

October 2014 President's Message - CSI Santa Clara Valley

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CONSTRUCT

I am freshly returned from 'Charm City,' more widely known as Baltimore, and CONSTRUCT the Annual CSI Convention. It was a week packed with the special blend that CSI is known for: technical education, tours, networking, learning, leadership, and fun. In addition to CONSTRUCT, Baltimore was also playing host to the 200th anniversary of the National Anthem. CSIs were greeted with Tall ships, Navy ships, and the Blue Angels in celebration of the Star-Spangled Spectacular.

BEAUTIFUL BALTIMORE

One of the highlights of the week for me was the Technical Tour of Mount Vernon Neighborhood on my first day of the Convention. Johns Hopkins, Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage, led CSIs on a three-hour tour through: Baltimore Basilica, Washington Monument, Peabody Library, and Garret-Jacobs Mansion. It provided great insight into the rich history of Baltimore architecture, while giving glimpses into future urban renewal efforts, as well as, preservation challenges.

The Baltimore Chapter Host Event was a Harbor Dinner Cruise which gave CSIs a different view of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and out into the Chesapeake Bay. We cruised through the Tall Sailing Ships and enjoyed the beautiful weather while watching the sunset on Fort McHenry. It was an evening filled with fellowship and festivities.

Friday morning's CSI Fun Run also took participants through the Inner Harbor, running down the piers to get up close and personal with the Tall Sailing Ships, Navy Vessels, and National Aquarium. Watching the sunrise through the harbor was a nice way to start the final day of CONSTRUCT.

INNOVATION AND INVENTION

Many of the speakers throughout the week were insightful and thought provoking as well. The keynote speaker was Pablos Holman, a notorious inventor and technology futurist currently working with Intellectual Ventures Laboratory. He pushes the boundaries of design and technology every day and challenged the attendees to do the same for the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Industry. Discovery and creating a better future only happens when people challenge the norms and envision something better and different. Pablos challenged CSI to think a new way: be innovative, inventive, and embrace various perspectives.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

The Convention ended on Friday with the CSI Annual Meeting. In addition to recognizing award winners, there were two items of business that the membership considered and voted on. The first item was a Resolution brought by the Oklahoma City Chapter regarding a proposed revision to the method of electing Institute Directors. After discussion, this resolution was voted down by the members.

The second item was a Request for Consideration of Other Business brought by the Institute Board regarding the possibility of a Virtual Annual Meeting. There were several comments and concerns expressed by Members: the Annual Meeting should be both an in-person event and a virtual event (not just one or the other), ensuring that security and Membership verification happens so any voting is secure, and comments that CSI needs to move forward with technology. After discussion, this Request was approved by the Membership. The next steps will be for the Board to explore options for the Annual Meeting. The Membership will have to vote on a Bylaws changes to implement any recommendations made by the Board.