

# Anaheim, The City of Kindness: One Mayor's Approach to the Public Realm

Friday, October 20

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

FRI-B02

In an era of xenophobia and nationalism, how can empathy unify citizenry? Anaheim's Mayor Tom Tait has adopted "kindness" as a guiding principle of governance for a diverse constituency in need of common connection. His increasing success and compassionate leadership has even caught the attention of the Dalai Lama.

## Learning Objectives

- Appreciate one civic leader's method of inclusion as a means of good governance.
- See examples from all over the country of mayors acting to promote the public realm and livability; take a deep dive into Anaheim as a case study.
- Learn new approaches to civic design and implementation that are replicable to your practice and community.
- Appreciate how kindness and empathy can be a positively-contributing factor in the design process, implementation, and governance of the civic environment.

## Part 1: Introduction / David Rubin

- a. Finding the union between governance and empathy – defining the Common Good

- i. Art and Nature in the downtown
- ii. Engaging constituency to find the common ground
- iii. Opportunities for development AND citizenry

## Part 2: The Mayors' Institute on City Design / Trinity Simons

- a. Why mayors? Local, engaged, & accountable.  
Mayors have potential to be powerful advocates for high-quality urban design and public spaces
- b. Introduction to the Mayor's Institute on City Design
- c. Engaging design professionals: landscape architects are critical glue of these professions, advocating for public realm, quality of life, and resilient models
- d. "Mayors as Chief Urban Designers" + issues cities are addressing through urban design (mini case studies)
  - i. Charleston, SC – mayor of mayors
  - ii. Miami, FL – zoning
  - iii. Washington, DC – integrated green infrastructure
  - iv. When do we see success after attending MICD?

## Part 3: Empathy in Practice / David Rubin

- a. Establishing a mission of empathy
- b. Working with cities: Baltimore, MD
  - i. Identifying opportunities for alignment among a diverse constituency
  - ii. Working with agencies
  - iii. Defining an inclusive vision for the Westside
- c. Working with cities: Allentown, PA

## Part 4: Anaheim: Resiliency Through Kindness / Tom Tait

- a. Establishing a core value to change culture
  - i. Case study: Holistic healer / "Make Kindness Contagious"
- b. Building social infrastructure
- c. Establishing neighborhood bonds in a diverse constituency
- d. Why is resiliency important to a city in crisis?
- e. A million acts of kindness
- f. Cause and effect: Successes with a platform based on kindness
  - i. Quantifiable results under kindness culture
- g. Kindness finds unexpected consequences: the Dalai Lama holds his 80th birthday in Anaheim
- h. The power of kindness, compassion, and joy: three days with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu in Dharamasala

## Part 5: Panel and Audience Discussion, and Q&A



## SESSION NOTES:

# Anaheim, The City of Kindness

## List of Speakers

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### **Trinity Simons, Executive Director / Mayor's Institute on City Design**

Trinity Simons is the Executive Director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design. In that capacity, she works with mayors from across the country, assisting them in addressing some of our nation's most pressing urban planning and design issues. In addition, she speaks about the intersection of design and political activity at events and symposia across the country.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Community Design, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architecture Students, and the DC chapter of the AIA. She has a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Arkansas and a Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



### **Tom Tait, Mayor / City of Anaheim, California**

Tom Tait was elected as mayor of Anaheim, California, in November 2010 and was re-elected to his second term in November 2014. Mayor Tait ran on a platform of bringing the values of freedom and kindness to the culture of the city, while upholding fiscal responsibility, public safety, and civic upkeep.

As mayor, Tait has promoted Anaheim as a "City of Kindness." Under his Kindness Initiative, Anaheim City School District students fulfilled a pledge to complete one million acts of kindness.



### **David A. Rubin, ASLA, FAAR - Principal / DAVID RUBIN Land Collective**

David is founding principal of DAVID RUBIN Land Collective, a landscape architecture and urban design firm dedicated to empathetic-thinking and social sustainability. Rubin is recipient of the 2011-2012 Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture from the American Academy in Rome. He is responsible for the design of Canal Park in Washington, DC; Lenfest Plaza at The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the UPenn's new Penovation Campus, both in Philadelphia; as well as "The Commonground" at Eskenazi Health Hospital, the Indianapolis Museum of Art Master Plan, and the new Cummins DBU Headquarters, all in Indianapolis. His current work includes the 25-mile White River Master Plan, and Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield, Indiana, as well as the Riverfront Master Plan for Wilmington, Delaware.

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