



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2016

Urban Design on the “World Stage”: Next City Invites Kounkuey Design Initiative’s Kenya Country Director, Tatu Gatere, to Speak at Habitat III

NAIROBI, KENYA (October 13, 2016) – [Next City](#) has selected KDI's Kenya Country Director, [Tatu Gatere](#), from a competitive pool of more than 200 distinguished applicants, to speak on the “World Stage” at the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador on Wednesday, Oct. 19th at 9am. Gatere will promote the benefits of using human-centered design for successful and sustainable urbanization by sharing her experience of working in Kibera, Nairobi as part of KDI and her wider experience as a practicing architect in several cities and countries.

“I’d like to see urban development prioritizing equal access to clean, healthy, safe, walkable and beautiful public spaces,” says Gatere.

Gatere will present on the “World Stage,” a publicly accessible exhibition space hosted by national urban affairs publisher Next City. Gatere’s talk will be part of a broader conversation happening at [Habitat III](#), the United Nations’ Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development and the premier hub for discussions about the future of cities. The conference takes place in Quito from October 17th – 20th, 2016. At Habitat III Heads of Government will adopt a “New Urban Agenda,” an action-oriented document that will set global standards of achievement in urban development for the next twenty years.

KDI’s Executive Director, [Chelina Odbert](#), and Associate Director, [Joe Mulligan](#), will join [Gatere](#) in engaging with 40,000 international experts and urban leaders to discuss the social, economic and ecological challenges cities now face as the majority of the world’s population lives in or near urban centers.

KDI will share their insights from 10 years of co-designing and building “Productive Public Spaces” (PPS) in the underserved communities of Kibera, Nairobi and the Eastern Coachella Valley in California.

A PPS:

- Transforms environmental liabilities into usable public space;
- Prioritizes end-users as they collaborate with outside groups;

- Generates income while empowering communities;
- Adds value to a space without alienating the original community;
- Meets expressed community priorities and link to larger improvement efforts; and
- Uses strong design concepts to create beautiful places.

You can learn more about KDI by attending one of the events we are contributing to at Habitat III, which are listed below. KDI's work will also be exhibited at the UN-Habitat Pop-Up Public Space and at the Global Goals Lab and Swedish Pavilion.

Event	Date/Time	KDI
"Providing Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Public Spaces" Panel, Nairobi City County and Placemakers	Monday 17th, 1600-1700 Room MR4	Chelina Moderator
"The Urban Leaders We Need" - Networking Event, SKL International/Global Utmaning	Monday 17th, 1600-1700 Room MR4	Chelina Case Study
"Participatory discourse and equitable development" Panel, Sante Fe Art Institute	Tuesday 18th, 1000-1000 World Stage	Chelina Contributor
"Be Heard" Presentation, Next City	Wednesday 19th, 0900-1000 World Stage	Tatu Main Speaker
"Design and Diplomacy" Roundtable, US State Department	Wednesday 19th, 1700-1800 US Pavilion	Chelina Participant
"Disrupting urban risk traps" - Bi-regional networking event, UCL/DPU/Urban Ark	Thursday 20th, 0930-1230 Campus of Sustainable Cities	Joe Case Study
POP-UP Public Space for All - Event/Presentation	Thursday 20th, 1400-1500 Habitat III Village	Chelina/Joe/ Tatu

About Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI)

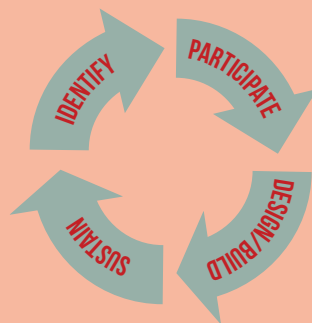
KDI is a non-profit design and community development organization, that partners with underserved communities in the US, Africa, and Latin America to physically transform communities and in the process, improve environmental, economic, and social quality of life. Begun in 2006, KDI is made up of architects, landscape architects, engineers, urban planners, and community organizers. KDI believes that participatory planning and design are key to sustainable development. By working collaboratively with communities from conception through implementation, we build on their ideas, enhance them with technical knowledge and design innovation, and connect them to extant resources. In doing so, KDI empowers communities to advocate for themselves and address the major physical, social, and economic challenges they face.



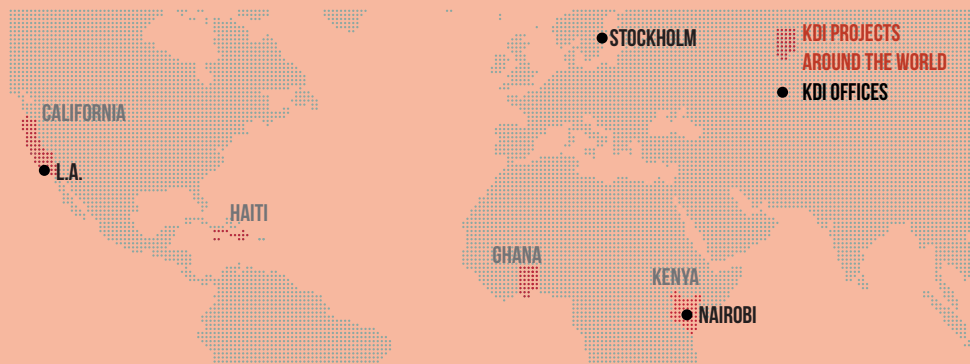
PRODUCTIVE PUBLIC SPACES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES
ACTION-RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
TACTICAL URBANISM

KDI

“10 YEARS of PRODUCTIVE PUBLIC SPACES”



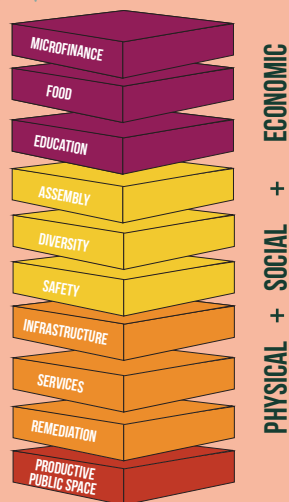
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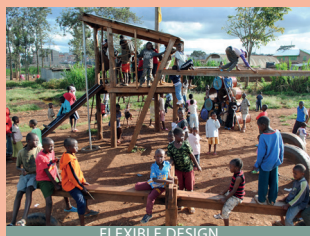


At KDI we develop what we call “Productive Public Spaces” (PPS).

A PPS:

- Transforms an environmental liability into usable public space
- Is authored and operated by its end-users collaborating with outside groups
- Integrates income-generating and socially empowering uses
- Adds value to a space without alienating the original community
- Meets expressed community priorities and links to larger improvement efforts
- Uses strong design concepts to create beautiful places





FLEXIBLE DESIGN



ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE



TEMPORARY SPACES



INCOME GENERATING AMENITIES



ENGAGING YOUTH



SANITATION ALTERNATIVES

KDI WORK FEATURED @ HABITAT III :

- Swedish Pavilion - 10 Years of Productive Public Space in Kibera and California.
- Pop-up public space in the Habitat III Village
- Nairobi City County - Examples of Public Space Development in Nairobi

KDI PARTICIPANTS @ HABITAT III:



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