

The annual Congress is an opportunity to gather and equip our members with tools, skills, and knowledge that expand the individual and collective practice of New Urbanism. Each year, we provide educational opportunities and practical training across a spectrum of core issues - as well as more in-depth or advanced topical discussions. In the past, CNU presented these core classes as a slate of so-called "101" courses that were repeated annually to provide attendees with the foundations of New Urbanism. In our ongoing efforts to evolve and improve the Congress, we are expanding educational opportunities at CNU 32 to include a similar level of introductory and intermediate content, but with the intention to connect our foundational principles with the Congress [Focus on Restorative Urbanism](#).

This is a guide to the introductory and intermediate sessions offered at CNU 32 that, taken together, provide the New Urbanism Starter Course.

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## Topic 1: Restorative Urbanism and the Principles of New Urbanism

Our core introductory session, *Restorative Urbanism and the Charter*, presented by Asleigh Walton (Urban Design Associates) and Victor Dover (Dover Kohl), will provide foundational information about New Urbanism as a practice through the lens of Restorative Urbanism. You will learn about what makes New Urbanism unique, where New Urbanists have had incredible impact, and what challenges lay ahead.

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## Topic 2: The Housing Crisis and Restorative Urbanism

A practice of urbanism that does not attempt to address the current housing crisis cannot be considered restorative. The limited availability of diverse housing types, exacerbated by the regulatory framework that informs development across the country, is directly connected to a lack of diversity of housing price and the continued friction between single-family homes common in low-density settings, and mid- to high-rise apartment buildings found in higher-density. Building housing diversity and restoring access to missing-middle housing types are the primary angles through which you will learn about the housing crisis at CNU 32.

**Foundational Session:** *Confessions of a Recovering Missing Middle Housing Developer* with Andre D. Jones (Jones Urban Development) and John Zeanah (Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development).

**Intermediate Session:** *Restoring Housing Choice: A renaissance rooted in mixed-income housing, examples from Birmingham Detroit* with Adam Kokenakes (City of Detroit) and Louis Nequette (Nequette Architecture & Design).

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### Topic 3: Health Outcomes in a Restorative Urbanism

Providing equitable access to walkable urbanism is a primary component of CNU's vision for the future. While building a more restorative urbanism, walkability plays a key role in ensuring the health and well-being of residents within neighborhoods. Physical activity and the level of social interaction outside of one's family circle, both of which can be improved through design and planning, have measurable impacts on health. In this foundational course, you will learn about the potential for delivering healthy communities through improvements to walkability.

**Foundational Session:** *Walkability for a Restorative Urbanism* with Joanna Lombard (University of Miami) and Jeff Speck (Speck Dempsey).

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### Topic 4: Transportation Planning for a Restorative Urbanism

Cities across the country are bearing the burdens of badly conceived urban highways that have physically divided communities and brought a host of negative social, economic, and health impacts down upon their residents. A restorative urbanism demands the transformation of existing freeways into higher-valued assets, anti-displacement policies, and re-focusing investments for multimodal and active transportation infrastructure that views streets as a public asset.

**Foundational Session:** *Curb Control: Stories from the Frontline in the Battle to Reclaim Street Space From Cars* with Victor Dover (Dover Kohl), Mike Lydon (Street Plans), and Tony Garcia (Street Plans).

**Intermediate Session:** *Transportation planning, community involvement and activism. How they can work together to make projects better* with Brian Boland (Bridge Forward Cincinnati) and Peter Mullen (Austin Transit Partnership).

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## Topic 5: Restorative Urbanism in the Context of Planning for Climate

Climate change impacts seen in extreme weather events, rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss can devastate even the most well-built towns and cities and – over time – lead to massive shifts in population. Restorative urbanism includes planning and designing for climate, focusing on restoring ecological balance and creating sustainable and resilient cities that prioritize environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic vitality. At CNU 32, sessions will view restorative urbanism and planning for climate in adaptation, mitigation, and disaster recovery.

