

Implementation Strategies To Achieve Sustainable And Liveable Development In New Zealand's Large And Small Communities

A Master Workshop with Larry Beasley

Auckland 17 – 18 March 2010: Mercure Hotel, 8 Customs St, AUCKLAND

***Sponsored by
the Urban Design Group, Auckland City Council***

Fee: \$1251.00 (member rate) and \$1350.00 (non-member rate)

Imagine a city, town or small community

Imagine a community in the future where the best laid plans sit unread on a bookshelf. Economic development plans. Structure plans. Transport plans. Neighbourhood plans. Your council spent hundreds of thousands of dollars developing plans but somehow they never seemed to get implemented. They were too expensive. They were too hard to implement. There was too much opposition from communities and businesses. Different professions couldn't agree on how to proceed. The community continued to grow outward, sprawling and consuming land and natural resources at an unsustainable rate or simply stagnated. Quality of life deteriorates. The economy suffers. Does this sound familiar?

Envision the alternative

Imagine a community in the future that developed a great plan and stuck to it. Economic development plans were implemented, and new jobs were created. Structure plans were implemented, and great places were built. Transport plans were implemented, and the region was more accessible. Neighbourhood plans were implemented, and the community became one of the most liveable places on earth. Opposition from single-issue interest groups and others gave way to opportunities for new development that no longer absorbed resources from future generations. There are choices, good jobs and a high quality of life. Is this how you envision your community in the future?

If so, you should enrol in this Master Workshop which is designed for senior level professionals who have responsibilities. The workshop will address the obstacles to sustainable development and provide strategies for overcoming them. The programme will cover all contexts from large metropolitan cities, smaller cities and towns and rural communities. Participants will select whether they participate in one of the 'large' or one of the 'small' community breakout discussion groups.

This two-day workshop will be led by Larry Beasley CM, the former Planning Director of Vancouver in the 1980s and 1990s, a time when Vancouver transformed itself from a planning paradigm typical of North American development patterns to a city with high-density downtown living, a modern rapid transit system, high quality urban amenities and good urban design. He has won numerous national and international awards, is in constant demand as a speaker and consults on sustainable development in major international projects

Larry will be assisted by **Kobus Mentz, Urbanimplus and Christine Ralph, Beca**, who will act as group facilitators and provide local context

Programme

Wednesday 17th March

- 8.30 am **Registration, Coffee**
- 9.00am **Introduction:**
- Presenters/facilitators
- Programme format
- Learning Objectives
- 9:15am **Opening Orientation- big cities; small communities – Kobus Mentz and Christine Ralph**
- 9.30am **PRESENTATION 1: Overview - Setting the Agenda – Larry Beasley.**
Issues involved in achieving sustainable development. Consideration of the interrelationships between organisational structures/issues, policy development and a myriad of other considerations How do we develop effective process principles for the implementation of effective strategies and outcomes?
- 10.00am **Q & A/discussion session**
- 10:15am Breakout groups briefing
- 10.20am **Morning Tea**
10.50am **Breakout groups**
Identification of the significant obstacles to sustainable development objectives. Groups will focus on either metropolitan/large urban or smaller cities/towns/rural settings. (Attendees select their group preference)
- 12 noon **Group report backs.**
Comments from Larry and facilitators
- 12.30pm **Lunch**
- 1.30pm **COMMENTARY: Addressing issues identified by groups. What practices in other places are relevant to New Zealand? – Larry Beasley**
- 2.00pm **Q & A/discussion session**
- 2.30pm **Breakout groups**
Groups re-convene to consider responses/solutions to the obstacles and challenges identified in the first group session
- 3.30pm **Afternoon Tea**
- 3.50pm **Group report backs**
Comments from Larry and facilitators
- 4.20pm **Facilitated Discussion**
Summary of the outcomes of day's programme. Discussion on particular issues/themes/topics to be addressed (by Larry in particular) on day 2.
- 5.00pm **Social Hour:** Drinks and snacks provided

Thursday 18 March

- 8.45am **Welcome and coffee**
- 9.00am **COMMENTARY: Thoughts on the key issues from Day 1** – Larry Beasley
- 9.30am **Q & A/discussion session**
- 9:50am Breakout groups briefing
- 10.00am **Breakout groups**
Groups re-convene to consider issues in more detail in an attempt to crystallize a 'New Zealand approach' to sustainable development covering policy, process, delivery and organisational issues.
- 11.00am **Morning Tea**
- 11.30am **Breakout groups continue**
- 12 noon **Group report backs**
Comments from Larry and facilitators
- 12.30pm **Lunch**
- 1.30pm **PRESENTATION 2: The Human element** – Larry Beasley
Changing mindsets, overcoming resistance to change, overcoming 'patch resistance' between relevant parties/individuals. Will new skill sets, depth and breadth of knowledge and degrees of professionalism need to be significantly raised for any 'blueprint' to succeed. How to achieve this?
- 2.00pm **Q & A/discussion session**
- 2.15pm **Breakout groups**
Consideration of the 'human element'
- 3.15pm **Afternoon Tea**
- 3.30pm **Group report backs**
- 3:45pm **Defining A New Zealand Approach – Summary Discussion**
Interactive Session – drawing upon Group reports and other inputs.
How close have we got a workable model for achieving sustainable development in New Zealand?
Final considerations
Where to from here?
- 4:45pm **Concluding remarks from Larry Beasley**