

G e e t a M e h t a

200 East 61st Street #25AB | New York NY 10065

geeta.mehta@soccs.org | T +1.603.867.5111

Social Capital Initiatives, New York

Geeta has been the president of Social Capital Initiatives (SCI) since she co-founded it in 1999. SCI works in underserved communities to help improve livelihoods, education and the environment by leveraging their social capital. She is the innovator of Social Capital Credits (SoCCs), a virtual currency for social good that is empowering communities in India, the USA, Kenya and Taiwan. Social Capital Initiatives (formerly called Asia Initiatives) has won the World Changing Idea award from the Fast Company, as well as prizes from MIT SOLVE, Jacobs Foundation, General Motors, Vodafone and Experian. Described more fully on its website www.socialcapitalinitiatives.org) SCI is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization registered in New York. Geeta oversees all aspects of Asia Initiatives and leads major projects.

Awards and Honors

- 2024: Forbes Women listed Geeta as one of the “50 over 50 Impact Makers”
- 2023: Received the AARP Purpose Prize fellowship
- 2022 Honored by the Government of India as one of the 75 women leaders in STEAM on the 75th Anniversary of India’s Independence.
- 2016 Received “Social Entrepreneur of the Year” Award from HSBC Bank in New York
- 2015 Honored as one of the “21 Leaders of the 21st Century” by Women’s eNews

Other Board Positions and Community Work

- 2023~now Member of the Management Policy Council reporting to the President of the UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
- 2018~now Executive Board member of THE CENTER FOR THE LIVING CITY
- 2015- now Executive Board member of WOMEN STRONG INTERNATIONAL
- 2011-now Executive Board member of FRIENDS OF UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO IN USA
- 2024~now Advisory Board Member of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS LOCAL LEARNING STUDIO
- 2018~2024 Member of the Mayor’s Advisory Board for NEW YORK CITY WATERFRONT MANAGEMENT

E d u c a t i o n

UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO: Ph.D. in Urban Engineering

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK: M.S. in Architecture and Urban Design
DELHI UNIVERSITY, School of Planning and Architecture: Bachelor in Architecture

A c a d e m i c W o r k

2009-now COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
Adjunct Professor, Urban Design Program. Has co-taught Urban Design Studios in Vienna (Austria), Belize, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Sao Paulo and Rio (Brazil), Medellin, Bogota (Colombia), Gulin (China), Bordeaux (France), Accra and Kumasi (Ghana), Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Varanasi and Madurai (India), Tel Aviv (Israel), Kingston (Jamaica), Kisumu (Kenya), Seoul (Korea), the Mississippi River Valley (USA), Santiago (Chile), and Can Tho (Vietnam).

CENTER FOR RESILIENT CITIES AND LANDSCAPES
Faculty Affiliate

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, The Earth Institute.
Research Affiliate

B o o k s

- 2026 BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL BY DESIGN. Columbia University Press.
Expected Spring 2026.
- 2023 LIVING CITIES FOR THE FUTURE. Observer Research Foundation Press.
Co-edited with Dikshu Kukreja. This book was launched at the T20 meeting held at Mysuru in August 2023
- 2016 CITY CONNECT: REGENERATION, EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. Kokushikan University Press, Tokyo. Co-editor with George Kunihiro.

B o o k C h a p t e r s a n d O t h e r P u b l i c a t i o n s

- 2022 Managing Urban Rivers: From Planning to Practice. Edited by Victor Shinde, Uday Bhonde et al. Elsevier Publications.
Author of Chapter on Rejuvenating Urban Rivers.
- 2020 Accelerating the SDGs. City Maker Survey. Published by the Center for Sustainable Urbanism.
Co-author with Anna Rubbo, Elliot Sclar, Jacqueline Kopp et al.
- 2019 ARCHITECTURE AND THE SMART CITY, Edited by Sergio Figueiredo et al. Routledge Press, 2019. Co-author of Chapter 13

2014 THE ECONOMY OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION. Edited by Ilka Ruby et al. Ruby Press, 2014. ISBN 978-3-944074-07-8. Author of Chapter “Social Capital Credits: A New Currency for Sustainability”

Selected Recent Lectures and Seminars

Geeta has delivered keynote speeches emphasizing sustainable and participatory urbanism including at events listed below:

- Co-presented webinar entitled “Building Social Capital by Design” for ComplexSouth Webinar Series. June 2025
- Hosted Roundtable at Clinton Global Initiatives Annual Meeting. September 2024
- Moderated the panel “Bootstraps to Billions” at Columbia University’s 19th Annual India Business Conference. Feb 2024
- Keynote speech at the United Nations Association in Manhattan Ville College on Women’s Day Celebration. Feb 2024
- Lecture at Columbia GSAPP: Social Capital and the Territorial Discourse. Feb 2023
- Keynote speech at the kick-off of Columbia + University of Tokyo event: The Great Transition, Climate Action in a Changing World. May 2023
- Lecture at New York Institute of Technology on Building Social Capital in Cities by Design. April 2023.
- Lecture at the Chinese University in Hong Kong, School of Architecture: Building Social Capital by Design. Nov 2022
- Lecture at New York University: Future Cities. Oct 2022.
- Keynote speech at Taiwan Agriculture Research Institute: Social Capital and Ecosystem Services. October 2022.
- Panelist at the INHAF event “Rethinking Cities: Architecture in Transition Towards the New Urban Agenda. November 2021
- Panelist at the AIA and ASLA hosted PLANSCAPE conference RE-FUTURE NYC panel on “3rd Space as an Inclusive and Accessible Public Realm. September 2021
- Speaker at the SOLVEatMIT 2021 event as a 2020 SOLVER.
- Panelist at the ISOLA Conference on Water and Landscape, September 2020.
- Organized and co-chaired the Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals at Columbia University, New York, November 2019
- Moderated a dialogue at the Asia Society in New York on “Who Owns Water? November 2019
- Platinum Anniversary Keynote for the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, Jan 2019
- Lecture “Heart of the River” at Rubin Museum in New York, Dec 2018