



09

May 6-8 2009 PORTLAND

LIVING FUTURE

Educational Sessions Call for Submissions

The Cascadia Region Green Building Council (Cascadia) is hosting its third annual *unconference* Living Future 09 on May 6th-8th, 2009 at The Nines Hotel in Portland, OR. Living Future is the forum for leading minds in the green building movement seeking solutions to the most daunting global issues of our time. Out-of-the-ordinary learning and networking formats provide innovative design strategies, cutting-edge technical information, and the inspiration needed to achieve significant progress toward a truly living future.

This year's educational program theme is "Cultivating Leadership: Shift Global Consciousness. Begin with One." It is often said that the most significant barriers to change are not technological or economic, but institutional. The Living Future Program Committee invites submissions for interactive presentations, tours, and experiential activities that encourage a different way of viewing our built environment and enable individuals to embrace their role as leaders of the green building movement and their community.

What you will find at the *unconference*

- Keynote presentations from respected leaders and teachers, such as Janine Benyus, Rick Fedrizzi, Thomas Crum, and Jason F. McLennan
- Non-traditional, interactive learning environments
- Design strategies and tools to achieve Living Buildings and Communities
- Brilliant ideas that will change the world
- 'Red-list' Ready Tradeshow – no greenwash allowed!
- The Big Bang Event – a party with a twist
- Tours of some of Portland's most innovative "green" buildings
- Creative Networking Sessions
- Community projects and events
- Pre- & Post-conference activities around the most bicycle-friendly city in the US - Bring family or friends to enjoy the experience with you!

The Living Future Program Committee is now accepting proposals for potential presenters and topics from across the region and beyond for the 2009 *unconference*. Living Future is an *unconference* for a reason – we are looking for creativity, depth, and innovation in both session topics and format. Also, this year we are specifically requesting proposals for green building tours. Innovative session concepts proposed in off-site venues are also welcomed.

We look forward to hearing from you!

What this document contains:

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Educational Sessions Submission and Schedule

How & What to Submit

All proposals must be submitted using the online platform located here:

<http://www.cascadiagbc.org/living-future/09/submissions/>

Faxed or mailed proposals will not be accepted. Detailed instructions and recommended submission information is explained on page 7.

Required Submission Information:

- Session Title (20 words max)
- Session Abstract (250 words max)
- Related Signal Issues (see explanation below)
- Related Thematic Concepts (see explanation below)
- Presenter/facilitator and co-presenter contact information
 - Name
 - Title
 - Organization
 - Location, Phone, Email Address
 - Biographic sketch (75 words max Bio)
- Session Format Description (250 words max)

Schedule

09.24.08	Call for proposals is released Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 5:00 pm (PST).
11.12.08	Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, November 12, 2008 by 5:00 pm (PST).
12.10.08	Notification deadline is Wednesday, December 10, 2008 for all who submitted.
12.17.08	Presenter acceptance deadline is Wednesday, December 17, 2008 by 5:00 pm (PST).
02.04.09	Presenter registration deadline is Wednesday February 4, 2009 by 5:00pm (PST).
04.29.09	Submission of (PowerPoint or Keynote) presentation is due Wednesday, April 29, 2009 by 5:00 pm (PST).



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Educational Sessions Theme and Topics

Submissions are expected to reinforce the *unconference* theme – *Cultivating Leadership: Shift Global Consciousness. Begin with One*. Submissions are also asked to consider Cascadia's Guiding Signal Issues – the four most urgent challenges to which Cascadia is devoted to finding solutions. The Living Future Program Committee will select and schedule sessions based on the Signal Issues and Leadership Concepts addressed by each submission. During the application process, you will be asked to indicate which topics best describe your presentation and which of the Signal Issues will be addressed.

Cascadia's Guiding Signal Issues

We ask that you frame your session around one or more of the four Signal Issues that guide Cascadia's work. In the submission process, you will be asked which of the Signal Issues your session addresses. The Signal Issues are listed below; more information is available on Cascadia's website (www.cascadiagbc.org):

- Climate Change from Global Warming Pollution
- Persistent Toxic Chemicals
- Habitat Loss & Species Extinction
- Global Equity

Unconference Theme – Leadership Concepts

The LF09 program committee selected the following four organizing concepts associated with the *unconference* theme "Cultivating Leadership" to serve as threads that will carry the theme throughout each unique session track.

INVENT: Fostering Invention

Creativity in solutions and leadership is essential to improve the current environmental and social crises we face. Albert Einstein once said, "To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science." INVENT means stepping outside conventional thought, inspiring imagination and exploring creative solutions in technologies and approaches.

