



APAPA2024



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PA Chapter of the American Planning Association

#### **2024 Annual Conference**

Sunday, October 13 – Tuesday, October 15 Erie, PA #APAPA24



American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter** 

Making Great Communities Happen

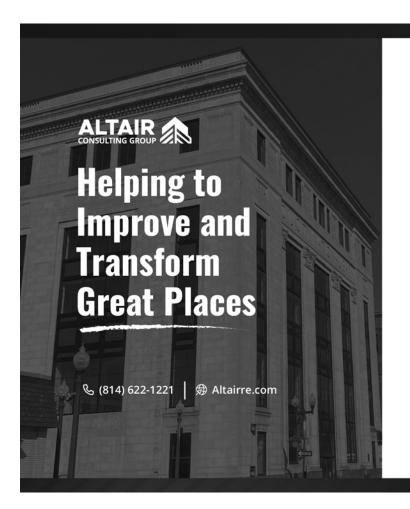
The largest annual gathering of Planners in PA!



We aspire to be a place that appeals to and retains people by enhancing the character and identity of what makes us special, our communities will inspire current and future generations to call the attractive, resilient, and welcoming places in our county home.







- Engage, Reimagine & Strategize Community, Municipal, Corridor, and Neighborhood Planning Services
- Organize for Impact Strategic Governance and Planning for Community and Downtown Development Corporations and Municipal Authorities
- ➤ Invest, Finance, & Close

  Assemble Complex Capital Stacks and Identify Financing Vehicles for Redevelopment and Community and Economic Development Initiatives
- Implement & Secure Provide Project Administration for Grant and Financing Compliance and Redevelopment Project Management



What's more exciting than an inspirational plan?

One that takes off running.

Connect with us to learn about our novel approach to the Implementable Comprehensive Plan — and how it could accelerate progress in your community.



We're hiring!

Scan here for details on how to join our growing team.





# YOURGUIDE

Conterence @ a Glance	5
Many Thanks	6
Featured Speakers	7
Conference Etiquette	8
General Conference & CM Information	8
Conference Planning Committee	9
Special Events	10
Mobile Workshops	12
Educational Sessions	15



American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter** 

Making Great Communities Happen

PA Chapter of APA President: **Leah Eppinger, AICP** 2024 Conference Chairs: **Amy McKinney, Zach Norwood** and **Matt Waldinger** 

PA Chapter of APA PO Box 4680 Harrisburg, PA 17111 info@planningpa.org

#### Conference

# **@AGLANCE**

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024**

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Registration
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions A
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break (coffee & tea)
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions B
5:15 PM	Meet at Sheraton lobby for transportation to Welcome Reception
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Erie Art Museum
Evening	Dinner on your own

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024**

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome & Introductions
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening Keynote with Phil Myrick
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Mobile Workshops
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions C
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break/Travel
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions D
12:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Luncheon, State of the Chapter and Annual Awards
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Break/Travel
2:00 PM – 4:45 PM	Mobile Workshops
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions E
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
3:45 PM – 5:15 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions F
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Evening Reception with Exhibitors
After 6:30 PM	Dinner on your own
Evening	Networking event hosted by Northwest Section

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024**

7:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Registration
7:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Introductions
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Plenary with Morgan Boyd, Theodore Martin, and Stacie Reidenbaugh
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Mobile Workshop
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions G
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon & Pitkin Lecture with Corrin Wendell
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Dessert with Exhibitors
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions H
3:00 PM	Adjourn

# **MANY**THANKS

#### Many thanks to our Sponsors, Exhibitors and Advertisers (as of September 20)

#### Diamond

- Crawford County Planning
- Erie County Planning & Community Development

#### **Platinum**

- Altair Consulting Group
- Erie Insurance
- Gannett Fleming
- Pashek + MTR
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- Michael Baker International
- Northwest Commission
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- University of Pennsylvania
- · Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

#### **Exhibitors**

- Altair Consulting Group
- Crawford County Planning
- E. Holdings Inc.
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#### **Friends**

- Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Vernon Land Use

#### In-Kind

· Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority

# **FEATURED**SPEAKERS



Monday, 8:15a-9:30a **Opening Keynote** 

Livability Reimagined: An Ecological Approach to Placemaking (8:30a – 9:30a)

PHIL MYRICK, Phil Myrick LLC CM | 1.00

Planners play a vital role in enhancing the livability of our urban and rural environments. When people love where they live it has enormous impact on local economies, physical and mental well-being, public safety, and social connectedness. This presentation starts with the premise that, like any living creature, people require the right habitat to thrive. We will explore various approaches to creating these enriching habitats, emphasizing an ecological approach to placemaking and showcasing examples where planning has led to remarkable transformations.





**Tuesday,** 8:15a – 9:45a

CM | 1.25

**Proactive PA: Insights on Planning Related Pending** Actions and Legislation (8:30a-9:45a)



MORGAN BOYD, Pennsylvania Department of Community and **Economic Development** 

**THEODORE MARTIN**, Pennsylvania Department of Community and **Economic Development** STACIE REIDENBAUGH, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

As communities across the Commonwealth work to address their changing demographics and physical places, policy shifts in Harrisburg are bubbling to the surface. For the first time in almost to two decades community planning, economic development, and housing are not only up for discussion on the floor of the general assembly, but are a priority in the Governors administration. Our panelists will share their insights on the conversations, administrative actions, and pending legislation that would impact planners, developers, and our communities.

#### Save the Date

2025 APA-PA Annual Conference October 12 - 14, 2025 Hilton Harrisburg Harrisburg, PA



**Tuesday**, 11:45a – 1:30p **Luncheon & Pitkin Lecture** 

#### **Youth Are Not the Future, But the Now** (12:30p – 1:30p)

**CORRIN WENDELL, AICP,** YEP! Youth Engagement Planning CM | 1.00

Young people have incredible excitement, eternal optimism, and a contagious spirit! They are naturally inquisitive, inclusive, helpful to others, imaginative, and full of wonder. YEP! believes that youth have the power to positively shape the future of all of our communities and this keynote will showcase how we have made it our mission to encourage young people to learn, create, and participate in activating change in the world.

YEP! creates opportunities for youth to meaningfully advocate for change in their own communities and built environments while simultaneously teaching planners about youth engagement. Youth are rarely considered as part of the planning processes, and planners are even more rarely trained in youth engagement. Yet, youth represent a sizable demographic within any community and youth engagement is critical to an equitable planning process. Doing the hard work of incorporating diverse youth voices into planning processes yields manifold benefits when it comes to building more equitable community engagement processes - and, additionally, recruiting a more diverse cohort of future planners. Empowering youth can begin bridging the engagement gap with historically marginalized communities.

Corrin will share YEP! experiences from engaging with over 7,000 youth nationally, including: Bringing diverse perspectives into all planning processes by engaging diverse youth populations; creating opportunities for youth to participate in advocacy and engagement; developing customized tools to involve youth in the local planning, including modifying resources for different age groups; effectively using youth input to craft plans; and messaging why investing in youth engagement is an essential part of the planning process. Corrin will showcase diverse perspectives that encourage planners to lead successful youth engagement efforts in their own communities!

# CONFERENCEETIQUETTE

The dress code for the conference is **business casual** attire.

Cell phones and other devices that make noise should be disabled during sessions. If you must take a call, please exit the session as quietly as possible and take the call in the corridor.

Room temperatures are difficult to regulate. It is advisable to dress in layers so you can add or remove a layer for your personal comfort.

The conference is a **no-smoking** event. Smoking is not permitted in any conference event, including mobile workshops.

Please be considerate of other conference participants who may have allergies or sensitivities to **fragrances**. If your fragrance is strong, please consider using less of it, or not using it during the day.

APA PA is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speakers you will hear.

# **GENERALINFO**

About the Main Speakers, Sessions and Certification Maintenance Credits

Application will be submitted to APA for approval of Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for all of the main speakers and most of the educational sessions at this year's conference. A total of 12 CM credits may be earned depending on session selections. Mobile workshops will have CM credit. And Sustainability/Resilience, Equity, Law and Ethics CM credits are offered.

The list of approved sessions will be posted on the PA Chapter website, www.planningpa.org, after approval is received from APA.

**Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled** because of low registration or unforeseen circumstances. Changes and cancellations will be noted in the Final Program which is distributed at the conference as well as on the Chapter website prior to the conference.

