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Joslyn Institute to Host Meeting of the Minds in June

The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities will host this year's Meeting of the Minds, an annual leadership summit, providing a platform for this unusual gathering of political, business and nonprofit sector leaders. Discussions will focus on finding and strengthening the most innovative approaches to sustainability and mobility in our cities and regions.

The Meeting of the Minds 2010, "Connecting the Dots: The Innovations We Need for Sustainable Cities", convenes on June 16-18, 2010. Gallup hosts the opening reception on June 16, with the White House Office of Social Innovation alongside the Kansas City-based Kauffman Foundation.

Participants will work together to devise better formulas for small and large cities and for the regions that surround them. The two-day meeting will incubate strategies for a sustainable future based on new land use ideas and new principles for economic, environmental and social development.

To promote this "rethink" of urban and regional development, Urban Age and Joslyn Institute have joined forces with global partners to convene the 2010 Meeting of the Minds.

Toyota, Siemens AG, Cemex, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Urban Land Institute, Jones Lang LaSalle, UN-Habitat, UN Global Compact Cities Programmes, Regional Plan Association and Metropolis are among the Meeting's many partners. The Meeting will connect 150 city and national government leaders with private sector and design professionals throughout the many informational and networking opportunities.

Meeting of the Minds 2010's opening sessions will feature lessons learned from four cities—two American cities and two cities in the Netherlands—grappling with sustainable urban development. Charles Rutheiser, Senior Fellow in the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Civic Sites and Initiatives Unit, and Gabriel Metcalf, Executive Director of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, will present on the experiences of Baltimore and San Francisco, respectively. Saskia Ruijsink, Specialist in Urban and Regional Management at the Dutch-based Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, will detail how Rotterdam and Delft are dealing with climate change.

Zerofootprint Foundation's CEO Ron Dembo will showcase the Re-Skinning Awards' winning projects. Each prizewinner demonstrates innovative retrofitting technologies and systems – all of them ready to be applied in today's

market. Each winner's work features replicable solutions designed to enhance both the efficiency and livability of the world's existing housing stock.

Sustainability coordinators from the largest cities in the Midwest will lead two breakout sessions about the special challenges associated with sustainability at the city level. One will concentrate on integrating sustainability into the comprehensive plan. A second session will focus on the energy-efficiency imperative facing cities. A third session will feature the "Living Labs" scattered around the world's cities, chaired by Neal Peirce (Washington Post Writers Group). A fourth session, chaired by Barbara Hewson (Chief of the Urban Finance Branch of the United Nations Habitat Programme), will lead a debate on smart financing for affordable housing.

In conjunction with the first Regional Energy Innovation Summit, convening on June 16 in Omaha, a special evening program will intermingle guests of the White House Office of Social Innovation and the Kauffman Foundation with leaders from this Meeting of the Minds 2010. Howard Buffett, Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Social Innovation, will share findings from the Innovation Summit during Thursday's discussions.

For more information visit www.MeetingoftheMinds2010.org.

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Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities

The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, based out of Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, engages both the local and international community to promote an integrated approach to sustainability through education, public visioning and partnership. Visit www.joslyninstitute.org for more information.

Urban Age Institute

The Urban Age Institute is an independent nonprofit 'think-and-do tank' working to support innovators based inside the world's cities. It publishes Urban Age Magazine and delivers programs around the globe. Visit www.UrbanAge.org for more information.

Meeting of the Minds

Meeting of the Minds is where innovators scaling-up practical urban innovations in infrastructure meet innovators in technology, energy, transport, water, finance—all are building more livable cities. At Meeting of the Minds, leaders from multiple sectors and diverse geographies share ideas and shape a common agenda. Each year's Meeting of the Minds builds on previous years' successes: 2007, when University of California hosted in Oakland; 2008, when Oregon Business Council and Portland State University hosted in Portland; 2009, when JPMorgan Chase hosted in New York City.