The City of Little Rock, Ark. is excited to make history by hosting the Neighborhoods, USA Conference for the third time! Hosting NUSA in 1996 was a game changer for Little Rock. It strengthened our neighborhoods and people from all over the city came together to volunteer. Many friendships were formed which continue to this day and volunteers who worked on the NUSA 2010 team joined us in 2018 to prepare and plan for the 45th Annual NUSA Conference, May 20-23, 2020.

The theme for NUSA 2020 is, “Neighborhoods: The Fabric of our Communities.” In addition to eight exciting tracks focused on everything from public safety to leadership development and beautification to partnering with multicultural communities, we are also planning a track designed specifically for youth ages 13-18 years. Planned conference highlights include:

• 57 workshops
• 50 national and local exhibitors
• 13 neighborhood tours PLUS 3 special tours
• 4 special events
• More than 200 TEAM NUSA volunteers to make you feel welcome!
• 70’s Friday Night Party

While attending the wonderful workshops and neighborhood tours during the conference, we also hope you will make plans to come early and stay late to explore the many attractions our city offers. The Clinton Presidential Center and Little Rock Central High National Historic Site are two of the top destinations for visitors and residents alike!

The Little Rock Marriott is connected to the Statehouse Convention Center and will be the host hotel for NUSA 2020. All the workshops and most special events will be at these two facilities. Dozens of restaurants offering a wide variety of foods for you to enjoy are within walking distance.

We are ready to share our southern hospitality with you and show you why in Little Rock our neighborhoods are the fabric of our communities.

– Little Rock TEAM NUSA

A LOOK INSIDE

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**REGISTRATION**
**FEB. 3, 2020**

**Conference Hotel**
Little Rock Marriott, 3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, AR 72201
$122 (plus tax) per night.

**Conference Registration**
$275 - Late Registration: Apr. 15, 2020 - May 15, 2020
$50 - Youth Conference (ages 13-18 yrs.)

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**WORKSHOP TRACKS**

The NUSA 2020 registration booklets will be available online at nusa.org and emailed to all current NUSA members on or before **Feb. 3, 2020**. Fifty-seven (57) educational workshops will be offered, using the following conference tracks:

- Crime, Safety, and Security
- Beautification/Urban Revitalization
- Restoring Lifestyles: Health/Drugs, Homelessness, Re-entry, Senior Citizen Transition
- Neighborhood Enhancement and Technology/Working with City government
- Building and Sustaining Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success
- Working with our Multicultural Communities
- Youth Workshops (ages 13-18 years)
  - Community Matters
  - How the Media Shapes You
  - Where Is Life Taking You
  - Having a Seat at the Table

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**SHARE YOUR OPINION**

The Public Affairs Committee is working to enhance and update the current NUSA website by Feb. 1, 2020 but they need your suggestions.

Please take a minute to view the current nusa.org site and share your insights about how it should be improved by completing this short survey. *Let us know if you are interested in beta testing our new site before it goes live!*

**SURVEY**

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*“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”*
- Henry Ford
A LETTER FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

It is an honor to be chosen to serve as your new president and a privilege to work alongside a dedicated group of volunteers, willing to give up their valuable spare time to an organization and mission we all believe in. The board is committed to seek out your suggestions about how we can partner together to build stronger communities.

During our board meeting last month, five new and one returning board members were sworn in and new officers were elected. Collectively, we represent sixteen cities from fourteen states and though impressive, for our organization to continue impacting municipalities and grassroots organizations, we must extend our reach throughout the United States.

NUSA members don’t have to serve on the board to make a difference! Please consider all the opportunities shared throughout this newsletter and choose this to be the year you “step up to the plate” and play a larger role in NUSA.

We are excited to be partnering with Little Rock for the NUSA 2020 Conference, May 20-23, 2020! After meeting with their volunteer team in October, there is no doubt the neighborhood tours, educational workshops, networking opportunities and special events they have planned for us will exceed our every expectation.

Personally, the city of Little Rock holds a special place in my heart. The Clinton Presidential Library and Museum was the first presidential library we took our children to visit. Twenty years later, it is the halfway point where I meet my oldest son and his family for weekend visits when they can’t travel home to Fort Worth.

