



Economic Realities: A puzzle piece that underpins urban growth

*By STU NIEBERGALL
President & CEO, Regina & Region Home Builders' Association*

When we talk about making our City bigger and better, most business people and entrepreneurs are on board. They understand the benefits of growth and a stronger economy. A shared idea that when a city is growing, it creates more benefits and opportunities for the local community, dwarfing the alternative of stagnation.

It is a commitment to the prosperity of the city and its residents, ultimately leading to a more vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous community for everyone. City building is not only how we deliver on that commitment, but how growth manifests itself in the physical landscape and the fabric of our community. It is a big puzzle that measures success when all the pieces fit together.

Urban planning is often considered the purview of city building, focusing on systematic design and organization of land use, infrastructure, transportation and public spaces to shape the way people interact, live, and work within the city.

Regina & Region
Home Builders'
Association



When it comes to city building, urban planning tends to focus solely on the aesthetics, the feel-good stories about urbanism and architecture that get a favorable response from the citizens and politicians. Nothing tells a story better than a great rendering. What is less exciting to public policy decision makers and the public is the economics of City building.

The urban planning realm tends to treat design as the sole solution to society's challenges. If we create more of this and restrict more of that all else will resolve itself. The cost, the market, the economics, and real estate matters are treated as tertiary issues at best.

However, to ignore the economic realities of the world, is to ignore real solutions. Design is fundamental to how we interact with our city and enhance the outcomes of city building. At the same time, we cannot revitalize existing communities if the new benchmark is to favor projects that appear to transcend capitalism, allow NIMBYism (Not in my backyard) to be the sole determinant in the value of a project to a community and ignore the compromises inherent in the transformation of the built environment.

The public and politicians are often left with a false expectation about how cities get built, making the hard stuff even harder to pull off. As a result, we are left with only marginal embellishments rather than transformative urban outcomes.

According to urbanist philosopher, Marshal Berman, city building is a *'painful, thrilling cycle of tearing down and building up'*. This is why city building requires compromises and the more upfront we are about that, the sooner we'll get to more optimal solutions.

Compromise is essential to the city building process to balance the diverse and often conflicting interests, needs and priorities of our citizens. Compromise is also necessary to take advantage of market dynamics that grow our city.

Regina needs to find more ways to get city building projects going. This requires more flexibility to not just the design, but the economics and affordability of those projects. It's that big puzzle, where we have to find the right pieces to make our city truly thrive.

UPCOMING REGINA CHAMBER EVENTS

2023 ENTREPRENEUR SHOWCASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
2023 ENTREPRENEUR SHOWCASE
G. Marconi Italian Club of Regina
8:30 a.m. -- 1 p.m.



Wednesday, October 18, 2023
G. Marconi Italian Club of Regina
8:30 a.m. -- 1 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
HALLOWEEN HOWL
Glow Bowling Tournament
Golden Mile Bowling Center
Registration: 5 p.m.
Bowling: 6 p.m.

HALLOWEEN HOWL

GLOW BOWLING



Prizes:
BEST COSTUME

Wednesday, October 25th
Golden Mile
Registration: 5:00
Bowling Begins: 6:00

THEME: HALLOWEEN



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
ALL NATIONS CAREER FAIR
DoubleTree By Hilton
9:30 a.m. -- 5:30 p.m.



ALL-NATIONS
CAREER
FAIR

DoubleTree by Hilton
Tuesday, November 14th
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Free entry for attendees



For more information or to register for these outstanding Chamber events click [HERE](#)

"We acknowledge, with respect and truth, that we work and support the business community in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation."

ConEx: The Builders Expo scheduled for Sept. 28

The Saskatchewan Construction Association is hosting ConEx: The Builders Expo on Thursday, September 28 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan's first ever non-residential construction trade show and conference, ConEx will feature over 100 exhibitors showcasing the newest and most innovative products and services, as well as industry panel discussions, speakers and more.

The event will include:

Dynamic Networking: Engage with diverse vendors dedicated to empowering your business and forging lasting relationships.

Keynote Speaker: Valuable insight from the Main Stage that promises to spark new perspectives and opportunities. The keynote speaker is Kevin Vallely, Mentor, Architect, Explorer, Writer.

Industry Experts Panel: Gain profound insights from industry peers. Panel members are Cory Richter, Quorex Construction; Chad Leverick, Alliance Energy; Mike Staines, PCL Construction; and, LeeAnn Croft, 1080 Architecture

The panel will be moderated by Jeff Hagerty, Civil Manager of PCL and Chair of the Saskatchewan Construction Association. The panel discussion promises transformative takeaways.

To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).



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SaskPolytech offering Grants & Proposal Writing Course

Access to funding for projects is often a complicated process and to help understand the process, Saskatchewan Polytechnic is offering a Grants & Proposals Writing Course during the 2023-24 academic year.

In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of researching, writing and applying for funding to run programs.

The learning outcomes of the course are:



Define elements of fund development

- Define key terms in fund development
- Discuss the roles and key players in fund development
- Discuss the ethics and stands for fund development

Apply funding applications and its processes

- Explain request for proposals (RFP's)
- Explain the grant writing process
- Discuss the adjudication process
- Research potential funding opportunities in Saskatchewan
- Write a funding application

The course will be delivered online in an asynchronous format. Tuition is \$365.

The course is scheduled for the following dates:

- October 16 -- November 17, 2023
- January 15 -- February 14, 2024
- March 18 -- April 17, 2024

For more information, or to register, click [HERE](#).

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