Following the conference, materials will also be available on the PA Chapter of APA website in electronic format.

The PA Chapter of APA is not responsible for the materials or opinions of the speakers you will hear.

Conference

# PLANNINGCOMMITTEE(\*co-chair)

Emerson Bannon, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Nancy Blimmel, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Hilary Buchanan, Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Tony Cunningham, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Joy Fronzoli, PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Abby Heidt, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Jessica Hilburn, Crawford County Planning Commission

Jessica Horan, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Audrey Knight, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Michael Lyson, Warren County Planning & Zoning

John McGranor, PA Department of Community & Economic Development

**Amy McKinney\***, Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development

Amy Murdock, Altair Consulting Group

**Zach Norwood\***, Crawford County Planning Commission

Denny Puko, Denny Puko, Planning Consultant LLC

Jackie Spry, City of Erie

Kristina Thomas, City of Hermitage Planning and Development

Matthew Waldinger\*, Millcreek Township Planning and Development

Katie Wickert, PA Department of Community & Economic Development





#### Sunday, 5:30p - 7:00p

#### Welcome Reception: Erie Art Museum

At 5:15p, meet in the lobby of the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel to get transported to the Erie Art Museum (20 E 5th, Erie PA 16507). The Museum houses a collection of over 8,000 objects—a mix of local and regional art, plus work by some of the biggest names in art history. The Erie Art Museum holds a LEED Gold certification and expresses its commitment to future generations through policies that assure and promote environmental sustainability. The Erie Art Museum is a proud partner to Erie Arts & Culture, a grantee of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and an Erie County Lead Asset as designated by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. This reception includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

#### Monday, 12:00a - 1:45p

#### Luncheon, State of the Chapter and Annual Awards Presentation

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of fellow Pennsylvanians who shape where we live, work and play! Join Craig Peiffer, Chair of the PA Chapter of APA Awards Committee, for an inspiring **Annual Awards** program. We will recognize the work of fellow planners, planning officials, and elected officials and their roles in planning Pennsylvania. PA Chapter of APA President, Leah Eppinger will present the State of the Chapter highlighting the Chapter's successes and key activities during 2024.

#### Monday, 5:30p - 6:30p

#### **Evening Reception with Exhibitors**

Monday's conference activities wrap-up with a reception with our Exhibitors. Take advantage of this opportunity to network with the Exhibitors and the other conference attendees. It's a great place to make plans to venture out and discover Erie!

#### Monday, 6:30p

#### **Planners Social**

Meet at Sheraton lobby at 6:30. There will be a bus that will run continuously until 8:00 PM. Planners Social will be at Brewerie at Union Station (123 W 14th Street). Every good planner has a team of colleagues to lean on. This social aims to connect planning professionals from all over the state for an evening of drinks, snacks and good conversations. This social is sponsored by Northwest Section and Michael Baker International. (Additional food and beverage will be available for purchase)



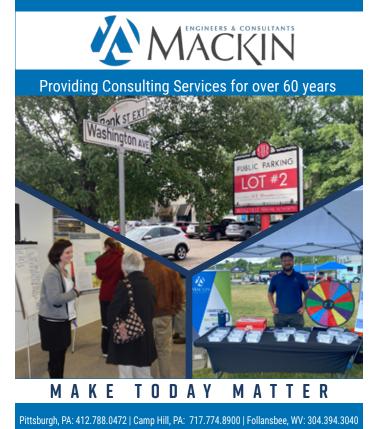




### Designing Solutions that Strengthen Communities

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All mobile workshops require an extra fee to cover transportation and other logistics. These workshops will be cancelled if sufficient participation is not reached. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for walking.

#### Monday, 10:00a - 12:00p

#### M1. Connecting Town and Gown: Leveraging Higher Education in Comprehensive Planning

#### CM | 1.75 Additional \$20 fee required

The Harborcreek Township Comprehensive Plan leverages the growth at Penn State Behrend and calls for stronger physical connections between the campus and the Township's Buffalo Road Town Square District. Knowledge Park at Behrend was designed and continues to grow as a place to bring forward-thinking companies together with faculty, staff, and students of Penn State for business and technology advancement. Most recently the Park announced the attraction of Kyocera AVX, which will add a 50,000-square-foot headquarters and manufacturing facility. The building is expected to be complete and in use by the end of 2024. The park houses 20 companies across growing sectors, employing 500+ people. The Park continues to expand and is currently in the planning and design phase of the Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness which will host the first full-service integrated heavy-haul battery testing facility in the nation.

Amy Murdock, AICP, Altair Consulting Group Chuck Peters, Altair Real Estate Services Brandi Rosselli, AICP, Mackin

#### Monday, 10:00a - 12:00p

#### M2. Downtown Erie: Making a Comeback

#### CM | 1.75 Additional \$20 fee required

This mobile workshop will include a tour of the properties within the footprint of the Erie Downtown Development Corporation which has developed more than \$100 million worth of properties in downtown Erie since 2017. The tour will provide an inside look at the EDDC's portfolio --- exploring successes, reflections, and opportunities ahead for revitalization of Downtown Erie. The tour will also provide a sampling of nourishment and libations from businesses within the EDDC footprint. Inspired, in part, by the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, visionary business, philanthropic and community leaders formed the EDDC in 2017, to transform the city of Erie's downtown core and spark revitalization across the region. The organization is in the process of completing 12 different projects to renovate, build and develop 478,000 square foot of space in downtown Erie. There are plans for a new \$15 million building in the space in between that was previously home to the Greyhound bus terminal building. That new building which will be called Flagship Commons is expected to provide a combination of retail space, open areas and 40,000 squarefoot of office space on the second and third floors that were originally planned to be apartments. The EDDC looks to expand its mission to beyond real estate to be an economic development arm for the city and provide support for entrepreneurs, vendors, and other developers.

Corey Cook, Erie Downtown Development Corporation Drew Whiting, Esq, Erie Downtown Development Corporation



Monday, 2:00p - 3:15p

#### M3. Tides of Change: Mobilizing the International Coastal Cleanup in Your Watershed

#### CM | 1.25 Additional \$10 fee required

Since 1972, the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) has been mobilizing people worldwide to remove trash from beaches and waterways, becoming a beacon of hope and inspiring global action to protect our watersheds. With the support of over 17 million volunteers globally, the ICC has successfully collected more than 350 million pounds of trash, demonstrating the power of collective effort. Erie County has proudly participated in this global initiative, engaging the community to remove thousands of pounds of debris from local waterways and coastlines. Just last year, Erie County diverted over 5,000 pounds of waste from contaminating our watershed. In this session, we will highlight the remarkable achievements of the ICC and Erie County's contributions. Attendees will also have the opportunity to make a tangible impact by dedicating 25 minutes to collect trash around the premises of the Bayfront Convention Center, replicating a mini ICC clean-up. Join us to learn, engage, and take action for a cleaner and healthier community. (This mobile tour requires individuals to wear closed toed shoes and comfortable clothing

Audrey Knight, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

Monday, 2:00p - 4:45p

#### M4. Successfully Deploying Gaming Revenue Through the Impact Investment Model

#### CM | 2.50 Additional \$25 fee required

Since its inception 15 years ago, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has programmed over \$58,000,000 in economic development grants and loans in Erie County using a nationally recognized impact investment model. ECGRA staff will deliver an overview of its programs and how they touch a significant number of problem areas Pennsylvania planners and municipal officials face. Key areas successfully addressed by ECGRA's grant programs are residential and main street blight, rural planning and development, entrepreneur support, underserved communities, arts and culture funding, outdoor recreation and parks funding, historic preservation, municipal efficiency, multi-municipal collaboration, small business financing, and university collaboration.

Tom Maggio, AICP, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority **Perry Wood, PhD,** Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority



Monday, 2:00p - 4:45p

#### M5. Help Us Create Safer Streets in Erie

#### CM | 2.50 Additional \$25 fee required

Erie has a transportation safety crisis. Over the last five years, 34 travelers died on Erie's streets, and another 157 had their lives turned upside down due to serious injuries from traffic crashes. To address these concerns, the City of Erie applied for and received a USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This spring and summer, the City will convene a multi-agency Safety Working Group and involve the public in analyzing traffic crashes in Erie and determining the factors that have led to these crashes. The purpose of this mobile workshop will be to directly involve conference attendees in developing solutions for traffic violence in Erie. Participants will travel to a location in the City - either a major intersection or a corridor - that has experienced a high frequency of severe crashes. While in the field, they will learn about crash history at that location, community input received to date, and potential safety countermeasures to address traffic safety concerns. They will then have the opportunity to offer suggestions on how those countermeasures could be applied in the community. This session will be highly interactive and will directly engage participants in the transportation safety planning process within the community context.

