



The LCI Update

Lean Construction Institute

Well, the results are in: the **15th annual Congress in Dallas was our biggest ever**, with 500 attendees joining us over the course of the four-day program. If you missed it, we'll be distributing information soon on accessing the presentations online. We'll also be rolling out various pieces in upcoming newsletters that further describe some of the key Congress presentations. In this edition, in the interest of space, I'll focus specifically on the discussions at our Community of Practice planning session October 22, to give you a sense for some of the challenges and insights we addressed with the community of practice leaders who attended. We had at least 16 CoPs represented, and it was very interesting to hear from each of them about the status and future plans of their organizations. There was significant commonality, but also some unique ideas and opportunities that came to light. More on this after this important announcement:

The **National Building Museum and Turner Construction Company will present the 11th annual Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction to LCI** next month. The prize recognizes advances or high achievement in the process of construction — an invention, an innovative methodology, and/or exemplary leadership. This is a huge honor, and we extend our thanks to the Museum and the Turner Prize jury members for this recognition of our work and the opportunities it will afford us to continue to carry forward our mission. "LCI is a natural for the Turner Prize because of the innovative thinking it has brought the construction industry in project execution," said Jan Tuchman, editor in chief, Engineering News-Record and Turner Prize jury member. "The group has had a large and positive impact in its relatively short history." To mark the occasion, on Wednesday, December 4, 6:30–8pm, LCI co-founder Greg Howell, executive director Dan Heinemeier, and board chair Victor Sanvido give a presentation titled "Faster, Better, Safer: Lean Design and Construction." Following this, there will be a panel discussion of owners, and general and specialty trades contractors to discuss how lean construction can shape the future of the building industry. Panelists will include LCI board members Tom Sorley (Rosendin) and Bill Seed (UHS). If you would like to attend, follow this link for further info: <http://go.nbm.org/site/Calendar/1906877746?view=Detail&id=116141>

The **Community of Practice meeting at the Congress** was led by Jack Avery/Sellen, who chairs the board-designated CoP committee that has been so productive this year in helping us plan for the future. We started off with a round of introductions in which each of the representatives gave a brief update on happenings within their specific CoP. Next, we did some brainstorming on challenges faced by our CoPs, and broke up into table groups to suggest some solutions. Here are the challenges we came up with:

- Increasing owner attendance at meetings
- Encouraging repeat attendance
- Create a speaker database
- Retain the interest of seasoned practitioners (how?)
- Experienced vs. new practitioner program needs
- Succession/vetting process for CoP leadership
- Create standard feedback form for CoP meetings
- Increasing academic attendance
- Cooperation with other associations/addressing resulting issues
- Metrics and savings (from using Lean) – develop database
- How to simplify the Lean process (20-page guide, etc.?)
- EventBrite use
- Creative programming
- Loss of Core Team Momentum
- Lack of presenters
- Regional joint marketing
- Improve marketing of events
- Competition from others teaching Lean

From this list, we had small groups brainstormed some potential solutions, as follows:

- Increasing owner attendance at meetings

Speak to their concerns – ask questions, use CoP members to reach out based on trusted relationships, initiate owner-to-owner communications. Work on those who will listen – go after the open minded first. Go through their associations. Talk to the lawyers – who is having issues? Reach out to owner reps who may be decision makers as well as owners themselves. Include “Why” info on website.

- Boosting attendance

Repeat topics that address interest of first timers; provide opportunity for more dialogue, align programs. Appeal to different levels of practitioner, expand variety of offerings, focus on local needs. Increase marketing efforts to get the word out. Include surveys – “what will bring you back?” Ensure this is part of plus/deltas.

- Retain the interest of seasoned practitioners (how?)

Include more advanced material in the program mix. Tours of Lean sites add value. Get them to help by teaching “master classes.” Recruit internal company “champions.”

- Creative programming

Mix “Intro” with more advanced programming. Vary audience target size. Create presentation clearinghouse/repository. Partner with other groups, broaden scope beyond Lean Construction.

- Loss of Core Team Momentum

Create and apply standard core team transition plans. Interview prospective core team members. Build flexibility into transition planning.

Hopefully one or more of these ideas will spark some useful follow up in your CoP, but in any case it may be beneficial to see that others are facing some of the same challenges you are dealing with in your local community.

Our Lean training curriculum development partner organization AGC has just announced a **free Last Planner® instructor training webinar November 18**. Here is their announcement: AGC's Lean Construction Education Program Unit 4: The Last Planner® System will be released in mid-November and we're recruiting new instructors! The Last Planner System is a four-hour course that can be offered locally across the country. A free instructor orientation webinar will be held on from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (Eastern) on Monday, November 18 for all individuals interested in becoming approved instructors for this course. You can register for this free webinar. Visit the AGC website at www.agc.org/LCEP to learn more about AGC's Lean Construction Education Program.

We also are pioneering **a new partnership this month with the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)** on what we hope will be an ongoing set of webinars on Lean Construction. Here is the information on the inaugural session coming up November 19. *Introduction to Lean Construction: What is Lean Construction and How Can It Benefit You?* Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (ET). This free session will last 90 minutes. The speaker is a well-known participant in LCI, Mr. David Umstot, PE, CEM, President, Umstot Project and Facilities Solutions, LLC. The webinar will provide an overview of Lean Construction and Lean Project Delivery and why it is successful and gaining greater acceptance by owners, builders, specialty trade contractors and the design community. To register for this free session: <http://www.abc.org/en-us/educationtraining/academy/upcomingwebinars.aspx>

Thanks for all you are doing to bring Lean design and construction to fruition where you live and work!

Sincerely,



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LCI welcomes these new member firms who have joined us in recent months:



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