



*Dynamic, thought-provoking keynoter*

## **Michael W Mehaffy**

*Author, researcher, consultant and educator on sustainable cities  
Executive Director, Sustasis Foundation, Portland, Oregon*

### **“What makes cities prosperous – and green?”**

Michael Mehaffy is an international urban scholar, researcher, and popular speaker who has keynoted many large and small events in the US, Europe, Asia and Latin America. He gives engaging, “big idea” talks on the changing role of cities in our lives, and the things we can do to make them work better for all. Michael has also written popular articles for magazines including *The Atlantic*, *Metropolis*, *Building (UK)* and *Urban Land*, as well as sixteen book chapters, and a book titled *The Structure of Walkable Cities* (forthcoming). Smart City Radio, the national public radio program, profiled Michael as “an international leader in sustainable planning.”

*“[Michael’s] presentation in Aspen was wonderful. It was the short survey course, in one hour, what I learned last year in the urban planning and design survey course at MIT.”*

*- Robin Chase, CEO, Meadow Networks, and founder, ZipCar*

Other speaking topics:

### **“How can we revitalize our declining suburbs?”**

### **“Where is technology headed in this time of economic stress?”**

Michael is also well qualified to speak on technological change, economics, new developments in the technology of design, the growth of open-source, Wiki and pattern languages, biophilia, biomimicry, design for self-organization, frontiers of complexity science, the work of urbanist Jane Jacobs, the work of architect Christopher Alexander, sustainability, resilience, and climate change. His talks are carefully tailored to audiences that may include government officials, planners, architects, developers and other business leaders, computer software and IT professionals, and more general audiences.

*“[Michael’s] thoughtful messages planning content well in advance of the event assured me we had selected the ideal [keynote] presenter.”*

*- Piper Foster, Director, Sopris Foundation*



Michael is currently the Sir David Anderson Fellow at the University of Strathclyde (UK), where he conducts leading research on sustainable city growth. He is also a researcher at Delft University of Technology (NL). He has done groundbreaking research and practice in new “green” development practices including “sprawl repair” and transit-oriented development. Michael has also taught and researched sustainable urban planning at five graduate programs in four countries, including the University of Oregon, Arizona State University, and The University of Trento (IT).

Among the venues where Michael has keynoted and/or moderated:

- WHO/Ageing Well Network, Launch Conference, “Age-Friendly Cities,” Dublin, IE
- National Building Museum, Annual Scully Award Ceremony, Washington, D.C.
- Sopris Foundation, Annual Conference, Aspen Institute, Colorado
- AIA Historic Resources Committee, Annual Conference, Bath, UK (Keynoter/moderator)
- University College London, conference on “Cities and Evolution” (moderator)

*“I hope you will be pleased to know that your opening remarks were quoted frequently during the second day’s sessions. I believe your work is very important.”*

- James Malanaphy, Co-Chair  
Historic Resources Committee, American Institute of Architects

*“What a compelling and inspiring synthesis [Michael] presented.”*

- Susan Zielinski, Managing Director, Center for Advancing Research and Solutions for Society

*Video/audio samples of Michael’s speaking:*

- Recent Voice of America interview on the role of density and tall buildings in cities (2<sup>nd</sup> half):  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/arts/Social-Scientists-Debate-Role-of-City--135324343.html>
- Keynote for National Building Museum, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Vincent Scully Award (starts at 11:00):  
<http://vimeo.com/7600212>
- Lecture on philosophy at “The Athens Dialogues,” Greece:  
[http://streaming.sgt.gr/view-stream\\_en.asp?video=28](http://streaming.sgt.gr/view-stream_en.asp?video=28)
- Academic lecture at University College London: <http://www.rudi.net/node/2053>

*“Your contribution was terrific.”*

- Elana Horowitz, Manager of Partnerships and Consulting  
Government of Ontario, Growth Secretariat