

Sustasis Foundation - Summary of 2016 Activities



*LEFT: Sustasis Executive Director Michael Mehaffy addresses the Plenary Session of Habitat III shortly before final adoption of the New Urban Agenda, speaking as a representative for foundations including our partner, Ax:son Johnson Foundation of Stockholm. RIGHT: Delegates to the PrepCom III conference discuss our new book *A City is Not a Tree: 50th Anniversary Edition*. At right, holding her copy of the book is Eugenie Birch, chair of the World Urban Campaign, and Co-Director of the Penn Institute for Urban Research.*

By Michael Mehaffy, Executive Director

This year we continued to develop our relationship with the international “Future of Places” forum (with partners from UN-Habitat, Project for Public Spaces and Ax:son Johnson Foundation), and further collaboration with the UN's Habitat III conference in October, 2016, as well as implementation work following the conference. We also continued publication work following our earlier books *Design for a Living Planet*, *Unified Architectural Theory*, and the most recent book, *A City is Not a Tree: 50th Anniversary Edition*.

We also continued to develop our collaborative relationship with INTBAU, the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (a London-based NGO for sustainable development and regeneration, whose patron is HRH the Prince of Wales). Sustasis is the host 501(C) (3) for the US chapter of INTBAU, and Michael Mehaffy, Executive Director, is the Chair of the INTBAU College of Chapters, the international body.

We continued our peer-reviewed research and development work as well, most importantly on Federated Wiki, and associated pattern language tools (including WikiPLACE, an urban modeling system launched in a new book by Michael Mehaffy, published by Delft University of Technology in 2015). We also continued our collaborations with colleagues in Europe, South America, the USA and elsewhere, including our hosting of the research coordination network, the Environmental Structure Research Group (ESRG), which was formed in 2006 and has member colleagues in Europe, Asia, North and South America.

In 2016 Executive Director Michael Mehaffy worked with partners to launch a new research center based in Stockholm, hosted by the Royal Institute of Technology (“KTH”) and funded by our partner Ax:son Johnson Foundation. This partnership will allow Sustasis and its ESRG network to have a new,

stronger foundation for collaboration on key issues of urbanization and sustainable development, including ongoing partnerships with UN-Habitat.

Speaking and Other Collaborations for Conferences, Symposia and Meetings

(By Executive Director Michael Mehaffy, unless otherwise noted)

- “The Power of Jane Jacobs’ Web Way of Thinking,” KTH University, November 2016
- “The New Urban Agenda and the Challenge of Implementation”, Stanford University, October 2016
- Address to the Plenary, Habitat III Conference, Quito Ecuador, October 2016
- “Public Space in the New Urban Agenda: The Road to Implementation”, Habitat III Conference, Quito, Ecuador, October 2016
- “If a City is Not a Tree... What Is It?” at CNU 24, Detroit MI, June 2016
- “Habitat III and Beyond: New Urbanists’ Role in Implementing a New Urban Agenda,” at CNU 24, Detroit MI, June 2016
- “Toward a ‘New Athens Charter,’” at CNU 24, Detroit MI, June 2016
- “The Urban Dimensions of Climate Change: Data, Models, Alternatives,” at CNU 24, Detroit MI, June 2016
- “Beyond Habitat III: Lots of Talk, But Where’s the Action?” at International Making Cities Livable, Rome IT, June 2016
- “Remarks on the New Urban Agenda,” Address to the General Assembly of Habitat III, at PrepCom 3, Surabaya, IN, July 2016
- “Design Technology and its Failures: What’s Wrong with the Sustainable Design we Have Today?” at Boston Society of Architects, Boston MA, May 2016
- “Beyond pattern languages: the work of Christopher Alexander,” at Green Architecture Day, Brighton Permaculture Trust, Brighton UK, April 2016
- “Building a Better ‘Burb with Sprawl Retrofit: Changing the ‘Operating System for Growth,’” at the Congress for the New Urbanism “Build a Better Burb” retreat, Miami FL, April 2016
- “The Structure of Public Space: Articulating a New Urban Agenda,” at UN-Habitat and Habitat III Thematic Meeting, Barcelona, SP (with Future of Places and Ax:son Johnson Foundation), March 2016
- “The Power of Public Space Networks” Articulating a New Urban Agenda,” at KTH University, Stockholm SE, March 2016
- “Glaeser vs. Jacobs: Which One Represents Portland’s Model?” at Portland State University, Portland OR, February 2016

Planning and Strategic Consultations

- Ax:son Johnson Foundation, UN-Habitat and Project for Public Spaces, ongoing planning for The Future of Places and implementation of Habitat III “New Urban Agenda”, January-October 2016
- City of Beaverton, strategic planning for sustainable development of a growing Portland suburb (part of Technical Advisory Panel for the Urban Land Institute), February 2016
- Congress for the New Urbanism, strategic meeting on new climate change policy for the organization, February 2016

General Publications

- “Teaching the Culture of Building,” book chapter, in *In Pursuit of a Living Architecture: Continuing Christopher Alexander's Quest for a Humane and Sustainable Buildign Culture*, K Pontikis and Y Rofe, Eds., Common Ground Publishing: Champlaign, IL.
- “New Urbanism and Sustainable Urban Form,” book chapter, in *Sustainable Urban Forms*, B Kazimee, ed.
- “The Sustainable Growth of Cities in a Critical Age: Practical Implications from the Work of Christopher Alexander,” book chapter, in *Traditional and Heritage in the Contemporary Image of the City*, T Jelenski, S Juchnowicz, E Wozniak, eds.
- “Has Portland Lost its Way?” essay, in Planetizen web journal
- *Place Networks: Evolving the Structure of Healthy and Sustainable Neighborhoods* (Forthcoming book)
- *Notes on an Incomplete Architecture* (Forthcoming book)

We welcome your questions, comments, or proposals for collaboration – and as always, we are grateful for support in all forms!