

Israeli Mayors' Institute on City Renewal – Empowering Local Government

Merhav - Movement for Israeli Urbanism (MIU)
Quality urbanism for a successful Israeli society
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Mayors in Israel are the head planners of their city. In order to help them fill that role effectively we founded the Mayors' Institute, a ground-breaking program that brings together Mayors from diverse cities throughout Israel to participate in an innovative three day workshop. The workshop provides each Mayor participant with the insight, tools and knowledge to implement urban planning measures in their cities that will foster economic development, encourage sustainability and improve quality of life. The program is based on the successful MICD (Mayors Institute on City Design) model from the United States. To date, Merhav has held five *Israeli Mayors' Institutes on City Renewal* in which 37 mayors throughout Israel have participated. Starting from 2011 the Ministry of Environmental Protection has joined as a full partner.

Merhav utilizes a successful, proven model consisting of 6-8 mayors and 6-8 leading professionals in their fields who come together for a fully-funded opportunity to examine projects and issues facing their city. Over the course of the three day intense workshop, each mayor presents a project they are interested in advancing, for example, a project for city center renewal, development of transportation infrastructure, road development, construction of new residential neighborhoods or urban infill. Then, the mayors and the professional team examine each project, brainstorm potential alternatives and suggest tools to bring it to successful fruition. In addition, expert lectures are given on several urban planning issues by the professional team such as the importance of public transit, fostering economic development, city walkability and sustainable land use. Following the Institute, mayors participate in our follow-up program, **Ongoing Enrichment**, designed to provide further workshops and guidance to program graduates and their municipal teams in order to ensure the ongoing success of the mayors in implementing successful and sustainable urban planning measures in their cities.



Due to their poor design - Most Israeli cities do not provide their residents affordable access to economic, social and cultural opportunities to realize their full potential as individuals or as a community.

More than 90% of Israelis live in urban towns and cities

Merhav promotes urban environments based on people centric public spaces.

Quality urban environments that enable access by a variety of transit options.

Quality urban environments that are compact, vibrant, provide many opportunities and potential uses, and are designed with respect to the local community, culture the environment and landscape.



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