



Neighborhood Initiatives (Track A)

Defined by spaces, places and the people who call them home, neighborhoods are the backbone of every city. Learn about the initiatives that have been undertaken by other communities to combat neighborhood challenges, build upon existing strengths and improve the reality of the people who define the places we call home.



Neighborhood Stabilization (Track B)

Neighborhoods lead on-the-ground efforts for promoting economic revitalization through innovative foreclosure prevention, housing development and rehab, commercial corridor development, transit oriented development, multi-modal transportation, anchor institutions, financial education, and wealth building; implementing best practices for economic growth and protecting neighborhood assets.



Creative Inclusion (Track C)

America is entering a time of profound and permanent change to the demographic composition of the U.S. By 2030 the U.S. will have twice as many seniors as we have today. As the Baby Boomer generation ages, fostering the young adults in our communities has become a vital objective. Learn how neighborhood leaders are learning to bridge these generation gaps and goals through art, communication, and community collaboration.



Safe & Healthy Communities (Track D)

Demonstrate community-based crime prevention strategies supported by multiple stakeholders that foster enhanced safety and livability while reducing overall neighborhood crime. In addition, hear from leaders who are working towards effective collective-community response in planning, coordination, and implementation of programs that address public health issues from lead contamination to sex trafficking.



Grants & Government Programs (Track E)

Applying for grants and understanding government regulations can be a daunting challenge. These workshops will provide help, tips and even some tricks from experienced professionals. In addition you can hear how other communities have used grants and government programs to achieve targeted goals.



Using Technology To Connect (Track F)

Information is power. Learn how your community can harness the power of technology to effectively communicate information, network, and stay connected. Increase the impact of your organization by using social media to organize, fundraise, and achieve neighborhood goals.



Green Growing Neighborhoods (Track G)

Discover how diverse communities develop while sustaining and restoring the well-being of current and future residents, the economy and the environment. Learn about topics such as land use, community gardens, urban farming, and mass transportation.



Emerging Leaders (Track H)

Empowering and nurturing current and future neighborhood leaders will build dynamic, diverse and economically sound communities. Workshops range from building capacity, skillset, and efficiency for community leaders and identifying and supporting individuals who can become the next generation of leaders.



NUSA (Track I)

Get information about the NUSA organization, attend workshops on running for the NUSA board of directors, connecting via social media, or becoming an affiliate member. Also, watch the presentations for the Neighborhood of the Year and Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging.

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* Eligible for 1.25 hours of American Planning Association (APA), American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance (Credits).

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WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

(1-A) Creative Placemaking in the Margins

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Creative Placemaking in the Margins discusses placemaking initiatives by Blues City Cultural Center, a performing and visual arts organization located in Memphis. BCCC has worked extensively in two communities—Uptown and Orange Mound—to bring the arts to underserved, marginalized residents and create sustainable changes within their neighborhoods. Both projects fit within the framework of social change, embracing the premise that the arts can create awareness, inspire understanding, and meet neighborhood challenges.

Presenters:

Deborah Frazier, Project Director, Blues City Cultural Center, Memphis, TN

Levi Frazier, Jr., Managing Director, Blues City Cultural Center, Memphis, TN

Carolyn Matthews, Program Coordinator, Blues City Cultural Center, Memphis, TN

Cynthia Sadler, PhD, Evaluator, Blues City Cultural Center, Memphis, TN

(1-B) Asset Based Community Development

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The strongest neighborhoods are the ones that have learned to identify and leverage their strengths. Come learn how the best practice of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) can help your neighborhood capitalize on the good stuff that's already there and/or build on the basic principles of ABCD with specific "how to" tools including building your team, community listening, and neighborhood action teams.

Presenter:

John McKnight, Co-founder, Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University

Christian Gray, Director, inCOMMON Community Development, Omaha, NE

(1-C) Strengthening Neighborhoods One Family at a Time

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: In 2012, Boys Town began a community engagement initiative by concentrating program growth in South Omaha to strengthen families so their children remain at home, attend school, and stay out of trouble. This presentation and moderated panel elaborates on the initiative's core activities, its partnership with the largest high school in Nebraska, and implications for integration with other community efforts. It will also discuss how strategic partnerships are central to community engagement, specifically focusing on the role of education, law enforcement, and community based provider agencies. The presentation concludes with the discussion of the current state of the initiative, the role of evaluation and strategic planning and visions of the future.

Panelists:

Christopher Miller, Director South Omaha Program Operations, Boys Town, Omaha, NE

Regina Costello, Manager South Omaha Programs, Boys Town, Omaha, NE

Tania Lara, Care Coordinator Supervisor, Boys Town, Omaha, NE

Mariana Santa-Maria, Common Sense Parenting Supervisor, Boys Town, Omaha, NE

Nick Juliano, Senior Director for Community Impact, Boys Town, Omaha, NE

(1-D) Healthy Communities Start with Neighborhoods: Five Strategies to Grow Healthy Neighborhoods

Workshop Description: Did you know that your ZIP code is a better predictor of your health than your genetic code? This session will begin with a discussion on how the built environment of your neighborhood can impact the health of residents. Neighbors can work together to implement five strategies that will not only improve health, but improve issues related to equity. Tangible projects from across Minnesota will be shared along with resources.

