

PROGRAM SESSIONS

Registration and Networking Breakfast

7:30 - 8:30 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Breakfast
Sponsored by:



Morning Concurrent Sessions

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Ballroom 1

Cleveland's North Coast Lakefront: A Vision for All Clevelanders

Allison Lukacsy-Love, AICP | Dan Shinkle | Sandra Madison | Hilda (Iny) Velez

In 2022, new City of Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb announced a bold and transformative vision for a lakefront that creates a welcoming destination that belongs to everyone. The session will discuss the overall Lakefront vision and focus on the planning process, the guide for unlocking and reclaiming the lakefront and enabling inclusive economic development, blending mixed-use investment with public space through a community-driven and City Planning Commission-adopted plan. The focus will be on lessons learned and successes in using creative engagement methods and tools with the ethos of listening first, and design second. There will also be a discussion about the power and significance of partnerships, building alignment and trust in the community, and project coordination with multiple consultants and projects underway simultaneously.

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Ballroom 2

Your Gateway to Opportunity: Master Planning Garfield Heights

Rachel Novak, AICP | Matthew Burke | Janice Tubbs

This dynamic session will allow panelists from the City of Garfield Heights to share their experiences, dive into continued implementation success stories, and answer questions in an informal setting regarding the City's recent 2022 Master Plan process with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Participants can expect to learn about planning in a First Suburb and the challenges faced with limited resources, the strength and resiliency of residents and businesses in Garfield Heights, and how tapping into the need and desire for change led to the Master Plan seen and used today. The conversation will be facilitated by Rachel Novak, AICP, Senior Planner of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Valley View Conference Room

Achieving mixed-use, walkable development with your current zoning code!

Robert N. Brown, FAICP | Kathryn E. Weber, Attorney

Today, many communities recognize the competitive advantages of mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development. Many households are now seeking neighborhoods that are more walkable and less dependent on automobile travel. Many of these communities want to promote this mixed-use walkable development without discarding their current zoning code and starting from scratch with the complexities and new terminologies of a "form-based" zoning code. This session will describe how current "Euclidian" zoning codes can be amended to achieve the desired mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development with a variety of housing types that meet the needs of diverse households.

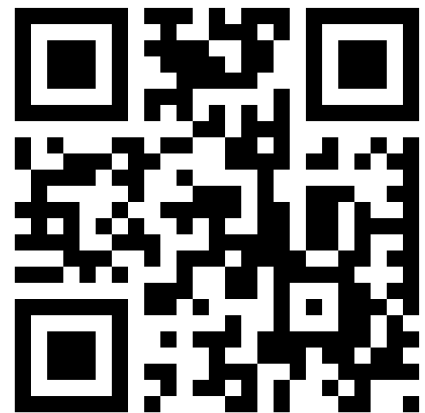
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | Maple Heights Conference Room
A Visionary Reinvestment Plan for the Lee Road Commercial Corridor
Kara O'Donnell, AICP | Joyce Braverman | Nancy Lyon-Stadler, PE, PTOE

The Lee Road Action Plan is a visionary reinvestment plan for the Lee Road commercial corridor south of Van Aken Boulevard, in the heart of two predominately Black neighborhoods that aims to transform it into a thriving commercial district that is attractive, walkable, and bikeable. For many decades, residents have felt neglected by their leaders, left out of the greater Shaker community, and overlooked for the investment they saw elsewhere, creating government distrust. For the last decade, the City has dedicated City staff to creating sustained engagement, supporting neighbors, fostering partnerships, and building trust with those who have mistrusted the government. The multi-pronged engagement approach used here is transferable to other communities with underrepresented populations. We'll also share our strategy for tackling implementation that is logical and doesn't overburden staff's ability to keep the ball rolling.

