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Speaker Daniel Parolek makes case for “Missing Middle Housing”

Aging Boomers want a different kind of housing than earlier generations – more walkable, urban environments that foster human interaction and allow easy access to nearby amenities.

Architect Daniel Parolek, the next speaker in The Tomorrow Plan 2016 Speaker Series, will give a talk Dec. 16 in Des Moines on how the region can meet these demands with “Missing Middle Housing,” a range of multi-unit or clustered housing types compatible in scale with single-family homes while supporting walkable urban living.

“The needs are shifting for a significant share of the region’s residents as they age,” said Kent Sovern, state director for AARP Iowa. “As a region we can choose to respond to their needs, including a broader range of housing options. We can create the kind of walkable, urban environments where the 50-plus population can live their best lives – and spend their money – engaged in the community. We see this as an incredible opportunity.”



Parolek’s presentation is at 8 a.m. Friday, December 16, at the Olsen Center at Des Moines University, 3200 Grand Ave., Des Moines. His remarks are the keynote for the 2016 annual meeting of the Greater Des Moines Age Friendly Initiative report to the community. The meeting is free to attend and open to the public. Complimentary continental breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. Please RSVP online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/DSMlivable> or by calling 1-877-926-8300.



THE TOMORROW PLAN
SPEAKER SERIES 2016





ABOUT: Daniel Parolek, AIA, is a principal at Opticos Design in Berkeley, California. He is a nationally recognized thought leader in architecture, design, and urban planning, specifically in terms of creating livable, sustainable communities and buildings that reinforce them. He is a leading practitioner of Form-Based Coding, a revolutionary new approach to zoning about which he co-wrote what's been called "the definitive handbook," and he is a founding board member of the Form-Based Codes Institute. With a strong commitment to sharing knowledge, he has taught several hundred advanced-level students through the Form-Based Codes Institute's ongoing courses, and regularly teaches workshops on New Urbanism and Smart Growth, Missing Middle Housing, Coding, and Urban Living.

ABOUT: The Age Friendly Greater Des Moines Initiative is a community-based effort designed to ensure that the Greater Des Moines, Iowa, area incorporates the infrastructure, design and community resources that will be needed to accommodate the region's growing 50+ population. A 30-member advisory panel guides the initiative and represents a number of community, government and civic organizations. Leadership from the City of Des Moines, Des Moines University, Aging Resources of Central Iowa and AARP Iowa collaborate on the day-to-day administration of the project.

ABOUT: The Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series is an implementation strategy of The Tomorrow Plan, a plan for the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines, as a resource to community leaders to learn best practices from some of the country's leading thinkers. The 2016 Speaker Series will touch on a wide range of topics related to creating a high quality of life in metropolitan areas, including the sharing economy, the effects of transportation and housing on public health, walkability, public transit and more. The series is organized by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. For more information, please visit www.dmampo.org/the-tomorrow-plan/2016-speaker-series/.