Presenters:

Kelly Corbin, M.A. and PAPHS - Physical Activity Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health, Rochester, MN

WORKSHOP SESSION 1 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

(1-E) Getting Government On Your Side

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Governments typically have limited resources especially when it comes to money and staff. They must prioritize how and which neighborhoods will receive help. Funds often go to the neighborhoods who are proactive and have a plan in mind and are trying to help themselves first. This workshop is for those neighborhoods who have taken the step to become organized and conduct monthly meetings, but do not know how to take the next step to make change happen in their community through government programs.

Presenters:

Simone Peterson, Neighborhood Specialist, Neighborhood Services Department, *Manatee County, FL*

Robert Barto, Neighborhood Specialist, Neighborhood Services Department, *Manatee County, FL*

(1-F) Be More Powerful, Be More Effective

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Learn about a NUSA partner website (MyNNA.com) that solves many problems neighborhood associations face today—how to be more powerful and effective to positively impact your neighborhood and community. Online tools are available to help you communicate and organize better and connect with other groups to solve mutual problems. Be more effective. Be more powerful.

Presenters:

Kevin Wier, Managing Member, National Neighborhood Association (MyNNA.com), *Austin TX*

Mary Jane Wier, Managing Member, National Neighborhood Association (MyNNA.com), *Austin, TX*

(1-G) Green Growing Neighborhood Engagement

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Learn about ways community engagement and natural resource conservation are realized through innovative partnerships, both rural and urban. Join us to learn about Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District's (RCRCD) experiences with engaging community and partners in a variety of ways.

Presenters:

Diana Ruiz, Public Affairs Manager, Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD), *Riverside, CA*

(1-H) Using the Practices of Community Engagement and Community Organizing to Identify and Develop Leaders in Low-Income Communities

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC) and Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) will share with you best practices of community engagement and community organizing which they are using to identify and develop leaders in lower income communities. Learn about strategies for successful community engagement and leveraging resources and assets already in the community. These community organizing disciplines will help you develop the power needed to put your plans into action.

Panelists:

Jody-Ann Coore, Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC)

Joe Higgs, Karen McElroy, Kay Carne, Charles Gould, Rev. Tom Emmitt, Susan Kuhlman, Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)

(1-I) All About NUSA: Running for the NUSA

Workshop Description: Ever wonder how the spirit and magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive? This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization on and what is involved in joining the volunteer Board of Directors.

If you ever thought of being involved in the neighborhood movement on a national level, this is your invitation. This workshop is a prerequisite to running for the Board. This workshop will be conducted twice on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 9:45am and 2:30pm.

Board of Directors

Beryl McCadden-Pritko, NUSA Board Member, *Gardena, CA*

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 2 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

(2-A) Complete Communities: City of Houston Super Neighborhood Program

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The City of Houston *Super Neighborhood Program* has been around for over 10 years. Learn how the “complete communities” approach is a useful tool for solving problems at the neighborhood level and involving citizen participation in advisory policy making and neighborhood planning initiatives. This session will demonstrate Houston’s successful effort toward helping communities organize and work more effectively to be more engaged with the City and other outside partners.

Presenters:

Donald R. Perkins, Chief of Staff, Office of Council Member Larry V. Green, Esq. (Council District K), *Houston, TX*
Takasha Francis, Director of the Department of Neighborhoods, City of Houston, *Houston, TX*

(2-B) Beyond the Block

Workshop Description: Presenter Oscar Duran has dedicated his professional and academic career to the science that is urban sociology and neighborhood revitalization. Attendees will hear the real life experiences Mr. Duran has encountered in working with neighbors, partnering with nonprofits, compromising with city government and administration, and gaining support of the local philanthropic community to make real change in Omaha’s neighborhoods.

Presenter:

Oscar Duran, Neighborhood Revitalization Specialist & Program Director, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

(2-C) The Role of Affordable, Quality Arts Education and Public Art in Improving Neighborhoods

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The arts are powerful tools for neighborhoods seeking to foster a sense of place, build community pride, improve outcomes for at-risk youth, and improve safety. This how-to presentation features two best practices that explore the role and importance of signage, public art, neighborhood-level access to the arts, and youth art engagement. The first presentation features Arts for All, an Omaha-based arts education provider that serves

thousands of students each year with: affordable, year-round classes; free outreach programs; and community events held in donated spaces. Workshop participants will engage in hands-on activities important to developing problem solving skills that can be applied to the arts and beyond. The second how-to features a best practice from the Council Bluff Department of Parks and Recreation and the Iowa West Foundation. It highlights key lessons learned while co-launching a public art-based signage project. It includes the nuisances of working with artists to commission public art, project funding, neighborhood engagement, curation and design, and installation.

Presenters:

Judith Mallory, Executive Director, Arts For All, Inc., *Omaha, NE*

Larry Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Council Bluffs, *Council Bluffs, IA*

Pete Tulipana, CEO, Iowa West Foundation, *Council Bluffs, IA*

(2-D) Identifying & Coordinating a Response to Human Trafficking in Your Community

Workshop Description: Polaris has identified or directly responded to 25,000 cases of human trafficking in every single state in the country. No city is immune to this crime. Cities play an essential role in the fight against human trafficking and that role is served best when their citizens are well-educated about the issue, know what signs to look for, and know what resources are available.

