

2010 Annual C.A.S.H. Conference Evaluation

February 22-25, 2010

Sacramento, CA

| Did you find the conference beneficial? | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yes | 118 | 97% | |
| No | 4 | 3% | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, somewhat, it would help if you repeated sessions at different times. • It would have been more so had there been more school districts present. • I was unable to be an attendee due to the cost of the conference. I was only a presenter and then had to leave the conference. • C.A.S.H. is the best venue for not only information, but networking with agencies, districts, counties and consultants. The conversations are where the real connections take place. • DSA Closeout was exceptional. • It was my first C.A.S.H. Conference and I found it to be extremely informative and very beneficial to both the district I work for and myself personally. • Wish attendance had been better, but content was good. • Somewhat beneficial, as a way to reconnect with existing contacts. • Not as beneficial as in previous years but then again there is no money to talk about. • Interaction between state officials and experienced school district facilities directors clearly demonstrated the ongoing challenges State and local officials face to benefit each other rather than put at disadvantage. C.A.S.H. is a great forum for this dialogue. It was my first time, although I've worked on K12 facilities for nearly 20 years. • Many sessions do not have enough valuable information to fill the full time. • Many of the seminars were too shallow in depth and content especially some of the "green" seminars • Networking is the key to this event, but the seminars and program are excellent as well. • Liked the seminar on LEAN and green construction. • Need more school district speakers rather than consultants. If you have trouble getting district speakers, reducing their conference fee should be considered. • Networking, always something new to learn. • Absolutely! • Great networking opportunities. • Very timely information all around. • I was a speaker and enjoyed the panels. | | | |
| Value of Information Received from: | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Workshops | 7% | 53% | 40% |
| | 9 | 64 | 48 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of time to attend workshops. • A lot of the same as in years past. • Keep up the AIA CEU's with HSW and SD credits. • Very relevant information. • Found maintenance and operations presentation by Steve Turner full of information. One of the best workshops I attended. Same for the energy efficiency panel very good information. • The P3 workshop was not about P3, but about joint-use, so that was disappointing. • M&O stuff very good. M&O Best Practices was great. Construction 101 needs a lot of help. • Workshops were good, but I had a situation where 2 workshops of a similar topic were scheduled for the same time. Better to alternate time slots. • Very interactive. | | | |

| Value of Information Received from: | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Roundtables | 13 | 41 | 21 |
| | 17% | 55% | 28% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not attend any roundtables. • At some of the roundtables it was difficult to enter into a discussion with the presenter. It was more like a mini workshop. • I didn't get a chance to attend the roundtables at full length; I was always at the workshops. • Presented at one. Attendance was low but those present seemed interested. • Wish we had a little more time. • After attending a round table discussion about modulars, I thought it was only a forum for relocatable salespeople. • I was disappointed the only roundtable I went to, the moderator didn't show up; fortunately we were able to salvage the discussion. • The first one on Tuesday for green building the moderator was not there. Although the 4 people that did show up had a great deal to talk about. • The roundtables differed in quality. I would rate them as 2.5. • Best way to have some good contact w/ presenters and ask very in-depth questions. | | | |
| Clinics | 11 | 41 | 25 |
| | 14% | 53% | 32% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended clinic on close-out audits. Info was very good. Would like to have attended others. • Wish they were not all at the same time. • These were a surprise in how much quality information can be shared in a short time. | | | |
| Information Received Prior to the Conference Via: | | | |
| U.S. Mail | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | 8 | 59 | 40 |
| | 7% | 55% | 37% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not receive any US Mail (6x) • Don't bother with mail. • Conference brochure was good. • Great communication. Thanks. | | | |
| C.A.S.H. Website | 7 | 46 | 59 |
| | 6% | 41% | 53% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well organized. • Sometimes a little hard to navigate. • Up to date info. • Excellent. • I would appreciate fewer e-mail notices. • Not very user-friendly. • Best format. • I found information on the web site. • Did not check. | | | |
| Email | 4 | 40 | 72 |
| | 3% | 34% | 62% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails were a little frequent. • Daily highlight emails were a good addition. • Almost too much from vendors, but I just did not open many of them. • Very well organized. • Liked the day at a glance e-mails. • Daily events to my Blackberry were great! • I would have appreciated more information sent to me prior to the conference. I would appreciate getting the summary schedule. Also electronic version of the conference brochure. Also ability to create my electronic "itinerary" by picking and choosing from brochure. • I depend on e-mail printed matter. • Excellent job keeping the conference on everyone's mind. | | | |

