

Phoenix

OPINIONS

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Editorials represent the position of *The Arizona Republic*, whose Editorial Board consists of Phil Boas, Richard deUriarte, Jennifer Dokes, Cindy Hernandez, Kathleen Ingley, Doug MacEachern, Joel Nilsson, Dan Nowicki, O. Ricardo Pimentel, Robert Robb, Paul Schatt, Linda Valdez, Ken Western and Steve Benson.

EDITORIAL

Opportunities abound for urban intellectual

Our stand: Take a look at downtown for ways to be happier, more aware

The downtown worker went to hear an urban expert: Nan Ellin, an associate professor in the Arizona State University School of Architecture and Environmental Design and an accomplished scholar in urban form.

She spoke in general themes and offered specific, vivid examples.

"We need more people downtown 24 hours a day, seven days a week," she told the group, which had gathered at the ASU Downtown Center campus. "More housing downtown would not only increase the amount of people walking downtown, it would also decrease the number of workers who commute."

Ellin talked of building links connecting distinct places important to city life. She explained how different elements of the city can coexist side by side, adding to the richness of life. Visit Piastewa Peak, she advised. Take in the different elements: The desert vegetation, the dry washes meandering to the lush Biltmore area; downtown high-rises in the distance, with South Mountain and the blue sky in the background.

An impressive image, the office worker agreed.

How lucky he was to hear the professor's talk.

But there's a larger truth too: How much ASU's extended campus has added to the cultural, intellectual and social life of the city.

Practically every week of the summer, there's a brown bag lunch lecture or a panel discussion. Oh, some of the topics are a bit highbrow. Yet much of the summer program involves practical stuff for busy workers: "Secrets of Successful Organizing" and "The Importance of Personal Skills in Career Success."

Clearly, the ASU campus in the Mercado, at Fifth and Monroe streets, has brought intellectual stimulation and energy to daily life in our city's downtown.

But so has the Phoenix Public Library, which similarly offers occasional lectures, art exhibits and Thursday "lunch talks," often celebrating the diverse cultures that make up our city. These normally attract decent audiences, but most of us overlook them in our daily workday and commuter rush.

As ASU's commitment extends beyond Tempe, to ASU West and to downtown, these community-minded events will arise even more.

We will all be richer, happier and more aware.

PRO

Employ
at a Wa

Lit
of
los

F
of s
mov
new cru

Found
Ark., in
world's l
1 million
though tl
pany, its
somehov
of femin

They
against v
courage
keep wor
this not a
which if
the large
pay and
worked a

Declar
cluded c
promotio
Hooters
by variou
role of th

Wal-M
statemen
corporate
point out
women's
and that
of womer
The ca