



# The Role of Humanities in Urban Development

## Humanities and the Urban Environment Lecture Series

### A Comparison of Latin and North American Cities

Academics exploring human experience in urban places focus on many issues, including sense of place, sustainability, cognitive maps, and effects of environmental stress on human performance. No matter what our academic training, we start from the premise that all people receive objective inputs from whatever environment they are in and make them personal and relative by assessing scale, perspective and abstraction/symbolization.

Culture is such an intrinsic part of who we are it is difficult to step outside that skin and see the myriad ways it affects our daily lives. One way people can become more aware of the deep-seated effects of their own culture is to step into another culture that differs from theirs in ways that can be subtle as well as obvious. To that end we will explore urban development in two major Latin American cities — Caracas, Venezuela, and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Robert Ernst has lived and worked as an urban planner in both, and will relate his perceptions of those environments to a composite United States city.



Featuring  
**Robert Ernst, Ph. D.**

**April 20, 2011**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Green Library, Room 220**

This event is free and open to the public.

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