



Global goals. Local solutions.

To: GHR Foundation
From: The Citiscopes team

City leaders need good data to make good decisions.

That could be a mission statement for the journalism we at Citiscopes want to do more of. We hope to educate, engage and inspire our global audience of city leaders and practitioners with stories about the value of using data to inform decision making at the local level — and about how local officials are innovating and putting these lessons into action.

Launched in 2014 with support from the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, Citiscopes is a nonprofit online news site that tells stories of urban innovations. Starting this year, we are honing our focus to explore how cities are implementing global agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris climate accord and New Urban Agenda.

As a key part of this effort, we hope to turn our existing coverage of “Data-Driven Cities” into a full-blown beat. It’s a focus that will lead us in many exciting directions. We’ll tell stories about how cities are using data to make better decisions, and how they’re building their capacities to collect and analyze data. We’ll also watch closely as the United Nations refines the indicators used to measure progress on the SDGs — and keep track of how the international community decides to do the same with the New Urban Agenda. We see a vital need for well-told stories of city experiments and breakthroughs, catching the imagination of citizens and local government leaders worldwide.

I’m writing to put our core idea on the table for review by the GHR Foundation. We would be interested in preparing a proposal from Citiscopes regarding financial support for our data coverage. What we are proposing seems like an excellent fit with the foundation’s emphasis on how cities respond to the Sustainable Development Goals and how that affects global development. With your support, we could have a reporter cover the beat full time and support part of an editor’s time to guide and shape the coverage. We also could execute a slate of webinars for city leaders around the world to learn from their peers.

This is a critical time: Will global development’s “data revolution” be received by policymakers with excitement or a shrug? The time for journalistic attention and engaging storytelling is now.

With our proven track record and seasoned editorial staff, Citiscope is well qualified to undertake the task.

Thanks for your consideration.

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