



BUILDING COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

LIVABLE • ATTAINABLE • INCLUSIVE

APA Upper Midwest Annual Conference

October 11-13, 2023

Bien VenU Event Center • Cedar Falls, IA



iowa.planning.org

WIFI

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Password: ALOCF

Welcome to Cedar Falls

Proudly Iowa Nice

Where else can you find the perfect combination of history, culture, technology and a community of people who will treat you like family?

In Cedar Falls, you can visit the past by strolling through structures listed with the National Historic Registry, attend a lecture at the University of Northern Iowa or catch a traveling Broadway show at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center.

Browse the shops and boutiques on College Hill and downtown Cedar Falls, keep in shape by traveling the miles of bike trails, enjoy the Grout Museum's many exhibits, or catch an exciting minor league hockey match or baseball game.

The City of Cedar Falls is located in Black Hawk County, in the State of Iowa. Originally named "Sturgis Falls" after its first settler, William Sturgis, it was later renamed after the river that flows through the city.



2023 Host City



CEDAR FALLS
Tourism and Visitors Bureau



Keynote Speakers



Debra Fine

Debra Fine is a keynote speaker, corporate trainer, and bestselling author. Her education and previous career as an engineer inspire programs focused on cultivating connections, developing business relationships, building rapport, making the most of networking opportunities and increasing visibility. Her bestselling book *The Fine Art of Small Talk* is published and translated in over two dozen countries with recent media appearances that include *The Today Show*, *The Early Show*, *NPR Morning Edition*, the *New York Times*, *Fox Business News* and *CNN*. Learn more at www.DebraFine.com.



Corrin Wendell, AICP

Corrin Wendell, AICP is the Founder and Executive Director of Youth Engagement Planning (YEP!), City of Little Canada's Community Development Director, and Immediate Past Chair of APA's Women & Planning Division. She has been a member of AICP since 2010 and is a two-time graduate of The Ohio State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Masters of City and Regional Planning. Corrin's passion for nurturing current and future planners, and her commitment to enhancing the planning profession, were cultivated over a 20-year career spanning diverse planning disciplines.



Devan Leavins

Devan Leavins works with individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, and communities to identify often overlooked skills and assets that make their communities unique. He has been an invited presenter and community organizer to help citizen-led groups identify priorities and implement changes to promote placemaking, such as community workdays and a rural farmers market. Devan holds a Master of Science in Planning from The Florida State University, along with a certificate in Urban Design. He is the immediate past chair of the Capital Area Section of the Florida American Planning Association and a recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Contribution to the Chapter of APA Florida Award.



Jason Jordan

The Public Affairs Director is responsible for strategic outreach to decision-makers and influencers who interact with the planning profession. He leads government affairs, policy and advocacy efforts of the association. This includes development of APA policy guides; representation of APA with congressional offices, federal agencies, and partner organizations; and management of advocacy networks and outreach campaigns that aim to elevate the voice of planning. Jason also provides strategic guidance to volunteer leaders on policy matters at the national, state, and local levels.



Mayor Rob Green

Mayor Rob Green assumed office as the 45th mayor of Cedar Falls on January 2, 2020. He previously served for two years as an at-large member of the Cedar Falls City Council, three years on the city's Board of Rental Housing Appeals, and two years as president of the Overman Park Neighborhood Association. Mayor Green is a 1998 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, with a B.S. in Government/Public Policy, and has attained an MA in Instructional Technology from the University of Northern Iowa (2016), and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2019). Mayor Green is a web developer and instructor at the University of Northern Iowa; he is currently on an Iowa Code 55.1 leave of absence while serving as the full-time mayor. Rob is married to Jocelyn (a Waterloo native), has two teenage children (Elsa and Ethan) and four quirky cats (Oreo, Nacho, Pepper, and Penny). In his free time, Mayor Green enjoys studying history, illustration, cartography, and aerospace science, and is a great fan of dad jokes, board game nights, and grilled cheese sandwiches.



Vote for Planner Superlatives! Voting Closes Thursday Noon.

Conference at a Glance

Wednesday, October 11

1:00 - 2:00 PM	Keynote Speaker: Deborah Fine
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Breakout Sessions & Planning Equity
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Breakout Sessions & Planning Law
2:00 - 5:00 PM	Mobile Tour: "Paddling, Peddling, and Promenading"
5:00 - 9:00 PM	Circulating Buses Every Half Hour Between Hotel/Downtown CF
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Emerging Planners Event, Sponsored by FHU

Thursday, October 12

8:00 - 8:45 AM	Welcome from Cedar Falls' Mayor & State of the Chapter
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Breakout Sessions & Mentor Match
10:15 - 11:15 AM	Breakout Sessions & AICP Exam Prep
8:15 - 11:30 AM	Mobile Tour: "Breaking Out of the Nursing Home"
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Lunch and Awards Ceremony
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Keynote Speaker: Corrin Wendell
1:45 - 2:30 PM	Student Poster Presentations
2:45 - 3:45 PM	Breakout Sessions
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Breakout Sessions
2:00 - 5:00 PM	Mobile Tour: "Imagine Downtown: Vision to Reality"
5:00 - 9:00 PM	Circulating Buses Every Half Hour Between Hotel/Downtown
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Conference Reception

Friday, October 13

8:30 - 9:30 AM	Keynote Speaker: Devan Leavins
9:45 - 10:45 AM	Breakout Sessions & Planning Sustainability and Resilience
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions & Planning Ethics



Vote for Planner Superlatives! Voting Closes Thursday at 10AM.

Conference Highlights

Emerging Planners Event

Are you a young professional looking to engage with other young professionals? Join us on Wednesday evening at Urban Pie (200 State St, Suite 101, Cedar Falls, IA) at 7PM. Speed-dating-style questions and mingling with other attendees. A few appetizers will be provided. Urban Pie also has pizza, salads, and drinks available for purchase. This event is geared towards new and emerging planners (1-5 years experience). Sponsored by FHU. Pre-registration is required.

Fresh Perspectives

Planners from across the state and upper Midwest will share their insights in today's planning world. Hear from the City of Iowa City where staff are shouting, "GHG, OMG!" which will take attendees down a beginners journey to community greenhouse gas inventories. Or hear from our neighbors to the north; Minnesota planners will share their best practices for advancing equity in accessibility and travel experiences. Finally, don't miss new tools for mitigating heavy infrastructure with creative placemaking.

Mentor Match

This is not a traditional shadowing mentor program. Mentor Match provides an opportunity to connect with a practicing planner and learn more about the field of planning, review a resume, or get tips on finding jobs and brush up on interview skills. Mentor pairs are encouraged to make the most of their match by communicating in advance of the conference and then meeting several times during the conference and attending events together. Space is limited and matches will be assigned on a first come/first served basis. If you would like to participate in this program as either a mentee or a mentor, you must register in advance.

