

CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM FLORIDA CHAPTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who attended the 4th CNU Annual Statewide meeting for making it yet another great success.

I also want to thank our meeting sponsors: Gold: Berger Singerman, Center for Urban & Environmental Solutions at FAU, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co., HDR, Inc., Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, University of Miami School of Architecture; Silver: Cooper Johnson Smith Architects, Callery-Judge Grove, Canin and Associates, Doris Goldstein, Attorney, Dover, Kohl & Partners, Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, Inc., MSCW, Inc., IMC Communities, Genesis Group, Valle and Valle; and Bronze: Cagan Management Group, Inc., Castle & Cooke Florida, Jamie Correa and Associates, Marcela Cambor and Associates, REG Architects, Rollins College, Windsor Properties, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; our regional representatives, and all those who worked hard for this remarkable gathering.

Rollins College was once again the perfect setting to celebrate great new urbanist initiatives, and to engage in the discussion of the signs, causes, and our role as part of the solution to global warming.

Doug Farr's special half day LEED ND session was a huge success. This session sold out early on in the registration process. If you missed it, you should attend the LEED ND Thursday session in Austin Texas.

We enjoyed an encouraging keynote speech by DCA Secretary Tom Pelham (the planets seem to be aligning in the Florida Legislature); inspiring presentations from John Norquist, Anthony Wayne King, Charles Pattison, Tommy Boroughs, Stephen Adams, Susan Glickman, Mark Sardegnia, James Moore, Julie Sanford, Sam Poole, Victor Dover, Ken J. Groves Jr, Rick Hall, and Harriet Tregoning; and closing remarks by Geoff Anderson (4th day on the job as the new director of Smart Growth America!) and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk.

We had the pleasure to honor Walter Kulash, recipient of the John Nolen Medal Award for contributions to urbanism in Florida, and Ernesto Buch, recipient of the Charles Barrett Award for excellence in Architecture and Urban Design. Congratulations to both, and be sure to check out their work!

The meeting concluded with chapter members unanimously voting to undertake a three part agenda in 2008:

1. Support the principles of DCA Secretary Pelham's Citizen's Bill of Rights Growth Management legislation and clarify CNU Florida's opposition to Hometown Democracy.

2. Join the Governor's Climate Change Action Team in areas such as transportation/land use and adaptation.

3. Increase CNU Florida chapter involvement in the LEED ND review process.

The chapter also decided to strengthen our link with the Florida Redevelopment Association (Gary Rogers is our committed bond to this organization), and authorized the hiring of a lobbyist (Will Abberger, who many of you know) to represent the Chapter and its agenda during the upcoming Legislative session.

I am pleased to inform you that the Chapter is in excellent shape financially, and that we elected new officers; Marcela Cambor, Chair; Jim Murley, Vice Chair; and James Moore, Secretary-Treasurer.

Finally, I would like to remind you to get involved in your regional groups and the Florida CNU chapter. We want your ideas, we need your energy! Please contact your regional rep (listed at www.cnuflorida.org/about_us.htm) for information about events in your region. If you are interested in helping with chapter communication or planning next year's statewide meeting, contact Diane Hodel (dhodel@tcrpc.org) or myself (marcela@marcelacambor.com).

Hoping to see you all in April in Austin, Texas! Please be sure to attend our Thursday, April 3, Chapter Meet-Up from 8:30-10:00 PM, where you will have the opportunity to meet with other CNU members from Florida.

Marcela Cambor
Chair
CNU Florida