

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR 2010 QUALITY GROWTH AWARDS

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Good morning Governor, Robert Grow, and all of you.

While you may be accustomed to having Envision Utah in your backyard, I have watched it from afar over the last decade, with admiration and I must say envy that it wasn't in my backyard. So it is indeed my pleasure to join you for the Envision Utah Governor's Quality Growth Awards.

As a newcomer to the state of UT (I've been here just 3 months), I look forward to learning from all of you about its deep traditions and manifold gifts, as well as the challenges that define our work-to-be-done.

I have been impressed, not only with the natural beauty of this place, but also with the urban vitality of the city around us, SLC. This is a city with good bones: It has *good bone density*, in contrast to the city where I spent the last 12 years, Phoenix, AZ, which, you might say, *suffers from osteoporosis*.

SLC, to a newcomer at least, appears to be on track
Not only is Transit on track
Downtown Revitalization is on track
Arts and Culture are on track
Small Business Development and Neighborhood Nodes are on track
Environmental Conservation and Historic Preservation are on track
Innovation and Research are on track
Health Care is on track
The University is on track
Parks and Recreational open space are on track
And more...

Certainly, there remains more fleshing-out to do in all of these areas, but the bones are strong.

There are many reasons for this, which you all know better than I. One of them is clearly a deep and abiding sense of community. It is palpable. People working together to create something larger than the sum of individual parts. People providing mutual assistance and support in times of need, which we all face. People building partnerships to pool resources, share ideas, and realize goals. People listening to and valuing other people. And this is not exclusive to SLC.

In a recent article by Wisconsin planner David Boyd, he described the Greater Wasatch Area of Utah, home to over 80 percent of Utah's residents, as a place that is "using the laggard

pace of the present economic downturn to lay the foundation for a high functioning and successful future.” And he says, the region is accomplishing this “By engaging in highly participatory and increasingly regional-scale planning initiatives, ... developing the civic infrastructure necessary to succeed in the 21st century.”

Boyd attributes much of this to Envision Utah’s commitment to collaborative planning and its outstanding record of bringing together public and private sectors along with the larger community to shape growth and development throughout the state.

The Dept of City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah is fortunate to be located in such a place. Thanks to the vision and commitment of our Dean, Brenda Scheer, who is here with us today, this Dept was created, and is part of the College of Architecture + Planning (which will be receiving an award shortly). We are very pleased that our Masters degree in Planning was just recently awarded accreditation from the National Planning Accreditation Board, making it the only accredited planning program not only in the state of Utah, but also in the surrounding states of Nevada, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

So now, we are on track too.

I’d like to recognize two of our faculty members who are also here today, Phil Emmi, the 1st member of the Planning faculty who has trained many UT planners over the years, and Chris Nelson, a veritable powerhouse of planning research, publication, and teaching. We are delighted to have both of them on board.

The Planning Dept at the U maintains a 3-pronged focus on People, Place, and Purpose. So, along with our intensive knowledge and skill-building courses, we also take the classroom into the community to provide students with hands-on experience and to lend assistance where possible.

This Spring, our annual Westside studio will be furthering Envision Utah’s Blueprint Jordan River, and will actually be taught by Christie Oostema of Envision Utah, with the goal of realizing the full potential of this river. To involve the larger community in the conversation, Mayor Becker will be hosting a symposium on the topic in February, the first of an annual Mayor’s Symposium with the College of Architecture + Planning.

We are also working closely with the City of Salt Lake on our new Creative City Workshop. In this workshop, we will build upon the many strengths of this city by engaging in a process I call VIDA, which stands for visioning, inspiring, demonstrating, and advocating. (Vida also means life, because this process brings greater cultural and economic vitality to a place).

Beginning in January and continuing each year, the workshop is open to students from around the university. We anticipate having students from planning and architecture as well as business, law, public policy, public administration, sustainability, environmental studies, art, engineering, and other fields, to work on ongoing initiatives and introduce new ones.

In preparation for this workshop, we have already begun asset inventories and mapping projects to learn about What Was and What Is. From there, we will propose some overarching themes and more specific recommendations for What Could Be. Subsequent

years, we'll work towards developing and implementing these ideas, engaging in "urban acupuncture," small interventions with big impacts.

While the VIDA process involves Re-Search, it also requires We-Search, involving the act of Co-Creation. As a Co-Creation, we welcome your input and feedback as we gather the visions for Salt Lake City from its earliest human habitation to the present, and map the current assets including all the other good work being done, so we may best contribute to fleshing out the strong bones of this place.

In sum, the Dept of City and Metropolitan Planning at the U is strongly committed to further enhancing the health and well-being of Salt Lake City, the region, and the State of Utah.

I am deeply grateful to be in Utah at this time, to have the opportunity to work with this talented and gracious community, and to help prepare our future generations in the co-creation of a more prosperous Utah.

Thank you.