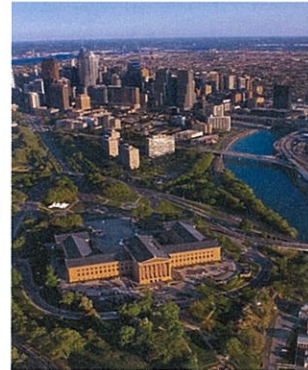


# Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute: Building Capacity for Local Planning

**Donna Carney, Director- Citizens  
Planning Institute (CPI), Philadelphia  
City Planning Commission**

**Lynn Mandarano, PhD, Temple  
University- national survey of citizen  
planning academies**

**Discussion on Public Outreach**



Citizens Planning Institute

***[Notes are approximate narrative by Donna Carney, CPI Director for the 40 minutes of this session.]***

***October 20, 2013; session at 2:30pm  
PA APA Conference- Harrisburg***

I'm going to start this session with an outline of how Philadelphia's Planning Commission has formalized its educational and outreach role by creating the CPI- what the impetus for this was and how this 3-year old institute is structured.

Lynn will talk about the results of her national survey of 5 citizen planning academies, of which Phila CPI was one (with the highest response rate!)

We'll close with a conversation about your public outreach strategies, and what you're interested in.

[Review handouts- CPI application, Fall 2013 course summaries, Fall flyer]



PHILADELPHIA  
2035  
comprehensive  
PLAN



by Donna J. Carney, AIA, LEED AP  
Director, Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute,  
Philadelphia City Planning Commission

## The Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute & Integrated Planning & Zoning Process

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission and Zoning Code Commission are currently engaged in two large initiatives—reforming the city's outdated zoning code (*first authored in 1933*) and the preparation of Philadelphia2035, the City's comprehensive plan (*last updated in 1962*).

tute was launched in May, 2010. A series of three weekly "Citizen Planner" classes has just concluded. This pilot course was designed to test the development of classroom materials for '101' level introductions to planning

was worth my time and effort and then some. I believe this program has the potential to recreate our communities." (participant comment on final course evaluation)  
"This spring, the CPI "core"

March 2011- article in The Vantage Point- PA APA newsletter/magazine  
At that time, we had just completed the "pilot" program, funded by WPF and had secured additional grant to do a Spring 2011 expanded program



Two years later, last April, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission won a National Planning award for Best Practice for the Integrated Planning & Zoning Process in Chicago.

The three components of this integrated process are the Phila2035 comprehensive plan, zoning reform, and the CPI.

## Part II: The Integrated Planning and Zoning Process



Graphic depiction of a clunky process name---

1. Zoning reform- started with voter referendum in 2007- turned into a 5 year process- with over 3,000 participants in an extensive public feedback process, with a new Zoning Code Commission to oversee the process.

The citywide Vision (comprehensive plan) or "Phila2035" got underway in 2009—and was adopted in June 2011.

Significant to note that the last comprehensive plan was completed in 1962 and the zoning code hadn't been comprehensively revised in over 50 years- mess of amendments.

I came on board as a consultant in 2010 to figure out what the CPI should be---with the intention to educate and engage the citizenry about these 2 big initiatives and the subsequent work resulting from them....

*Mission statement- empower interested and active citizens to be more effective advocates for planning in their neighborhoods and the city as a whole.*