Mobile Workshops

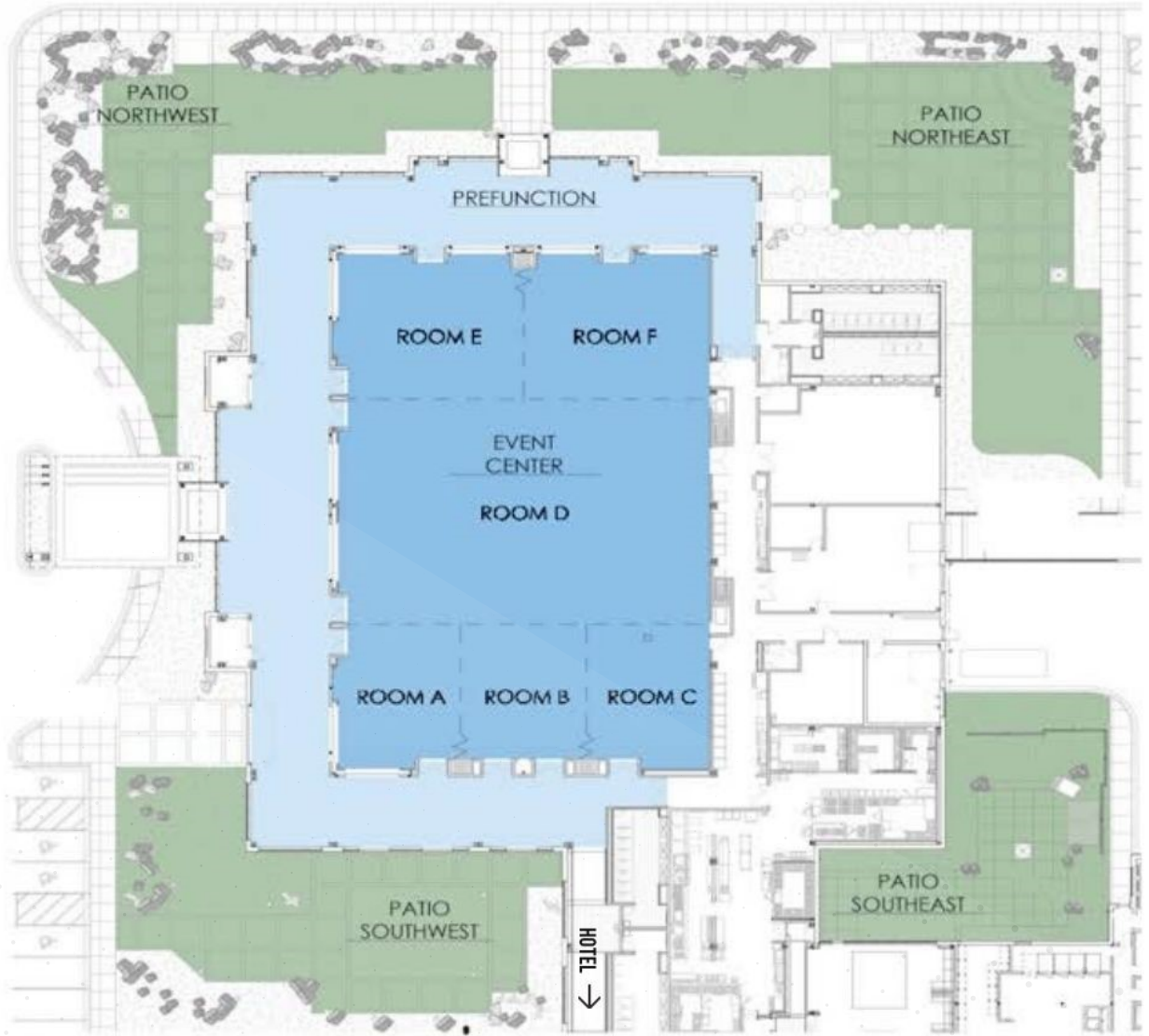
Three optional mobile workshops will introduce attendees to planning highlights around the Cedar Falls area. Tours dive into downtown development, age-friendly housing communities, and recreational activities



Venue Map

North Parking Entrance

West Parking Main Entrance



South and Hotel Parking Entrance

WiFi

ID: IHG ONE REWARDS Free WiFi

Password: ALOCF



APA Upper Midwest Annual Conference
Thursday Night Reception
Ice House Museum
121 Center St
6:00 - 8:00pm

Wednesday Schedule

1:00 PM	KEYNOTE: Deborah Fine, Art of Small Talk (Room D)		
1:15 PM			
1:30 PM			
1:45 PM			
2:00 PM			Paddling, Pedding and Promenading
2:15 PM	Advancing Equity in Accessibility and Travel Experiences: The Role of Gender and Identity	The Four C's of Transportation (Cedar Falls Style)	
2:30 PM			
2:45 PM			
3:00 PM			
3:15 PM			
3:30 PM	Planning Law	Creating Affordable Housing for Thriving Communities	
3:45 PM			
4:00 PM			
4:15 PM			
4:30 PM			
4:45 PM			
5:00 PM	(5:00 - 10:00 p.m.) Circulating Shuttle Available - Pick up at Event Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. and drop off at 3rd and Main. Last pick up downtown at 9:30 p.m. (5:00 -7:00 p.m.) Putt Putt on the Plaza at River Place Plaza, 100 E 2nd St (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) Emerging Planners Event at Urban Pie, 200 State St - Pre Registration Required.		
5:15 PM			
5:30 PM			
5:45 PM			
6:00 PM			
6:15 PM			
6:30 PM			
6:45 PM			
7:00 PM			
7:15 PM			
7:30 PM			
7:45 PM			
8:00 PM			



Vote for Planner Superlatives! Voting Closes Thursday at 10AM.

Thursday Schedule

Time	Track 1- ROOM B/C	Track 2 - ROOM F	Track 3 - ROOM E	Mobile	
7:00 AM					
7:15 AM					
7:30 AM					
7:45 AM					
8:00 AM	Welcome from Cedar Falls Mayor Rob Green & State of the APA (Room D)				
8:15 AM	Welcome from Cedar Falls Mayor Rob Green & State of the APA (Room D)				
8:30 AM	Welcome from Cedar Falls Mayor Rob Green & State of the APA (Room D)				
8:45 AM				Breaking Out of the Nursing Home	
9:00 AM	Utilizing Arts and Culture to Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Transportation Infrastructure on Communities	Community Development Plans: A Collaborative Approach to Bring Community Visions to Life	Mentor Match		
9:15 AM					
9:30 AM					
9:45 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:15 AM	Dubuque's Black Heritage Survey	Legislation and Policy for Iowa Planners 2023	AICP Exam Prep		
10:30 AM					
10:45 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:15 AM					
11:30 AM	LUNCH AND AWARDS PROGRAM (Room D)				
11:45 AM	LUNCH AND AWARDS PROGRAM (Room D)				
12:00 PM	LUNCH AND AWARDS PROGRAM (Room D)				
12:15 PM	LUNCH AND AWARDS PROGRAM (Room D)				
12:30 PM	KEYNOTE: Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning (Room D)				
12:45 PM	KEYNOTE: Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning (Room D)				
1:00 PM	KEYNOTE: Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning (Room D)				
1:15 PM	KEYNOTE: Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning (Room D)				
1:30 PM	KEYNOTE: Corrin Wendell, AICP, YEP! Youth Engagement Planning (Room D)				
1:45 PM	STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Room D)			Imagine Downtown: Vision to Reality	
2:00 PM	STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Room D)				
2:15 PM	STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Room D)				
2:30 PM	STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Room D)				
2:45 PM					
3:00 PM	GHG, OMG! A Beginners Guide to Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories	True to Form? Diving into Citywide Form-Based Design Standards in Des Moines	Walkable Community Workshops in Minnesota		
3:15 PM					
3:30 PM					
3:45 PM					
4:00 PM	Building Communities for Always: Resilience against Natural Disasters	You Get the Town You Deserve	From Acronyms to Action: Strategies for Revitalization		
4:15 PM					
4:30 PM					
4:45 PM					
5:00 PM					
5:15 PM					
5:30 PM					
5:45 PM					
6:00 PM	(5:00 - 10:00 p.m.) Circulating Shuttle Available - Pick up at Event Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. and drop off at 3rd and Main. Last pick up downtown at 9:30 p.m. (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.) Reception at Ice House Museum, 121 Center St. See map for additional shuttle drop off locations.				
6:15 PM					
6:30 PM					
6:45 PM					
7:00 PM					
7:15 PM					
7:30 PM					
7:45 PM					
8:00 PM					



Vote for Planner Superlatives! Voting Closes Thursday at 10AM.

Friday Schedule

Time	Track 1- ROOM B/C	Track 2 - ROOM F
7:00 AM		
7:15 AM		
7:30 AM		
7:45 AM		
8:00 AM		
8:15 AM		
8:30 AM	KEYNOTE: Devan Leavins, I See Your Policy but Where is Your Action? (Room D)	
8:45 AM		
9:00 AM		
9:15 AM		
9:30 AM		
9:45 AM	Exploring Local Siting in Iowa's Renewable Energy Future	Beyond Engagement: Micro and Macro Communications for Planners
10:00 AM		
10:15 AM		
10:30 AM		
10:45 AM		
11:00 AM	Planning Ethics	New Tools for Building Great Neighborhoods
11:15 AM		
11:30 AM		
11:45 AM		
12:00 PM		

Mobile Tours

***** Meet at Registration Desk before departing. *****

Breaking Out of the Nursing Home

In 2021, AARP named Cedar Falls the Best Places to Live and Retire Now. Senior housing has so many different options than the traditional nursing home. We will visit four age-friendly communities to hear how they are shifting the paradigm away from Senior Housing to Active Living with the types of units they offer, how they engage with their residents, how their community was planned, the role of the city in their development, and why that model works for them. In the baby-boomer retirement era, learn the trends and/needs in age-friendly housing to apply in your community.