Jeff Riegner, AICP, PE, PTOE, RSP1, Kittelson & Associates, Inc. Jacqueline Spry, City of Erie

Tuesday, 10:15a - 11:30a

#### M6. Planning for Bluff Recession Strategies Against Climate Change Issues

#### CM | 1.25 Additional \$15 fee required

The session will travel to several monitoring sites on the coast of Lake Erie where bluff erosion is highly prevalent and where mediating initiatives have been implemented. The site will also explore coastal zone grant projects that have been implemented and the process of these grant projects from a planning perspective. A large part of these projects is the required planning to work with the constantly changing landscape of the bluffs. This session will explore the impacts of climate change on the lake front landscape and the strategies required to provide resilience against climate change impacts. Discussion of the use of natural resources to help mitigate against both toe erosion and groundwater seepage of the bluff that can be applied to any watershed facing impairment or erosion.

Robert Banks, Erie County Department of Planning **Shelby Clark,** PA Department of Environmental Protection



#### Sunday, October 13, 2024

**Registration Open** 1:00p - 5:00p

1:00p - 3:00p **Legislative Committee Meeting** 

2:00p-3:00p Concurrent Education Sessions A (1.00 CM)

#### A1. Climate Change Adaptation Planning in the Great Lakes

CM | 1.00 Sustainability/Resilience

The International Joint Commission (IJC) Water Quality Board (WQB) initiated the Climate Change Adaptation in the Great Lakes project to develop a robust community of practice and provide access to dynamic planning tools designed for local and regional governments to support climate resilience in Great Lakes communities. This project highlights issues primarily through the lens of small to medium-sized communities. There are many municipalities in the region that could benefit from an effort to share tools, networks, and guidance. These communities are faced with a complex situation to analyze, with limited resources for technical assistance, and could use help evaluating factors relating to key decisions about infrastructure investments to counteract and lessen climate change impacts. Accordingly, the WQB believes that this project could provide a great service in addressing and improving these circumstances. The primary output from this project will consist of climate change adaptation guidance for small to medium-sized communities in the Great Lakes. The guidance includes an overview of the purpose of the guide and toolkit; tips on how to get the most out of the resource; general steps to prepare for climate resilience; tools and case studies showing how other Great Lakes communities are preparing for resilience; guidance on and links to appropriate technical support and resources; educational resources that communities can use to help garner community and political support; and information on available funding for resilience and adaptation planning. Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc. has been retained as the contractor to support this effort, with Michael Baker International and LimnoTech as teaming partners. The project is scheduled to continue through the fall of 2024. It is anticipated that the guide and toolkit may be released around the time of this APA-PA conference; the presentation will include information on the current status of the guide.

Dawn Schilling PE, AICP, Potomac-Hudson Engineering

#### A2. BUILDing Capacity for Erie Neighborhood Revitalization

CM | 1.00 Equity

The BUILD Community Development Corporation is filling a critical gap in Erie's toolkit to deliver equitable neighborhood revitalization strategies at scale. Leaders of BUILD CDC are leveraging their mission alignment with the Hamot Health Foundation and their position as a trusted partner in the Wayne neighborhood to provide safe and affordable homes and much needed development capacity for neighborhood revitalization in the Erie community.

**Daria Devlin, Hamot Health Foundation** Tom Hardy, AICP, Altair Consulting Group Wyatt Schroeder, Bowling Business Strategies



#### A3. Implementing On-demand Microtransit in Rural Communities CM | 1.00

CATA will review the transition planning and implementation for "CATA Go" the on-demand microtransit service in the City of Titusville. Prior to July 2023, CATA operated fixed route services that covered less than half of the City of Titusville along with demand response reservation-based shared ride. Services in Titusville averaged 52 trips per day. With the transition to on-demand CATA Go, services now routinely average 98-105 trips per day with coverage throughout all of Titusville. CATA has been able to reinstate evening and Saturday service that was discontinued prior to the Pandemic.

**John Baughman,** Crawford Area Transportation Authority **Travis Siegel,** Crawford Area Transportation Authority

#### A4. Closing the Digital Divide: Broadband Expansion CM | 1.00

In this session we will share the strategies Erie County has utilized to expand broadband to the un- and underserved homes and business as a means to facilitate discussion about what is working or not working other communities. We will share our broadband expansion feasibility study as well as the process we took to engage internet service providers interested in building out in the Erie region. Via this roundtable discussion we will work to identify best practices to maximize the available funding for broadband.

Jessica Horan, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development Michelle Jaggi, Erie Area Council of Governments Tom McKinley, Looped Solutions

# A5. Building Together: Constructing Futures with Erie County's Whole Home Repair Workforce Development

Join us for an insightful session delving into Erie County's approach to community development through the utilization of DCED Whole Home Repair's Workforce Development project funds. In this presentation, we will explore the collaborative efforts between the Department of Planning and Erie County Community College to establish a new Construction Trades program. Representatives from Erie County Community College will be our guides through this transformative journey. Drawing from their experience and expertise, and also provide an overview of the inception, implementation, and achievements of the Construction Trades program that launched in 2024. Attendees can gain valuable insights to: learning about the strategic planning and coordination involved in creating a Construction Trades curriculum to address community's needs, discover the tangible outcomes and successes achieved through the program, including the empowerment of trainees with essential construction skills and the fostering of partnerships with local contractors, and gain foresight into the future direction of the Construction Trades program and how it aims to further enhance workforce development, promote economic growth, and cultivate a thriving community. This presentation offers a unique opportunity to explore a model of community-driven workforce development that not only addresses housing needs but also empowers individuals to build fulfilling careers in the construction industry. Whether you are a policymaker, educator, community leader, or industry professional, this session promises to inspire and inform your approach to community development and workforce training.

Ken Getschow III, Erie County Community College of PA **Guy Goodman,** Erie County Community College of PA Abby Heidt, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development

**PMPEI Meeting** 3:15p - 5:00p

**Concurrent Education Sessions B (1.25 CM)** 3:30p-4:45p

#### **B1.** Ethics Jeopardy

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Ethics)

How well do you know the AICP Code of Ethics? Find out by testing your knowledge of the AICP Code of Ethics against your colleagues in an interactive game of Ethics Jeopardy! Participants will respond to a series of questions on the AICP Code of Ethics to demonstrate their understanding of how the AICP Code applies to circumstances and trends in the practice of planning. Key points on the AICP Code of Ethics will be expounded upon to help explain answers to key questions. Join in with your colleagues and test your knowledge to see if you have what it takes to become an AICP Code of Ethics champion.

Scott Duncanson, AICP, ENV SP, LEED Green Associate, Gannett Fleming, Inc. Alexis Williams, AICP, PP, STV, Inc.

#### B2. A House Undivided: Bringing Stakeholders from the Public and Private Sector Together for Data-Informed **Housing Solutions**

CM | 1.25

The intensity of the housing crisis is growing. Land for residential construction is increasingly scarce, home prices are rising, and the public call for action is getting louder. This creates a unique opportunity to advance bold solutions, but leveraging this opportunity can feel daunting and politically untenable. Learn how the York County Economic Alliance is working with a broad coalition of stakeholders – from housing advocates to market-rate developers – to advance priority housing issues in a collaborative and data-driven way. Their "Housing Action Agenda" includes whole-market solutions, from investing in workforce development programs and a permanent day shelter to encouraging employer-led housing solutions and direct outreach to municipalities. Presenters will foster a dialogue with the audience through open-ended questions and interactive polling.

Silas Chamberlin, PhD, York County Economic Alliance Tim Staub, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

#### B3. Innovative Funding Strategies for Critical Infrastructure Maintenance in Erie County CM | **1.25**

The conference presentation will focus on Erie County's innovative approach to addressing critical transportation infrastructure needs despite not owning the infrastructure itself. Through strategic allocation of available funds, including the Local Use Fee program, Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund, and County Liquid Fuels, Erie County has been able to assist its 38 municipalities in maintaining their transportation assets. With a focus on critical bridge infrastructure, Erie County, Erie Metropolitan Planning Organization and PennDOT District 1 collaborate to prioritize and program funding. By leveraging funding sources and implementing strategic partnerships, Erie County demonstrates an effective model for addressing critical infrastructure needs despite fiscal constraints.

