NPC20 PROGRAM

With so many educational sessions, mobile workshops, and events to choose from, your 2020 National Planning Conference schedule won’t have a dull moment. For the most up-to-date program information, download the “APA Events” app. Feel free to bring this printout with you to conference for a physical copy.

Note: The conference program is subject to change.

2020 National Planning Conference

Filters: Track: Planning Practice and Careers |

Saturday, April 25

Saturday, April 25 | 10:45 a.m.

Essential Skills for Planning Commissioners/Board Members

Planning commissioners will gain essential skills as they learn the foundational aspects of planning including history, comprehensive plans, zoning, commissioner roles and responsibilities, and ethical principles in planning for application in decision making that expands choice and opportunity for their community.

April 25, 10:45 a.m. to noon

Location: 342

Linda Amato, AICP | Daniel Ungerleider, AICP | Marjorie Press
Ethics Cases of the Year: 2020

The AICP Ethics Committee presents a series of real-life ethical scenarios based on member inquiries and misconduct complaints from the previous year. Attendees respond via an interactive poll. Applicable Rules of Conduct and Principles from the AICP Code of Ethics are discussed.

April 25, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Location: General Assembly A

Robert Barber, FAICP | Staron Faucher, AICP | Bonnie Johnson, AICP, PhD | Karen Wolf, FAICP | Valerie Hubbard, FAICP | James Peters, FAICP

Saturday, April 25 | 1 p.m.

Planning Education and Digital Evolution

A Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) task force examined what planning education needs to provide in order to prepare planners for a 21st century technology-focused world. Explore the results, and learn how you can participate in an upcoming curricular revision.

April 25, 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Location: 342

Elizabeth Mueller | Clinton Andrews, AICP | Weiping Wu | Alexander Lieber, AICP

Real Estate Law for Planners

Planners' work is closely intertwined with interests in land. This session will provide attendees with a high-level overview of real estate law and the issues planners need to be concerned about when processing development petitions.

April 25, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: General Assembly B

Evan Seeman | Cory Rutz | Brian Smith | David Silverman, AICP

Saturday, April 25 | 2:45 p.m.

Does Anybody Understand What You’re Saying?

You may have the right information, but if nobody understands you, what's the point? “Plain Language” is more than words — it's engaging with empathy and curiosity. Learn to spot barriers to clarity and practice Plain Language skills.

April 25, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: 330

Megan Wooley-Ousdahl, AICP | Mary Jane Nirdlinger, AICP
What the Gig? Private Practice Today

The "Gig for Government" trend is creating new kinds of consulting opportunities for planners. More than 45 percent of state and local government officials said they need professional workers who can be available on demand. Is Gig for Government right for you?

April 25, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: General Assembly C

Silvia Vargas, AICP | Elizabeth Garvin, AICP | R. Steven Miller, AICP

Leadership: The Future Is Female

Women continue to be a minority within the planning profession, but younger planners are increasingly diverse. Using a dynamic "The View"-style format, four women planners discuss the path of leadership and the opportunities and challenges facing women in the profession.

April 25, 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Location: 362

Wendy Moeller, FAICP | Lauren Driscoll, AICP | Silvia Vargas, AICP | Sara Copeland, AICP

Working Through Recruitment, Retention, and Mentoring

We are taught how to be inclusive planners, learning practical tools to make a difference in our communities. Now it's time to hire and mentor diversity within our organizations, creating skilled planners capable of real change from the inside out.

April 26, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Location: 362

Marcus Primm | Melissa Beeler, AICP | Amir Emamian | David Paine, AICP | Coleen Gentles

Don't Mess With My Ethics!

How does the AICP Code of Ethics apply to everyday practice? A team of planner-actors will demonstrate how planning dilemmas relate to the code while the audience discusses possibilities and tells the actors what to do next.

April 26, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Location: General Assembly B

Abram Barge, AICP | Cheney Bostic, AICP | Tareq Wafaie, AICP
Sunday, April 26 | 12:30 p.m.

**Becoming AICP: Advice from Certified Members**

This session is an interactive opportunity to pick the brains of individuals who are AICP certified. They will share how they prepared for the exam and their perspective of the exam experience.

April 26, 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Location: 332

Alex Wallach, AICP  |  Jennifer Graeff, AICP  |  Felicia Braunstein

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**Planning Commissioners — Complexities and Expectations**

Attendees will learn about complex roles and responsibilities, the intricacies of ethics and open meetings, conflicts of interest, details of meeting management, and formulating effective recommendations.

April 26, 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Location: 342

David Silverman, AICP  |  Ann Bagley, FAICP  |  Marjorie Press

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**Ethics Game Show!**

Learn about current topics in planning ethics and test your knowledge with the Ethics Game Show! This fast-paced and challenging quiz will assess your understanding of the Code of Ethics, ethics case studies, and historical planning figures.

