



For immediate release:
April 20, 2006

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CT Main Street Center to Feature Multi-Discipline Team in Urban Place-Making Workshop

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center will present the next Downtown Revitalization Institute workshop, *“Using Design as a Tool for Downtown Revitalization”*, on Friday, April 28th from 8:30am to 4:00pm at Northeast Utilities in Berlin, CT. Urban planner and landscape architect David Sousa will be joined by a team of design professionals including architect Robert Orr, landscape architect Scott Lewendon, transportation engineer Wesley Marshall and planner and GIS specialist James Horton. Together this team will explore tools and techniques for creating more viable downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.

In the morning sessions the team will use graphic presentations and break-out discussion groups to review the basic principles of urban place-making around such topics as density, zoning, streets as public spaces, “walkability”, community identity, and parking. The afternoon session will find attendees engaged in a participatory process to “build” a new downtown district based on the principles discussed in the morning session and utilizing “Community Viz”, a state-of-the-art computer visualization program. Attendees will explore the “what-ifs” of redevelopment and place-making by creating various development scenarios for the Upper Albany neighborhood in Hartford.

The Downtown Revitalization Institute (DRI) is the educational and training component of Connecticut Main Street Center, the leading statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining Connecticut downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The DRI offers a full day each quarter with nationally known experts in capacity building, business and real estate development, promotion, and design as a revitalization tool. Participants learn to utilize historic and natural assets that already exist, and to build on them. Workshop topics include business restructuring, niche analysis, real estate development, urban design (including public spaces, traffic patterns, pedestrians, and parking), branding and promoting the district, and special events.

Complete information about the Downtown Revitalization Institute workshops, including registration procedures and driving directions, can be found at www.ctmainstreet.org. or call 860-280-2337 for more information.

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Celebrating 10 Years!
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