

On March 4, 2009, the Community Design Academy was lunched with fourteen participants. Among the participants was the Mayor of the Town of Florence; what a great honor to have her with us. The first class covered existing Pinal County population, employment and housing statistics. Jack Tomasik from CAAG and Jerry Stabley from Pinal County addressed the group. It was a very good start for the CDA.

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March 11-Today we had three speakers. Jennifer Evans, from Florence Main Street Program, provided an overview of her program as well as discussed what this program is doing to take care of their historic building and how to bring business back to the Florence downtown area. Next, Sandie Smith of Pinal Partnership introduced an historian George Johnston to talk about one of the many stories of the Lost Dutchman, the Superstitions Mountain, and the Superstition Mountain Museum. Finally, Peter Villa Verde from the Florence Industrial Development Agency talked about the Native Americans in Pinal County, sharing their origins, and importance to the founding of the new towns in Pinal County.

Participants were pleased with the presentations and interested in sharing potential ways to preserve the history and culture of their respective areas for future generations to enjoy.

It was encouraging to witness their collaboration and exchange of ideas.

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March 18- We had two speakers today. Ronald Peters AIA, from Historic Streetscape, presented an outline of his responsibility on providing research and documentation of the history of existing buildings, surveys and recording methods by using published sources, on-site investigations and the National Register of Historic places guidance. With this information he creates a series of posters that celebrates the architecture of small towns. Also, generates a form of documentation of the transition of the development of the community. As a result, he believes this could be a good way to jump start the community's economy by just recognizing the wonderful resources they have. Next, Dave Richins from the Sun Corridor Legacy Program-Sonoran Institute gave an overall of what is the mission of SI and why is so important for SI to collaborate with other organizations.

The group was very happy with the presentations and happy to see that there is always ways to build a better place and to be proud of it.

Again, it was great to see how the participants cooperated with each other by sharing their ideas.

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March 25- Today we had Susan Culp—Lincoln Institute of Land Policy-Sonoran Institute Joint Venture and Jamie Hogue-Deputy State Land Commissioner. Both provided very detailed information on how STL works. Jamie gave an outline on the history of the State land and the process on how the land is managed by them. Showed us some of the land leased for commercial used, explained the process, the length of the lease and what the projected lease revenue are. In addition, both talk about the Superstition Vista area. This area is mostly STL. Jamie suggested that the department is looking to work with the county in coordinating the integration of the conceptual State Land use plans into the local jurisdictions general land use plan. Susan talked mainly about the Superstition Vista area. She gave the participants an overall on what is going on in this project, and their mission. Most of the participants are involved in this project.

The participants were very impressed with all the information.

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April 1- Peggy Fiandaca—PSA and Jerry Stabley—Planning and Development (Pinal County) presented tonight. Peggy was one of the people that helped to put together the Comprehensive Plan for Pinal County. She explained the planning process on how the Comp Plan was put together.