Emily Aloiz, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development Audrey Knight, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development



#### B4. Supporting Communities: Bridging the Gap between Underserved Communities and **Transportation Improvements**

CM | **1.25** 

In FY24, DVRPC launched a new program, Supporting Communities, which addresses a critical need by bridging the gap between community priorities and transportation funding opportunities, including support for both planning and implementation. DVRPC is responsible for developing the program of priority projects for federal transportation funding across the nine-county Philadelphia region. However, before a project can receive funding, it must be studied and recognized as a local priority. Many projects require significant resources for study and advancement, which often leaves under-resourced communities unable to compete for federal or state funding support. This perpetuates a cycle of disinvestment. Supporting Communities seeks to assist communities from initial outreach to project implementation. In this session, a panel of planners and public engagement experts involved in the Supporting Communities program will provide a comprehensive overview of the program, discuss how to use new federal Justice40 datasets to identify priority communities, highlight work from the program's inaugural year, and detail lessons learned for future iterations of the program. This session will provide planners with actionable ways to address similar challenges in their own work.

**Shoshana Akins,** Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Alyson Dressman, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Stephanie Fuentes, Connect the Dots **Kendra Nelson,** Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

#### **B5.** Infinite Erie: A Model for Collective Impact

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Equity)

Infinite Erie is an emerging collective impact model with the purpose of positioning Erie to compete with like-size regions to attract and secure public and private sector funding through the coordination of inclusive growth strategies to deliver transformative change. The initiative was catalyzed by the Inclusive Playbook authored by Bruce Katz and Florian Schalliol of New Localism Associates and steered by the Erie Action team, a cross-section of public, private, and institutional leadership in the Erie community. The session will explore the lessons learned during the creation of Infinite Erie framework for collective goals and strategies to engage private and philanthropic leaders as supporters and investors.

Amy Murdock, AICP, Altair Consulting Group Kim Thomas, Infinite Erie

#### 5:30p - 7:00p **Welcome Reception at Erie Art Museum**

At 5:15p, meet in the lobby of the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for transportation to the Erie Art Museum. This reception includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. It wouldn't be an APA PA Chapter event without time for networking and camaraderie.

**Evening** Dinner on your own



#### Monday, October 14, 2024

**Registration Open** 7:00a - 5:00p

**Exhibit Hall Open** 7:00a - 6:30p

**Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors** 7:00a - 8:15p

8:15a - 9:30a **Welcome & Introductions** 

**Opening Keynote** 

Livability Reimagined: An Ecological Approach to Placemaking

CM | 1.00

Planners play a vital role in enhancing the livability of our urban and rural environments. When people love where they live it has enormous impact on local economies, physical and mental well-being, public safety, and social connectedness. This presentation starts with the premise that, like any living creature, people require the right habitat to thrive. We will explore various approaches to creating these enriching habitats, emphasizing an ecological approach to placemaking and showcasing examples where planning has led to remarkable transformations.

Phil Myrick, Phil Myrick LLC

9:30a - 10:00a **Refreshment Break with Exhibitors** 

10:00a - 12:00p **Mobile Workshops** 

> M1. Connecting Town and Gown: **Leveraging Higher Education in Comprehensive Planning**

M2. Downtown Erie: Making a Comeback

### **PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE**



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- Education Law
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- Labor & Employment
- Zoning & Land Use Environmental Law
- Litigation
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10:00a - 10:45a **Concurrent Education Sessions C (0.75 CM)** 

#### C1. Is Your Community Online: Why Digital Equity Matters in Planning CM | **0.75 Equity**

Broadband and digital equity received unprecedented attention and funding through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, but it's a vast topic that many in planning and local government are still trying to navigate. This session will begin with some level setting and give the audience a primer about the key terms involved and the status of the state's planning efforts, and then dive in more detail into the topic of digital equity and how it can be more integrated into how we conduct planning processes. The presenters will describe how the Pennsylvania Digital Equity Plan worked with residents across historically un- or under-connected demographic populations to hear their challenges related to using and benefitting from digital communications and tools. We'll share lessons learned about how vulnerable populations prefer to be contacted and where they expressed struggles and challenges. The challenges keeping people under-connected digitally are often keeping those same people under-represented in our cities' and towns' built environment through unequal access to information, opportunity, and comfort. The discussion will make clear ties between how/why some populations have less access and ability to use digital platforms and services, and how this barrier continues to impact their ability to engage with other forms of civic and social interaction. As planners, it's imperative we understand how digital inequity places the communities we serve at wildly different starting points; we must understand these barriers in order to plan appropriately for inclusive outcomes. This session will share tested practices and techniques used in Pennsylvania to meaningfully engage with the under-connected and design public-serving programs or projects to be more inclusive.

Kirsten Compitello, AICP, Michael Baker International Catherine Tulley, GISP, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

#### C2. Collaborative Approaches to Affordable Housing: Leveraging Partnerships for Success CM | 0.75

This presentation explores the essential role of strategic partnerships in the successful development of affordable housing projects. Recognizing that affordable housing is a complex issue requiring multifaceted solutions, we will delve into how collaborations between various stakeholders—including government agencies, non-profit organizations, private developers, financial institutions, and community groups—can drive impactful outcomes. The session will examine different partnership models that have been effective in overcoming the financial, regulatory, and logistical challenges associated with affordable housing development. Topics will include public-private partnerships (PPPs), community land trusts, and innovative financing mechanisms like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and social impact bonds.

**Leah Eppinger, AICP,** Housing Authority of Dauphin County



#### C3. Outdoor Recreation & Pennsylvania Economic Development CM | 0.75

The Department of Community and Economic Development will review Commonwealth strategies to support community-driven integration of outdoor recreation and economic development priorities from the Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation's Roadmap for the Future and the Governor's Economic Development Strategy.

Molly Sarver, PA Department of Community & Economic Development Katie Wickert, PA Department of Community & Economic Development

#### C4. Transforming Communities: Tackling Blight Across Western PA CM | **0.75**

Every community in Pennsylvania has a blighted property. It's a topic that impacts all of us regardless of our geography, economy, or demographics. This session focuses on the how and why three counties across Western Pennsylvania, who are witnessing seismic population and economic shifts, are tackling this topic. Using Crawford, Lawrence, and Westmoreland counties as case studies, we explore the connection between tackling blight, community planning, and a brighter future for our communities. Attendees will walk away learning about the different methods, tools, and stages of tackling blight along with exploring what types of inventories, partnerships, and physical changes are underway.

Brian Lawrence, AICP, Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority & Land Bank Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development Zachary Norwood, Crawford County Planning

#### C5. Assessing the Economic Impact of Trails on Commercial Districts CM | **0.75**

You've heard that trails are valuable assets, but how can you track their economic impact on your municipality? We will review measurement strategies, indicators, and actions you can take now to assess the economic impact of trails on commercial districts. Is your trail system disconnected from your commercial district? We will discuss how, as network goods, trails can serve to connect assets and organizations. Impact analyses of the Great Allegheny Passage as well as the Three Rivers Heritage Trail in Pittsburgh will be used to spur interactive dialogue. Attendees will walk away with a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators to gauge the economic impact of the trail as well as steps to better connect civic infrastructure.

Maya Haptas, Fourth Economy Maura Kay, Fourth Economy



#### Monday, October 14, 2024, continued

#### C6. Fast Fun Fervent

CM | NO CM

Hear four dynamic speakers covering community revitalization, economic development, zoning & ordinances and other planning topics at the lightning speed. Each speaker will have 7-10 minutes to cover a maximum of 20 slides for 20 seconds each. Attendees will get to learn about a wide variety of topics in short spurts.

Moderated by Scott Duncanson, AICP, LEED Green Associate, ENV SP

Regional Parks & Trail Networks in Pennsylvania **Emerson Bannon,** Erie County Planning Department

So Your Planet Is Hurtling Toward a Climate Apocalypse: What Now? **Jenni Easton, AICP, CNU-A,** *Pashek* + *MTR* 

Public Art as Punctuation: Case Studies from Allentown Julia Guerrero, Civic Centered

**Break/Travel** 10:45a - 11:00a



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11:00a-12:00p **Concurrent Education Sessions D (1.00 CM)** 

#### D1. Grow Your Own Way: Planning & Land Use Tools for Areas Experiencing Development Pressure CM | 1.00

Is development from nearby urban and suburban areas spreading to your municipality? Are you and your residents looking for a way to preserve the rural character that makes your community special without restricting the freedom of your residents to use their land as they choose? This presentation will look at how several communities in Western Pennsylvania are wrestling with this challenge and share tools that have been proposed to help them maintain their identity, while providing a high quality of life for all residents. Presenters will talk about specific land use controls, and zoning techniques and trends, as well as partners and strategies one might not consider in a traditional approach. They'll describe specific case studies, sharing tips and tricks and lessons learned in each community. Case studies will include rural communities as well as suburbs using strategies to create greenways and preserve open space.