| General Sessions: | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Meals Provided | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | 22 | 61 | 35 |
| | 19% | 52% | 30% |
| <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beef was severely undercooked making it an un-enjoyable lunch. • It s always amazing that so many people can be fed so fast, with high quality service. • The meat at Tuesday lunch was really red and bloody, ewwww. • I know it's difficult to provide meals for so many, but the chicken meal on Wednesday, was pretty bad. Enjoyed the beef, but a bit under down for most people. • Wednesday lunch was iffy. • Please have an alternate when beef is served. • Meat was to rare. • Good vegetarian options this year! Thanks! • Thank you for Diet Colas at breaks!!! More cheese/fruit please. • Almost too much food. • Could have had the desert with lunch and not at the trade show. • Breakfast was great; I didn't eat lunch either day with the exception of the salads. • The food was probably the worst in 3 or 4 years. How about less amount of food and higher quality (it is lunch after all) • Thank you for having salads. Beef dry but the chicken was very good. • Some were surprisingly good! • Not a fan of the beef, but good attempt at something different. • Vegetarian option was poor. • Especially enjoyed lunch on Tuesday (beef). | | | |
| General Session Speakers | 34 | 53 | 23 |
| | 31% | 48% | 21% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm used to more motivational speakers. • Many of the political speakers gave no comments worth receiving--canned comments crafted to say nothing. Can we get someone who will really say something. • Missed it. • Keynote speaker on Tuesday did not seem prepared. • The lady from CDE at Tuesday's lunch started putting people to sleep, like last year. • Loved the design award being integrated with the lunch hour. • Need someone in a position you would want to listen to at the capitol, not staff. • Very poor on Tuesday's lunch. • Real stuff this year, real is good. • Missed having an opening speaker, but cost is a factor. Life is pretty grim in Sacramento now, although speakers were good presenters. • I was seated at the "rear" of the banquet room (farthest from podium). Could not hear the speakers. • I only attended the first one, and it was depressing - too much of "there's no money" and not enough of "but here's how to squeak a few dollars more out of the turnip". • No dynamic or motivational speaker this year. • The lady who filled in did an adequate job. • I am sure that the caliber of speakers is due to budgetary issues. • Timely, up-to-date information • California K12 arena benefits from Bill Savidge's concentrated involvement and excellent speaking ability to convey critical issues local school districts face in the design and construction process. • Excellent double-speak on Wednesday from the General Services representative. • Was only able to attend first general session. • Was not impressed with the speakers this year, quite disappointed, instead of getting someone from the State have someone from a school district speak about real live events that are taking place at their school. We need to relate not receive legislative updates. • Where was the motivational speaker when we most needed it? • The opening lunch speaker was OK, but not the advertised speaker and fairly depressing to listen to speak. • The lunch speaker was a droner. She was not prepared much and typical policy wonk speech. | | | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How about a little motivation and enthusiasm from our speaker at lunch! • Having the design awards at lunch was a huge improvement! • Very enthusiastic. • Different than past, did the best they could. | | | |
| Additional Conference Activities: | | | |
| Trade Show | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | 7 | 70 | 39 |
| | 6% | 60% | 34% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seemed to be less emphasis on getting people to the trade show this year... probably not so great for the vendors • Again, the value of the trade show depends on numbers. It was pretty good. • Disappointed that OPSC / DSA did not send representatives. • The trade show was excellent as usual. • Felt it was more geared to School Facilities as opposed to Architects. But, that perhaps is fitting. • The staff at the information desk was not very knowledgeable about the awards ceremony. • First time with a booth; poor attendance overall but of value. • I didn't attend the trade show this year; my focus was really about gaining information. • Appetizers should have been set in the middle of the room not at the back against the tables. • Bad timing - should NOT be on Monday. Vendors had VERY little attendance on Monday. All day Tuesday and 1/2 day Wednesday is better. • Few school people around. • Seemed sparse but o.k. • Great! The food was good too! • Made great contacts and well done. • Less turnout - sign of the times. It's always very worthwhile though. • More exhibitors than attendees. • Trade show food was gone when I got there. • I actually liked the smaller, more intimate atmosphere. It allowed more time to interact with the vendors. | | | |
| School Tour | 3 | 15 | 7 |
| | 12% | 60% | 28% |
| Leroy F. Greene Design and Planning Awards | 5 | 48 | 40 |
| | 5% | 52% | 43% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do these really add value? • Enjoyed seeing what others have built. • I like the awards at lunch! Very good and saves money for C.A.S.H.! Great idea. • Great to have them at lunch. • Loved the lunch time venue. • Good move to the luncheon. Program went a little long though. • Fascinating to see what others are doing/have done. • All award winning projects were centered around the CTE funding, except the Gym at River Bank. The Energy Tech School shined in combining CTE principals and the plunge into alternative energy systems and conservation principals. Great award choice! • It was nice to see what other schools were doing. • Can't really figure out the criteria for winners - there were no "design" architects on the jury. • I found the winners uninteresting. • Liked that this occurred during the lunch program instead of at breakfast. • Loved the change to lunch • Excellent presentation and in a short time to keep me interested. • I liked it at lunch. • I like the change of day/time. • I liked that they were during the lunch and it appeared the audience was engaged. | | | |