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Ballroom 1
Zoning for Infill Development: Addressing Barriers to Development
Jennifer Kuzma | Patrick Hewitt, AICP | Ashley Holloway

The communities of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium are historic, walkable, and affordable places to live; however, largely as a result of recent demolition work, these communities also have more than 5,000 vacant single-family lots scattered in existing neighborhoods. This provides a tremendous opportunity for infill housing in these neighborhoods, but outdated zoning regulations can impede building on these lots. Over two years, the First Suburbs Consortium, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, and local communities including the City of South Euclid have partnered to address these zoning challenges. In this session, learn about the zoning issues identified by this partnership and the free tools produced to help address them. These include a checklist for how to assess your code, a strategy guide for how to approach local code updates, a tool that helps communities test zoning changes, a guidebook on approaching design guidelines, and approaches to incentivizing infill. Learn how recent updates to the City of South Euclid single-family zoning code has improved the path to bring infill housing to South Euclid in 2024.

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9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Ballroom 2

Revealing Invisible Work: How working WITH simultaneously learns from history and promotes futures

Alex Pesta, AICP | Shelley Freed

Effective community engagement continues to challenge our collective work. This session will outline City Architecture and (Re)Start Smart's approach to creating spaces where working WITH agencies, consultants, community activists, non-profit organizations, and other influencers is the best way to conduct this work. WITH Leadership is a program created by this session's co-presenters. We will introduce tools developed specifically for multiple audiences ranging from elected officials to individual residents. Additionally, we recognize that no matter how intentional we implement this approach, some fight the process. This session will include what work is done WITH groups, referred to as 'invisible work'. This concept does not refer to a lack of transparency but recognizes and celebrates that much of the work done by strategists, agencies, planners, and designers is invisible to most. We are confident this sentiment is universal in this work. AND, we will demonstrate that it is good for you and your careers. The session will be humor-based - we have to be able to laugh at this serious work. Have you ever wondered what might happen when a city planner and strategist spend time trying to figure out how to get great sh\$t done with the leaders we are all given? This session will provide guidance for the next time(s) attendees encounter that thought. We will spend time together discussing how our work with corporations' leadership teams has influenced city planning and community engagement processes. This is an interesting mix of perspectives that will make you laugh, react, think, and embrace invisible work.

**Ballroom 2
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9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Valley View Conference Room

Affordable Housing 101

Geoff Milz, AICP

"Affordable Housing" is an issue that faces nearly every community in America, but it is often poorly understood by elected leaders and community members. This presentation will provide answers to the questions of what affordable housing is and how affordable housing is produced and financed. After attending this presentation, all attendees will be better equipped to engage in housing policy discussions in their communities. Attendees will learn: - How the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) works; - What a Housing Choice Voucher is and how they are used; - What a Project Based Voucher is and how they are used; - Why there always seems to be a gap in financing affordable housing deals; - The importance of State and Local sources of funding for affordable housing; - and much more! Learning Objectives 1. Upon completion, participant will be able to describe to their elected officials and communities what affordable housing is, who affordable housing is for, and how affordable housing deals come together. 2. Upon completion, participant will be able to describe to their elected officials and communities the tools used to develop affordable housing. 3. Upon completion, participant will be able to describe to their stakeholders what Annual Median Income is and why its important to the affordable housing conversation in their community.

APA CLEVELAND'S ANNUAL PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOP



9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Maple Heights Conference Room

Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan: Implementation Stage

James Sonnhalter | Trevor F. Hunt, AICP | Jason Stangland, PLA, LEED AP, ASLA

Speakers from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, and SmithGroup will highlight the Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan which reflects input from six lakefront municipalities, private lakefront property owners, public agencies and stakeholders, and the general public. The Plan represents a strong public-private partnership of mutual interests in shoreline protection and equitable public access to it, and recommends Focus Areas that will become the catalytic built examples that will bolster future expansion and realization of the plan. The Euclid Beach Connector project will be the first of these project built with construction anticipated to begin in 2024. The presenters will highlight equity, access and resilience outcomes achieved through the plan while discussing public engagement, funding strategies, and the overall implementation process and timeline.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Ballroom 1

