

Community Development Society (CDS)

Annual International Conference

July 21-25, 2012 – Cincinnati, Ohio

Kingsgate Marriott at the University of Cincinnati

CALL FOR PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

This CDS conference provides 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. The Program Planning Committee will accept Abstracts for proposed presentations for the **2012 Conference**. Abstracts involving partnerships between practitioners and academics are especially encouraged.

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts is October 31, 2011.

CONFERENCE THEME

Sustaining Community Through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Community development, in both scholarship and practice, depends on an understanding of policies and practices that are effective in promoting local and regional areas. The current national and international recession has pressured development practitioners to rebuild and/or revitalize their economies making it imperative they learn what has worked and why. Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers learn from sharing experiences, especially following economic downturns, and then incorporate applied research and/or experiences into effective policy development and practice.

For the purposes of this conference, we will work towards defining sustainable community development, innovation and entrepreneurship. Sustainable community development refers to the processes that facilitate positive interaction between multiple sectors of the community to ensure that all residents of varied income levels are provided the opportunities and tools to build assets, to participate in their communities, and to become part of the mainstream economy. Innovation in community development refers not only to the new ideas being developed within community systems, but also the adoption process, speed, and performance of the innovative activity. Entrepreneurship speaks to the venturesome ideas which stimulate economic progress by finding new and better ways of doing things.

Stimulating a community, by necessity, requires input from all sectors of the community (residential, not-for-profit, public/governmental, educational, faith-based, business, etc.) and must recognize the needs of each. The learning tracks will provide opportunities to explore entrepreneurial and innovative ideas in depth from an urban, metropolitan and rural perspective.

The annual CDS meetings offer a unique opportunity for interaction among researchers and practitioners to share successful, innovative strategies for sustainable community development supporting positive, inclusive community change. Experiences in Greater Cincinnati, and other Midwestern and Great Lakes communities, brought many new approaches to the field of sustainable community development. Examples of promising practices in other regions of the United States and other countries are encouraged. The 2012 CDS conference will focus on finding entrepreneurial and innovative approaches to rebuild and/or revitalize communities by local, regional, national and international leaders working with community development agencies.

The program agenda includes many issues and areas of community development practice. We invite presentations, workshops and discussions of successful and innovative approaches to solving development issues in communities, large and small, in the US or internationally. This conference highlights ways to strengthen communities and provide a high quality of life for all residents.

Examples of Topics or Areas of Interest

- **Comprehensive Community Initiatives and Processes** – Appreciative inquiry, Asset-Based Community Development, Sustainable Communities, Community Development Corporations/Neighborhood Support Organizations, Public-Private Partnerships, Social entrepreneurship, community leadership and other comprehensive community innovations.
- **Community Learning Centers** – Schools as Centers of Community, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, school-community partnerships, youth leadership, faith-based learning centers, Promise Neighborhood models, and other educational innovations.
- **Community Cultural Arts** – Neighborhood art centers, the arts in economic development, youth and the arts, rock and roll as a community development tool, community culture or heritage tourism as an economic development strategy, and other cultural arts innovations.
- **Healthy Communities** – Community health policy, public-private neighborhood health partnerships, medical innovations in community development, community food systems, the “slow foods” movement, regional food cooperatives, sustainable agriculture, “green” building, and other health-based system innovations.
- **Community Engagement in Higher Education** – Service-learning, campus-community partnerships, the role of community colleges in economic development, university-community scholarships, the scholarship of engagement, university economic development centers and other university-community innovations.
- **Community Development Policy** – Housing policy (homeownership, rental and senior), environmental assessment, community-based product innovation, immigration policy, public services in distressed governments, regional government cooperatives, community benefits agreements, economic/workforce development, community development financing, and other community development policy innovations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ABSTRACTS

All presenters except exhibitors are required to submit an abstract. The following guidelines will apply to anyone submitting a proposal.

1. Each submission must include **ONE** proposal category type or presentation format from (2) below.
2. Each submission must include the following contact information for the session presenter or organizer:
 - name
 - organization or affiliation
 - complete address (include specific department or bureau, if applicable)
 - phone and fax numbers
 - active email address
 - presentation format (i.e. panel; paper presentation; poster session; best practices presentation; workshop)

Proposed sessions, such as panels that involve multiple presenters, should list the information for all participants in addition to the name and contact information of the session organizer. The Program Committee will communicate with the session organizer.

3. Provide an abstract of **no more than 300 words** listing a title, author(s) name and affiliation, and **addressing the Criteria for Selection described below**. Limited space on the conference means that high priority will be given to abstracts with a clear presentation of methodology or approach, results or outcomes obtained, and how local officials and/or community development practitioners can use the results. Accepted abstracts will be printed in the conference brochure as a session description.
4. Provide a **50 words or less** summary of what attendees will learn from attending your session. The program committee will use this as the session description in all pre-registration publications, and in the onsite promotional materials.
5. List specific audio-visual needs. The Conference will provide overhead projectors, LCD projectors (for PowerPoint presentations), and audio equipment if needed. **Laptop computers for presentations will not be provided.**
6. On-line submissions can be made through the CDS website at www.comm-dev.org or by visiting the link: <http://cdsabstractsubmission.wufoo.com/forms/2012-cds-conference-call-for-abstracts/> through **October 31, 2011**. If you cannot submit a proposal via the website, please forward the proposal electronically in an attachment using Microsoft Word or a related program to Lori@AssnOffices.com.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Format: Panel Presentations will be 90 minutes in length involving three to five colleagues or peers in an open conversation or discussion on a topic, and will engage the audience in a question and answer/conversational session.

