



# Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

Eight short days from the Congress, where do we sit? This year promises to be our most robust program to date, with the largest attendee base and the greatest number of projects showcased. So we're sitting "pretty" as they say.

As you know, we believe the three promises of the lean approach on projects are (a) impeccable coordination; (b) projects as production systems; and (c) projects as collective enterprises. We have been challenged by these three opportunities in developing the Congress.

Impeccable coordination has required the hard work of the Conference Committee and its chair, **Mark Konchar** of **Balfour Beatty**. Choosing among the many qualified stories that wanted to be told, was our program committee that included our daily champions—**Victor Sanvido** of **Southland** (Chair of the LCI Board), **Bernita Beikmann** of **HKS**, **Todd Henderson** of **Boulder Associates**, **Chris Dierks** of **DPR**, **Romano Nickerson** of **Boulder Associates** and the ubiquitous **Will Lichtig** of **Boldt**. All of this has been under the watchful mentorship of **LCI President, Greg Howell**. Thanks also to **Brian Day** of **CCA** for his early participation and we're sorry that his schedule required his early retirement.

No event of this size happens without boots on the ground to coordinate the logistics. **Aimee Fogarty** of **Suffolk**, **Susan Kleinman** of **Haley Aldrich** and both **Tim Wakely** and **Haley Smith** (and lots of other folks) from **Balfour Beatty** have been spectacular in their hard work. Of course, **Donna Pemberton** has been planning the Congress for a year with the help of **Shannyn Heyer-Cardin**, both of the LCI staff.

The Congress as a production system means that we will try to flow the variety of projects scheduled for presentation and integrate the community participation and feedback that makes LCI so rich. Careful timing of presentations includes "cycle" times of 15 minutes—a great challenge to the presenters that we think will add substantial value to your experience. There is no continuous improvement without challenging our standard work.

Finally, this is a collective endeavor. From our corporate, individual, academic and student members, to our sustaining sponsors and the Congress sponsors themselves, there has been tremendous support for this event. We took a chance on holding the Congress outside of the west where it's traditionally been held and we have been rewarded with the highest turnout ever (even 10 days before the event).

We're also recognizing our pioneers—this year, **Will Lichtig** and **Paul Reiser** of **Boldt** and **Bill Seed** of **UHS**. It clearly takes a village to maintain a community like LCI and it took foresight, courage and persistence from our "founders" to move us forward. Collective endeavors start with the few and the brave. Join us Wednesday night to celebrate the journey of each of our Pioneer Award winners for 2012.

On behalf of Greg, Victor and the Board, I welcome you to the wealth of knowledge sharing that is the keystone of our community. Share, learn and enjoy.