

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



Introduction

The Ordre des Architectes de Martinique will be our host for the 8th Annual Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF 2018), 21st-25th May 2018 in Fort-de France, Martinique. Co-hosts include the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) based at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional and international organizations. The Forum brings together land use practitioners, municipal managers, policy makers, academics and allied professionals in an effort to address urban issues in the region.

This year's theme is *Forming the Informal*. This theme aims to confront the ostensibly oppositional notions of the formal and informal and how we respond to the urban condition in the Caribbean. Historically, the consideration of the city has been predicated on the idea of a formal spatial structure evolving from and responsive to notions of order and regulation. However, one of the most evident common characteristics of all Caribbean cities is the prevalence of informality whether, spatial, social, economic etc. Under this theme, a range of sub-themes can be addressed in relation to issues of heritage, history, housing, infrastructure, policy etc with view to informing a contemporary understanding of the Caribbean urban condition.

Conference Objectives

The conference will address the gambit of issues relating to the relationship between formality and informality in the Caribbean urban sector. Through presentations, workshops and discussions, the forum will:

1. Explore the evolution of cities and settlement in the Caribbean
2. Examine the challenges and opportunities that arise from various modes of informality
3. Discuss methods of measuring formality and informality

Specific activities, which will also be accomplished at or immediately before the CUF 2017 are:

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Planning Association (CPA);

Thematic Areas

The following are broad areas under the themes under which papers can be contributed. **Abstract may focus on, but are not limited to:**

The formal/informal city

There have been indigenous communities in the Caribbean countries and little is known on the nature of their settlements. The most recognized form in human settlement is often the grid arrangements which had its origins in colonial times and persists today. However, many areas developed informally leading to urban sprawl due to a range of factors, in particular, in inability of the State to exert regulatory control. What are some of the strategies which are being put in place for regulation of development in the Caribbean?

The formal/informal actor

It is well recognized that complex environmental problems cannot be solved by enhanced scientific information alone; rather, the existing body of knowledge must be translated into effective actions broadly accepted by society. This translation occurs through communication between multi-scale actor networks, both formal and informal. Over the past decade there has been a significant move (globally) towards understanding these networks in environmental fields and how, specifically, the informal networks often drive change. Nowhere is this more evident in the development and operation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), where collaboration is a necessity to ensure long term sustainability. How do informal networks operate and have they been successful in the Caribbean? Is there a happy balance between the informal and formal that is required for full functioning of the society?

Managing informality

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), a key output from Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016, has recently concluded in Quito, is the international framework guiding urban planning and management for the next two decades and environmentally sustainable development is key to its implementation. It speaks extensively on the need to provide opportunities for persons living in slum and informal settlements equivalent to those in the formal system. How has the issue of informality been addressed in the Caribbean public policy in light of meeting its commitments to local, regional and international agreements? **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are the universally agreed guide to development up to 2030. The issue of informality has been recognized in the SDGs. Under Goal 8: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*, target 8.3.1 measures *Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex*. Similarly, under Goal 11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*, target 11.1.1 measures *Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing*.

Social Equity: Measuring change

Informality, in economics, is the collection of firms, workers, and activities that operate outside the legal and regulatory frameworks. It is easy to define however difficult to measure given by nature they are working outside of the legal and regulatory frameworks. Informal settlements also leads to inequity in service provision as formal authority face challenges in operation. Is human development taking place equally in formal and informal settlements? Is there a transition from the informal to the formal? What are the spatial manifestations of the formal and informal?

By Design; past, present and future strategies

How has the formal and informal nature of cities evolved historically, what are the architectural and urban design strategies that have been deployed and how responsive have they been in addressing sustainable development? How might urban development evolve ? What opportunities and strategies might be employed in the future?

Submission Criteria

Abstract guidelines

For acceptance to present at the conference, an abstract must be submitted. These should (a) state the problem being addressed; (b) describe the activities in the paper has addressed the problem and; (c) the relevance of the paper to the theme and/or sub-theme. The abstract should read cohesively.

Abstracts must be original and not submitted to other conferences or publications. Abstracts should be submitted in UK English using MS Word or equivalent format using Arial font size 10" and 1" margins, single spacing and not exceed more than 300 words.

Abstract submissions should include:

1. Title of the proposed presentation;
2. The sub-theme to which it relates;
3. Name(s) of author(s); (no more than 3)
4. Position or title of author(s);
5. Author(s) employer or affiliated institution;
6. Contact details including - e-mail address, telephone/fax numbers and postal address;

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:

Papers and Presentations Sub-Committee

Email: info@bluespacecaribbean.com

Deadline: January 15th 2018.

Feedback on acceptance of abstracts will be provided by January 31st 2018

Please note that if you are selected to present at CUF2018, a short paper for publication in the conference proceedings or a refereed book arising out of the conference is mandatory prior to the conference. Guidelines for papers will be sent on acceptance of abstract.

Questions?

For further information on general conference as well as the events being held prior to CUF2018, please contact:

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