

Understanding Precedes Action



What is the Urban Observatory?

The Urban Observatory is an interactive exhibit that gives you the chance to compare and contrast maps of cities around the world—all from one location. It aims to make the world's data both understandable and useful. Brought to life by **Richard Saul Wurman**, **RadicalMedia**, and **Esri**, it is the first exhibit of its kind.

Intrigued?

[Get Involved](#)

Meet the Urban Observatory App.

Compare cool facts and live data about multiple cities anywhere, anytime.
(Caution: it's addictive)

[Launch App](#)



In the News

"A new way to compare cities"

– Fast Company

"Prepare to waste your day"

– CityLab

"Remarkable to see"

– GovLoop

"Imagine putting New York and Paris side-by-side"

– Forbes

"Smart maps based on powerful data"

– Gigaom

"Map lovers and data geeks are in for a real treat"

– Curbed

"Transforms digital map-related jargon into information that anyone could understand"

– Engadget

"A level of comparative information not seen before"

– Huffington Post

"Could be a tool for social change"

– Wired

Get Involved

Be part of the Urban Observatory by sharing maps of your city or pointing us to data. You could be named an Urban Observatory curator for your city! **[Compare cities now!](#)**

See your city included in the Urban Observatory online and on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Look here for more details on how you can get your city involved.

Get Involved