CITYSTUDIO

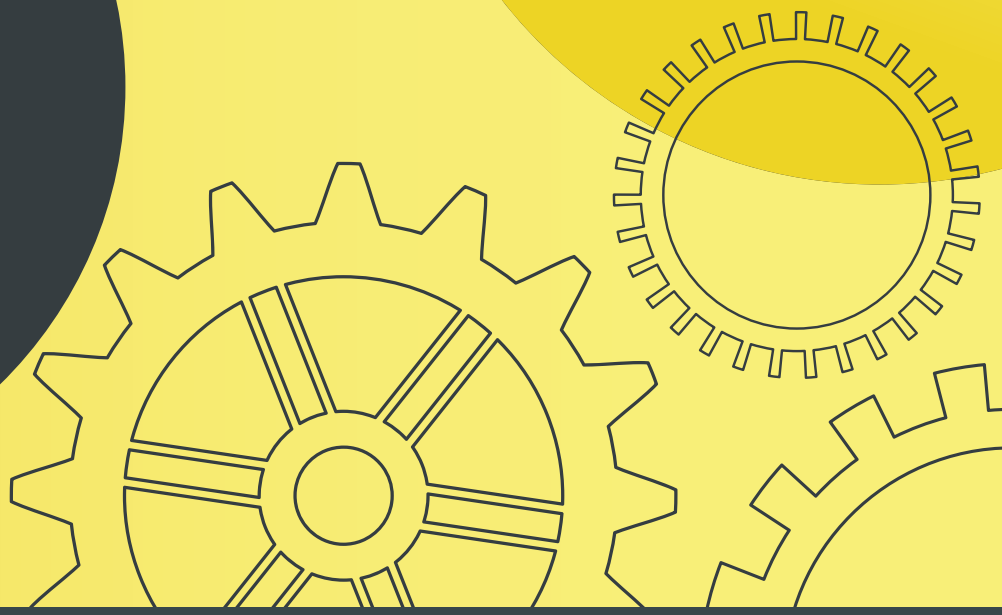
CityStudio is a way for **municipalities** and their **academic institutions** to collaborate.

Around the world, CityStudios are making local communities more sustainable, inclusive, liveable, and joyful.

→ Features of a CityStudio

CityStudio is a time-tested and locally adaptive partnership model that enables **municipalities** and **academic institutions** to collaborate effectively and efficiently.

It is a collaboration kick-starter that links a municipality's needs with the expertise and creativity of local researchers, faculty experts, and driven students.



The CityStudio model can be licensed around the world. We provide everything a municipality and their academic partner(s) need to build, launch, and operate a CityStudio.

→ Training and Support:

CityStudio is your one-stop-shop. Get a starter pack of materials, customized training, and documented processes and standards, as well as ongoing support for all your CityStudio needs.

→ An Established Brand:

The CityStudio brand has been around for a decade and is continuing to grow nationally and globally through the launch of new CityStudios.

→ Membership Platform:

The CityStudio Network platform connects our national and international members together. It provides a place to learn and collaborate with one another, exchange knowledge, showcase projects, and strengthen our collective civic impact.

→ Why Every Municipality Needs a CityStudio

Every CityStudio engages with a range of stakeholders who each receive unique benefits.

→ Municipality:

- Supports municipal strategic plans and staff work plans.
- Creates proof-of-concept prototypes and experiments that can lead to permanent solutions.
- Provides low-risk opportunities for learning and experiments that benefit the community.
- Increases and diversifies community engagement while increasing talent attraction and retention.

→ Academic Institution:

- Creates an ongoing, open, and strategic relationship with municipalities.
- Provides students with work-integrated and project-based learning opportunities, as well as professional network development.
- Provides a direct channel for campus-community engagement.

→ Faculty:

- Provides engaging and relevant work-integrated and project learning opportunities for classes.
- Creates new local research opportunities.
- Connects faculty directly to their municipality.

→ Student:

- Provides engaging and relevant work integrated and project learning opportunities through coursework.
- Strengthens employability with professional network development, as well as opportunities for practical skills and experiences.
- Creates civic awareness and a sense of connection to the local community.

→ Community:

- Engages local citizen expertise.
- Inspires residents with action on-the-ground initiatives in their neighborhoods.

→ CityStudio in Action

Frequently Asked Questions

What other cities are involved?

- There are currently 15 CityStudios in municipalities globally–12 across Canada as well as one in Norway and two in Australia.

How do we adapt the model here?

- The model is designed specifically to adapt to local contexts. It's been proven to work in diverse municipalities and regions of all sizes nationally and globally–with populations less than 20,000 to over 1m!

What kinds of projects are done?

- Projects can take on a variety of forms based on the needs of the municipality, such as research, analysis, mapping, and prototyping. Projects can focus on a range of issues, for example, the climate emergency, equity and inclusion, food security, health and wellbeing, public spaces, and transportation.

How much does it cost?

- The fee structure is population-based. Get in touch with us to learn more and get a quote for your municipality.

How long does it take?

- Depending on local stakeholders, the process can take anywhere from a few months to one year.

