



Sustainability and Historic Preservation Panel Series

Sponsored by Island Press and the Trust for Architectural Easements

In the next twenty years, the number of urban dwellers will swell to an estimated five-billion people. How we develop or redevelop to accommodate this growth will determine the future of our cities and regions, the natural environment, and the health and human welfare of all of the earth's inhabitants. As we face the challenges of climate change and diminishing fossil fuel resources, how will urban areas accommodate a growing population while minimizing resource use?

A critical component of any sustainable growth strategy is the re-use and adaptation of existing resources in the built environment. Any environmental conservation plan should include recycling by capturing and reusing the embodied energy in existing buildings; preventing sprawl, and protecting as yet untouched open spaces; using historic buildings that were constructed with passive climate control and lighting measures, which when restored and allowed to function as intended, can reduce the overall energy load of a building.

How can these goals be achieved in the existing financial, political, and regulatory climate?

A series of three panel discussions sponsored by Island Press and the Trust for Architectural Easements will bring together experts from the financial, real estate, architecture, preservation, planning, and policy worlds to provide theories, best practices, and examples on navigating the sometimes daunting waters to create a future that is environmentally, financially, and socially sound. The panels will cover "how policy influences development," "how we regulate development," and "how we finance development." Clearly these topics overlap and each panel will include a discussion of all of the related issues and will have an underlying theme of environmental conservation and preservation, and social equity. Visionary developer and author of *The Option of Urbanism* Christopher B. Leinberger will participate in each panel in the series with an eye towards linking the topics, ideas, and debates from one panel in the series to another. Leinberger has a progressive approach to development that will contribute greatly to the realization of this panel series.

President and Co-founder of the Trust for Architectural Easements, Steven McClain, will participate in each panel in the series. Mr. McClain is the author of *Federal Tax Incentives for Historic Preservation* and has written articles about preservation and related topics for the *Washington Business Journal*, the *Journal of Financial Planning* and other publications. He has also given numerous speeches, seminars and workshops in different cities about tax advantaged conservation for historic buildings.

Panel One: *How Policy Influences Development*

What does the change of administration mean to how our cities will develop? The most influential federal policies in shaping our cities have been the Federal Highway Act of 1956 and the National Housing Act of 1934 in which the Federal Housing Administration was created. Refocusing our development on walkable urban centers and away from drivable suburban sprawl will require federal



leadership. The Obama administration faces both serious challenges (such as the current infrastructure crisis including the first ever bankruptcy of the Federal Highway Trust Fund) as well as tremendous opportunities to help shape our mobility and housing options. For example, the current version of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (SAFETEA-LU) will be renegotiated in Congress in 2009. What can we learn from past mistakes and efforts (such as Jimmy Carter's attempt at a federal urban policy)? What can we learn from governance structures and regulations in other countries? How should we encourage sustainability through the 2009 Transportation Bill and the rehabilitation of existing structures? Join Chris Leinberger and Steve McClain and other panelists to discuss policy options for a more sustainable future.

Possible panelists:

Robert Cervero, University of California, Berkeley, Island Press author
Barbara McCann, McCann consulting, Island Press author
Amy Liu, Brookings Institution

Moderator: Heather Boyer, Island Press Senior Editor

Date: January 12, 2009

Location: U.S. Green Building Council, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Time: 6:30- 7:30 pm