

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ACCLAIMED 8 – 80 CITIES' URBAN EXPERT GIL PENALOSA TO SPEAK AT ROSE THEATRE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE CITIES WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2014

**MARCH, 2014 BRAMPTON ONTARIO:** BRAMPTON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION wins The Doable Neighbourhood Project grant for consultation with world renowned expert 8-80 Cities.

The Doable Neighbourhood Project, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care recently awarded to the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation brings a project that will tap into the imagination of the diverse people who live, work and play in Brampton Downtown in order to determine three "doable" projects for the short term which will contribute to long term change towards a more healthy and active community.

To raise awareness and enthusiasm of this exciting project, the BDDC secured an exclusive presentation from 8-80 Cities' Executive Director Gil Penalosa, Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Rose Theatre, One Theatre Lane, Brampton, ON. Admission is free.

Gil Penalosa is passionate about cities for all people. Gil advises decision makers and communities on how to create vibrant cities and healthy communities for everyone regardless of social, economic, or ethnic background. His focus is the design and use of parks and streets as great public places, as well as sustainable mobility: walking, cycling and use of public transit.

As former Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation for the City of Bogota, Colombia, Gil successfully led the design and development of over 200 parks of which Simon Bolivar, a 360 hectare park in the heart of the city, is the best known; here he created the Summer Festival, with over 100 events in 10 days and more than 3 million people attending, making it the main annual recreational and cultural event in the country. Gil's team also initiated the "new Ciclovia"— a program that sees over 1 million people walk, run, skate and bike along 121 kilometres of Bogotá's city roads every Sunday, and today it's internationally recognized and emulated.

## **About the BDDC:**

The Brampton Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC) is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to grow and strengthen the business economy in Brampton Downtown. The BDDC is funded in part by 350+ member businesses along with the City of Brampton.

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