Telosa Webinar+ Focus Group
Building a World-Class City: Community Connections
September 28, 2023
FAQ

1. **Has a final location for Telosa been announced yet?**

   We continue to make efforts to identify a location but have not decided yet. There are opportunities and challenges with each location. Telosa will be built in the United States. Some potential locations include Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Texas, and the Appalachian Region. In the meantime, we are focusing on community building efforts.

2. **Would Telosa consider being built outside the United States? (in a country like Ghana)?**

   At this time, we are not actively negotiating on any sites outside the US. At the same time, it is something we will absolutely consider for the future. As you can see from our webinars and white papers, we are actively building a body of knowledge of best practices and a blue print that will help all cities, both new and existing, regardless of location. By putting people first and developing plans and policies that will greatly enhance quality of life; invigorate communities; and maximize opportunity for everyone, our thought leadership is applicable to all cities and will pave the pathway to a more equitable and sustainable future.

3. **I'm interested in understanding how Telosa's development plans take into consideration the impacts on indigenous cultures. We've seen reports of challenges in other 'cities of the future' regarding their treatment of indigenous communities. Can you share some insights into Telosa's approach to ensuring the well-being and cultural preservation of indigenous peoples in the region?**

   We have not selected a specific location. When we ultimately choose a geographic location for the new city, we will work with all indigenous groups, existing residents, and other stakeholders to ensure their voices are heard and part of the co-design process.

   Throughout history, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have long protected their lands and waters in reciprocity with nature, guided by their culture, traditional ecological knowledge and their connection to place.

Telosa will work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to support their visions for the land, and amplifying their voices in the community co-design process.

4. **With everyone agreeing on these domains, why aren't more cities like this?**

Implementing the framework we propose in the report faces significant barriers and obstacles. Financial constraints, limited resources, and other socioeconomic disparities creates obstacles for existing cities to implement the six characteristics. In addition, resistance to change and cultural barriers work against building diversity and social cohesion. Increasing and supporting civic engagement through a strategic community co-design model will help us overcome these barriers and begin to work towards solutions to implement the best practices uncovered. A strategic plan that includes diverse partnerships, education, transparent governance, and collaborative leadership will enable a community to succeed in implementing and maintaining many of the action items listed in the report.

5. **Are the presentation slides available to participants?**

All slides are available to view in the "Telosa Building a World Class City: Community Connections" video:
https://youtu.be/JZhPihcvJxQ

6. **With the rapid advance of Artificial Intelligence are you preparing for the potential END OF WORK (i.e. where robots do all the work)?**

We are actively preparing our plans with the future of work in mind to provide new opportunities for everyone in our community. Our focus on life-long learning will enable Telosa residents to upgrade their skill-set and learn new skills as the demands of the workplace rapidly change over the next several decades. AI presents many challenges but also many opportunities. For example, combined with increased automation (e.g. robotics), AI will enable many types of advanced manufacturing to become cost-effective enough to return to US shores in a significant way. This will require a highly trained workforce with very different training and abilities than the industrial age of prior decades. We will not only provide a highly skilled workforce to meet these needs, but also provide innovation zones and business incubators called 'maker spaces' to attract these

types of high-skilled manufacturers. This has been very successful in cities like Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Singapore.

7. **With Artificial Intelligence and with more people working from home, do you think community building might be more important than ever, as we become more isolated?**

We absolutely agree that this is a challenge and needs to be addressed. When you look at the marked decline in civil society groups and even workplace organizations over the past 50 years, creating the space for people to socialize, volunteer and be involved with their neighbors and communities has become an even bigger problem. It has a tangible impact on everything from education (lower participation in PTA's), charity and volunteer work (lower giving and volunteering for groups like the United Way), and less healthy behavior (rising mental stress, social isolation, less connection to the community). Creatively inspiring a new community spirit that will invigorate social connections and drive new civic engagement can reverse this empirically damaging trend. To accomplish this, we first must recognize how important community is to the health of a city, which you clearly do, then we have to implement the steps laid out in our report to make robust community engagement a reality.

8. **Is the intent to give away free houses in the new city?**

The goal is to make housing more affordable and accessible but not necessarily free. The city needs to be economically sustainable but will provide incentives, subsidies, and financing support. The focus is on creating high quality job opportunities and greater affordability.

9. **How will suburban areas be impacted by the new community index?**

All communities can receive value from the index as few are strong on all aspects. While many suburbs will score high in areas of social capital due to wealth and education, many often lack a sense of community and civic pride. For many suburbs, this is due to land use patterns - no strong downtown, lots of cul-de-sacs, large lots and front loading garages, no clear demarcation of neighboring towns, etc.