October 12, 2023 from 8:15 - 11:30 AM Pre-Registration is Required

Imagine Downtown: Vision to Reality

Put on your walking shoes for a tour of downtown Cedar Falls! Visioning is a critical first step in planning for the future. To support downtown areas in communities of all sizes, it is important to understand the existing conditions, needs, and opportunities to bridge the gap between the current reality and a community's desires for the future. Once a vision is in place that is grounded in an understanding of the local economy, it is much easier to establish new policies, programs, and regulations to achieve the community's vision. On this walking tour we will explore the downtown commercial core of Cedar Falls, its historic main street and surrounding mixed-use and residential areas. Downtown stakeholders will highlight recent projects including rehabilitation of historic buildings, new mixed-use buildings, and missing middle housing and show how updated zoning along with investment in public spaces has enhanced and supported this effort.

October 12, 2023 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM Pre-Registration is Required

Paddling, Peddling, and Promenading

The goal of the workshop is to showcase how Cedar Falls provides passive and active recreational activities for current residents, future residents, and visitors. Recreational waters and trails are attractive to people, whether vacationing, or looking for a place to settle. Cedar Falls is located along the Cedar River Water Trail, is near the Black Hawk Creek Water Trail, and has access to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail which provides a connection to Cedar Rapids.

October 11, 2023 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM Pre-Registration is Required

Gold Sponsors



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CEDAR FALLS
Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Community and Economic Development





Conference Planning Committee

Adam Bolander, Sales & Marketing, Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Alexis Fleener, AICP, Senior Community Recovery and Mitigation Specialist, ICF

Ben Curtis, Project Manager, Impact7G, Inc.

Brian Schoon, AICP, Executive Director, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

Charlie Cowell, AICP, Urban Planner, RDG Planning & Design

Christopher Shires, AICP, Principal, Confluence

David Wilwerding, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Johnston, Iowa

Erik Lundy, AICP, CPM, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services, City of Des Moines, Iowa

Karen Howard, AICP, Planning & Coimmunity Services Manager, City of Cedar Falls, Iowa

Kesha Billings, Associate Planner, City of Marion, Iowa

Leanna Harter, County Outreach and Special Projects Manager, Story County, Iowa

Liesel Seabert, AICP, Rural Community Revitalization Program Manager, IEDA

Madeline Sturms, AICP, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director, City of Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Marcus Coenen, AICP, PTP, Transportation Planner, Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig

Maya Simon, Assistant Planner, Johnson County, Iowa

Mimi Coen, Event Coordinator, Holiday Inn/BienVenue Event Center

Ryan Reinier, Event Sales Manager, Holiday Inn/BienVenue Event Center

Stephanie Sheetz, AICP, Director of Community Development, City of Cedar Falls, Iowa

Trey Rouse, Planner, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Zach Young, AICP, MRTPI, CNU-A, Planning Manager, Des Moines Area MPO

Session Descriptions

Registration Desk Opens at 12PM

KEYNOTE

- 10/11/2023
1:00 - 2:00 PM
1.0 CM
Room D
- The Fine Art of Small Talk**
Deborah Fine
- In the competitive world of business more emphasis is placed on developing personal business relationships than ever before. A leader who cannot cultivate connections with colleagues, referral sources or clients/customers will lose an opportunity for success. Leave this session with the ability to strike up conversations, develop rapport building skills, overcome communication barriers and awkward situations as well as how to exit conversations with grace. Learn research-proven techniques to feel more at ease at receptions, networking events, conventions and other work-related functions.
- 10/11/2023
2:15 - 3:15 PM
1.0 CM Equity
Room B/C
- Advancing Equity in Accessibility and Travel Experiences: The Role of Gender and Identity**
Erika Shepard
- In the early 1990s, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to prohibit discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation and gender identity. Yet the state continues to use male-female categories when investigating the role of gender in transportation issues such as travel behavior and transportation accessibility. Since a person's identity can have a significant influence on their own and others' behavior and experiences, excluding gender diversity in this type of transportation research could result in an incomplete understanding of the issues and perceptions about quality of life. In a study, funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, researchers used an app-based survey to collect travel behavior data and integrated it with existing data to identify patterns based on gender identity. The findings of these efforts will be used to identify potential disparities in transportation costs and benefits across communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas in Minnesota.
- 10/11/2023
2:15 - 3:15 PM
1.0 CM
Room F
- The Four C's of Transportation (Cedar Falls Style)**
Stephanie Sheetz, AICP, Brian Schoon, AICP, Molly Long
- Transformative infrastructure projects are happening in many states. Such projects have an incredible journey from inception to completion. Several projects have happened in the past five years in Cedar Falls: road diets and pedestrian/transit improvements on University Avenue and Main Street, streetscaping in the downtown and Center Street, as well as a new highway underpass. This session will go through the challenges each project had before construction started such as community opposition to roundabouts, four to three-lane conversion with on-street bike lanes, corridor flooding, and switching a DOT highway plan from overpass to underpass.

10/11/2023 **Planning Law**
3:30 - 4:30 PM **Stephanie Sheetz, AICP, Brian Schoon, AICP, Molly Long**
1.0 CM Law This session will highlight the significant cases and legislative activity related
Room B/C to land use decided by state and Federal courts across Iowa and the upper
Midwest.

10/11/2023 **Creating Affordable Housing for Thriving Communities**
3:30 - 4:30 PM **Derek Folden, Terri Rosonke, Liesl Seabert, AICP**
1.0 CM Nearly every community in the state lists workforce housing as a challenge. In
Room F this session, attendees will hear from Iowa Finance Authority staff on the data
behind the challenge, best practices for managing NIMBY in your communities,
and how to leverage available state and federal programs to best address your
community's housing needs.

10/11/2023 **Paddling, Peddling, and Promenading: How Cedar Falls is providing**
2:00 - 5:00 PM **quality of life opportunities to all its residents, current and future,**
3.0 CM permanent or visiting
Meet at **Thomas Weintraut, Chris Sevy, Michael Soppe, Nick Fratzke, Roger White,**
Registration **Isaiah Corbin**
Desk The goal of the workshop is to showcase how Cedar Falls provides passive and
active recreational activities for current residents, future residents, and visitors.
Recreational waters and trails are attractive to people, whether vacationing, or
looking for a place to settle. Cedar Falls is located along the Cedar River Water
Trail, is near the Black Hawk Creek Water Trail, and has access to the Cedar Valley
Nature Trail which provides a connection to Cedar Rapids.

Evening Activities
5:00 - 10:00 PM Circulating shuttle available courtesy of Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau
between BienVenU Event Center and downtown Cedar Falls, dropping off at 3rd
and Main. Last pick up downtown at 9:30 p.m.

5:00 - 7:00 PM Putt-Putt on the Plaza, 100 E 2nd St, Courtesy of Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors
Bureau

7:00 - 8:30 PM Emerging Planners Event, Urban Pie, 200 State St, Pre-Registration Required

Thursday Breakfast and Registration opens at 7:30AM
10/12/2023 **Welcome from the Mayor and State of the APA National and Iowa**
8:00 - 8:45 AM **Chapter**
Room D **Mayor Rob Greene, Madeline Sturms, AICP, Jason Jordan, AICP**

Thursday
10/12/2023
9:00 - 10:00 AM
1.0 CM

Utilizing Arts and Culture to Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Transportation Infrastructure on Communities

Brenda Kayzar, PhD

A legacy of institutional racism and nonexistent community engagement left communities traumatized by infrastructure decisions. Arts and culture can bridge the gap between transportation agencies and communities. This Minnesota Department of Transportation contracted research explores case studies and artist-in-residency programs from across the US that demonstrate positive creative placemaking achievements. Findings show confusion among transportation professionals around creative placemaking terminology, the role it plays in engaging diverse communities, and lacking evaluative data. The mixed-method approach of stakeholder interviews, archival research, and artist evaluations provides MnDOT a clear understanding of the social, organizational, financial, and physical contexts of creative placemaking work, and develops illustrative classifications for practices and partnership configurations that have enabled the work. MnDOT and similar agencies can use the results to initiate policies and practices that sustain artistic and culturally relevant partnerships, strengthen community ties, and produce better community engagement processes and transportation infrastructure outcomes in the future.

