



November 2009

Vanguard E-News Bulletin

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Dear Mallory,

Your board just finished our November board meeting in New Orleans. Special thanks to Brent Hales and his local host committee and Norm Walzer for their hard work on next summer's conference. Not only is New Orleans a unique City with a rich history and much we can learn from, it is also a great venue for a joint conference with IACD. The hotel is comfortable and welcoming and close to many attractions. We have had an incredible response to the Call for Participation, so the program will be packed with great sessions.

Your board worked hard on developing strategies to build and strengthen the Society. We are looking forward to additional webinars starting in February. If you have suggestions for a session, contact [Chris Marko](#) or [Karen Blewett](#). We will also be working with IACD on developing an opportunity for a joint Declaration in New Orleans. We have started work on an internal leadership development approach and strategies for member engagement. Your suggestions and thoughts about leadership within the Society and strategies to offer more and varied engagement opportunities will help us design the best strategies possible. [Stephen Gasteyer](#) is heading up the nominations and leadership committee and needs a few additional people on the committee. We are also looking for reviewers for the Journal, writers for CD Practice, and people interested in taking a leadership role in regard to social networking. We look forward to hearing from you!

-[Mary Emery](#), CDS President

'Ol Man Riverwalk

Shopping with a view...

The Riverwalk Marketplace, located at 1 Poydras St. in downtown New Orleans, offers a wide mixture of national and local retail shops. Over 130 stores await, with the Mighty

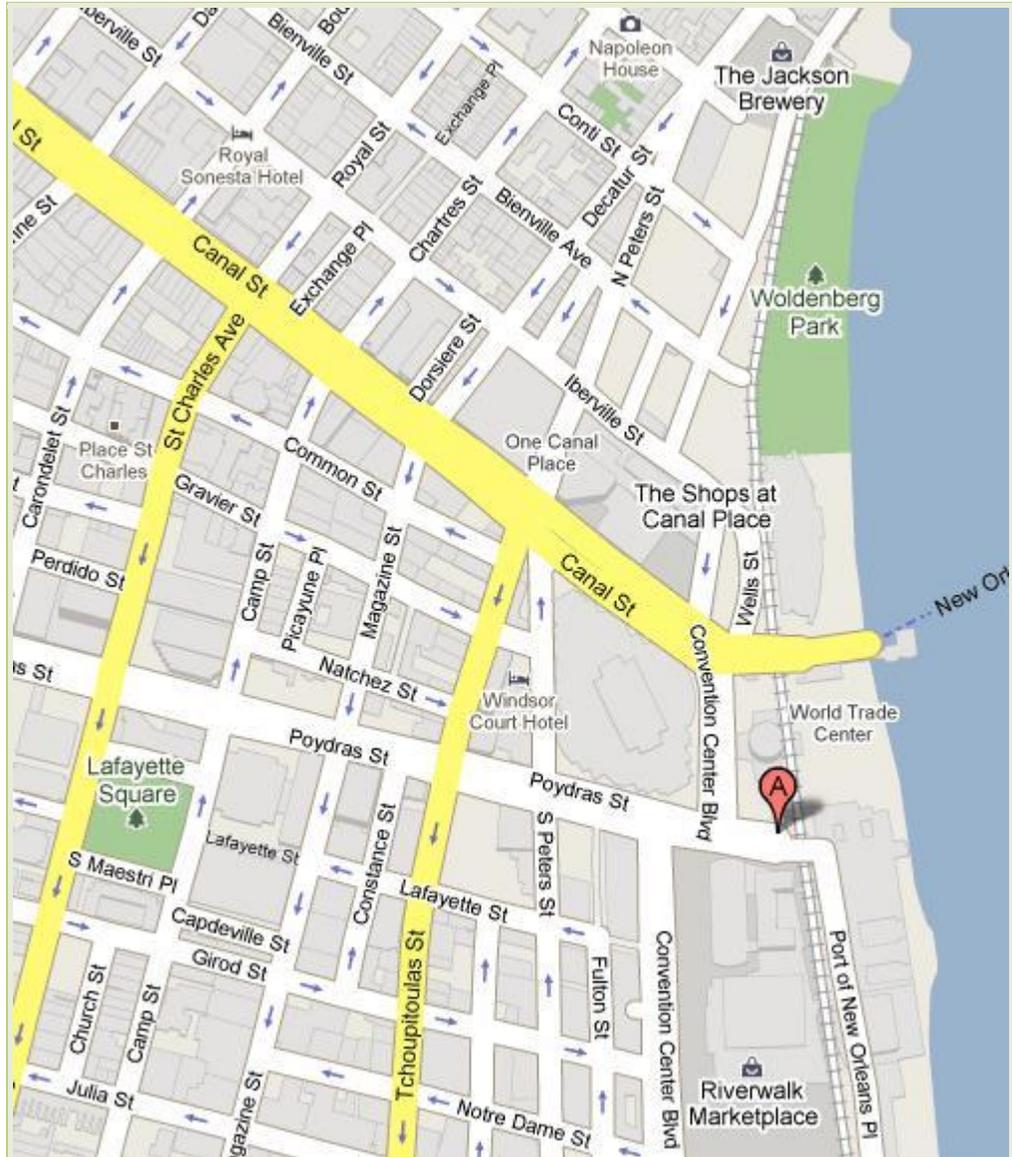
Mississippi' just outside the door and surrounded by the distinctive sweet aromas and jazz rhythms found only in historic downtown New Orleans. The Riverwalk is open 7 days a week, and the hours of operation are provided below.

