

Iowa Disaster Recovery Workshop

On December 11, 2008, AIA members participated in the Iowa Disaster Recovery Workshop in Coralville, Iowa. This all-day workshop followed the two-day Iowa Disaster Recovery Conference sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). The workshop offered communities affected by disaster a chance to come together with architects, planners, landscape architects, engineers, economic development individuals and others to learn more about rebuilding sustainability and the impact of sustainable design on their communities.

The recovery workshop sparked from a small group of individuals passionate about sustainability and relaying that message across Iowa. Initially, five individuals (Jonathan Ramsey, Kevin Nordmeyer, Mike Morman, Kerri Johannsen and Andrew Snow) began conversations about what they and the profession could do to aid in the disaster recovery effort throughout Iowa. As the planning team collected ideas, additional individuals from a variety of disciplines were brought into the mix and the plan for a community workshop came about.

When the group learned about the Disaster Recovery Conference, this provided an excellent opportunity to continue the discussion and assembly. The conference featured a seminar track on green building and sustainability and the IDED was eager to help the group with the workshop. The planning team began to gather volunteers to serve as resources for the communities during this workshop.

A valuable part of the conference was the chance for these communities to make connections with an interdisciplinary group of individuals. The day began with introductions, a presentation on sustainability by Jonathan Ramsey, AIA, and breakout teams for each community to draw upon with questions, continued sustainability conversations and brainstorming. At the end of the day the group came together to share ideas created throughout the day.

The workshop was attended by representatives of three Iowa communities: Ottumwa, Waverly and Chariton. Nearly 50 people served as resources for these communities, including representatives from the following: AIA, APA, ASLA, USGBC, Environmental Law

and Policy Center, Iowa Engineering Society, US EPA, FEMA, IDED, DNR, Rebuild Iowa Office, Iowa Council of Governments, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

AIA members Mike Mormon, Kevin Nordmeyer, Jonathan Ramsey and Edd Soenke served on the Workshop Planning Committee. AIA members Michael Gumm, Bruce Hamous, Katie Harms, Tom Hurd, Carey Nagle, Chad Walters and Eric Wessels served as community resources at the workshop.

Sponsors

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Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)
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