Participants will:

- Learn how to define human trafficking.
- Learn how to identify risk factors for human trafficking.
- Identify actionable steps that community stakeholders, law enforcement, victim service providers, related field providers and other allied industry sectors can take to identify and prevent trafficking in their work.
- Learn about some unique approaches that cities have taken to tackle the issue of human trafficking.
- Learn how to leverage critical resources, such as the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Brainstorm actionable steps to prevent trafficking in home communities.

Presenters:

Vanessa Chauhan, Senior Regional Specialist, Polaris, *Washington, DC*

WORKSHOP SESSION 2 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

(2-E) Prerequisites for Fundraising Success

Workshop Description: You want to raise money for your organization. The question is how. This workshop provides how-to information that demystifies fundraising and helps increase your success. If you want to jumpstart your fundraising but aren't sure where to begin, this workshop is for you! Includes handouts and small group exercises.

Presenters:

Mel and Pearl Shaw, Principals, Saad & Shaw Comprehensive Fund Development Services, *Memphis, TN*

(2-F) How to Save Places That Matter in Your Neighborhood

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Have a well-loved building or home in your neighborhood that is being threatened with demolition? From the successful effort to Save *Yates Elementary School* in Omaha, learn how to organize, promote, and advocate to save properties that give a sense of meaning, stability, and history to your neighborhood.

Presenters:

Kristine Gerber, Executive Director, Restoration Exchange Omaha

Chris Foster, Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Martin Janousek, Senior Architect, Leo A Daly and **Senior Associate at the American Institute of Architects,** Omaha Chapter and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

(2-G) Greening Omaha One Neighborhood at a Time: We Have Some Fun!

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Trees, community gardens, and diverse neighborhood greening projects beautify our urban environment. They provide so many benefits that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and city planners regard them as part of a city's "green infrastructure." The panel will discuss how neighborhood leadership and resident participation, with a little imagination and hard work, can create green amenities right in their own neighborhoods. Neighbors working together can develop green spaces that

create a healthy environment that welcomes people of all ages, races, talents, and lifestyles, with very little investment. Participants from this workshop can begin this greening process with a new exciting vision for improving their neighborhoods.

Panelists:

Diana Failla, President, Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

John Ransom, Past President, Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

Dave Schinzel, Past President, Dundee/Memorial Park Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

Avery Schwer, Board Member & Past President, Aksarben Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

(2-H) Ready or Not, Here They Come

Workshop Description: This workshop is designed for residents to consider the concept of including "returning citizens" from prison in their planning and development efforts. Community involvement in the process of "reentry" will determine the success or failure of individuals coming out of prison. Their ability to make positive contributions to the neighborhood depends on us. Liability or asset? Friend or foe? Ready or not, here they come.

Presenters:

Teela Mickles, Founder/CEO, Compassion in Action, Inc., *Omaha, NE*

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 3 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

(3-A) Living with Others & Welcoming Diverse Neighborhoods

Workshop Description: 75 years ago many new neighbors were greeted with plates of cookies, baked goods, or a casserole. How do we introduce ourselves to those we live next to? Why is it important to know other people? Chaplain Royal from *The Inclusive Life Center* will lead a discussion about being mindful, and having intentional connections with those whom we may consider the others in our neighborhoods, including those who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, or queer. Panelists will also share information on how the immigrant resettlement process works and share stories of transition from refugee and immigrant families. Learn about the challenges and collaborative programs to assist these newcomer families in their transition to their new neighborhoods in Omaha.

Presenters:

Rev. Royal D. Carleton, Chaplain, Inclusive Life Center and Chapel, *Omaha, NE*

Rhonda R. Uher, Education and Outreach Manager, City of Omaha Human Rights & Relations Department

(3-B) Energize Our Neighborhoods: Developing Vibrant Neighborhoods Through Resource Alignment and Community Empowerment

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Energize Our Neighborhoods is a collaboration between Boise's residents, public and private partners and the City to keep our neighborhoods unique and desirable. It focuses on aligning community resources to improve livability and making measurable change based on neighborhood-level data. By focusing on individual neighborhoods, the program increases economic activity, improves safety, and creates more vibrant and connected neighborhoods.

Presenters:

Melinda McGoldrick, Energize Our Neighborhoods Coordinator, *Boise, ID*

Leon Letson, Associate Planner, *Boise, ID*

(3-C) Branding Your Neighborhood Through the Arts: Painting the Town

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Participants will learn the basics of branding your neighborhood with the arts and how to apply for a grant in creative placemaking and place branding.

Memphis has received several grants to use the arts to help revitalize the city's neighborhoods. This is your chance to learn how the arts can strengthen your neighborhood using Memphis as a case study.

This workshop will share how neighborhoods can revitalize by doing public art projects such as community murals. Presenters will share the story of the South Omaha Mural Project and the ongoing work to create a community mural within each of 10 neighborhoods all with different ethnic nationalities.

Presenters:

Linda Steele, Chief Engagement Officer, ArtsMemphis, *Memphis, TN*

Chris McLeod, Principal, CLM Marketing, *Memphis, TN*

Richard Harrison, Artist, South Omaha Mural Project, *Omaha, NE*

Additional Artists from South Omaha Mural Project

(3-D) Neighborhood Traffic Safety: It's No Accident!

