



University of Southern Indiana

Historic Southern Indiana Project
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"HOW WE LOOK" WORKSHOPS TO CROSS SOUTHERN INDIANA

For Immediate Release
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A series of five workshops on the topic, "How We Look," will be held September 24 and 25 across southern Indiana as part of the Historic Southern Indiana Project effort to preserve, develop, and promote historic, scenic, and natural resources of the area.

Darrel E. Bigham, HSI director, said the series is co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Indiana Department of Commerce and will feature Edward T. McMahon, director of the American Greenways Program of the Conservation Fund. McMahon previously was president of Scenic America, a Washington-based group committed to preserving U.S. scenic beauty and cleaning up visual pollution.

The workshops will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, in *The Evansville Courier* community room; 1 p.m. Tuesday at PSI in Vincennes; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Granny's in Corydon; 9 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, at the Ramada Inn, Jeffersonville; and 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Visitors Center in Madison.

McMahon will use a 45-minute slide presentation to illustrate programs that have worked elsewhere in the United States. His message is that quality of life is closely tied to the appearance of our surroundings; visual pollution erodes natural, architectural, and cultural diversity and destroys sense of place; ugliness is costly, as it lowers property values, wastes energy, hurts tourism, encourages litter, and causes businesses to seek more attractive locations. McMahon will be asked to comment on southern Indiana and individual communities and the scope and quality of current local/state regulations.

McMahon assumed duties with the American Greenways Program on September 5. For the past year, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington and before that, was president of Scenic America for several years. He is an attorney and taught at Georgetown Law School from 1977 to 1986. McMahon is the author of eight books and numerous articles, wrote and produced a series of educational films for Random House, and was co-recipient of the Peabody Award for work on CBS's national news program, *Sixty Minutes*.

In his hometown of Takoma Park, Maryland, McMahon serves on the historic preservation commission and architectural review board. He wrote Takoma Park's tree ordinance and also established a public art program for the city. He has written and spoken widely on the topics of land-use planning and historic preservation.

Bigham said McMahon's appearance is the result of HSI being one of 16 pilot areas in the National Trust's Tourism Initiative. During 1991, the Trust is providing a series of workshops on product development -- ways of improving the HSI organization, forming a better working alliance of communities in southern Indiana, and making local leaders aware of the interrelationship between preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage and economic development.

The five workshops have been set up across the state in an effort to reach a larger audience. Workshop reservations are requested by 12 noon Monday, September 23, with those interested asked to call the number at the site most convenient for them -- 465-7014 in Evansville; 882-6440 in Vincennes; 738-2137 in Corydon; 282-6654 in Jeffersonville; and 273-6122 in Madison.