



HARVARD Kennedy School
TAUBMAN CENTER
for State and Local Government

NIGEL JACOB NAMED SENIOR FELLOW AT HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL'S TAUBMAN CENTER FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAMBRIDGE – Nigel Jacob, co-founder and former co-chair of the City of Boston’s Office of New Urban Mechanics, a civic innovation incubator within Boston’s City Hall, has been named a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School’s Taubman Center for State and Local Government. He began his appointment in February 2022.

As senior fellow, Jacob will codify and share his many lessons about civic innovation learned during his 15 years as a global leader in the space. The Taubman Center will disseminate Jacob’s insights through articles, policy briefs, case studies, and convenings of practitioners and policy makers. Jacob will serve as a strategic thought partner to the Taubman Center and its affiliates the [Government Performance Lab](#) and the [Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston](#) on research initiatives, driving practitioner engagement, and spreading ideas and innovations developed for state and local practitioners. He will also provide Harvard Kennedy School students with mentorship and connections to opportunities to advance innovation in cities.

“Nigel Jacob has dedicated his career to leading exploration, innovation, and creativity in city government,” said Taubman Center Director Jeffrey Liebman. “His deep experience developing solutions to the big challenges facing governments will help advance our mission to support good governance at the state, county, and city level, and we are excited to welcome him to the Taubman Center and the larger Harvard Kennedy School community.”

“It is an honor to serve as a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Taubman Center for State and Local Government,” said Nigel Jacob. “After many years of advancing civic innovation from within city government, I am excited to share my experiences and learnings with current and future leaders through new platforms and channels. The Taubman Center, with its affiliated initiatives, faculty, staff, and students, is the perfect place for me to continue to help spark new ideas and solutions for innovative public service.”

As co-founder of the Office of New Urban Mechanics within Boston City Hall, Jacob helped employ technology, design thinking, and cross-sector collaboration to create new solutions for issues facing the city, from urban mobility to infrastructure challenges. In February 2022, he left the City of Boston to bring the model of New Urban Mechanics to cities across the country, including through a new role as Senior Fellow with Northeastern University. Prior to joining the City of Boston in 2006, Jacob worked in a series of technology start-ups in the Boston area and served as the urban technologist-in-residence at Living Cities, a philanthropic collaboration of some of the world’s largest foundations and financial institutions.

Jacob is a board member at Code for America and coUrbanize. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Western University and a master's degree in computer science from Tufts University.

The Taubman Center and its affiliates house several research fellows each year, typically academics and experienced practitioners who take a sabbatical to study, write about, and help spread insights and ideas on a variety of subjects. During their time at the Harvard Kennedy School, they engage with other scholars and practitioners, faculty members, staff, and students.

About the Taubman Center for State and Local Government

The Taubman Center for State and Local Government and its affiliated institutes and programs are the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's focal points for activities that address state and local governance. The Center's mission is to develop the next generation of state and local government leaders, generate big ideas and solutions to state and local government challenges, and help state and local government implement and scale solutions. The Taubman Center focuses on urban policy issues such as economic development, transportation, education, public infrastructure, land use, social services, public sector technology and data utilization, procurement, and performance management. Visit the [Taubman Center website](#) to learn more.

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