Workshop Description: As reported by local law enforcement, speeding, distracted driving, and running through stop signs are all major concerns in neighborhoods throughout the country. Most drivers speeding on residential streets live in the neighborhood. "KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25" is a safety campaign that proactively engages residents making streets safer for all who walk, cycle, play, and drive. Be a community that dares to care!

Presenters:

Tom Everson, Executive Director and Founder, Keep Kids Alive Drive 25; Chair of the Westwood Heights Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

(3-E) Grassroots Organizing for Neighborhood Improvement

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: This workshop will provide suggestions and fundamentals for grassroots organizing and is intended for beginners and advanced neighborhood activists, practitioners, elected officials, and others interested in organizing and sustaining viable neighborhood groups and organizations. Simple steps will also be presented to assist organizations in planning and implementing neighborhood improvements.

Presenters:

Dr. Elton Gatewood, Ph.D - Elton Gatewood Consulting, *Tacoma, WA*

WORKSHOP SESSION 3 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

(3-F) Show Me How to Get My Neighborhood's News on TV

Workshop Descriptions: The purpose of this workshop is to provide neighborhood leaders with the steps for getting their events on television. Often, neighborhoods put forth great effort for their events but the turnout and the return are sometimes little to none, simply because people just did not know about the event. This workshop will reveal the secret to pre-promotion for neighborhood news and events, as well as how to get cameras to the event. Important “newsroom roles” will be discussed, especially those that determine what stories do and do not make it in a newscast.

Presenters:

Sybil Scarbrough, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Birmingham, AL & Media Consultant, Birmingham, AL

(3-G) Urban Vacant Land Stewardship

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Local neighborhood vacant properties can be a productive space for food production and nature habitat with a little bit of community maintenance efforts. With much less money and less social coordination, vacant properties can be passively managed in a way that looks dignified & natural when adorned with tasteful curbside appeal. This workshop will address the educational topics of mowing less, yard waste management, and perennial edible landscaping. It will also explore how the Benson Plant Rescue / Community Produce Rescue (BPR-CPR) builds community bridges by repurposing all types of organic “waste.”

Presenters:

Gus Von Roenn, Executive Director, Omaha Permaculture, Omaha, NE

Graham Herbst, Vice-President, Omaha Permaculture, Omaha, NE

Dr. David Hibler, Sr. (“Dr. D.”), President, Benson Plant Rescue/Community Produce Rescue (BPR-CPR), Omaha, NE

(3-H) Making a Difference in Our Neighborhoods by Promoting Student Leadership

Workshop Description:

The South Omaha Community Care Council (SOCCC) is a networking organization that includes over 100 community organizations and neighborhoods. These groups communicate, connect, and collaborate as a way of improving the community. One of the special initiatives of SOCCC is to support the development of student leaders. SOCCC has joined with two leadership programs in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to harness the talents of high school students to be positive change agents in their neighborhoods.

Presenters:

Susan Mayberger, Chair, South Omaha Community Care Council (SOCCC)

(3-I) All About NUSA: Running for the NUSA

Workshop Description: Ever wonder how the spirit and magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive? This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization on and what is involved in joining the volunteer Board of Directors. If you ever thought of being involved in the neighborhood movement on a national level, this is your invitation. This workshop is a prerequisite to running for the Board. This workshop will be conducted twice on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 9:45am and 2:30pm.

Board of Directors

Beryl McCadden-Pritko, NUSA Board Member, Gardena, CA

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 4 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 3:45 AM – 5:00 PM

(4-A) Comparing Social Function of Neighborhood Councils in Japan and the United States

Workshop Description: The workshop will provide an interactive and participatory exchange of information and compare the Social Functions of Neighborhood Councils in Japan and the USA. It will focus specifically on neighborhood involvement, crime prevention, partnership among citizens, and local and central government involvement and collaboration.

Presenters:

Dr. Elton Gatewood, Ph.D - Elton Gatewood Consulting, Tacoma, WA

Dr. Soichiro Maeyama, Ph.D - Professor at the Graduate School of Urban Management, Fukuyama City University and with the Japan Association for Community Policy

(4-B) From Death Valley to Hope's Alley: Building Community Through Positive Neighborhood Events

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: For the last twenty plus years, Apostle Vanessa Ward has been fighting against crime and violence in her Omaha neighborhood with her annual Community Block Party. In this workshop, Apostle Vanessa Ward, along with Ryan Morrissey and Ken Lyons from NeighborWorks Home Solutions, will speak on the history of the block party and how you can create positive neighborhood events that have long lasting effects.

Presenters:

Apostle Vanessa Ward, President, Central Park Neighborhood Association, Omaha, NE

Ryan Morrissey, Director, Community Building & Engagement at NeighborWorks Home Solutions, Council Bluffs, IA

Ken Lyons, President and CEO, NeighborWorks Home Solutions, Council Bluffs, IA

(4-C) When Generations Meet

Workshop Description: The N.O.I.C. (North Omaha Intergenerational Campus) is a unique space that serves youth in the Juvenile Justice System as an alternative to detention and community seniors at the same site. Both

seniors and youth are offered opportunities to learn, grow, share and socialize through structured programming, healthy meals, community networking, and professional advocates in a warm, reinforcing environment.

