February 25, 2023, New York City
Rob Van Kranenburg,
Founder of the Council of the Internet of Things, www.theinternetofthings.eu

Dear: Rob and the people co-generating the Internet of Things Council

Instead of writing an article or essay for a journal, blog, or book, I turn to the concept of writing a letter, which is part information, and part sharing our human journeys as we spin around the sun, hopefully, *"creating a better place than that which we inherited,"* as the last line of Athenian Oath of Citizenship states.

My journey with the Council on the Internet of Things, began when I meet, you in 2010. We were participating a week-long retreat digging through mountain resort and town waste dumps in and around the City of Banff, British Columbia with large group of artists, hackers, urban designers, and philosophers reflected on starting at both ends of the emerging digital 1G yet to named, SMART City and Big Data, urban future. The art works assembled from the waste commenting on the emerging global logistics viral explosion opened the door to more unsettling questions about what the new idea internet of things would generate as a lived future.

More importantly, I saw for the first that there was an option to "CISCO's" internet net of data and sensors. It was the Council on the Internet of Things/People, which is centered on "humanity and human agency"—the co-production and co-reproduction of knowledge (lived and grounded data) – by collecting stories and poetry about societies of people and natures interacting in the process of inhabiting the earth's thin atmosphere of life. For someone like me who has spent a lifetime working on "urban infrastructure", struggling on the ground with communities, public officials and working with graduate students at a time with the cumulative impact of outdated infrastructures policy, development and design models are collapsing, and the SMART CITY socio-technical efficiency corporations seek total control of public infrastructures.

Soon after our first meeting you and I began a series of what I call, "IoT-Salons", visiting each other in our homes, sharing classes, work, and late night online zoom "critical praxis" trouble-shooting the front-line challenges of humanizing the data/sensor miasma of the Big Data IoT.

During our early IoT salons when we begin to align interests and did deep the challenges you sent me an essay with a title that in few short words foregrounded the opportunity ahead.

In a talkative planet. What is to be done?

In several pages he summarized the power dynamics that are emerging behind our phone screens, and the harvesting of data operating the ubiquitous ether encasing our everyday life. Rather than the usual critical stance, of rejection of the whole idea, you encouraged us to take a creative and proactive call to action by the people holding phones and face timing, to become be the internet itself, its hubs, its analytics', and its value with other peoples and places struggling to survive outside CISCO's climate. You even told us where to start our engagement of turning the energy of a talkative planet towards a reliance network of knowledge co-productions or follow the past of the converting talk into commodifying data, when you stated:

> **For we are not in trouble with our future. Anything can happen for better or for worse. We are in trouble with our past. The past is what gets us down every time we can choose a different path.**

In many ways you put into words what I was trying wrestling with seeing what is emerging my experiences on the grounds in my urban design practice with infrastructure policy, development, design, and educational disruptions and collapses. Where you started with the internet of things, I have been involved in an expansive reflective "critical praxis" investigation of basic terms of "urban relational systems" that we "hide behind the billboard term, **INFRASTRUCTURES**" through, field research, graduate seminar, a lot reading and listening to "other people's" struggling under the debris of outdated infrastructure thinking, making, and doing and the debt burden of existing infrastructure funding models.

Below is the "practice" thread of this evolving work on infrastructure. This new company was created to address update historic urban public project funding models, to amend existing city, town, and county public project development process with a third option funding model, a people, place and system platform we call: Invested Public Network.

Invested Public Network aligns with *People Co-Adapting their Local Place's Future*

Imagine in the next 5-7 years, that thousands of existing small and medium towns and communities, across the country adapted their existing approached to meeting future aspiration. What if? Facing, a long list of deferred systems maintenance, a short fall in traditional public project funding resources and new realities of new climate measurements by adapting their existing socio/technical infrastructures, into grounded interactive reliance systems (Schfaran, Smith, Hall, 2020). Where any one in community can be "vested-in" the local return from their systems, whether they have $500 or $500,000.

They provision (Schfaran, et al, 2020) everyday access and delivery of water, power generation, food, communication, healthy and social day care funded through the empowerment of local crowds of people who join in a hands-on co-producing and reproducing public project initiatives for radical adaption to fit local situations by learning how to become an "**invested public network**".

For the last six years the founding members of the **Invested Public Network** and its affiliated network through extensive field work, scholarship research, work sessions with people, and hours of prototyping third option project funding initiative and offering scenarios, we have learned that many communities' are seeking to the shift their traditional public project processes toward infrastructures adaption strategies to utilize what they have into systems that can meet the demands of changing ecological, social, governance and physical situations. However, demonstration projects quickly run into the hidden limits of relying upon existing public participation processes, finance packaging criteria, and support for long term governance and operation, to make real turns towards a needed future adapting the local wealth of the people and place that can be invested incrementally over time in successive additions support future livelihoods and habits.

Drawing from an extensive literature search, scholarship, and education around tables as well as our firm's leadership collective network professional experiences in public project delivery, community based/digital tool knowledge production, ecological and systems thinking and making, we have learned from this work, the propose the following adaption to the existing public project infrastructure so that we can achieve the proposed future.