TEACH: Creating & Shaping our Future

Sustainable building tools and resources provide concrete information to empower leaders with the knowledge they need to integrate sustainable building into the fabric of their professions. From students to experienced practitioners, leaders must learn what and how to TEACH to disseminate critical information across an entire industry.

SURPASS: Achieving the 'Unimaginable'

Brilliant ideas by designers, policy makers, and business people are affecting major change leading to rapid progress and overcoming the human tendency to make only the safest incremental changes. Leadership requires creativity combined with a healthy dose of daring to conceive bold ideas and actually make them a reality. SURPASS is about the biggest ideas with the most potential to actually change the world.



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ACTIVATE: Engagement at all Levels

The Guiding Signal Issues are not faced singularly by the building industry, nor is the built environment singularly the purview of building industry professionals. Consider the vast interface between the inorganic built environment and the organic natural world, foremost communities and their citizens. ACTIVATE refers to the collaborative strategies and unifying interests within this interface to engage individuals and affect positive change.

PRACTICE: Making Progress Today

There are projects, tools, products and materials that are already available to enable practitioners to do their jobs in ways that are more socially, environmentally, and economically responsible. PRACTICE showcases these elements that are already making change today.

Potential Presentation Topics

The following are suggested topics based on the Leadership Concepts outlined above.

INVENT

- Biomimicry
- Technological innovation
- Creative solutions to achieving the Living Building or Living Community
- Inspiring creativity in design
- Living Building SLAM!
- Meeting the 2030 Challenge Today

TEACH

- Current & emerging strategies
- Applied learning – supporting knowledge and skills transfer
- Storytelling
- Leadership skills, e.g. communication
- Integrated Design Process
- “How To ...”

SURPASS

- Articulating the business case for sustainability & Living Buildings
- Regenerative design
- Affordability & the Living Building Challenge
- District Energy
- Historical Perspective – Reality Checks and Big Ideas From the Past
- “Deep Energy”
- Building Codes that Inspire

ACTIVATE

- Civic Ecology
- Community Building
- Local Economies
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable &/or Local Farming
- Community Organizing
- Pollution & Human Health
- Faith & Sustainability
- Power of Goal Setting (e.g. 2030 and Living Building Challenges)

PRACTICE

- Green Building Tours
- Post Occupancy Evaluation
- Existing Buildings
- Building Codes & Living Buildings
- Natural Building
- Case Study ‘Confessional’
- Transforming Practice



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Educational Sessions Session Format

The term “*unconference*” reflects Cascadia’s intention to offer innovative learning environments that foster open discussion and collaboration. Rather than conventional presentation formats, which usually consist of a few experts talking and a lot of attendees listening, proposers are encouraged to submit interactive, creative, and/or experiential session formats. It is our goal that the educational sessions at Living Future foster new and better ways to communicate, collaborate and create. NOTE: All educational sessions are 120 minutes in length, including time for Q & A as well as small group discussion and reporting back. For tours or activities off-site, please plan for travel time.

At the first and second Living Future *unconferences*, the “breakout session” format was predominantly used and is described below.

However, all varieties of unconventional learning session formats are encouraged, examples include:

- Hands-on learning on or off the *unconference* site
- Building tours with key design team members
- Experiential exercises that inspire creativity

Living Future Breakout Session

The “breakout session” is an interactive session featuring a panel of speakers with expertise in the session topic. Approximately half of the session time is devoted to presentation material. In the latter half of the session, the audience breaks into small groups in which a discussion is facilitated by each of the panelists. Attendees have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and engage in discussions with the speakers and other participants.

The small group discussions following the panelists’ presentations should be conducted using integrated design decision principles and a charrette atmosphere so that participants leave their session with new tools and perspectives to strengthen their leadership skills and a clear understanding that to solve the challenges before us, we need to effectively collaborate.

KEY BREAKOUT SESSION COMPONENTS

- During the small group discussion, attendees should split up into groups of 8 – 10 people, striving to create a mix of professional types in each group.
- Presenters should prepare achievable goals and objectives to guide small group discussion.
- During the break out session, attendees must address one or more questions as determined by the panelists.
- Graphic tools will be provided for each session (e.g. flip charts, tracing paper, pens, modeling clay, etc.)
- Reconvene the groups into a wrap up session for brief presentations of the findings of each group.



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Educational Sessions Specific Submission Requirements

You must prepare in advance all information for submission in the online platform. The platform does not allow users to save information for later editing. Once you have submitted your abstract online, you may be contacted via email or phone for further information about your subject. Cascadia reserves the right to make slight revisions in your class title, abstract or bio in order to fit with editing standards and available space. International speakers are encouraged, but we do expect speakers to be fluent in English and easily understood.