What's the first step to getting started?

- Interest and buy-in from municipal and academic leadership is the first step.

How is it organized?

- A CityStudio can be organized inside a municipality or an academic institution, or as a program inside a nonprofit organization, depending on what suits the local context.

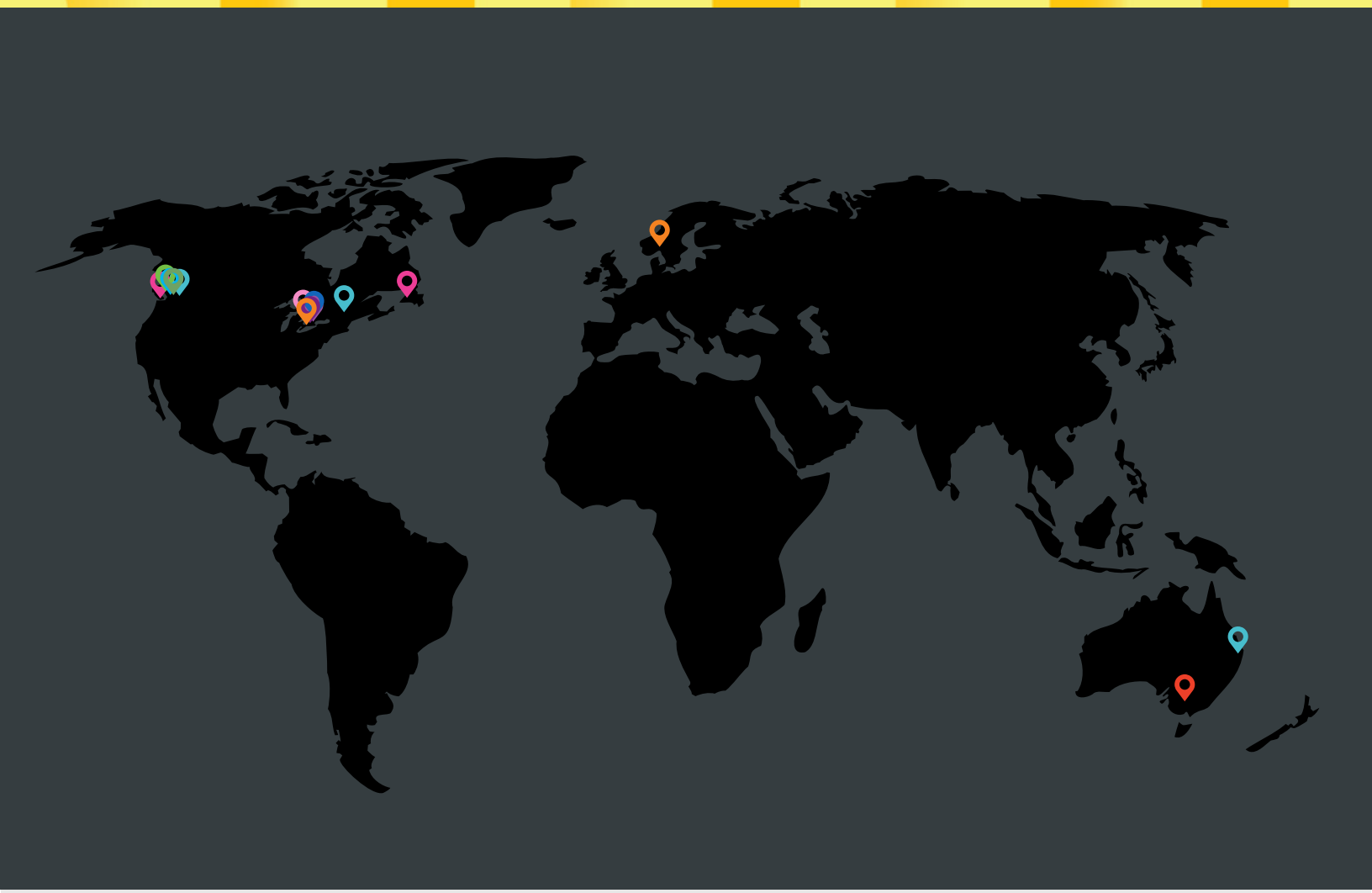
Get in touch to learn more.

With a decade of experience, we have lots to share!

5 Steps to Create the Best Municipal-Academic Partnerships

1. **Hire a Project Coordinator** to organize the work, develop relationships, and find project opportunities.
2. **Host an annual project development workshop** with city staff, where the Project Coordinator discovers what's going on in the municipality and what staff need help with.
3. **Create a project scoping and matching process** to find the right fit between the needs of city staff and the skills of students in alignment with course curriculums.
4. **Develop relevant and practical course-based projects** for students that directly support the municipality's needs.
5. **Hold a project showcase** to bring together students, city staff, municipal and academic leadership, and citizens to share project outcomes and envision next steps.

→ Launch a CityStudio!



A growing number of municipalities across the world have adopted or been inspired by the CityStudio Model.

Is yours next?

If you're a city official or an academic leader, let's talk about bringing a CityStudio to the place you call home.

Get in touch

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