Presenters:

Tami Treloggen, CTRS, Recreation Therapist, Heartland Family Service, Omaha, NE

(4-D) Omaha 360 - A United Front to Reduce Gun Violence and Build Stronger Police/Community Relations

Workshop Description: As evidenced by daily news coverage, the nation is simultaneously dealing with the devastating impact of gun violence and strained police/community relations. This workshop will describe how community organizations, faith leaders, law enforcement, neighborhoods, residents, and hundreds of organizations have come together to identify and implement solutions to successfully reduce gun violence and build stronger relationships between police and community.

Presenters:

Police Chief Todd Schmaderer, Omaha Police Department

Pastor Bruce Williams, Senior Pastor, Hope of Glory Church

Tom Warren, CEO, Urban League of Nebraska and former Omaha Police Chief

Eric Burgin, Monmouth Park Neighborhood Association and North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance

Teresa Negron, Consultant and retired Sergeant, Omaha Police Department

(4-E) Connecting the Dots: Local Government & Community Working Together

Workshop Description: Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationally funded program through the U.S. Department of Justice that is working to keep communities safe by reducing gun violence. This workshop will discuss five strategies for building and sustaining engagement in an effort to reduce crime in communities:

WORKSHOP SESSION 4 • THURSDAY // MAY 25 // 3:45 AM – 5:00 PM

- Partnerships
- Strategic Planning
- Training
- Community outreach and public awareness
- Accountability

The strategies are applicable to neighborhoods across the country. The workshop will also discuss local prevention efforts for reducing violence in the Charlotte, NC area.

Presenters:

Ronnie Devine, Violence Prevention Manager, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, *Charlotte, NC*

(4-F) Find It Here! How Neighborhood Associations Can Leverage Public Library Resources

Workshop Description: Neighborhood associations focus on creating a sense of community, and public libraries are about communities. In this session, the Omaha Public Library (OPL) will describe the wide variety of essential resources available free from the library for communities, and provide examples of how OPL and neighborhood associations have worked together through partnerships, outreach, and community engagement efforts.

Presenters:

Amy Mather, Adult Services Manager, Omaha Public Library
Martha Grenzeback, Subject Librarian - Genealogy & Local History, Omaha Public Library

(4-G) The Future of Transportation in Omaha: Bus Rapid Transit

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) utilizes many of the same streamlining features of a light rail system at a fraction of the cost. By utilizing cutting edge tech, upgraded vehicles, transit-oriented roadways, and amenity-rich stations, Omaha's BRT will offer a fast, streamlined transportation option that is truly an investment in the city's

future. At this session, attendees can expect to learn about transportation in the city - where it's been, where it is, and where it's going; how the BRT system will operate and benefit public transportation in Omaha; and what attendees can do to incorporate multi-modal transportation in their lives, including utilization of the Omaha Metro Transit system.

Presenters:

Jason Rose, Outreach Coordinator for Metro Transit, *Omaha, NE*

(4-H) Partnerships to Build Community Driven Change

Workshop Description: Created from a partnership of organizations and residents, the "Land Use Colonia Housing Action" (LUCHA) is a community education and capacity building initiative in the Texas Rio Grande Valley that builds resident capacity to change land use and development policy. Through partnership, education, training, advocacy, and action oriented planning, LUCHA creates community driven change and in turn safer, healthier, and more resilient communities. Attendees will learn how this unique partnership and initiative came to be so that they may be able to create one of their own, discuss strategies for identifying needed technical information, and learn ways to engage community members around technical topics.

Presenters:

Lisa Neergaard, Senior Policy Associate, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, *Dallas, TX*
Josué López, LUCHA Leader, A Resource In Serving Equality (ARISE), *San Juan, TX*

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 5 • FRIDAY // MAY 26 // 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

(5-A) Neighborhood Rehab Project

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Maintaining the vitality of a neighborhood can become difficult when the residents are getting older and cannot physically and/or financially maintain and repair their properties as they once did. This session will provide details on how to develop a neighborhood rehab project for your jurisdiction. You will leave with information that covers all the questions and challenges the City of Arvada, CO has encountered in developing and managing the Neighborhood Engagement program.

Presenters:

Greg Carr, Neighborhood Services Manager, Arvada, CO

(5-B) Creative Placemaking: Using Cultural, Design, and Planning Assets to Stabilize and Grow Communities

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: This moderated panel features professionals in the arts, architecture, and planning sectors to explore how creative placemaking can transform communities. This session highlights the unique role of artists and cultural anchor institutions in transforming communities; the role of architects and preservationists in shaping the built environment; and the role of local government in planning for the economic viability and growth of corridors and neighborhoods.

Panelists:

Jeffrey L. Day, AIA, Principal, Min | Day; Professor and Director, University of Nebraska Architecture Program
Martin Janousek, Senior Architect, Leo A Daly and Senior Associate, American Institute of Architects, Omaha Chapter and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association
Brigitte McQueen Shew, Founder and Executive Director, Union for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE
Todd Swirczek, AICP, City Planner/Urban Design, City of Omaha, Omaha, NE

(5-C) Seniors & Volunteerism: Connecting Passions to Purpose and Community Impact

Workshop Description: Today's seniors want to feel relevant, valuable and important. With available time and great abilities, seniors can make a significant difference in their neighborhoods through volunteering. Activate the volunteer power of your seniors by helping them discover their passions and interests, and connect these to meaningful areas of contribution and impact. In most other cultures seniors are honored and revered. In our culture, many seniors are ignored or forgotten. Helping seniors feel relevant, valuable, and important improves their lives and provides a great untapped resource for neighborhoods and communities.

