As learning moves off school campuses and into the world of everyday life, communities will develop new tools and processes for peer-to-peer learning. Cities seeking to develop both their communities and their economies will tap this bottom-up movement to begin systematically developing themselves as learning platforms. Where school systems once defined the best neighborhoods, urban learning platforms will define the best cities.

Over the next decade, these learning cities will emerge as leaders in 21st-century urban development.
WHAT’S DRIVING THIS FORECAST

- Millennial migration to small cities creates new kinds of urban communities
- Growing underemployment and the need for re-skilling or inventing alternatives to the traditional job or career path
- Blended models of online learning, such as finding a cohort to take an online course with
- Growth of home schooling across political and religious segments—nearly 75% growth in the first decade of this century
- Growth of divided communities seeking new ways to bring their diverse populations together
NEW CITIZENSHIP CREDENTIALS

Cities create platforms to index—and offer credentials for—peer-to-peer learning experiences that solve community problems

**SIGNAL:** Pittsburgh is launching the Learn.pgh platform as a directory of learning experiences, with a focus on helping citizens earn credentials by addressing local challenges

**SO WHAT:** Urban citizens build their personal identities by building or rebuilding the communities where they live.
As communities struggle to integrate diverse populations, learning cities create opportunities for these populations to learn from one another.

**SIGNAL:** The Human Library program has been implemented by cities worldwide, bringing library vans of diverse “people on loan” into neighborhoods to promote dialog and reduce prejudice.

**SO WHAT:** Learning across urban silos fosters creativity and cooperation in cities, not only strengthening community but also local economies.
Cities use augmented reality to juxta pose present-day perspectives with those of the past, bringing history out of the classroom and into the streets.

**SIGNAL:** *Dow Day* is a so-called *situated documentary* about a two-day protest in 1967 in Madison, Wisconsin, designed to give a first-hand experience of the event in the spot where it happened.

**SO WHAT:** Every moment becomes a teaching moment in the city, and learning cities create the platforms to capture those moments for the benefit of their citizens.
Learning cities feed the continued growth of distinctive local economies that, in turn, attract more learning-oriented residents.

Cities implement urban learning platforms to increase resilience in the face of economic instability, widespread underemployment, and local climate-driven disasters.

Urban badges proliferate, creating a new ecosystem of credentials for urban work of all kinds.

Local P2P learning statistics and flows become increasingly visible, and cities begin to monitor those patterns as measures of urban health.
While not ubiquitous, learning cities proliferate. With an emphasis on resilience, they adopt citywide skill-sharing as a new part of civic infrastructure. Local civic, neighborhood, and even personal projects provide not only alternative paths for urban development, but also a primary path for building a broad base of personal skills that can be converted to income streams via microwork platforms. Large companies set up recruiting relationships with cities the way they have traditionally recruited from colleges. In fact, many companies base their creative operations in those cities with strong “learning city” profiles. Urban learning platforms create a virtuous cycle as learners extend and amplify the platforms they learn from.