**2022 Missouri Planning Conference**

*Forward Together*

**THEMES**

Each theme is a carefully curated selection of sessions and activities focused on an important current or emerging issue. Follow one theme for an in-depth, wide-ranging view of an aspect of planning that interests you most or occupies your professional day. Or choose sessions from a variety of tracks. Use the descriptions below to guide you through selection.

The subject in the “Potential Topics” provided below each theme are not intended to serve as an exhausting list. Submitters are welcome to include their own ideas for consideration and inclusion in the conference programming.

**THEME 1: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)**

**Purpose:** EXPAND DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN PLANNING AND COMMUNITY

**Description:** Learn about active initiatives that are moving the needle on outcomes related to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) within communities and institutions of planning. Explore examples and case studies that demonstrate methods, actions, and collaborations that impact historically disadvantaged groups; address issues of particular concern to minority communities (e.g. gentrification and environmental justice); examine various aspects of planning through the lens of equity, diversity, and justice; and focus on the distinctive circumstances and concerns of planners with disabilities and in certain demographic populations.

**Potential Topics:**

* Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and/or Accessibility (IDEA)initiatives in planning
* National issues that impact historically disadvantaged groups (gentrification, environmental justice, etc)
* Increase visibility of IDEA positions, goals, and outcomes
* Critical self-evaluation to promote IDEA in the profession
* Practical, actional resources that help planners advance IDEA
* Raising awareness of the role of planning in perpetuating racial discrimination historically
* Advance methods to overcome racism in the practice of planning
* Plan4Health projects to build local capacity to address population health goals and promote the inclusion of health in non-traditional sectors
* And more…

**THEME 2: SUSTAINABILITY AND SMART GROWTH**

**Purpose:** SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES THAT PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES

**Description:** Learn what planners are doing to address changing climate, implement “smart growth”, and become more resilient. Find out what planners have learned about reducing vulnerability and increasing ability to withstand natural hazards, adapting local economies and land-use policies, retrofitting buildings, maintaining water delivery and other public infrastructure, and enhancing emergency communication systems.  Explore transformative initiatives that spur innovation, confront climate change, and create economic opportunities. Share knowledge and experiences on COVID-19 impacts on cities and their approaches and actions taken towards a resilient recovery to learn about best practices, experience and lessons learned to facilitate peer to peer learning.

**Potential Topics**

* Sustainable, Resilient, Climate Adaptive, and/or “Smart” initiatives in planning
* National/emerging issues that impact climate, resiliency, or related topics
* Implementing sustainable planning in Missouri(codes, ordinances, overlay zones, districts, or plans)
* Emerging sustainability tools, technology, and solutions for planners
* Critical self-evaluation of previous sustainable/resilient planning efforts
* Smart growth in rural, suburban, and urban contexts
* Incorporating nature-based solutions
* The triple bottom line (balancing economic, social, and environmental outcomes)
* Best practices for reducing vulnerability and increasing resiliency (the ability to withstand natural and/or manmade hazards)
* COVID-19, lessons learned and long-term impacts
* And more…

**THEME 3: INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION**

**Purpose:** INCREASE COLLABORATION AND CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING FOR COMMUNITIES AND PLANNERS

**Description**: This track focuses on fostering cross-sector and multi-disciplinary relationships, showcasing cooperative and novel planning solutions/tools/policies, and building skills to creatively tackle challenges that face planners today and into the future. Sessions will showcase project examples, tools, policies, and activities. Emphasis will be placed on interactive programs, consensus building strategies, and skill building exercises.

**Potential Topics**

* Interactive programs\*, consensus building strategies, and skill building exercises/training sessions
* Cooperative and novel planning solutions/tools/policies
* Skills to creatively tackle challenges that face planners today and into the future
* Innovative or collaborative project examples, tools, policies, and activities
* Sessions related to any topics discussed in the [APA 2022 Trend Report](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download_pdf/APA_2022_Trend_Report_for_Planners.pdf)
* Community center planning, empowerment, and/or capacity building
* Critical self-evaluation of past innovative or collaborative planning initiatives
* Change management – methods, solutions, and strategies
* And more…

\*What is an interactive program? Interactive programs require audience participation beyond question and answer.