

**URBAN LAW AT NIGHT: NIGHT
MAYORS AND NIGHTTIME URBAN
GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES FOR
SUSTAINABLE URBAN NIGHT
SPACES AND SPATIOTEMPORAL
EQUALITY**

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—Activities and spaces that are more heavily associated with the night do not tend to be regulated in a manner designed to encourage their flourishing. Rather, spaces coded primarily as nighttime-associated and which provide space for use, activities, culture, and art at night tend to be regulated and governed in a prohibitory manner that ultimately affects their sustainability. While a wide array of spaces, activities, and people characterize what goes on during the night in our cities, this is frequently overlooked within regulation and governance that is ill-equipped to effectively engage with the nighttime context. Nighttime spaces and activities, and the nighttime economy, are accompanied by a unique set of barriers for which the spatiotemporal design of existing urban governance structures are not suited due to their spatiotemporal focus on the experience,

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spaces, and realities of a city during its daytime hours.

This Article explores the concept of the “night mayor” and nighttime governance structures by tracing their development; potential and utility; reviewing applicable examples; and situating this within spatiotemporal (in)equality, marginalization, and international guiding documents for equitable and sustainable urban development that require cities to think through their management of the night and its spaces and activities. Finally, this Article centers the discussion on the experience of Vancouver, Canada as it begins to implement its newly-adopted cultural plan for the city and respond to existing challenges for the existence of nighttime-coded art, culture, and community, as well as its ongoing exploration and interest in developing a role that captures the essence of what a night mayor brings to a city.