



Welcome to Partners for Livable Communities e-Newsletter! This quarterly update on Partners' work and agenda will include new developments, exciting events, and informative reports relating to Partners and others in the livability field. This issue even includes a special report from Bob McNulty on Partners recent work in Queensland, Australia. Keep an eye out for more detailed and up-to-date information as our projects progress! And never hesitate to contact us for more details.

You have been added to our recipient list because of your interest and work in livability issues. **If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please respond in the Subject Heading with "Re: Remove e-news"**

OUR INITIATIVES:

The Partnership-Partners Membership Consortium

Partners has always been a step ahead of the game. Whether you call it an early warning system or a canary in the mineshaft, Partners has been a leader in identifying cutting edge issues that affect a community's livability and quality of life. Members of **THE PARTNERSHIP** have access to these ideas and trends as they are developing and are able to use them to help their community's adapt as the world changes. Membership is exclusive and offers many networking opportunities.

Contact Bob McNulty about joining today (202) 887-5990 x108, bmcnulty@livable.com

Culture Builds Community

As manager of the Ford Foundation's "Shifting Sands" initiative, Partners co-hosted the forum "Arts, Culture and Community: Building Bridges for Equity" at Project Row Houses in Houston, TX. This marks the first major step undertaken by this initiative towards broadening the field of arts and community development. Citistates columnist Neal Peirce reflects on the event at http://www.napawash.org/resources/peirce/peirce_04_02_06.html.

Visit <http://www.cultureshapescommunity.org/> for more information.

Creative Economy

Partners has been working hard on its Cultivating Creative Communities conference to be held in Charlotte, NC from October 24-27, 2006. The conference is unique in that it seeks to draw together people who are interested in issues of amenity development, the creative economy, equity of opportunity, and sustainability. The event will allow all participants to come away with a more holistic understanding of some of the most crucial issues facing communities today.

Registration for the conference is now open, and we encourage all civic and community leaders to attend to learn about solutions for their community.

Visit www.creativeconf.org for more information and to register for the conference.

Aging in Place-Community Engagement Manual

If most American communities are not ready to accommodate an aging population, what can AARP, PLC and its community partners do about it? The AARP and PLC community engagement manual provides a step-by-step guide for civic leaders on how to build effective collaborations for livable communities. Separate chapters walk readers through the process of developing coalitions, choosing winnable projects that build momentum, and creating a long-term plan. Emphasis is placed on reaching out to non-traditional partners and building alliances between aging advocates and community design practitioners such as planners and architects. The guide includes many examples of best practices, including local partners of PLC and n4a's Aging-In-Place initiative.

Contact Irene Garnett at igarnett@livable.com for more information on this publication.

Community Technical Assistance

Partners, along with esteemed colleague Charlie Zucker, former manager of The American Institute of Architects' Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (RUDAT) program, will travel to Tampa, FL in May to work with key city officials and the Planning Commission to develop a plan to bring livability elements into Tampa's new Comprehensive Plan.

Contact Lyz Crane at lcrane@livable.com for more information on how Partners can help your community.

New Civics

Under the Cities in Transition initiative, Partners premiered the report "A Blueprint for Change: Diversity as a Civic Asset" at the National Press Club. The panel of experts and the report stressed the need to address Asian American concerns as they are mislabeled as the 'model minority.' "We believe with proactive engagement by civic leaders, we can actually facilitate a better understanding to unlock a very powerful civil resource," said Gordon Quan, former leader of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO). "[The report] is an important beginning point about the Asian American community and how leaders of the country can interact with this growing community." The report is now being distributed to cities and counties across the country.

Visit www.citiesintransition.org for more information or to download a copy of the report.

RECENT EVENTS:

MARCH

March 23-24, 2006

Partners and the Ford Foundation hosted "Arts, Culture and Community: Building Bridges for Equity" at Project Row Houses in Houston, TX to build the innovative field of arts and community development.

http://www.cultureshapescommunity.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=170&Itemid=36

APRIL

April 4, 2006

Partners premiered the report "A Blueprint for Change: Diversity as a Civic Asset" at the National Press Club to emphasize the need to build cities' infrastructure and leadership for America's changing communities. <http://www.citiesintransition.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY

May 16-17, 2006

Restoration 2006: Community and Economic Recovery after a Disaster

A new conference focused on community and economic recovery in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster in New Orleans, LA. Partners for Livable Communities is proud to be a co-sponsor of the event. <http://www.restoration2006.org>

May 18-20, 2006

Annual Convention for the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development in Houston, TX. Hosted by National CAPACD in collaboration with the City of Houston and Partners for Livable Communities. <http://www.nationalcapacd.org>

JUNE

June 14-16, 2006

Partners' Annual Retreat will be at the luxurious Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida and will be filled with all-day conversation on cutting edge livability issues facilitated by distinguished

guest speakers from the field who will challenge the audience to think of unique approaches to address the topics in their own communities. Topics this year will be on Placemaking, Equity & Diversity, and Aging in Place. The retreat will be an opportunity for Partners Associates to network and share ideas with colleagues in a brilliant setting. **Registration is Limited!** Contact Irene Garnett (202) 887-5990 x109 or igarnett@livable.com about full agenda and details of attending the event.

OCTOBER

October 24-27, 2006

Registration is now open! Cultivating Creative Communities in Charlotte, NC. Hosted by Partners and the City of Charlotte. <http://www.creativeconf.org/registration.shtml>

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Visit <http://www.livableresource.org/> to purchase all of Partners' publications!

A Blueprint for Change: Diversity as a Civic Asset; \$7.00; Civic groups please contact ltan@livable.com for special discounted rates. ON SALE NOW!

Mobilizing Arts and Cultural Resources for Community Development; \$25.00; ON SALE NOW!

Aging in Place: Making Communities More Livable for Older Adults; \$25.00; ON SALE NOW!

REPORT FROM BOB MCNULTY

Down Under Travel Report from Bob McNulty

Bob McNulty was invited to Queensland, Australia by the Woodford Folk Festival, a 20 year-old gathering, which has acquired 1000 acres of land and is turning it into an ecological reserve and permanent gathering place for some 40,000 festival attendees who converge on the land from December 27-January 2 each year. His purpose there was to advise the festival organizers on a 500-year plan for Woodford. Yes FIVE HUNDRED year plan. How many American institutions are that ambitious?

Later in his trip he met with the Griffiths University Dean of Fine Arts for the Center for Cultural Policy. The two agreed to jointly explore Aging in Place in Australia over the coming months.

His last journey took him to Melbourne where he met with the Dean at the School of Arts Policy. The school would like to enter an agreement with Partners on a Culture Builds Communities strategy and develop the next steps beyond the Creative Economy between the 2 countries. The agenda is finally coming full circle as Bob McNulty spoke at the first forum ever on the Creative Economy also held in Melbourne back in 1988.