



Civic Exhibition

'The Survey of Cities is a main feature and purpose of our Exhibition.'

Cities in Evolution, p. 85

'We have therefore addressed ourselves towards the initiative of a number of representative and typical City Surveys, leading towards Civic Exhibitions; and these we hope to see under municipal auspices, in conjunction with public museums and libraries in Leicester, Saffron Walden, Lambeth, Woolwich, Chelsea, Dundee, Edinburgh, Dublin.'

Cities in Evolution, p. 145

In addition to the touring Cities Exhibitions, Geddes proposed that each city have a permanent Civic Exhibition located in the city centre, which would include all the place-based knowledge about the city region. He organised such institutions at Crosby Hall, Chelsea, and at the Outlook Tower, Edinburgh. He argued that the Exhibition was a pre-condition for representational democracy – you cannot responsibly exercise the right to vote if you do not know about the place you live and its outwardly radiating economic-political-geographic relations to the region and the world. The Civic Exhibition was the *Polis*, or at least a necessary component of it. The content for the Exhibition would be compiled by a comprehensive Civic Survey. The Survey was a keystone in Geddes' activism. It was conducted by citizens and design professionals alike, in order to foster civic participation, like participatory action research today.