

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2018

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COCA ANNOUNCES bizSESSION SPEAKER: FOUNDER OF MEXICO CITY'S CREATIVE THINK TANK, GABRIELLA GÓMEZ-MONT

Creativity Unbound: The Need for Urban Experimentation



ST. LOUIS, Nov. 27, 2018— Gabriella Gómez-Mont, founder of Laboratorio para la Ciudad, the award-winning experimental arm of the Mexico City government, is the upcoming speaker in COCA's popular bizSESSION series. Gómez-Mont will address the changing roles of government, citizens and businesses in encouraging social, economic and political inventiveness for the future of the city.

She will speak at 7:30am on December 11, at Innovation Hall STL, powered by Venture Café St. Louis, in the Cortex Innovation Community.

"We are so excited to welcome Gabriella to St. Louis," said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director. "Her message is timely and relevant as public, private and not-profit entities across our city collaborate to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities for growth and advancement."

In addition to her official role in the Mexico City government, Gómez-Mont is also a journalist, visual artist, a director of documentary films, as well as a creative advisor to several cities, universities and companies. She is a Yale World Fellow, a TED speaker and TED Senior Fellow, an MIT Director's Fellow, an Institute for the Future Fellow, a World Cities Summit Young Leader, and part of the international advisory committee for the Mayor of Seoul on Social Innovation. She was awarded the first prize in both the Audi Urban Future Award and the Best Art Practice Award given by the Italian government, as well as the TED City 2.0 Prize, among others. She was recently named one of the 100 most creative people by *Fast Company* magazine.

Gómez-Mont's presentation is the latest in COCA's bizSESSION Series which welcomes progressive thought leaders to offer insights and inspiration on embracing creativity and innovation in business. The series is part of [COCAbiz](#), which provides immersive arts-based training, programming and consulting for professionals. A light breakfast will be served prior to the presentation to allow networking and time for an audience Q&A will follow the presentation.

The next bizSESSION in the series is in February and will feature leadership expert Diana Chapman. She will lead participants through an experiential training workshop to break down roadblocks to thinking creatively and innovating based on her best-selling book, *The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership: A New Paradigm for Sustainable Success*. It will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, in the Staenberg Performance Lab at COCA.

WHAT: **bizSESSION - Creativity Unbound: The Need for Urban Experimentation**
Presented by Gabriella Gómez-Mont, founder of Laboratorio para la Ciudad, Mexico City

WHERE: Innovation Hall STL, powered by Venture Café St. Louis, in the Cortex Innovation Community
4220 Duncan Avenue, St. Louis, MO, 63110; Directions and parking: <https://innovationhallstl.org/ihfags/>

WHEN: Tuesday, December 11, 2018; 7:30am: Check-in and breakfast | 8-10:00AM: Program

COST: \$55 | VIP preferred seating and a post-talk meet-and-greet; \$40 | General Admission
Tickets available at cocastl.org.

SPONSORS: Presented by [Saint Louis University](#) with additional support from [ALIVE Magazine's Guided](#) and the City of University City Mayor's Office.

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ABOUT LABORATORIO PARA LA CIUDAD - The Laboratorio para la Ciudad is a place to reflect about all things city and to explore other social scripts and urban futures for the largest megalopolis in the western hemisphere, working across diverse areas, such as urban creativity, mobility, governance, civic tech, public space, etc. In addition, the Lab searches to create links between civil society and government, constantly shifting shape to accommodate multidisciplinary collaborations, insisting on the importance of political and public imagination in the execution of its experiments.

ABOUT COCA - Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest not-for-profit multidisciplinary community arts center in the country, one of only 16 schools in the nation accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS), and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals—all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. Visit www.cocastl.org to learn more.