre, Island Press 2013).

Jan Gehl has been awarded numerous national and international awards including the Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize for exemplary contributions to Town Planning, by The International Union of Architects, and an honorary doctoral degree from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

Jan Gehl is an Honorary Fellow of The Danish Institute of Architects, The Royal Institute of British Architects, The American Institute of Architects, The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, and the Planning Institutes of Australia and Ireland.

Born 1936.

Further information: www.gehlarchitects.com