

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE 2005-2006 MID-CAREER
KNIGHT FELLOWSHIP IN COMMUNITY BUILDING
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Deadline: July 22, 2005

The School of Architecture at the University of Miami is pleased to request nominations of outstanding individuals for mid-career fellowships in the Community Building Program.

THE PROGRAM

Mayor, citizen, traffic engineer, environmentalist, developer, journalist, architect, planner, housing and community development director – all play pivotal roles in the shaping and reshaping of neighborhood, towns, cities and regions. Unfortunately, our civic and professional endeavors are too often at odds with one another and prevent us from building communities that are the livable, sustainable places we desire. The perennial struggle to accommodate growth, rebuild declining communities and engage citizens in shaping the future of their neighborhoods and communities now demands a more coordinated, collaborative approach to community building. The Community Building Program is designed to help individuals, communities and the community building professions meet this challenge.

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the University of Miami's School of Architecture established the Community Building Program in 2000 to support mid-career education in the community building professions and livable community initiatives. During the past five years 50 mid-career professionals from diverse fields and from throughout the U.S. have earned certificates in community building. The program has sponsored or co-sponsored nearly three dozen community building seminars, symposia, workshops and study tours in towns and cities throughout the country; launched a continuing education program in real estate development and New Urbanism; provided scholarships for 15 post-professional graduate students in the Suburb and Town Design Program; and provided support for a wide range of books, periodicals and reports that advance the theory and practice of building livable communities.

The Community Building Program also co-sponsors an annual large-scale community design workshop, or "charrette," in support of a local community initiative. The community charrettes have a direct impact on neighborhoods and communities, facilitating intensive civic engagement and public dialog on alternatives for growth and redevelopment. The charrettes have engaged between five hundred to one thousand citizens in hands-on community building efforts in each host community. Based on this intensive community input, detailed plans and proposals are created along with specific policy, design, and management approaches for implementing the plan.

Previous charrettes have been held in four U.S. cities including:

- The Beall's Hill neighborhood of **Macon, Georgia**, a historic 19th century neighborhood that had experienced decades of urban disinvestment and faced the full gamut of community building challenges associated with distressed urban neighborhoods. The charrette helped coordinate the town-and-gown infill initiatives of the City of Macon and Mercer University and led to the construction of the first new housing built in decades in this predominantly African American neighborhood.
- The Evergreen-Eastridge neighborhood of **San Jose, California**, a gateway neighborhood for immigrants comprised of a 45% Latino and 35% Asian population facing major affordability and livability issues. In order to communicate effectively the charrette newsletter and public meetings were conducted in three languages: English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The charrette confronted the challenges of retrofitting suburban areas for the changing population demographics of many 21st century cities in the United States, where rapid growth from immigration is colliding with extreme housing affordability challenges.
- The downtown of **Coatesville, Pennsylvania**, the poorest city in the richest county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This charrette confronted the challenges of revitalizing a declining steel mill city 45-miles west of Philadelphia. The plan, guidelines and strategic actions laid out a course of action to preserve and build on the distinctive character and walkable, transit-oriented urban fabric of the city as its competitive advantage in a rapidly suburbanizing region.
- The eastern downtown area of **Duluth, Minnesota**, a center of shipping and industry for much of the twentieth century that is now repositioning itself as a center for technology, health care, education and tourism. The charrette will focus on mixed-use infill housing and the sensitive expansion of two key healthcare institutions in a historic area of the downtown.

This interdisciplinary program brings together accomplished mid-career professionals with an active interest in community building and a passion for improving the built and natural environment of our villages, towns, cities and suburbs. The program builds on the strengths of the School of Architecture as an international leader in the planning and design of livable communities and its role as a center for learning on New Urbanism.

Fellows remain *in situ*, living in their home communities and continuing their careers, and travel to five intensive sessions over the course of the 12-month program, including seminars, a national symposium, study tours, and a charrette held in one of the fellow's home communities. Seminars focus on community building and place making topics that cut across disciplines including town planning, historic preservation, environmental planning, traffic engineering, real estate development, housing, journalism, urban studies, architecture, public policy and related fields within the arts, sciences and humanities.

