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The Premiere National Event on Building Better Places Comes to Charlotte

On May 31 - June 3, the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) will gather policymakers, planners, urban designers, developers, and advocates for CNU 31. Charlotte to debate and discuss trends and challenges related to building places people love.

Charlotte, NC -- CNU is thrilled to bring its 31st annual Congress to one of the most diverse, vibrant cities in the American Southeast with deep roots in New Urbanism. Not only is there a longstanding tradition of New Urbanist design in the region, Charlotte is also incorporating New Urbanist principles into its current growth and development patterns. The explosion of growth and the future of walkable urbanism in Charlotte, North Carolina, will be on full display at CNU 31.

The focus of CNU 31 is [Corridors](#). Providing a connection between the local context of Charlotte and language from the [Charter](#)—the Congress will reflect on the ways in which this prevailing urban form has failed *while also developing* solutions to help Corridors reach their potential as a foundational element of the public realm.

[Programming](#) this year includes plenaries, tours and social events in addition to the new formats of Short Format Presentations, Meetings, and Classes. All three of these formats provide more opportunities to share new and evolving ideas, to focus deeply on multi-disciplinary subjects, and to showcase learning, debate, and critique.

“CNU 31 will be a step into the future for our much-beloved annual gathering. With rethought session formats prioritizing shared learning over packaged presentations, our goal is to revive those passion-producing exchanges of information, ideas, and opinions that all of us with many Congresses under our belts fondly recall. And with a unifying theme highlighting a concept uniquely relevant to our host city, we are leveraging local examples and learning, in pursuit of meaningful progress toward our shared mission,” says CNU President Mallory Baches.

And the Congress will have a lasting impact in the Charlotte region. CNU invited area municipalities and neighborhood organizations to apply for pro-bono technical assistance from leading urban design firms. Through public engagement and collaboration, CNU’s [Legacy Projects](#) strive to demonstrate the power of great urban design and targeted communities experience both short-term progress and long-lasting momentum. This year’s three Legacy Projects are: [University City](#), [Healthy Highland](#), and [West Boulevard](#). Join us for a June 3 session to learn more about each project.

Also, CNU will be celebrating the 2023 Charter Awards winners at CNU 31. The 23rd annual Awards recognize exemplary work by CNU members and their allies who design and build places people love. The winners not only embody and advance the principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism, they make a difference in people’s lives. A focus this year was on projects that make places accessible and equitable and [13 winning projects](#) will be celebrated at a June 1 ceremony at 6:30 pm.

CNU 31. Charlotte is an opportunity for longtime practicing New Urbanists, those just starting out and those interested in learning about the movement to sit in on sessions covering vital topics and take tours to see New Urbanism in action. Join CNU and over 1,000 New Urbanists to learn and work alongside one another to spark innovations and new ideas to build the places people love.



About CNU

The Congress for the New Urbanism's (CNU) mission is to champion walkable urbanism. We provide resources, education, and technical assistance to create socially just, economically robust, environmentally resilient, and people centered places. We leverage New Urbanism's unique integration of design and social principles to advance three key goals: to diversify neighborhoods, to design for climate change, and to legalize walkable places. Visit cnu.org for more.