**Laura Ludwig, AICP,** Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. Lori Morgan, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. **Sommer Schneller,** Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

#### D2. Designated Stop...Bringing Mobility to Rural PA CM | 1.00

This session will provide the audience the story of how the rural community, of Clinton County, in Central Pennsylvania identified transportation as a major barrier for its residents and went from a transportation desert to having a stable Designated Stop Program. An overview of Community Action Agencies and how their work in social planning ties directly to many aspects of the community, specifically in this case transportation will be discussed. Through focusing on the Clinton County Designated Stop Project and detailing the various planning processes that were undertaken to bring a needed resource to the community. The presentation will include details about the initial planning process, starting at the Community Assessment level, then moving to the Multi-Model Plan level, which led to the Designated Stop Study. The process how trip data was used to determine the locations for the actual stops will be illustrated along with the public engagement process to validate the locations. With the Designated Stop Program being operational for over a year, real-time data about usage will be shared and case studies of the riders will provide context to the audience. Combining the perspective of the non-profit Community Action Agency, who is the Shared Ride Transportation Provider, as well as the Transportation Planning consultant, the session will be engaging and provide the audience with a direct understanding to how vital thoughtful transportation planning is to rural communities.

Rachelle Abbott, AICP, Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. Alexis Williams, AICP, STV, Inc.



#### D3. Public Placemaking: Building Spaces for Community Life CM | 1.00

This presentation looks at municipal placemaking projects to create plazas and other public spaces in central, 'Main Street' areas. It introduces the concept with examples from Montgomery County and across the state exploring the types of sites and municipal facilities that provide opportunities for placemaking. It goes on to cover the process of planning, designing, financing, constructing, and programming these spaces with perspectives from local government, citizen advocates, and nonprofit partners.

Amara Geffen, Art & Environment Initiative John Miklos, Montgomery County Planning Commission Mark Weindorf, Arc of Crawford County

## D4. Using GIS to Support State College's Zoning Ordinance Update

State College Borough is working through a comprehensive zoning ordinance revision. Planning Department staff will discuss how various Geographic Information Systems tools have been used to help inform decisionmakers about the impacts of changes to zoning district regulations in areas such as height, density, and property line setbacks. Planners have utilized a number of GIS tools to provide visuals and data for discussion by the decisionmakers as they work toward a new zoning ordinance that can best support the current and future land use objectives of the community.

Greg Garthe, AICP, State College Borough Ed LeClear, AICP, EDFP, State College Borough

### D5. Bridging Communities: Advancing Erie Bayfront Parkway

Join us for an insightful conference session as we delve into the transformative Bayfront Parkway Project, which can be seen just outside the windows of the Bayfront Convention Center. You may have been wondering what was happening while driving into this conference, as construction crews bustle about, laying the groundwork for what promises to be a pivotal initiative driving the resurgence of Erie's downtown and Bayfront areas. Since its inception in the early 1990s, the Bayfront Parkway (Route 4034) has been a vital east-west artery for the community. However, with the city's evolving landscape and burgeoning development, the need for north-south connections has become increasingly apparent.

In collaboration with local stakeholders and the community, the Bayfront Parkway Project aims to address this need by enhancing pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger vehicle connections between the Erie Central Business District and adjacent waterfront neighborhoods. Moreover, the project seeks to improve safety by reducing crashes on the parkway and mitigating future congestion to ensure an acceptable level of service or delay.

Audrey Knight, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development Courtney Lyle, PennDOT Tom McClelland, Penn DOT



#### D6. The University in our Backyard: How Communities Can Harness Higher Education Resources to Support **Equitable Neighborhood Revitalization**

CM | **1.00** 

While universities often contribute to gentrification, they can also provide powerful and effective resources for community-led revitalization efforts. In Erie and Pittsburgh residents are using effective strategies and partnerships with Gannon University (Gannon) and the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) to support neighborhood priorities. This panel of community and university representatives will identify different approaches that these residents and universities are using to address shared community concerns related to vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties. At Gannon, these strategies include helping the neighborhood develop its revitalization plan, supporting a resident-led nonprofit to lead implementation, and integrating neighborhood-focused projects into coursework and extracurriculars. At Pitt, the partnership includes a "communiversity" course in which residents are working with law students to prepare proposals to develop four city-owned vacant lots.

**Stephanie Dangel, Esq,** University of Pittsburgh Sarah Ewing, Gannon University

#### 12:00p - 1:45p Luncheon, State of the Chapter and Annual Awards Presentation

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of fellow Pennsylvanians who shape where we live, work and play! Join Craig Peiffer, Chair of the PA Chapter of APA Awards Committee, for an inspiring Annual Awards program. We will recognize the work of fellow planners, planning officials, and elected officials and their roles in planning Pennsylvania. PA Chapter of APA President, Leah Eppinger will present the State of the Chapter highlighting the Chapter's successes and key activities during 2024.

2:00p - 3:15p **Mobile Workshop** 

M3. Tides of Change: Mobilizing the International Coastal Cleanup in Your Watershed

2:00p - 4:45p **Mobile Workshops** 

M4. Successfully Deploying Gaming Revenue Through the Impact Investment Model

M5. Help Us Create Safer Streets in Erie



#### Monday, October 14, 2024, continued

**Concurrent Education Sessions E (1.25 CM)** 2:00p-3:15p

E1. Pennsylvania Land Use Law Update: Appellate Cases from 2023-2024

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Law)

Pennsylvania appellate cases will be presented in traditional lecture format as well as interactively with hypotheticals to demonstrate how a recent case decided the outcome. Cases will cover topics related to zoning (variances, special exceptions, and conditional uses) and subdivision & land development (plan approvals, modifications, challenges). Practice points distilled from each case will be emphasized.

**Leah Eppinger, AICP,** Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin Charles Suhr, Esq. Stevens & Lee

#### E2. Low-Cost Strategies for Public Engagement That Any Municipality Can Implement CM | 1.25

For any plan to be successful, it must reflect the needs and desires of the community it serves, but obtaining public input can be difficult, time consuming, and costly. People are busy. They may not be available or comfortable attending traditional public meetings. Presenters will discuss creative strategies they use to encourage public engagement and share how they've applied these strategies to success in real world case studies. The techniques discussed will focus on technologies like interactive web applications, Miro boards, surveys, and ArcGIS online, all of which were chosen because they are affordable and accessible to users of any technological ability. Presenters will demonstrate how these tools may be used in conjunction with in-person engagement by duplicating traditional engagement activities virtually, for consistent and comparable results. The presentation will discuss how even small planning staffs with limited technical experience can develop and maintain online engagement, without paying for costly subscriptions or expensive consultants. Presenters will also discuss how these online tools may be leveraged to streamline data processing after the engagement period is over.

Laura Ludwig, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. Lori Morgan, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. Sommer Schneller, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.





#### E3. Planning for Redevelopment Prior to Decline: Strategies to Maintain a Vibrant Suburban Corridor CM | **1.25**

For three decades, Cranberry Township has been one of the fastest growing communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Through careful planning, the Township has been able to manage this growth while providing for increased infrastructure, parks, programs, and other local government services. Following the 2020 Census, Cranberry Township officials began to focus on new challenges as the community entered the next phase of its development history. Like numerous other suburban communities throughout Pennsylvania, early commercial investments are beginning to show their age and private development is starting to leapfrog existing infrastructure in favor of cheaper land on the fringe. This typical land development pattern combined with post-pandemic changes to the commercial and office sectors have begun to question projections of sustained growth. If left unchecked, these trends will directly impact the longterm economic health of the community. In an effort to address these trends prior to experiencing significant decline, the Township completed a Redevelopment Study of its commercial core in 2023. The study included input of a commercial sector advisory group and focused on a simple set of questions: how can Cranberry's commercial core adapt and remain strong well into the future, and how can the Township guide that process from its current position of fiscal and market strength. The plan uses two scenarios to explore the Township's future: strategic re-development or a status quo approach. It does this in the context of the potential for occurring in one of America's slowest growing and rapidly aging metropolitan areas. Using the Redevelopment Study as a catalyst for further discussion, this presentation offers a different way to approach and plan for future challenges using data, community input, and carefully researched outcomes and scenarios.