While making plans to join us for the NUSA 2020 Conference, I encourage you to come early and stay late to make a few new memories of your own in Little Rock!

Catherine Huckaby
2019-20 NUSA President

Partner with NUSA

- Serve on a committee.
- Encourage your neighborhood association to become an affiliate NUSA member.
- Run for the 2020-21 Board of Directors.
- Apply for an award.
- Nominate someone for the “Who’s Who in America” award.
- Submit a bid to host NUSA 2022 or NUSA 2023.
RUN FOR THE NUSA BOARD

You could become a candidate for the 2020-21 NUSA Board of Directors!

☐ Are you actively engaged in your local neighborhood association and/or or city government?

☐ Are you looking for a new opportunity to use your skills and networking abilities to make a difference on a national level?

☐ Are you interested in partnering with city leaders throughout the United States to plan future conferences?

☐ Are you willing to devote your time and resources by volunteering on a working board?

☐ Have you attended the “Running for the Board” workshop during a NUSA Conference in the last three (3) years?

Next Steps

• View the service requirements and complete a candidate application by Feb. 1, 2020.

• Contact the Board Development Committee or any current NUSA Officer for more information about the time commitment and benefits of serving on the NUSA Team at: BoardDevelopment@nusa.org.

GO FOR A TEST DRIVE!

Becoming a NUSA board member might not fit perfectly into your schedule. Maybe you don’t feel comfortable with the time commitment.

Great news - you don’t have to be a board member to serve on a committee! Being on a committee is a great way to meet board members and figure out where you can make the biggest impact. Do either of these statements sound familiar?

“I want to volunteer five (5) hours or less per month during the year.”

• Post on social media
• Proofread (web content, newsletters, etc.) for errors
• Update the NUSA website
• Obtain sponsorships

“I want to volunteer during the annual conference.”

• Help with pre-conference set-up (banners, signage etc.)
• Be an awards judge or facilitator
• Finalize Awards PowerPoint presentations (during judging session)
• Post on social media
• Take photos

If so, contact Catherine Huckaby at: president@nusa.org to find the perfect fit for you and your schedule!

SUPPORT NUSA

Please join us in showing your support of Neighborhoods, USA by personally reaching out to your neighborhood association to encourage them to become a FREE affiliate member. In addition to being recognized on NUSA’s web site and social media outlets, affiliate membership entitles them to:

• Annual subscription to the NUSA Newsletter.
• Regular email updates about our annual conference.
• Recognition in our annual conference program.

If your neighborhood association is already an affiliate member, consider contacting your city and/or county to encourage them join our team.

For a current list of all Affiliate, City/Council and Corporate NUSA members, please see page 8 of this newsletter or visit: nusa.org/nusa-membership.

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

- Max Lucado
APPLY FOR A NATIONAL AWARD

2020 Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Award
2020 celebrates the 45th year that NUSA will recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations across the United States for their work toward improving the quality of life in their communities. If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2019, you are invited to enter the 2020 Neighborhood of the Year Award competition. Awards are given in the following three categories:

- Physical Revitalization/ Beautification (Single Neighborhood)
- Social Revitalization/ Neighborliness (Single Neighborhood)
- Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships

All finalists will be invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2019 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-23, 2020.

Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) Award
The Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) award recognizes the outstanding work of governmental entities, businesses or corporations in the United States who work to improve the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods.

If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2019, you are invited to enter the Best Neighborhood Program Award competition to bring national attention to the program that made your community a better place to live. Awards are given in two categories:

- Physical Revitalization/ Beautification
- Social Revitalization/ Neighborliness

There is no entry fee to submit a nomination for the Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods recognition.

Neighborhood Newsletter Competition (NNC)
Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about your city, community and neighborhood. A well-designed newsletter can spark an interest in neighborhood involvement, increase neighborhood association membership and spur volunteerism.

The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition rewards excellence in community newsletters and is given in two categories/subcategories:

- Print Format Newsletters
- Electronic Format Newsletters

Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods Awards
The Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods award was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA. Each Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods (WWAN) nominee will be evaluated by the Neighborhoods, USA Board using the following criteria: the neighborhood involvement of nominee, information on how the nominee has proven to be a leader in the community and specific reasons why the nominee has earned the Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods recognition. There are two categories for this award:

- Governmental nominee - Includes elected officials, local or state government staff and paid neighborhood advocates or community leaders for work within their local community.
- Grassroots/Neighbor nominee - Includes non-paid neighborhood advocates and/or community leaders for work within their local community.