The seminars, symposium and charrette bring fellows into direct contact with leading thinkers and practitioners involved in building and rebuilding livable communities. Fellows interact one-on-one with nationally recognized experts, faculty and scholars in the School of Architecture in roundtable and colloquium-style formats, and pursue individually directed case studies and research based on their interests and the challenges and opportunities in their home communities. Upon completion of the program, fellows earn a certificate in community building and become members of the Community Building Network of Fellows, Scholars and Faculty, a consortium that promotes the exchange of ideas, expertise, contacts and resources for community building and place making.

The Community Building Program joins other initiatives at the School of Architecture that address critical urban development issues and encourage research and practice promoting the creation and sustenance of livable communities. These other initiatives include:

- Undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture, including the graduate program in Suburb and Town Design, the only program of its kind in the U.S. based on the principles of New Urbanism
- The Center for Urban and Community Design – a community outreach program involved in community-based research, planning and design initiatives

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees are expected to include planners, journalists, elected officials, developers, environmentalists, community and economic development specialists, housing directors, citizen activists, architects, engineers, academics, corporate leaders and other individuals with an interest in nurturing more livable communities. To be eligible, individuals must:

- Be nominated by their peers (self-nominations will also be accepted with references)
- Have at least 5 years of relevant experience
- Be able to commit to participate in all program activities scheduled between September 2005 and September of 2006
- Secure a commitment from his/her employer (if applicable) to provide up to 14 days release time from work responsibilities in order to attend fellowship activities over the course of the fellowship year

MID-CAREER KNIGHT FELLOWSHIPS

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation provides generous support for mid-career community building fellowships. Knight Fellowships are available for nominees living and/or working in one of the 26 Knight communities. There are also a limited number of Knight Fellowships available to distinguished professionals from community building fields regardless of their place of residence. For nominees receiving a Knight Fellowship, the Community Building Program will cover all tuition, fees, travel expenses and materials for fellows to participate in seminars, symposia and events. The 26 Knight communities and their definitions are:

Aberdeen, SD (Brown County); Akron, OH (Summit County); Biloxi, MS, (Harrison County); Boca Raton, FL, (Palm Beach County); Boulder, CO (Boulder County); Bradenton, FL (Manatee County); Charlotte, NC (Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union counties, NC, and York County, SC); Columbus, GA, (Muskogee County, GA, and Phenix City, AL); Columbia, SC (Richland County); Detroit, MI (Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw counties); Duluth, MN (St Louis County, MN, and City of Superior, WI); Fort Wayne, IN (Allen County); Gary, IN (Lake County); Grand Forks, ND (Grand Forks County, ND, and Polk County, MN); Lexington, KY (Fayette, Bourbon, Clark, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott and Woodford counties); Long Beach, CA (cities of Long Beach and Signal Hill); Macon, GA (Bibb County); Miami, FL Miami-Dade and Broward counties); Milledgeville, GA (Baldwin County); Myrtle Beach, SC (Horry County); Philadelphia, PA (Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, PA, and city of Camden, NJ); San Jose, CA (Santa Clara, southern Alameda and southern San Mateo counties); State College, PA, (Centre County); St Paul, MN (Ramsey County); Tallahassee, FL (Leon County); and Wichita, KN (Sedgwick County).

Note: Knight Fellowship Nominations do NOT have to be limited to the Knight Communities listed above.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS AND COMMUNITY CHARRETTES

Mid-career fellowships, charrettes, scholarships, research and publications are supported by generous grants and gifts from foundations, non-profit organizations, corporations, governmental organizations, and individuals. In response to the growing interest in the mid-career fellowship program and community charrettes from communities in the U.S. and abroad, nominations for sponsored fellowships and proposals for community charrettes are encouraged from sponsoring organizations. Community foundations, non-profit groups, professional organizations, businesses and municipalities can sponsor or co-sponsor a one-year mid-career fellowship or community charrette. Fellowships and charrettes can be sponsored by either domestic or international organizations. Nominees for sponsored fellowships and charrette proposals undergo a selection review process, as do the nominees for Knight Fellowships.

For information on having your organization sponsor or co-sponsor a fellowship or charrette for a non-Knight community, please contact the Director of the Community Building Program, Dr. Charles C. Bohl, at (305) 284-4420 or kpou@miami.edu.