Kyle Beider, AICP, RLA, PhD, Cranberry Township Ronald Henshaw, AICP, Cranberry Township Matt Ingalls, AICP, ASLA, CZB, Inc.

#### E4. Crawford Inspired: Leading Community Change through Comprehensive Planning CM | 1.25

As planners we strive to change the communities we work in through long-range and short-term plans. However, many of these documents sit on the shelf or result in coalitions falling apart after the adoption of the plan. In some cases, we don't really on or establish the planning framework necessary to carry out the good work we aim to accomplish. After almost a decade of limited to no action taking place to "move the needle" on the county's comprehensive plan, Crawford County's Planning Commission, staff, and elected officials decided to do things differently. The resulting plan, primarily focused on the implementable comprehensive plan model, has resulted in creating 9 bold moves that will move the county forward, activating local community champions, empowering citizens to move on tackling the tasks necessary to accomplish our vision of the future, and a strategic framework for injection of resources and public policy from the County. This session explores Crawford County's 2024 comprehensive plan process and outcomes as a case study to provide takeaways in establishing a collective vision, metrics to achieve success, and bold moves undertaken by wide ranging partnerships. All of which is grounded in public outreach, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and building capacity during the process.

Zach Norwood, Crawford County Planning Kathy Wyrosdick, AICP, Michael Baker International



#### Monday, October 14, 2024, continued

#### E5. Managing Conflict Continued: Conflict Management in Action CM | 1.25

This session expands upon the principles outlined in the and Connect the Dots Guide for Managing Conflict in the Public Participatory Process practical strategies for mitigating conflict in public meetings by putting your skills to the test in a small group setting. Reviewing the basics of why conflict emerges and the tools to anticipate and address potential sources of tension, the heart of the session lies in experiential learning through role-playing exercises. Participants will have the opportunity to apply the conflict resolution tools in scenarios that reflect real-world conflicts they might encounter in public meetings, both virtual and in-person. By engaging in these hands-on exercises, planners will not only enhance their proficiency in conflict resolution but also bolster their confidence in navigating conflict in participatory processes.

**Stephanie Fuentes,** Connect the Dots Slyvia Garcia-Garcia, Connect the Dots

#### E6. So...You Want to Be A Planner

CM | 1.25

One of the most challenging moments in any career is entering the field as a young professional. For young planners, the group not only has a limited understanding of the practice and where they could fit in, they also lack connections with experienced planners who have this information. This session is designed to bring together those new to the profession and seasoned professionals for the purpose of sharing valuable information about the field.

Moderator: David Hunter, AICP, Berks County Planning Commission

Moderator: Jeff Raykes, AICP, Stuart Group Emily Diaz-Melendez, City of Reading Trajan Jones, Indiana Borough Abigail Roberts, City of Lock Haven Chris Strohler, AICP, South Whitehall Township







**Concurrent Education Sessions F (1.00 CM)** 3:45p-4:45p

#### F1. Shakespearean Ethics Skits 2024: To Plan or Not to Plan CM | 1.00 Ethics

In this session, well-known Shakespearean characters, reimagined as planners, present a series of skits based on past AICP Ethics Cases of the Year. Romeo, the Zoning Officer for the City of Verona is faced with a potential conflict of interest when his beloved Juliet's parents file for a variance to build castleminiums on their family orchards. Next, King Lear, Planning Director in the community of Gloucester, is leading the process of developing a future land use plan. Lear is eager to get the plan adopted as quickly as possible, but Staff Planner, Duchess Kent, questions the integrity of the rushed planning process that has limited public participation and input. Finally, Hamlet, a Prince-ipal Planner, is faced with the ethical dilemma: To plan for equity and inclusion or not to plan for equity and inclusion. This fresh take on traditional AICP cases of the year aims to educate and entertain.

Scott Duncanson, AICP, ENV-SP, LEED Green Associate, Gannett Fleming Pattie Guttenplan, AICP, RLA, Montgomery County Planning Commission **Eric Jarrell,** Montgomery County Planning Commission Mike Pritchard, AICP, York County Planning Commission Katie Wickert, PA Department of Community & Economic Development

#### F2. Linking Erie's Bayfront to Presque Isle State Park: Collaborative Planning Successes and Future Initiatives CM | 1.00

The City of Erie and Millcreek Township have embarked on a collaborative planning effort aimed at linking Erie's vibrant downtown and bayfront to the iconic Presque Isle State Park. Through strategic alignment of comprehensive plans, including Erie Refocused and Embrace Millcreek, along with targeted subarea plans such as the Presque Isle Gateway plan, these municipalities have leveraged grant funding along with private and institutional investment to enhance regional connectivity and economic vitality. We will explore the successful collaboration between the City of Erie and Millcreek Township. Learn about their cooperative planning efforts aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and supporting economic growth in the region. Through case studies and project examples, we will showcase completed initiatives and ongoing efforts to enhance the Bayfront Parkway and West 8th Street corridor, creating a seamless connection between urban amenities and natural landscapes. Discover how collaborative planning has attracted investment, fostered regional cooperation, and positioned the Erie region for sustainable growth and development.

Amy Murdock, AICP, Altair Consulting Group Matthew Waldinger, Millcreek Township



#### F3. Active Transportation Safety on Local Rural Roads CM | **1.00**

For local rural roads, they are often the only place for residents to go for walk, walk their dog, ride a bike, and even for children to learn how to bike. These roads can also be the only opportunity to link trails and communities with parks, lakes, schools, and other destinations. Local rural roads in Pennsylvania have several built-in constraints to active transportation. First, there is limited right-of-way, which then results in limited pavement width. Unlike residential neighborhood streets, these roads often have higher traffic speeds, which can include trucks, The alignment of the roads may have developed over time, and have hills, curves, intersections, and other features which increase the potential for conflict. Lastly, the resources for improving and maintaining the roadways are limited. Determining the most appropriate option for promoting safe active transportation on these roads is difficult because of the constraints. This session will present an interactive discussion of the options for active transportation on rural roads, using Pennsylvania examples. A major focus on the session will be on safety for all road suers and the application of PennDOT/FWHA standards and guidelines.

Patrick Wright, Pennoni

#### F4. Blowing Up Your Boards and Other Bold Ideas to Bring Your Comp Plan to Life CM | **1.00**

How do you guarantee that your community's new comprehensive plan will see fruition? Operationalize its implementation. The presenters will explore fresh ideas for delivering on vision, highlighting an innovative accomplishment by the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon to completely restructure the community's appointed advisory boards to align with the key issues at the center of "Ascend Lebo," the recently adopted comprehensive plan. Discussion will also focus on inclusive engagement strategies to discern shared values and build momentum for progress, as well as integrating the plan into the Capital Improvement Program. An interactive portion will identify and troubleshoot common barriers to comprehensive plan implementation.

Jenni Easton, AICP, CNU-A, Pashek + MTR Ian McMeans, Municipality of Mt. Lebanon

#### F5. How to Activate the Outdoor Economy to Drive Business & Enhance Quality of Life CM | **1.00**

In the last year, the economic impact of the U.S. outdoor recreation economy surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time, Pennsylvania launched the Office of Outdoor Recreation to grow the outdoor sector, and communities across Pennsylvania began to ask how they can more fully leverage their outdoor assets for economic development. This session will offer a crash course in the scope and nature of Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation economy, share public and private resources and best practices to better understand and grow the outdoor economy, and drill down to the local level to see how planners are incorporating the outdoor economy into their projects. Presenters will foster a dialogue with the audience through open-ended questions and interactive polling.

Silas Chamberlin, PhD, York County Economic Alliance Tim Staub, AICP, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.



