



December 2009

## Vanguard E-News Bulletin

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#### Season's Greetings CDSer!

This time of year for many of us is not only a time to gather with friends and family, but also to reflect on the challenges and successes of the year we are ending and on the possibilities and challenges for the coming year. I know that CDS will figure in my reflections as a source of support, new ideas, confidence, and good friends and colleagues.

Your executive committee and board have spent time reflecting on our challenges and successes this past year. For instance, our Memphis conference was quite small, yet many felt it was among the best conferences they had attended. We have some very enthusiastic new members and a growing interest in our work from students. We have a very active board, a growing journal, and an abundance of opportunities to use social networking to further the practice of community development around the world. We also stand on the cusp of change. Where community developers work, how they work, and who they work for and with has changed since our beginnings 41 years ago, and the past two years has brought increased national attention to the field. A key challenge for us as well as a great potential for the Society lies in the way the field has fragmented. Community developers are part of organizations and networks across a wide range of settings including: workforce, economic development, sustainability, conservation, wellness and health, youth engagement, community change, philanthropy and so on. These networks satisfy the need to understand a particular context for community development work, yet participation in the Society could open doors to new ideas and strategies related to engagement, facilitation, evaluation and more. The conundrum for us is that as more people get involved in community development and community change work, our level of membership continues to slip downward as does our income, yet expenses remain relatively constant. We all know the importance of Albert Einstein's great quote: "The definition of stupidity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." When we put our heads together, what new ways of doing things can we come up with? What do we need to do differently in the newly evolving world of community development? How can our work to increase the quality and effectiveness in community development and change

work reach people new to the field and those that circulate in networks related to specific aspects of community development? What revenue streams might we access to strengthen the work of the Society? Together, we have the potential to seriously impact how community development is practiced. Together, we can bring the principles of good practice to new audiences thus expanding opportunities for engagement and inclusion wherever community developers work.

There is the old story, perhaps part urban legend at this point, about the limits of problem solving that tells of astronauts practicing in low gravity environments who cannot fill out their form as pens require gravity. As the story is told, NASA spent thousands developing a pen that would work; the Russians used a pencil. Together as a society we need to find the new pencils that will help the Society and adjust to the changes in the field and to continue to be a critically important resource to those whose work focuses on community betterment. Our NING site provides blogging and commenting opportunities. As you reflect on the best of your year and strategies to make next year even better, share your thoughts, suggestions, questions and ideas with us as we look for ways to build on our successes and do things differently to create a stronger, more sustainable Society.

-[Mary Emery](#), CDS President

## Make Giving Your Annual Gift to the CDS Endowment Fund Easy and Green

By now you have likely received the annual December Appeal Letter from the Roots & Wings Campaign Leaders. The letter includes great news about the Endowment topping the \$100,000 mark in 2009...with your help. Congratulations!

The Roots & Wings Campaign needs your continued support to grow the Endowment to the point of making distributions for scholarships, annual conference, and other mission-driven purposes. Remember, no contribution is too small, but every CDS member needs to be a donor for CDS to make its goal.

There are many easy ways to contribute to the Endowment that do not involve writing and mailing checks. Of course, your Annual one time gift in any amount, mailed to the CDS Business Office (CDS, 17 South High Street, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215) is most appreciated! CDS accepts most major credit cards as well.

Or you can **Go Green** and make your contribution on-line at the CDS secure website, [click here](#).

Another Green option is to make an Annual Pledge that spreads payments out over the year. Your payments can then be easily made by setting up automatic withdrawals/payments from your bank account. Check with your financial institution on how to do this.

Consider donating payments for Royalties, Stipends, or Honoraria received from your community development work. You may also wish to give a gift in honor of a special person in your life, either living or deceased.

Gifts of stocks, bonds or real property, such as appreciated securities or real estate may yield some tax advantages for the donor.