The online submission platform will request you to enter the following information:

- **TITLE:** This is the first point of contact with an attendee, and often the basis of their selection. Be sure to create a title that accurately describes your session content. Title may not exceed 20 words.
- **ABSTRACT:** Session abstracts or descriptions may not exceed 250 words, and should discuss the importance of the topic, the key learning objectives, and benefits for the proposed session. This description will appear on the Living Future website and electronic program. Please submit it in "ready-to-go" format.
- **FORMAT:** In 250 words or less, describe the method of instruction you will employ to achieve an open and collaborative learning environment, including but not limited to:
 - Breakout session, Tour, other (please define other)
 - Brief agenda; if multiple speakers, include the topic each speaker will address.
 - Discreet goals for small group discussion or activity.
 - Strategies that you will use to make this session interactive.
- **CASCADIA SIGNAL ISSUE(S) ADDRESSED:** Select one or more of Cascadia's 4 Guiding Signal Issues (visit www.cascadiagbc.org for more information).
- **LEADERSHIP CONCEPT(S) ADDRESSED:** Select one or more of the Living Future 09 Leadership Concepts most relevant to your session.
- **LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE ADDRESSED (optional):** Select one or more of the Living Building Challenge Petals your session will address. (www.cascadiagbc.org/lbc)
- **PRIMARY PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:** Presenter/ facilitator name, title, organization, city, state/province, country, office and mobile phone numbers, and email address. This individual will be contacted with any questions regarding the submission and will be notified when selections are made.
- **BIO:** For each facilitator and presenter, describe in 75 words or less the presenter's professional experience, area of expertise, speaking experience, key published works and/or accomplishments, and academic credentials, if applicable.
- **ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS:** Name, title, organization, city, state/province, country, phone, and email address.



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Breakout Sessions Scoring Criteria & Selection Process

Selection Process

All proposals must be complete, comprehensive, and deemed relevant and timely to the Living Future audience. The program committee may shorten a presentation, increase and/or reduce the number of panelists, select alternate panelists from among those proposed, and/or combine the submitted presentation with other proposed presentations at its sole discretion. Presentations that appear to be product or service oriented will not be considered. All presenters will be contacted independently to confirm their submittal.

Scoring Criteria

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored using a 25-point scale. Those with the top scores will move on to a second review. These rankings will be used by the Living Future Program Committee to select presenters and sessions for the final program.

Based on the theme *Cultivating Leadership*, as well as Cascadia's four Guiding Signal Issues, reviewers will rate proposals using the following scoring system:

VALUE	CRITERIA
5 points	Offers new and innovative content of interest to building industry professionals
5 points	Contributes to the diversity of the conference offerings in terms of topics, presentation format, audience, and/or professional or geographic perspective.
5 points	Fits within and contributes to Leadership Concepts derived from the <i>unconference</i> theme.
5 points	Addresses Cascadia's Guiding Signal Issues
5 points	Includes qualified presenters with topic-relevant experience, as demonstrated by presenter bios, and speaking experience



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Educational Sessions Program Policies

The Program Committee's responsibility is to produce the strongest possible educational program for Living Future attendees by including new and important content, and learning experiences. The following selection criteria will be used:

- Individuals are allowed to hold no more than one speaking and one moderator role during the educational sessions.
- Preference will be given to individuals who did not present at the Living Future '08.
- Case studies of projects aiming for Living Building certification will be given priority over other case studies.
- A firm/institution/organization can participate as presenters in no more than 2 sessions. One additional position as convener can be held by a firm/institution/organization.
- Accepted presenters who are not able to attend must notify Cascadia staff immediately. Replacement presenters may be suggested, but must be approved by the Living Future Program Committee. The Program Committee reserves the right to modify or cancel any session based on a change in presenters.
- If a presenter's professional affiliation changes, Cascadia staff must be notified in a timely manner. The Program Committee reserves the right to change or remove presenters based on change of professional affiliation.
- PowerPoint™ or Keynote presentations must be submitted by Wednesday, April 29, 2008 by 5:00 pm (PST) for uploading onsite in Portland prior to the presentation.
- In an effort to be a paperless conference, papers and handouts are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Preparing any handouts are the responsibility of the presenters.
- All presenters must register and pay to attend the conference. Presenters and moderators will be eligible to register at the faculty / non-profit / low-income rate until Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 12:00 am (PST) in appreciation of their contribution to the success of the Living Future conference.

During the submittal process, you will be asked to affirm that you understand and will abide by the above policies. Submittals that do not follow the above policies will not be considered.

Questions

For assistance with questions regarding the Call for Submissions, please contact:

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