

CNU 32.Cincinnati

Call for Proposals RFP

About CNU and the Annual Congress

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is a member-based nonprofit organization championing better design of cities and towns to improve lives and strengthen communities for all. For thirty years, CNU has been the only organization reforming city-building across the country, gathering the broad spectrum of practitioners and advocates who share our mission. By highlighting impactful design principles and lowering barriers to change, CNU amplifies the grassroots power of our thousands of members to build and rebuild their cities and towns in ways that improve sustainability, accessibility, and equity for years to come.

The annual Congress is an international gathering of our multidisciplinary cohort, but it is also a core programmatic effort of CNU, providing an opportunity for our attendees to convene, to educate, and to collaborate in service of a world where cities, towns, and neighborhoods are intentionally designed to foster community, preserve the natural environment, and improve the lives of all people.

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Cincinnati's distinct neighborhoods, emerging downtown, historic fabric, and recent riverfront development provides a helpful context for this year's focus on [Restorative Urbanism](#) - exploring the Charter's call for the restoration of existing urban centers and towns within a coherent regional structure. Recognizing the complexity of this challenge, a practice of restorative urbanism heals the past harms inflicted on the built environment, natural landscape, social condition, and economic opportunity. After thirty years of New Urbanism, we have moved the needle on the practice of urban development, yet our cities, towns, suburbs, single-use districts, and public realms are clearly still in need of restoration.

Restorative Urbanism as the Focus for CNU 32 provides everyone in our community of practice with the opportunity to engage in this year's Congress programming:

- Designers will explore implications of the evolutionary nature of the urban realm, and collaborate in determining best practices for designing restorative buildings, blocks, streets, and neighborhoods.
- Small-scale developers will discuss the ways that incremental development can gently increase community-supportive density, while larger-scale developers can share best practices for stitching development projects into the human and natural systems surrounding them.
- Those who work in policy and research can expect generative discussions on the regulations that might underpin restorative built outcomes, from exclusionary zoning to economic reparations.
- Architects, engineers, and others working on implementation will be able to compare practical strategies for projects that prove cohesive to their surrounding context and restorative of the urban fabric.

If you do not see yourself or your work in Restorative Urbanism, we encourage you to reach out to congress@cnu.org to engage in a discussion.

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Restorative Urbanism In Context

We are asking that sessions at CNU 32 address the Focus of Restorative Urbanism by digging into the following questions:

- In what ways has the practice of New Urbanism addressed - or failed to address - the Charter's call to restore existing urban centers and towns within a coherent regional structure?
- How do we empower quality urbanism that also has mechanisms for maintaining accessibility to future diversity of people, places, uses, incomes, activities, and mobilities?
- What design, development, policy, and community-based tools and approaches exist for building and maintaining more diverse neighborhoods accessible to a wider range of people?
- What steps can we take in the design and implementation of new development, to inhibit the triggers that lead to future exclusion and/or displacement within a community?
- What techniques can empower development and redevelopment to support the recovery of surrounding ecosystems, promoting the stewardship of the environment across all scales of human settlement?
- How can individuals, the general public, neighborhoods, cities, and regions support Restorative Urbanism?

Submitting A Session Proposal

Session proposals are being accepted for the following formats:

1. **CLASSES:** 60-75 minute opportunities to deepen attendees' understanding of a certain topic, trend, or issue. Classes range from entry-level introductions to advanced innovation in technical subjects, practice, or design. Attendees should be regularly engaged in conversation or activities throughout a class to advance their comprehension of the subject matter. Proposals of the Class format will be required to include a draft outline of the material to be presented to the attendees (an example of which can be found [here](#)). If your class will include handouts or resources for attendees to review in advance, you will be required to finalize this material before April 1st. To submit a Class proposal, you will need:
 - a. Main Speaker contact information, expertise.
 - b. Additional speakers' contact information, expertise.
 - c. Class title and description (250 words)
 - d. Course level (introductory, intermediate, advanced)
 - e. Proposed learning objectives.
 - f. Draft course outline.
 - g. Relevance to the Congress Focus, if applicable.
2. **MEETINGS:** 60-75 minute discussions that can vary in formality. Meetings can range from a group of practitioners gathering to solve a problem or discuss an issue, to a deeper dive into a challenge faced across disciplines. Meetings provide attendees the opportunity to learn and engage, rather than being 'talked at'. To submit a Meeting idea, you will need:
 - a. Main speaker contact information

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- b. Additional speakers' contact information
- c. Meeting concept, title, description (250 words)
- d. Proposed learning objectives.
- e. Relevance to the Congress Focus, if applicable.

More complex session types customized to the local context of Cincinnati - such as Workshops, Main Stage Discussions, and Short Format Presentations - will be curated outside of this call.

Review Process and Timeline

All proposals for Classes and Meetings must be submitted by December 5, 2023. They will be reviewed by this year's Congress Program Committee, an ad hoc Board committee with subject matter experts who are responsible for providing oversight for developing the session types and program format, reviewing the call for proposals, reviewing and ranking all sessions, and curating and placing the sessions in the schedule. Congress Program Committee members will complete the initial review of submissions in mid-December.

You may be asked to make changes to your proposal, provide more information on your idea, refine proposed learning objectives, or combine your idea with another session.

Submit Proposals Online

Use the provided template to prepare your online submission. If you have reviewed all this information and would like to submit a session idea, [please use this form](#).

Section 1: Session Concept

- Type - Meeting or Class*
- Title or core concept - 250 characters
- Description - 1000 characters
- How your proposal addresses Restorative Urbanism. Use information in this RFP and the full description of this year's Focus to help formulate this answer. - 2000 characters
- Four to five Learning Objectives for CEUs, in sentence form, that will describe what attendees will get out of your session.
- Description of what makes your session relevant / important for CNU 32 - 1000 characters (optional)

*Class proposals must also include a PDF outline of the course and what topics will be addressed.

Examples can be found [here](#). Additionally, if there are any prep materials or handouts to be given to attendees these materials will need to be finalized by April 1st in order for your Class to be included in the program.

Section 2: Speakers

- Main Contact - who should we communicate with about this session?
- Speaker Contact - for all who will be presenting at the session, include name, email