

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2023

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Workshops Bring Nationally Known Design Teams to Gastonia!

Legacy Projects are designed to apply CNU members' urban design and planning expertise to make a difference in the annual Congress's host region

Gastonia, NC -- From March 20 - March 22, the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) will partner with nationally known urban designers, local community organizations, businesses, and residents to leverage pro bono expertise in the Gastonia Highland neighborhood. Through its Legacy Project initiative, CNU brings national urban design experts to communities that might otherwise lack the resources to address their pressing planning or design needs. The Legacy Project public design workshops engage residents, CNU design teams, and local organizations in creating visions for improving public spaces, developing and connecting green space, strengthening walkability and other transportation options, and investing in cultural assets in these communities. The workshop will take place within the Highland neighborhood in Gastonia, North Carolina—at the Highland Health Center. Please see the end of this release for times and locations.

This workshop is part of the ramp-up for CNU's [2023 annual Congress](#), to be held in Charlotte, NC from May 31 - June 3, 2023. CNU is a nonprofit organization working to diversify neighborhoods, to design for climate change, and to legalize walkable places. CNU's membership believes that well-designed cities and neighborhoods are crucial for our health, economy, and environment.

Since 2014, CNU has initiated Legacy Projects in the annual Congress' host region to empower local leaders, advocates, and residents in communities with pro bono design services to implement New Urbanist principles and build places where people and businesses can thrive and prosper. Each Legacy Project culminates in an intensive, multi-day workshop on site to explore opportunities, identify crucial roadblocks, engage residents and local stakeholders to share their vision for future growth and help generate top-of-the-line design and placemaking strategies and deliverables. The Highland neighborhood in Gastonia, North Carolina project was chosen by CNU based on their need, community support, and readiness to implement.

"The Legacy Projects give us the chance to give back to a city that has been so welcoming," says Mallory Baches, President of CNU. "These projects let us collaborate with local and neighborhood groups, institutions, and firms to reimagine and hopefully strengthen these neighborhoods. We've seen previous Legacy Projects catalyze business development, open up transportation choices, and reconnect to what is distinctive about a neighborhood."

For more photos and interviews, contact Lauren Mayer at 202-770-2083, lmayer@cnu.org.

For more information about the CNU 31.Charlotte, the premiere national event on building better places coming May 31 - June 3, 2023 to Charlotte, visit <https://www.cnu.org/cnu31>.

See the next page for locations and times for the design workshop.



Congress for the New Urbanism Legacy Project in Gastonia, NC

HEALTHY HIGHLAND coordinated by Highland Health Center, 704.772.4603, <http://www.kintegra.org/>

609 North Highland Street, Gastonia, NC 28052

Monday, March 20, Public Meeting and Charrette Exercises at Highland Health Center, 609 North Highland Street, 6:00 - 8:00p

Tuesday, March 21, Focus Group Sessions/Open Hours at Highland Health Center, 609 North Highland Street, 10:30a-12:00p; 1:00-1:45p; 3:30-4:30p

Wednesday, March 22, Final Presentation at Highland Health Center, 609 North Highland Street, 6:00-8:00p

National design team is led by [FABRIC\[K\] DESIGN](#) and [SHOOK KELLEY](#)

About CNU

The Congress for the New Urbanism's (CNU) mission is to champion walkable urbanism. We provide resources, education, and technical assistance to create socially just, economically robust, environmentally resilient, and people centered places. We leverage New Urbanism's unique integration of design and social principles to advance three key goals: to diversify neighborhoods, to design for climate change, and to legalize walkable places. Visit cnu.org for more.

