Avenues of Exchange: Ecology and Equity
Professionals, Educators and Communities Building Equitable, Healthy, and Resilient Cities

Sponsored by ACSA + AIA Housing and Community Development Network

Increasingly, cities are challenged with ensuring equitable growth and ecological health in the face of redevelopment. Architecture and community development professionals are at the forefront of this effort. Using Denver as a springboard, educators and practitioners will gather to learn more about housing and community development projects and practices that promote equity and ecology in the built environment.

Panel sessions will focus on The Denver Story, exploring successes and lessons learned from mixed-income multifamily developments in the fast-growing city, and a discussion on maintaining affordability and preventing displacement nationwide. Workshop participants will also hear from a national leader in development that promotes healthy neighborhoods that are responsive to both community and environmental priorities and tour the recently completed Mariposa District, among other Denver sites.

7.0 CEU credits

Schedule/Agenda
9:00-10:00  Damon Rich: Urban Investigation as a Way to Teach Architecture
Drawing on lessons learned from working alongside community organizers and popular educators, Damon Rich will share methods to bring together architectural education and place-based politics in order to challenge the presuppositions of both.

Speaker: Damon Rich, AICP, 2017 MacArthur Foundation Fellow
Partner at Hector and Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Moderator: Anne-Marie Lubenau FAIA

10:00-10:30  Break

10:30-12:00  Panel 1: The Denver Story – Case Study
Denver and the Rocky Mountain Region was one of the first markets to recover from the Great Recession. With its quick recovery, Denver also found itself dealing with substantial increases in the cost of land, construction and housing. On top of skyrocketing costs, Denver experienced a large in-migration of millennials that drove demand and costs in the urban areas even higher. However, prior to this recovery the Denver Housing Authority had the vision to focus not just on affordable housing as a single project or building but to re-create a community. Situated just two rail stops from the urban core of downtown Denver is the Mariposa Neighborhood. This panel will focus on the crafting of a thriving mixed income community and the special drivers that made it successful, subsequent lessons from Mariposa that have been applied to the Sun Valley EcoDistrict, as well as larger Denver trends in community development and affordable housing.

Speaker: Rene Martinez, Director of the West Denver Renaissance Collaborative
Speaker: Chris Parr, Director of Sun Valley EcoDistrict Trust
Speaker: Brad Buchanan, FAIA, Planning Director for the City of Denver

Moderator: John Yonushewski FAIA, Senior Principal, Business Center Managing Leader Stantec Architecture Inc.

12:00-12:30  Travel to Mariposa

12:30-2:30  Mariposa Tour + Lunch
Mariposa Tour – with lunch provided at the Osage Café
The tour of Mariposa will provide a boots on the ground look at the redevelopment of a formerly distressed public housing development site into a highly successful mixed income project with more than 500 additional units. The project sits adjacent to a rail line with easy access to downtown and is in alignment with the city’s TOD plan. The project resulted from extensive public input and a health impact assessment and features a range of public spaces.

Discussion
Peter Park will discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with managing growth in cities like Denver, including increased attention on equity, environmental sustainability, and resilience. Examples of initiatives and projects from other cities will provide food for thought for how Denver and other places might respond. The session will also consider the impact of these factors and increasingly collaborative nature of practice on architectural education.

Speaker: Peter Park, Director/Owner, Peter J. Park, LLC and Associate Professor Adjunct of Urban Design, University of Colorado-Denver

2:30-3:00  Travel to Stantec Architecture Inc.

3:00-4:30  Panel 2: Development without Displacement in Denver and Beyond
Denver, along with cities across the country, is confronting the challenge of how to develop and improve neighborhoods without displacing existing residents. Bringing together national leaders from academia and practice, this panel will present work exploring:
- Built affordable housing and community development case studies taking on this issue
- Specific strategies for teaching this critical topic
- Productive synergies between academia and practice, toward equitable development

Speaker: Christina Bollo, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign
Speaker: Daniel Simons, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, David Baker Architects
Speaker: Christopher Koziol, PhD, AIA, Director, Colorado Center for Community Development; Director, Master of Science in Historic Preservation, University of Colorado Denver

Moderator: Karen Kubey, Visiting Associate Professor, Pratt Institute

4:30-5:00  Closing Session – Lessons Learned
This closing discussion will allow participants to distill lessons learned from the day’s proceedings and generate ideas that will continue to propel community development and affordable housing at the intersection of academia and practice.

Moderator: Kathy Dorgan FAIA, LEED-AP, Dorgan Architecture & Planning

5:00-6:00  Reception