Acknowledgments

We are confident that the urban leaders and activists from across the hemispheres who participated in the Rockefeller Foundation Global Urban Summit of 2007—in four weeks of sessions that sparked the ideas this book reflects—join us in thanking the Rockefeller Foundation for its extraordinary initiative.

Not only was the array of participants remarkable: officials, scholars, and grassroots leaders from cities as diverse as Seattle and Kampala, Mumbai and São Paulo. So was the Foundation's vision in seeing that today's new urban-majority world needs an actual agenda. The Rockefeller Foundation leaders insisted that the panelists not simply identify the most pressing problems facing global cities, but also explore varieties of specific ways to address them.

Our job was to capture those ideas and illuminate the threads that connected them, identifying elements of a specific action agenda. The Summit participants, both in the sessions and in follow-up conversations (face-to-face and later electronic), helped us immensely in that task.

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Neal R. Peirce
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A journalist and speaker, Neal R. Peirce focuses on the national and global roles of cities and metropolitan regions. With Curtis W. Johnson, he has co-authored 26 newspaper series—“Citistates Reports”—on strategic issues facing individual metropolitan regions, including articles for the Seattle Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Miami Herald, Charlotte Observer, and Phoenix Republic. Together, Peirce and Johnson wrote Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World (Seven Lochs Press, 1993). With Farley Peters, they organized and lead the Citistates Group, a network of journalists, speakers, and civic leaders committed to building competitive and sustainable 21st century regions (www.citistates.com).

Peirce’s ten-volume series on the states and regions of the United States culminated in The Book of America (W.W. Norton, 1983). He also wrote The People’s President, on the electoral college in U.S. history and the direct vote alternative (Simon & Schuster, 1968), Corrective Capitalism, on the rise of community development corporations (Ford Foundation, 1987), Breakthroughs: Re-Creating the American City (Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research, 1993), and (with Johnson) Boundary Crossers: Community Leadership for a Global Age, a project in partnership with John W. Gardner (The Academy of Leadership Press, University of Maryland, 1997).

Since 1975, Peirce has written the United States’ first national newspaper column on city and state local themes (Washington Post Writers Group syndication and Citiwire.net). Peirce was a founder of National Journal and served in the 1960s as political editor of Congressional Quarterly. He has been a trustee of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, member of the executive committee of the National Civic League, and three-time faculty member of the Salzburg Seminar.
Curtis W. Johnson’s career plays on a split screen—half devoted to being a leader in the public sector and the other half as analyst and commentator. His public service culminated with four years in the mid-1990s as chairman of the Metropolitan Council, which coordinates land use and operates wastewater and transit systems in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul) region of Minnesota.

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