Presenters:

Jay Forte, President and Founder, The Greatness Zone, LLC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

(5-D) Healthy Homes for Healthy Neighborhoods

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Unhealthy homes in our country are making people sick. Issues such as lead-based paint hazards, lead-contaminated water, radon, mold, toxic chemicals, asbestos, trip and fall hazards, and poor indoor air are major problems in homes everywhere. While many communities are focused on creating affordable housing, the word decent is often left out resulting in poor housing conditions for those in the greatest need. This workshop will highlight the work that Omaha has been doing to create Healthy Homes. Attendees will learn how to implement these programs in their own communities.

Presenters:

Kara Eastman, President and CEO, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, Omaha, NE
Mike Battershell, Board Member, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, Omaha, NE

WORKSHOP SESSION 5 • FRIDAY // MAY 26 // 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

(5-E) Engagement and Shared Decision-Making - Working Together to Transform Communities Through Collaboration, Alignment, and Strategic Reinvestment*

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The *Empowerment Network* was launched in 2007 by African-Americans and North Omaha residents with a goal of transforming a community with high unemployment and poverty. The collective results are measurable. This workshop will focus on community engagement, collaboration, aligning efforts, advocating for important policies and generating large scale investments. The initiative now includes partners and residents throughout Omaha.

Panelists:

Willie Barney, Founder & President, African-American Empowerment Network, *Omaha, NE*
Councilmember Ben Gray, Omaha City Council, *Omaha, NE*
Carl Christian, North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance, *Omaha, NE*
Teresa Hunter, Executive Director/CEO, Family Housing Advisory Services, *Omaha, NE*
John Ewing, Douglas County Treasurer and Board Chair, African-American Empowerment Network, *Omaha, NE*

(5-F) Using Your Past as a Bridge to the Future: Discover the Benefits of Promoting Your Neighborhood History

Workshop Description: There is no such thing as an “uninteresting” neighborhood. There are only neighborhoods whose history has not yet been effectively told. Producing a well-told neighborhood history can focus the attention of participants young and old, enhance a sense of community, bring recognition from your city, and generate revenue for your organization—all on a minimal budget.

As a workshop participant, you will pose questions, brainstorm opportunities, share your experience, and receive specific guidance.

Presenters:

Eric Chiel, Founder and Chair, Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization, *Palm Springs, CA*; **Neighborhood Representative**, Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs (ONE-PS); **Co-Chair**, ONE-PS Communications Committee
Jeannie Kays, Director of Library Services, *Palm Springs, CA*

(5-G) Urban Agriculture: Education, Innovation, and Collaboration

Workshop Description: Are you interested in food security and urban agriculture? Do you need help determining how to bring these ideas and projects to your city? Join us for an interactive session featuring knowledge and insights from city planners, community garden organizations, urban farmers, teachers, and board members from Omaha’s many urban agriculture projects. Participants will have an opportunity to break into roundtable discussions based on their areas of interest and ask questions directly to the presenters.

Presenters:

Cait Caughey, Education Director, The Big Garden, *Omaha, NE*
Albert Varas, Executive Director, Latino Center of the Midlands and **past Board President**, City Sprouts, *Omaha, NE*
Athena Ramos, Community Health Program Manager, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities
Joey Vickery, 4th Grade Teacher, Fontenelle Elementary School, *Omaha, NE*
Riannon Bell, Food Specialist, Nelson Mandela Elementary School, *Omaha, NE*
 Representatives from Omaha area urban agriculture and food justice/security organizations

(5-H) Learn the 3 Secrets of Communication & Public Engagement to Build a Strong Community: Inform, Involve, & Empower!

Workshop Description: When you are committed to building a strong community, your efforts never end. There are always inspiring insights that unite us, new resources to be discovered, and innovative partnerships waiting to be formed. Discover the valuable communication and public engagement tools the 5th fastest growing city in the United States (Fort Worth, TX) uses to *inform, involve, and empower* neighbors and neighborhood association leadership.

Presenters:

Catherine Huckaby, Community Engagement Manager, *Fort Worth, TX*

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 6 • FRIDAY // MAY 26 // 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

(6-A) The Prospect Village Initiative: A Holistic Approach to Neighborhood Revitalization

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: The City of Omaha Planning Department partnered with 25 local organizations to create and implement a holistic neighborhood revitalization model. The initiative was launched in Prospect Village, a distressed, racially mixed neighborhood in North Omaha. Activities included new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, healthy home/energy-efficiency upgrades, gardens, art projects, parenting classes, gang prevention initiatives, and the formation of a viable neighborhood association.

