



Follow the Money: Heat as an Economic Opportunity in New York City

Description:

New York is a place where private money has left a trail. From the high rise towers of Midtown, to large urban regeneration projects like the High Line, philanthropy is the reason New York rose up through the bad times and the good.

So in this episode of the *Philanthropist's Conversation*, our host Paula takes a deep dive into the world of philanthropic innovation, and asks a burning question: how can the private sector advance heat resilience?

Paula meets with locals who can answer that question, and walk her through the history of New York's iconic skyline. Along the way, we discuss the transformative impact of Michael Bloomberg's policies and learn about the role of the Rockefeller Foundation in establishing Chief Heat Officers. Through real examples of grassroots initiatives and private-public partnerships, we break down how private investors and public authorities can come together to form a whole new system.

So what does New York's approach teach us about the power dynamics of heat resilience? How does philanthropy turn ideas into action? And what happens when the private sector sees heat not just as a crisis, but as an economic opportunity?

Highlights:

- Welcome to New York (00:50)
- The High Line: a case Study in philanthropy and urban development (05:33)
- Looking back on Michael Bloomberg's impact as Mayor of New York (11:38)
- Exploring the history and legacy of Rockefeller Center (16:42)
- Philanthropy's role in New York's cultural institutions (23:49)
- Private-public partnerships: resilience as an economic opportunity (26:53)
- The Rockefeller Foundation's efforts towards sustainability and urban development (29:02)
- Meeting Jane Gilbert: the role of Chief Heat Officers (34:56)
- What happens when heat is no longer a seasonal phenomenon? (45:52)

Links:

[Episode Resources](#)

[Jane Gilbert LinkedIn](#)

[Michael Berkowitz LinkedIn](#)

Resources:**Articles;**

[Building Design - “Building archives: The Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building”](#)

[Frontiers - “From skyscrapers to sky savers: how New York City’s Local Law 97 advances climate resilience and public health”](#)

[Philanthropy Roundtable - “Three Donors, a Trustee, and a Library: one of the largest libraries in the world is a product of private philanthropy”](#)

[The Conversation - “The ‘world’s mayor’ - How Michael Bloomberg uses philanthropy to change how cities are run”](#)

[The New York Times - “The Cost of Being a Mayor” by the New York Times](#)

[The New York Times - “New Skyscraper, Built to Be an Environmental Marvel, Is Already Dated”](#)

[World Economic Forum - “From Bangkok to Buenos Aires, here's how 12 global cities are tackling extreme heat”](#)

[World Economic Forum - “From Athens to Dhaka: how chief heat officers are battling the heat”](#)

Research;

[Andrew Carnegie’s Library Legacy - A Timeline](#)

[ADEC ESG - What is ESG Investing?](#)

[Architectural Digest - Rockefeller Center, Explored & Explained](#)

[McKinsey - Responding to climate risk: Actions for US state and local leaders](#)

[New York Economic Development Corporation \(NYEDC\) on the High Line](#)

[New York State Government - Decarbonising New York’s Buildings Factsheet](#)

[PlaNYC 2030, NYC’s Mayor’s Office of Climate & Environmental Justice](#)

[The Arschit-Rock CRC - Chief Heat Officers](#)

[The Empire State Building Website, a Historical Timeline](#)

[US National Library of Medicine - Diabetes and climate change: current evidence and implications for patients, clinicians and policy stakeholders](#)

Websites:

[Bloomberg Philanthropies](#)

[C40 Cities](#)

[Michael Bloomberg's Website](#)

[One Vanderbilt](#)

[Rockefeller Center - Art & History](#)

[Rockefeller Center - Radio Park](#)

[Rockefeller Center - 100 Resilient Cities](#)

[Social Theory Applied](#)

[The High Line's Website](#)

[The Arsch-Rock Climate Resilience Center](#)

[The New York Public Library](#)

Transcripts:

[Michael Berkowitz Interview](#)

[Jane Gilbert Interview](#)



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