



Leni Schwendinger

reimagine the night

VISION MEETS CRAFT • BROAD APPEAL • MEMORABLE IMPACT

KEYNOTE DESCRIPTION

Leni Schwendinger is an international pioneer in Nighttime Design, a human-centered approach to urban lighting and public space after dark. For more than 20 years, she has advanced the emerging field of Nighttime Urbanism, helping cities understand the full dimension of life at night — from nightshift workers and nightlife culture to public health, mobility, safety, and civic equity — through practice and public speaking.

Through her interdisciplinary practice, Leni Schwendinger Light Projects, she creates illuminated environments for public spaces, waterfronts, bridges, and city districts worldwide, integrating community engagement methodologies into planning and design. Her work explores how cities can become more welcoming, vibrant, and inclusive after dark through thoughtful lighting strategies and nighttime masterplans.

Leni's professional speaking and consulting engagements include her worldwide, experiential "NightSeeing™: Navigate Your Luminous City" program, presented in cities, large, London, Prague, and New York City, and small, Evanston, Myrtle Beach and Oceanside. Drawing on global exemplars such as London and Sydney, cities that have developed comprehensive nighttime strategies, she brings firsthand insight into successful civic after dark approaches. Her international leadership also includes serving as U.S. Ambassador for the LUCI Association, connecting cities worldwide around sustainable and inclusive lighting practices.

Recent and ongoing projects include lighting and nighttime strategies for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure throughout New York. Her work has received multiple awards from the Illuminating Engineering Society, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the National Endowment for the Arts, including recognition for her community engagement initiatives by Light Justice Now.

Schwendinger's work has been featured extensively in international design media including Monocle, Architectural Digest, and Dwell. Her fellowships include Visiting Research Fellow at the London School of Economics, as well as appointments with the Design Trust for Public Space and the Urban Design Forum.



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