All finalists will be invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2019 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-23, 2020.
Award Submission Requirements

All entries MUST include a legible copy of the Required Cover Sheet and Application found online at: nusa.org. Costs associated with attending the conference and/or making an awards presentation is the sole responsibility of each finalist organization. Applications MUST include the correct entry fee (no cash payments will be accepted).

- $65 - Neighborhood of the Year
- $100 - Best Program of the Year
- $50 - Electronic Newsletter
- $65 - Printed Newsletter

Entry fees may also be paid electronically via PayPal at: nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application. If you choose to use this option, please attach a copy of your PayPal receipt to your application. Cash will not be accepted.

All applications MUST be mailed and postmarked by February 1, 2020 to:

2020 NUSA Awards
ATTN: Anne-Marie Taylor
5940 University Avenue
Indianapolis, IN  46219

For more information about the awards application, entry fees or judging process, please contact the Awards Committee via email at: AwardsProgram@nusa.org or contact Anne-Marie Taylor by phone at: 317-847-4991.

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

- Phil Jackson
2019-20 NUSA Board of Directors

President
Catherine Huckaby
*Fort Worth, Texas*

Vice-President
Precious McKesson
*Omaha, Neb.*

Secretary
Charmaine Clark
*Columbia, S.C.*

Asst. Secretary
Reba Taylor-Hill
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

Treasurer
Sandy Becker
*Little Rock, Ark.*

Asst. Treasurer
Monique Coleman
*Lubbock, Texas*

Sgt-at-Arms
Dwight Pridgeon
*Little Rock, Ark.*

Parliamentarian
Loretta Buckner
*Wichita, Kan.*

Orlando Robinson, Jr.
*Midfield, Ala.*

Hal Barnes
*Fort Lauderdale, Fla.*

Dr. Gregory Jones
*Birmingham, Ala.*

Paul Gambill
*Erie, Penn.*

Elton Gatewood
*Fircrest, Wash.*

Ian Randolph
*Memphis, Tenn.*

Anne-Marie Taylor
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

Joyce Cox
*Memphis, Tenn.*

Craig Thomas
*West Valley, Utah*

Simone Peterson
*Bradenton, Fla.*

Henry Nickel
*San Bernardino, Calif.*

Dora Sims
*Birmingham, Ala.*

Affiliate, City/County and Corporate Memberships

We sincerely appreciate your support and value your membership with NUSA. If your organization became a member after November 1, 2019 we will include your information in the spring edition of our newsletter.

**City members**
City of Birmingham - Ala.
City of Anchorage - Alaska
City of Peoria - Ariz.
City of Riverside - Calif.
City of Fort Lauderdale - Fla.
Town of Jupiter - Fla.
City of Port St. Lucie - Fla.
City of Orlando - Fla.
City of Tallahassee - Fla.
City of Coral Springs - Fla.
City of Decatur - Ind.
City of Concord - N.C.
Cuyahoga Falls - Ohio
City of Spartanburg - S.C.
City of Charleston - S.C.
City of Garland - Texas
City of Round Rock - Texas
City of Rowlett - Texas
City of Fort Worth - Texas
City of Lewisville - Texas
Provo City - Utah

**County members**
Adams County Government - Colo.
Manatee County Government - Fla.

West Valley City - Utah
City of Kent - Wash.
City of Vancouver - Wash.
City of Madison - Wis.
GO-HNI - Wis.
Is it your turn to host NUSA?

Bid proposals to host the NUSA 2022 or NUSA 2023 Conference are being accepted.

Hosting this national conference is an opportunity for cities to be showcased and share the quality of programs and services their city offers with neighborhood activists, elected officials, professional staff and residents from across the nation.

For more information about the bid process:
Email: ProgramDevelopment@nusa.org
Website: nusa.org
View the Bid Package HERE.

BIDS DUE BY MARCH 31, 2020.