



Helping communities find their way.

About SCDAP

A joint program of Clemson University and the South Carolina Arts Commission, SCDAP works to help citizens understand how good design can improve their quality of life through design education and leadership development. We value and promote creative thinking, collaborative engagement, and cultural and environmental stewardship.

Participating States:

California
Illinois
Oregon
New Hampshire
Pennsylvania
South Carolina



PROJECT INFORMATION

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In collaboration with: Clemson Institute
for Economic Development at the Sandhill
Research & Education Center

An invitation to join a statewide collaborative to impact

School Design and Sustainable Communities

South Carolina has been selected as one of six states across the nation to participate in a new technical assistance and grant program lead by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to promote community-centered schools. This program will assist states in finding new strategies for tackling the complex--and often competing--goals surrounding school siting policies and practices.

The National Trust has been actively involved in this issue for many years and has produced a vast body of research that emphasizes that schools can be sited in ways that not only achieve educational objectives, but also anchor the local neighborhood, support better public health, create a cleaner environment, spur economic development, and offer additional amenities to the community.

During the 2007 South Carolina Community Design Summit held at Clemson University, organized by the SC Design Arts Partnership in conjunction with AIA South Carolina, a group of more than 200 elected officials, design professionals, and citizen stakeholders worked collaboratively in small groups to identify the "Top 5" most critical design issues facing our state. Among the list were safeguarding environmental quality, responsible growth and curbing sprawl, eliminating regulatory barriers to good design, and improving the design of our streets, roads, and highways. During the Summit, SCDAP and AIA/SC made a promise to the State of South Carolina to focus on these important goals.

Forming a statewide group to take part in this National Trust Initiative will allow this promise to be kept and have a positive impact on the important connections between communities and schools for years to come.

This project will bring together a diverse array of stakeholders, interested organizations, and existing programs to study and affect policy changes that make the renovation and construction of community-centered schools more feasible.



We need YOU to get on the bus to help us launch this important effort to make smart school siting a standard practice in South Carolina to build sustainable communities for the future.

Recent demographic shifts and the global economy have brought many new challenges related to growth, land use, education and economic development to South Carolina. We believe that re-connecting communities and schools can be a meaningful and productive endeavor for addressing a diverse array of needs including important social concerns like poverty and healthcare across our state. By conducting comprehensive research and analysis, launching a statewide public awareness campaign, and convening the School Design and Sustainable Communities Summit in the fall of 2009, taking part in this important national initiative will change the way we look at school planning and design in South Carolina forever.



South Carolina has made some progress in the effort to encourage community-centered schools. In 2003, Governor Mark Sanford signed an executive order eliminating the minimum acreage requirement for new school construction. Explaining the importance of this effort in his state-of-the-state address that year, he said, "In addition to depriving many students of a quality education... remotely sited mega schools... accelerate developmental sprawl into our rural areas- and what comes with it- increased car trips, lengthened bus routes, and a disappearing countryside." In one statement, Governor Sanford outlined some of South Carolina's most significant threats to preserving our quality of life for this and future generations. Unfortunately, eliminating the minimum acreage requirement was not enough to drastically change the way we plan and build schools in our state. The new South Carolina Priority Investment Act, passed in 2007, encourages school districts and local jurisdictions to collaborate on comprehensive planning, but this is easier said than done.

The South Carolina School Design and Sustainable Communities Initiative will inspire the development of new and improved policies and practices that will emphasize the importance and facilitate the creation and retention of community-centered schools. The outcome will include educational programs, model policies, technical assistance, and a grassroots coalition to support communities in making smarter decisions about their capitol investments in education.

The South Carolina Design Arts Partnership is now seeking volunteers and partner organizations to participate in this project. The work will take place during three phases over the next 12 months, beginning with a research, planning and analysis phase in December 2008. This will be followed by a public awareness campaign



One of the most important benefits of community-centered schools is that they allow students and teachers to walk to the site. This promotes a healthy lifestyle and helps to improve the air quality in the surrounding area by eliminating automobile trips to the site.

to be launched in May 2009 that will disseminate important information to a critical mass of stakeholders and include a series of informational case studies about best practices in community-centered school design. Finally, the initiative will convene a statewide network of key decision makers in an effort to build leadership capacity to make community-centered schools a feasible reality for the Palmetto State.

There are many ways to get involved. SCDAP is seeking interested individuals to serve on a steering committee that will play an important leadership role throughout the project. We also need people who are willing to help with small portions of research and analysis so that we can develop a comprehensive body of knowledge. Phone interviews and focus groups as well as information searches will be part of the process. We are also seeking volunteers interested in helping to plan and conduct the public awareness campaign and Summit. And finally, we need additional sponsors to provide financial support.

South Carolina School Design and Sustainable Communities Kick-Off and Information Session Scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008.

To get involved, please complete the attached response form and indicate your particular interests in the project. We welcome any and all ideas, suggestions, input, research leads and more. This is a statewide effort and we need you to help make it a success! For more information, please call (803) 734-8898.



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School Design and Sustainable Communities

Please complete this Response Form
and fax with a cover sheet to the attention of:
Frances Kablick
SC Design Arts Partnership
(803) 734-8526 (fax)

Name: _____

Organization/Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Profession:

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Planning
- Historic Preservation
- Government
- School Board/Administration
- Other: _____

**Can you recommend others who
might be interested?**

(Name, phone, e-mail)

How would you be willing to help?

- Steering Committee
- Research Assistance
- Be Interviewed
- Conduct Phone Interviews with Others
- Focus Groups
- Event Planning
- Write a School Case Study
- Marketing/Public Relations
- Make Introductions to Key Stakeholders on SCDAP's behalf
- Invite SCDAP to give a presentation at your organization's event
- Sponsorship/Financial Support

Ideas, Comments, Suggestions, Information Leads?

Please send any additional info to Frances Kablick at fkablick@arts.sc.gov