



Invitation to Participate in the Cities Summit of the Americas “Innovation Plaza Commercial Expo”

The United States recognizes that cities play a leading role in bringing citizens and governments together to solve real-world problems, across the United States, across our hemisphere, and around the world.

For that reason, on June 7, 2022, on the eve of the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the United States would host the [inaugural Cities Summit of the Americas](#) to foster cooperation among city, state, and regional leaders, together with business, youth, and civil society and to ensure meaningful implementation of commitments made during the Ninth Summit.

The Cities Summit will take place the week of April 24, 2023, in Denver, Colorado, with plenary sessions April 27-28, 2023, at Denver’s Colorado Convention Center.

An **Innovation Plaza Commercial Expo** will run concurrently with the Cities Summit plenary to highlight an array of technologies, products, and services that can make cities smarter, more accessible, better governed, and sustainable to help participating subnational leaders identify tangible solutions to apply to the challenges they discuss during the plenary sessions.

We invite proposals from companies across the hemisphere to participate in the **Innovation Plaza Commercial Expo** through the installation of interactive exhibits and displays showing off their companies’ innovative offerings and solutions. The **Innovation Plaza Commercial Expo** will include an expanded B2B meeting area, offering space for networking and one-on-one meetings.

The Cities Summit and the **Innovation Plaza Commercial Expo** demonstrate the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to deepening U.S. municipal-level engagement with mayors, community leaders, and city planners from across the United States and throughout the Americas. This summit will bring together municipal, state, provincial, and regional elected leaders with diverse and inclusive representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia, youth, arts and culture, indigenous, and previously under-represented groups to build relationships and advance regional cooperation, which will help cities address common challenges, take advantage of shared opportunities, and achieve their full potential. Cities Summit participants will work towards tangible outcomes that strengthen democracy including combatting the spread and influence of disinformation; improve public services, including healthcare; foster clean energy transitions; address environmental challenges; and increase access to critical digital technologies.

We expect between 2,000 to 2,500 local government leaders, private sector and civil society representatives, and other stakeholders from across the hemisphere to circulate through the expo.

We have extended invitations to all 50 U.S. governors and the mayors of major cities across the hemisphere, including Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Kingston, Los Angeles, Mexico City, New York, Toronto, Panama City, and São Paulo.

Dates: Thursday, April 27 to Friday, April 28, 2023

Venue: Colorado Convention Center

Exhibitor Selection Criteria:

- Companies should submit a proposal using the online form describing:
 - The technologies, products, and services to showcase in the exhibit/display and their applicability towards meeting the host of challenges cities face across the region.
 - The proposed display (ideally including rendering), with a description of how participants will be able to engage with information/products/technology demos on display.
 - Any technical requirements (exhibitors should make note of anticipated logistical requirements, such as electricity, internet access, water access, hazardous materials, waste disposal, etc.).
 - Company background and location (including company HQ).
 - Company's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) activities if applicable, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).
- Proposal Evaluation Criteria:
 - Relevance of the technologies, products, and services to be showcased in the exhibit/display to the theme of the Innovation Plaza.
 - Inclusion of innovative displays, product-demos, and hands-on learning opportunities.
 - A strict visual departure from traditional trade booths or a trade-show feel is encouraged.
 - Technical feasibility.
- Additional considerations:
 - Environmental and sustainable solutions are of particular interest.
 - We aim to have geographic diversity and seek participants from across the region. Companies are encouraged to highlight/incorporate their regional partners, distributors, and vendors from around the region.
 - Small and medium-sized businesses and businesses owned by or serving traditionally underserved populations will be prioritized.
 - We welcome consolidated proposals that group multiple entities into a single exhibit/display.
 - Proposals will be considered on a rolling/first-come, first-served basis.

Exhibitor Costs: Participating companies are responsible for the costs of their exhibit/display, including construction, operation, staffing, and dismantling. No entry fees required.

Supplemental Resources: Innovation Plaza organizers will work with partner companies and organizations to identify potential funding sources to facilitate the participation of small businesses on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Opportunities for Selected Companies: Beyond exhibits and displays, selected companies may be invited to speak on issue-specific panels or roundtables with leaders over the course of the Cities Summit.

General Attendance: Attendance at the Cities Summit is by invitation only. For those not selected for Innovation Plaza but still interested in attending or participating in the Cities Summit in another capacity, please email innovationplaza@state.gov. Those interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email florajane@biennialoftheamericas.org.

Submission: The deadline for submitting proposals is January 9, 2023. Please submit the proposal via online form found at www.citiessummitoftheamericas.org under Innovation Plaza tab. Additional renderings or other supporting materials can be included as attachments.