



The Association For **GIS** Professionals

www.URISA.org

URISA 50/50 FUND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Numerous suggestions have been received about needed development program initiatives, and the priorities to attach to the initiatives which are adopted. By the close of the URISA 2010 GIS-Pro Conference, seven initiatives have been confirmed as initiatives to be undertaken as resources (financial, professional) allow, and others are under discussion.

The initiatives are outlined here for information purposes, and will be elaborated in detail in the coming weeks by the URISA Board of Directors.

1. Putting URISA archives (beginning in 1963) online. URISA began publishing conference proceedings, position papers, white papers, research reports, and related documents in 1963. Several thousand publications, many of them outstanding, original contributions to the literature, have been available only in printed form, and only to a limited audience. Putting the materials online makes them instantly available to elected officials, practitioners in governments, businesses and interest groups, and researchers, as well as to professors, teachers, and students in universities, colleges, and schools.

2. Providing scholarships. URISA scholarships reward and encourage students in the related fields of urban and regional information systems, GIS, and Geomatics, and are designed to promote and support high-quality research by students from the elementary and high school levels through to the undergraduate and graduate levels at colleges and universities.

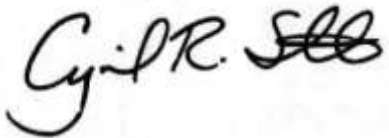
3. Funding distance learning projects. URISA serves a diverse membership located throughout North America and the world. Many of its members are from relatively remote communities, and others (especially those from smaller or financially-strapped communities) lack the resources to attend international, national, or even regional meetings. The distance learning project is designed to bring URISA workshops, webinars, and other Internet-based services to members regardless of where they live.

4. Funding research proposals, including the design and development of new workshops. This program provides rapid responses to top-quality research proposals seeking “seed money”, and assists in the design and testing of new workshop materials and the training of workshop instructors.

5. Supporting new membership initiatives. As a result of moving into new domains such as interdependent infrastructures information, enterprise GIS, social networking, and Internet-based geographic information exchange, URISA is in the forefront of education and training programs that cut across numerous disciplines, professions, technologies, and countries. In order to support these leading-edge training and education activities, and to ensure that the results of these programs are broadly disseminated, URISA needs to implement new membership initiatives that enable the organization to achieve and maintain a critical membership mass.

6. Supporting a speakers' bureau. Regional, national, and international organizations frequently ask URISA members to speak at events such as educational, professional, and technical conferences and conventions, public interest group seminars and annual general meetings, and media events. The speakers' bureau identifies URISA experts who are candidates to give presentations according to topics, locations, and dates.

7. Refurbishing existing chapters and establishing new chapters. Providing services to chapters and engaging chapters in URISA programs is an important but difficult task, and changing conditions (political, economic, financial, social, technical, legal, technological) require high-level skills in an e-based environment to design, develop, and implement a chapters support program which is international in scope, and which also has due regard for national as well as regional and local interests. URISA knows from experience that a strong chapters network is critical to achieving its other initiatives, and to ensuring that the benefits of those initiatives reach the individuals, families, governments, businesses, and organizations served by the chapters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cy R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "C" and "S".

Cy Smith, URISA President
October 18, 2010