10/12/2023
9:00 - 10:00 AM
1.0 CM

Community Development Plans: A Collaborative Approach to Bring Community Visions to Life

Danielle Propst, Mark Gaul, Earl Woudstra

From small rural towns to large metropolitan cities, municipalities must plan proactively to meet their communities' dynamic needs. When working toward paths to improvement and growth, it is imperative that plans are developed to be adaptable, attainable, sustainable, and inclusive. During this session, speakers will address how all are achieved with Community Development Planning, how a Community Development Plan process varies traditional community long-range planning efforts, and the overarching benefits and strategies associated with this collaborative and cohesive approach.

10/12/2023
9:00 - 10:00 AM
Room E

Mentor Match

This is an opportunity to connect with a practicing planner to learn more about the field of planning. Pre-registration is required.

10/12/2023
10:15 - 11:15 AM
**1.0 CM Equity
Room B/C**

Dubuque's Black Heritage Survey

Chris Happ Olson, Ricki King

Learn from the City of Dubuque's Black Heritage Survey work to uncover the community's rich history of Black Dubuquers, who were among the City's first non-native American settlers in the 1830s. Dubuque's Black population was the highest in the region that would become Iowa. Our Black population levels rose and fell over the next 150 years. Their history, and the findings of this study, are actively being recorded in a GIS storymap. The City of Dubuque is a leader in preservation in the state of Iowa, yet, in 50 years of surveys and research, our work has not yielded results relevant to the settlement and accomplishments

of our Black citizens. This survey was a wholly different approach, using a multi-disciplinary team including Black lowans that sought to change the way we look for historic sites, by focusing on people and their stories first, rather than looking for potentially historic buildings. With this approach, we uncovered a previously unknown or little known history of the founders and pioneers in Dubuque and what would become the state of Iowa.

10/12/2023

10:15 - 11:15 AM

1.0 CM

Room F

Legislation and Policy for Iowa Planners 2023

Steven Van Steenhuyse, AICP, Tom Cope

Iowa planners face increased challenges as the Iowa Legislature considers laws and policies affecting land use, municipal budgets, and the environment. Local control of many of these issues are eroding, as interest groups turn to the State to impose or overturn regulations in their favor. How should planners respond? In this session, the Chair of the Legislative and Policy Committee and the Chapter Lobbyist will review the 2023 Legislative Session and consider priorities for 2024 and beyond. We will also consider strategies for having a greater impact on the legislative process. Participants will learn how to monitor bills, work with their local representatives, and brainstorm ways to implement the Chapter's Legislative Priorities.

10/12/2023

8:30 - 11:30 AM

3.0 CM

Meet at

Registration Desk

Breaking Out of the Nursing Home

Michelle Pexley, AICP, Stephanie Sheetz, AICP

In 2021, AARP named Cedar Falls the Best Places to Live and Retire Now. Senior housing has so many different options than the traditional nursing home. We will visit four age-friendly communities to hear how they are shifting the paradigm away from Senior Housing to Active Living with the types of units they offer, how they engage with their residents, how their community was planned, the role of the city in their development, and why that model works for them. In the baby-boomer retirement era, learn the trends and/needs in age-friendly housing to apply in your community.

10/12/2023

11:30 - 12:30 AM

Room D

Lunch & Awards Program

The 2022 APA - Iowa Chapter awards program honors exemplary programs, plans, tools, processes, reports or ordinances across seven categories including Best Practices, Grassroots Initiative, Implementation, Transportation Planning, Environmental Planning, Urban Design, Economic Development Planning and Student Posters.

10/12/2023

1:45 - 2:30 PM

Room D

Student Poster Presentations

Planning students from Iowa State University and the University of Iowa will present their poster projects as submitted for this year's student competition.

KEYNOTE

10/12/2023
12:30 - 1:30 PM
1.0 CM
Room D

YEP! Youth Engagement Planning

Corrin Wendell, AICP

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 discuss 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.

10/12/2023
2:45 - 3:45 PM
1.0 CM
**Sustainability &
Resiliency**
Room B/C

GHG, OMG! A Beginners Guide to Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories

Sarah Gardner, Becky Soglin, Allison Van Pelt

Accessing federal climate dollars, especially under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in many cases will require creating or, at least, understanding the ins-and-outs of, a community wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Learn about the data you will need, tools available to help, and lessons learned from three planners with experience putting together GHG inventories at the city, county, and metropolitan area levels.

10/12/2023
2:45 - 3:45 PM
1.0 CM
Room E

True to Form? Diving into Citywide Form-Based Design Standards in Des Moines

Michael Delp, Nick Tarpey

The City of Des Moines launched a citywide form-based zoning/design code (FBC) in December 2019. This new ordinance is intended to promote denser, infill, and “more-urban” development, particularly when compared with the City’s previous zoning ordinance. Some of the new ordinance’s updates include a streamlined approvals process, greater residential density allowances, and reduced parking mandates. The City of Des Moines has a diverse built environment that contains a central business district, traditional neighborhoods, auto-dominated commercial corridors, agricultural lands, and more. As a result of this makeup, the City receives a varied slate of development proposals that range from car washes, to townhomes, to 4-story apartment buildings, to fast food restaurants. How does a citywide FBC respond to this range? This session will define what an FBC is, and will include case studies that analyze the Code’s successes and potential pitfalls, with takeaways for implementation in your community.

10/12/2023
2:45 - 3:45 PM
1.0 CM
Room F

Walkable Community Workshops in Minnesota

Matthew Dyrda, Maria Wardoku

The health benefits of physical activity are well-discussed in the literature and largely understood, and yet few state health departments are engaged in improving the physical environment for walking. Understanding that improving community walking environments is crucial to advancing social and health equity, the MN Dept of Health hosts Walkable Community Workshops convening community stakeholders and provides follow-up technical assistance and funding to implement community action plans.

10/12/2023
4:00 - 5:00 PM
1.0 CM
Room B/C

Building Communities for Always: Resilience against Natural Disasters

Chris Spencer, AICP, Jack Stinogel

Disaster mitigation and recovery are vital to a community's long-term resilience. This session will discuss the basics of hazard mitigation planning and disaster recovery, and the role that planners can play in enhancing resilience. Learning about your community's vulnerabilities through the post-disaster, local damage assessment process can provide valuable insight for future planning efforts. Planners also have an opportunity to advocate for forward-thinking disaster mitigation during the recovery process.

10/12/2023
4:00 - 5:00 PM
1.0 CM
Room F

You Get the Town You Deserve

Mickey Shields, Jim Thompson

Are you ready to take that next step and put in the work? If your community has big plans in terms of development, amenities, and quality of life, are you willing to enforce the ordinances and policies necessary to be successful? Mickey Shields from the League of Cities and Jim Thompson from IEDA, Downtown Resource Center will give you the hard truth about what it takes to build the town you deserve through a selection of best practices, real examples, and common mistakes.

10/12/2023
4:00 - 5:00 PM
1.0 CM
Room E

From Acronyms to Action: Strategies for Revitalization

Steven Van Steenhuyse, AICP, Melissa Fabian

Like many small Midwestern cities, Mason City faced downtown disinvestment and deteriorating older commercial corridors. Restoration of the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in 2011, however, was the beginning of a downtown renaissance and a renewed effort to revitalize. Learn how Mason City has leveraged LOSST, TIF and ARPA funds to create their unique "DoRL," "CoRL," and "BuRLS" revitalization programs. These programs help owners of businesses downtown and on aging corridors to renovate and revitalize. Funds are also available to subsidize the cost of meeting Fire codes when converting unused upper stories to dwelling units or expanding a business. See how clever acronyms can be the catalyst to encourage active renovation efforts with lasting results.

10/12/2023
2:00 - 5:00 PM
3.0 CM
Meet at
Registration
Desk

Imagine Downtown: Vision to Reality

Karen Howard, AICP, Jaydevsinh Atodaria

Put on your walking shoes for a tour of downtown Cedar Falls! Visioning is a critical first step in planning for the future. To support downtown areas in communities of all sizes, it is important to understand the existing conditions, needs, and opportunities to bridge the gap between the current reality and a community's desires for the future. Once a vision is in place that is grounded in an understanding of the local economy, it is much easier to establish new policies, programs, and regulations to achieve the community's vision. On this walking tour we will explore the downtown commercial core of Cedar Falls, its historic main street and surrounding mixed-use and residential areas. Downtown stakeholders will highlight recent projects including rehabilitation of historic buildings, new mixed-use buildings, and missing middle housing and show how updated zoning along with investment in public spaces has enhanced and supported this effort.

