

## Speakers, agenda for Urban Thinkers Campus jelling

From Nepal and Russia to Togo and Alaska, interested stakeholders have been registering to attend the Joslyn Institute's Urban Thinkers Campus on November 16 and 17 in Omaha.

The two-day forum on The City We Need, a preparatory step in the run-up to the United Nations' Habitat III congress next year, will be held at the Thompson Center at UNO.

Among the many distinguished speakers scheduled are:

- Eugénie Birch, Chair of the World Urban Campaign and Director of the Penn Institute for Urban Research
- Nicholas You, Citiscope and Guangzhou Institute
- Jeffrey Soule, Senior Fellow, American Planning Association
- Andrew Rudd, Urban Environment Officer, UN-Habitat
- Beth Kerttula, White House Director of Ocean Policy
- Camilo Restrepo Ochoa, Design Critic in Architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design
- Francesco Maria Orsini, Director of URBAM, the Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia
- Chuck Hassebrook, Vice President

of Sandhills Wind Energy

- Tim Kenny, President and CEO, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Chuck Schroeder, Director of Rural Futures Institute, UNL
- John Bartle, Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at UNO

Participants in Omaha's Urban Thinkers Campus hold an exclusive position: They will provide the only recommendations about how small-to mid-size cities and rural-urban linkages will be factored in when the United Nations convenes next year for Habitat III.

The Urban Thinkers Campus, an initiative of the Joslyn Institute and World Urban Campaign, will be a two-day forum of urban planners, academics, policy makers, civic leaders, legislators, architects, labor leaders, visionaries, and other stakeholders to hammer out recommendations and best practices for sustainable urban development.

The exercise will culminate in the New Urban Agenda, the product of Habitat III, aimed at securing political commitment among na-

tions around the world towards the cause of sustainable urban development. The New Urban Agenda also helps with defining the priorities of international development funding to cities. Land use, transportation, housing, conservation and allocation of resources, among many other issues will be factored into policy recommendations. Learn more here:

[http://www.joslyninstitute.org/utc\\_resources.html](http://www.joslyninstitute.org/utc_resources.html).

Partners with the Joslyn Institute are the UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service, UNL College of Architecture, University of Alaska School of Management, Creighton University's Sustainable Studies Program, Universidad EAFIT's URBAM program, and Citiscope.

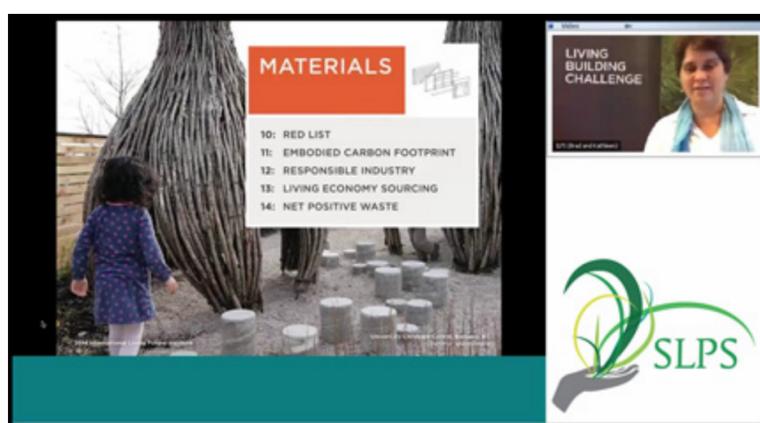
Underwriting support comes from The Nebraska Environmental Trust, Sustainability Leadership Institute, UNL College of Architecture Hyde Lecture Series, Design Futures Council, and EcoStores Nebraska.

More information on the Urban Thinkers Campus is available here: <http://www.joslyninstitute.org/utc.html>.

## SLPS begins new season with Living Building Challenge program

This season's Sustainability Leadership Presentation Series kicked off this month with an excellent program about the Living Building Challenge by the International Living Building Institute's Kathleen Smith and Brad Liljequist.

The Institute is focused on "thinking big about problems and challenges, and finding positive solutions," according to Liljequist. The Living Building Challenge is the built environment's most rigorous performance standard. It calls for the creation of building projects that operate as cleanly, beautifully and efficiently as nature's architecture. To be certified under the Challenge, projects must meet a series of ambitious performance requirements, including Net Positive Energy, Waste and Water,



over a minimum of 12 months of continuous occupancy. There currently are more than 300 Living Building Challenge registered projects around the world, including one in Hastings, the first LBC registered project in Nebraska.

This excellent presentation provided a lot of food for thought and inspiration. For those who were unable to view the program live, it's archived on the SLPS YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/xNVHY4CHIJE>

The SLPS is a joint initiative of the Joslyn Institute with partners at Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Sustainability Studies Program, and WasteCap Nebraska. The next program, dealing with entrepreneurship and business, will be November 5. All SLPS programs are free and open to the public.

More information on SLPS can be found on our website here: <http://joslyninstitute.com/slps.html>

## Designing a new edible city is focus of USGBC event

*Designing an Edible City: Alive, Nourishing and Restorative Buildings and Infrastructure* is the title of a special event sponsored by the Nebraska Flatwater Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council on Tuesday, October 20, at the Metropolitan Community College Institute for Culinary Arts.

Permaculturist Gus Van Roenn, Omaha Farmers Market President Vic Gutman, Grey Plume Chef Clayton Chapman, Edible Omaha Co-Publisher Lucy Wilson, horticulture instructor Kristina Engler, and HDR Sustainable Leader Lily Livingston will be panelists for the event, which runs from 11:30 am to 1 pm and includes lunch.

The goals are to explore how food and agriculture can be designed into the urban fabric, looking at how and where we grow food; how we build the buildings, neighborhoods and cities of the future; and how we can reconnect civilization with agriculture.

The cost of the seminar (and lunch) is \$25 for non-members, \$15 for NFC USBGC members. The venue is in the Swanson Conference Center, Building 22, at MCC's Fort Omaha Campus. To register, go to this link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eb9r85nc25117808&llr=574npkcab>

## Green Home Tour and Smart Energy Expo to be Nov. 14 and 15

Tour four Omaha homes in the mid-town area featuring solar electric and thermal systems, earth-sheltering, and a remodel using sustainable materials at this year's Green Home Tour from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, November 14.

The next day, Sunday, November 15 from 10 am to 3 pm, the Smart Energy Expo will take place at Millard Lumber Warehouse, 12900 I Street. Topics include energy, water, housing and transportation issues that affect everyday life. Experts will be on hand showing innovative products and smart technology designed to make your home healthier and more comfortable.

Sponsored by the UNO Center for Urban Sustainability, OPPD, Nebraska Community Energy Alliance and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, you can find more info here: <http://www.greenomahacoalition.org/get-involved/2015-green-home-tour-smart-energy-expo/>

