Fifth Edition of CSU NEWS

Message from The President

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
CSU President

Are We There Yet?

This question, that at first innocent question that all parents know will eventually turn into an exasperating experience might well be applied to our current circumstances. The presumption is that the destination will be worthy of the journey to get there. It is also assumed that there is some plan, some roadmap, some ETA that will instill confidence in the travelers, surely the conductor and hopefully the passengers as well. Are we on the verge of a kinder and gentler time? Today we are on global journeys with multiple critical destinations. Below some thoughts on global and local.

Surviving SARS-CoV-2, the disease commonly known as Covid-19 is the biggest “are we there yet” of the day. When the world agrees that it is under control we will be there but for now the issues raised, the policies proposed, and the consequences of those policies are debated daily. As we go to press Americans and others well vaccinated are being welcomed in the EU as travelers and tourists. However not everyone is comfortable being out and about globally. India and Brazil are facing many challenges. Issues of vaccine availability and even oxygen underscore global inequities. The effect of COVID-19 is just being felt. The American birthrate has fallen to its lowest in 40 years, and elsewhere it has fallen as well. Are we experiencing a welcome population control or unwelcome population decline? Are we there yet?

(read more).

Message from The Editor

Ludivine Cornille
Director of Programs and Editor of CSU NEWS

Welcome to the Fifth Edition of CSU NEWS!

Given the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic and its variants, the Green Urbanism practice has never been more relevant and vital. Within this perspective, CSU kicked off the 2021 Green Cities Lecture Series, a monthly virtual lecture program organized by CSU on the first Thursday of each month at noon Eastern Time. The series focuses on innovations and achievements in sustainability and resilience worldwide. I am pleased to share the article about the first four sessions presenting projects undertaken by city representatives from New York, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona and Paris. The most recent lecture invited the City of Tshwane in South Africa and I hope you will join our upcoming lectures that will take us to Los Angeles, California, in August and to Ljubljana in Slovenia, in September 2021.

Innovations in planning and design offer a compelling vision of a world of resilient communities, and climate actions. From “Rainbow Resilience” to the “Sustainable Development Dilemma” in Cairo and “Cities in Fire” in Mexico, CSU correspondents showcase best practices in resilient policies, planning and design in this Fifth Edition of CSU NEWS. This Edition presents its regular Technology Column, this time about “Bitcoin and beyond: How can Blockchain Technology help build Smart and Sustainable Cities?” and a special article about the book “Alioune Badiane, a Man of the Future”, a tribute to a great leader who left us a year ago in Dakar, swept away by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, CSU Annual Awards Gala honored 3 prominent personalities and designers: Edward Mazria, Signe Nielsen and Andrew Whalley. I invite you to read the report “CSU 2021 Awards Gala: Zoom-ing in on honorable, urban sustainability efforts” and watch the video. This Edition also marks the beginning of a new partnership with the Pratt Institute, presenting works of
recent graduates.

I am glad to welcome you to join our next event organized by the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster co-sponsored by CSU “Post COVID-19: Essential Actions for a Sustainable Future” that will take place within the margins of the 2021 UN High Level Political Forum, on 15 July 2021.

And last but not least, CSU is hiring an Executive Administrator based in New York. If you are interested kindly apply by 1st August 2021. More information is available here.

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**Articles**

**Rainbow Resilience: Best Practices for Planning and Design**  
*Donald Watson, Guest Contributor, New York City, USA*

Innovations in planning, design and construction offer a compelling vision of a world of resilient communities... *(read more)*

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**The Sustainable Development Dilemma: Balancing the Short-Term and Long-Term Needs of a 21-Million Citizen Megacity**  
*Mohamed Montaz Hegazy, Guest Contributor, Cairo, Egypt*

"Egypt is building a 45 billion USD New Administrative Capital (NAC) to house 6 million citizens to the east of Cairo! "16 billion USD shall be invested in Transport projects in FY21-22, half of which in public transport, mostly in Cairo!" The pace of change in the 21 million citizen metropolis I call home is breath-taking. But how do these investments fare from a sustainability point-of-view? *(read more)*

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**News from Mexico “Cities in Fire”**  
*Antonieta Castro-Cosío, PhD., CSU Board Member*

It has now been over a year since we have been coping with the threats, risks and restrictions imposed by the virus. With the deployment of the vaccine across countries, we are beginning to see some hints of light coming back to cities and communities, which were the battlefields where the wars against the menace were fought. There is, however, another looming crisis ahead of us... *(read more)*

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**“Universal Lessons from an African Urbanist”**  
*An Essential Book About Alioune Badiane*  
*Daniel Biau, Guest Contributor, Nairobi, Kenya*

Alioune Badiane was not yet 66 years old when he left us on 31 July 2020 in Dakar, swept away by the Covid-19 pandemic. A brilliant international civil servant, Alioune was for two decades one of the most influential Directors of UN-Habitat, the United Nations City Agency. He was an urban planner who dedicated his life to improving the living and housing conditions of underprivileged populations and to the sustainable development of African cities... *(read more)*

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**Bitcoin and beyond: How can Blockchain Technology help build Smart and Sustainable Cities?**  
*The Technology Column by Sarbuland Khan, CSU Advisory Board Member*

Here is a key Covid-era takeaway: " Everything that can be represented digitally will be digitized and our lives will become increasingly digital." A digital revolution has thus begun even in the staid world of finance, with Bitcoin leading the charge and no end in sight. Home-bound by Covid-19 lockdowns, investors, large and small, are buying and selling Bitcoins and other cryptocurrencies at a frenetic pace... *(read more)*

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**CSU News**

“CSU 2021 Awards Gala: Zoom-ing in on honorable, urban sustainability efforts”, by María Moersen *(read here)*

“CSU Kicks off its 2021 Green Cities Lecture Series” taking us to New York City, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona and Paris, by Maxinne Rhea Leighton *(read here)*

“How are emerging designers imagining NYC recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building a more equitable and sustainable future?”, a celebration of the work of students of the Pratt Institute *(read here)*
Upcoming Events


CSU Green Cities Lecture Series #6: Los Angeles, California, USA, 5th August 2021, online

CSU Green Cities Lecture Series #7: Ljubljana in Slovenia, 2nd September 2021, online

Work for CSU

Executive Administrator Position
Apply by 1st August 2021. More information is available here.

CSU Publications

Sustainable Urbanization at the UN, for Architects and other Design Professionals (purchase here)

Gateway Portals to the City: Infrastructure for Sustainable Urbanization (purchase here)

Public Spaces for Sustainable Urbanization (purchase here)

Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants: Challenges for Sustainable Urbanization (purchase here)

The Future of Cities: An Integrated Approach to Urban Challenges (purchase here)

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