Evening Activities

5:00 - 10:00 PM

Circulating shuttle available courtesy of Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau between BienVenU Event Center and downtown Cedar Falls, dropping off at 3rd and Main. During reception, shuttle will also stop at 2nd and Franklin. See map on page 8. Last pick up downtown at 9:30 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Reception at Ice House Museum

Join colleagues at the Historic Ice House Museum, 121 Center Street, the only museum in the U.S. that tells the story of ice harvesting. A variety of appetizers and cash bar will be available. Attendees will receive two drink tickets.

Friday Breakfast and Registration opens at 7:30AM

KEYNOTE

10/13/2023
8:30 - 9:30 AM
1.0 CM
Room D

I See Your Policy but Where is Your Action?

Devan Lewis

As professionals in the field of planning we are conditioned to believe that the plans and policies we help to create will be implemented in the future. However, there are many in the profession, and in the community, that are still waiting 10, 15, and even 20 years later to see those changes on the ground. This can be frustrating for planners, but consider how frustrating this must be to a community member who feels they were left with empty promises from their local government. Cities and communities need long term projects and capital improvements, but is it possible to keep the community engaged and create visual progress while waiting for these larger projects to be completed? By implementing visual, scalable, and quick turnaround projects within the community this is achievable. These projects build trust, create community pride, and enhance the appearance of an area. It's time to start thinking about what we can do this weekend to make our community better that incrementally moves toward the 20 year goal.

10/13/2023

9:45 - 10:45 AM

1.0 CM
Sustainability
& Resiliency
Room B/C

Exploring Local Siting in Iowa's Renewable Energy Future

Jane Tompkins, AICP, Rand Fisher, Josh Busard, Dan Culhane CECD, CCE, Brad Lichy

Iowa has been a leader in renewable energy for years and is the first state in the country where wind generates the majority of the state's electricity. Renewable energy facilities continue to grow in importance as local, state, and national governments, businesses and citizens explore strategies for increasing sustainability, utilizing clean energy, providing economic opportunities for rural America, and ensuring we have the lowest energy bills possible. This session will explore the public policy shaping the growth, how area businesses are embracing renewable energy, and how local governments can balance the economic development opportunities of renewable energy with the needs and concerns of area residents.

10/13/2023

9:45 - 10:45 AM

1.0 CM
Room F

Beyond Engagement: Micro and Macro Communications for Planners

Sarah Runkel

As community-focused professionals, we often aim our communication strategies on engaging as many people as possible in the means that we provide. Community engagement strategy and accessibility plans are often the focus of communication in planning. This session will simultaneously refocus onto minute communication practices such as interpersonal communications and small group communications, the broaden to macro communications such as media interactions - both traditional and social. The session will focus on ways to efficiently and effectively engage in reciprocal communication and linear communication. Participants will become more comfortable with one-on-one communication and mass communication.

10/13/2023

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1.0 CM Ethics
Room F

AICP Ethics

Jerry Anthony, FAICP, Anne Russett, AICP

This session will be facilitated to provide a brief review of the Certified Planner's ethical obligations under the AICP Code of Ethics and the APA Ethics for Principles for Planning, and qualifies for the Certification Maintenance ethics hours for AICP Planners. By the end of this session, attendees will have a better understanding of the role and application of the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct in everyday decision-making. The session will be hosted by experienced planners and will use a moderated discussion approach to draw the audience into the deliberations and discussions around contemporary real world scenarios that present ethical dilemmas, or decision points, for the planners involved. The moderated discussion will focus on the questions of: What principles and ethical rules of conduct apply to the case; What choices do the planners involved have and what risks come with those choices; and Is there a way to avoid the problem/ scenario presented?

10/13/2023

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1.0 CM

Room F

New Tools for Building Great Neighborhoods

Karen Howard, AICP, Jeff Davidson, Jason Van Essen, AICP, Seth Gunnerson

Many communities are experiencing a housing crisis. Production is not keeping up with demand and is not yielding housing at a price affordable to many consumers. To bring costs down, some developers are seeking approval for higher density housing projects, which often meet with neighborhood opposition. It is easy to dismiss opposition as simple NIMBYism. However, digging deeper reveals a reasonable fear (based on past or current experiences) that higher density housing will not fit in, be out-of-scale or destroy the neighborhood character. In response, cities across the country are adopting new zoning rules to encourage higher density housing types that are scaled to fit into a traditional neighborhood and placed along the street in a manner that creates walkable, tree-lined streets. Planners from Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Cedar Falls will discuss their efforts to build great neighborhoods through zoning reform.

Speaker Bios

Allison Van Pelt, Senior Planner, Des Moines Area MPO

Allison van Pelt is a native Iowan and a two-time graduate of Iowa State University who never fails to bring up climate change. Through her work at the Des Moines Area MPO, she advanced sustainability and resilience discussions, partnerships, and action across Central Iowa. Most recently she secured the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for the Des Moines MSA - a \$1 million regional climate planning grant that kicked off this fall. She is also the APA Climate Champion for the State of Iowa - so feel free to reach out to her as you and your organizations start your climate journeys.

Anne Russett, AICP, Senior Planner, City of Iowa City

Anne Russett, AICP is the Senior Planner for the City of Iowa City. Her 15-year career in the public sector has focused on addressing barriers to housing and promoting sustainability principles to create equitable and livable communities. Prior to joining the City of Iowa City in 2018 she worked for the City of Cedar Rapids, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Over the course of her career, she has worked on a variety of land use, housing, and mobility related planning initiatives. She has a Master of Arts degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.

Brad Lichty

Brad Lichty lives in Independence, Iowa and, together with his son, own and operate farms in Black Hawk and Buchanan counties, producing corn and soybeans. He also has a farm in Howard County where he has had wind turbines producing energy since 2018. He writes that, “as a landowner, I have a passion to see our community move forward to meet the demands that a changing energy environment will require. The ways of our fathers and grandfathers served them well, however the increased need to be truly “green” is a challenge that we need to face going forward. I am dedicated to meeting that demand by incorporating wind turbines within our community.

Brian Schoon, Executive Director, INRCOG

Mr. Schoon has been employed by INRCOG since September 1991 and is currently serving as the Executive Director. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. His responsibilities at the agency have included supervision, project administration, budget oversight, and planning functions associated with INRCOG’s housing, planning, and community development efforts, including numerous CDBG projects funded by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). He was involved in the Complete Streets process in Waterloo and a member of the City’s Complete Streets Advisory Committee for 10 years. He was part of Cedar Falls Complete Streets policy development. Schoon has a bachelor’s degree in landscape design from South Dakota State University and a Masters’ degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.

Becky Soglin, Sustainability Coordinator, Johnson County, Iowa

Becky Soglin is the Sustainability Coordinator for Johnson County, Iowa, with a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa. Over her past decade with the county, Becky has established a countywide sustainability working group, helped produce the Johnson County Economic Development Plan for the Unincorporated Area and Smaller Towns, served as the lead partner with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association for three solar group buys, secured energy efficiency rebates and incentives for new County buildings, and recently completed the county's first greenhouse gas inventory. Becky has credentials as an ACCO Climate Change Professional, LEED Green Associate, and more than 25 years of involvement with environmental issues.

Brenda Kayzar, PhD, Founder and Collaborative Strategist, Urbane DrK Consulting

Dr. Brenda Kayzar is the founder and collaborative strategist of Urbane DrK Consulting. Her firm uses research-based strategies, grounded in social justice and economic development understandings, to improve outcomes for communities. Dr. Kayzar spent two decades in finance before completing her PhD in Geography at UC Santa Barbara, which brought her to the University of Minnesota where she maintains a faculty affiliation. In 2016 she started her consulting practice working with governments and nonprofit organizations to assess economic development strategies and issues such as workspace and workforce needs, housing and gentrification pressures, and barriers to equitable representation and opportunities for engagement. Her research is published in academic presses and is the foundation for professional reports, and strategic and cultural plans. She recently co-authored an APA Handbook on Creative Placemaking in Rail Transit Corridors. She is a frequently invited guest speaker and panelist in the civic and academic realms and serves on several boards including the Arts and Cultural Leadership Program at University of Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts' Creative Minnesota Project Executive Committee, and she is the past president of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association.

