

April 20, 2020

Dear CNU Members, Partners, Allies, and Supporters:

One month ago, we reached out to provide you with information about the impact of COVID-19 on our annual Congress and today we are able to provide an update. Currently, the state of Minnesota—like many others—is under a stay at home order through early May. Even with the three-phased approach for reopening economic activity recommended by the Trump administration on April 16, the absolute earliest date that non-essential travel and large gatherings would be allowed would be mid-June. Unfortunately, as a result, we will be unable to host an in-person Congress this year.

Yet now, more than ever, New Urbanists need an opportunity to come together for discussion and debate, to share and to learn, and to support one another in this uncertain time. So we are excited to announce that we are taking CNU 28.Twin Cities online June 10-13, including 55-70 sessions and a number of pre-Congress webinars.

CNU 28.A Virtual Gathering will have many of the elements you were looking forward to in the Twin Cities: thought provoking sessions, in-depth discussions with live Q and A, social gatherings, sessions and discussions about current projects and happenings in the Twin Cities, art room sessions, plenary sessions, and a number of pre-Congress events. By developing a way for attendees to engage virtually, these crucial conversations can occur in real time. While much of the program will remain as planned, we will also be adding new sessions that directly address the current public health crisis and how it is impacting the work of New Urbanists around the world. Given the uncertainty of what we are all facing, the Congress content, and CNU's emphasis on community, is more relevant than ever.

As always, continuing education credits from CNU-A, AIA, APA, and ASLA will be available for most sessions. Additionally, all the sessions will be archived for viewing after the Congress week – creating more value for members and attendees.

We know there will be many questions about how a virtual Congress will work, or about current registrations, tickets, and sponsorship. We have compiled the following resources to help address your questions (pages will be updated in real time as more detail becomes available):

- [Virtual registration pricing and updated refund policy](#)
- [Virtual sponsorship benefits](#)
- [Registration](#)

CNU staff is in the process of reaching out to speakers, sponsors, and existing registrants about our Virtual Gathering. Additionally, the Intercontinental Hotel will be canceling all attendees' room reservations at the hotel that are in the group block.

The COVID-19 crisis has created a pivotal moment for New Urbanists: we must marshal our principles and expertise to benefit people and communities in a time of great distress. We also know the financial impacts of



the crisis are real and will be felt acutely by us all. Victor Dover said it best a few weeks ago during an *On the Park Bench* webinar: New Urbanists rise to every occasion; creating new innovations to propel neighborhoods and cities forward in a time of crisis.

We have created an extraordinary program that we are excited to share with you. Being together virtually won't be quite the same as gathering in person, but we need a Congress now more than ever. We hope you will join us—together online—in June.



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