



Jaime Lerner (born December 17, 1937) was governor of the state of **Paraná**, in southern Brazil. He is renowned as an architect and urban planner, having been mayor of **Curitiba**, capital of Paraná, three times (1971–75, 1979–84 and 1989–92). In 1994, Lerner was elected governor of Paraná, and was reelected in 1998.

// **Early life**

Lerner was born to a Jewish family originally from Poland in Curitiba. He graduated from the Escola de Arquitetura da Universidade Federal do Paraná; (Architecture School of the Federal University of Paraná) in 1964. In 1965, he helped create the Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano de Curitiba (Institute of Urban Planning and Research of Curitiba, also known as **IPPUC**) and participated in the design of the **Curitiba Master Plan**.

As Mayor of Curitiba

In 1988, **Jaime Lerner** announced his candidacy for mayor of Curitiba with only 12 days remaining before the election. During his first term, Lerner implemented the **Rede Integrada de Transporte** (also called **Bus Rapid Transit**

), and continued to implement a host of social, ecological, and urban reforms during his ensuing terms as mayor.

As mayor, **Lerner** employed unorthodox solutions to Curitiba's geographic challenges. Like many cities, Curitiba is bordered by floodplain. While wealthier cities in the United States such as New Orleans and Sacramento, have chosen to build expensive, and expensive-to-maintain levee systems to build on floodplain. In contrast, Curitiba purchased the floodplain and made parks. The city now ranks among the world leaders in per-capita park area. Curitiba had the problem of its status as a third-world city, unable to afford the tractors and petroleum to mow these parks. The innovative response was "municipal sheep" who keep the parks' vegetation under control and whose wool funds children's programs.

When Lerner became mayor, Curitiba had some barrios impossible to service by municipal waste removal. The "streets" were too narrow. Rather than abandon these people or raze these slums, Lerner began a program that traded bags of groceries and transit passes for bags of trash. The slums got much cleaner.

Similarly, Curitiba has a nearby bay that was a dumping ground that would be extremely costly to clean up. Lerner began a program that paid fishermen for any garbage they retrieved (by the pound). This way, they can make money even outside fishing season, supplementing their income. The savings to Curitiba is in the millions.

Lerner instituted many innovative social and educational programs. Barrio kids can be apprenticed to city employees if they don't want to go to school. Although his term as mayor is not without controversy, Curitiba does not have the gangs of much more populous cities such as Rio de Janeiro.

Bi-articulated bus of Curitiba



Noting the bus stop, this with the priority of the bus stop, official by the way, with building, As Governor of Parana

As governor, Lerner used a policy of attracting investment to turn Paraná into one of Brazil's industrial hubs, generating investments of over US\$20 billion between 1995 and 2001. Following upon his experience in Curitiba, Lerner focused on issues like transport, education, health, sanitation, leisure, and industrialization.

UNICEF awarded Lerner the **Child and Peace Prize** in 1996 for his programs "'Da Rua para a Escola' " (From the Street to School), "'Protegendo a Vida' " (Protecting Life), and "'Universidade do Professor'" (Professor's University).

Post-political career

At the General Assembly of the International Union of Architects in July 2002, Lerner was elected president for a period of three years. ^[2] Lerner is also a professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the Universidade Federal do Paraná, his graduated university, and has been a guest professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

In April 2005, Jaime Lerner participated in the Symposium of China Bus Rapid Transit Initiative

(Shanghai) to promote the BRT project in some larger cities. He was specially interviewed [\[3\]](#) which made an impact on mayors and urban planners across China.

Writing

Lerner's publications include:

- *Grupo de risco* (Editora Igel, ISBN 857063093X, 1990)
- *Acupuntura urbana* (Editora Record, ISBN 8501068519, 2003)
- *O vizinho: parente por parte de rua* (Editora Record, ISBN 8501068772, 2005)

Awards

Lerner has won a variety of Brazilian and international prizes:

- 1990: [United Nations Environmental Award](#) , awarded by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)
- 1990: Annual Prize of the [International Institute for Energy Conservation](#) (IIEC)
- 1991: Scroll of Honor, [United Nations Human Settlements Programme](#) , 1991
- 1991: Tree of Learning, IUCN, 1991
- 1996: [Child and Peace Award](#) , UNICEF
- 1997: [Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture](#) , [University of Virginia](#)
- 2000: [Prince Claus Award](#) , the Netherlands (2000)
- 2001: Pioneer 2001, [International Council for Caring Communities](#) (ICCC-USA)
- 2001: 2001 World Technology Award for Transportation, [National Museum of Science and Industry](#) , UK

Notes

1. [^](#) [Acupuntura urbana, 2003](#)
2. [^](#) [Jaime Lerner, UIA President, 2002-2005](#)
3. [^](#) [Listen Talks of the Father in BRT](#)

External links

- [Jaime Lerner official website](#)
- [TED Talks: Jaime Lerner sings of the city](#) at [TED](#) in 2007
- [Royal Institute of British Architecture International Dialogues Talk: The Sustainable City, Jaime Lerner](#) (Video) 2009