Chris Happ Olson, Assistant Planner, City of Dubuque

Chris Olson has extensive experience in historic preservation, planning, historic site management and rehabilitation training. She has been the Assistant Planner for the City of Dubuque since 2018, serves as staff to the Historic Preservation Commission, and performs historic review and services for the City of Dubuque. She is working to make preservation more inclusive to underrepresented communities through inclusion in decision-making and telling a more complete story of Dubuque. Olson has over 25 years' experience in preservation working on national and local levels. Olson's educational background is a Bachelor of Arts in Art from Dominican University, with emphasis in Art History, with graduate work in the Master of Science of Historic Preservation program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She resides in a 168-year-old house perched on the City's bluff overlooking downtown, with her family and seven chickens.

Chris Spencer, Section Lead, PA Policy & Technical Assistance, Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Chris Spencer, AICP, is the Policy and Technical Assistance Officer for the Public Assistance Bureau in Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. For more than 22 years, Chris has been an Urban Planner taking disaster damages and molding them into key components of Comprehensive and Capital Plans. In his over 22-years of experience, Chris has worked for

city, state and tribal government as a planner, a grant writer, a natural resource director and recipient/subrecipient of federal funds. Chris is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners and earned a Bachelor Science Degree in Architecture from Texas Tech University.

Dan Culhane, CEcD, CCE, President & CEO, Ames Chamber of Commerce

Dan Culhane, CEcD, CCE, is the President & CEO of the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Ames Economic Development Commission, a position he assumed in April of 2006. He is a 1993 Graduate of Iowa State University with a B.S. degree in Community and Regional Planning and an emphasis in economic development. Dan is a 1998 Graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute. He earned his CEcD (Certified Economic Developer) on his first attempt in Dallas, Texas at the 2000 American Economic Development Council's Annual Conference. He earned the Chamber industry's highest designation, the Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) in 2011. Dan has served on a number of boards and is currently on the YSS Foundation board of directors. He is past chairman of the ISU Letterwinner's Club, the Iowa Chamber Alliance – a coalition of the state's largest communities' Chambers of Commerce, the Professional Developers of Iowa, the Mid America Economic Development Council, and is also a past campaign chair of the United Way of Story County. In June 2023, he was selected as this year's Leadership for Iowa Award winner.

Derek Folden, Tax Credit Director, Iowa Finance Authority

Derek Folden is the Tax Credit Director for the Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa Economic Development Authority and oversees the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Workforce Housing Tax Credit, State Historic Tax Credit and Redevelopment Tax Credit programs. Prior to his current role, he served as an IFA Multifamily Underwriter for more than a decade and as a Senior Underwriting Analyst for PNC Multifamily Capital for the HUD Multifamily Accelerated Program. Mr. Folden has a Bachelor of Science degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Iowa.

Earl Woudstra, City Administrator, City of Orange City

Earl serves as the City Administrator for Orange City, Iowa, and offers guidance on a variety of complex municipal issues, from developing and maintaining the city's budget to ensuring city utilities and services are running smoothly. Earl's deep familiarity, investment, and commitment to Orange City stems from his experience as a life-long resident. He has been a prominent figure in his community, having served on the City Council as Mayor Pro Tem from 1999-2019. His ability to navigate the complexities of large-scale administrative work were demonstrated in his work at Northwestern College, having served on the President's Cabinet that assisted in strategic planning and budget oversight of the college's \$26 million operating budget. Earl's can-do spirit, passion, and willingness to make Orange City the best it can be made him an key asset to the City's Community Development Plan and its implementation.

Erika Shepard, MPO Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Erika Shepard is the Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator within MnDOT's Office of Transportation System Management. She has several years of transportation planning experience in both the public and private sectors and is in her third month at MnDOT. She has previously interned at MnDOT's Metro District during graduate school at the Humphrey School

of Public Affairs. In her current role, she coordinates with all of the metropolitan planning organizations across the state to support the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process.

Gary Taylor, Director of the Community and Economic Development Program, ISU Extension and Outreach

Gary Taylor is a Professor and Extension Land Use Specialist in the Department of Community & Regional Planning (CRP) at Iowa State University. He teaches in the CRP department, and publishes, conducts workshops and provides technical assistance to citizens and government officials in Iowa in a variety of subject areas, including land use planning and zoning and local government law, and intergovernmental relations. From 2015 to 2022 he was the Director of the Community and Economic Development program of ISU Extension and Outreach, and the Associate Director of the Institute for Design Research and Outreach in the ISU College of Design. Prior to joining ISU Mr. Taylor was an Extension Specialist with Michigan State University and an attorney and planning consultant with firms in Oregon and Washington. Mr. Taylor is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He holds a law degree from the University of Nebraska and a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.

Isaiah Corbin, Director of Development, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

Isaiah Corbin became employed with INRCOG in January 2021 as a Community Planner II. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Wartburg College as well as a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Northern Iowa. In his role as planner, he has been responsible for a wide range of federal and state grants including CDBG, BRIC, and EDA awards. Isaiah has been responsible for the development of several plans, including the recent CEDS Plan for INREDC. Since 2023, he has taken the role of Director of Development which includes project administration and planning efforts for community and economic development, housing, and waste management. Prior to his role at INRCOG, he worked in the nonprofit arena at a local hospital and University.

Jack Stinogel, Hazard Mitigation Planner, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Jack Stinogel is a hazard mitigation planner with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. In this role he assists with updates to Iowa's state and local hazard mitigation plans and works with local governments and other state agencies to coordinate hazard mitigation. He was one of the primary authors of the recently crafted Iowa Drought Plan. Jack has a wide-ranging background, from communication and language to law to urban planning, and is passionate about green infrastructure, energy resiliency, and regenerative agriculture.

Jane Tompkins, Iowa Policy Advisor, The Center for Infrastructure and Economic Development

Jane Tompkins, AICP, is the Policy Advisor to the Center for Infrastructure and Economic Development in the state of Iowa. Tompkins has more than 25 years of experience in planning and zoning at the county and municipal level. An Iowa native, she has worked in Iowa, Illinois, and Florida, and was most recently the Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of South Miami, Florida. Through working in such varied settings and organizations, she has developed a wealth of experience in navigating a wide range of development challenges and finding code-

based solutions that balance growth and community needs. She has also served as a Lecturer at Iowa State University, where she taught a course on Land Use and Development Regulation Law. Tompkins holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa. She also holds a law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Jason Jordan, Public Affairs Director, American Planning Association

The Public Affairs Director is responsible for strategic outreach to decision-makers and influencers who interact with the planning profession. He leads government affairs, policy and advocacy efforts of the association. This includes development of APA policy guides; representation of APA with congressional offices, federal agencies, and partner organizations; and management of advocacy networks and outreach campaigns that aim to elevate the voice of planning. Jason also provides strategic guidance to volunteer leaders on policy matters at the national, state, and local levels.

Jaydevsinh Atodaria (JD), City Planner I, City of Cedar Falls

He was a practicing architect back in India. He attended Iowa State University to pursue a master's in urban design and a Master's in Community and Regional Planning. After graduation, he started working with the City of Cedar Falls as Planner I from fall 2019. He also pursued another master's in project management from the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology while working for the city. JD's unique background and skillset allow him to contribute his knowledge and bring different perspectives to the table. JD is passionate about community development, mixed-use development, form-based code, placemaking, walkability, and smart cities.

Jeff Davidson, Executive Director of Jasper County Economic Development, Jasper County, Iowa Economic Development

Jeff Davidson is the Executive Director of Jasper County, Iowa Economic Development. He has over 35 years of experience in planning and economic development. He previously served as the Director of Planning for the City of Iowa City and Executive Director of the Johnson County Council of Governments. Mr. Davidson was directly involved in the planning for the Peninsula Neighborhood, a fully built-out new urban neighborhood in Iowa City where he now resides and serves as the "town planner" for the Peninsula Neighborhood Board.