#### Monday, October 14, 2024, continued

#### F6. Transforming Blighted Properties into an Urban Greenway in Erie, PA: Lessons Learned and Partnerships **Needed to Get it Done**

CM | **1.00** 

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie and the City of Erie have worked collaboratively to address disinvestment in their neighborhoods. One project sought to rethink how blighted properties could become a community asset for one of Erie's most challenged neighborhoods. The East Bayfront Greenway Trail was conceived to turn blighted and abandoned houses into a greenway and trail system to benefit the lower East Side. This project focused on changing how the Authority and City addressed blighted properties by looking at the opportunities to create meaningful spaces that engage residents and improve the built environment. This session will take participants through delivering the complicated project from ideation to realization, a nearly 5-year timeline. The team will share the specific steps, policies, studies, outreach, and design challenges it took to achieve this innovative project.

Aaron Snippert, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie

#### 5:00p - 6:00p **Evening Reception with Exhibitors**

Monday's conference activities wrap-up with a reception with our Exhibitors. Take advantage of this opportunity to network with the Exhibitors and the other conference attendees. It's a great place to make plans to venture out and discover the city!

#### Planners Social **Evening**

Meet at Sheraton lobby at 6:30. There will be a bus that will run continuously until 8:00 PM. Planners Social will be at Brewerie at Union Station. Every good planner has a team of colleagues to lean on. This social aims to connect planning professionals from all over the state for an evening of drinks, snacks and good conversations. This social is sponsored by Northwest Section and Michael Baker International. (Additional food and beverage will be available for purchase)

#### **Evening** Dinner on your own





#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024

**Registration Open** 7:00a - 3:00p 7:00a - 2:00p **Exhibit Hall Open Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors** 7:00a - 8:15p 7:15a - 8:00a **Professional Development Committee Meeting** 7:15a - 8:00a **Planning Officials Development Committee Meeting** 

Introductions 8:15a - 9:45a

**Plenary** 

Proactive PA: Insights on Planning Related Pending Actions and Legislation

CM | 1.25

As communities across the Commonwealth work to address their changing demographics and physical places, policy shifts in Harrisburg are bubbling to the surface. For the first time in almost to two decades community planning, economic development, and housing are not only up for discussion on the floor of the General Assembly, but are a priority in the Governor's administration. Our panelists join us today to share their insights on the conversations, administrative actions, and pending legislation that would impact planners, developers, and our communities.

Morgan Boyd, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Theodore Martin, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Stacie Reidenbaugh, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

9:45a - 10:15a **Refreshment Break with Exhibitors** 

10:15a - 11:30a **Mobile Workshop** 

M6. Planning for Bluff Recession Strategies Against Climate Change Issues





#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

10:15a - 11:30a **Concurrent Education Sessions G (1.25 CM)** 

#### G1. Addressing the Housing Supply Crisis through Zoning Reforms

CM | 1.25 (1.00 Law)

Addressing the Housing Supply Crisis through Zoning Reforms: how can we create housing inventory in the right places; what barriers need to be removed to increase inventory; and what incentives will make residential development projects more feasible in Pennsylvania? This session is a mini-summit for planning, housing, real estate, and land use professionals, lenders, public officials, and others to discuss barriers to the production of housing units and to recommend solutions to increase the supply of housing. Participants will identify and discuss challenges such as zoning restrictions, permitting, and other impediments to the development of residential housing, and will later identify and prioritize regulatory and legislative solutions, such as developer incentives and resources needed to address the housing crisis in Western PA. The PA Housing Choices Coalition will present information about the coalition and current proposed legislation for zoning changes and updates to the Municipalities Planning Code under consideration in the PA General Assembly that are intended to improve housing supply and attainability.

Pattie Guttenplan, AICP, RLA, Montgomery County Planning Commission Ed LeClear, AICP, EDFP, Borough of State College Stacie Reidenbaugh, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

#### G2. Planning for Climate Pollution Reduction in Pennsylvania: State and MSA Perspectives CM | 1.25 (1.00 Sustainability/ Resilience)

In March of 2023, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced the historic Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG) for states, territories, tribes and local governments. The CPRG program includes \$250 million in formula planning grants, and an additional \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants to support actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, plus criteria and hazardous air pollution, through deployment of new technologies and solutions that will transition America equitably to a low-carbon economy that benefits all Americans. For this session, representatives from all four planning grant recipients in Pennsylvania propose a traditional panel session in which attendees will benefit from a comprehensive speaker series. This session will facilitate dialogue between the audience and statewide planners and officials who have successfully applied the concepts and produced specific deliverables required as part of the CPRG planning process. CPRG planning grants were awarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Energy Programs Office with a \$3 million state planning grant, followed by the three most-populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with \$1 million metropolitan-area planning grants awarded to three MSAs. These MSAs are represented by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (Philadelphia); the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (Allentown); and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (Pittsburgh).

Lindsay Byron, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Energy Programs Office Chris Linn, AICP, PP, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Susan Myerov, AICP, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Catherine Tulley, GISP. Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

#### G3. Impactful Community Engagement on a Budget CM | 1.25

This session provides participants with a framework for designing and implementing an impactful community engagement strategy with limited funding or time constraints. Learn to prioritize which engagement tactics will best produce the key information a project needs in the decision-making process while building resourceful relationships with community partners for deeper long-term impact. This session will also provide practical and cost-effective tips to ensure that engagement activities and tactics are inclusive and welcoming to diverse stakeholder audiences. Finally, this session will cover the importance of transparency and communicating decisions and findings with project stakeholders.

Interactive case studies allow participants to collaboratively brainstorm creative solutions and apply the concepts learned to real-world scenarios. Participants are encouraged to think critically about their own community engagement practices and identify areas for improvement. By the end of the session, participants leave with a deeper understanding of actionable strategies and the importance of community engagement. Armed with these insights, they are better equipped to build strong relationships with their communities, even with limited resources at their disposal.

Sylvia García-García, Connect the Dots

#### G4. For the Good of All: Planning for Outdoor Recreation Economy in PA CM | 1.25

Representatives from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development's Office of Community Planning, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Office of Outdoor Recreation, Hemlock & Forge, and Johnson Consulting for a overview of outdoor recreation economy in Pennsylvania, the wealth of benefits it provides to communities of all sizes, and the potential negative impacts associated with the growth of outdoor recreation within gateway communities. The session will deep dive into the benefits of outdoor recreation as an economic development and revitalization model, while reviewing potential pitfalls and common challenges planners of all levels need to be aware of in communities with an outdoor recreation focus.

Gary Johnson, Johnson Consulting Wyatt Schroeder, Hemlock & Forge Katie Wickert, PA Department of Community & Economic Development





#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

#### G5. Community Surveys and Quality of Life: Examples from Erie and Pittsburgh CM | 1.25

This panel brings together planners and community members who have been involved in creating and distributing community surveys and activating their results in plans and projects. Community surveys are important components of data collection for planning. They are critical components of understanding place for planners and mobilizing access to residents and action. They are also complicated and can be expensive. How have local municipalities used community surveys to better direct equitable investments by improving quality of life one household at a time? This session will focus on recent community surveys in Western Pennsylvania: Erie and Penn Hills. In Erie, results and impacts of the Erie Community Survey conducted in 2018 - 2019 resulted in multiple improvements in processes and projects. The results were also immediate relevant as a component of survey resulted in direct outreach and distribution of things residents needed as the COVID pandemic began in 2020. The survey resulted in economic gains for Erie and major improvements in capital reinvestment and environmental gains in green space. The Penn Hills community survey, conducting in 2023, also resulted and is resulting in numerous improvements for that community. The results are being used to inform smart transportation planning and housing access and home repairs. The results are also coupled with other data to examine the impacts of outside investors on the community's housing market. The panel will conclude with recommendations for how community surveys can be built into planning processes for results and actions for residents' quality of

Erin Carey, City of Erie Sabina Deitrick, PhD, University of Pittsburgh Lyon Zeibak, Penn Hills Rising Community Census

#### G6. AICP: Is This Certification For You CM | NO CM

Are you interested in becoming a certified planner by taking the AICP exam? Not sure yet? The PA Chapter and its Professional Development Committee are here to help you decide. In this session, speakers will explain the benefits and requirements of certification, the application process, and the format of the exam for those trying to decide if or when to take the exam. For those who have already decided to take the exam, speakers will identify resources available to help prepare for testing. The session will be driven by the needs of attendees, and questions are encouraged.

Scott Duncanson, AICP, ENV SP, LEED Green Associate, Gannett Fleming Alexis Williams, AICP, PP, STV, Inc.