April 26, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: 362

James Peters, FAICP  |  Robert Barber, FAICP  |  Karen Wolf, FAICP

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Sunday, April 26 | 3:45 p.m.

**Vision to Action: Foundation for Impact**

How can visioning be both aspirational and strategic? How can it be designed to lead to implementation? Three communities share how they managed processes that inspired community support, engaged partners, and focused their work to lay a foundation for action.

April 26, 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 320

MIndy Tate  |  Erin Barger  |  Jack Messer  |  Jamie Greene, FAICP
Women Leading the Public Sector

Public sector leadership requires a multifaceted skill set. Join a diverse group of women directors to learn strategies for leadership preparation, navigating politics, recruiting / retaining talent, maintaining balance, and accomplishing projects. This informative session will benefit both current and aspiring leaders.

April 26, 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: 330

Jessica Garrow, AICP  |  Tanya Stern, AICP  |  Margaret Wallace Brown, AICP  |  Melanie Wilson  
|  Melissa Dickens, AICP

Monday, April 27

Monday, April 27 | 8 a.m.

Look in Before You Lean In

"Leaning In" to our careers is complicated. Just as we craft each community plan by first examining core values and establishing a vision, this interactive session will help participants "Look In" for guidance to navigate work-family balance.

April 27, 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
Location: 332

Nicole Bennett, AICP  |  Katharine Ange, AICP  |  Lorna Parkins, AICP

Monday, April 27 | 11 a.m.

When Philanthropy Plans

Philanthropic institutions often serve as partners for public-sector planning efforts. Increasingly, philanthropy is taking the lead with the public sector as a partner. Learn how philanthropy-led plans have fostered innovative metrics, engagement techniques, and outcomes in the Houston region.

April 27, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Location: 342

Keath Jacoby  |  Abena Asante  |  Anne Whitlock  |  Marina Walne  |  Alexandra Miller, AICP

Planning, Law, and Plain English

Document drafting, particularly land use documents, is a fraught exercise. Poorly written documents undermine land use policies, goals, and objectives. This session examines common drafting issues and provides useful tools to create superior documents promoting land use goals and objectives.

April 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: General Assembly B

Kimberley Mickelson, AICP  |  David Silverman, AICP
The Means to Justify the Ends

Get an outline of the perceived and real outcomes of considering and applying the AICP Code of Ethics in four realms: transportation, public involvement and economic development, plan implementation and adoption, and planning education.

April 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: 320

Abra Nusser, AICP | Doug McDonald, AICP | Bonnie Johnson, AICP, PhD | Staron Faucher, AICP

Monday, April 27 | 2:30 p.m.

AICP Exam Prep

The AICP exam prep deep dive provides an overview of the AICP Certification Exam for examinees.

April 27, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: 332

Devin Lavigne, AICP | John Houseal, FAICP | Silvia Vargas, AICP | Felicia Braunstein

Monday, April 27 | 2:45 p.m.

The Art of Better Public Hearings

Effective public hearings are an art form and an integral part of our daily work as planners. Even simple cases require thoughtful preparation. This session will share best practices for effective hearings.

April 27, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 320

Ann Bagley, FAICP | Michael Blue, FAICP | Linda Amato, AICP

The Hard Facts About Soft Skills

Some of the most important professional skills for workers and employers alike simply can’t be taught in a classroom or measured on paper. Soft skills are key to building relationships, gaining visibility, and creating more opportunities for advancement.

April 27, 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 361

Joseph Moreda, AICP | Ramond Chiaramonte, FAICP | Anthony Garcia, AICP
Monday, April 27 | 4:15 p.m.

**Refocusing the Equity Lens: Institutional Discrimination**

This session inverts the lens of equity, refocusing the conversation onto professional practices. A panel of accomplished planners discusses the impacts of gender identity, race, and sexual orientation on their lives and careers in academia, practice, and the field.

April 27, 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Location: General Assembly A

Fayola Jacobs | Renee Skeete | Chloe Greene | Bithia Ratnasamy | Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt, AICP | Antionette Fowlkes | Caroline Dwyer, AICP

**Tuesday, April 28**

Tuesday, April 28 | 8:30 a.m.

**To What Do We Aspire? Why?**

"Principles to Which We Aspire" is the first section of the AICP Code of Ethics and sets the tone for what professional planners should aspire to throughout their careers. A panel of AICP Fellows discusses experiences and challenges in living the Principles.

April 28, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Location: 320

Maxine Griffith, FAICP | Graham Billingsley, FAICP | Robert Barber, FAICP | Sue Schwartz, FAICP

**Tuesday, April 28 | 10:15 a.m.**

**Rating Plans, Processes, and Places**

Rating system experts summarize the key features of APA's Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places, EcoDistricts Certification program, and USGBC's LEED for Cities and Communities and weigh in on how planners can leverage these systems to elevate planning practice.

April 28, 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Location: 310

Vatsal Bhatt | Matthew Bucchin, AICP | Irwin Lowenstein | David Morley, AICP