Let's Party at the Pier! Programming + Design = Great Public Space

Arin Blair, AICP | McKenzie Spriggs

Creating inclusive public space does not stop with design. Programming and events - who is featured, how it is promoted, when it takes place, and how it's celebrated - all contribute to creating an audience that feels welcome and invited to be there. In this session, learn how Jackson Street Pier, in operation since 1900 as a parking lot and waiting area for oncoming ferries, was transformed in 2019 into the City of Sandusky's premier open space (and winner of a 2022 Great Places in Ohio APA award!). The design of Jackson Street Pier brings the community together outdoors and enjoy live music, movies, speakers, vendors, and more. This flexible space invites people throughout the day to enjoy a walk, watch the sunset, go fishing, or throw a picnic. Events and programs produced by the city and local partners in 2021-2022 included Juneteenth festival and fireworks display, free concert series including Grammy-award winning Sugarhill Gang and local star The Voice finalist Crystal Bowersox, Winterfest, ArtWalks, Taste of Ohio Wine Festival, Ohio Bike Week, Movies by the Bay free movie series, and many more. Use our story to gather inspiration for the collaboration and programming you are working toward in your transformational public spaces.

**Ballroom 1
Sponsored by:**



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Ballroom 2

Driving Change: Coalition-Building for Corridor Transformation

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris, AICP, LEED AP | Maximilian Upton | Nora Anderson, PE, PTOE

Our nation's commercial corridors are broken. Designed to prioritize vehicular movement, they have become placeless strongholds of inefficient land use, aggressive driving and seas of asphalt. Recognizing that our infrastructure can do more to serve our communities, visionary leadership at the City of North Olmsted has begun to chart a different course for the Lorain Road Corridor; one that favors coalition-building and collaboration among a wide range of partners. This session will provide insights into the changes that are necessary to transform these corridors, why these changes are critical, and the importance of project partnerships in pursuing funding.

Friday, April 26, 2024 | Independence Conference Center

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11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Valley View Conference Room

Canton's Shorb Neighborhood Plan: How One Plan is a Spark Igniting Positive Change Beyond the Plan Boundaries

Nancy Lyon-Stadler, PE, PTOE | Donn Angus, ASLA, APA, SAME, LEED

The City of Canton, together with community agencies, anchor institutions, developers and foundations, created a plan to transform the Shorb neighborhood, strategically located between downtown and adjacent anchor institutions. After decades of disinvestment, the neighborhood was characterized by poverty, crime, and vacant and blighted properties. Recognizing its potential, the neighborhood plan integrates land use strategies and transportation infrastructure improvements, grounded in economic analysis, to revive the neighborhood. Strategies centered around improving housing options and integrating affordable housing while leveraging opportunities for economic development. The guiding principles reinforce the need to respect and address neighborhood needs without displacement and gentrification. The plan defines five priority and six secondary investment areas, with 67 prioritized recommendations including the "first dominoes" and 27 funding strategies. With its implementation, the plan is stimulating transformation and economic development. Since its adoption, the driving positive change beyond the neighborhood boundaries. This session will review plan development and elements that are fully transferrable to other communities, along with subsequent actions that are transforming Canton, including creative strategies that have motivated significant private investment.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Maple Heights Conference Room

Reflections on the Vision for the Valley

Arthur Schmidt | Jim Haviland

Vision for the Valley was a comprehensive study of the Cuyahoga River Valley. Adopted by the Cleveland City Planning Commission in 2021, the study kicked off in 2019, incorporating 100 stakeholders, a wide range of governmental, regional, and non-profit agencies, and many community engagement sessions that gathered input from Cleveland residents and regional visitors. This session will be constructed in two parts. The first will highlight the planning process, which developed the plan's purpose lens, components, focus areas, and 84 strategies for action. Special attention will be given to how the project team navigated the challenges of stakeholder engagement, addressing equity in the river valley, and pivoting community engagement during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. What lessons are still being applied will also be discussed. The second part will highlight the 34 strategies that have either been completed or are in progress since adopting the plan. The presenters will highlight these action steps and address the current challenges and successes. The presenters will also engage the session attendees in a question-and-answer period.

