
Christopher B. Leinberger

Chris Leinberger is a land use strategist, developer, professor, researcher and author. He balances business realities with social, environmental and public health issues. Currently, Mr. Leinberger has the following institutional connections:

- Managing Partner and Co-founder, **Places Platform, LLC**, which assesses *place-based* economic, social equity and public health trends, used in measuring and managing economic growth, net fiscal impact, real estate valuation, achieving social equity and increasing public health.
- Professor Emeritus at the [Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis](#) at the **George Washington University School of Business**
- Founding partner of [Arcadia Land Company](#), a New Urbanism/transit-oriented development firm dedicated to land stewardship and building a sense of community. His partners are Robert Davis, the developer of [Seaside](#), Florida, the late Joe Duckworth, who ran two Builder 100 home building companies and Jason Duckworth, the current CEO. The firm has active developments in the Philadelphia metropolitan area and headquarters in Center City.
- Principal of [Walkable Urban Places Advisors, Inc.](#), his consulting firm, which engages in strategic planning for walkable urban places, such as downtowns, suburban town centers, redeveloping sub-urban Edge Cities, etc. He has developed strategic and implementation plans for the downtowns of Chattanooga, New Orleans, Lancaster (PA), Detroit, Albuquerque, Santa Fe Railyards, Somerville (MA), among other places.

For 21 years, Mr. Leinberger was Managing Director and co-owner of [RCLCo](#) (formerly Robert Charles Lesser & Co.), one of the largest real estate advisory firm in the country. Today, RCLCo works on over 600 projects a year for developers, corporations and municipalities and has a multi-billion dollar real estate asset management business.

Professor Leinberger was the Charles Bendit Distinguished Scholar and Research Professor of Urban Real Estate and Chair of the [Center for Real Estate & Urban Analysis](#) at George Washington University School of Business from 2012-2020, prior to his being a Professor Emeritus. He also started and ran the [University of Michigan graduate real estate program](#) at the Taubman College of Architecture & Planning, in partnership with the Ross School of Business and the Law School.

Mr. Leinberger was also the founder and for eight years (2008-2016) the President of [LOCUS; Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors](#). LOCUS advocates for the transportation, tax reform and the environment before Congress and at various states and metropolitan levels. LOCUS is sponsored by Smart Growth America.

He was a Nonresident Senior Fellow of [The Brookings Institution](#) in Washington, DC (2005-2018) and continues as a member of the board of advisors of the [Anne and Robert Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking](#) at Brookings.

Mr. Leinberger has served on the boards of [AvalonBay Communities](#), one of the country's most respected equity REITs (NYSE), and [AMRESO Capital Trust](#) (former NASDAQ real estate mortgage trust). He has been a member of the [Urban Land Institute](#) (ULI) for over 30 years, founding and serving in the leadership of the Transit-Oriented Development Council.

Mr. Leinberger has also been active on several committees of the [National Academy of Sciences](#), including the creation of the National Biological Survey, sponsored by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, and a panel to improve metropolitan governance.

Mr. Leinberger has written two books, the most recent book is [*The Option of Urbanism, Investing in a New American Dream*](#), published in 2008 by Island Press and released in paperback in 2009. Planetizen, the urban planning and architecture web site, selected the book as one of the top 10 books of 2008. He is also the author of [*Strategic Planning for Real Estate*](#), originally published by ULI in 1993, which was revised by his former RCLCO partners and re-published by ULI in 2008 with the Introduction written by him.

He has contributed chapters to 13 books, most recently, [*Companion to Real Estate Development*](#) (Routledge), [*Suburban Remix: Creating the Next Generation of Urban Places*](#) (Island Press) and [*Sustainable Urbanism and Beyond*](#) (Rizzoli).

He has been an Op-Ed Contributor to the *New York Times* and has written articles for periodicals, including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Urban Land*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Monthly*, Canada's *National Post*, *American Conservative*, *Washington Monthly* and *Los Angeles Times*, among others. He is often quoted by periodicals such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Business Week*, *Associated Press*, among others. He has been profiled by *CNN*, *Urban Land* magazine, *Today Show*, academic journals, *Canadian National Radio*, *USA Radio*, *CBS Radio* and numerous times by *National Public Radio*, including *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Weekend Edition Saturday* and *Marketplace*.

Mr. Leinberger has given speeches to nearly every major real estate, downtown management and land use organization in the country and many abroad, as well as many chambers of commerce, councils of governments and environmental organizations. He has been a visiting lecturer at the Santa Fe Institute, Harvard University, Swarthmore College, University of Wisconsin, UCLA, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Tech, University of New Mexico (adjunct professor), Rollins College, Simon Frasier University and other schools.

Mr. Leinberger received a Bachelor of Arts degree from [Swarthmore College](#), where he double majored in Political Science and Urban Sociology, and a MBA from the [Harvard Graduate School of Business](#). He also attended the **Martin Luther King School of Social Change**, the [Institute of Social Research](#) at the University of Michigan, and was a [Coro Foundation](#) Fellow in Public Policy in Los Angeles.

Leinberger was voted one of the [“The 100 Most Influential Urbanists”](#) of all time in a poll conducted by Planetizen, the international urban planning and architecture web site, in 2017. He was the 2010 William H. Whyte Urbanism Award winner from [Partners for Livable Communities](#).

Mr. Leinberger lives in the Dupont Circle area of Washington, DC, with his wife, Lisa.