As you consider gifts for the future, you should always consult your attorney, accountant, or tax professional about any tax benefits that you may realize in deciding the best way to contribute to the CDS Endowment. CDS is able to provide information on setting up Gifts for the Future including:

- Ø Retirement Plan Assets that name the CDS Endowment as a beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, while the donors still retain control and lifelong income benefits.
- Ø Wills that identify a specific dollar amount or percent of assets to be received by the CDS Endowment upon the settlement of the donor's estate.
- Ø Life Insurance that names the CDS Endowment as the owner of a policy or as a beneficiary.

Please join the many CDS members and supporters who are already helping us build a stronger future for CDS. [CDS Donors List](#)

Make YOUR contribution to the CDS Endowment today!

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## Endowment Contributions

Did you contribute to the CDS Endowment in 2009? If you would like a letter from CDS stating that you contributed to deduct the contribution amount from your taxes, please contact [Tionna](#) at the CDS Business Office.

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## The Role of Community in Economic and Disaster Recovery

### Annual International Conference

July 25-28, 2010

InterContinental Hotel, New Orleans, LA, USA

Years in the making, the Community Development Society and the International Association for Community Development will come together in July 2010 for the first ever joint conference. The conference will offer opportunities for students, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to share experiences, expertise, and/or research findings on innovative strategies to improve the process and practice of community development.

Participants will witness how exciting and innovative community and economic development has played in rebuilding and reconnecting the community.

New Orleans has tested new approaches in CD/ED and has successfully rebuilt businesses and homes using innovative practices which we as community developers can learn from and apply elsewhere.

### Conference Highlights

- Look forward to topics such as innovative community development approaches, financing methods, building community capital, leadership development, sustainability and much more. Expect roughly 100 presenters from all over the world;
- Select among the opportunities for community and economic development specialists in both the U.S. and abroad to spend several days in an exciting city that is undergoing redevelopment;
- Experience a day lending your hands to Habitat for Humanity and share in the fulfillment of building something together;
- Choose from several exciting Mobile Learning Workshops: Redevelopment of the Lower Ninth Ward/St. Bernard Parish; Local Arts Tour (features redevelopment of the art community since Katrina); Ground Zero Development - A Tour of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and more.

This conference promises to be one of the most educational and interesting events this year. Don't miss this opportunity to share your experiences and learn from others.

The complete schedule will be available on the CDS website at [www.comm-dev.org](http://www.comm-dev.org).

For information on registration:  
CDS Business Office  
614.221.1900 \* [www.comm-dev.org](http://www.comm-dev.org)  
IACD - [www.iacdglobal.org](http://www.iacdglobal.org)

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## CDS/IACD Annual International Conference

The joint CDS/IACD 2010 conference plans are developing nicely. We received an unusually large number of abstracts submitted and are in the process of organizing them into a coherent program. Acceptance letters will be sent to those submitting abstracts shortly. Decisions about plenary speakers will also be made. Watch for further announcements.

The conference program will be especially exciting because of opportunities to hear what is happening in community development around the world. New Orleans will be an opportunity to learn exciting new strategies that have succeeded in other places and which could be tried in your locality. Chances to hear as broad a range of programs and projects do not occur very often.

Plans are underway to provide electronic access to portions of the conference and introduce social media techniques in a more active way. The Mobile Learning Workshops will offer educational experiences but will also provide great opportunities to learn about New Orleans as well as network with colleagues around the world.

We will inform you regularly from now until the conference as events, speakers, and activities are finalized. This is a conference that you won't want to miss. There are signs that the national economy has turned the corner and by July we may see visible signs of a recovery. Keep the conference in mind as you plan your professional activities this year.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a great new year.

Norman Walzer, Chair  
Program Planning Committee

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## Art Galleries Galore

Partake in a local arts tradition...

The **Arts Market of New Orleans**, located uptown in Palmer Park, is a local delicacy served fresh once per month by regional artists and musicians. A mere 10 minute car drive from the InterContinental Hotel, the Arts Market is well worth the commute...not to mention arriving a day early for the CDS Conference. Each month, between 50 and 100 booths are manned by artisans and musicians showcasing a variety of handcrafted ceramics, paintings, photography, hand-sewn clothing, culinary delights, and music.

If additional site seeing is desired, choose to ride one of the New Orleans' historic green streetcars. The **St. Charles streetcar** route (route #12) conveniently connects the InterContinental



Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3, 2010. The theme of this year's conference is: "Can Performance Change the World?"

