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American Planning Association (APA), American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance (CM) credits are available for selected tours (3 hours/tour).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS

PC-1 Loess Hills

Get away from...everything. When it is time to escape from the hustle and the bustle of your everyday life and finally spend some time in serenity, the Loess Hills are your destination. The Loess Hills tour will be an exciting opportunity for tour participants to learn about unique businesses in western Iowa along with a brief history of what makes the geographic area a "one of a kind in the world" experience. If you have never experienced a lavender farm or know what sugar clay soil is, then you are in for an experience of a lifetime. Participants will ride in a motor coach throughout the region and travel on scenic byways of western Iowa. Register for the pre-conference tour and reserve your seat today!

Walk Score: 4

PC-2 Urban Agriculture Tour

This tour will focus on how neighborhoods can be transformed by urban agriculture and floriculture. Participants will visit representative neighborhood gardens as well as several very unique organizations with missions of education and "growing community, not just plants."

Walk Score: 3

PC-3 Blue Barn Theatre/KETV 7 Burlington Station

3 AICP CM Credits

11:00 am: Blue Barn Theatre, Boxcar 10:
Roof Ground Water

Conceived as a new arts hub in a rapidly changing district near downtown Omaha, an experimental theatre opens to the city outdoors through a public open space anchored with a mixed-use building. Three related projects share an integrated half-block to transform the relationship of cultural facilities and public / private space towards a collective urbanism. These are buildings and spaces designed to transform through inhabitation. This tour will feature the Blue Barn Theatre, Boxcar 10, and Roof Ground Water projects with a special focus on the Blue Barn Theatre.

12:00 pm: Lunch Break at Via Farina

01:00 pm: KETV 7 Burlington Station Tour

One of the cornerstones of Omaha's Little Italy revitalization is the transformation of the landmark 1898 Burlington Station into a state-of-the-art broadcast headquarters for Omaha ABC station KETV. After many failed attempts, the Burlington was saved from demolition, preserved, and adapted to tell the stories of Omaha and bind the neighborhood architecturally. This tour, led by the architect and engineer of the renovation, will help professional and administrative audiences appreciate the challenges and opportunities presented by historic renovation projects, delivering both a practical and conceptual understanding of adaptive reuse.

Limit 30 people

Walk Score: 5

Walk Scores of 1 to 5 (1 = low amount of walking; 3 = moderate amount of walking; 5 = high amount of walking)

PC-4 Bike Tour

Significant and prolonged bicycling involved

4 AICP CM Credits

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The session will feature a bicycle tour of neighborhoods and business districts that combine history, contemporary analysis, and neighborhood development. It will focus on the diverse eastern part of Omaha, including neighborhoods of all ethnicities, and show the different approaches and partnerships that have helped catalyze changes in the established parts of Omaha. In the process, participants will have the opportunity to view major residential redevelopment, neighborhood business district reinvestment, emerging innovation districts, and aspects of the interaction between downtown and neighborhood development. The tour route will include traditionally African American North Omaha including its historic core and a major new neighborhood being developed on the site of a former public housing project; business districts and neighborhoods that are transforming through unusual business combinations; and the impact of the appeal of city life to young populations. The four-hour tour includes some moderate hills and lunch in one of its focus neighborhoods.

Significant and prolonged bicycling involved

FRIDAY, MAY 26 CONFERENCE TOURS

T-1 North Omaha Village Revitalization Tour

The North Omaha Village Zone (N. 24th Street, N. 30th Street and Malcolm X/Adams Park) is the historic heart of the African-American community. After decades of neglect and disinvestment, the area is in the process of a major rebirth with neighborhood engagement and leadership as the core. Tour includes a one-hour walking tour of the 24th and Lake commercial district and bus stops to surrounding historic sites and neighborhood revitalization efforts. Tour attendees will receive a free 28-page tour booklet along with plenty of soul food and traditional American cuisine from area restaurants.

Walk Score: 5

T-2 Historic Midtown Neighborhood Tour

Tour landmark buildings, architecturally unique and diverse homes, historic churches, a war monument and memorial, lush green spaces in notable parks and boulevard system, community gardens, a former race track redevelopment and hear about and see Midtown Neighborhood Alliance's ReTree program all in the heart of Omaha's Midtown neighborhoods. Enjoy food from some of Midtown's well-loved restaurants at the end of the tour.