Requirements: Submit an Abstract as described above that also includes an outline of the topic, names of panelists, and background information on the topic, and questions that may be used to stimulate audience participation.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Format: Paper presentations are verbal summaries of papers addressing ongoing and completed community development research and theory. Papers should present well-developed concepts, applications, and results.

Requirements: Submit an Abstract as described above indicating Paper Presentation format. Papers (3) that could form a complete session should be referenced in the abstract. Consider them as a potential theme in the Journal.

POSTER SESSIONS

Format: A poster is used for the presenter describes a project, research results, program summaries, or lessons learned as a visual display on poster board. The poster usually includes a brief narrative paper along with tables, graphs, pictures, and other presentation formats. The presenter may stand next to the poster during an assigned time (Learning Stations) so that conference participants can view the presentation and interact with the presenter.

Requirements: Submit an Abstract as described above. In addition, each poster must:

- include the title of the presentation, the institution, agency or community where the work was completed, and author names in large letters at the top center of the poster;
- be easy to read at a distance of 4 feet (1.5 m). A point size of 16-18 (5-6 mm) or larger is recommended;
- post an abstract;
- include at least one of the authors at the assigned space during the designated time to discuss the work presented, and be ready to respond to questions concerning all aspects of the presentation;
- include a photo of the presenters, so that conference participants can locate them during the conference to ask questions outside of formal in-person presentation period.
- provide handouts;
- be constructed on either free-standing poster board or form board/form core that will sit on a 6-foot table. One easel will be provided for each poster. If you have additional set-up questions, contact Lori Landry at

Lori@AssnOffices.com

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS/SHOWCASE OF PROMISING PRACTICES

Format: Presentations highlight the design, development, and implementation of a community development project or program. Presentations use handouts and audiovisuals to supplement a verbal presentation of the concept, design, challenges, and outcomes of a project or best practice. Presentations are 20 minutes in length, followed by 20 minutes of developing posters by audience on what they have learned during presentation. Two or three related project presentations may be submitted as a panel. Individual proposals will be grouped with related papers by the Program Committee. Two or three presentations may be grouped into a 60 or 90 minute session.

Requirements: Submit an Abstract as described above.

WORKSHOPS

Format: Workshops are innovative, interactive sessions in which participants learn about or use tools, techniques, and approaches that they can apply. Workshops must involve participants, using formats such as role playing, simulations, practice sessions, tool application, case studies, success/failure stories, or discussion. Workshops are typically 90 minutes in length. However, day-long skill-building workshops, offered as “pre-conference” options, will be considered – Contact Lori Landry if interested in submitting proposal for this.

Requirements: Submit an Abstract as described above that also includes a brief agenda that summarizes the learning objectives.

OTHER

The Conference encourages interactive formats that engage participants in a variety of learning styles. Abstracts that propose a format other than one that is already listed above must describe the format and provide details on the learning styles employed.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

In selecting proposals for inclusion in the annual conference program, the Program Committee will consider the extent to which the abstract describes:

- how the proposed session will help community developers learn better practices and/or approaches or advances the knowledge of the community development field;
- the research, practice/policy approach, issue, topic, or best practice the session will address;
- what others will learn from the presentation and how the results can be incorporated into local practices;
- how the theory and/or practice being presented (i.e., project, program, or model of development at the local, regional or national level) helps address a local issue and/or population group;
- how the activities, events, or models presented are linked to a bigger picture...providing a component within a regional development framework, or not. If not, how might it affect the sustainability of that activity or validity of the development model;
- how the CDS Principles of Good Practice are applied. Principles are listed on the home page of the CDS website at www.comm-dev.org

SHARING CONFERENCE MATERIALS

The Conference intends to share the conference presentations through a variety of media. Presenters will be asked to provide electronic copies of their materials at the conference so that they can be further disseminated.

SELECTION AND ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

The Program Committee will review all proposals against the Criteria for Selection. Initial selection decisions will be made in **November 2011**. Selected presenters will have 30 days to accept. The Program Committee has the authority and responsibility for placing sessions in the program at a day and time that best suits the overall program. Session presenters must register for the conference (minimum of one day). No speaker expenses will be paid by CDS.

EXHIBITS:

Exhibitors are invited to set up a display for the duration of the conference, providing an opportunity for organizations, networks, projects, programs, government agencies, tribal units, and businesses to display their materials. Exhibitors will be asked to staff displays during breaks or specially designated exhibit viewing times. A fee will be charged for both non-profit and commercial/government exhibits. For additional information, contact CDS using the information below.

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

For more info, please contact:

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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

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