Jerry Anthony, FAICP, Associate Professor, School of Planning & Public Affairs, University of Iowa

Jerry Anthony, Ph.D., FAICP, is a global changemaker. In 2003, he co-founded the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County that to date has distributed about \$10 million to help build over 850 reasonably priced homes in Iowa. In 2012, he co-founded the World Institute of Sustainable Habitats in Kochi, India. He is a tenured associate professor at the University of Iowa's School of Planning & Public Affairs. He has been named an Excellent Educator by the American Planning Association (Iowa chapter), one of only two professors ever to be so honored in the state of Iowa. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2015-2019. He was named a HUD Urban Scholar in 2002. His publications are widely read, with a 2004 paper titled "The Effects of Florida's Growth Management Act on Housing Affordability" named one of the top 10 most influential papers published in the Journal of the American Planning Association in 25 years. His research has been funded by numerous entities, including the Brookings

Institution, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. In 2019, Anthony was awarded the University of Iowa's Michael J. Brody award for Excellence in Service to the state. In 2020, Anthony was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Jim Thompson, Downtown Economic Development Specialist, Iowa Economic Development Authority, Downtown Resource Center

Jim Thompson currently serves as a Downtown Economic Development Specialist covering all areas of Development for downtowns & Main Street Iowa districts for the Iowa Economic Development Authority. He has served in all aspects at the local level including program director, board member and volunteer. Jim received certification as a Historic Real Estate Development Finance Professional (HREDFP) from the National Development Council. Jim earned his Certified Main Street Managers (CMSM) credentials through the Certification in Professional Main Street Downtown Management Institute at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He engages communities in market analysis including data analysis, business retention, recruitment, and implementation strategies. He has also led efforts in tax increment finance, urban revitalization, housing & real estate development, branding and one-on-one business technical assistance for Iowa's communities. Jim serves on the Iowa Rural Development Council Executive Board and was named by the Governor to lead the Empower Rural Iowa Invest Taskforce. Jim is the grant administrator for the Community Catalyst Building Remediation grant program. He has over 25 years' experience in community development and retail management as well as having served on a City Council for 10 years. Jim has also served as a consultant for the National Main Street Center, worked in several states and has presented multiple times at the National Main Streets Conference.

Josh Busard, Director of Planning, Development, and Sustainability, Johnson County, Iowa

Josh Busard has a Master of Urban Planning and a Master of Business Administration and has spent nearly all his 17-year career in local government with the Johnson County Planning, Development, and Sustainability (PDS) Department. Josh has served as the PDS Director since 2016 using his knowledge and skills, in collaboration with key stakeholders and residents, to lead a key Department in one of the most progressive and quickly growing urbanized counties in Iowa. With much experience in policy creation, Josh led the PDS Department to successfully develop and implement a new Comprehensive Plan and Development Ordinance that creates opportunity, allows flexibility, and encourages economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Josh was also instrumental in beginning the Sustainability Division of the PDS Department, leading the county to install nearly one-half megawatt of solar-array on county facilities, and playing a key role in several capital construction projects that achieved LEED certification. Before beginning a career in local government, Josh served in the active-duty U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain. Josh is also an adjunct lecturer with the University of Iowa and teaches on land use and planning policy.

Karen Howard, AICP, Planning & Community Services Manager, City of Cedar Falls

Karen Howard, AICP, has served as the Planning & Community Services Manager for the City of Cedar Falls since 2018. She was the project manager for the Imagine Downtown! Vision Plan and associated zoning code update for the Cedar Falls downtown area. Prior to moving to Cedar Falls, Ms. Howard worked as a planner for the City of Iowa City for 18 years, overseeing a major

overhaul of the City's zoning and subdivision codes and spearheading the Riverfront Crossings District planning effort, which involved adoption of one of the Iowa City's three form-based codes.

Liesl Seabert, Rural Communities Revitalization Program Manager, Iowa Economic Development Authority - Center for Rural Revitalization

Liesl Seabert, AICP is a Florida native who moved to Iowa in 2016. She has a background in community development, consensus building, land use, and placemaking. Liesl works as the Rural Community Revitalization Program Manager within the Center for Rural Revitalization in the Iowa Economic Development Authority. In this role, Liesl is responsible for managing the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, focused on developing policy recommendations addressing rural Iowa concerns through three task forces and implementing outcomes. She manages eight grant programs, hosts an annual leadership program summit, and provides technical assistance to rural communities across the state. Liesl serves as an ex-officio executive member of the Iowa Rural Development Council, Vice President of the APA Iowa Chapter, Secretary of the Keep Iowa Beautiful Board, serves on the Main Street Iowa Advisory Council, is a member of the Florida Bar and Georgia Bar, holds a BA from the College of William and Mary, JD from Florida State Law School, and MSP from Florida State University College of Urban and Regional Planning.

Luke Seaberg, Industry Extension Specialist, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach

Luke Seaberg has been an Industry Extension Specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 2021. He works on the Local Government and Housing Team, where he focuses on Rural Housing Readiness Assessments, Planning and Zoning workshops, and other regional planning subjects. Luke holds a Master's in Urban Planning and Development from Cleveland State University, as well as bachelor's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to joining ISU Extension and Outreach, Luke worked in nonprofit housing in Wisconsin.

Maria Wardoku, Associate Planner, Alta Planning + Design

As a transportation planner, active living researcher, and active transportation advocate, Maria has worked to create cities where private car ownership is optional. She has contributed to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit plans and studies for the Cities of Minneapolis, Mankato, Grand Forks, and Hibbing, Dakota County, the Metropolitan Council, and MnDOT. Maria is skilled in community engagement, research, geospatial analysis, grant writing, and project management. She holds a master's in urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelors in Political Science and Asian Studies from St. Olaf College.

Mark Gaul, Community Development Director, City of Le Mars

Mark, a Le Mars native has 20 years of experience in Community Development with the last 9 years at a similar role in Orange City. Mark is married to wife Maxine who is an elementary school teacher at Spalding Catholic School in Alton. Mark and Maxine have two married grown children, Matthew and Richard and five grandchildren. Mark would like to offer assistance to any existing business looking to expand or any new business wanting to locate in Le Mars.

Matthew Dyr Dahl, Associate Planner, Alta Planning + Design

Matthew is a transportation planner at Alta Planning + Design with 16 years of experience building healthy and active communities in Minnesota. Matthew was the Bicycle and Pedestrian

Coordinator for Minneapolis Public Works, where he served as the technical lead for bicycle and pedestrian operations. During this time, Matthew managed several planning studies and capital projects (including quick-build safety projects), managed the Open Streets planning processes, and oversaw the City's pedestrian & bicycle advisory committees. Matthew also worked as the Active Transportation Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Health, and he has a Master of Science in Planning from Florida State University.

Melissa Fabian, Owner, Foxtrot Properties, LLC

Melissa Fabian is the owner of Foxtrot Properties, LLC, which has focused on rehabilitating properties and creating new housing in Downtown Mason City. She also owns Simply Nourished MC, a Downtown organic grocery and mercantile, that was recognized as the Iowa Small Business of the Month in October 2022. For her efforts, Melissa was recognized as the North Iowa Entrepreneur of the Year in 2022. She is a former member of the Mason City Planning and Zoning Commission and currently serves on the Mason City Parks and Recreation Board and the Board of Directors for Main Street Mason City. Prior to moving to Mason City, Melissa served on the City Council for the City of Moorhead, Minnesota.

Michael Delp, Planner, City of Des Moines

Michael Delp is a native of Perry, Iowa, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Iowa. Between his bachelor's and master's degree, Michael served in AmeriCorps providing energy audits for low-income households and for people in need in the Iowa City area. After his master's degree, he spent two years conducting environmental reviews at the Iowa Department of Transportation. For the past two years, Michael has worked as an Assistant Planner with the City of Des Moines' form-based code on commercial and large-scale residential developments.

Michelle Pezley, AICP, Planner III, City of Cedar Falls

Michelle Pezley, AICP is a Planner III with the City of Cedar Falls. She graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Community and Regional Planning and received her Master of Community of Regional Planning from University of Oregon. Ms. Pezley worked 13 years in the Pacific Northwest in the coastal communities of Florence, Oregon and Island County, Washington. While in Island County, she got homesick for Iowa and her family after other states adopted travel bans to and from Washington State. She has been with the City of Cedar Falls since September 2020.

Mickey Shields, Director of Membership Services, League of Cities

Mickey joined the League in 2008 and aids members by answering inquiries, producing guidance through League publications and developing resource materials. He also helps coordinate various League educational offerings, including the Annual Conference & Exhibit, Municipal Leadership Academy, Budget Workshops, Small City Workshops and Nuisance Abatement Conference. Prior to joining the League, Mickey worked for the cities of Cedar Falls and Coralville. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Public Administration from Drake University.