Walk Score: 4

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

T-3 South Omaha's Small Commercial Districts

Experience two small commercial districts that once provided services to immigrants working for the meat packing industry and now is home to a robust Latino community and an arts and maker's community. Tour goers can learn, shop, sample ethnic foods and experience life in Omaha's "melting pot."

Walk Score: 3

T-4 Minne Lusa and Florence Neighborhood Tour

Visit two historic neighborhoods in the midst of revitalization efforts. In Minne Lusa you'll discover Miller Park established in 1897, tour a restored home on Florence Boulevard and visit the heartbeat of the neighborhood, the Minne Lusa House, a hub of community and creativity opened and operated by neighbors. In Florence you'll tour the lovingly restored Florence Mill, home to art exhibits and community events, the Morman Trail Center and end at No More Empty Pots for food and tours of their collaborative, community-centered food hub.

Walk Score: 5

T-5 Gifford Park

Gifford Park is a neighborhood that suffered from years of inner-city disinvestment, the strong hand of large institutions, the ravages of Interstate construction and urban crime. Through the hard work of many people, Gifford Park has quietly become home to five community gardens, an Urban Farm that houses approximately 100 chickens, Omaha's first Community Bike Shop, two theatre groups, a Neighborhood Market, numerous youth programs and many other activities. Tour these facilities and hear from the people who are making this neighborhood one of Omaha's most active places to live.

Walk Score: 4

T-6 Northwest Neighborhood Alliance

Travel from the East Coast (Missouri River) to the West Coast (Elkhorn River) of Omaha via the Northwest neighborhoods and return along the main street of Omaha. Learn about the humble beginnings of Omaha and the extraordinary expansion west; the redevelopment and preservation of the older portions of the city; the collaboration among neighborhoods, and public and private initiatives; the annexation process and development districts unique to Nebraska; and historical and significant locations along the route. Visit indoor and outdoor locations, including the Country Club Hills neighborhood, which collaborated on several development projects; the nationally respected Nebraska Humane Society; the Saddlebrook Building with an elementary school, public library, and community center; Heron Haven Nature Center; and the Elkhorn neighborhood that is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Walk Score: 3

T-7 Historic North Omaha

What do Buffalo Bill and Malcolm X have in common? They both have a presence in the North Omaha community which also housed the Trans-Mississippi Expo of 1898—a site you will see on the tour. We will tour the new nationally designated historic business district of North Omaha that once saw greats such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong on the 'chitterling' circuit of the early 1920's. Learn about Omaha clarinetist Preston Love, Sr. who ran Duke Ellington's band as well as see works designed by Omaha's First African-American Architect Clarence Wington. Older properties as well as new community development projects such as Habitat for Humanity houses are included on this tour. Drinks, meal, charm, and t-shirts all included!

Walk Score: 4

T-8 Reborn-Transform-Renaissance (Benson-Fontenelle-Central Park)

Come visit three mid-city neighborhoods: Fontenelle View, Central Park and Benson. This tour will showcase 3 separate areas in midtown Omaha: The rebirth of an organization as a result of the revitalization of a local park through public funds; the transformation of a crime infested residential neighborhood known as "Death Valley" to the now nicknamed "Hope's Alley"; and the renaissance of a commercial, entertainment and artistic mecca viewed as a popular destination location for the entire Midwest region.

Walk Score: 2

T-9 Blackstone Neighborhood

Blackstone is a newly revitalized neighborhood district close to downtown Omaha. We have a lot to offer in regards to what it takes to transform a blighted urban area into one of the most desired destinations to live, work and play.

Walk Score: 5

T-10 Boys Town

Over the last 100 years, Father Flanagan's Boys Town has 'changed the way America cares for her children and families.' On this tour, you will learn about Boys Town's rich 100-year history and experience Boys Town's work with children and families today. Visit the Boys Town museum and Father Flanagan's Home.

Walk Score: 3

T-11 Kaneko-Community Engagement Center-Do Space

Universities and community colleges are uniquely placed to change the lives of their neighbors. Visitors will tour three unique community/campus collaborative spaces to learn more about how they can pursue similar ideas in their own cities.

