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The Congress for the New Urbanism Announces Minneapolis–St. Paul as Host of CNU 35

CNU returns to a community that showed up for Congress planning in 2020 - and where the work of building connection matters now more than ever.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is proud to announce that its 35th annual Congress, CNU 35, will head to the Twin Cities June 15-18, 2027, with the majority of the event hosted in Minneapolis’ Mill District.

This announcement marks a meaningful return. The Twin Cities were selected to host CNU’s annual Congress in 2020 - a moment of anticipation and collaboration that was cut short due to the COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings. In the years since, those working in Minneapolis and Saint Paul have continued to make progress, demonstrating the Twin Cities as a region of leadership, resilience, and civic engagement. CNU 35 represents an opportunity to finally gather in a community that welcomed the new urbanist movement then, and that continues to do the hard work of strengthening the public realm today.

“Returning to the Twin Cities is deeply important to CNU,” said Mallory Baches, President of the Congress for the New Urbanism. “This is a region that mustered up all the momentum and did all the planning needed to host the 28th Congress, but never got to reap the rewards or see the impact. It’s been a priority of mine to return and reengage with the region’s practitioners, advocates, and leaders. In the years since 2020, the region has been at the center of critical national conversations about public space, equity, safety, civic engagement, and belonging. Showing up for this inspiring community—listening, learning, and investing our collective attention—is core to who we are as an organization.”

We are excited to be working again with committee members who helped plan the original Twin Cities Congress as well as new local partners who are energized and ready to bring CNU 35 home. The Chair of our Local Host Committee echoed the significance of the moment and the opportunity CNU 35 represents for the region.

“We’re honored to welcome CNU back to the Twin Cities,” said Spencer Miller-Johnson. “This Congress comes at a time when our communities are actively reimagining how our streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces can better serve all community members. Hosting CNU 35 is not just about showcasing what’s working—it’s about engaging in honest, forward-looking conversations and investing in the civic fabric that holds our region together.”

CNU 35 will be anchored in Minneapolis’ Mill District, a walkable, connected neighborhood that reflects both the city’s industrial history and its ongoing commitment to adaptive reuse, riverfront access, infill housing, and multimodal transportation. The setting will allow attendees to experience firsthand how



the civic realm—streets, parks, public buildings, and shared spaces—can serve as a foundation for community connection and democratic life.

At a time when Minneapolis is often framed through moments of crisis or conflict, CNU's return is grounded in a different story: one that recognizes the public realm as one of the most powerful tools communities have to foster trust, dignity, and opportunity. Through sessions, tours, and conversations, CNU 35 will explore how thoughtful urban design and planning can support healing, resilience, and long-term investment in people and place.

CNU's annual Congress convenes a multidisciplinary group of 1,500 planners, architects, developers, engineers, public officials, advocates, and community leaders from across North America and beyond.

Founded on a spirit of discussion and creative problem solving, the Congress is an impact-focused event that brings vision and strategy to the region while showcasing local initiatives, exploring responsive design and policy solutions, and amplifying powerful community-led efforts to a nation-wide audience of attendees. With over 100 sessions led by globally renowned speakers, transformative design and policy workshops, and dozens of local tours delivered by practitioners from diverse disciplines, the 2027 Congress will elevate conversations shaped by the Twin Cities' lived experience—and by a shared commitment to building places that support the well-being of everyone.

In recent years, the Congress has had a direct economic impact of over \$1.7M, with indirect impacts over \$3M to local host communities.

Additional details about CNU 35, including specific venues and program themes, will be announced in the coming months.

For more information about the Congress for the New Urbanism and future events, visit cnu.org.

About the Congress for the New Urbanism

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/rebuild their cities and towns in ways that improve sustainability, accessibility, and equity for years to come.

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