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DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INSTITUTE

SPEAKERS – February 1, 2008

LAURA KNOTT-TWINE

HARTFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Laura Knott-Twine has been the Executive Director & CEO of the Hartford Preservation Alliance, Inc. an architectural conservancy agency serving Hartford, Connecticut's state capital, since 2005. The organization acts as advocates for rehabilitation and preservation of over 4,000 structures from the State Capital building, to monuments, to private homes. (See www.hartfordpreservation.org .) She is also presently a professor at Union Institute & University's Bachelor of Arts Program. Drawing on her education and lifelong experience in both the for-profit and non-profit world she advises learners in subjects such as Leadership, Organizational Development, Contemporary Workplace Practices, Non-profit Development, and Small Business Start-up. Additionally, she advises students studying the American Industrial Revolution and Historic Preservation and Urban Studies.

As the former Director of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Women's Business Ownership at the University of Hartford, she counseled and guided women and men towards achieving their own business ownership working with major business groups: manufacturing, retail, wholesale, import/export, professional services including psychologist and psychiatrist, healthcare, and with artists, construction company owners, elder and day care providers.

In 1985 she founded the Windham Textile and History Museum. She inaugurated an educational and historical institution; organized and lead a community group which became incorporators and directors; researched, collected, organized and donated the original collection. As the Executive Director and CEO for 10 years, she worked with professional consultants to establish educational programs, changing exhibits, and research and library services.

Ms Knott-Twine received her bachelor's and master's degrees in History/Writing and Literature and Sociology and Women's Studies, respectively, from Norwich University, Vermont. She provided Business Counseling/Technical Assistance through the Small Business Administration (SBA) from 2000-2004, and completed the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Executive Management Institute in 2007



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JIM BURKE
TOWN OF WINDSOR, CT

Jim Burke is the Economic Development Director for the Town of Windsor, Connecticut. He leads Windsor's economic and community development activities which include business retention and recruitment, small business assistance, redevelopment, housing rehab and neighborhood development. He is the primary liaison among Windsor and its business and development partners.

Mr. Burke has spent over 25 years in the field of community and economic development. Prior to joining Windsor in 2000, he was the Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Dubuque, Iowa. In that capacity, he managed city planning, code enforcement, housing, historic preservation, neighborhood development and public health activities as well as economic development. Under his supervision, the City completed planning, acquisition and development of three office and industrial parks containing more than 1000 acres.

Prior to Dubuque, he served for four years as planner for Deerfield, Illinois, a suburb north of Chicago.

Mr. Burke received his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and urban studies, respectively, from Loyola University of Chicago. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He is also an associate member of the Urban Land Institute and a member of the International Economic Development Council, and the Connecticut Economic Development Association.

From 2003 to 2005, Mr. Burke served as Chair of the Hartford Regional Economic Development Forum of the Metro Hartford Alliance. The Forum brings together economic development professionals from throughout the region for education and information exchange. Jim is currently serving on the board of the Connecticut Economic Development Association.

MARTIN LEGAULT
CORPORATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Martin Legault is the President and CEO of the Corporation for Independent Living, a statewide nonprofit housing development corporation. He joined the corporation upon its founding in 1979 and has seen it through the extensive growth process to the current portfolio of \$145 million in real estate and other assets. He has kept the Corporation for Independent Living on the cutting edge of nonprofit capacity and activity through creative and sophisticated financing mechanisms.

Mr. Legault manages a team of four Vice Presidents who are responsible for departments in the areas of corporate development and strategic planning; fiscal management and reporting;



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housing development and asset management; as well as construction services. The Corporation for Independent Living has a staff of 29.

Mr. Legault has extensive experience in the service of people with disabilities. He worked at Mansfield Training School (a residential institution for people with mental retardation, since closed) as a group home coordinator, and also at the Department of Mental Retardation as a cost and systems analyst. He gained program evaluation experience in the three years that he worked at the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee conducting studies of various state agency programs. As a Certified Public Accountant, he brings valuable skills to his responsibility for the fiscal health of the Corporation for Independent Living.

Mr. Legault graduated from the University of Connecticut and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Hartford.

PAUL BRUHN

PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT

Paul Bruhn is Executive Director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, a position he has held since the Trust was formed in 1980. Paul started his work life as a journalist, then ran Senator Patrick Leahy's first campaign for the US Senate, and served as his chief of staff for four years before returning to Vermont. He has served on several nonprofit boards, and is currently on the boards of Local First Vermont, Vermont Life Magazine, and the Council on Vermont's Future.

The Preservation Trust of Vermont focuses on building local capacity to take on a wide range of historic preservation projects and initiatives. This work is accomplished through a Field Service Program in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a variety of grant programs.

VALERIE TALMAGE

PRESERVE RHODE ISLAND

Valerie Talmage joined Preserve Rhode Island as its Executive Director in September 2007. Prior to taking on this position, Valerie was the Director of Projects for the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) New England Regional Office, having started in 1997. From 1992 until 1997, Valerie worked for The Trustees of Reservations as a land protection specialist, and for 15 years prior to The Trustees of Reservations served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer for Massachusetts.