10. **Will we continue to move everything into urban areas, including having farms and agriculture produced inside our cities?**

This is an area that we are carefully analyzing and observing outstanding best practices from around the world. It is unlikely that we will be able to feed the 8 billion people on earth with urban farms, but there are a number of ways we can innovatively grow more food closer to population centers. For example, the Netherlands ranks 131st in the world by land mass, but is the third largest food exporter. It accomplishes this feat by advanced vertical farming, cutting edge seed technology, and AI-driven robotics. In Telosa, we are planning to implement many of these methods to provide fresh, healthy food to our residents.

11. **Define "Strong Community." Without that definition, all your data is meaningless - no cause and effect. You fail to correlate a strong community with GDP as charted in Figure 4. Your chart shows no cause and effect. Was cheaper housing the cause? Was weather a factor? Was type of business/industry in the city growing? There are too many variables not accounted for in your chart.**

Community is a collective group of individuals who share common interests, values, and goals while residing in a particular geographic area. A strong community is one in which there are high levels of social trust, social capital, networks of reciprocity, shared social norms, and civic engagement that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. It is a place where people generally believe that 'we are all in this together' vs. 'every person for themselves.'
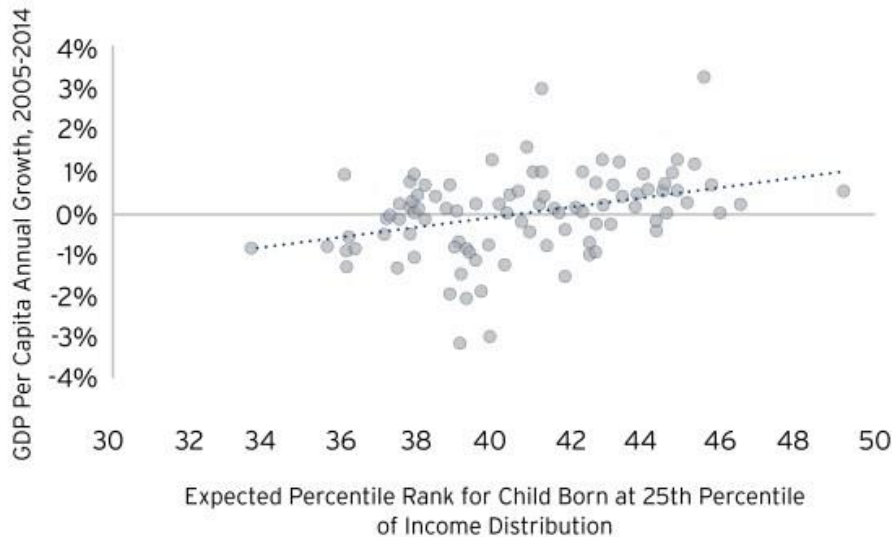
Empirical research has shown that increased social capital can help make our lives healthier, safer, better educated, and more prosperous. It also makes us better able to govern a just and stable democracy. A few brief examples (among many others):

- Communities with higher levels of social capital produce children with higher SAT scores and higher performance on a broad range of testing. These communities also have lower dropout rates, higher retention, and less youth violence.
- The more integrated we are with our community, the more likely we are to have reduced incidence of a whole list of health problems including colds, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, depression, and premature death of all sorts.
- Representative government is more responsive in communities with more social capital. Tax compliance is higher and charitable donations as well as support for community organizations is greater. Voting and participation in local government is also higher.
- Increased levels of trust facilitate greater economic activity and lower the cost of doing business.

The chart referenced (see below chart) in the question was of the 100 largest Metropolitan areas in the US, identifying the correlation of greater economic opportunity and faster economic growth. You are correct that correlation does not necessarily directly map to causation and there could be other factors at play. However, at a time when the American Dream (children doing better than their parents) has declined from over 90% of the population to around 50%, there is a large body of research that reinforces this strong correlation. As Michael Porter, the Harvard scholar and global expert on competitiveness observed, "Shared prosperity is a hallmark of any truly competitive economy."

Figure 4. Metro areas with higher equality of opportunity experience faster economic growth
Upward mobility vs. GDP per capita growth, 100 largest metro areas

Source: Brookings analysis of data from Moody's Analytics, Chetty et al. 2013

Resources:

If you are not already a member, please join our Telosa Community Network: https://city-of-telosa.mn.co/.

Our draft Community Findings report, "Building a World-Class City: The Power of Community Connections," can be found here: https://cityoftelosa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Telosa-Community-Connections-DRAFT-2023-09-25.pdf