#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

11:45a - 1:30p

**Pitkin Luncheon & Lecture** Youth Are Not the Future, But the Now (12:30p – 1:30p)

Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning CM | 1.00

Young people have incredible excitement, eternal optimism, and a contagious spirit! They are naturally inquisitive, inclusive, helpful to others, imaginative, and full of wonder. YEP! believes that youth have the power to positively shape the future of all of our communities and this keynote will showcase how we have made it our mission to encourage young people to learn, create, and participate in activating change in the world.

YEP! creates opportunities for youth to meaningfully advocate for change in their own communities and built environments while simultaneously teaching planners about youth engagement. Youth are rarely considered as part of the planning processes, and planners are even more rarely trained in youth engagement. Yet, youth represent a sizable demographic within any community and youth engagement is critical to an equitable planning process. Doing the hard work of incorporating diverse youth voices into planning processes yields manifold benefits when it comes to building more equitable community engagement processes - and, additionally, recruiting a more diverse cohort of future planners. Empowering youth can begin bridging the engagement gap with historically marginalized communities.

Corrin will share YEP! experiences from engaging with over 7,000 youth nationally, including: Bringing diverse perspectives into all planning processes by engaging diverse youth populations; creating opportunities for youth to participate in advocacy and engagement; developing customized tools to involve youth in the local planning, including modifying resources for different age groups; effectively using youth input to craft plans; and messaging why investing in youth engagement is an essential part of the planning process. Corrin will showcase diverse perspectives that encourage planners to lead successful youth engagement efforts in their own communities!

Dessert with Exhibitors & Announcement of Winners (basket, auction and 50/50) 1:30p - 2:00p





#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

2:00p - 3:00p **Concurrent Education Sessions H (1.00 CM)** 

#### H1. Dancing with Denizens of the Ideological Lagoons: Political Polarization and Community Engagement CM | 1.00 Equity

Political division has always existed. But today, we are seeing alarming new levels of polarization in both rural and urban parts of the Commonwealth. Stark disagreements regarding the economy, racial justice, climate change, crime, and other issues are seeping into local politics and impacting our ability to plan, fund, and implement improvements at local levels – even as support for many such improvements (trails, parks, quality housing, public services) are shared across the aisle. At its worst, polarization means dysfunctional meetings, open hostility, and disrupted or even abandoned public involvement. Community planners, often tasked with leading public involvement, are scrambling to adapt as they face a distrusting public that is quick to conflict for reasons far beyond the planning objectives that brought them together. Designing and facilitating effective outreach and engagement in these environments is both a skill and an art. The aim of this session is to build these competencies by examining the roots of political division, how it has migrated into local decision-making processes, and ways planners can reframe the messaging and rebalance participation in trust and understanding. The format will be participatory as presenters discuss the underpinnings of division and compare and contrast emerging conflict resolution techniques with the practice and experiences of attendees. This intentional participatory element is intended to encourage reflective learning and build connections among practitioners who plan and design and facilitate public involvement.

Kirsten Compitello, AICP, Michael Baker International Jeff Raykes, AICP, DEd, Stuart Group Consulting

#### H2. Thumbs Up for Community Planning! Measuring Landscape Conservation on the Regional Scale CM | 1.00

This session will explore various scales of Landscape Conservation along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor and how the activities contribute to optimizing planning and implementation for environmental and public health. The session will introduce principles of the emerging specialization of Landscape Conservation, as well as achievements and contributions to planning in Pennsylvania from case studies of different scales, such as the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership, PA DCNR's Landscape Conservation Program, and the South Mountain Partnership. These examples will be represented by different speakers and each speaker will use Mentimeter to engage the audience and gather feedback and encourage discourse in real time. South Mountain Partnership's recent State of the Region project will be featured as a case study in intense regional collaboration between a local Conservation Landscape and planning agencies that provided four counties in south central Pennsylvania with unique tools to engage multiple target audiences (public, non-profits and planners, and decision-makers) in measuring and improving environmental and public health indicators while centering local Partner organizations at every step. The region faces unique challenges shared by other Pennsylvania regions as a predominantly rural community facing intense development pressure. This process involved over 60 partner organizations and resulted in the collaborative taking on 5 striking regional projects over the next decade.

Katie Hess, Appalachian Trail Conservancy



#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

#### H3. Charged Up: Analyzing the Future of EV Charging Infrastructure CM | **1.00**

Join us for an engaging session where we delve into the latest findings from a study conducted just this year, offering a comprehensive overview and in-depth analysis of the current state of EV Charging in Erie, PA. Fresh off the press, this study explores the feasibility of EV charging infrastructure in Erie, considering various factors such as weather conditions, urban layout, and logistical challenges. The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA) has played a crucial role in this study, engaging Polara to assess the potential for public EV charging at two EMTA-owned sites in Erie, PA. Our discussion will also include thought-provoking "What-If" scenarios, exploring the potential rise of EV charging in Erie and how it fits within the city's transportation landscape. These insights are not only relevant to planners but also offer a peek into the possibilities of the future for the general public, providing valuable insight into potential changes in their daily commute and lifestyle. Furthermore, we will discuss how these results may or may not be replicated and applied to other cities' transportation infrastructures, opening up avenues for further research and exploration into similar "What-If" scenarios. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and envision the future of transportation in Erie and beyond, as we collectively navigate the path towards sustainable and electric mobility solutions.

Aly Abdallahi, Polara Energy Ben Killen, Polara Energy Audrey Knight, Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development **Dave Robinson,** Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority

#### H4. Investing in Downtown Redevelopment + People CM | 1.00

As a result of thoughtful planning, the Erie Central Business District (CBD) has received \$706.2M of targeted investment activity in the past five years. This work has spurred the momentum of downtown revitalization and attracted outside investors to the market. The session will explore the impetus and planning behind the catalytic work of the EDDC, why outside investors like Christian Siembieda are betting on Erie, and how these projects are creating opportunities for economic mobility for Erie residents.

Inspired, in part, by the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, visionary business, philanthropic and community leaders formed the EDDC in 2017, to transform the city of Erie's downtown core and spark revitalization across the region.

Chuck Peters, Altair Real Estate Services Christian Siembieda, Conduit NH Energy, LLC **Drew Whiting,** Erie Downtown Development Corporation



#### Tuesday, October 15, 2024 continued

#### H5. It's More Than Elementary, Customizing Outreach for Youth CM | 1.00

This session will introduce YEP! methodology, best practices, and project examples from across the country for developing young people's civic leadership, integrating younger voices into planning processes, and recruiting diverse voices into our profession. We will touch on principles for customizing your approach and content for age 5 versus 15 versus 25; tips for partnering with school districts; and hard-earned lessons in what works and what doesn't. We will then break into implementation small groups. This session promotes equity and inclusion on two levels. First, the perspectives of vounger audiences are insufficiently integrated in most pre-existing planning processes. Second, promoting inclusion long-term requires planners to build lasting relationships in previously excluded communities. Building relationships with youth now means already having relationships with older groups later.

Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning

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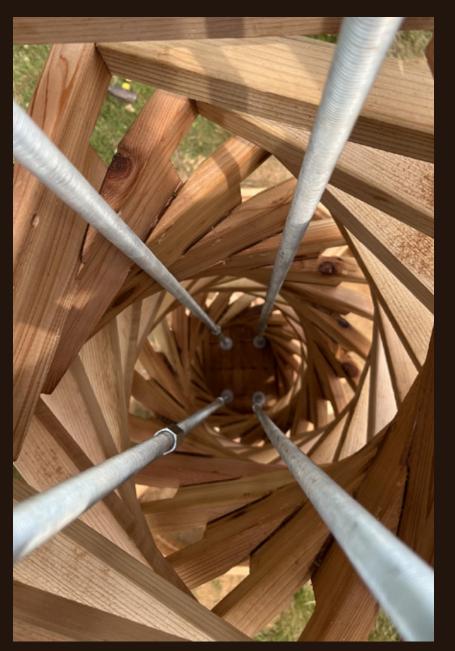
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Caption: Interior view of bent wood helix that protects butterflies from predators. 2023 Summer Design Build Institute Project

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#### **Mission Statement**

The Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development provides strategic, coordinated guidance over the growth, planning and development activities in Erie County with the goal of creating a healthy, prosperous, and vibrant community for all residents.

- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Coastal Zone Management
- Subdivisions and Land Development
- Parks, Recreation and Trails Program
- Act 13 Greenways Grant Program
- Transportation Planning
- At-Risk Bridge Program

- Act 137 Affordable Housing
- Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Community Development Block Grant
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Keep Erie County Beautiful
- Recycling and sustainability





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