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For Immediate Release

“The Yankees Are Coming” Historic Newport To Host National Sustainability Investing Think Tank

Could adopting the Yankee traits of "waste not" and saving even seemingly useless objects, be a solution to the global recession? A group of “renegade” American entrepreneurs believes so and will meet in Newport, Rhode Island to prove it—again.

The SourceNewport conference will be held this year in Newport, Rhode Island October 21-23, 2009. The Summit and Think Tank is attracting various financial resources for historic real estate investment and projects, success stories of new businesses in historic communities and a discussion about how Hollywood depends on historic communities. The keynote is Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director of Virginia’s Department of Historic Resources, the cornerstone of that state’s economic development. (The state is currently at the top of preservation related development in the country.) Other speakers include John Ripley, President, Palm Beach Preservation Foundation, Terry Nathan, President, Int’l Yacht Restoration School (IYRS), and Bob Patterson, UN Senior Liaison Officer of the United Nations FAO.

Last year’s conference in Newport was attended by approximately 100 people from around the country. Presenters included Marianne Cusato, who developed the Katrina Houses, Rick King, the Vice President of the Biltmore Corporation in Asheville, North Carolina, and Katherine Robinson, Executive Director of Historic Charleston, as well as numerous local and regional preservation and community leaders. The conference focused on design guidelines and business solutions for sustainable & historic development.

The issues address the interlocking questions of money and local policy. Can we really talk about the environment without talking about economics? Can we talk about green standards without considering 17th and 18th century architectural designs that have stood the test of time? Is there any better way for a cross disciplinary discussion than a think tank?

The economic value of historic communities has creativity at its core. The creation of businesses that provide jobs is only part of the puzzle. “There are local design lessons,” Robert Bailey, founder of Source Newport says. “Old buildings have intelligent features that often make “green” material unnecessary,” he added, “if they are understood.” These include the use of windows, heat and ventilation, and materials. Moreover, the flow of traffic and the way people live and work is demonstrated by old city patterns, an idea that many “New Urbanists” promote.

“Restoration of community has been the lifeblood of American tradition,” says Bailey. Travelers from around the world come to experience that tradition and bear witness to the influences on American democracy. “It will be ironic to continue to demolish history in the name of green energy efficiency,” he says. The European and Asian visitors to this country seem to understand the irony better than we do, he says. They understand the profitability in such investment, too, said Bailey.

For more information please call -- or visit the website www.sourcenewport.com.

The conference co-sponsor is Sustainable Communities, Inc. a non-profit corporation. Source Productions is managing the event. Other sponsors will be announced soon.

For more information about this conference, please contact Anne by calling 866-450-8017, or e-mailing her at info@sourcenewport.com

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