



Dr Ellie Cosgrave joins Publica as Director of Community Interest Company and Research



Publica is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Ellie Cosgrave as Director of its not-for-profit arm and of its research team.

Cosgrave joins Publica from UCL, where she is an Associate Professor in Urban Innovation and co-director of the university's Urban Laboratory, the world-leading cross-disciplinary centre promoting critical, creative, and collaborative inquiry into urgent urban problems.

She is a leading voice on inclusive and just urban development, and her arrival reinforces Publica's commitment to addressing the gaps in urban planning and design at a time of social and environmental crisis, by continuing to work with policy makers, and collaborating on in-depth applied urban research.

"I'm delighted to be joining Publica's dynamic and inspiring team at such an exciting moment for the business," says Cosgrave. "Whilst cities are being confronted with deeply complex and pressing challenges, I believe it is the energy, optimism, creativity and intellectual clout of companies like Publica that will catalyse the meaningful change we need."

Cosgrave has worked with a variety of organisations, such as the C40 Cities Women4Climate research programme, Nesta, Greater London Authority, and UN Women, and Connected Places Catapult, setting policy and conducting research on issues related to just climate transitions, safer cities for women and girls,

and radical, innovative approaches to urban policy. She regularly contributes to leading academic journals, including *Nature* and *Nature Sustainability*, particularly on the intersection between climate change and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on gender and cities.

She is an experienced broadcaster and co-presents the BBC World Service programme *My Perfect City*, which scours the world looking for the most innovative and exciting urban policies. Cosgrave was named by the Women's Engineering Society as the 'top 50 women in sustainability' and was also counted amongst the BBC's Top 50 women.

She is a respected women's rights campaigner and Chair of the My Body Back Project, which provides healthcare services tailored to women who have experienced sexual violence, and is often asked to speak on the topic of gender and urbanism to journalists, built environment organisations, local authorities, and transport agencies globally who are looking to take action on women's safe access to the city.

Cosgrave joins Publica as a full-time member of the team. She will also remain an Associate Professor of Urban Innovation and co-director of UCL's Urban Laboratory, further strengthening the practice's academic collaborations.

"Publica is proud to have been setting policy for the Mayor of London and a number of Local Authorities for 11 years. We are also very proud of our Community Interest Company which has supported a wide range of community organisations. Ellie's appointment will allow Publica to continue to expand the influence of our research-led practice and to actively address an international programme of radical urban change that puts innovation, equity and long-term thinking at the centre of our work," says Publica founder, Lucy Musgrave.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Publica:

Founded in 2010, Publica is a London-based public realm and urban design practice providing intelligence, advice and design services to the GLA, Local Authorities, Great Estates, major landowners, leading developers and Business Improvement Districts. Publica operates at the heart of the debate about urbanism and cities. Its work is part of an international conversation about how to make cities more efficient, integrated, vibrant, humane and safe, and how to preserve the vitality of urban neighbourhoods amid rapid growth and development. Publica's work is values-driven and underpinned by thorough research. Alongside its London based policy work, brief setting and its award winning applied urban design for key streets and spaces, it also advises a range of national and international organisations, recently working with Manchester City Council and in Hamburg, Malmo, and New York.

About Publica's Community Interest Company:

Publica's CIC, established in 2010, has created a not-for-profit space for applied urban research, community-led projects, creative co-production of alternative approaches, education, apprenticeships and placements. It has created multiple opportunities for passionate and knowledgeable people to take action in urban change.

It works with charities, cultural and community groups and academic institutions to create and support civic projects. Previous projects include a community-led vision for a Peabody Tenants' Association; pro bono support for Tonic housing, the pioneering UK community-led inclusive urban LGBT+ housing project for older communities; six years of support for the UK's first urban parish council: Queens Park Community Council helping in the development and preparation of its Neighbourhood Plan; support for the Soho Society; the Seven Dials Trust; The Society of London Theatres; The Museum of London; and Energy Garden's Youth Training Programme on Climate Action at the 2021 Venice Biennale. Its current action research includes a major programme of research on climate and gender in nine cities around the world.