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David Beurle

David Beurle is a world-renowned strategist, researcher, and thought leader. He works with global leaders and innovators in business, philanthropy, government and local communities, guiding them to create an inclusive vision and actionable roadmap for the future, with an emphasis on economic development and resiliency. Over the past 20 years his work has had a wide-reaching impact on regional and national economic growth and revitalization in the U.S. and internationally.

Beurle is founder and CEO of Future iQ, a global foresight research and consulting firm. He works with clients to anticipate and take the necessary steps to define their futures in the face of rapidly converging forces that are reshaping lives, livelihoods and communities. These include but are not limited to automation and technology, socio-demographic and workforce shifts, changing power structures, data ownership, resource allocation, and new systems of mobility and transportation, along with overarching trends such as climate change and globalization.

Beurle is an advocate for “creating future intelligence,” and he works with countries, regions, cities, tourism destinations, corporations, nonprofits, universities and the U.S. Department of Defense to anticipate these converging trends. The major part of his work is in the U.S., spanning the country, from California to Maine, and across the Midwest. One of his special interest areas is in the future of regions, which he views as ecosystems and laboratories for tackling defining issues, such as workforce gaps in supply and demand—a critical area for innovation and prosperity.

Future thinking methodology, critical trends, scenario planning and creative alignment along with high level stakeholder engagement, data and analysis are the cornerstones of Beurle’s visioning process. He fosters a collaborative working environment producing aligned visions, critical to the success of any planning endeavor. Beurle’s holistic approach or “Systems thinking” was informed during his work as a rangeland scientist in the outback and later, as Principal Advisor to the Minister of Primary Industries in his native Australia.

Beurle has developed innovative methodologies, conducted original research and authored numerous papers that advance the field of foresight education and planning. Innovative methodologies he created include the groundbreaking The Future Game simulation planning tool used globally in over 500 workshops in community, regional, industry, corporate and governmental settings. He pioneered the application of Scenario Planning with communities, regions and regional industries and corporations around the world.

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Benchmark research papers he has authored cover topics such as The Future of Urban Living, The Future of Manufacturing, Cities of the Future, The Future of Food, The Next Industrial Revolution and The Future of Tourism. He has designed Think-Tanks with experts, major universities and non-profits and his data research with communities has resulted in a significant and growing database on the demand, needs and attitudes for future-based services and thinking.

An engaging speaker and lecturer, Beurle's strength is translating data to make it relevant while linking future trends and topic areas to illuminate the "big picture." By posing "future splitting questions" he engages audiences to examine the implications and impacts of various choices as they contemplate and plan their future. He has lectured at conferences around the globe and has led over 400 community visioning sessions across the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe. Foresight topics have included, "Future Trends and Implications," "The Future of Agriculture," "Implications of the Next Industrial Revolution," and "The Future of Workforce and Economic Development."

A leading visionary, practitioner and researcher, Beurle's integrated approach of bringing together the business, academic, philanthropic and entrepreneurial sectors with communities and local and federal government combined with his unique set of methodologies and processes has resulted in better planning, better economic outcomes and the prospect of a better future.