The city faces an escalating crisis that cannot be solved by a 'business as usual' approach, including the challenge of living together with great diversity and difference, addressing the sustainability agenda, rethinking its role and purpose to survive well economically, culturally and socially and to manage increasing complexity. These are some of the future priorities for creativity. Creativity needs to address the issues that really matter globally. Curiosity, imagination and creativity are the pre-conditions for inventions and innovations to develop as well as to solve intractable urban problems and to create interesting opportunities. Unleashing the creativity of citizens, organizations and the city is an empowering process. It harnesses potential and is a vital resource. It is a new form of capital and a currency in its own right.

This new series of short Comedia publications seek to encapsulate briefly, key agendas and thought movements that are shaping the city today and have an impact on the future. The Origins & Futures of the Creative City is the first title and sets the platform for a series of other forthcoming 'shorts'.

Charles Landry is an international authority on the future of cities and the creative use of resources in urban revitalization. He advises cities, working with them as a 'critical friend' to harness their assets and potential. For further information: www.charleslandry.com
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