- Third Option Capital, public project funding, based on circulating local capital (other names)

- Reliance System, Multi-functional public projects that generates robust spillovers that connect to other systems and increases its reach

- Invested Public Delivery, transforming public participation into an ongoing governance, manage and maintenance process of creative adaption "public realm activity vesting new people" into the local invested public life of the local place.

How we do this and more can be discovered on our website: www.investedpublicnetwork.com

Rob, I will end this letter now with these thoughts.
I wanted to tie together some ideas that we have been talking about and as informed the new website for InvestedPublicNetwork.com that I see aligning with the core values of the Council IoT, and more recently your work on cold spots and human center-city that others have posted online. Merging into hybrid what you call the creation of a *wellness commons* underpinned by IPN generating a flurry of many cold spots of "*Internetworking Invested Public Projects and Things".*

The critical praxis thread of this evolving works operates under the title of: *Terraining-2-Stay*—People engaging in the co-production and co-reproduction of next generation of reliance infrastructures emerging from and in opposition to the cascading collapse outmoded Neo-liberal projects methods and tools fracturing and splintering -- literally and figurative falling on the people of Aleppo, Syria, Kyiv, Ukraine, fracturing basic water supply lines and resurrecting Jim Crow racist segregation in Jackson Miss, and the many communities struggling for health, heat, water, safety and food during pandemics and the precarity of supply change logistics servicing cities across the North and the South. I will expand upon this in a future letter.

Paraphrasing our favorite lyric poet, Bob Dylan, *'we all have to serve someone'* so it might as well be each other. Bill

> **P.S**. Below are two sources among others that I have discovered recently that can helps unflatten the hot spots and generating a meshwork of beautiful cold spots, fueled by an Internetwork of Invested Publics, (**IoIvP**)--the people's "*5G*"!
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> Schafran, Alex, Smith, Matthew Noah, and Hall, Stephen, **The Spatial Contract**, "A New Politics of Provision for an Urbanized Planet, *2020 University of Manchester Press*,
> Spatial Contract
> **Reliance, provisioning, human agency, capabilities seeing like system and seeing like a settlement**
>> First argument of this book is that our agency is realized in the systems that we produce and reproduce. The capacity to walk down the road does not just reside in our bodies. It is realized also the road we use when we down the road. These very roads require further systems that produce and maintain them. The reliance on systems applies to most of the actions we take on a daily basis.
>> *We call all the systems in which human agency is realized — from body to electrical grid — reliance systems.*
>> People do not self-provision the reliance systems that give us our capacities.
>> We use the term 'reliance systems' *instead of infrastructure* because it makes a more explicit connection between material systems and human agency.
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> Jasanoff, S. (2004). "**Ordering Knowledge, Ordering Society**", in Miller, C. A., & Jasanoff, S. ed, *States of knowledge: the co-production of science and social order.* Routledge. Pp.13-45.
> **Knowledge co-production and co-reproduction; *interactional and constitutive***
>> We discuss the relationships between the ordering of *nature* through knowledge and technology and the ordering of *society* through power and culture?
>> How should we characterize the connections between the human capacity to produce facts and artifacts that reconfigure nature, and the equally human ability to produce devices that order or reorder society, such as laws, regulations, experts, bureaucracies, financial instruments, interest groups, political campaigns, media representations or professional ethics?
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> **Council on the Internet of Things** (www.theinternetofthings.eu)
>> IoT Council is a group of IoT professionals exchanging information on the Council email list.
>> theinternetofthings.eu is a repository of articles by IoT Council members.
>> The IoT Council was kickstarted in Brussels in 2009 as an Internet of Things think tank, news service and silent accelerator for IoT projects.

Van Kranenburg, Rob, Anania, Loretta, Le Gars, Gaelle, Arniani, Marta, van Ditmar, Delfina Fantini, Kalili, Mantalena, and Kavssalis, Petros, **Future Urban Smartness: Connectivity Zones with Disposable Identitie**s, 2020 Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020 1 J. C. Augusto (ed.), **Handbook of Smart Cities,**

This is not about alerting the public anymore. There is no more public. People just go from one scandal to another and could not care less if 12 cameras were installed in one afternoon. This is about us. Saving us a place, a space where we can breathe, discuss, think, and dream manic dreams. We have two options: either we assist policy to ensure that at least some public space survives, or we build our own parallel systems.

The need to provide citizen-focused empowering visions of smart cities planning and development is very much needed, especially when a post-COVID environment requires urban growth "resets" within stringent sustainability limits. Our selected case studies describe some of these current challenges. Two novel utopian visions of technology are proposed: urban "cold spots" and "disposable identities." The aim is to safeguard human digital rights in the digital smart urban sphere: our cherished freedom of expression, privacy, autonomy, and civic assembly.

Rout, Sourav, **Industry 5.0, Towards Resiliency, Sustainability and Human Centricity**, Sourav Blog, Linked-in, February 1, 2023

Industry 5.0 benefits workers, companies, and our planet. These paradigm shifts we're are experiencing is concerned not only with **efficiency and productivity**, but with ensuring that production respects our planet and values workers.