Proposal submission forms are available at [www.performingtheworld.org](http://www.performingtheworld.org). Proposals are due March 1, 2010.

### **Midwestern Governors Develop Biofuels Roadmap**

The Midwestern Governors Association held an Energy and Jobs Forum in Detroit last week to release its *Platform for Creating and Retaining Midwestern Jobs in the New Energy Economy*, the *Midwestern Energy Infrastructure Accord* and the *Midwestern Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Roadmap*. The advisory group recommendations contained in the roadmap have been in development since November 2007 when the governors agreed to goals laid out in the MGA's Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform for the Midwest.

The Energy Roadmap provides a menu of state policy options for the region's governors to adopt that would be most applicable to their state's individual and unique needs and circumstances to meet the goals of the Energy Platform. Great Plains Institute has been one of the organizations working with the MGA to help facilitate and staff groups of stakeholders to develop the documents released last week at the Forum.

<http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/Energy.htm>

### **From the Federal Reserve's Main Street Economist**

Over the course of the recent recession, rural economies have held up better than their metro peers, thanks to strong rural economic gains early in the downturn. But author Jason Henderson finds that the long-term health of rural America in the twenty-first century will rest on developing policies that focus on amenity-based development, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the article "Prospects for a Rural Recovery."

<http://www.kansascityfed.org/regionalaffairs/mainstreet/mainstmain.htm?ealert=MFG1125>.

### **"Coming Home to Rural America: Demographic Shifts in the Tenth District"**

The Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank's third quarter Economic Review article by Jason Henderson and Maria Akers examines whether rural areas should focus more on the recent trend of middle-aged families coming home to rural America.

<http://www.KansasCityFed.org/Publicat/Econrev/ermain.htm?ealert=ER0831>

### **US DOT has \$1.5 billion for livable communities**

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking to use stimulus spending to support livable communities, says Beth Osborne, deputy assistant secretary for transportation policy. DOT has \$1.5 billion in multimodal discretionary funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Osborne said in a November

9 Internet conference sponsored by the Center for Transportation and the Environment at North Carolina State University. The multimodal funds are also known as TIGER grants.

"When we put together the criteria by which we would evaluate projects, we put livability at the top," said Osborne. "It's up there with safety and economic competitiveness. We could not have made a stronger indication about what our priorities are."

<http://www.newurbannews.com/livablecommunitiesdot.html>

### **Rural America Surprisingly Prosperous, Study Finds**

For many people "rural" is synonymous with low incomes, limited economic opportunity, and poor schools. However, a recent study found that much of rural America is actually prosperous, particularly in the Midwest and Plains. The study did not define community success in terms of the traditional measures of growth in population, employment and income, according to Andrew Isserman, an economist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and author of the paper. Instead, it focused on outcomes: Do communities keep their kids in school? Are their unemployment and poverty rates low? Are housing conditions good and the folks healthy?

[http://www.livescience.com/culture/091202-rural-america-prosperity.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Livesciencecom+\(LiveScience.com+Science+Headline+Feed\)](http://www.livescience.com/culture/091202-rural-america-prosperity.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Livesciencecom+(LiveScience.com+Science+Headline+Feed))

### **CDS Spotlights Members**

As part of the CDS membership campaign, the Membership and Marketing Committee has initiated its Member Spotlight on the CDS website. Located under JOIN, this page puts the spotlight on 10 CDS members, and their interests and areas of expertise in the community development profession.



Each month the CDS will spotlight new members, gathering the information from the [membership survey located here](#). If you have not already completed this survey, please do so, and maybe you will be the next member in the spotlight!

[Click here to view the CDS Member Spotlight](#)

 Send to a Colleague

# Do you have something to share?

We welcome member input and articles for our Vanguard e-news bulletin. If you have something that you would like to get out to the entire membership, or if you have comments or suggestions, send them to [CDS@assnoffices.com](mailto:CDS@assnoffices.com) with subject e-news bulletin. We will do our best to accommodate your articles in a timely manner.

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