

RES PRINCIPAL TO SERVE AS A RESOURCE EXPERT

RES Principal, Mary Hashem was invited to serve as a resource expert supporting the American Architectural Foundation's (AAF)



second City Managers' Design Academy (CMDA), held October 28 – 30, 2015, in Dallas, Texas. This event brought together six city managers with six urban design and development experts to tackle the managers' pressing development challenges. The City Managers attending the session were from Charlotte, NC; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Fort Collins, CO; Tacoma, WA; Hampton, VA; and Palo Alto, CA. They represented diverse cities from across the country with disparate income levels, populations, and environments, but an overarching theme became apparent: how to preserve and maintain a sense of community while managing physical and economic growth. During the two-and-a-half-day Academy the group discussed project challenges related to urban infill development, including transportation, affordable housing and community engagement. They focused intently on addressing the complex and often sensitive issues, zeroing-in on solutions that make for healthy, sustainable, and inclusive cities for all people, both now and in years to come. Mary provided insights regarding the multi-disciplinary challenges of redeveloping brownfield sites, including the critical need to establish positive communications with the affected communities and to have the full support of the cities' political and administrative networks. She was also able to provide real-world examples of successful brownfield redevelopments and cite the myriad benefits – healthier environments, increased job opportunities, increased tax bases and removal of blight – that makes the redevelopment of brownfield properties such a key element in the overall program of urban revitalization.