**Foundational Session:** *Exploration of Urban Forestry Planning: Mapping a Path to Remedy Past Harms* with Rachel Comte (Urban Canopy Works) and Jeff Speck (Speck Dempsey).

**Intermediate Session:** *Fire & Flood: New Urbanism response to Climate Impacts – Case Studies from Lahaina and Panama City* with speakers from the Greater Hawaii Foundation and those from the Dover Kohl work in Panama City after hurricane Michael.

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## Topic 6: Restorative Urbanism and Public Space

New Urbanists know that the primary task of all urban design is the physical definition of streets and public spaces as places of shared use. Access to well-designed green spaces, public plazas, and safe pedestrian-centered environments improves the quality of life for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. The public realm provides opportunities for ecological restoration, strengthening social cohesion, and resilience-building.

**Foundational Session:** *Recovering Main Street Architecture* with Judith Bell and Ben Northrup from DPZ CoDesign with Adam Bonoskey (SWBR).

**Foundational Session:** *Implementing Tactical Urbanism* with Mike Lydon (Street Plans).

**Intermediate Session:** *Principles of Placemaking: The Secrets Behind Highly Successful Urban Plazas and Parks* with Jermone Barth (Town Square).

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## Topic 7: Restorative Urbanism and Urban Design

The physical design of buildings, blocks, and streets defines the lives lived and community built within its bounds. Interconnected streets that define public space, compact blocks that encourage a robust pedestrian experience, and the architectural design of individual buildings that provide a sense of place are all vital components of successful urbanism. But to understand restorative urbanism and its relationship to design, we must recognize the impacts of policies that have encouraged segregation by race and class, destroying the historic fabric of cities with freeway infrastructure, and targeted communities with disinvestment and neglect. Good design alone cannot reverse decades of policy implications, but we cannot ignore the role of design in restoring our built heritage.

**Foundational Session:** *Standard Building Types and the impact of New Urbanist Design* with Tim Busse (Studio Archaeos).

**Intermediate Session:** *The Urban Form Standard: Dimensions for the Next 10,000 Years* with Paul Knight (Historical Concepts).

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## Topic 8: Regulations for Restorative Urbanism

Land use regulations provide the map that guides all development, and thus serve as the single largest obstacle to creating a compact, well-connected, and diverse built environment. In addition to the current restrictions placed on new development, land use regulations have a long history in this country of creating and reinforcing inequalities. While we recognize the need for regulations to put guardrails on design and development, we know that there are better ways to provide a land use framework that achieves more adaptable and context-sensitive development fostering walkable human-scaled design.

**Foundational Session:** *Envisioning Change and Implementing it through Placetypes* with Toccarra Nicole Smith (Form-Based Codes Institute), Stefan Pellegrini (Opticos Design), Kathleen Galvin (Galvin Architects), and Marques King (Fabric[k] Design).

**Intermediate Session:** *The Intersection of Form-Based Codes and Historic Preservation* with Sevanne Steiner (City of Miami) and Justin Newhart (City of Fort Worth).

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## Topic 9: Restorative Urbanism to Revive Suburbia

The Charter calls for the restoration of existing urban centers and towns within a coherent regional structure. The redevelopment and densification of the suburbs is one of our primary opportunities to restore a cohesive urban community within the broader context of the metropolis as well as provide urbanism to a larger and more diverse population. The principles and practice of New Urbanism offer a blueprint for restoring the vast landscape of suburban monoculture that blankets so many metropolitan regions into one that is connected and supporters walkable, sustainable, and equitable urbanism.

**Foundational Session:** *Suburban Retrofit: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* with Ellen Dunham-Jones (Georgia Institute of Technology) and (June Williamson (The City College of New York).

**Intermediate Session:** *Revitalization and Restoration in the First Suburbs* with speakers from Hamilton County, Ohio.