



## **HOW PARTNERS HAS HELPED COMMUNITIES IN THE PAST**

### *Select Events where Partners served as Conference Secretariat*

#### **Conference on Neighborhood Conservation**

**September 1975**

#### **New York City, New York**

Robert McNulty, President of Partners, served as Director of this conference which led to the creation of a task force that helped found Partners as the implementation vehicle for moving forward on the conference themes. The organization was incorporated in 1977.

This national conference brought over 400 people from around the country with the unique factor that over 150 of them also served on the program. This event was seen as such a success in creating Partners that The Municipal Arts Society has just recently asked if Partners could do reunion of some of the distinguished people who in 1975 had looked at neighborhoods and neighborhood conservation in honor of Jane Jacobs at The Urban Center in Manhattan.

#### **OUTCOME:**

- Founding of Partners for Livable Places (now Communities)
  - Creation of Neighborhood Conservation Week in New York City
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#### **The Arts Edge: Places and Spaces for the Arts in Civic Economics**

**October 1981**

#### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

This conference was an event between Partners for Livable Places and the Allegheny County Cultural Alliance with underwriting from major foundations in the Pittsburgh region. The conference showcased Pittsburgh in a positive light as it was recovering from a decline in its employment base as a result of the shrinking steel industry and was looking to a new era to restructure its economy around technology, education and culture.

#### **OUTCOME:**

- Cities around the country learned the potential returns from investing in the arts
  - Development of new agenda for integrating cultural and arts planning into the economic mainstream
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**Cities in Transition: Hispanics in America**  
**A Series of Forums on Cross-Cultural Concerns**  
**May 1984**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

This conference was an event hosted by the Mayor of San Antonio, Henry Cisneros, and a consortium of civil rights and equal opportunity groups from the Latino community. The goal was to showcase the positive nature of the changing demographics facing America with a rising population of Spanish-speaking citizens and enduring labor force. The conference was underwritten almost 100% by corporations that were anxious to show their equity and interest in the growing Latino community.

**OUTCOME:**

- Initiated a new seminar on 'Industrial Cities in Transition' studying urban revitalization in a climate of changing demographics and a changing economic model
- Initiated a 'Cities in Transition' study tour of European cities to observe and discuss revitalization, job creation and partnership strategies to bolster economic growth and social well-being with a quickly evolving demographic and cultural context

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**City Assets**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**April 1985**

This conference was the culmination of one of Partners' multi-year theme programs, called *Economics of Amenities*, which discovered that urban prosperity can be achieved through investment in a community's quality of life. This program was also tied to the belief that Indianapolis needed to come out of its "Indianowhere" mentality and discover that it was a dynamic city led by charismatic mayor, Bill Hudnut, and that it had a private sector that was committed to helping the city grow both economically and socially.

**OUTCOME:**

- Indianapolis initiates a major investment strategy in sports and entertainment as part of a campaign to be seen as a world class city
- Lilly Endowment generously supports new campaign for Indianapolis' redevelopment

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**The Renewable American Community Conference: Local Solutions to National Problems**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
**May 1992**

The Renewable American Community Conference was tied to the culmination of a theme program called Shaping Growth in American Communities. It was seen by Orlando as an important national forum to change Orlando's image from a bedroom community for the guests and employees of theme parks in Disney and universal studios to the crown jewel community of central Florida. A city unique in its great architecture, quality of life, superb neighborhoods, and dynamic leadership, Orlando built a sense of civic pride around this gathering. This conference was 100% sponsored by the city of Orlando

and by Florida area philanthropy including Walt Disney, which was interested in showcasing Orlando and its leadership.

OUTCOME:

- Conference lessons become best practices model for communities around the country
  - Orlando begins era on the national fore as 'The City Beautiful' and the City Livable with exemplary community leaders
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**New Design for Urban Improvements through Public/Private Partnerships  
Lyon, France  
October 1987**

The Lyon efforts were initiated in October, 1987, looking at public-private partnerships in the region. Partners brought a group of Americans leading the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors. They joined some 200 experts from throughout Europe in a gala event. Lyon at that time was a distressed city, suffering from a great inferiority complex relating to Paris. It was grimy and dirty and was not known as a leader in city livability. However, Lyon and Partners worked together to launch a series of programs highlighting the leadership of Lyon and its region. Partners served as secretariat and manager for the international event, guiding the distinguished guests toward an appreciation for Lyon's potential. Of particular interest was its relationship with Torino, Italy and Geneva, Switzerland. Known as the Alpine Diamond, these three cities in three countries form a unique partnership, supporting one another's industries and people.

OUTCOME:

- Lyon and the Rhone-Alps region continue to strengthen a legacy of cooperation and a reputation for quality urban environments
  - Community livability agenda is evidently unbound by political borders
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**Crossing the Line: National Leadership Forum on Regional Strategies Memphis, Tennessee  
October 1999**

Crossing the Line was the culmination of collaboration with Governing magazine, working with a number of jurisdictions and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to define the best strategies for regional cooperation. Hosting this working session was Shelby County, TN, home to Memphis and corporate citizens including Federal Express. Fred Smith of FedEx served as keynote speaker. Along with the County and the City of Memphis, FedEx underwrote this conference at nearly \$ 250,000. This event was unique in that three Governors from three states (TN, MS, AK) joined upon invitation from the County Executive. They discussed how as adjacent states they could better collaborate on a regional agenda that crossed lines, while building upon the undeniable asset of a major urban area (i.e. Memphis). Partners served as national secretariat and conference developer.

OUTCOME:

- Follow-up publication presenting the lessons learned by local officials from around the country

- Series of regional forums spurred by the initial event and follow-up publication help regions develop their own regional cooperative strategies
  - Theme is adopted by Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, holding a conference supported by the outcomes of this event
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## **Cities in Transition: Asian Pacific Islander Americans ...An Asset for America's Future**

**Houston, Texas**

**September 2005**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Cities in Transition event was the catalyst for a national multi-year agenda highlighting the opportunities for growth and vitality around Asian Pacific Islander American communities. The conference focused on culture and heritage, leadership, empowerment and community development. Partners served as conference developer, serving the City of Houston, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, and the local committee by raising funds nationally and locally, and integrating cultural heritage groups with community development efforts.

### **OUTCOME:**

- Houston has widely been accepted as a model for building civic pride around its Asian Pacific Islander community
  - "Blueprint for Action" developed to help local officials understand that diversity truly is a civic asset
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## **Cultivating Creative Communities: Local Solutions for Global Success**

**Charlotte, North Carolina**

**October 2006**

This conference was a major coming-out party for Charlotte who had suffered the reputation of being a small Southern town, not yet ready for the 'big time'. USA today gave front page coverage on the day of the conference on just this topic. This conference marked the first step toward a more integrated understanding of livability, highlighting four themes: Amenities, Creativity, Equity and Sustainability. Business, banking and arts joined environmental and community organizations from within and outside the community to celebrate Charlotte as a model for fast-growing global cities.

### **OUTCOME:**

- Charlotte Mayor and other community leaders helped to highlight Charlotte to both press and participants at the event as both a global city and a livable community
- Attending community leaders were exposed first-hand to examples of a more integrated livability agenda