



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

I hope to see you (have seen you) this week in St. Louis. This week is a high-water mark for us, falling only second to the 14th Annual Congress organized for Washington, D. C. this year on October 9 through 12. By the way, thanks to Mark Konchar (Balfour Beatty) and his committee's organization, you can now register for the Congress (see below). This is about 3 months earlier than usual and a great step forward for us.

But I was speaking of high water marks. If you know me, you know it's hard (impossible) for me to resist a Mark Twain quote if we're talking about the confluence of the Missouri and the Mississippi and high water marks. Twain offered some advice about visiting the nation's capitol which he called the "good old National Asylum for the helpless":

My doctor told me that if I wanted my three score and 10, I must go to bed early, keep out of social excitements, and behave myself. You can't do that in Washington. Nobody does.

I hope that doesn't keep you from joining us in D.C. at the height of the presidential election hysteria--it should be a blast.

Back to high water marks. We are congregating this week along the banks of the Missouri River at the Ameristar Resort and Spa. If you open this on Tuesday the 12th, you'll be reading while the first meeting of our new Board of Directors is happening. The Board faces some significant issues, not the least of which is completing our transition to full partnership with other Associations by locating a full time Executive Director. The Board will be launching full committee participation and strengthening our goals for the future. I know many of you are interested in serving on committees and you'll soon have that chance. I will have a full report of the meeting next week. I also hope to have video vignettes of each Board member in attendance posted to the site next week so that you can get to know the Board members and understand the opportunity this new Board offers to move our mission forward.

We continue on Wednesday with the third in our joint LCI-CURT Summits. Greg Sizemore at the Construction Users Roundtable has been tireless in strengthening our connection as has his volunteer chair of the effort, Al Schwarzkopf (Merck). This year, AGC (LCI Board Member Mike Stark) and AIA (LCI Board Member Markku Allison) are co-sponsoring the Summit. We have created a lasting relationship with this crucial Owner's organization that will continue to bear fruit in future years.

On Thursday, we have our 8th Annual Summer Design Forum. Years ago, Glenn Ballard and Greg Howell made a commitment to have this Forum anchored in the Midwest so we return to St. Louis after Fora the last few years in Kansas City and Milwaukee. Once again our friends at Project Production Systems Laboratories (P2SL) and AIA are co-sponsors. The AIA through Markku Allison took the laboring oar this year. In fact there has been a small band of active Design Foragers in the last few years that have included Laura Lesniewski (BNIM) and David Mar (Tipping Mar), as well as the ubiquitous Glenn Ballard. Yet we must also recognize and credit the Boulder Associates influence—Romano Nickerson, Todd Henderson and Stacey



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Root continue to volunteer where we need them to help us drive the ball across the goal line. The Boulder Associates surge is powerful--it includes the addition of President Craig Mulford to the new Board of Directors. If we can consider Denver/Boulder a "Midwestern" venue, we might see them hosting a Design Forum soon. Beyond that, Romano and Todd have let me know that they have "budget" space to visit with Communities of Practice and talk about their use of lean principles in design. The first members of our "design team" speakers bureau are certainly taking our community mantra of share what you know "because we have more to learn than we have to lose" to new heights.

If you have not yet made plans to travel to San Diego for the International Group for Lean Construction's 20th Annual Conference, don't delay. Headed up by Dr. Ken Walsh (the Academic Representative to our new Board) from San Diego State University, with scientific contributions led by Dr. Iris Tommelein of University of California, Berkeley and co-chair of P2SL. Click the link below for more information.

If you're really interested in International Lean Events, the next Lean in the Public Sector conference happens in Finland in September. Click the link below.

Communities of Practice are active as well. There is no reason to take the summer off—work hard, learn lots. It's building season, not only in the built environment but within LCI as well.