

**CIVIC TOURISM CONFERENCE  
MARCH 16-18, 2006  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

**Sponsored by Sharlot Hall Museum**

**PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS**

*More than 330 people from 35 states, Canada, and Mexico attended the first national Civic Tourism conference. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest score, the overall conference was rated 4.6. The average workshop session was rated 4.4.*

*What follows are a few dozen narrative comments from the meeting's evaluation forms – with general comments first and specific workshop observations following.*

**General Conference Comments**

Excellent conference! The format was quite effective and left me with many ideas to explore.

Thank you all for creating such a highly eclectic, inspiring and energizing event that touched my soul and gives me renewed motivation and ideas. Your first National Civic Tourism Conference was a tremendous success.

One of the best conferences on tourism I have attended in 20 years.

I'm finally catching my breath from the excitement generated by the Civic Tourism conference. The conversations, both formal and informal, helped me clarify what I hope to accomplish.

The variety of attendees was probably even better than you had hoped to attract – they are the kinds of folks who should be talking with one another, not just at a conference, but at home, too.

I am excited to see how the future of Civic Tourism unfolds.

A fantastic range of speakers. I like the dialogue format and time for audience interaction. One of the best conferences I've ever attended.

Great conference! Thanks for making an effort to engage us in such stimulation conversation and thought!

The group had a great experience – connections and relationships built...took a while for me to catch on especially the theoretical/academic aspects, but I stuck with it and appreciated the real examples and cases.

Most fertile conference I've ever been to.

The selection of speakers was fantastic. The variety of perspectives was wide and the concern for community and place was tightly focused. Keep that recipe cooking.

I really appreciate that so many people from varying realms of tourism development were able to come together and I look forward to seeing where future discussions on Civic Tourism take us as we hone it on in. THANKS!

Really great conference! Lots to think about.

This was an inspirational, mind-changing conference – a valuable contribution to my personal and professional life.

Outstanding selection of presenters and effective outreach to assure a rich mix of delegates helped to make this conference. I also liked the design of the conversations that pulled all concurrent presenters together.

Civic Tourism is the perfect match of citizenship and friendship. The idea of promoting an umbrella organization is worth pursuing.

Superb, a landmark conference!

All your efforts were rewarded with the thoughtful conversation, energized audience and committed attendees.

This was a great first effort, made most successful by the different disciplines and perspectives represented.

The Civic Tourism conference was one of the best I have ever been to, and given my age and experience that is saying a great deal!

Great conference. It was very enlightening to hear people talk about tourism with a civic approach.

Excellent content, conversation and contemplation. I look forward to pressing forward based on ideas learned here.

Very well organized and executed conference with an outstanding array of presenters.

Not only a valuable tool/meeting place for tourism, but certainly a significant resource for community building & strengthening. Engage, interface, converse, story tell, be part of. I love it!

I leave inspired. Meetings like this really light the fire under me to move ahead.

## Workshop Comments

The faculty for the entire conference is exceptional but this panel (Dan Kemmis and Nora Mitchell) really hits the mark!

Becky Anderson brought all the theory we've been hearing down to practical application! This is Civic Tourism (Handmade in America).

Don Rypkema and Tim Tyrrell were the best presentation yet. I enjoyed hearing perspectives about economic impact studies, as my state is trying to examine this at the local, county, and state levels. Excellent exchange of ideas. Best session, real data! Real argument.

Jon's Tourtelot's presentation alone was worth the whole conference. Just terrific.

The session on authenticity provided a good forum for exploring these ideas. Just great. Both gentlemen excellent – knowledgeable and open. Thanks! The presenters were very good – their concepts were wonderful, best session so far.

Manuel Gonzalez Montesino's overview of *La Ruta de Sonora* was excellent. Lots of ideas exchanged, feedback provided, opportunities for sharing. Information was infused with graciousness. I applaud the effort and the progress this group has made.

Community Tourism was one of the best sessions because it addressed practice and implementation, rather than just professional theory and philosophy. Judy Walden's stories about building community consensus were great!

The workshop on Urban Tourism was very inspirational. Discussion of artists as citizen-activists, great! Next conference do more sessions that are like this one.