Keynote Address & Luncheon

12:15 PM - 1:45 PM | Ballroom 3

'This is Akron, not ___': Urban Planning and the Anti-Urban Impulse in Akron

Kyle Julien



In Akron, as in many mid-sized cities, efforts to foster urbanism are frequently met with skepticism, distrust, and at times hostility. Even modest plans to restore moderate housing density in neighborhoods, make room for more transportation options, or reduce parking are viewed by many in the city as attempts to introduce something alien to Akron's character. This is Akron, not Cleveland, not Chicago or Brooklyn.

This ambivalence about being a city has a long history in Akron, stretching back to its nearly overnight transformation into an industrial center in the early twentieth century, and is evident in how the city has been planned and built out since then. For over a hundred years, Akron's planners and developers have worked hard to create places that turn away from the city, neighborhoods in the city that are set apart from it.

This anti-urban impulse has defined the city's development and the context for planning in Akron today. This presentation will look back over past planning efforts in Akron that exhibit this reluctance to be a city, the development patterns that have followed, and how this contradiction continues to shape Akron today. It will also share current planning efforts in Akron and how the Planning Department is taking this anti-urbanism into account as it works with residents, stakeholders, and developers to position Akron as a successful twenty-first century city.

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ENMISSION

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Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Ballroom 1

Creative Uses of Green Stormwater Infrastructure that Incorporate Community Engagement and Funding Strategies

Kara Hamley O'Donnell, AICP | Chris Hartman | Jessica S. Cotton, GIP | Ivan Valentic

A presentation sharing the creative use of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in planning projects, some of which were aided through green infrastructure funding utilizing Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORS) Green Infrastructure Grant Program for the Combined Sewer Area. It will include several examples of projects that have successfully reduced water flowing into the storm sewers and describe how the community was engaged before and after installation. A case study in Shaker Heights will share details of a successful, year-long focused community engagement effort in the predominately Black Moreland Neighborhood. Extensive resident engagement with multiple City departments led the City to utilize green infrastructure to address resident safety, environmental inequities, beautification, and traffic calming. It included a successful funding strategy that included three grant funding sources. Lessons learned, avoiding pitfalls, and maintenance expectations will be discussed.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Ballroom 2

Building Community 'Round Roundabouts -- A Deep Dive Into a Controversial Roadway Project

Adam Davenport | Calley Mersmann | Robert Mavec

In 2017 and 2018, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the City of Cleveland, and the Detroit Shoreway and Ohio City neighborhoods engaged in a comprehensive planning process to understand Franklin Boulevard's crash and speed dynamics and make recommendations to calm traffic, improve safety, and increase bicyclist and pedestrian comfort along the corridor. This reflected a fundamental shift in approach to roadway safety in Cleveland: making physical changes to the road to change driver behavior. Staff held community meetings, open houses, and demonstrations to convince most (but not all) community members that roundabouts would work to create a safer neighborhood street. Planning staff had the foresight to trust the new infrastructure and data, as this was the first Cleveland project to incorporate more than one roundabout, which would alter the roadway for the betterment of the community.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Valley View Conference Room

Balancing Broadway: A CSU Studio Project

Shneur Kushner | Greta Thomas | Erica Tinnirello | Paul Triolo

Our session will be a deep dive into the comprehensive planning process for Downtown Lorain through the unique lens of a student-led project. Our presentation will include survey work, existing conditions, results, goals, recommendations, redevelopment proposals, and overall takeaways from the project. We will also note current projects in Lorain informed by our project recommendations and the in-house improvements by the City implemented as a direct result of our planning process. This project was awarded the 2023 APA Ohio Planning Award for "Planning Student Showcase".