COMMUNITY BUILDING FELLOWSHIP NOMINATION FORM

To nominate an individual please send the following information to the addresses listed below **no later than July 22nd, 2005**. We strongly encourage nominators to work closely with their nominees in preparing this application.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOMINEE

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State/Province: _____ Zip: _____
Tel. Work: _____ Home: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
Home Page: _____

2. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOMINATOR

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State/Province: _____ Zip: _____
Tel. Work: _____ Home: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
Home Page: _____

3. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF NOMINEE

Note: This and other information is requested to help the review committee assemble a diverse group of fellows in terms of professions, geographic representation, gender, race, ethnicity, and age. There are no quotas involved and the program does not discriminate based on any criteria.

Gender: Male Female
Race/Ethnicity: African American American Indian or Eskimo
 Asian or Pacific Islander Hispanic or Latino
 White (non-Hispanic) Other

Nation of which the nominee is a citizen: _____

Age Group (circle one): A. 34 or younger B. 35 – 44 C. 45 – 54 D. 55 or older

4. BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS OF NOMINEE

Profession or area(s) of expertise/activity:

Employer or Organization (if applicable): _____

°Please attach a signed memo from nominee's employer/supervisor (if applicable) indicating a willingness to release nominee from work responsibilities for up to 14 days to attend fellowship activities for the 2005-2006 fellowship year.

Does the nominee live or work in a Knight Community? (circle one) Yes No
(Note: answering "No" will not disqualify nominees from further consideration)

If yes, which Knight communities do you live or work in? _____

Nominees may also include a *one-page, single-spaced* resume or CV (*no smaller than 11-pt font*) highlighting their relevant background, education and experience. Portfolio materials may also be submitted if applicable to the nominee's background and research interests.

5. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE NOMINEE'S RELEVANT WORK, EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS BEYOND THE RESUME.

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE OUTSTANDING QUALITIES AND ABILITIES OF THE NOMINEE.

7. WHAT IS THE TOPIC OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT OR CASE STUDY THAT THE NOMINEE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE DURING THEIR FELLOWSHIP YEAR?

Title: _____

On a separate page, provide a short outline of the research or case study that the nominee would like to pursue addressing the following questions:

- *What is the intended product of the research (written work, illustrated work, media product, an event, initiative, or other products)?*
- *How will this research advance the knowledge and/or practice of community building and place making for more livable communities in the nominee's professional field and/or community?*
- *What resources will the nominee require to complete the research?*
- *Include a basic list of work tasks and schedule for carrying out the research. (please limit the outline to one-page, single-spaced using a minimum 11-pt font size).*

8. DESCRIBE THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE NOMINEE FOR ADVANCING COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE, AND THE ARENA IN WHICH THE NOMINEE MIGHT PURSUE THESE ACTIVITIES.

9. REFERENCES

On a separate page, please include the names, telephone numbers and email addresses for three references who are familiar with the nominee's background and experience (these can include the nominators).

SELECTION

Nominees for Knight and Community-Sponsored Fellowships will be selected by a review committee. Candidates will be judged on the basis of their demonstrated interest in community building issues and their accomplishments in their fields. Since the fellowship program is designed to nurture future leaders, rather than to reward established ones, evidence of growth potential and the ability to work independently are key criterion. In particular, the selection committee will be looking for candidates who:

- Show a history and commitment to community building including issues and topics related to livable communities, environmental justice, smart growth, social equity, New Urbanism, community reinvestment and sustainable development
- Have an interest in the role of community planning, policymaking, development management, social activism and design in shaping the built environment
- Have outlined a clear direction for their individualized study and research and a proven ability to work independently
- Have a clear direction for applying their knowledge to advance community building efforts in their communities and professions in the future
- Are skilled at working with community groups, institutions, organizations and networks to advance ideas and initiatives

Selected candidates will be contacted by August 22, 2005. The first seminar for incoming fellows will be scheduled for the fall of 2005.

Mail or e-mail nominations to:

Charles C. Bohl, Director
Knight Program in Community Building
School of Architecture
University of Miami
1223 Dickinson Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146-5010

Telephone: 305-284-4420
E-mail: kpou@miami.edu

For additional information on the Knight Program in Community Building, please visit the Program's web site at www.arc.miami.edu/knight or contact Kim Pou at 305-284-4420 or kpou@miami.edu.

Nominations must be *received* no later than July 22nd, 2005