Information, Technology, & 21st Century Community Development

Ben Hecht
President & CEO
Living Cities
Living Cities:
* 15 years, $15 billion
* Founding Sponsor of UMI
Community Development: Key Forces of Change

- Money
- Climate Change
- Technology and Internet
Money

• More

• Different players
Climate Change

- Renewed interest
- Land use and transportation
Technology and Internet - Information

- Private sector decision-making
- Individual decision-making
Technology and Internet – Wholesaling Social Change

• Big impact immediately
• No boundaries
• Marginal incremental cost
• Technology itself provides solutions
What Does this Mean for Us?

• Tell a different story

• Heightened need for Information/evidence-based approaches

• Design for people and places

• Ride, don’t buck, the trends of change
Early Adopters

• Stand proud
• Keep the faith
• Be popular
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