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|--|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Maintenance Activities | 3 | 31 | 26 |
| | 5% | 52% | 43% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoyed the M & O breakfast • I enjoyed the M&O breakfast this year. The speakers were excellent. • Great networking and ability to meet new people. • I attended the breakfast and found good discussion. • Great. | | | |
| Receptions | 6 | 38 | 36 |
| | 8% | 48% | 45% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially the Leadership Academy alumni reunion and reception which I am very interested in attending in the future. • Why do the Monday night reception at all? So few people are there. I would rather have lunch on the last day. • Very nice, thank you • The C.A.S.H. Leadership Reception was excellent. • Liked them • We need more receptions. How about ending with one! • Great. • Fantastic as always | | | |
| Hotel Accommodations: | | | |
| | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Reservation Procedure | 1 | 19 | 69 |
| | 1% | 21% | 78% |
| | | | |
| Check-In/Check-Out Process | 0 | 22 | 71 |
| | 0% | 24% | 76% |
| | | | |
| Cleanliness | 2 | 14 | 77 |
| | 2% | 15% | 83% |
| | | | |
| Overall Satisfaction with Hotel | 2 | 15 | 72 |
| | 2% | 17% | 81% |
| | | | |
| Where Did You Stay? | | | |
| Hyatt Regency | | 48 | 47% |
| Sheraton Grand | | 30 | 29% |
| Embassy Suites | | 1 | 1% |
| Marriott Residence Inn | | 5 | 5% |
| Other, please specify | | 18 | 18% |
| | | | |
| Additional comments regarding the overall conference. | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always beneficial. • As usual, a well run Conference by the C.A.S.H. staff. • It was difficult to justify the total conference cost. • The conference is definitely one of the most expensive on my calendar. I'm not sure that the offerings are worth the comparatively high price of admission. While I would love to see decreased fees all around, it is most important to provide assistance for school districts. Everyone wins when more schools are represented at the conference. • C.A.S.H. needs to get more schools people at the conference, not just consultants. I suggest that you lower the rates for district personnel significantly, and charge the rest of us more. (I'm an architect.) The people who really need the information from the conference aren't able to attend because of district budgets. An idea: offer grants or scholarships to district people, paid for by a fund created by consultants; that way there isn't a direct conflict of interest created by paying for attendance directly. | | | |

- I definitely felt that there were fewer workshops than previous. Is that the case? It felt smaller, but that's okay, due to the times. I felt that there were sufficient school districts attending.
- If C.A.S.H. continues to charge for public employees at the current schedule I would expect attendance to be a problem. Many districts have eliminated conferences for classified managers.
- General tone was mellow considering the overall economic picture; school districts should have been allowed some financial incentives to attend.
- Construction 101/201 was good.
- The information is often repetitive, dominated by consultants too busy selling themselves, and it appears often thrown together at the last minute. Example the future school facility sessions had nothing but generalities that we've been hearing about for 10 years.
- Great conference that provided districts with good information for austere financial times. This too shall pass!
- Why was there no workshop/roundtable on new OPSC audit requirements on Tues or Wed?
- Conference was great. I wish that my District could have afforded more than a one-day session.
- There seemed to be very few district people there and a lot of vendors.
- With budget cuts at so many districts, there did not seem to be as many school personnel attending this year. Typically the C.A.S.H. conference has been a great place to network with districts and spend some one on one time with clients.
- Great networking opportunity. Terrific to have a lower attendance for the intimacy of talking easily to so many people and the vendors at their show about the products - I'd pay a higher conference rate to retain the reduced attendance.
- During this scary budgetary time in California, forums providing constructive open dialogue between State officials, school districts and the design professional that support them is CRITICAL. C.A.S.H. provides that forum.
- Having the golf tournament prizes given out at the trade show is not good. Microphones were not allowed to be used because the vendors complained it was too loud the year before. We had some people think the prize winners would be able to be heard over a loud speaker so they visited the vendors and then missed the drawing completely.
- I loved it!
- Great conference! Let's do it again!
- C.A.S.H. provides excellent and invaluable support for me as a school facilities professional.
- The cost of the conference has become excessive. I have been attending for nearly 20 years. I am not sure we can continue our participation given the high cost.
- I enjoyed the Conference. It is well put together and informative, I continue to attend year after year. Sometimes the information is repetitive but it works.
- Where were the DSA regional staff? With the lower attendance, we would have had time to meet with them.
- A suggestion would be to organize and schedule more informal receptions.
- Need more schools folks to attend.
- Budget crisis is causing the conference to loose momentum. Price is a killer.
- Beneficial for schools looking to build.
- The C.A.S.H. support staff is great!
- The Annual C.A.S.H. Conference is always excellent & has educational workshops, a trade show, and great networking opportunities.
- Too bad the attendance was reduced. Maybe costs and days can be reduced to get more people there.
- May be time to back to Doubletree...not enough attendees for convention center
- It was timely and well put together. Great work.
- Too expensive.
- As a speaker and district employee, it seemed disrespectful to not allow attendance for the day but rather, I would have had to pay the day cost of \$500 for half a day (since I was speaking on a panel for the first half). I had not planned to attend due to budget, but drove up just to speak. 4 hours of driving and time spent preparing for participating, but no complimentary pass??? It would have been nice to be able to spend some time with colleagues in some workshops or clinics rather than being kicked out. I may sound bitter, I am not and will return but, it seemed really odd.
- Overall a very worthwhile conference.