Molly Long, Iowa Department of Transportation

Ms. Long has over 20 years of experience serving the Iowa DOT as well as multiple municipalities across Iowa, providing analysis, design, project management and public engagement for projects

of all sizes. She is also experienced in pursuing, coordinating, and administering a variety of funding sources to help clients develop safe, affordable solutions to their transportation needs. Molly is dedicated to finding solutions that prioritize safety and optimize operations. Her experience affords her a unique understanding of the interaction between multimodal traffic patterns and safety, as well as a passion for developing innovative, affordable designs that move communities forward.

Nick Fratzke, Director of Transportation, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments
Fratzke joined INRCOG as a community development specialist in October of 2020, prior to which time he was the Director of Community Development for Jasper County, Iowa. Fratzke has led a number of long-term planning initiatives including implementation of several city comprehensive plans, a county-wide multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, city emergency operation plans, the Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan and state designation, as well as a number of zoning ordinance revisions and updates in his time with INRCOG. Fratzke also directed the Jasper County Comprehensive Plan initiative, in his previous role. Nick is an active member of the Iowa chapter of the American Planning Association and as such has attended multiple conferences and workshops. Fratzke has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Grand View University.

Nick Tarpey, Planner, City of Des Moines

Nick Tarpey is a native of Columbus, OH and, while he has moved around a bit, has been described as “aggressively Midwest.” After high school, Nick obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Economics from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He then relocated to Los Angeles and obtained a master's in urban planning (MUP) from the University of Southern California. During his time in California, Nick worked on entitlement processing for a boutique planning firm and as a Planner that reviewed ADU applications for an East LA suburb. Nick moved to Des Moines in May 2021 to work for the City as an Assistant Planner, where he currently works on the City's site plan and subdivision plat review team. Nick feels that the Des Moines metro is an excellent “living laboratory” for Planners due to its varied built-environment context and projected population growth.

Rand Fisher, Iowa State Director, The Center for Infrastructure and Economic Development

Rand Fisher is the State Director for the Center for Infrastructure and Economic Development in the state of Iowa. With 25 years as the President of the Iowa Area Development Group, Fisher's entire career has been devoted to helping public officials, economic development leaders, business organizations, and others with policy, programs, and projects leading the way to new investment, job creation, and community prosperity. He has been actively engaged with a number of economic development-oriented boards across the state, including the National Rural Economic Developers Association, the Iowa Rural Development Council, the Iowa Community Development, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service, and Iowa's Small Business Development Centers. Fisher has a master's degree from the University of Iowa and graduated magna cum laude from Luther College.

Ricki King, Consultant, Black Heritage Survey Consultant Team

Retired from John Deere Financial, Ricki King received a certificate from Boston University's

Genealogical Research Program in 2015 and founded Roots to Branches Genealogy, LLC. She is the author of numerous articles focusing on Black history in Iowa. As of January 2022, King has served as Director with the Association of Professional Genealogists, an international group. Since 2021, she has served as the Vice President of the Iowa Historical Foundation, which works with the State Historical Society of Iowa. Ricki King was hired by Wapsi Valley Archaeology in 2022 to be part of a consultant team for Dubuque's Black Heritage Survey. Among other projects, she is researching 333 Black citizens living in Iowa on the 1850 United States federal census, following them through to the 1900 United States federal census, and is currently taking on a project to highlight Black pioneers in Iowa, telling the stories of Iowans in all 99 counties. King is leading an effort to bring Iowa's Black history and places to light.

Roger White

Roger White is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, and a former elementary school teacher and representative for the teachers and educators in the Waterloo area. Since retirement, he has been actively involved with bicycling, and cycling non-profit organizations, including Cedar Valley Cyclists' Board of Directors (2009-2022), Cedar Falls Bicycle / Pedestrian Advisory Committee (since 2013), Cedar Valley Trails Partnership Board of Directors & volunteer (since 2017), and Cedar Valley Bicycle Collective Board of Directors & volunteer (since 2018). White has served in leadership positions with these organizations, has been active in several trail fundraising projects and is currently the Chair of Black Hawk County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee.

Sarah J. Gardner, Climate Action Coordinator, City of Iowa City, Climate Action & Outreach Division

Sarah J. Gardner is the Climate Action Coordinator for the City of Iowa City. A graduate of the University of Iowa with a master's degree in urban and regional planning, Sarah has lead projects focused on electric vehicle readiness, alternative energy, transit and active transportation, recycling, and climate preparedness in Iowa and Illinois. Previously a journalist covering sustainability and climate change, Sarah has authored many articles on climate resilience and is a dedicated advocate for creating communities that are healthy, equitable, and engaging places to live.

Sarah Runkel, Planner, MSA Professional Services

Sarah is passionate about creating healthy, accessible, sustainable communities through people-centered planning. Her experience in community planning began in transportation and has focused on community engagement and accessibility. Sarah received her MCRP from Iowa State University with a Graduate Minor in Professional Rhetoric - inspired from her undergraduate work in Communication Studies and Speech Communication.

Seth Gunnerson, Zoning Administrator, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Seth Gunnerson is the Zoning Administrator for the City of Cedar Rapids, a role he has had since 2021. In this role he oversees reviews and permitting under the City's zoning code. From 2011 to 2021 Seth was a Planner in the Community Development Department for the City of Cedar Rapids and worked on a variety of neighborhood plans and planning studies, including the City's comprehensive plan - EnvisionCR which was given the 2015 Iowa APA Daniel Burnham Award recipient for a Comprehensive Plan; and was project lead for ReZone Cedar Rapids, the comprehensive rewrite of the City's zoning ordinance that was awarded the 2019 Iowa APA Best

Practice award. Seth has Bachelor of Arts and Master's Degrees in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and has previously worked for the South-Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission and the University of Illinois Extension.

Stephanie Houk Sheetz, Director of Community Development, City of Cedar Falls

Ms. Sheetz is the Director of Community Development with the City of Cedar Falls. She has 20 years of professional planning experience. She graduated from Iowa State University with a master's degree in Community & Regional Planning and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Ms. Sheetz has worked in local government for a majority of her career in both Illinois and Iowa. She has been the Director in Cedar Falls since 2016. In this role, she oversees four divisions that seek multiple partnerships for success: Planning & Community Services, Recreation & Community Programs, Tourism & Cultural Programs, as well as Inspection Services.

Steven J. Van Steenhuyse, AICP, Director of Development Services, City of Mason City

Steven J. Van Steenhuyse, AICP, has been Director of Development Services for the City of Mason City since 2012. Steven earned a master's in urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa in 1987 and has worked as a planner and department head for cities in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. From 2004 to 2012, he worked as a planning consultant in Michigan, and authored dozens of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, with clients as far away as Alaska. He also helped create an on-line training program for citizen planners and served as the staff planner for several small Michigan cities and townships. Since 2018, Steven has been the chair of the Legislative and Policy Committee for the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Terri Rosonke, Housing Programs Manager, Iowa Finance Authority

Terri Rosonke, Housing Programs Manager with the Iowa Finance Authority, is an accomplished housing and community development professional with extensive experience in state and federal finance programs. Terri manages the State Housing Trust Fund and is a leader in the Iowa Finance Authority's housing for persons with disabilities, permanent supportive housing, disaster recovery, and special housing project initiatives. Prior to joining IFA, Terri served as the Assistant Vice President/Associate Director Rental Housing for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines administering the Affordable Housing Program for rental projects. She previously worked in state government as a Field Representative for the Iowa Economic Development Authority overseeing state and federal financing for housing, infrastructure, and job training projects. Terri earned her Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Northern Iowa and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Iowa. She also is certified as a Housing Development Finance Professional by the National Development Council.

Tom Cope, Partner, Cope Murphy + Co.

Tom Cope served for nearly seven years as the chief of staff to the Iowa Senate Majority Leader. Prior to that, he served as Republican Congressman Jim Leach's Iowa district office director, and later as Director of Communications for the Iowa GOP. He began working as a lobbyist in 2003. In 2011 Tom was first elected to the Johnston City Council and serves as the City's representative to the Des Moines MPO and the Metro Waste Authority. In 2017, he and colleague Jon Murphy formed Cope Murphy + Co., who have served as the lobbyists for the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association since 2021.