



Summer Fellowship: Community Planning and Design on the US Gulf Coast

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sponsors: | Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) and Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) (Funding provided by a grant from the Ford Foundation) |
| Location: | Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, Biloxi, MS (With some travel required in the Gulf Coast region of MS, LA, AL) |
| Dates: | Summer 2008 – (approximately 10 weeks) |
| Stipend: | \$5000 |

Description:

GCCDS and ISC are seeking highly motivated applicants for a summer fellowship to be based on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The fellow will conduct research and complete a report on community-based planning and design in small to medium sized Gulf Coast cities affected by Hurricane Katrina. The research will contribute significantly to a Gulf Coast community needs assessment and project planning effort currently underway, with the ultimate goal of strengthening community engagement, planning, and design in the region.

Fellow will:

- Work with sponsors to organize and consult with a small project advisory committee to design a research study;
- Compile information and materials, conduct in-person and telephone interviews and other research as needed to prepare written report that includes case studies, research summary and analysis, and recommendations;
- Organize focus/group roundtable discussion to review and finalize research recommendations.

Research goal:

Develop an in-depth understanding of pre and post-Katrina community-planning and design capabilities and approaches in small to medium sized Gulf Coast communities. Types of questions that sponsors are seeking to answer are as follows:

- How did target communities handle planning and design pre-Katrina (i.e., what staffing/structures/processes were in place to deal with land use planning, community design and growth/development?)

- How did Katrina impact communities' understanding of importance of local planning and design?
- What resources have been available to communities since Katrina to meet planning and design needs related to rebuilding and redevelopment? Are these resources adequate? What else is needed?
- How have citizens been involved in planning processes? How effective were these efforts and what role did stakeholder organizations (i.e., non-profits, churches, community organizations, businesses, etc.) play?
- To what extent (and how effectively) are communities incorporating sustainability practices (environmental sustainability, smart growth, green building, etc.) into their post-Katrina planning and design?
- What role can funders, policymakers, and national and local agencies (government and non-governmental) play in strengthening awareness and practice of community planning and design?

Several case studies will be compiled by fellow to illustrate community planning and design challenges and solutions.

Qualifications:

Graduate student or recent graduate with Master's Degree in urban planning/community design with:

- Outstanding interpersonal and research skills
- Ability to work independently
- Experience working in diverse communities.
- Excellent research, writing and communications skills
- Desire to make a significant contribution to the long-term redevelopment of the US Gulf Coast.

About the sponsoring organizations:

Institute for Sustainable Communities www.iscvt.org

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is an independent nonprofit that helps people get the tools, resources, and skills they need to make their communities better places to live. Headquartered in Montpelier, VT, ISC also has offices in Washington, DC, China, Serbia, Ukraine and Macedonia. Since our founding in 1991 by former Vermont Governor Madeleine M. Kunin, we have led projects in 18 countries. ISC brings well-tested practices and a network of technical expertise in the areas of civic engagement, advocacy, institutional capacity building, and sustainable community development. ISC's Gulf Coast Renewal Project was launched shortly after Hurricane Katrina. We have been working with the city of Moss Point, MS on a multi-sector project focused on long-term redevelopment. We are also helping several community-based organizations on the Coast more effectively access and manage resources and contribute to the recovery process. We are currently planning the next phase of our Gulf Coast project and working with a variety of partners to more broadly address issues of community capacity, planning, design and environmental sustainability

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio www.gccds.org

The Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) is a professional outreach program of Mississippi State University's College of Architecture, Art, + Design. The GCCDS was established following Hurricane Katrina to provide architectural design services, planning assistance, and leadership to communities and organizations that are working to rebuild and revitalize low-income neighborhoods along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The mission of the GCCDS is threefold: 1) to work with non-profit and municipal partners to increase the community's ability to address housing and neighborhood development needs by providing design and planning expertise; 2) to provide leadership both locally and nationally on sustainable, well-designed, community-based redevelopment projects; 3) to educate students and train interns to work in community design.

To apply:

Submit cover letter, resume, 3-5 page writing sample and references by email to:

Christine Gaspar

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio

cgaspar@gccds.msstate.edu