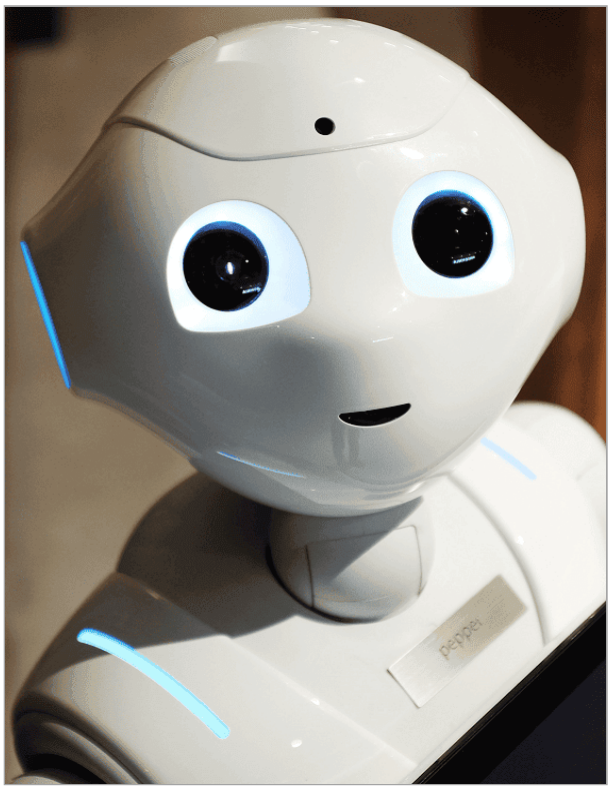

Commentary/Op-Ed - January 2018

Op-Ed: Putting Automation on the Mayor's Agenda

A fully automated city may still be more science fiction than fact, but era-defining changes are already here. The city must prepare for the wave of automation or be left in its wake.

by Matt A.V. Chaban & Winston C. Fisher

Automation is threading through every level of New York City's economy, from warehouses and food courts to trading floors and operating rooms. But too many New Yorkers are ill-equipped.

In this *Crain's New York Business* op-ed, Center for an Urban Future's policy director and Fisher fellow Matt A.V. Chaban and Fisher Brothers partner and co-chair of the New York City Regional Economic Development Council Winston C. Fisher argue that Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council no longer have the luxury of time. Policymakers will have to take action in the next four years to help prepare New Yorkers with the skills they need to thrive in an automated future.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on automation and workforce in New York, including the study, *Work to Do: How Automation Will Transform Jobs in NYC*.

Photo Credit: Alex Knight/Unsplash

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Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs,

reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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