

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2021

DesignAlabama

Phone: 334-549-4672

designalabama1@bellsouth.net

5 Alabama Mayors Have Opportunity to Participate in Summit focusing on Community Design February 10-11, 2021

DesignAlabama and numerous partners hosted the 15th annual Philip A. Morris Mayors Design Summit in Prattville, Alabama at the Marriott Legends Hotel. Six Alabama designers worked intensely with five Alabama mayors on design challenges and opportunities in a roundtable session to create tangible solutions.

Design Alabama selected five Alabama mayors in the fall of 2020 based on interest and leadership to attend the event. Mayors selected to attend included: Mayor Patricia Gunter of River Falls, Mayor Roger Weatherwax of Moulton, Mary Linda Peebles of Courtland, Mayor Reily Evans of North Courtland and Mayor Jared Lyles of Silverhill. Each mayor prepared a presentation focusing on their community and a specific design/planning issue. The designers provided a variety of innovative and creative ideas to address the issues. The projects discussed included downtown redevelopment, ways to create moderately priced income housing, and the connectivity of streets throughout a community.

The design professionals included Brandon Bias of Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Amanda Loper of David Baker Architects, Paige Ishmael of Dix Hite + Partners, Joey Hester of NARCOG and Andrew Bryant of Design Initiative. Ben Wieseman with REV Birmingham served as moderator during the event.

The participants also heard from Belinda Stewart of Belinda Stewart Architects out of Eupora, Mississippi, whose focus on historic preservation has helped revitalize her hometown and the town where her business is located. Elizabeth Barbaree-Tasker of REV Birmingham spoke on the impact of good design for successful and vital communities.

DesignAlabama is a nonprofit, citizen-led organization that seeks to raise the bar for design in our great state through education of the applied arts, promoting designers who live and work in Alabama and supporting sound design thinking to sustain our communities. You can contact DesignAlabama at 334-549-4672 or by email: designalabama1@bellsouth.net