Panelists:

David Thomas, PhD, Assistant Planning Director, Omaha, NE

Rondae Hill, President, Prospect Village Neighborhood Association, Omaha, NE

Rosie Schuman, Director of Operations and Programs, Abide, Omaha, NE

Mike Gawley, Executive Director, Holy Name Housing Corporation, Omaha, NE

Teela Mickles, Founder and CEO, Compassion in Action, Omaha, NE

(6-B) The Case for the Smaller Bite: Dividing Deeper into Defined Neighborhoods

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: In Omaha and many other cities, distressed neighborhoods are often lumped together irrespective of their individual characteristics and traits. This collection of unique communities ends up being referenced as the “north side” or the “east end” or some other euphemism for the place where poor people live. This presentation will explore the way a local organization, *Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp.* is implementing a national model pioneered by Purpose Built Communities, that emphasizes a comprehensive holistic approach within very defined boundaries.

Presenters:

Othello H. Meadows III, President, Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp., Omaha, NE

(6-C) Turn Up To Vote: Bridging the Generational Voting Gap

Workshop Description: The right to vote is a cornerstone of our republic. One of the most effective ways we can bring about lasting and substantial changes in our neighborhoods is to be politically active. We elect dedicated public servants to craft laws and policies that help our causes. Statistics tell us that a significant percentage of younger members of our society are not politically active, and do not even see the value in voting. This workshop was developed by college students at the University of Memphis, and reflects their opinions on the issue. The workshop will offer reasons for voter apathy, and offer practical solutions for how to reverse the trend.

Presenters:

Candace McRae Walsh, MPA and CNP, Instructor of Nonprofit Management and Public Administration, University of Memphis

(6-D) Closing the Gap - Bridging the Future: Six Strategies for Connecting Clients to Community Mental Health Resources

Workshop Description: In this session, you will learn six strategies to create a collective community plan to improve the coordination of services, increase access to comprehensive care, and provide holistic mental health services. Help close the gap for those experiencing mental illness by linking them to quality mental health services and resources.

Presenters:

Chetekia Morris, Founder & Interim CEO, I AM WILL Mental Illness Awareness, Omaha, NE

Catrice Jackson, M.S., LMHP, LPC - Mental Health Mentor, International Speaker, and Best-Selling Author, Omaha, NE

(6-E) Engaging Your Community: How to Get the Biggest Bang for Your Budgeted Buck!

Workshop Description: The City of Riverside, CA is comprised of 26 defined neighborhoods that take up approximately 81.5 square miles and has a population of around 324,000. Currently there are two full-time employees dedicated to the city’s neighborhoods program. Riverside has found many ways to engage the community in fun and effective ways while being fiscally responsible. We will share the initiatives and activities that that have created huge impacts and have resulted in increased neighborhood pride throughout the city.

Presenters:
Yvette Sennewalk, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator in the Community & Economic Development Department, Neighborhood Engagement Division, Riverside, CA

(6-F) Lessons Learned: Using Citizen Science to Bring Awareness to Dangerous Intersections

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Descriptions: Intersection safety is a huge problem in many areas, but how do you raise awareness for unsafe intersections in a way that causes the city to take action? Why does your definition of a safe intersection differ from the city’s? These are some of the questions Mode Shift considered when they decided to bring attention to dangerous intersections around Omaha. This workshop will focus on Mode Shift’s Safe Crossing Campaign and their experiences in creating an Intersection Analysis Tool to collect data on intersection safety and how this project went from a concept to a tool for citizens to use, and lessons learned along the way.

Presenters:
Jennifer Kephart, Mode Shift Omaha

(6-G) Green Infrastructure

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: Rain and snow falls from the sky on communities just as it does on natural forests and prairies, but there is an important difference, our communities have roofs, driveways, parking lots, etc. In this workshop, learn about managing stormwater runoff with green infrastructure and how it can improve the quality of communities and their environments.

Presenters:
Andy Szatko, MS4 Program Coordinator, Stormwater Program, Omaha, NE
Steve Rodie, Professor of Biology & Environmental Studies University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Omaha, NE

(6-H) The Care & Feeding of Successful Leaders

Workshop Description: You are passionate about the work you do, but does it sometimes feel like you are just herding drunken monkeys all day? In this informative and inspiring session, you will learn tools to:

- Get clear about your purpose and design as a leader
- Protect your valuable time, energy, and resources
- Take care of YOU while you are taking care of everything else
- Make decisions from a place of strength and calm
- Enjoy the journey - life is meant to be good!

Presenters:
Meg Davies, Founding Partner, Demanding Joy, Omaha, NE
Taliesha Goodwin, Life Advisor, Beton Rose Living, Omaha, NE

WORKSHOP TRACKS

WORKSHOP SESSION 7 • FRIDAY // MAY 26 // 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

(7-A) North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: This workshop will describe the process of community organizations and residents coming together to proactively and simultaneously develop a comprehensive vision and plan for revitalizing North Omaha. The panelists will outline the process, issues and solutions identified, and the plan which resulted from the engagement. It will share strategies and catalyst projects which have been generated through collaboration.

Panelists:

Ted Simpson, Director of Development, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Director of Operations, African American Empowerment Network

Michael Maroney, President, Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC)

Timothy R. Kenney, Executive Director, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Carl Christian, former President, North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance

(7-B) The Bridge from Blight to Thriving

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: In this interactive workshop, panelists who represent the Ivanhoe neighborhood of Kansas City will share their dynamic story of revitalization as they organized and worked to decrease crime, implement over 100 community change initiatives, establish themselves as a Community Development Corporation, and become one of Kansas City's most viable resident-led neighborhoods. Workshop participants will engage in dialogue and an evaluation exercise.