Walk Score: 2

Walk Scores of 1 to 5 (1 = low amount of walking; 3= moderate amount of walking; 5 = high amount of walking)

T-12 Dahlman Neighborhood Association - “Blending New With Old”

The Dahlman neighborhood was platted in 1854 and serves as one of the oldest residential areas in Omaha. It was once home to the original Gold Coast neighborhood and to the early settlements of “Little Italy” and “Little Bohemia.” The tour highlights recent additions and renovations, including how new businesses, housing, and architecture have been successfully integrated into an older neighborhood. The Dahlman neighborhood continues to promote unity, pride, and revitalization. The successful mixing of old and new as well as renovation, reuse, and repurposing of properties is resulting in a healthy, vibrant, and growing neighborhood that attendees will see firsthand.

Walk Score: 3

T-13 Historic Council Bluffs

Three historic Council Bluffs neighborhoods give you a glimpse of “Old Town,” the epicenter of a city that was once the jumping-off point for the settling of the American West. Tour the General Dodge House—a nationally registered landmark—as well as several beautiful Victorian homes and a refurbished City Park (formerly the site of the City’s first high school). You will drive by the original business district, a Carnegie library building, the one-of-a-kind “squirrel cage” jail, and more on this scenic journey. This tour will require moderate walking.

Walk Score: 3

T-14 Lincoln Fairview Historic District

The Lincoln Fairview Neighborhood Association would like to share a treasured area of Council Bluffs. The neighborhood includes three historic monuments and the city’s oldest cemetery, founded in 1846. A walking tour of the Fairview Cemetery will reveal the graves of many prominent citizens. A sidewalk tour will showcase homes with a variety of architectural styles, dating from 1850. Included in the tour will be a drive-by of the Historic Downtown 100 Block and the recreated Kanessville Mormon Tabernacle.

Walk Score: 5 (limited handicap accessibility through cemetery)

T-15 Long School - May Day Celebration Tour

The Long School Neighborhood Association is a unique addition to the NUSA tours because of its unmatched historical importance, seamlessly blended with contemporary architectural advances. Two examples of this amazing mix (merging old with new) is the Omaha Star, built in the late 1930’s which is now the newly constructed “Fair Deal Village MarketPlace.” Our community works together to accomplish our mission to create financial wealth for our residents and businesses and we have seen tremendous growth over the last few years. Many local shops and churches uphold this neighborhood vision and residents continually welcome new and innovative ideas.

Walk Score: 4

T-16 Park Avenue

Park Avenue, or as some describe the “melting pot of Omaha,” is an incredibly dynamic urban area experiencing rapid redevelopment and economic growth. This tour highlights recent redevelopment projects (both market-rate and low-income), historic preservation, nonprofit initiatives, and collaborative neighborhood planning efforts.

Walk Score: 5

T-17 The Spring Lake Park Team

NUSA is all about sharing what we are doing to make our neighborhoods the best they can be and the Spring Lake Park Team has a lot to share! The tour focus is the Spring Lake Park Pond Project but we will include the Veterans Memorial Bridge Walking Path, 13th and Missouri Ave Beautification, the 24th Street as well as the Vinton Street business districts, and some of the beautiful ethnic murals. Each element of the tour will showcase Historic South Omaha and Spring Lake Park Neighborhood residents’ and businesses’ pride of place as accented via inclusive, community-based improvement initiatives past, present, and future. Our neighbors from across the country will see the power of positive partnerships working to realize community goals for neighborhood public spaces. The tour meal will be at a South Omaha ethnic restaurant, where we will be joined by the folks from the Ethnic Murals Tour, which will offer an opportunity for some great conversations about what you have seen on the tours.”

Walk Score: 2

T-18 The South Omaha Mural Project

The South Omaha Mural Project tour will showcase six unique murals that were created through collaborative design with culturally significant neighborhoods of South Omaha. The murals highlight the stories of the Lithuanian, Czech, Polish, and Mexican experience in the area. The tour will be rich with interesting historical facts and personal anecdotes about what makes South Omaha so wonderful. Tour guides will discuss what it took to make the South Omaha Mural Project happen, and how tour participants can replicate the project in their hometown.

Walk Score: 2