

**The Structure of Belonging:  
Celebration in the Spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

Complete Streets Event Panel

Location: City of Saugatuck

Date: May 20, 2010

The streets of our cities and towns are an important part of the livability of our communities. Street are for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars, or worse, creeping traffic jams. Now, in communities across the country, a movement is growing to complete the streets. States, cities and towns are asking their planners and engineers to build road networks that are safer, more livable, and welcoming to everyone. (Complete Streets, 2009)

This event will bring together 3-4 panelists on the topic of “complete streets.” Local road commissions, planning commissions and tourist organizations will be invited. Organizations that have already signed on to work collaboratively on this event include: West MI Trails and Greenway Alliance; Southwest Michigan Planning Commission; Michigan Department of Transportation; National Biking and Walking Association; City of Holland; and City of Saugatuck.

Livable Communities

Location: TBA

Date: October 2010

For this event we will bring in a speaker to help us visualize and understand the importance and value of making our communities livable. What contributes to the livability of a community? Some of the principles include: mixed use development; increased density; transit-oriented development; and street-savvy design. As well as multiple options for getting around including: walkable paths, bike trails, and a coordinated network of viable public transit options. In addition, a livable community has a sense of place, a unique character and identity that creates a sense of comfort, function, and an attractive appearance. Invitations will be sent to local planning commissions, elected officials, township boards, city employees, and county officials. Organizations that have already signed on to work collaboratively on this event include: City of Holland; City of Zeeland; Greg Holcombe; Ken Freestone; Ken Hoesch; Herman Miller; Macatawa Area Coordinating Council; and Grand Valley State University.

Dancing Wheels

Location: TBA

Date: October 15, 2010

Dancing Wheels is the first modern dance company to integrate professional stand-up and sit-down (wheelchair) dancers. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, the dance company has been in existence for the past 29 years, with a long performance history in schools and organizations nationwide. With a composition of dancers representing a spectrum of age, ethnicity, gender and physical disability, the Dancing Wheels Company has the ability to connect with children and adults with and without disabilities on a personal level. In the United States, the company presents more than 100 performances reaching audiences of 125,000 each year.

(<http://www.dancingwheels.org>)

Disability Network will collaborate with Hope College (Events & Conferences, Department of Dance); Holland Area Arts Council; and David Fleming to bring this featured group to the Holland area. The general public will be invited to attend.

Discussion on *Community: The Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block

Location: Holland GVSU campus

Date: Ongoing – 2010 (next meeting date: Friday, May 21 at 7:30 a.m.)

Blog: <http://hollandsmallgroup.blogspot.com/>

Community transformation happens “when people get connected to those who were previously strangers, and when we invite people into conversations that ask them to act as creators and owners of a community.” Leaders from business, government, nonprofits, education, and faith-based organizations will hold three conversations about:

- + the perspectives shared in this book - about restorative and transforming community, about citizenship and leadership, about possibility, and about the structure of belonging.
- + how Peter Block’s approach might generate possibilities for our communities and share their thoughts about the community each of us wants to create.
- + whether we are willing to convene and facilitate other small groups in reading the book or practicing the alchemy of belonging.
- + the option of bringing Peter Block to our area to extend the conversation.

The purpose of the conversation is to deepen our learning, consider our own commitment, and to create and strengthen our relationships.