

March 26, 2020

We Are CNU.

Dear members and partners,

In the last few weeks, life as we knew it has shifted dramatically. How we live, work, and play is unrecognizable. When your life's work is collaborating to create holistic neighborhoods, supporting a vibrant public realm, and encouraging more dense walkability - the current health, social, and economic unknowns are sure to feel overwhelming, if not devastating.

Here at CNU, we know that urbanism has always been part of the solution, no matter what obstacle we faced. The Great Recession was a storm we weathered together and I believe CNU members will do just that with whatever comes out of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic this year. Placeless, auto-dependent, socially-isolating sprawl creates more problems than it solves. Emily Badger, in [The New York Times](#), makes a case for cities:

Density makes mass transit possible. It allows for more affordable housing. It creates environments where people can walk and where children can find playgrounds. It enables us to pool risks. It supports big public hospitals and stronger safety nets. It allows us to curb climate emissions, which present a public health problem of an entirely different kind.

For decades and centuries, people have flocked to well designed, beautiful places with an active public realm. And that's our work: championing walkable urbanism. It was needed 100 years ago, 10 years ago, last year, and will be needed next year and in the years to come.

For the movement, I want to make sure we are providing a platform for learning, engaging, and discussion. Starting next week, we will be hosting ***On a Park Bench: A Public Square Conversation***, a new weekly webinar on perspectives, strategies, and best practices to the many challenges we are currently facing. Please join me and New Urbanist leaders from three generations on **Tuesday, March 31** as we discuss ***New Urbanism for a New World: Perspectives from Laurie Volk, Seth Harry, Mike Lydon, and Ashleigh Walton***.

[Click here to RSVP](#)



More than ever, we are here to listen to your concerns, to hear how this is impacting each of you, and to learn from your experiences in this challenging time. We are also exploring ways to leverage our skills and those of our membership, to continue to strengthen our network to better support our members and the New Urbanist movement we share. In doing so, we would love to hear suggestions or ideas from you. CNU exists because of the wisdom, hard work, dedication, and ingenuity of each of you - which is exactly what our cities, towns, and neighborhoods need right now.

Stay safe and healthy.

[Lynn Richards](#), President & CEO

[Abby Sheridan](#), Deputy Director

[Mallory Baches](#), Director of Strategic Business Development

[Margaret O'Neal](#), Director of Programs

[Rob Steuteville](#), Senior Communications Advisor

[Ben Crowther](#), Program Manager

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