On your trip to the Riverwalk Marketplace, make sure to stop by the Southern Food & Beverage Museum and receive a unique introduction to regional and New Orleans cuisines. The museum is located within the Riverwalk, and admission ranges from \$5 to \$10.

1 Poydras Street, Suite 101
New Orleans, LA 70130-1694
(504) 522-1555

Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Admission Costs: No (\$5-\$10 for museum)
Free Parking: No

For more information:
<http://www.riverwalkmarketplace.com>
<http://www.southernfood.org/>



"CDS Upfront" - Think Tank

CDS now has the beginnings of its own think tank.

Given the rapid pace of global and local change, the CDS Board has set up a new committee, CDS UpFront, to bring together practice and theory for innovations that will impact CDS itself, the communities where we work, and the larger community policy arena. Board member [Timothy Collins](#) has been asked to head this committee, which will focus on several goals in the coming year:

1. Recruit members

2. Define the mission, structure, and committee processes to develop:
 - specifics of committee charge to explore ways to move CDS into more prominence among practitioners, policy makers, and researchers;
 - interactions with other CDS committees, members, and other organizations to synthesize and develop an understanding of community development trends, issues, and opportunities.
1. Begin to disseminate creative ideas to CDS members as soon as possible.

Interested in participating on the committee? Please contact Timothy Collins at t-collins@wiu.edu or Lori Landry at lori@assnoffices.com. We will try to set up our first meeting before the holidays.

Some requests:

Have you read something interesting about CD lately? Would you like to share it with other CDS members? Please send a two-to-three-sentence abstract to [Timothy Collins](#). If the piece is web-based, please make sure you include a link. We will publish items in the Vanguard each month.

Nominate yourself and a friend to serve on the committee. If you like to play with ideas, this is the place to be.

News of Interest

The following highlights were submitted by CDS members. If you have something you would like to see included in a future issue, send it to [Lori Landry](#).

Macomb, IL-A recent statewide survey by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) found that more than 70 percent of the municipalities and about 53 percent of counties would be willing to provide input if information technology (IT) programming were developed to assist local governments.

The goal of the study was to gain a better understanding of the current status of technology used by local governments and to identify the issues affecting community/economic development in their communities. The information collected will be used to develop regional and statewide programming to assist communities in community and economic development efforts that focus on IT.

The survey covered three areas: community and economic development; information technology; and geographic information systems. Survey highlights include:

· Community and economic development: Respondents were asked how important various issues would be in the next five to ten years. Among cities, adequacy and quality of drinking water rated the highest, followed by attracting more retail businesses to downtown, and preparing youth for better jobs. Counties rated availability of affordable child care highest, followed by improving course offerings in schools, and the adequacy and quality of drinking water.

· Information technology: Respondents were asked for their perceptions on the current and future levels of IT to the various sectors in the community. Almost 90 percent of the municipalities rated IT as very important or critical to the education section now, and just over 90 percent (90.4%) reported that they expected it to be very important or critical to education in the future. More than 81 percent of the respondents said IT was important to large businesses now, and nearly 90 percent said it would be in the future.

· Geographic information systems: Almost three-fourths of the communities responding used GIS for decision-making and map production. About 69 percent used GIS for data collection/creation and visualization. About a third of the municipalities responded that they have intentions to use GIS for monitoring and modeling. In addition only about 26 percent of the municipalities and 43 percent of the counties provided GIS data online for their residents and businesses. About 14 percent of the municipalities and a third of the counties charged a fee for the data.

The report, "Local Government Survey: An Assessment of Technology and Community/Economic Development Issues Survey Overview," was co-authored by IIRA staff members Lori A. Sutton, Danielle Pataky, Catherine Swanson, Aaron Weiman, and Christopher D. Merrett.

Funding for the research was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) in Macomb. WIRC contracted with the IIRA to complete the study.

You can obtain a copy of the report by contacting IIRA at the phone number below or from our website at

<http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/LargeReport09172009.pdf>.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity institution. For more information about the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, see our web site: www.IIRA.org. If you care to comment about this column, please contact Timothy Collins, 800-526-9943 or t-collins@wiu.edu.

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 with subject e-news bulletin. We will do our best to accommodate your articles in a timely manner.