APA CLEVELAND'S ANNUAL PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOP



2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Maple Heights Conference Room
The New Standard: Plan for Age Friendly, Plan for Equity
Patricia Newell | Gabrielle Smith

In Cuyahoga County, 30% of the population will be over 60. Planning for Age-Friendly communities focuses on creating opportunities for older adults to engage fully in civic and social life. But age-friendly planning should not be conducted in a silo. Rather, to be most successful and to benefit the greatest number of people it needs to be conducted under the broader umbrella of planning for livability in a more equitable way. This session will focus on the recent age-friendly strategic plan developed for Cuyahoga County. After its addition to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities in April 2022, Cuyahoga County, led by the Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS), kicked off a five-year planning process towards becoming a more livable community. This process shows how policies, projects, and programs designed to create more age-friendly cities have numerous co-benefits for persons with physical disabilities, mothers with young children, and those with vision impairments, among other historically marginalized groups.

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Ballroom 1
Youth Participation and Engagement in the Madison Park Master Plan
Meghan Chaney, AICP | Paul Triolo | Michelle Nochta | Mark Walter

The session will briefly describe the history and importance of Madison Park within the Lakewood community and summarize the Madison Park Plan process, including the various community engagement strategies employed. The project team will focus on the youth engagement project: how the schools were selected and engaged; the structure of the engagement project; and how feedback and insights from the children were gathered, tabulated, and presented within the plan. The session will also explore the ways the Madison Park Master Plan's recommendations were shaped and enriched by the information gained from this youth perspective: from the importance of natural open spaces to children's mental well-being to the impact that graffiti and other upsetting behaviors have on youth experience at parks and public spaces. Lastly, the session will explore lessons learned and how youth engagement could occur during the implementation phase of Madison Park improvements and other aspects of community planning. The session will feature planners from the City of Lakewood and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and a representative from Lakewood City Schools.

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Ballroom 2
Akron Civic Commons: Creating Accessible, Equitable and Welcoming Parks, Trails and Public Spaces Through Trust and Relationship Building
Daniel M. Rice | Grace Hudson | Sandy Saulsberry

Working in partnership and collaboration with City of Akron residents, Akron Civic Commons seeks to develop authentic relationships with residents, promote value creation, encourage socioeconomic mixing, and cultivate environmental sustainability through the co-creation, co-design and co-stewarding of accessible, equitable and welcoming parks, trails and public spaces.

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3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Valley View Conference Room
Greenprint Explorer

Elaine Price | Liam Leveto

The Cuyahoga County Greenprint, a comprehensive collection of web-based tools, serves as a vital resource for planners, environmentalists, and community leaders alike. This presentation delves into the innovative features of the Greenprint Explorer, powered by ArcGIS Experience Builder. Designed to facilitate informed decision-making, this interactive platform provides a visual feast, offering insights into natural and community assets through intuitive map interfaces. Join us as we navigate through this transformative tool, illuminating how it empowers stakeholders to make sustainable land-use decisions, foster environmental stewardship, and enhance the quality of life in Cuyahoga County.

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Maple Heights Conference Room
Conducting Parking Studies

Darryll Wolnik, AICP

Crash-course explanation of conducting parking studies as planners. Quick lit review of parking, Identifying problem areas, and how to plan/carry out for success. Using the parking study I completed as planning director in Granville, Ohio (Columbus area) as a guide, walk through steps and elements, and share what I learned throughout the process to create a great study with public engagement and buy-in from residents, businesses, and elected officials.

Workshop Reception and Networking Social

4:00 - 6:00 PM
Club Impulse (On-site)

Join us for a casual happy hour following a long day of learning and sharing. Registration includes one drink ticket, cash bar, and hors d'oeuvres.

After Hours Event
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