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This volume grew out of a conference at the New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, which was cosponsored by the CUNY Future Cities Laboratory for Place, Culture and Politics and the Van Alen Institute. The conference brought together scholars who argue that public spaces are no longer everywhere a diversity of peoples and cultures can be together. Instead, they have become centers of political surveillance and political and cultural economies as places of surveillance and control. Public spaces are simultaneously arenas of political struggle and political and cultural economies of power. We are grateful to the Graduate Center in association with the conference organizers and Provost Bill Kelly for hosting the conference. The authors represented in this volume participated in the event and we would like to acknowledge Rosemarie Bletter, Michelle Firman, Robert Kornblum, Jerome Kruse, Victor Waring, Maurya Wickstrom, and others for their support and encouragement. We are also indebted to Mike Lamb and Melinda Blackman and the Van Alen Institute for helping to make this possible.

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