Presenters:

Margaret J. May, Executive Director, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, *Kansas City, MO*

Alan A. Young, Sr., Board member, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, *Kansas City, MO*

Yolanda Young, Youth & Family Life Outreach Specialist, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, *Kansas City, MO*

Neil Rudisill, Healthy Initiatives Manager, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, *Kansas City, MO*

(7-C) Culture as an Animator of Intergenerational Gathering Places

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: This presentation highlights the value of arts and cultural institutions for intergenerational gathering places. Success depends not only on their specific design, but also on how they “animate” diverse gatherings of young and old to associate and mingle. The intergenerational arts programming at the North Omaha Intergenerational Human Services Campus will be featured as a case study. Participants will learn: the basics of the Aging in Place concept and the unique role of arts, culture, and heritage within it; the importance of intergenerational animation as an indicator of quality of life and economic competitiveness; best practices for creating arts-based, intergenerational programming.

Presenters:

Jessica Scheuermann, Director of Publications, Partners for Liveable Communities, *Washington, D.C*

Carolyn Anderson, Director, WhyArts, *Omaha, NE*

(7-D) Citizen Patrols and Neighbors on Watch: Community Crime Prevention Programs

Workshop Description: A citizen patrol is a group of volunteers in your neighborhood who are willing to become trained to help in the fight against crime. Citizen patrollers police the neighborhood in visibly-marked vehicles, observe conditions, and report any suspicious activity or perceived danger to law enforcement. Workshop attendees will learn what a citizen patrol is, what the benefits are, and how to start a citizen patrol in their neighborhood. The Vancouver Police Neighbors On Watch (NOW) program is a successful community-based crime prevention partnership between the department and community. This workshop will encompass how the NOW program began in 2008; the process to select and train quality volunteers; and the direct benefits to the city, department, public safety, businesses, neighborhoods and citizen volunteers.

Presenters:

Officer John Supeh, Omaha Police Department, *Omaha, NE*
Kelly Cheney, Program Coordinator & Volunteer Services Coordinator, Vancouver Police Department, *Vancouver, WA*
Anne McEnery, Mayor Pro Term and Vancouver Police Neighbors on Watch (NOW) volunteer

(7-E) Building Bridges between Government & Neighborhoods Through a Culture of Public Participation

* AICP CM Credits

Workshop Description: A fundamental principle of our nation is that people should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. In many cases, decisions are made on behalf of neighborhoods rather than in collaboration with neighborhoods. This workshop will highlight the attitudes, skills, and practices that can be developed to build a culture of genuine respect and capacity for public participation.

Panelists:

Andy Wessel, Community Health Planner, Douglas County Health Department, *Omaha, NE*

Kim Roth Howe, Principal, CoCreative Labs, *Omaha, NE*

(7-F) Community Compass: Mapping for Neighborhoods

Workshop Description: With a focus on increasing civic capacity, this session promises a participatory approach to identifying issues in any community, identifying potential partners, and creating action plans to address the issues on a neighborhood level. By examining key civic indicators and facilitating a community asset mapping exercise, attendees will learn about clearly articulated action items and newfound partnerships. Discover how to access the Community Compass to find information on exempt organizations in Nebraska and Western Iowa, including basic financial comparability tools and historical data. Attendees will also learn how to spatially relate this information against existing U.S. Census database information to analyze potential gaps in social services coverage for the purposes of targeting or expanding services.

Presenters:

Amanda Barker, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Civic Health Programs, Nebraskans for Civic Reform

Kelly Koepsell, Member Services Manager, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, *Omaha, NE*

(7-G) Grow in Gifford Park

Workshop Description: This workshop tells the story of how the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association and Big Muddy Urban Farm (BMUF) work together to create a vibrant neighborhood. Covered topics include the community garden, youth garden, adventure playground, neighborhood market, community bicycle shop, and other programs that strengthen the neighborhood. The workshop will discuss the theory of “rhetorical cartography” and (Re)Mapping Urban Spaces. Omaha’s Gifford Park neighborhood is an older, very diverse urban neighborhood just west of downtown Omaha; the neighborhood association has been active for 28 years. Hear about Gifford Park’s story and learn about ideas for strengthening your own neighborhoods.

Panelists:

Brent Lubbert, Executive Director, Big Muddy Urban Farm (BMUF), *Omaha, NE*

Samantha Senda-Cook, PhD, Associate Professor, Creighton University, *Omaha, NE*

Chris Foster, Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, *Omaha, NE*

Martin Janousek, Senior Architect, Leo A Daly and **Senior Associate at the American Institute of Architects, Omaha Chapter and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association**, *Omaha, NE*

(7-H) How to Improve Your Meeting with 5 Simple Principles

Workshop Description: Join Omaha Public Library’s facilitation team as they share tips and techniques to make your future meetings more successful and dynamic. Facilitators will present five simple principles that can be applied to any meeting to make it more purposeful and productive. Learn tips for organizing meetings, writing purposeful agendas, and adding interactive techniques to refresh any meeting.

Presenters:

Megan Klein-Hewitt, Adult Services Librarian, Omaha Public Library, *Omaha, NE*

Micki Dietrich, Community Engagement Librarian, Omaha Public Library, *Omaha, NE*