

Mr. Orville Simpson II
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The educational model, of course, could also be used promotionally to excite interest in the possibility of actually building Victory City--a project that really sets the adrenalin and thought-processes flowing. The more numerous the urban professionals who become familiar with the project (particularly during the impressionable years of their college education), the more likely its implementation might be, and the more widely its concepts will be disseminated. The educational model would advertise the project to the very people who might eventually work on it.

I see the educational model as taking two possible courses: first, using the ~~incomplete parts of your own design as student projects~~ (most usefully, I think, in the cartographic laboratory or design studio); secondly, using the Victory City designs as a launching-pad into well-argued research about the city of the future, or what I would call the study of "urban futures." Certain professors in relevant disciplines would have to be convinced that the student project approach was feasible--that it produced the kinds of skills and knowledge that they were expected to implant in their students, and that such projects could be squeezed into an already brimming curriculum. I feel confident that some of my colleagues could be so persuaded, but it would take time to reorganize their courses and assignments. At the University, I'm afraid that we have to organize and schedule courses months in advance.

The more immediately realizable prospect, in my view, would be to try placing the Victory City project, which is very specific in its details, within the broader, less specific theme of future urban development, ideally through a conference or forum that would initially involve a small number of UC faculty members, and perhaps a few others. In the longer run, it will be faculty members who arouse the interest of students, and it should therefore be faculty members who are first familiarized with the Victory City concept. For that reason, I would like to propose such a conference for your consideration, and the consideration of your Foundation's trustees.

~~With your support, I would like to invite three or four speakers to a day-long conference, perhaps on a Saturday next spring, to present what they foresee as "The Future of Cincinnati."~~ That may not be the conference title finally chosen, but it will serve for the moment to illustrate what I propose. The day might be divided into three two-hour sessions, during each of which a speaker would present his or her prognostications. A discussion involving the audience would follow, and the speaker would round out the session by responding to questions and comments. Speakers would be expected to prepare in advance a written version of their remarks, and the audience's contributions to the discussion would be tape-recorded. I very much hope you will agree to the publication of both the prepared papers and an edited transcript of the discussion. The report of the conference could then be distributed to those institutions and community leaders whose influence on the future of Cincinnati seems beyond question. As a title page for the report, I would propose the following: "The Future of Cincinnati--Proceedings of a Conference at the University of Cincinnati, sponsored by the Orville Simpson II Foundation."