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Positioning political leaders to unlock spatial equity

While cities continue to grow rapidly around the world, the distribution of opportunities has become exceedingly uneven. Access to jobs, public transportation, fresh food, and affordable housing have been disproportionately deployed, offering exponentially greater opportunity to those that can afford proximity to them. Cities today are faced with both the promise and the challenge of the 21st century - they have provided a far greater number of opportunities to far fewer people.

At City Collective, we have developed the following four-part methodology that arms political leaders with the tools and resources to define and implement equity positive strategies. We;

1. defined the urban systems that generate opportunity,
2. defined what drives the quality of these urban systems,
3. spatially mapped the concentrations and absence of spatial opportunity, and
4. generate system wide strategies for heightened spatial equity.

Multi-city-wide case studies from the United States and Australia will be presented as case studies to provoke the possibilities of design through the methodology outlined above. The preliminary impacts of these city-wide strategies suggest the potential influence in the following ways:

- Increases access to jobs by 20-40 percent
- Increases the percentage of residences
- Increases access to public transportation by 30 percent

Our findings suggest an overall strategy of deconcentration and diffusion of typical city hubs. By creating smaller, more frequent hubs of jobs, fresh food, and affordable housing, located near existing transportation points, instead of co-locating these in business, food, and living districts, it will increase the access to opportunity for a far greater number of people.